

J&K More Prosperous, Peaceful Than Ever Before: LG Sinha

Says Surveillance Must Be Foolproof To Stop Drug Smuggling'

'Battlefield Tourism Will Create New Opportunities In Border Areas'



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a new era of peace, prosperity and development, asserting that the Union Territory is moving forward "on all fronts" with renewed self-confidence among people.

The Lieutenant Governor made the remarks after inaugurating the 'Shaurya Gatha' Complex at SM Hill in Tangdhar area of Karnah in Kupwara district, a project aimed at promoting battlefield tourism, heritage preservation and border area development.

"Jammu & Kashmir is moving forward with development on all fronts. There is a renewed

sense of self-confidence, and the society is prosperous and peaceful than ever before," Sinha said during the inaugural ceremony.

He said the 'Shaurya Gatha' Complex stands as a tribute to the courage and sacrifices of Indian soldiers who laid down their lives defending the country. "The dedication of our forces and people is the true strength of the nation. The Shaurya Gatha Complex stands as a tribute to the valour and sacrifices of Indian soldiers," he said. The Lieutenant Governor said the initiative would open new opportunities for border tourism, homestays, local crafts and youth entrepreneurship in the Tangdhar-Karnah region.

Highlighting | [Full story on kashmiobserver.net](#)

'Sports Tournaments Transforming J&K'

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said sports activities in Jammu and Kashmir are playing a key role in youth empowerment and social transformation, asserting that every sporting event sends a strong message of youth participation in nation-building. The LG made the remarks after inaugurating the South Kashmir Volleyball League-2026 at Shopian | [Full story on kashmiobserver.net](#)

URGE CITIZENS ACROSS THE NATION to visit Shaurya Gatha Complex and plan their holidays at the offbeat destinations of Kupwara."

India Flags West Asia Crisis, Warns On Sanctions



Press Trust of India

New Delhi: India on Thursday flagged grave concerns over the West Asia crisis and its impact on energy supplies and maritime stability in the Strait of Hormuz and urged BRICS nations to develop "practical ways" to navigate geopolitical upheavals as well as "unilateral coercive" sanctions.

In his address at the opening day of a two-day BRICS conclave here, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar asserted, without naming specific nations, that respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity must anchor international relations, maintaining that "dialogue and diplomacy" offer the only sustainable path to conflict resolution. | [More on P6](#)

PM Modi Meets BRICS Foreign Ministers

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday hosted top diplomats from the BRICS nations as New Delhi kicked off a high-stakes conclave of the foreign ministers of the influential bloc. The visiting dignitaries, who made a joint call on the prime minister, included Russian Foreign Minister

Sergey Lavrov, Iran's Abbas Araqchi, Brazil's Mauro Vieira, Indonesia's Sugiono, and South Africa's Ronald Lamola. The India-hosted meet assumed greater significance as the influential bloc grapples with the economic consequences of the West Asia crisis, particularly the severe | [More on P6](#)

Iran FM Warns 'Empires In Decline' Lash Out

Araqchi urges BRICS to challenge West's 'false sense of superiority'

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Thursday that Tehran would never yield to U.S. pressure and warned that what he described as a declining imperial power was reacting aggressively to preserve its global position, as he urged BRICS nations to oppose what he called Western hegemony and unlawful military actions against Iran.



Speaking at a two-day meeting of BRICS foreign ministers in New Delhi hosted by Subrahmanya Jaishankar, Araqchi said the Iranian people had stood | [More on P6](#)

Will Decimate Your Infrastructure: DGP To Pak-Based Drug Kingpin

J&K Police Tops Country In NDPS Detentions; Ranks 3rd In Property Attachments

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Nalin Prabhat on Thursday issued a stern warning to Pakistan-based gangster Shahzad Bhatti for "pumping narcotics" into India, saying he, along with his associates, will be hunted and hounded, and



his evil infrastructure will be decimated. "A warning to Pakistan-based Shahzad Bhatti who

is ISI's acolyte and partner in pumping narcotics into India; we will hunt and hound you and your associates, and decimate your evil infrastructure," the Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) said at a press conference here.

