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Modi Urges Wartime Austerity to Save Economy



Press Trust of India

Hyderabad, May 10: Emphasising that the Centre is trying to shield people from the adverse impact of the conflict in West Asia, PM Narendra Modi on Sunday called for judicious use of fuel, postponement of gold purchases and foreign travel, among other measures, to strengthen the economy. Addressing a rally organised by the Telangana BJP here, he suggested reducing petrol and diesel consumption, using metro rail services in cities, carpooling, increased use of electric vehicles (EVs), utilising railway services for parcel movement,

and working from home to conserve foreign exchange amid the crisis in West Asia. Stressing the need to save foreign exchange due to the crisis, Modi called for postponing the purchase of gold and foreign travel for one year. "We have to save foreign exchange by any means," he said, adding that due to the West Asia conflict, prices of petrol and fertilisers had increased significantly. When there is pressure on the supply chain, difficulties increase despite various government measures to address the situation, he said. "That's why, during a global | More on P6

PM to Embark on 5-nation Trip

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will undertake a six-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy beginning Friday to further deepen India's bilateral ties amid the ongoing geopolitical upheavals. PM Modi's first destination will be the UAE, where he will meet President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan with an aim to advance the bilateral | More on P6

Kashmir Police Ramp Up Anti-Drug Offensive Across Valley

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Police on Monday intensified anti-drug operations across Kashmir, carrying out raids, seizures and awareness programmes in multiple districts as part of the ongoing "Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyaan." According to a police statement, alleged drug peddlers were arrested in separate operations in Sopore, Anantnag and Pulwama, while contraband substances including charas, codeine phosphate and psychotropic tablets were recovered during the drives.

In Sopore, police said two persons were arrested during naka checking at Janwara crossing after they allegedly attempted to flee from the spot. Alprazolam tablets were recovered from their possession. The accused were identified as Faisal Majeed Mir of Janwara and Naseer Ahmad Lone of Hathlangoo. In another operation in Sopore, police intercepted two more persons at Malpora crossing and allegedly recovered psychotropic substances from them. Police also arrested Umar Javid Tugoo of Noorbagh Sopore from

Somnath Temple Survived Invasions to Inspire New India: LG

J&K administration marks Somnath Swabhiman Parv with religious ceremony and public event

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Describing the Somnath Temple as a symbol of resilience that withstood repeated invasions and destruction over centuries, Manoj Sinha on Sunday said the temple continues to embody India's spiritual strength and civilisational resolve. Addressing the Somnath Swabhiman Parv celebrations at Lok Bhavan after performing puja on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said no other sacred site had been "looted and destroyed 17 times" only to rise again each time in full splendour. "The Somnath temple stands alone as the foremost example. Invaders and rulers from Mahmud Ghaznavi to Alauddin Khilji and Zafar Khan plundered and razed it time and again. Yet, despite repeated destruction, Somnath endured in our collective soul," Sinha said. He said the temple's history reflected the enduring spirit of the country and its people.



SOMNATH TEMPLE IS A BEACON OF THE NATION. Without Somnath, our society would be lifeless."

"Despite countless atrocities and invasions by aggressors, Somnath has remained a guiding light ushering Bharat towards new horizons," he added. Referring to the reconstruction of the temple after Independence, Sinha said the consecration of the rebuilt Somnath on May 11, 1951 marked a defining moment in independent India's spiritual and cultural journey. "From the consecration of the rebuilt Somnath on May 11, 1951, this center of faith has ignited the deepest spirit in every Indian. I am confident that Somnath's blessings will continue to inspire us to march forward with renewed resolve," he said. Calling Somnath a celebration of India's rich spiritual and cultural heritage, the Lieutenant Governor said the temple remained deeply connected with the identity and consciousness of the nation. "Somnath embodies the divinity of our land. Somnath is eternal prayer. Somnath is inseparable from our culture and its sanctity lives in every Indian heart," he said. Sinha further described Somnath as "the very core" of India's eternal culture and said its purity | More on P6

'Rise, Shine and Conquer'

Saying that humanity's greatest achievements were shaped not on battlefields but in classrooms and laboratories, Manoj Sinha on Monday urged young people to become agents of innovation, inclusive governance and national transformation while inaugurating the National Youth Festival Aarohan 2026 in Srinagar. Addressing participants at the event, the Lieutenant Governor said the festival carried a vision of "Rise, Shine and Conquer" and reflected a larger mission of preparing youth to build a developed India by 2047. "Our youth must remember that humanity's greatest triumphs weren't | More on P6

Trump Rejects Iran Terms, Truce Shaken

Trans Asia News

Washington: President Donald Trump has rejected Iran's response to a U.S. proposal to end months of conflict, calling it "totally unacceptable" and casting doubt on prospects for renewed negotiations, as disagreements persist over sanctions, war reparations and control of the Strait of Hormuz, and some Republicans press for possible military action despite an ongoing ceasefire. Trump said he had reviewed the Iranian reply, delivered via Pakistani mediators on Sunday, and reacted sharply. "I have just read the response from Iran's so-called 'Representatives.' I don't like it — TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE!" he wrote on his Truth Social platform. Speaking later to Axios, he reiterated his position without elaboration. "I don't like their letter. It's inappropriate. I don't like their | More on P6

Iran Seeks 'War Crimes' Label for US Over Dena Strike

Iran's High Council for Human Rights has called on the United Nations to recognize US officials behind the deliberate attack on the Iranian Dena destroyer as war criminals. | More on P6

MeT Warns of Gusty Winds, Hail Across J&K

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Meteorological Department on Monday forecast light to moderate rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds across Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, while advising people to avoid boating and suspend farm operations during the period. According to the MeT department, weather conditions remained generally cloudy across many places on Monday, with intermittent spells of rain and thundershowers reported from several areas. The department said similar weather conditions are expected to continue on Tuesday, with one or two spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers likely at most places across Kashmir and Jammu divisions. "There is a possibility of hailstorm, thunder, lightning and gusty winds with speeds of 50-60 kmph at a few places in Kashmir and Jammu divisions, | More on P6

CM Omar Meets Shah, Raises Statehood & J&K Governance Issues

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday where the two leaders discussed issues concerning the Union territory. Before leaving for the national capital, the chief minister told reporters in Srinagar that he would discuss all the issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir. "I wish we could have got our statehood after one meeting with the home minister. If that was the case, we would have got it a long time ago. But yes, I will raise statehood, business rules and other issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir in the meeting," he said. Omar also said that there was "nothing wrong" in giving telecom powers to the lieutenant governor (LG) during public safety events, as he holds the charge of security and law and order. "This is the right thing. These powers should be with the lieutenant governor. This is



not against the business rules or the reorganisation act," the chief minister told reporters. He said that orders to stop phone services or internet are issued by the home department, which comes under the LG. The Centre has last week authorised the Jammu and Kashmir LG to exercise powers, such as interception of signals, suspension of service and decryption of messages,

related to telecom services in the UT during public safety events or national emergency. According to the order issued on Thursday, the President directed the LG to exercise the powers and discharge the functions of the state government under Sub-Section 20 (2) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 (44 of 2023), which deals with situations | More on P6

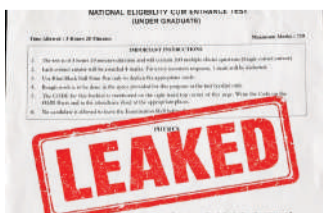
Parliament Panel Reviews Smart City Projects In Srinagar Agencies

Srinagar: An 18-member Parliamentary Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs on Monday visited Srinagar to review ongoing Smart City projects, urban infrastructure development and civic improvement works across the city. The delegation, headed by Chairperson Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy, inspected several key development sites, including riverfront beautification projects and urban renewal works undertaken under the Smart City Mission over the past few years. Officials of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation briefed the committee on progress related to sanitation systems, traffic management, public infrastructure and redevelopment of public spaces. Speaking to reporters, Reddy said the committee was on a study tour to assess ground-level development and evaluate the impact of urban projects implemented in recent years. He said the | More on P6

NEET-UG 2026 Under Fresh Scanner Over 'Similar Questions' Leak

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Fresh allegations of irregularities in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test Undergraduate (NEET-UG) 2026 have reignited concerns over the integrity of India's largest medical entrance examination, with the Rajasthan Police's Special Operations Group (SOG) launching a probe into claims that question sets resembling the actual paper were circulated before the exam. The controversy surfaced days after NEET-UG 2026 was conducted on May 3 for more than 22.79 lakh candidates across India and abroad, placing the



investigation under renewed scrutiny after last year's paper leak row. According to Rajasthan Police officials, investigators are examining alleged malpractice after certain question sets circulated prior to the examination reportedly showed similarities with the actual NEET-UG paper. Officials involved in the

investigation said a document containing over 400 questions was recovered during the probe. Of these, more than 100 questions from Biology and Chemistry allegedly bore "striking similarities" to those that appeared in the examination. Authorities, however, said the material currently appears similar to a "guess paper" or coaching-style test series, though they have not ruled out the possibility of a larger organised network behind the circulation. Searches and questioning have reportedly been conducted across multiple cities in Rajasthan and Uttarakhand as part of the | More on P6

CM's Alcohol Remarks Trigger Political Row in Kashmir

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A fresh political controversy erupted in Kashmir on Monday after remarks by Omar Abdullah on liquor shops and alcohol consumption triggered sharp reactions from opposition parties and political allies alike. The row intensified after criticism mounted over the Chief Minister's remarks allegedly defending continuation of liquor trade and his assertion that people belonging to religions permitting alcohol consumption should not face restrictions. Among the strongest reactions came from PDP leader

Iltija Mufti, who accused Omar Abdullah of making an "expected U-turn" on the issue and ignoring the religious sensitivities of the majority community in the region. Questioning the logic behind the Chief Minister's remarks, she said states like Gujarat and Bihar had successfully enforced prohibition despite being Hindu-majority states. "JK CM's expected U-turn on the refusal to prohibit liquor shops lacks logic," she wrote in a social media post. She further termed it "deeply unfortunate and insensitive" for the Chief Minister to dismiss the religious | More on P6

SC Flags Bail Plea Delays, Seeks Auto-Listing System

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: Flagging the mounting pendency of bail applications in high courts across the country, the Supreme Court on Monday suggested various measures including evolving a mechanism for automatic listing and fixing an outer timeline for disposal of such pleas. A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said it hoped and trusted that the high courts, state governments and the investigating agencies would have a collaborative approach to ensure a robust

mechanism for the timely disposal of bail pleas while ensuring that the rights of victims are protected. The bench clarified that its order should not be construed as an aspersion on the functioning of any high court and the suggestions were intended to strengthen the systemic efficiency. The top court passed the order on a plea in which it had earlier directed the registrar generals of all the high courts to send complete details of applications for anticipatory or regular bail, suspension of sentence pending there, along | More on P6



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Unlike Covid-19, Hantavirus Not Known For Rapid Human Transmission, Spreads Through Rodents: Experts

Press Trust Of India

Amid concerns over two Indian nationals reportedly infected with hantavirus aboard an international cruise ship, public health experts on Friday said the cases appear to be isolated infections linked to a closed onboard environment, and there is no indication of community spread. However, they stressed the need for vigilance and rodent-control measures. Dr Puneet Mishra, Head of the Department of Community Medicine at AllMS, Delhi, said hantavirus behaves very differently from highly transmissible respiratory viruses such as COVID-19. "There are many types of hantaviruses, of which the Andes strain is causing the ongoing cruise ship outbreak. Hantaviruses circulate freely among rodents, and only occasionally infect humans," Dr Mishra said. He said the Andes strain is among the few known hantaviruses capable of limited human-to-human transmission. "The Andes strain is known for limited human-to-human transmission through prolonged close contact with respiratory secretions. This explains the spread of the virus on the cruise ship, which essentially is a closed environment where

many individuals remain in prolonged close contact over an extended period of time," he said. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the two Indian passengers were among a small cluster of suspected infections identified aboard the vessel, and health authorities were monitoring contacts and undertaking precautionary measures. WHO officials noted that hantavirus infections are rare and are generally linked to rodent exposure rather than sustained human transmission. WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who briefed the media on the virus on Thursday, said, "While this is a serious incident, WHO assesses the public health risk as low". Given the incubation period, he said, "It is possible that more cases may be reported". Dr Mishra said India has adequate capacity to detect and manage suspected cases, if required. "Diagnosis of hantavirus is based on a comprehensive evaluation, including the history of high-risk exposure and contact tracing. India has specialised reference laboratories such as the ICMR, National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, along with tertiary care centres capable of diagnosing and managing such infections," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gulshana Bano W/o Irfan Ahmad Mir R/o Qasba Malmoh, Agar Dangar Pora, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, UT of J&K, hereby inform the general public that the name of my ward has been wrongly recorded in the Aadhaar Card as "Adibea Mir" instead of the correct name "Adeeba Irfan" as per the Birth Certificate records. Now, I intend to correct the name in the Aadhaar records from Adibea Mir to Adeeba Irfan for all official purposes. If anybody has any objection regarding the above correction, he/she may file the same before the concerned Aadhaar authorities within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Otherwise, the correction process shall be initiated accordingly. Deponent Gulshana Bano R/o Qasba Malmoh, Agar Dangar Pora Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform all concerned that the date of birth of my son, Rehaan Nabi, has been wrongly recorded as 05-04-2013 instead of the correct date 05-04-2011 in the school records. I have applied for the correction. Any person having any objection, may contact the concerned within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. INF