He said while firmly focusing on combating Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, Jammu and Kashmir Police has paid equal attention to the menace of narco-terrorism during the intensive anti-drug campaign - 'Nasha Mukht' | [More on P6](#)

Red Fort Blast Case

NIA Files 7,500-Page Chargesheet Against 10

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a 7,500-page chargesheet against 10 accused in the Red Fort area car bomb explosion case, in which 11 people were killed, officials said on Thursday.

The high-intensity Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) blast that rocked the national capital on November 10 last year had also left several injured and caused

extensive damage to property. All 10 accused, including the main perpetrator, Dr Umer Un Nabi (deceased), were linked to Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGuH), an offshoot of the Al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), as per the chargesheet filed before the NIA special court at Patiala House Courts here, a statement issued by the central agency said. The AQIS and all its manifestations were | [More on P6](#)

Army Retrieves Body Of Intruder From LoC

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Army on Wednesday retrieved the body of a Pakistani intruder who was killed during a foiled infiltration attempt along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said.

The body was recovered from the Krishna Ghati forward area and later handed over to police for legal formalities, they said.

The infiltration attempt was foiled on Tuesday after Army troops detected suspicious movement near the LoC in the Krishna Ghati sector around 4 pm.

According to officials, the movement was noticed nearly 300 metres inside the Indian side of the | [More on P6](#)

Dr. Farooq Backs RSS Leader On Dialogue With Pak

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Thursday backed RSS functionary Dattatreya Hosabale's remarks advocating dialogue with Pakistan, saying that war was not an option.

Speaking to reporters here, Abdullah, a three-time chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, also welcomed former Army Chief M M Naravane backing Hosabale.

"It is a very big move that the RSS leader has said that there should be talks with Pakistan, and the ex-Army chief has also backed his statement. I am glad that somebody is now thinking that war is not an option. It is the question of dialogue, which we must always have

to solve our problems," the NC president said.

Earlier, in an interview with PTI Videos on Tuesday, Hosabale said people-to-people contact was key to breaking the deadlock with Pakistan, and there should always be a window for dialogue.

Pakistan's military and political leadership have lost India's confidence, and it is time for civil society to lead the way, the RSS leader had said.

Responding to the ongoing BRICS conclave in New Delhi, Abdullah expressed hope that the grouping would help push for peace in the Middle East. He also welcomed US President Donald Trump's visit to China.

When asked about his response on Prime Minister Narendra Modi | [More on P6](#)

HC Supports Army's Court Martial Rule

M Ahmad

Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Thursday upheld the constitutional validity of Rule 147-A of the Army Rules 1954, which permits denial of copies of court martial proceedings where the Central Government certifies that disclosure would be against the interests of national security or friendly relations with foreign States.

A Division Bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Sanjay Parihar passed the ruling while hearing separate petitions challenging an order of the Armed Forces Tribunal, Srinagar Bench.

The petitioners had assailed the Tribunal's April 23 order dismissing his appeal against conviction by Summary General Court Martial on the ground that it was not accompanied by a certified copy of the conviction order.

The petitioners argued that the proceedings of the court martial were never supplied to them as the authorities invoked Rule 147-A of the Army Rules. They also challenged the constitutional validity of the provision, contending that it violated Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution and that protection under Article 33 extends only to laws enacted by Parliament and not to subordinate legislation like rules.

"The question that arises for determination in this petition, however, is whether Section 147-A which prima facie tramples the right of a person to fair trial and take recourse to appropriate legal proceedings and, thus, offends Article 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India is saved | [More on P6](#)

Rabies Scare Triggers Panic In Pulwama

Hundreds Queue Up For Vaccination After Meat From Sick Animal Was Sold Across Village

Agencies

Srinagar: Pulwama, May 14: Panic and anxiety gripped Parigam village in south Kashmir's Pulwama district after meat from an ill bovine animal slaughtered by a local butcher was allegedly sold to dozens of residents, triggering fears of possible rabies exposure and prompting hundreds to rush for precautionary vaccination.

The incident sparked widespread concern after rumours surfaced that the animal had been bitten by a dog before being slaughtered. As the reports spread rapidly through the locality, worried residents thronged the Primary Health



Centre (PHC) Parigam seeking anti-rabies vaccination after either consuming or handling the meat.

Officials said an FIR has been registered and an investigation initiated into the incident.

A police officer said the animal was ill, but clarified that preliminary findings do not

suggest it was a dog-bitten animal as widely rumoured.

"The animal was sick and investigation is underway. However, it was not a case of a dog-bitten animal as being circulated among people," the officer said, urging residents not to panic unnecessarily.

Medical | [More on P6](#)

NASHA MUKHT J&K

Drug Free J&K - 100 Days Campaign

BREAKING CHAINS, BUILDING FUTURES

(Social Welfare Department-operated DDAC Rehabilitation Centres)

471
Patients Admitted

805
Individuals Counselling

18
Lives Fully Recovered

Tele MANAS helpline No. **14416**

Restoring hope, rebuilding lives, creating a drug-free future

Department of Information & Public Relations, J&K

@informationprjk | Information & PR, J&K | @diprjk | @dipr_jk

If AI Can Translate instantly, Why Learn Another language?

The Conversation

From live speech translation in video calls to auto-dubbing on TikTok, the technology to dissolve language barriers has arrived. Real-time translation powered by artificial intelligence (AI) is now embedded in everyday life. Tools from OpenAI, Meta, Google and many others now offer near-instant translation across dozens of languages, and they keep improving. All this raises a vital question. If machines can do this faster and more accurately than humans, is investing years in learning another language still worth it? The logic is appealing. Humans have always offloaded cognitive work onto tools. Writing reduced demands on our memory. Calculators removed the burden of mental arithmetic. AI sits within this long tradition. Used well, it can support learning and expand access in ways that matter enormously. But there's a difference between using a tool to extend your capabilities and using it to avoid doing something altogether. That distinction becomes important when you are not just replacing a skill, but a form of cognitive and cultural engagement. The effort is the point. Effort plays a central role in how we acquire knowledge. Psychologists use the phrase "desirable difficulties" to describe challenges that may feel inefficient, but produce stronger long-term retention and understanding. Struggling with grammar, searching for the right word, or constructing meaning across multiple languages engages brain networks that support memory, attention and cognitive flexibility. Over time, they consolidate knowledge far more deeply than passive exposure. Sustained mental engagement contributes



to what researchers call cognitive resilience – the brain's capacity to maintain function as we age. Managing multiple languages is one form of this engagement. It requires the brain to resolve competition, monitor context and adapt dynamically. These are not trivial demands. And they're difficult to achieve if you just use translation tools passively, such as resolving the meaning of a foreign phrase with the click of a button. What multilingualism research actually shows The evidence on multilingualism is often presented as a simple "bilingual advantage", a shorthand that obscures a more complicated picture. Some studies report benefits for attention or working memory, while others find no differences. The truth appears to be more selective. Our recent study examined cognitive per-

formance in 94 adults aged 18 to 83, using both visuospatial and auditory tasks across working memory, attention and inhibition. Put simply, we looked at how people process and respond to information they see or mentally map out in space (visuospatial) and information they hear (auditory). Examples include remembering sounds, focusing on visual patterns, or ignoring distractions. Our study measured multilingualism as a spectrum, not a category. This allowed us to capture diverse language backgrounds and experiences. Multilingual participants spoke a range of languages with varying levels of proficiency and daily use, reflecting the linguistic diversity common within multicultural communities. Across most tasks, multilinguals and monolinguals performed similarly. However, one pattern was striking. Individuals with richer, more diverse multilingual experience showed markedly better perfor-