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to correct the spelling of my father's name from Ghulam Ahmad Khan as has mentioned in JKRMS and Gulam Ahmad Khan as has mentioned in my Service book to Gh Ahmad Khan as per my Matric certificate. In future, my parentage shall be known as Gh Ahmad Khan. If anybody is having any objection thereof, he/she may contact the office of the Administrator - Government Medical College & Associated Hospitals Srinagar/ concerned quarters within 07 days. After 07 days, no objection will be accepted. Dr Sameena Khan D/o Gh Ahmad Khan Dental Surgeon C/O BMO - Block Hazratbal INF

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed the name of my daughter from Farkhanda to Mattoo Farkhanda. In future, she shall be known as Mattoo Farkhanda. If anybody is having any objection thereof, he/she may contact the passport office Srinagar within 07 days. After 07 days, no objection will be accepted. Ajaz Ahmad Bhat F/o Mattoo Farkhanda FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed the name of my son from Abdul Rouf Bhat to Mattoo Abdul Rauf. In future, he shall be known as Mattoo Abdul Rauf. If anybody is having any objection thereof, he/she may contact the passport office Srinagar within 07 days. After 07 days, no objection will be accepted. Ajaz Ahmad Bhat F/o Mattoo Abdul Rauf INF

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Fayaz Ahmad Mir, S/o Mohammad Kazim mir R/o Gund Hassi Bhat hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded as "Fayaz Ahmad" in the service records, whereas my correct name as per my official documents/marks card is "Fayaz Ahmad Mir." Hence, I intend to correct and update my name in the service records from "Fayaz Ahmad" to "Fayaz Ahmad Mir." If anybody has any objection regarding this correction, they may file the same before the concerned authority within the stipulated period from the date of publication of this notice. Fayaz Ahmad Mir fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Date of Birth of my son, Nazim Ajaz, has been wrongly written in his school records as 12-12-2017 WHILE his correct DOB is 05-09-2018. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Green view public school Magam within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained. Ajaz Ahmad Ganaie F/o Nazim Ajaz BMG_R

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that I have lost the Marks Card/academic documents / Now I have applied for issuance of Duplicate Certificate/Marks Card from the competent authority. Details are as under:

- Admission No: 3050 dated 10-12-2009
- D.C No: 715 dated 01-12-2020
- C.C No: 1094 dated 01-12-2020
- Registration No: N10340400031
- Roll No: 2420411 (Bi-Annual 2018)

If anybody has any objection regarding the issuance of duplicate certificate/marks card, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained. Aijaz Ahmad Dar S/O Gulam Mohammad Dar BMG

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, AABID BASHIR NAJAR S/o Bashir Ahmad Najar R/o Sumbal Bagh Hardu Aboora, Tehsil Kowarhama, District Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that my name and date of birth have been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. **** * 6861 as ABID BASHIR and DOB 04-04-2006 instead of my correct name AABID BASHIR NAJAR and correct DOB 06/08/2007 as per my School Certificate records. Now, I intend to correct my name and date of birth in the Aadhaar records from ABID BASHIR / 04-04-2006 to AABID BASHIR NAJAR / 06/08/2007. If anybody has any objection regarding the above correction, he/she may file the same before the concerned Aadhaar authorities within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Otherwise, the correction process shall be initiated accordingly. Deponent AABID BASHIR NAJAR R/o Sumbal Bagh Hardu Aboora District Baramulla fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of the general public that JAVID AHMAD MIR S/o Late Abdul Khaliq Mir R/o Mamoosa, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, is applying for transfer of Electricity Connection bearing Consumer No. 0213040019211, installed at Mamoosa, from the name of his deceased father Late Abdul Khaliq Mir to his own name. The registered consumer, namely Late Abdul Khaliq Mir, expired in the year 2017. The applicant being the lawful son/legal heir is in possession of the premises and has undertaken to clear all outstanding electricity dues, if any, pertaining to the said connection. If anybody has any objection regarding the transfer of the above electricity connection in favour of JAVID AHMAD MIR, he/she may file the same before the concerned department within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, the connection shall be transferred accordingly and no claim thereafter shall be entertained. Applicant JAVID AHMAD MIR R/o Mamoosa, Pattan District Baramu fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, ABDUL AHAD KHANDAY S/o Abdul Gani Khanday R/o Hardu Bani, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that the name and date of birth of my ward have been wrongly recorded in Aadhaar Card bearing No. **** * 3738 as ATHAR AHMAD KHANDAY with DOB 19-10-2003 instead of the correct name ATHAR AHAD KHANDAY with correct DOB 08/09/2009 as per the School Certificate records. Now, I intend to correct the name and date of birth in the Aadhaar records from ATHAR AHMAD KHANDAY / 19-10-2003 to ATHAR AHAD KHANDAY / 08/09/2009. If anybody has any objection regarding the above correction, he/she may file the same before the concerned Aadhaar authorities within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Otherwise, the correction process shall be initiated accordingly. Deponent ABDUL AHAD KHANDAY R/o Hardu Bani, Kunzer District Baramulla fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in service book record the name is entered as NASREEN PARRAY W/O MOHD YAQOUB GANAIE while my actual name as per certificate is NASREEN PARRAY D/O MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH PARRAY. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER BUDGAM within a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that. NASREEN PARRAY D/O MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH PARRAY R/O PARNEWA BUDGAM mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

I lost my wallet while travelling from Natipora to Nowgam on Saturday afternoon (09.05.2026). Wallet contains important cards (identity cards, banking cards etc). If anybody has found it, kindly return on humanitarian grounds. Meanwhile, I am applying for duplicates of lost cards. If anybody has any objection, may report to Police Station Nowgam within 7 days of publication of this notice. Contact: Muniba Ismail ab @9797791225

PUBLIC NOTICE

I lost my wallet while travelling from Natipora to Nowgam on Saturday afternoon (09.05.2026). Wallet contains important cards (identity cards, banking cards etc). If anybody has found it, kindly return on humanitarian grounds. Meanwhile, I am applying for duplicates of lost cards. If anybody has any objection, may report to Police Station Nowgam within 7 days of publication of this notice. Contact: Muniba Ismail ab @9797791225

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) illaf Javeed to (new name) Elaf Javid . In future i will be known as (new name)Elaf Javid. If anybody having any objection he/she may contact passport office srinagar, within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted. Media line advt

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) Tariq Ahmad to (new name) Tariq Ahmad Wani. In future i will be known as (new name) Tariq Ahmad Wani. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact passport office srinagar, within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted. Media line advt

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby given as a public notice that I want to change the name of my ward from Aisha Fayaz to Ayesha Fayaz who is studying in 6th class at Govt Boys Middle School Dignibal Zone Ganderbal. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may contact the institute mentioned within 7 days after that no objection will be accepted. Fayaz Ahmad Mir, F/O Ayesha Fayaz, R/o Dignibal Ganderbal. Media line advt

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Tabassum Amin Mufti, D/o Mohd Amin Mufti, R/o Babamohalla Bijbehara, hereby declare that my name has been incorrectly mentioned as "Tabassum Amin" in my appointment order issued by the Education Department dated My correct and full name is "Tabassum Amin Mufti". Henceforth, I shall be known and identified as Tabassum Amin Mufti for all official, service, and legal purposes. If any person has any objection to this correction, they may contact the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Tabassum Amin Mufti R/o Babamohalla Bijbehara D/o Mohd Amin Mufti x

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No. JK-0420160029732 issued in favour of FAISAL MIR Parentage MOHD MAQBOOL MIR Whereas an application has been recieved by one FAISAL MIR Parentage MOHD MAQBOOL MIR wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as FAISAL MAQBOOL MIR Which needs to be changed as FAISAL MIR. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained. Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir mcb

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM

Subject:- Necessary Correction/change in address in data to the License No. JK-0420160029732 issued in favour of MOHD ALTAF WAZA Parentage GH MOHD WAZA Whereas an application has been recieved by one MOHD ALTAF WAZA Parentage GH MOHD WAZA wherein he claimed that the Name has been wrongly recorded in the records of Driving Licenses as MOHD ALTAF SOFI Parentage GH MOHD SOFI Which needs to be changed as MOHD ALTAF WAZA Parentage GH MOHD WAZA. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any in this regard shall reach in written in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper. After expiry of stipulated time no objection will be entertained. Assistant Regional Transport officer Budgam Kashmir mcb

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Open e-TENDER NOTICE
 Name of Work : Geo-Technical Investigations on Bridge locations and Tunnel portals etc. for design of Bridges, Tunnels and other structures in connection with Baramulla-Uri New Rail line project of Jammu Division in Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
 Advertised Value : Rs. 1,85,38,408/- (One Crore, Eighty Five Lacs, Thirty Eight Thousand and Four Hundred Eight Rupees only)
 Bid Security Amount : Rs. 3,70,800.00/- (Three Lacs, Seventy Thousand and Eight Hundred Rupees Only)
 Last date/time for uploading the tender : 01.06.2026, 11:00 hrs.
 Bid Opening Date and Time : 01.06.2026, 11:00 hrs. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website w.e.f. 09.05.2026 to 01.06.2026, 11:00 hrs.
 Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document : For details of the Tender, kindly visit www.ireps.gov.in. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the notice board of the above office.
 Tender Notice No. : DYCE-II-USBRL-BU-GT dated : 09.05.2026
 No. : DYCE-II-USBRL-BU-GT Dated: 09.05.2026 1564/2026
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

از دفتر ڈپٹی کمشنر ڈی جی جانیاد مہاجرین شمالی شمیر بارہمولہ
استہار نیلامی
 ہر خاص و عام کو بذریعہ استہار ہذا مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ محکمہ ہذا کو بیوہ کی باغ مہاجر غلام احمد و غلام محمد پسران فاروق احمد شاہ ساکنہ تلہ گام تحصیل پٹن رقبہ تعدادی 10 کنال 07 زینمبرات 1162,1163 کی بولی مورخہ 16 مئی 2026 کرنی مطلوب ہے لہذا ہر خواہشمند اصحاب سے استدعا ہے کہ دفتر ہذا میں تاریخ مقررہ پر بولی میں شرکت فرمائیں۔
دیگر شرائط :-
 1. بولی دھندہ کو چاہیے کہ وہ بولی دینے سے پہلے مطلع باغ کے میوہ کو اکتھپیر ح سے دیکھ لیں بعد میں کوئی عریزا اعتراض قابل قبول نہ ہوگا۔
 2. زر ضمانت بصورت نقد مبلغ 10 لاکھ روپے بھرا یا چیک بولی پکارنے سے پہلے جمع کرنا ہوگا یا دفتر ہذا میں دفتری اوقات جمع کرنے ہوگی۔
 3. کامیاب بولی دہندہ کو رقم بولی کا 60% موقعہ پر ہی ادا کرنا ہوگا بصورت دیگر اسکی بولی منسوخ تصور ہوگی اور زر ضمانت ضبط کر لی جائیگی۔
 4. ہر بولی دھندہ گان کو اپنی شناختی دستاویزات پیش کرنا ہوگا۔
 5. باقی ماندہ رقم حکمانہ ہدایت کے مطابق مقررہ مدت کے اندر ادا کرنا ہوگا۔
 6. باغ کی دیگر بحال حفاظت اور چنائی کی ذمہ داری کامیاب بولی دہندہ پر عائد ہوگی۔
 7. کسی بھی تنازع کی صورت میں محکمہ کا فیصلہ حتمی اور لازم ہوگا۔
 8. محکمہ کسی بھی وقت نیلامی کو منسوخ یا موخر کرنے کا اختیار رکھتا ہے۔
 9. مزید معلومات کیلئے دفتر ڈپٹی کمشنر ڈی جی جانیاد مہاجرین بارہمولہ سے دفتری اوقات میں حاصل کریں۔
 تحریر الصدر
 NO: DCEP/BLA/26/163-64
 DATED: 07-05-2026
 DIPK-1190/26
 DATED: 11-05-2026

Absence of Authorized LPG Agency in Nishat-Dara Belt Sparks Public Outcry

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Residents of the Nishat-Dara belt in Srinagar have appealed to Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) to address what they describe as the long-standing absence of an authorized LPG distributorship in the area, alleging that the existing arrangement has caused inconvenience and financial burden to consumers across several localities.

The residents said the entire belt, which includes Nishat, Braine, Shalimar, Pazwalpora, Arabal, Chondpora, Harwan, Barji, Syedpora, Theed and adjoining areas, caters to a population of over three lakh people and also serves as a major tourist zone. Despite this, they claimed, the area continues to rely entirely on sub-dealers for LPG supplies.

According to the locals, the dependence on sub-dealers has resulted in excessive charges on both domestic and commercial LPG cylinders, with consumers allegedly being left without any proper alternative or regulatory oversight.

Residents further alleged that the current distribution mechanism is highly

inconvenient and fails to meet basic consumer service standards. Instead of doorstep delivery, they said, cylinders are transported in Tata Mobile vehicles and unloaded at local market points, forcing consumers to collect them personally.

They claimed that elderly residents and women are often made to stand in long queues to receive cylinders, terming the practice "undignified and unfair." The residents argued that such a system has continued unchecked for years due to the absence of an authorized distributorship in the area.

Demanding immediate intervention, the residents urged HPCL to initiate an inquiry into the functioning of sub-dealers operating in the Nishat-Dara belt and take strict action against any unauthorized or exploitative practices. They also called for the establishment of at least two authorized LPG distributorships in the area to ensure fair pricing, transparency and proper doorstep delivery services for consumers.

Attempts to contact the regional manager of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited for comments failed, as he did not respond to repeated calls from the reporter.

Srinagar Nears Full Digitisation of Revenue Records

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Monday chaired a review meeting senior Revenue Officers at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to assess tehsil-wise progress on key revenue matters, with specific focus on the digitisation of revenue records in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Intiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, SDM West Irfan Bahadur, SDM East Zubair Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Umar Gulzar, all Tehsildars and other concerned.

At the outset, the DC undertook a detailed assessment of the ongoing digitisation process across all Tehsils and directed Officers to expedite the remaining digitisation activities to ensure 100 percent completion of the process by end of this month.