mance in visuospatial working memory. These effects were most pronounced in older people. This suggests that multilingual experience doesn't broadly enhance cognition, like some headlines claim. Instead, it may help preserve specific functions over time. Separate population-level research has also linked multilingualism to later onset of Alzheimer's disease and better overall ageing outcomes, though the mechanisms continue to be debated. Overall, however, it appears that sustained use of multiple languages represents a form of mental activity with effects that accumulate across a lifetime. What AI translation can't replicate AI translation excels at speed and accessibility. For many practical purposes, it works remarkably well. But it operates through pattern recognition, not lived understanding. It can struggle with cultural context, humour, register and emotionally embedded meaning, especially for languages with less representation in training data. At best, AI captures literal dimensions of language while missing social ones. Consider the scene in the 2003 film *Love Actually* where Jamie, played by Colin Firth, delivers an awkward but sincere proposal to Aurelia in broken Portuguese. It is moving because of the effort, vulnerability and intent his imperfect words carry. Resort to real-time translation software and what remains is information, not expression. This is the deeper distinction: translation is not the same as participation. Learning a language involves understanding how people think, their values, and how meaning is shaped by context and history. This cultural literacy develops through interaction and experience. We can't fully outsource that to systems that translate on demand.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the parentage of my son MOHAMMAD HAZIQ SHAH, studying in Class 6th at Burn Hall Higher Secondary School, has been wrongly recorded in the school records as:
MOHAMMAD HAZIQ SHAH S/O MOHAMMAD TAHIR SHAH
 Whereas the correct parentage is: MOHAMMAD HAZIQ SHAH S/O MOHAMMAD TAHIR SHAH R/o Urpash Ganderbal.
 If anybody has any objection regarding this correction, he/she may file the same before the Principal Burn Hall Higher Secondary School within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.
MOHAMMAD TAHIR SHAH
F/O MOHAMMAD HAZIQ SHAH
R/o Urpash Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my driving licence bearing dl no AS1820140007368 as Showkat Ali Bhat S/O Gq Bhat While my correct name as per Aadhaar card is Shoket Ali S/O Ghulam Qadir Batt R/o Kako Kilhotral Doda. 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 concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Showket Ali
 S/O Ghulam Qadir Bhatt

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in Driving Licence bearing DL No. JK01 201300082801 from Abdul Basit Khan to Basit Hassan Khan, which is my correct name as per Aadhaar Card. I have applied for correction of the same. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file it before the concerned office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.
 Basit Hassan Khan
 S/O Ghulam Hassan Khan
 R/O Sathu Bala, Barbar Shah

From the office of Advocate Ishfaq Rasool sheikh and Associates

In the case of Gh Rasool sheikh S/o : Ab Gani Sheikh R/o : Tantraypora Palhallan Pattan Baramulla (Caveator) V/s Public at large Non Caveators
 In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A
 The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.
 fko Sd/advocate

Office Of Advocate Ishfaq Rasool And Associates

In the case of 1.Mohd Ahsan Yattoo S/o: Abdul Samad Yattoo 2. Raja Begum W/o: Mohammad Yousuf Tantray D/o: Abdul Samad Yattoo Both Residents of Tantraypora Palhallan Tehsil Pattan District Baramulla (Caveator) V/s Public at large Non Caveators
 In the Petition in terms of Section 148-A
 The caveators have reason to believe that Non-Caveator may file any Application, Petition, Ap- peal, Suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court and on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation and cooked story and may seed in obtaining some relief/order at their back/in exparte against the caveators and in such eventuality the caveators will be put in irrepa- rable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveators be given an opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble court before passing any order.
 fko Sd/advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of "DEE Class" Contractor Card. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the concerned office within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Ali Dar
 S/o Ali Mohammad Dar
 R/o Habbak Taingoo Tehsil Singhpora

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of The Naib-Tehsildar Palhallan Executive Magistrate 1st Class.

PUBLIC NOTICE
 It is hereby notified for information of the general public that the Block Development Officer (BDO) Pattan has forwarded the case file for issuance of Birth certificate in favour of Mohammad Ramzan Mir S/o/D/o Mohd Sultan mir R/O Lolipara with Date of Death 20-02-2024. Objections, if any, regarding the details furnished by the applicant may be submitted in writing in the office of the Naib Tehsildar, Palhallan within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the stipulated time, the case shall be processed for issuance of the Birth certificate as per rules in vogue.
 Naib-Tehsildar NAIB TEHSILDAR Palhallan

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI
 Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death
Public Notice
 This office has received a written application from Zarifa Begum W/o Mohd Shafi Dar R/o Seeloo , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of shoab Shafi Dar born on 17-05-2011 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.
 In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.
 Tehsildar Executive Magistrate Bomai

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI
 Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death
Public Notice
 This office has received a written application from Sumaiya Akhter D/o Abdul Jabbar Reshi R/o Harwan , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of Sumaiya Akhter born on 03-01-2000 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.
 In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.
 Tehsildar Executive Magistrate Bomai

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS ZAINGEER BOMAI
 Subject: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed Birth & Death
Public Notice
 This office has received a written application from Hafizullah Lone S/o Gh Hassan Lone R/o Edipora , Tehsil Zaingeer for issuance of Birth & Death certificate in favour of ward Namely Qurat-ul-Ain born on 15-04-2007 and as per document evidence produced by the applicant.
 In this regard, if anyone has any objection, he/she may file the same before the undersigned within 07 days. After that, no objection whatsoever will be entertained by this office.
 Tehsildar Executive Magistrate Bomai

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan
 Sub... issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
PUBLIC NOTICE..
 The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Saniya Zehra D/o Shah Lal Ahmad Ganie R/o Nowlari Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 23/01/2023 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
 Sd Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE
 It is for the information of the general public that the Date of Birth and Father's Name of my ward namely Nafil Mehraj Bhat, studying at Al Noor Model School Dhoobiwan, have been wrongly recorded in the school records due to an inadvertent mistake.
 The incorrect particulars recorded in the school records are as under:
 • Incorrect Date of Birth: 03/09/2015
 • Incorrect Father's Name: Mehraj U Din Bhat
 Whereas, the correct particulars are as under:
 • Correct Date of Birth: 03/09/2017
 • Correct Father's Name: Mehraj Ud Din Bhat
 I have applied for correction of the above said entries in the concerned school records. If anybody has any objection regarding the said correction, he/she may file the same before the concerned school authorities within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.
Mehraj Ud Din Bhat
S/O Ghulam Rasool Bhat R/O Sheer Abad Khore, Tehsil Pattan

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Housing & Urban Development Department
Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar
NOTIFICATION
Srinagar, the 7th of May, 2026
 s. 0.135 - In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 75 of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, the Lieutenant Governor hereby constitutes a fund to be called "Real Estate Regulatory Fund" and there shall be credited thereto: -
 a) all Government grants received by the Authority;
 b) the fees received under this Act;
 c) the interest accrued on the amounts referred to in clause (a) to (b).
 The Funds shall be applied for meeting the following:
 a) the salaries and allowances payable to the Chairperson and other Members, the adjudicating officer and the administrative expenses including the salaries and allowances payable to be officers and other employees of the Authority and the Appellate Tribunal;
 b) the other expenses of the Authority in connection with the discharge of its functions and for the purposes of this Act.
 The Fund shall be administered by a committee of such Members of the Authority as may be determined by the Chairperson. The committee, so appointed shall spend monies out of the Fund for carrying out the objects for which the Fund has been constituted.
 By Order of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K.
 Sd/- (Mandeep Kaur) IAS
 Commissioner/Secretary to the Government
 No. HUD-RERA/02/2026 (7722726)
 DIPK-1298/26
 Dated: 14.05.2026

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)
 Phone:-01933-295302
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.
TENDER NOTICE
 E-NIT No: 23/EEP/RNB/of 2026-2027/1321-31 Dated: 14 /04/2026
 For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term e-tenders (In Single Cover system) are invited on %age Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work :-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. Lacs.)	Cost of T/D (Rs.)	Earnest Money (In %age.)	Time of Completion in working days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Accounts	Administrative Approval No:	Call No:
1	Construction of Building at Primary School Chana Check CB Nath. (sno.777)	43.27	1100/-	2% of ADV. cost	270 working days	BEE/AA/ SA-MAGRA SHIKSHA 2024-25	59 CHIRAG OF 2025 T.S No. 20/SE/ PS of 2026-27 Dated 07.05.2026	1st call	

 The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www .jktenders. gov .inas per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14- 05-2026
2.	Bid downloading Start Date	14- 05-2026 from 10:00 A.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	14- 05-2026 from 10:00 A.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	25- 05-2026 upto 0 4:00 P.M
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	26- 05-2026 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div.Pulwama
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within three (03) days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest successful bidder has to provide 5% of allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and EMD of 2% shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance security.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan /Receipt as per Annexure -C (Debited to M.H.0059 PWD) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama (The Date of Treasury Challan and EMD should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
- EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama
- The Contractors are advised to visit the site and to be aware of the conditions for launching at site of work before quoting the rates.
- The contractor shall also be responsible for any theft/ damage to any of the component at site and the cost of damage/ theft if any shall be deducted from the work done or CDR of the Contractor till completion of work and handing over.
- The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama within three (03) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP

Head Draftsman DIPK-1302/26 dated: 14-05-2026
 Technical Officer
 Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama

SMC Urges Srinagar Residents to Cooperate in Census 2027 Exercise

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has appealed to all citizens of the city to extend full cooperation during the forthcoming Census 2027 exercise to ensure accurate and transparent data collection for planning and development purposes.