While reviewing the progress of



digitisation of Revenue records in the district, the DC was informed that over 75 percent of Revenue records have been digitised so far across Srinagar district, while the work on the remaining records is progressing at a fast pace.

The DC stressed that digitisation of Revenue records is a vital governance

reform aimed at ensuring transparency, efficiency and citizen-centric service delivery, besides facilitating easy access to land-related information. He instructed the officers to maintain close coordination and ensure accuracy in the digitised records to avoid discrepancies and inconvenience to the public.

DC Hands over Ambulance to CMO

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Monday handed over a fully equipped ambulance to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Srinagar procured by IDBI Bank under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative aimed at strengthening emergency healthcare

services and improving medical transportation facilities in the district.

Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tahir Sajad, ZMO, SR Gunj, Dr Shafaqat, ZMO, Zaidal, Dr Rubeena, Medical Superintendent JLNH Hospital, Dr Arshid, Asset Officer IDBI Bank, Virender Singh, Branch Head IDBI, Karan Nagar, Shoeb Khan, Operation

Manager, Haseeb Shakeel, and other Officers of District Administration and IDBI Bank were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC emphasized that the addition of the ambulance would significantly enhance emergency healthcare services in the district and serve as a vital asset for the benefit of the general public particularly in the transportation of patients and trauma cases across the district.

SMC Halts Illegal Construction at Karan Nagar



KO City Desk

Srinagar- Acting swiftly on a complaint over alleged illegal construction on a disputed Nazool property at Karan Nagar Chowk in the city, the Enforcement Wing of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation on Monday stopped the ongoing work and demolished an illegally erected wall at the site.

The action was taken after a written complaint was submitted to the Chief

Enforcement Officer by prominent businessman Nazir Ahmed Mir, alleging that unauthorized construction activity was being carried out on the disputed property without lawful permission. The complaint stated that the construction was in violation of municipal laws and could potentially trigger disputes and law and order issues in the area.

Acting promptly on the complaint, officials from the Enforcement Wing vis-

ited the site, stopped the construction work, and removed the wall that had allegedly been raised illegally outside the property.

The complainant had also urged the authorities to maintain status quo on the disputed Nazool land until the matter is decided by the competent authority.

Officials said necessary action was taken in accordance with municipal regulations to prevent any further unauthorized construction at the site.

Pedestrians Injured as Reckless Stunt Bikers Roam Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A new trend among stunt bikers in Srinagar has triggered concern among people after several bikers were allegedly found concealing their motorcycle registration numbers to evade police action while performing reckless stunts on city roads.

People from different parts of Srinagar said incidents involving stunt bikers have increased in recent weeks, with several cases reported in which bikers either hit pedestrians or collided with vehicles before fleeing from the spot.

According to locals, many of these bikers deliberately hide or partially cover their registration plates, making identification difficult for both the public and law enforcement agencies.

Eatery Shut after Cockroach Found in Biryani

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Food Safety Team, Srinagar, has ordered the closure of a food establishment after a viral video showed a cockroach in biryani, officials said here.

They said that on inspection, officials found poor hygiene and signs of pest infestation at the premises. A food sample has been taken for testing, and legal action will follow for violations of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a spokesperson of the Food Safety Team, Srinagar, said they took cognisance of a viral video circulating on social media regarding the presence of a cockroach in biryani.

"The team inspected the concerned food establishment and found it in poor hygienic condition. Evidence of cockroach infestation was observed

on the premises, and violations of Schedule 4 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, were noted. A sample of prepared food was lifted for analytical purposes as well," he said.

The spokesperson added, "The Food Business Operator had not carried out pest control, which is mandatory under the Act. In view of these violations, the establishment has been closed, and a challan for violating various provisions of the Act will be submitted before the competent court".

All Food Business Operators are directed to ensure regular pest control and maintain hygiene as mandated under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, the Food Safety spokesperson said, adding that failure to comply will invite strict action against defaulters as per the provisions of the FSS Act.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SUB TRANSMISSION DIVISION BIJBEHARA

www.jkpdd.gov.in Tel No: - 09132-233002 Fax No: - 09132-234397

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NITNO: STB/15 of 2026-27; Dated: 11/05/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt Governor, Jammu and Kashmir State, e-Tenders (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from "A" Class Electrical Contractors issued by the Electrical Inspectorate of Govt of Central Inspectorial organization of Govt. of India/ other state Govt. In case bid submitted joint venture firm, any of partner should possess "A" class electrical license for ". ." as per terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules forming part of this tender document. Intending bidders are requested to submit their offer along with terms, conditions, technical specifications and annexure forming part of this tender document. The details are as under:

#	Name of Work	Adv. Cost. (IN Rs.)	Cost of e-Bid/ tender document (Rs)	EMD (Rs)
1.	Segregation of 33 kv Mattan Pahalgam by way of construction of new 33kv line from receiving station Iqbalabad to passenger shed at Mattan and laying of new 100mmsq ACSR on existing 13mtr long poles alongwith allied Hardware to form double ckt line from passenger shed Mattan to 3 Pole Structure near Petrol Pump Mattan.	3801067.00	1000	76021.00
2	Publishing Date & Time	11.05.2026 (1700 Hrs)		
3	Document Download / Sale Start Date & Time	11.05.2026 (1700 Hrs)		
4	Seek Clarification Start Date & Time	11.05.2026 (1700 Hrs)		
5	Seek Clarification End Date & Time	31.05.2026 (1700 Hrs)		
6	Bid Submission Start Date & Time	11.05.2026 (1700 Hrs)		
7	Bid Submission End Date & Time	01.06.2026 (1500 Hrs)		
8	Bid opening date & Time	02.06.2026 (1500 Hrs)		
9	Venue of opening Bids	STD Bijbehara		

Please Read Standard Bidding Document Carefully

- The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification if required and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below..
- There is no need of furnishing of hard copies of bids after submission of e-tenders. The same should be obtained only from the bidder who is declared as L1 after opening of financial bid as per the instructions of Finance Department issued vide O.M No. A/24(2017)-651; Dated: 07-06-2018
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of cost of tender document. The cost of tender document should be paid through e- challan/ treasury challan /receipt only.
- All the e-Bids must be accompanied by the scanned copy of EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/TD, pledged to the Executive Engineer Sub transmission Division Bijbehara. No Interest would be payable on Earnest Money deposited with the Department. However the bidder who is declared L1 after opening of financial bid has to submit the original EMD to the office of the Executive Engineer Sub transmission Division Bijbehara through speed post, Courier or by hand.
- The e-Bids will be electronically opened in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend at the venue, date and time mentioned in the above table or any subsequent day to the convenience of the Tender Opening Committee. An authority letter of bidder's/OEM representative will be required to be produced.
- The Department reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-Bids/ the e-Bid process without assigning any reason thereof. The decision of department will be final and binding.
- In the event of date specified for e-Bids opening being declared a holiday for department's office then the due date for opening of e-Bids shall be the following working day at the appointed time and place.
- All the required documents excluding Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded by the e-Bidder electronically in the PDF format, whereas Price Schedule/BOQ should be uploaded electronically in the same BOQ sheet provided with the SBD.
- To participate in e-bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' class III(b) as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.
- The tender document is available on website. Interested bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table above. The Quoted rates shall be Firm, inclusive of all taxes and duties, WCT, freight, transportation up to working sites. The rates shall include costs, if any attracted towards mandatory inspections / testing by the designated agencies and the department will not be required to pay / reimburse anything over and above the price quoted. All the bids must be supported by the Instrument of EMD of the exact amount as mentioned in the above table and shall have been issued post tender publication date. Moreover, any deviation in the EMD amount is liable for rejection.
- In case the bid of the bidder is unbalanced, the bidder has to submit additional performance security deposit in
- the shape of CDR/FDR as per the the circular issued by Finance Department vide their letter No: FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dt. 08.08.2025

Sd/= Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division Bijbehara

NO:STB/Ts/etender/650-53 DIPP-NB-439/26 Dated: 11.05.2026

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +919484100200

AIRPORTS SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBEHARA: 01932-2284132
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 3: 57

ZUHR 12:27

ASR 5: 20

Magrib 7:26

ISHA 8: 59

HIJRI CALENDAR

24 Zil-Qadah 1447

This Day In History

- 1328 - Holy Roman Emperor Louis IV and assembly of priests select Pietro Rainalducc as anti-Pope Nicolaas V
- 1328 - Antipope Nicholas V, a claimant to the papacy, is anticpated in Rome by the Bishop of Venice
- 1459 - Sun City in India founded by Rao Jodhpur
- 1525 - Battle at Biblingen: Zwabische Union beats rebel Wurttemberg farmers
- 1534 - German Duchy of Wurttemberg becomes Lutheran under Ulrich, Duke of Wurttemberg
- 1551 - San Marcos University in Lima, Peru, opens
- 1588 - Catholic League under duke Henri de Guise occupies Paris
- 1588 - Catholic League under duke Henri de Guise occupies Paris
- 1604 - Spanish garrison of Aardenburg surrenders to Mauritius
- 1640 - Uprising against Spanish king Philip IV
- 1689- England & Netherlands form League of Augsburg
- 1777- 1st ice cream advertisement (Philip Lenzi-NY Gazette)
- 1780- British troops occupy Charleston, South Carolina (Revolutionary War)
- 1797- First Coalition: Napoleon I of France conquers Venice.
- 1821- The first major battle of the Greek War of Independence against the Turks occurs in Valtetsi.
- 1862 - Federal troops occupies Baton Rouge, Louisiana

From KO Archives

UPA Mulling Self-Govt In J&K, Says Mufti

NEW DELHI-The centre is actively considering self-rule for Kashmir, former chief minister Mufti Muhammed Sayeed revealed Wednesday.

Sayeed told private TV channel CNN-IBN that the UPA government is considering self-governance in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. According to Mufti, Pakistan government too is considering, a similar move for Pakistan controlled Kashmir.

"Yes, the idea of self-governance is already there. There has been a back-channel discussion on this subject. Self-government should play a visionary role in our part of Kashmir. We have our autonomy and a separate Constitution within the Constitution of India. Moreover the people's verdict should not be negated," he said.

Mufti said the Pakistani government is also considering a similar move for Pakistani part of Kashmir.

(Kashmir Observer, 12 May, 2007)

از نیابت بوئی

عنوان:- درخواست منجانب فاروق احمد شوشو ولد غلام سیلو امیر اجرائی EWS

سرفیصلیت بحق اولاد ان سوبان فاروق دھسا فاروق

اشہار ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدمیں سائل نے ایک درخواست پیش EWS سرفیصلیت پیش کی ہے جو کہ زیر کاروائی ہے اس بارے میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل دھہڑائیں رہائش پذیر ہے یہ سائل کا تعلق 15 افراد پر مشتمل ہے اور کئی سالانہ آمدنی زرعی غیر زرعی سے مبلغ 8000 روپیہ تک ہے سائل کے پاس 15 ایکڑ سے کم رقبہ سائل کا مکان رہائش 200 SQ Ground سے کم ہے رقبہ میں تعمیر شدہ موجود ہے سائل کا رہائش قبیلہ 1000 sq فٹ سے کم ہے سائل کا مکان ریشی از بیرون میونسپل حدود میں واقع نہیں سائل کے کہہ کے سالانہ آمدنی 8 لاکھ سے کم ہے سائل RBA OBC, ST, زرے میں نہیں آتا ہے۔

سرفیصلیت زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کہہ کر کسی شخص کو کوئی عزیار یا عزیار ہو تو وہ بعد شہر اخبار سرتان کے اندر آئے عزیار یا عزیار دولت حد کو دفتر می اوقات کے دوران پیش کریں۔ بعد سے عزیار کو عزیار یا عزیار قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار FKO

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KO VIEW

Kashmir's Climate-Unfit Homes

Strong winds returned to Kashmir this week and left behind frightened families checking cracks in their walls before going to sleep.

Storms have always visited Kashmir, but the public mood around them has changed. People now speak about weather with a sense of uncertainty that did not exist a decade ago.

That shift comes from experience.

Summers feel hotter, rainfall arrives with greater intensity and spring storms seem more destructive than before. Scientists studying the Himalayan region have repeatedly warned that mountain ecosystems are warming faster than many other parts of the world.

Research on the northwestern Himalayas, including data linked to Srinagar, points to a long-term warming trend nearing 1.6 degrees Celsius over the past century. Studies also show that extreme precipitation events in the Kashmir Himalaya have become more intense and frequent.

Kashmiris are beginning to notice those changes through daily life. People talk about suffocating afternoons during summer, sudden cloudbursts, shorter winters and homes that no longer feel comfortable during any season.

That last point deserves far more attention than it receives.

A silent architectural shift has transformed Kashmir over the past two decades. Concrete mansions with glossy facades and oversized glass windows now dominate villages and towns alike. Social media trends, Gulf aesthetics and urban imitation turned housing into a visual competition. Every locality now displays homes designed to impress visitors before serving the people living inside them.

Many of these structures perform poorly during changing weather conditions. Rooms stay bitterly cold during winter because insulation rarely enters the planning process. Summer heat settles inside concrete walls and trapped air makes indoor spaces uncomfortable through the afternoon. Spring winds expose weak roofing systems and poor structural anchoring. Heavy rainfall floods basements and lower floors built without proper drainage planning.

Traditional Kashmiri homes understood the climate better than many modern designs now rising in their place. Older structures used timber-laced brickwork, sloped rooftops, smaller windows and attic insulation that helped regulate indoor temperatures through changing seasons. Those homes emerged from generations that built with the geography rather than against it.

Modern construction often ignores that inheritance.

That matters even more in a region already vulnerable to floods, landslides and earthquakes. Jammu and Kashmir falls within a high seismic zone, but vertical expansion continues with little public discussion about structural suitability or climate-sensitive planning. Builders focus heavily on appearance while ventilation, thermal efficiency and local weather conditions receive secondary attention.

This conversation can no longer remain limited to disaster warnings after every storm. Architects, engineers, municipal planners and homeowners need to start treating climate-conscious housing as an essential part of life in Kashmir.

Building codes must place greater emphasis on insulation, drainage systems, wind resistance and earthquake-conscious construction. Local materials and traditional methods also deserve a serious return to public discussion instead of being dismissed as outdated symbols of the past.

People once viewed climate change as a distant environmental debate tied to melting glaciers and rising sea levels. Kashmir now experiences it through leaking ceilings, overheated rooms and nights filled with the sound of violent wind.

The weather outside has changed. Homes built for another era are beginning to reveal that reality with every passing season.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Fiscal Drift

Public money keeps flowing in Kashmir, but weak accountability often prevents it from reaching the people it is meant to serve.

Irshad Mushtaq

Every month, the government releases crores meant to feed families, keep streets safe, and heal the sick. It looks like a safety net, but it often feels like a sieve.

Salaries, perks, and large projects soak up huge sums, yet the outcomes don't always match the investment.

Part of the problem lies in weak oversight. In theory, audits should track every rupee to its destination. In practice, financial leaks and administrative drift let public money lose its way.

This gap is costly in Kashmir. Health facilities run short on staff or medicine. Roads crumble before their ribbon-cuttings fade. The "rotten meat" scandal showed how enforcement often wakes up only after public outrage.

Accountability is the backbone of public trust. That means regular, transparent audits across departments, clear chains of responsibility, and real consequences when duties are neglected.

Civil servants who work hard deserve recognition, but the system must push for results, not just effort. Citizens also have a role: asking questions, demanding audits, and tracking projects.

Respecting the budget is not just about balancing numbers. It is about honoring the idea that public resources belong to the people.

For Kashmir to move forward, the money must follow its promises, and the people must follow the money.

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



Kashmir's Invisible Pain

Thousands in Kashmir live with relentless pain that scans fail to explain, while a broken culture of disbelief pushes patients deeper into exhaustion and despair.



Dr. Afaan Qazi

International Fibromyalgia Awareness Day arrives every year on 12 May with statistics, seminars and statements. But patients in Kashmir experience something far more personal.

They wake up exhausted after a full night in bed, their muscles ache without injury, and their minds struggle through a haze that steals concentration and memory.

Their medical reports appear normal while their lives slowly shrink.

I meet these patients almost every day. Women arrive at pain clinics carrying thick folders filled with blood tests, MRIs and prescriptions gathered over many years. Some have visited orthopaedic surgeons, neurologists, rheumatologists and psychiatrists before reaching us. Most tell the same story.

Many dismissed their suffering as stress, others called them overly emotional. A few suggested the pain existed only in their imagination.

That response has damaged patients as much as the illness itself.

Fibromyalgia remains one of the least understood chronic pain disorders in Kashmir, despite the enormous number of people living with its symptoms.

Medical science now identifies fibromyalgia as a nociplastic pain disorder, where the nervous system amplifies pain signals far beyond normal levels.

The brain and spinal cord enter a state of constant hypersensitivity. Everyday sensations begin to feel overwhelming and exhausting.

Patients live with widespread body pain lasting several months or years. Deep fatigue follows them through the day, and sleep loses its restorative effect.

Many struggle with headaches, irritable bowel syndrome, anxiety and mood disturbances. "Fibro fog" clouds memory and concentration, turning routine tasks into mental labour.

Global studies estimate fibromyalgia affects nearly 2 to 4 percent of the population, with women accounting for the vast majority of diagnosed cases. India already faces serious gaps in diagnosis and treatment, particularly in smaller cities and underserved regions.

Kashmir presents an even more difficult environment for patients.

Long-term psychological stress has touched almost every household here in one form or another. Harsh winters keep people indoors for months and reduce physical activity that helps maintain muscle function and mental health. Vitamin D deficiency remains extremely common because of limited sunlight exposure and indoor living habits.

Public understanding of invisible illnesses remains painfully weak. Families often demand proof

of suffering through visible injury, swelling or abnormal scans.

Fibromyalgia rarely provides that proof. Many patients spend years trapped inside a cycle of repeated investigations and painkillers that bring little improvement. Conventional anti-inflammatory drugs usually fail because fibromyalgia does not arise from damaged joints or inflamed muscles.

The problem lies within altered pain processing pathways inside the central nervous system.

That distinction matters enormously.

Patients need treatment plans grounded in modern pain science rather than outdated assumptions. Fibromyalgia requires multidisciplinary care that combines physical rehabilitation, psychological support and targeted medication.

Recovery begins with education, and patients improve once they understand their pain has a biological basis and does not signal hidden cancer, paralysis

or permanent tissue destruction. Knowledge changes fear, and fear often intensifies pain.

Exercise also plays a central role in treatment. Gentle aerobic activity, stretching, walking, yoga and aquatic therapy help calm pain sensitisation over time.

Kashmir's winters create obvious challenges here, though indoor exercise programmes can still transform physical function and sleep quality. Small, consistent movement achieves more than prolonged bed rest ever will.

Medication has a role too, though treatment focuses on restoring balance within abnormal pain pathways rather than numbing symptoms temporarily. Psychological therapies matter just as deeply because chronic stress and chronic pain continuously feed into each other.

Cognitive behavioural therapy, mindfulness practices, sleep management and stress reduction strategies help patients regain control over daily life.

Kashmir immediately needs wider access to these services.

Pain clinics within the region still remain limited in number, while multidisciplinary treatment models remain rare. Medical education around fibromyalgia also needs major improvement.

Many doctors continue chasing inflammatory or structural explanations long after clinical evidence points elsewhere. Patients lose precious years during that process.

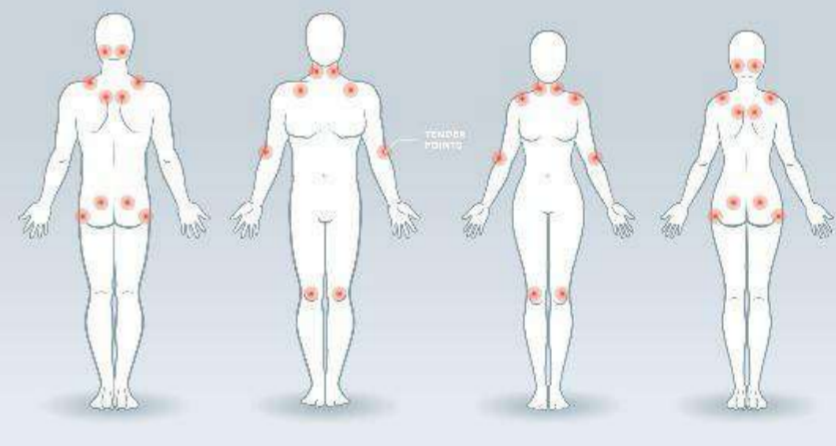
Interventional pain procedures can help selected patients as well. Trigger point injections often reduce focal muscle pain. Ultrasound-guided fascial plane blocks benefit patients with overlapping regional pain syndromes.

Ketamine and intravenous lidocaine infusions have shown promising results in resistant nociplastic pain conditions when administered through specialised centres.

Neuromodulation techniques such as transcranial magnetic stimulation and transcranial direct current stimulation also continue gaining attention within modern pain medicine.

None of these treatments work through magic.

POTENTIAL TENDER POINTS IN FIBROMYALGIA



They work through understanding.

Fibromyalgia may never appear dramatically on an X-ray film or laboratory report, though its consequences touch every corner of a patient's life.

Careers suffer, relationships weaken, confidence collapses, daily routines begin to feel impossible, and patients slowly withdraw from society because endless disbelief drains emotional strength.

Doctors have a responsibility here that extends beyond prescriptions.

We must recognise suffering early, explain it honestly and help patients reclaim function before hopelessness takes root.

Some illnesses are quite loud and visible, but fibromyalgia survives through silence, especially in Kashmir.

And that silence has simply lasted far too long.

The author is a Fellow in Pain Medicine at Jaslok Hospital and Research Centre, Mumbai. He can be reached at qazi.afaan01@gmail.com.

Letter to Editor

Kashmir's Freelance Generation Goes Global

Work is no longer defined by offices or clocked hours in a world revamped by technology and necessity.

A silent revolution is unfolding in living rooms and bedrooms across the valley and the country.

From Sonamarg to Shillong, and from New Delhi to New York, young professionals are clicking their way into global markets. They are earning, growing, and building careers with just a laptop and an internet connection.

Beyond convenience, this shift is about access.

Freelance platforms have opened doors for writers, designers, marketers, and tutors to work with international clients, earn in dollars, and operate with full autonomy.

From video editors building YouTube channels to teachers guiding students abroad, the digital economy is a working reality.

What drives this economy is skill.

The people succeeding online aren't always the most educated on paper, they are committed to learning. They study on YouTube, improve through different platforms, and show up every day and

sharpen their craft. That, more than any certificate, is the new currency.

Of course, online work comes with challenges. Scams exist. Deadlines can be tough. But secure platforms, clear terms, and a bit of caution go a long way. It's not a perfect world, but then again, neither is the traditional job market.

At least here, effort often equals reward.

Remote work also fits a world in flux. It reduces travel, lowers emissions, and adapts to lockdowns, unrest, or natural disasters. It's cost-effective, flexible, and

often liberating. Young people can work on their own terms while contributing to global markets and local economies.

The digital workspace isn't a future to wait for. It's here, growing, and doesn't care where you come from, only what you can do.

For young people in Kashmir and beyond, this is a rare opportunity to rise, earn, and lead without leaving home.

Sincerely

Zainul Abi Din Raina
rainazainul222@gmail.com

Budgam's Meadowland

Crystal streams, cricket fields, nomadic shelters, and forest trails make this Budgam meadow one of Kashmir's most compelling escapes.



Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

Morning light had barely settled over Budgam when I began the drive towards Haijjan Branwar. Vegetable fields glistened after dawn, shopkeepers lifted their shutters, and the scent of fresh bread drifted through village lanes.

Kashmir has many famous destinations that dominate postcards and tourism campaigns, though the valley still guards places that live outside the spotlight.

Haijjan Branwar belongs to that rare category.

The road moved through Raithan, Watred, and Nego Branwar before narrowing near Jabbad. Pine trees thickened along the route, streams flashed between rocks, and the air gained a sharp mountain freshness that city life rarely allows.

Drivers in Kashmir often speak about roads with equal parts affection and frustration, and the final patch towards Haijjan proved exactly why.

Broken stretches slowed every vehicle to a crawl. Dust rose behind tyres, while potholes jolted passengers back into attention. Every traveller on that route understands the same thing immediately: a smoother road would transform this place into one of Budgam's strongest attractions.

Haijjan sits nearly 45 kilometres from Srinagar, though distance feels meaningless once the valley opens before your eyes. Meadows spread like green fabric under towering conifers. Birdsong fills the air with constant movement. Doodh Ganga rushes nearby with cold, fast water that seems to arrive straight from

snowfields. Cricket bats crack against tennis balls on weekends as students and villagers gather for long afternoons in the open air. Children run freely through grasslands while elderly men sit near the tree line discussing climate, crops, and current affairs.

Many tourist spots in Kashmir now feel crowded with noise and commerce. Haijjan still feels human in scale. That difference changes the entire experience.

I crossed Doodh Ganga on foot with a small group of locals who knew every bend in the landscape. The walk lasted barely twenty minutes, though the scenery slowed everyone naturally.

Wildflowers pushed through patches of grass, insects hovered near streams, and sunlight filtered through dense forest cover and landed softly on the meadow floor. Nobody rushed and checked their phone constantly. Haijjan creates that effect on visitors without trying.

One elderly shepherd pointed towards several mud structures scattered near grazing fields. Those shelters, called kothas in Gojri, serve nomadic herders during summer months when livestock graze in higher pastures. Smoke rose gently from one of them while sheep spread across the hillside nearby.

Generations of movement, labour, and seasonal migration survive in these landscapes through habits that continue each year.

Kashmir's tourism talk often revolves around hotels, resorts, and commercial activity. Haijjan tells a different story. This place thrives because human presence still moves carefully beside forests, rivers, and pastureland. Grazing grounds remain active, streams remain clear, and forest cover still dominates the horizon instead of concrete structures.

That balance gives Haijjan its strongest appeal.

A young student from Budgam told me he visits the meadow frequently with friends during holidays. They play cricket, cook food outdoors, and spend hours near the riverbank. His description captured something tourism brochures usually fail to explain.



ADVENTURE SEEKERS HAVE ALSO BEGUN DISCOVERING THE AREA. TREKKERS FREQUENTLY USE HAIJJAN AS A ROUTE TOWARDS YOUSMARG, WHICH LIES NEARLY AN HOUR AWAY BY FOOT. The trail climbs gradually through forested stretches and open grassland before revealing wider mountain views. Several local residents believe trekking tourism could create employment opportunities for guides, transport operators, food vendors, and small guesthouses if authorities improve infrastructure thoughtfully.

Haijjan works because people genuinely use the landscape instead of simply photographing it.

Adventure seekers have also begun discovering the area. Trekkers frequently use Haijjan as a route towards Yousmarg, which lies nearly an hour away by foot. The trail climbs gradually through forested stretches and open grassland before revealing wider mountain views.

Several local residents believe trekking tourism could create employment opportunities for guides, transport operators, food vendors,

and small guesthouses if authorities improve infrastructure thoughtfully.

That argument holds impact and influence.