In a public message issued through the corporation's official social media handle, Principal Census Officer Urban Srinagar and SMC Commissioner Faz Lul Haseeb said public participation would play a crucial role in ensuring efficient conduct of the census process.

The appeal asked citizens to cooperate with officials engaged in the exercise so that reliable and

updated data could be collected for administrative planning and developmental initiatives in the city.

"Appeal to all citizens of Srinagar City to extend full cooperation in the forthcoming Census 2027 exercise to ensure accurate, transparent and efficient data collection for better planning and development," the message stated.

The statement comes as preparations gradually begin for Census 2027, which is expected to be a major nationwide administrative exercise involving extensive demographic and household data collection.

Officials said accurate census data remains important for urban planning, infrastructure development, welfare schemes, and allocation of public resources.



CM-Led Cabinet Approves Integrated Solid Waste Management Project at Achan

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Council of Ministers headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has accorded approval for the establishment of an 800 TPD Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) Project at Achan, Srinagar, at an estimated cost of 361 crore.

The decision was taken during the 6th meeting of the Council of Ministers with the objective of strengthening scientific waste management infrastructure in Srinagar and ensuring sustainable disposal and processing of municipal solid waste in an environmentally responsible manner.

The proposed Integrated Solid Waste Management Project is aimed at enhancing the waste processing capacity of Srinagar city through modern and efficient systems for collection, segregation, treatment and disposal of solid waste. The project is expected to significantly improve sanitation standards, reduce environmental pollution and contribute towards cleaner and healthier urban surroundings.

The establishment of the facility at Achan is also expected to support long-term urban planning and environmental sustainability efforts while addressing the growing waste management requirements of the city in view of rapid urban expansion and population growth.

SDH Hazratbal Upgradation Approved

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Council of Ministers, under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has approved the upgradation of Sub-District Hospital Hazratbal by granting relaxation in the buffer zone restrictions under the Srinagar Master Plan-2035. The decision was taken during the 6th meeting of the Council of Ministers with the objective of strengthening healthcare infrastructure and ensuring improved healthcare delivery in the interest of better patient care.

The project had remained stalled for several years due to various obstacles arising from restrictions under the buffer zone provisions, causing considerable inconvenience to the public.

Recognising the hardships faced by the people and the urgent need for enhanced healthcare facilities in the area, the Cabinet headed by the Chief

Minister took a historic decision to intervene and relax the restrictions, paving the way for the long-pending upgradation of the hospital.

With the approval, the hospital is expected to be equipped with expanded infrastructure and improved medical facilities, including blood bank services, operation theatres and specialised treatment facilities for various ailments.

The move is aimed at reducing the need for patients to seek admissions and treatment elsewhere.

Locals of the area expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for the decision, stating that the hospital currently suffers from severe space constraints and lacks adequate facilities for patients and attendants.

They said the upgradation of the hospital would significantly ease public difficulties and provide better healthcare access to the people of Hazratbal and adjoining areas.

Traffic Police Launch Special Drive around SMHS Hospital

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In view of increasing patient and attendant rush at SMHS Hospital, Srinagar Traffic Police on Thursday launched a special drive to streamline vehicular movement and reduce congestion around the hospital premises.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Srinagar, Ajaz Bhat, conducted an on-ground inspection in the area and reviewed traffic management measures around the hospital.

Officials said the drive focused on removing illegally parked vehicles, improving circulation of traffic, and ensuring hassle-free movement for ambulances and emergency vehicles near the healthcare facility.

During the inspection, traffic personnel were directed to remain deployed at key points around the hospital to regulate move-

ment and assist commuters and patients.

According to KNT, the area around SMHS Hospital frequently witnesses heavy congestion due to increasing patient inflow, roadside parking, and commercial activity, often affecting emergency movement during peak hours.