Budgam already attracts visitors through destinations like Doodhpathri and the revered shrine town of Charar-e-Sharif associated with Sheikh Noor-ud-din Wali. Haijjan could easily complement those routes while maintaining its ecological character.

The meadow also holds practical importance beyond tourism.

Haijjan serves as the main water

source for the 7.5 MW Branwar Hydroelectric Power Project, linking this peaceful landscape directly to regional energy production. Local students sometimes visit the project during educational tours to understand hydropower generation and environmental systems more closely. Teachers accompanying such trips often divide students into smaller supervised groups, creating safer and more meaningful outdoor learning experiences.

That educational value deserves greater attention.

Kashmiri students grow up surrounded by mountains, rivers, and forests, though classroom learning often remains disconnected from the natural systems around them. Haijjan closes that gap beautifully.

Geography, ecology, energy production, biodiversity, and climate all become visible in real time once students walk through the area.

Late afternoon brought colder air into this mesmerizing meadow. Shadows lengthened beneath the pine trees while distant chatter echoed softly through the landscape. A shepherd guided livestock downhill, cricket matches ended gradually, and smoke curled upward from temporary huts.

Haijjan seemed to slow time itself without demanding anything dramatic.

Kashmir possesses many places of astonishing beauty, though Haijjan Branwar leaves a deeper impression because life still feels grounded there.

Forests stand undisturbed, rivers continue their course with force and clarity, and villagers maintain a living connection with land that supports them materially and spiritually.

Places like this need careful attention instead of hurried exploitation. Better roads, responsible tourism planning, environmental safeguards, and local participation could strengthen Haijjan's future while preserving the qualities that make it unforgettable.

Evening settled over Budgam during my return journey. Pine-covered slopes faded into blue shadows while Doodh Ganga continued roaring somewhere below the road.

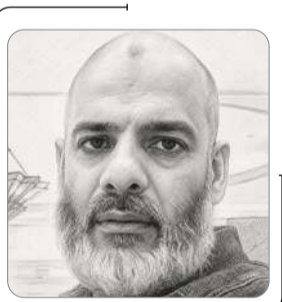
Haijjan disappeared slowly behind the hills, though its atmosphere stayed with me long after the drive ended.

Some destinations impress visitors immediately through spectacle. Haijjan Branwar wins people slowly through air, silence, water, and human warmth. Kashmir still breathes fully in places like this.

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Scholars at the Palace Gate

Power courts scholars with praise and proximity, but history remembers the ones who guarded truth with distance.



Tajamul Farooqi

The ninth century produced many rulers, generals, and courts rich with spectacle. History remembers one scholar for something far harder to preserve: independence.

Ahmad ibn Hanbal stood at the center of the Mihna, the Abbasid campaign that forced scholars to accept state doctrine on matters of faith. Refusal invited prison, flogging, and public humiliation. Many bent under pressure. Ibn Hanbal endured the punishment and held his ground.

Most people understand the courage needed during persecution. Far fewer understand the discipline required after persecution ends.

Everything changed when Al-Muwattakkil rose to power. Prison doors opened, public respect returned, and palace officials brought gifts, wealth, and invitations.

The same state that once whipped the scholar now welcomed him into its inner circle.

That moment held a deeper moral test than the prison cell.

Political authority rarely controls scholars through force alone. Wealth, praise, access, and status often achieve far more.

A ruler seldom asks a respected scholar to invent falsehood. Power usually seeks softer concessions, a delayed criticism, a muted sermon, and a strategic silence during public

wrongdoing. Gradually, moral authority begins serving political convenience.

Ibn Hanbal understood that process with remarkable clarity. Accounts from the period describe how he refused lavish gifts and distributed what he accepted among the poor. Palace life held no attraction for him because he knew proximity changes people long before they recognize the change themselves.

Distance protected his freedom to speak plainly.

His famous statement still cuts through centuries of political culture: "The worst of scholars are those who visit rulers, and the best of rulers are those who visit scholars."

Those words never promoted defiance or disorder. They defended intellectual independence.

A scholar tied too closely to authority loses the ability to challenge it honestly. Public trust weakens the moment knowledge becomes dependent on patronage.

Earlier generations understood the same danger.

Abu Hanifa, among the most influential jurists in Islamic history, also refused official office despite repeated pressure from rulers. Judicial authority promised prestige and influence, but Abu Hanifa saw another reality beneath the surface.

Courts controlled by political power could turn scholars into instruments that validate injustice with religious language.

He chose hardship instead.

That choice came from principle rather than pride. Abu Hanifa recognized that scholars serve society best when they remain free from coercion, fear, and dependency. Legal opinions lose moral force once rulers begin determining their boundaries.

Modern societies continue wrestling with the same tension.

Every government seeks legitimacy, and every ruler values intellectual



voices that strengthen public standing.

Universities, religious institutions, media platforms, and think tanks all experience this pressure in different forms. Access to power creates temptation because influence feels productive, respectable, and effective.

The world today understands this dynamic deeply.

The current political climate has produced intellectual figures who moved close to authority and gradually softened their public voice. Some entered government circles with sincere intentions, many believed they could influence policy from within.

Public memory, however, rarely celebrates those who became comfortable near power. People remember

the individuals who preserved honesty even when isolation carried a heavy personal cost.

That lesson matters today because modern public life rewards visibility and access more aggressively than ever before.

Invitations, advisory roles, television appearances, state recognition, and institutional appointments create an atmosphere where independence slowly erodes through accommodation rather than confrontation.

A scholar does not lose credibility in one dramatic moment. The decline usually comes through small compromises repeated over time.

History therefore treats Ibn Hanbal and Abu Hanifa with unusual respect.

Their strength appeared in restraint, as they understood that knowledge gains authority through moral distance from power.

A scholar who fears losing access eventually fears speaking clearly. Once that fear enters public life, truth becomes negotiable.

Healthy societies need scholars, writers, journalists, jurists, and intellectuals who can speak without calculating political consequences first. Public trust depends on that independence.

Authority also benefits from it because rulers surrounded only by agreeable voices drift gradually toward arrogance and blindness.

The Abbasid scholars understood a

THE ABBASID SCHOLARS UNDERSTOOD A SIMPLE FACT THAT REMAINS PAINFULLY RELEVANT IN EVERY AGE: power always welcomes praise, while societies survive through honest criticism.

simple fact that remains painfully relevant in every age: power always welcomes praise, while societies survive through honest criticism.

That leaves every generation with the same enduring question: Will scholars stand near the palace gate, or will they stand where truth requires them to stand?

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Modi Urges

crisis, keeping the country above all else, we have to take resolutions," he added.

"We got into work-from-home, virtual meetings, video conferencing, and many other methods during Covid-19. We got habituated to them. The need of the hour is to resume those methods," Modi said.

He called for reducing the consumption of edible oil, lowering the use of chemical fertilisers, promoting natural farming and Swadeshi products to save foreign exchange and make the country self-reliant.

Opposition reacts
Opposition leaders on Monday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleging that his government had failed to safeguard people's interests and dubbed him a "compromised PM" after he made an appeal for judicious use of fuel and defer gold purchases as well as foreign travel to help save foreign exchange in the wake of the West Asia crisis.

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said the PM's words were "evidence of failure".

In a scathing attack on Prime Minister for calling for measures to be taken by citizens to overcome the challenges posed by the West Asia conflict, Gandhi said that the "compromised PM" is no longer capable of running the country.

The opposition party also asked Prime Minister Modi not to shift the blame for "12 years of failures" onto the shoulders of the Indian public.

"Yesterday, Modi Ji called upon the public to make sacrifices -- do not buy gold, do not travel abroad, consume less petrol, cut down on fertilisers and cooking oil, take the metro, and work from home," Gandhi said in an X post in Hindi.

"These are not words of counsel; they are evidence of failure," he said.

Over a span of 12 years, the country has been brought to such a juncture that the public now has to be told what to buy and what not to buy, where to go and where not to go, Gandhi said.

Seeking to defend the PM's remarks, BJP leader Sudhanshu Trivedi said what Modi had said was the duty of the government and it was similar to how the government advises caution when there is a possibility of a tsunami or a storm.

"I think the opposition is once again making the mistake of opposing the government, the BJP and PM Narendra Modi to the extent that it risks crossing into opposing the nation," Trivedi said.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav alleged that the BJP government had failed in handling both the economy and foreign policy, calling its appeal an "admission of failure".

In a post on X, Yadav said, "As soon as elections are over, the government suddenly remembered the 'crisis'. In reality, there is only one crisis for the country and its name is BJP."

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Priyanka Chaturvedi alleged that the austerity measures were a result of election-focused governance and the NCP (SP) said the BJP should "lead by example" before asking the public to curtail consumption and travel.

AAP MP Sanjay Singh said the PM should stop doing roadshows, holding public rallies and going on foreign trips to save fuel.

PM to Embark

comprehensive strategic partnership and exchange views on the West Asia conflict.

"The two leaders will have the opportunity to exchange views on bilateral issues, in particular energy cooperation, as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Monday.

It said the visit will serve to promote the significant trade and investment linkages between the two countries.

The UAE is India's third-largest trade partner and its seventh-largest source of investment cumulatively over the past 25 years.

With the UAE hosting over 4.5 million-strong Indian community, the visit will also be an opportunity to discuss their welfare, the MEA said.

In the second leg of his trip, Modi will visit the Netherlands from May 15 to 17. This will be his second trip to the Netherlands, following his visit in 2017.

The prime minister will meet King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima, and hold talks with Prime Minister Rob Jetten.

PM Modi's visit will build on the momentum of high-level engagements and close cooperation spanning diverse sectors, including defence, security, innovation, green hydrogen, semiconductors and a strategic partnership on water, according to the MEA.

It said his visit will provide an opportunity to further deepen and expand the multifaceted partnership.

The Netherlands is one of India's largest trade destinations in Europe, with bilateral trade worth USD 27.8 billion in 2024-25. The European nation is India's fourth-largest investor with cumulative foreign direct investment of USD 55.6 billion.

From the Netherlands, the prime minister will travel to Sweden at the invitation of his Swedish counterpart Ulf Kristersson for a two-day trip from May 17 to 18.

Modi had earlier visited Sweden in 2018 for the first-ever India-Nordic Summit.

The prime minister is scheduled to hold bilateral talks with PM Kristersson to review the entire gamut of bilateral relations and explore new avenues of cooperation to enhance bilateral trade, which has reached USD 7.75 billion in 2025.

In their talks, the two sides are set to focus on boosting bilateral ties in areas of green transition, AI, emerging technologies, startups, resilient supply chains, defence, space, climate action and people-to-people ties.

"The two prime ministers will also address the European Round Table for Industry, a leading pan-European business leaders forum, along with Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission," the MEA said in a statement.

In the fourth leg of his visit, Modi will be in Norway from May 18 to 19 to attend the third India-Nordic summit as well as to hold bilateral talks with the leadership of the country.

This will be the first visit of PM Modi to Norway. It will also mark the first visit by an Indian prime minister to Norway in 43 years.

PM Modi will call on King Harald V and Queen Sonja and hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store.

Modi will also address the India-Norway Business and Research Summit along with the Norwegian Prime Minister, according to the MEA.

"The visit will provide an opportunity to review the progress made in India-Norway relations and explore avenues to further strengthen them, with a focus on trade and investment, capitalising on the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement, as well as on clean and green tech and blue economy," it said.

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) nations are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

"The visit will also be an opportunity to induce momentum in bilateral trade worth around USD 2.73 billion (2024), and investments by Norway's government Pension Fund (GPF) of close to USD 28 billion in the Indian capital market," the MEA said.

The third India-Nordic summit will take place in Oslo on May 19, and it will be joined by Modi and his counterparts from Norway, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden.

The MEA said the summit will build upon the two previous summits held in Stockholm in April 2018 and in Copenhagen in May 2022, and will impart a more strategic dimension to India's relationship with the Nordic countries.

The summit is expected to focus on enhancing two-way ties in areas of technology and innovation, green transition and renewable energy, sustainability, blue economy, defence, space and the Arctic.

In the final leg of his visit, PM Modi will undertake an official visit to Italy from May 19 to 20 at the invitation of his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni.

Kashmir Police

Shalimar Colony and recovered codeine phosphate from his possession, the statement said.

In south Kashmir's Anantnag district, police said a man identified as Jahangir Ahmad Khan of Hallan Nowbugh was arrested during patrolling at Sirgan-Hallan crossing. Around 1.442 kilograms of contraband substance in crushed form was allegedly seized from him.

Meanwhile, in Pulwama, police intercepted a motorcycle rider near Block Office Lassipora and recovered around 204 grams of charas-like substance from his possession.

Police said cases under relevant sections of the NDPS Act have been registered at the respective police stations and investigations have been initiated.

Alongside enforcement measures, police also organised anti-drug awareness programmes, rallies and village-level meetings in districts including Budgam, Baramulla, Awantipora and Ganderbal to sensitise students and the public about the harmful effects of substance abuse.

In Handwara, police attached property worth around Rs 25 lakh belonging to an accused in an NDPS case and demolished structures allegedly linked to narcotics-related activities in Langate, the statement added.

Police in Anantnag said that during the first month of the anti-drug campaign, 120 FIRs were registered under the NDPS Act across the district, while 118 alleged drug peddlers were arrested.

More than 300 kilograms of contraband substances were seized during the period, while properties worth around Rs 13.5 crore linked to narcotics proceeds were either attached or demolished, police said.

Three houses belonging to alleged drug peddlers in Kathua district were demolished as a part of a major crackdown under the anti-drug campaign, officials said.

The demolished structures were illegally constructed on state government land in the Korepunnu area of Rajbagh, they said.

The action was taken against properties belonging to Liaquat Ali, alias 'Liaqatu', and his brothers Gaggu Din and Sham Din, all residents of Korepunnu in Tehsil Marheeh of Kathua district, they said.

Officials said the accused are involved in 16 FIRs related to drug peddling and other criminal activities. The estimated value of the demolished properties is said to be worth over Rs 1 crore, they said.

The officials said the operation reflects the government's continued commitment to eradicate the drug menace and take strict action against those involved in narcotics-related crime.

Somnath Temple

was intertwined with the soul of every Indian. "Somnath is the divinity of India. Somnath is dedication. Somnath is devotion. Somnath is the thirst for truth. Somnath is our pride. Somnath is our strength," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also paid tribute to historical figures who, he said, defended and preserved the sanctity of the temple across generations. He named Bhim Dev, Jayapal, Anandpal and Maharaja Dharsen among those who stood against invaders.

He also remembered Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for initiating the reconstruction of the temple after Independence on November 12, 1947, and noted that India's first President, Rajendra Prasad, performed the consecration ceremony of the rebuilt shrine in 1951.

Calling the rebuilding of Somnath a "symbol of inner victory," Sinha said the temple represented a lamp of faith and determination that had continued to burn for centuries.

"Somnath Temple is a beacon of the nation. Without Somnath, our society would be lifeless," he said.

Minister for Youth Services and Sports Satish Sharma, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, DGP Nalin Prabhat and senior civil and police officials were among those present at the event.

'Rise, Shine

won on battlefields. The biggest victories emerged from classrooms and labs, achieved by young trailblazers who refused to accept the world as they found it and transformed it through their resolve and grit," Sinha said.

He said the National Youth Festival was a declaration that "the time for youth has arrived" and added that initiatives like the "Young Leaders Dialogue" would help shape the next chapter of India's future.

"Through Youth Festival's Young Leaders Dialogue, we are laying the very foundation and framework on which the next chapter of India's glorious heritage will stand tall," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged participants in the 'Viksit J&K Young Leaders Dialogue', hackathon and cultural events to commit themselves to building a strong and developed India.

He said governance could not succeed without meaningful participation of young people and stressed the importance of ensuring youth representation across all sectors.

"Every young boy and girl has incredible talent. They just need opportunities and faith in themselves. I want India's youth to create their own paths instead of treading well-worn trails, because innovation and invention spring from uncharted routes," he said.

Sinha said India needed courageous youth willing to break conventional barriers and pursue originality.

"The world doesn't need another copy of someone who already exists. It needs unique youth like you, individuals with one-of-a-kind personalities who don't just shine for themselves, but light the way for those who come after," he said.

Highlighting the role of culture in shaping identity, the Lieutenant Governor said art, music, literature, theatre, sports and crafts reflected the spirit and aspirations of the country.

"When young people express themselves through music, art, literature, dance, theater, sports and crafts, they are channeling the soul of India itself," he said.

Calling upon youth to overcome fear, inequality and despair, Sinha said true victory lay in conquering social and intellectual limitations rather than defeating others.

"We must triumph over darkness. We must conquer the fear of bold new experiments. And we must resolve to build a strong, empathetic and developed India," he said.

Minister for Youth Services and Sports Satish Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary Ashwani Kumar, Commissioner Secretary Youth Services and Sports Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, SSP Srinagar Dr GV Sundeep Chakravarthy, Director General Youth Services and Sports Anuradha Gupta, senior officials and young participants from different parts of the country attended the event.

Trump Rejects

response," he said.

The exchange comes amid a fragile ceasefire agreed on 8 April, weeks after the US and Israel launched war on Iran on 28 February. Iran has since carried out widespread retaliatory strikes under what it calls "Operation True Promise 4".

The war has had global consequences, particularly after Iran imposed restrictions on the Strait of Hormuz, a key maritime route for roughly a fifth of global oil supplies, contributing to fuel shortages in several countries.

Iran has since established a mechanism to collect tolls from ships transiting the strait, asserting its sovereign rights as a coastal state. US officials have dismissed any such control as "unacceptable", but Iran insists the strait's security is a regional matter.

According to Iran's state broadcaster IRIB, Tehran's response includes demands for full compensation for war damage, the lifting of all sanctions, the release of frozen Iranian assets, and recognition of Iran's sovereignty over the strait – a position the US has been reluctant to publicly accept.

Trump said he discussed the Iranian response with Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday. "It was a very nice call. We have a good relationship," he said, adding that the Iran negotiations are "my situation, not everybody else's".

Meanwhile, Iranian leadership remains defiant. Reacting to Trump's rejection, Tasnim News Agency, said to be reflecting views of the IRGC, said, "Nobody in Iran writes a plan to please Trump. Trump simply does not like reality; that is why he keeps losing to Iran." The response, it said, "emphasises the fundamental rights of the Iranian nation" and rejects Washington's earlier plan, which Iran views as coercive.

Responding to critics of talks with the US, President Masoud Pezeshkian said engagement did not imply capitulation. "We will never bow down to the enemy," he wrote on X, adding that dialogue "does not mean surrender or retreat".

In Washington, some Republicans have pushed for escalation. War hawk Senator Lindsey Graham urged Trump to consider a "military option".

However, Mark Pfeifle, a former U.S. national security adviser, told Al Jazeera that a return to full-scale war appeared unlikely, noting that U.S. officials had recently said "Operation Epic Fury" was over.

"They are pretty much at the same place they were before negotiations began," Pfeifle said. Tehran has not indicated whether further talks will take place, but officials maintain that any negotiations must be based on respect for Iran's sovereignty rather than what they describe as imposed demands.

Iran Seeks 'War

In a statement released on Monday, the council condemned the firing of two torpedoes by the US Navy submarine USS Charlotte at the Dena, a Wave-class frigate of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy, in international waters near the southern coast of Sri Lanka, on March 4, that killed 104 of its crew.

It said that the attack, which was carried out during the illegal US-Israeli war of aggression against Iran, violates the prohibition on the use of force outside the framework of self-defense as enshrined in the UN Charter.

The assault breaches the principles of distinction, precautions, and proportionality under international humanitarian law, it added.

The US carried out the double-tap attack on the Dena destroyer in a bid to maximize human casualties after the vessel was disabled.

The rights body also noted that the American submarine violated the fundamental rights of the drowned and injured Iranian sailors by leaving the scene without conducting a rescue operation.

It further censured the US for prohibiting the return of the bodies of the martyrs in an inhumane manner.

Iran "holds the United States and relevant military and political authorities directly responsible for this war crime and calls on the Human Rights Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to officially condemn the attack ... [and] place an independent case of this crime on their agenda and register the names of the responsible US officials as war criminals," the council said.

Meanwhile, it called for pressure on the US government to issue an official apology and pay full compensation to the Iranian government and people, especially the bereaved.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its inherent and legitimate right to defend its territorial integrity and military and human existence, including a proportionate response to this crime and its legal pursuit in all domestic and international authorities."

The Dena destroyer was present at the port of Visakhapatnam at the invitation of the Indian Navy and within the framework of international protocols to participate in the exercises "International Fleet Review 2026" and "Milan 2026". It was attacked in international waters while returning home after the drills.

In addition to the 104 sailors martyred in the assault, 32 of the destroyer's crew members were rescued by Sri Lankan forces, while the bodies of 20 others were never found.

The unprovoked US-Israeli aggression on Iran began on February 28 with airstrikes that assassinated senior Iranian officials and commanders.

The Iranian armed forces unleashed at least 100 waves of successful, decisive retaliatory strikes against sensitive and strategic American and Israeli targets throughout the region.

On April 8, forty days into the war, an Islamabad-brokered temporary ceasefire went into effect. However, the first round of Tehran-Washington negotiations failed to reach an agreement.

The US unilaterally extended the truce after its expiry, but imposed an inhumane "naval blockade" of Iran.

Tehran has refrained from committing to a second round of talks, with authorities citing Washington's excessive demands and piracy against Iranian ships as two main impediments to concluding the war.

MeT Warns of

mainly during afternoon, evening and night hours," the advisory said.

In view of the forecast, the department advised people to suspend boating and shikara rides during afternoon and late afternoon hours because of gusty winds over water bodies.

Farmers have also been advised to suspend farm operations till May 13.

According to the forecast, weather conditions are expected to remain partly to generally cloudy with brief showers from May 13 to 17. Light rain and thundershowers are likely at scattered places on May 18, while the weather is expected to remain partly to generally cloudy from May 19 to 21.

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 24.4 degrees Celsius on Monday, slightly above the normal of 24.3 degrees Celsius, while the minimum settled at 14 degrees Celsius, 3.1 degrees above normal.

Qazigund recorded a maximum temperature of 22.6 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 11.6 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam registered 20.2 degrees Celsius as the day temperature and 10.6 degrees Celsius during the night.

In Kupwara, the maximum temperature settled at 24.2 degrees Celsius and the minimum at 11.3 degrees Celsius.

Tourist resort Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 15.4 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 5.4 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 33 degrees Celsius, which was 4.1 degrees below normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 20.2 degrees Celsius.

Banihal recorded 23 degrees Celsius, Batote 22.8 degrees Celsius and Katra 30.6 degrees Celsius as the maximum temperatures, the MeT data showed.

CM Omar Meets

involving public safety and national security, within the UT.

Parliament Panel

delegation comprised Members of Parliament from different political parties and backgrounds who were working collectively to suggest improvements in urban and rural development across the country.

The panel first visited riverfront development works before stopping at Balidan Stambh, where members paid homage. The delegation later visited the Ghanta Ghar at Lal Chowk and reviewed ongoing civic and infrastructure works being carried out under the Smart City programme.

Reddy said the committee would hold further discussions in Srinagar and additional meetings in Gulmarg to better understand local issues and development requirements.

Emphasising the importance of stability in the region, the Chairperson said peace remained essential for tourism and economic growth in Kashmir.

"Srinagar has strong tourism potential due to its natural beauty and improved infrastructure, but sustained peace is necessary to ensure steady tourist inflow," he said.

He added that tourism formed the backbone of the local economy and that greater confidence among visitors, particularly young tourists, could significantly improve Kashmir's image and economic activity. (KNO)

NEET-UG 2026

ongoing investigation.

Responding to the allegations, the National Testing Agency issued a clarification, asserting that the examination was conducted under "full security protocol."

"The examination on 3 May 2026 was conducted as scheduled and under a full security protocol," the agency said.

NTA stated that question papers were transported in GPS-tracked vehicles carrying unique and traceable watermark identifiers. The agency also said exam centres functioned under AI-assisted CCTV surveillance monitored from a central control room, with biometric verification of candidates and 5G signal jammers in operation.

The testing agency maintained that the examination process "proceeded as planned across all centres on the day."

According to NTA, information regarding the alleged malpractice was received only on the night of May 7, four days after the examination had concluded.

"On the late evening of 7 May 2026, NTA received inputs concerning alleged malpractice activity around the examination," the agency said, adding that the matter was immediately escalated to central agencies on May 8 for independent verification and action.

The agency said it is cooperating fully with investigating authorities by

sharing examination-related data and technical assistance.

"NTA will not pre-judge the inquiry, nor characterise its likely outcome," the agency stated, adding that any further action would be taken in consultation with the Ministry of Education if required.

NEET-UG 2026 was held in a single shift from 2 pm to 5 pm for over 22.79 lakh candidates, including around 13.32 lakh female and 9.46 lakh male aspirants. The examination remains the sole gateway for undergraduate medical admissions across India.

Following the massive controversy surrounding NEET-UG 2024, NTA had introduced multiple additional safeguards this year, including multi-stage biometric verification, AI-assisted surveillance systems, GPS tracking of question papers, centralised monitoring and 5G signal jammers at centres.

The latest allegations have triggered heightened concern because the 2024 examination was also marred by accusations of paper leaks and irregularities, leading to protests, court proceedings and investigations by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Although the Supreme Court of India later ruled that there was no evidence of a systemic breach large enough to warrant cancellation of the entire examination, the controversy had significantly eroded public confidence in national-level entrance tests.

CM's Alcohol Remarks

sentiments of the majority population. The controversy erupted after Omar Abdullah clarified his earlier remarks on alcohol, saying they had been made in haste and without adequate explanation. He maintained that his government had neither opened new liquor shops nor planned to expand the trade.

"Our religion prohibits it. We don't want youth to fall prey to it," Omar Abdullah said while accusing opposition parties of twisting his statement.

The issue also drew criticism from Srinagar MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, who termed the Chief Minister's response "arrogant, unethical and illogical."

He said the National Conference had promised during elections that liquor shops would be regulated and alcohol consumption restricted for locals.

"Instead of assuring people that action will be taken, people were scolded and labelled. This is not what people voted for," he said.

Ruhullah also accused the Chief Minister of using language that reflected "tagging and stereotyping" of Kashmiris.

As the controversy widened, National Conference chief spokesperson and Zaidial MLA Tanvir Sadiq defended the party's stand and countered the criticism from the PDP.

Referring to remarks made by former PDP Finance Minister Haseeb Drabu during the PDP-led government, Sadiq said those demanding a ban today had themselves opposed prohibition earlier.

"Those speaking about a liquor ban today are the same people whose Finance Minister had categorically stated in the Assembly that alcohol would not be banned," he said.

Sadiq reiterated that the National Conference opposed alcohol consumption and did not encourage it in any form.]

SC Flags Bail

with the date of filing, date of decision or the next date of hearing.

In its order passed on Monday, the bench said most of the high courts have furnished the data and taken initiatives for the timely disposal of bail applications.

It noted that the volume of pendency of bail applications in the Allahabad High Court was "too large" even though most of the judges there were dealing with hundreds of cases in a day.

The bench left it to the discretion of the chief justice and the administrative committee of the Allahabad High Court to evolve a mechanism to ensure a definite date of hearing for bail applications.

It said in the cause list, "listing of bail applications be prioritised".