SSP Traffic Ajaz Bhat appealed to commuters, visitors, and shopkeepers to cooperate with traffic authorities by adhering to parking rules and avoiding unnecessary stoppages near emergency entry points.

He also advised the public to use designated parking spaces to help maintain smoother traffic flow around the hospital zone.

Officials said the traffic regulation measures would continue to ensure better accessibility for emergency services and reduce inconvenience to patients visiting the hospital. [KNT]

NIT Scholar Secures IndiaAI Fellowship for Bias Research in AI Models

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a major boost to its research profile, the National Institute of Technology Srinagar has secured national recognition after its M-Tech scholar, Womika Khan, was awarded the prestigious IndiaAI Fellowship for 2025-26.

Womika, a Computer Science and En-

gineering student, earned the fellowship for her research on "Trustworthy AI: Investigating and Mitigating Bias in Large Language Models," conducted under the supervision of Dr. Tawseef Ayoub Shaikh.

The work focuses on addressing bias in artificial intelligence systems, an area

gaining urgency as AI tools are increasingly deployed in real-world decision-making.

Dr Tawseef described the selection as a competitive national-level achievement, underlining the growing footprint of NIT Srinagar in advanced technology research.

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HIGHWAY STATUS

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

HIJRI CALENDAR
27 Zil-Qadah
1447

PRAYERS	
FAJR	3: 54
ZUHR	12:27
ASR	5: 20
Magrib	7:28
ISHA	9: 02

This Day In History

- 756 Abd-al-Rahman I becomes emir of Cordova, Spain
- 1213 - King John of England names Stephen Langton as Archbishop of Canterbury
- 1492 - Cheese & Bread rebellion: German mercenaries kill 232 residents of Alkmaar, Netherlands
- 1514 - Jodocus Badius Ascensius publishes Christiern Pedersen's Latin version of Saxo's Gesta Danorum, the oldest known version
- 1525 - The battle of Frankenhausen: German peasant army surrounded, 5,000 slaughtered; ends the peasants' uprising
- 1572 - Louis van Nassau & hugenots occupy Valenciennes

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of general public that electricity bill connection number bearing id number 020301000912 Installation number 5046 A R presently standing in the name of Ab.Gani Baba s/o Gh.Nabi Baba R/o Nrc B is proposed to the transfer in favour of Khurshed Ahmed Rather S/o Gh Hassan R/o Nrc B Bemina

Any person having any objection with regards to the said transfer may fill on objection in the office of AEE sub division watal kadal with in seven days of this notice

[9:09 pm, 14/5/2026] Firdous Ko: The electricity connection with consumer id 0204040009083 and installation number 14129 registered in the name of Mohammad Shafi Rather S/o Gh.Mohi u din R/o Mohalla Syed Afzal is to be transferred in the favour of Mohd Adil Hussain Rather S/o late Mohd Shafi Rather R/o Mohalla Syed Afzal If any person having any objection in this regard may contact the AEE electric subdivision Hawal within seven days from the date of publication of this notice

Mohd Adil Hussain Rather S/o Mohammad Shafi Rather R/o Mohalla Syed Afzal

PUBLIC NOTICE

The electricity connection with consumer id 0203010007102 and installation number 1400 RI registered in the name of Mohammad Shafi S/o Gh Mohd Najar R/o Abu Bakar Bemina is to be transferred in the favour of Showkat Ahmad panjra S/o Gh.Mohd R/o Abu Bakar colony Bemina if any person having any objection in this regard may contact the AEE electric subdivision watal kadal

Showkat Ahmad panjra S/o Gh.Mohd R/o Abu Bakar colony Bemina

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of general public that electricity bill connection number bearing id number 020301000912 Installation number 5046 A R presently standing in the name of Ab.Gani Baba s/o Gh.Nabi Baba R/o Nrc B is proposed to the transfer in favour of Khurshed Ahmed Rather S/o Gh Hassan R/o Nrc B Bemina

Any person having any objection with regards to the said transfer may fill on objection in the office of AEE sub division watal kadal with in seven days of this notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of the general public that Late Zainullah Lone S/o Naimatullah Lone, R/o Shahpora, Gurez, expired on 10-10-2020.

I, Mst. Hajira Begum W/o Late Zainullah Lone, have applied for a Legal Heir Certificate before the Tehsildar Gurez.