The bench said a similar mechanism was required to be evolved in the Patna High Court where bail applications were sometimes adjourned for a longer period of time.

The top court noted several suggestions which were put forth before it to ensure the timely disposal of bail applications.

It said that according to the suggestions, bail matters can be listed on a weekly or fortnightly basis and there can be an automatic software system by which all bail pleas are listed at least once every two weeks.

The court said a status report on the bail plea be mandatorily filed before the first date of hearing and the application be served on the office of the lawyer of the probe agencies.

It said the practice of issuing notice and admitting bail applications has to be dispensed with and there has to be automatic listing of such pleas.

"The high courts can also resolve to fix an outer timeline for the disposal of bail applications," the bench said.

It said the high courts need to evolve a practice of discouraging avoidable or casual adjournments by the government counsel, reminding them of the courts' solemn duty to protect the most precious fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution which deals with protection of life and personal liberty.

The bench also highlighted the need to have the forensic science laboratory (FSL) reports within a reasonable time in cases especially those registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

"The responsibility of the investigating officers (IOs), especially in victim-centric cases, is also very important," the bench said.

It said the IOs must ensure that victims, who have a right to be heard, are able to participate in the proceedings and avail legal representation.

The bench also suggested the use of digital portals for uploading status reports.

The issue of pendency of bail applications in the high courts had cropped up before the top court while hearing a petition challenging an order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court. While hearing the plea on February 4, the apex court directed all states to fully cooperate with the high courts for early and time-bound adjudication of bail applications or a prayer for suspension of sentence.

Awareness Campaigns Will Drive Maximum Participation in Census: CS Dulloo

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Monday chaired the 3rd meeting of the UT Level Census Coordination Committee here to review the preparedness for the initial phase of Self-Enumeration and House Listing activities for Census 2027 across the districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary took this occasion to emphasize on the need for conducting vigorous and comprehensive training programmes for both Enumerators and Supervisors to ensure the highest standards of accuracy and reliability in data capturing during the Census process. He underscored that well-trained field functionaries would be key to maintaining the integrity and credibility of the entire enumeration exercise.

He further directed that the formation and demarcation of



House Listing Blocks (HLBs) be completed well before the commencement of enumeration so that the process remains seamless, exhaustive and free from any lacunae. He stressed upon close monitoring of the progress at district and charge levels to avoid delays and ensure proper ground preparedness.

The Chief Secretary also called for launching effective and coor-

ordinated promotional campaigns involving different departments and stakeholders on designated thematic days to encourage citizens to voluntarily participate in the Self-Enumeration process. He observed that active public participation and awareness would play a crucial role in making the Census exercise successful and inclusive.

The Chief Secretary reviewed

district-wise preparedness and stressed upon all Deputy Commissioners and concerned officers to ensure seamless coordination, timely completion of preparatory activities and extensive public outreach for achieving maximum participation in Self-Enumeration. He emphasized the importance of regular monitoring at district and charge levels to ensure smooth conduct of the House Listing phase.

During the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar stressed upon conducting multiple rounds of trainings for Enumerators and Supervisors keeping in view the critical and sensitive nature of the Census exercise. He also emphasized that no household, particularly in remote and hilly areas, should be left out during the formation of House Listing Blocks, calling for meticulous planning and field verification to ensure complete coverage.

During the meeting, Director, Census Operations J&K and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, gave a detailed presentation outlining the progress achieved in training of field functionaries, formation of House Listing Blocks (HLBs), appointment of enumerators and supervisors, publicity plans, administrative preparations and fund utilization for the upcoming Census operations.

Govt Puts 'Breaks' on Rapido Bike Taxi Service

JAMMU: Authorities have imposed a ban on bike and cab service provider Rapido in Jammu and Kashmir due to the company functioning without the required permissions.

According to the details available with KNO, the Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Jammu, Jasmeet Singh, issued a circular stating that the company was operating without an aggregator certificate, making its services illegal in the Union Territory.

The action follows a statement by Transport Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan, who clarified that Rapido does not hold a licence to operate in Jammu and Kashmir. In a post on X, Mahajan said his office had received multiple complaints regarding the company's services in different parts of the UT and warned commuters against using them.

"Rapido does not have a licence to operate in Jammu and Kashmir. Anybody participating in the service or using it is doing so at his or her own risk," Mahajan said, adding that directions had already been issued to officials to take action against the "illegal service."

RTO Jasmeet Singh stated that any aggregator company must register with the Transport Commissioner's office and obtain the necessary approvals before starting operations in the region. He further noted that Rapido would be required to establish a local office and set up a control room to ensure proper monitoring of vehicles and passengers.

Pulwama Moves towards First Comprehensive Master Plan

PULWAMA: In a major step towards planned urban development and long-term infrastructure growth, the district administration Pulwama convened a high-level meeting at the Circuit House to discuss the formulation of a comprehensive Master Plan for Pulwama town and Awantipora.

The meeting, chaired by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama Dr Basharat Qayoom, aimed to gather suggestions and feedback from public representatives, stakeholders, officials and citizens so that their recommendations could be incorporated into the draft master plan being prepared for the district.

Among those present were MLA Pulwama Waheed Ur Rehman Parra, senior officers from the district administration, police officials, representatives from various sectors and a team of urban planning experts from Delhi.

Officials told KNO that the initiative is intended to ensure systematic urban expansion, improved public infrastructure, environmental sustainability and better civic amenities for the rapidly growing towns of Pulwama and Awantipora. The meeting focused on identifying local needs and future requirements so that the master plan reflects the aspirations of the people while addressing developmental challenges.

Public Outreach Programme Held in Newly Created Sham District

SHAM: In a bid to strengthen community relations and address public concerns at the grassroots level, the newly established District Sham organized a joint public outreach programme involving the Police and Civil Administration.

The interaction witnessed participation from representatives of several organizations and community bodies, including LBA, BJP, Women Alliance, LAS, religious groups, and village Lambardars. During the programme, officials held direct discussions with the participants on a range of issues concerning law and order, civic amenities, and the developmental needs of the region.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner assured the public that extensive tours of all villages in the district would be undertaken to ensure that developmental initiatives effectively reach every corner of the newly created district. He emphasized that the administration remains committed to addressing public grievances and accelerating development works at the grassroots level. (Observer News Service)

IAS Probationers of AGMUT Cadre call on CM Omar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A group of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) probationers from the AGMUT Cadre called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah here today.

The probationers included Alfred Thomas, Ruchika Jha, Mohd. Haris Mir, Shagun Singh, and Jitendra Kumar.

During the interaction,

the Chief Minister enquired about their current postings in Jammu and Kashmir and discussed the administrative nature of their assignments and general functioning.

Wishing the young officers success in their future endeavors, the Chief Minister urged them to work with dedication and commitment toward the betterment of the people and the nation.

Ministry of Mines to Launch Second Tranche of Limestone Block Auctions

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Ministry of Mines, Government of India, is set to launch the second tranche of auction of limestone blocks in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir today at Srinagar. Building upon the successful initiation of mineral block auctions in the UT, this marks another significant step towards unlocking the region's mineral potential and strengthening its contribution towards the vision of Viksit Bharat and Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Under Tranche II, the Ministry, in collaboration with the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, is offering 12 limestone blocks for auction. These blocks are located across the districts of Anantnag, Rajouri, and Poonch, and include both newly identified blocks as well as those being re-auctioned under second attempt, reflecting the Government's commitment towards optimal resource utilization and sustained industry participation.

The launch event will be held at Srinagar and will be graced by Shri Piyush Goyal, Secretary, Ministry of Mines. Shri Ashwani



Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, along with senior officials from the Ministry of Mines and the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, will also be present during the event, highlighting the Centre and UT Government's shared commitment towards accelerating mineral development, industrial growth, and inclusive economic progress in Jammu & Kashmir.

The blocks are broadly categorized under UNFC G3 and G4 stages of exploration, indicating promising geological potential with substantial industrial-grade limestone deposits. These resources are critical for key sectors such as cement, construction, and infrastructure, and are expected to play an important role in supporting industrial growth

and economic development in the region. The auction is being conducted under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 (as amended). The process is designed to be transparent, competitive, and aligned with global best practices, with bidding conducted through a digital e-auction platform. The Ministry of Mines remains committed to promoting scientific and sustainable mining practices. The successful auction and operationalization of these blocks is expected to generate significant revenue, create employment opportunities, strengthen industrial growth, and contribute towards the inclusive development of Jammu & Kashmir.

Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan

118 Drug Peddlers Arrested in Anantnag: SSP Nagpure

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Anantnag Amod Ashok Nagpure on Monday said that police have intensified the war against narcotics in the district, arresting 118 drug peddlers and seizing more than 300 kilogrammes of contraband substances during the first month of the ongoing "Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan".

Addressing a press conference in Anantnag, SSP Nag-

pure, accompanied by senior police officers, highlighted the major achievements registered by the district police under the NDPS Act over the past month. The SSP said that Anantnag Police registered 120 FIRs under various provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act as part of the intensified anti-drug campaign launched across the district following the 100-day "Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan" initiated by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Sajad Lone slams PDP, NC over "gifting" Rajya Sabha Seat to BJP

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Peoples Conference president Sajad Lone on Sunday came down heavily on both the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the National Conference (NC) over cross-voting in the Rajya Sabha polls held in 2025, alleging they staged a "fixed match" to help the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) win a seat. Lone also termed the outsourcing of government jobs by the NC-led government as "front-door loot," while accusing Mehbooba Mufti of confusing people over the issue and giving the ruling party an escape route.

Addressing a news conference here, as per KNO, Lone slammed the PDP over the non-appointment of an authorized agent during the RS polls.

"We believe that the PDP had mala fide intentions. They intended to do something wrong, which is why they did not appoint an agent," he said.

The PC president questioned Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on whether he



was unaware of the PDP's failure to appoint an authorized agent. "Is it true that a sitting chief minister came to know from the RTI that the PDP had not kept an agent?" he asked.

Slamming both PDP and NC, Lone said the parties that shouted the loudest against the BJP ultimately gifted it a seat.

"One did not keep an agent, the other did not object. And even today, there are diversion tactics. They are diverting," Lone said.

He alleged that both PDP and NC had a tie-up with the BJP in the RS polls.

"The reason they did not appoint an agent is because they had a tie-up with the BJP. And the reason NC did not raise the issue is because they also had a tie-up," he said.

Pedestrians Injured as Reckless Stunt Bikers Roam Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A new trend among stunt bikers in Srinagar has triggered concern among people after several bikers were allegedly found concealing their motorcycle registration numbers to evade police action while performing reckless stunts on city roads.

People from different parts of Srinagar said incidents involving stunt bikers have increased in recent weeks, with several cases reported in which bikers either hit pedestrians or collided with vehicles before fleeing from the spot.

According to locals, many of these bikers deliberately hide or partially cover their registration plates, making

identification difficult for both the public and law enforcement agencies.

A young driver from MIG Colony Bemina told KNT that a group of stunt bikers recently hit the side portion of his passenger vehicle bearing registration number JK01AX-5452 before escaping from the area.

"The bikers were performing stunts and driving recklessly. They struck my vehicle and fled immediately. When we tried to note down their registration numbers, we found the number plates were hidden," he said.

In another incident, a pedestrian was reportedly injured after being hit by a stunt biker in Srinagar. Locals present at the spot

managed to catch one of the bikers and were shocked to find cello tape pasted over parts of the original registration number to conceal the identity of the motorcycle.

People said the trend reflects growing recklessness among some young bikers who use busy roads for dangerous stunts, often putting pedestrians, commuters, and other motorists at risk.

Locals alleged that several such bikers gather during evening hours on city outskirts roads and flyovers, where they perform wheelies, zigzag riding, overspeeding, and abrupt racing maneuvers despite heavy traffic movement.

The repeated incidents

have sparked anger among residents, particularly after cases involving injuries and damage to vehicles.

People have appealed to traffic authorities to launch a strong crackdown against stunt bikers and those tampering with vehicle registration plates.

They said concealment of registration numbers not only violates traffic laws but also encourages hit-and-run incidents by allowing offenders to escape identification.

Traffic authorities in Srinagar have in the past conducted drives against stunt biking and reckless riding, particularly during late evening hours, but people say the practice continues to pose a serious threat on city roads. [KNT]

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE SRINAGAR

Subject: Written examination (OMR Based) for selection/engagement as Medical Officer.

Notification No.: 13-EC of 2026 Dated: 11-05-2026.

Whereas; HOD Psychiatry (Chairman Selection Committee ATF/DTC, IMHANS-K) vide letter No: PA/HOD/PSY/PST/2026/354; Dated: 21.04.2026 has informed that 16 (sixteen) application forms were received in response to Advertisement Notice No: PA/HOD/PSY/Adv/2026/310-18; Dated: 02.04.2026 for selection/engagement as "Medical Officer" under National Drug De-Addiction Programme (DDAP) for Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at IMHANS Kashmir.

Whereas; he has informed that after scrutinization of their documents by the committee constituted for the purpose, out of total 16 application forms, the following 06 (six) candidates were found eligible for participation in the written test.

Sno.	Name of the Candidate	Parentage
01.	Dr. Iqra Rasheed Shah	Ab Rasheed Shah
02.	Dr. Marya Zahoore	Syed Zahoore Safvi
03.	Dr. Aaliya Khanam	Zafar Ullah Khan
04.	Dr. Mehvish Imtiaz	Imtiaz Ahmad Matto
05.	Dr. Syed Mehvish	Syed Yaver Hussain
06.	Dr. Ifrah Jan	Naseer Ahmad Mir

Now, therefore, it is hereby notified for information of above six (06) candidates that their written test (OMR MCQ Based) will be held on 19.05.2026 (Tuesday) from 02:00 PM to 03:00 PM in the Anatomy Main Lecture Hall of Government Medical College, Srinagar.

In this context the above applicants are advised to strictly adhere the following instructions:

- The Admit cards/Roll number slips of the candidates shall be issued on 18.05.2026JQnh by the Gazetted Section of Government Medical College, Srinagar (from 10:00 to 04:00 PM).
- On the actual date of the examination i.e. 19.05.2026 (Tuesday), the candidates shall report at the examination centre One hour prior to the scheduled commencement of examination for verification of their identity along with their admit cards and anyone of the following documents as proof of their identity: -
 - Photo Identity card issued by the competent authority.
 - Driving license.
 - Pan card/Adhaar card.
- Candidates must not bring any prohibited item to the examination centre.
- The candidates are advised to bring blue/black ball pen only, in order to mark an answer on their OMR sheets.
- Any type of electronic devices, mobile phones, Bluetooth devices, scanning devices, earphones, tablets, books, note books, calculators, smart watches, laptop, I-pad etc. are not allowed inside the venue. Violation, if any, shall strictly be dealt under law. Scratching, overwriting, tick-marks and multiple answers shall be considered as wrong.
- Do not make any unnecessary/stray marks on the OMR sheet.
- Use of whitener, eraser, nails, rubber, blade on the OMR sheet is completely prohibited.
- Any attempt to seek or provide assistance during the examination will lead to immediate disqualification and expulsion from the examination centre.
- The instructions on the question booklet and OMR sheet should be followed in letter & spirit.
- Issuance of the admit card is provisional and does not imply confirmation of eligibility or selection. The candidature is subject to verification of eligibility criteria as per the information provided in the application form. If, it is found at any stage that the candidate does not fulfil the eligibility criteria/parameters/ requirements, his/her candidature shall be cancelled without prior notice.
- Candidates are advised to regularly visit the official website of GMC Srinagar: www.gmcs.ac.in for official updates and notifications.

No.: GMCS/EC/WT/MO/36-42
Dated: 11.05.2026.

DIPK-1211-26
DT: 11/05/2026

Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan Shafi
Principal/Dean.

Pakistan Extends Austerity Drive Amid US-Iran Deadlock

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday extended the countrywide austerity drive till June 13 in the wake of uncertainty caused by the US and Iran's failure to strike a deal to end the conflict in West Asia amid a fragile ceasefire.

The government announced several measures on March 9 following the disruption in the energy supplies after the US and Israel launched an attack against Iran on February 28.

The austerity measures were initially announced for two

months.

According to a notification issued by the Cabinet Division of the government, it has been decided to extend the same for more than a month after US President Donald Trump on Sunday rejected Iran's proposal to end the months-long war, calling it "totally unacceptable."

"The prime minister, on consideration of the recommendations of the committee for monitoring and implementation of fuel conservation and additional austerity measures, has been pleased to extend the applicability of the following additional austerity measures up till 13th



June, 2026, with immediate effect," it read.

Among the key measures, the government had announced a 50 per cent reduction in fuel allowance for official vehicles, with the exemption of operational vehicles such as ambulances and public buses.

Other steps included the grounding of 60 per cent of official vehicles and a complete ban on foreign visits, excluding those as specified the last time, which were deemed essential for the country's interests.

Pakistan is highly dependent on oil supplies from West Asia, and the Iran war choked the key supply line for the country, making it impossible to run the national affairs as per routine.

Despite the austerity drive in place, Pakistan had to jack up the prices of fuel, making it one of the costliest countries for petroleum products.

The ongoing conflict, triggered by the US and Israel's joint strikes on Iran and Tehran's subsequent retaliation, has remained under a ceasefire since April 8.

Islamabad hosted one round of direct talks between Iran and the US on April 11, but the two sides failed to reach an agreement.

The Strait of Hormuz and Iran's nuclear enrichment programme remain key sticking points in the negotiations.

On April 21, US President Donald Trump indefinitely extended the ceasefire beyond its two-week deadline to allow more time for negotiations with Tehran.

The latest developments come at a time when the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait have reported drone incursions into their airspace, while a drone strike caused a minor fire aboard a commercial vessel near Qatar's coast, testing the ceasefire.

India has Sufficient Fuel Stocks, No Rationing Planned: Official

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India has no plans to ration fuel supplies despite ongoing disruptions in global energy markets, a top oil ministry official said Monday, adding that the country has maintained adequate inventories of crude products and LPG while diversifying imports to manage supply risks.

"There is no need to panic. There is no rationing in place. It's not going to happen," Oil Secretary Neeraj Mittal said at CII's Annual Business Summit here, noting that India had maintained around 60 days of fuel stocks and about 45 days of LPG inventories during the past 67 days of market disruption.

The comments came a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged for fuel conservation and lower imports as surging global energy prices pressure India's foreign exchange reserves, while also calling for restraint in gold purchases to ease external vulnerabilities.

This was seen by some as preparation of ground for a possible fuel price hike.

Petrol and diesel continues to be sold at two-year-old rates despite international



prices shooting up since the West Asia conflict started 10 weeks back. Holding prices despite over 50 per cent rise in input cost has led to oil companies losing Rs 1,000 crore to Rs 1,200 crore - a loss that is now threatening their financial viability.

A top government source however said, "default mode of the government is to keep the prices and supplies stable."

Mittal said the government had secured additional energy cargoes, increased procurement from existing suppliers and absorbed part of the price shock through fiscal measures, including excise duty cuts on petrol and diesel.

India, the world's third-largest oil importer and consumer, was also accelerating efforts to expand domestic exploration, strategic reserves and alternative energy programs including green hydrogen, ethanol blending and sustainable aviation fuel, he said.

India Moves to Secure Supply Chains Amid West Asia Crisis

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India has implemented concrete measures to shield supply chains and ensure uninterrupted energy flows amid the escalating West Asia crisis, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said Monday.

Singh, while chairing a high-level meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM) set-up to monitor the situation in West Asia, emphasised that the government is prioritising maritime security and economic stability to offset global volatility.

The defence minister directed officials to take concrete steps to implement the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal that included cutting fuel consumption as part of efforts to help conserve India's foreign exchange reserves.

The meeting was attended by Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Railways and Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, and Ports and Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal,



among others.

The IGoM was informed that the country is secure, and there is no shortage of any petroleum product, even as most other nations have taken emergency measures to dramatically reduce domestic fuel consumption, the defence ministry said.

"India has 60 days of crude oil, 60 days of natural gas and 45 days of LPG rolling stock. The foreign exchange reserves stand at a comfortable USD 703 billion," it said.

"India is the world's third largest oil refiner and fourth largest exporter of petroleum products, exporting to over 150 countries and is meeting domestic demand in full. But there is a huge cost being borne by the nation as international crude prices are continuing at very high levels," it said.

The ministry said fuel conservation can ease this "burden".

President Trump to Visit China from May 13 to 15

Press Trust of India

BEIJING: US President Donald Trump will travel to China on an official visit from May 13 to 15 at the invitation of Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, a foreign ministry spokesperson announced on Monday.

This will be the first visit to China by a US president in almost nine years. Trump himself was the last US president to visit China in 2017, during his first term.

President Xi will have in-depth exchanges of views with President Trump on major issues concerning China-US relations and world peace and development, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told a media briefing here.

"Heads-of-state diplomacy plays an irreplaceable role in providing strategic guidance for China-US relations," he said.

China stands ready to work with the US to expand cooperation and manage differences in the spirit of equality, respect and mutual benefit, and provide more stability and certainty for a transforming and volatile world, he said.

The visit comes amid a prolonged war in West Asia involving the US-Israel and



Iran, a crisis over the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz causing a global energy crisis, and increasing tensions between the US and China over a host of issues, including Taiwan.

On Sunday, US Principal Deputy Press Secretary Anna Kelly said Trump would arrive in Beijing on Wednesday evening for what she described as a visit of symbolic significance.

According to Kelly, the US leader will attend a welcome ceremony and a bilateral meeting with President Xi on Thursday, followed by a visit to the Temple of Heaven and a state banquet, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

The two leaders will meet again on Friday for a bilateral tea and working lunch, she said, adding that the US planned to host the Chinese leader for a reciprocal visit later this year.

Pakistan Summons Afghan Envoy After KPK Attack

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday summoned the Afghan Charge d'Affaires and issued a "strong demarche" over a deadly attack carried out by the TTP on a police post in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

At least 15 security personnel were killed and several others injured in the suicide attack on the police post in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district on Saturday.

The ministry conveyed that a detailed investigation into the incident, along with evidence collected and technical intelligence, indicates that the attack was masterminded by terrorists residing in Afghanistan, the Foreign Office (FO) said in a statement. "Reiterating Pakistan's grave concern over the continued use of Afghan soil for terrorist attacks against Pakistan, it was impressed upon the Afghan state that Pakistan reserves the right to respond decisively against the perpetrators of this barbaric act," it said.

It was further highlighted that the continued presence of various terrorist groups on Afghan soil, and the permissive environment enabling their operations, have been well documented in reports by the UN Monitoring Team and



other international organisations, the FO said.

"The fight against terrorism is a common cause, and the Afghan Taliban must honour their commitment not to allow their territory to be used for terrorism against other countries," it said.

Pakistan has repeatedly urged the Afghan Taliban regime to take concrete and verifiable action against Fitna al-Khawarij, ISKP/Daesh and other elements operating from Afghan soil, it added.

Fitna al-Khawarij is a term the state uses to refer to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

The FO said that Pakistan has also constructively engaged with the Afghan Taliban regime through several rounds of talks mediated by brotherly and friendly countries. However, the Afghan Taliban have consistently failed to commit to, or deliver, meaningful and verifiable action against these terrorist outfits.

M I Securities

POWER OF ₹5,000 SIP

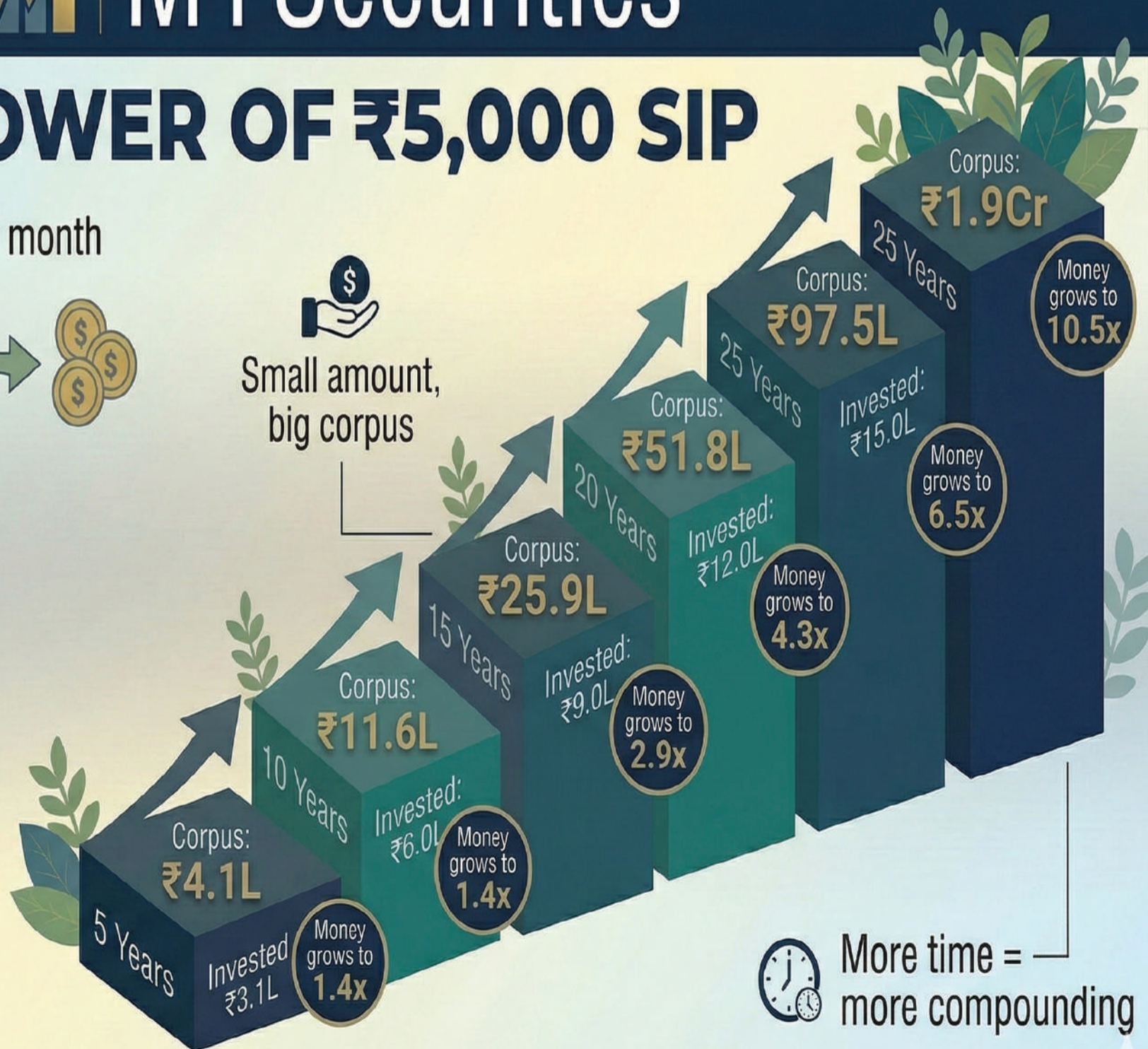
Step 1: You invest ₹5,000 every month



Step 2: You reinvest your total investment growth

Duration (Years)	Total Invested Amount
5	3.0L
10	6.0L
15	9.0L
20	12.0L
25	15.0L
30	18.0L

Small amount, big corpus



More time = more compounding

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