If any person has any objection to the issuance of the certificate or to the below mentioned legal heirs, he/she may file objections in writing before the Tehsildar Gurez within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

- Legal Heirs of Deceased:
- Hajira Begum, 45 yrs - Wife
 - Naza Banoo, 32 yrs - Daughter
 - Rahila Banoo, 20 yrs - Daughter
 - Maimona Banoo, 18 yrs - Daughter
 - Arifa Banoo, 17 yrs - Daughter
 - Shabnum Banoo, 15 yrs - Daughter
 - Bismah Banoo, 14 yrs - Daughter
 - Arbaz Lone, 13 yrs - Son
 - Leeba Banoo, 11 yrs - Daughter
 - Arhan Lone, 8 yrs - Son
 - Azaan Lone, 5 yrs - Son
- Applicant: Mst. Hajira Begum R/o Shahpora, Gurez

inf

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

Subject: Tentative Selection list of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) of POSHAN Project Rafiabad and inviting of objections thereof.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In pursuance to Government Order No.103-JK(SWD) of 2023, Dated: 28-04-2023, and Approval from Mission Director Poshan, J&K, vide No:-MD/Poshan/47135-46 Dated:-24-12-2025 endorsed by programme officer ICDS District Baramulla vide No:-PO/ICDS/4113-15 Dated:-27-12-2025 an Advertisement Notice No. 01 of 2026, Dated 01.01.2026 & Advertisement No.02 of 2026, Dated 20.04.2026, were issued by this office for selection of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) for Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project Rafiabad. In response to the said advertisement notices, AWH post wise applications were received within cut-off date and Merit panel of candidates has been prepared as per criteria laid down in Government Order No.103-JK(SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28-04-2023 & Government directions issued vide No. SWD-ICDS/43/2022, dated 14.08.2023 and thereafter tentative Selection for (02) AWH posts has been framed by the selection committee, annexed herewith, as Annexure A. The overall Merit List for all the applicants applied for AWH Post Anganwadi is also, annexed herewith, as Annexure B are hereby published for information of public in general and for applicants in particular for filing appeal/objections. The appeal/objection, if any against the said selection, shall be filed in the office of CDPO Rafiabad located at Dangiwaicha Rafiabad (Old Hospital Building) against proper receipt by or before 23.05.2026 up to 4:00 PM. No appeal/objection shall be entertained after expiry of the last date for filing appeal/objections.

Child Dev. Project Officer,
POSHAN Project Rafiabad

No. CDPO/HR/26/125-134

DIPK-1277/26

Dated:- 14.05.2026

Annexure A. Tentative Selection List of AWHs AWC-wise.

S No.	Name of AWC	Name of Candidate	Parentage W/O	Residence	Ward No/ Name	D.O.B	Qualification	Marks obtained in 10th Out of	Percentage	Weightage	Whether any relation with retired AWW or AWH	Additional 2 Points	Total Merit	Remarks
1	Malik Mohalla Budden	Sabeela Bano	W/O Bilal Ahmad Bhat	Saripora Budden	07	01-04-1994	8th	198/500	39.60	39.60	NO	0	39.60	Married
2	Nar Mohalla Saripora	Ibtisam Rahid	W/O Tawseef Ahmad Malla	Saripora	05	16-06-1994	10th	235/500	47.00	47.00	NO	0	47.00	Married

Annexure B. Merit List of all applicants (AWH Post wise).

S No.	Name of AWC	Name of Candidate	Parentage W/O	Residence	Ward No/ Name	D.O.B	Qualification	Marks obtained in 10th Out of	Percentage	Weightage	Whether any relation with retired AWW or AWH	Additional 2 Points	Total Merit	Remarks
1	Malik Mohalla Budden	Sabeela Bano	W/O Bilal Ahmad Bhat	Saripora Budden	07	01-04-1994	8th	198/500	39.60	39.60	NO	0	39.60	Married
2	Nar Mohalla Saripora	Ibtisam Rahid	W/O Tawseef Ahmad Malla	Saripora	05	16-06-1994	10th	235/500	47.00	47.00	NO	0	47.00	Married

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KO VIEW

Market Squeeze

Business associations across the valley say sales have sharply declined in recent years. Traders blame a mix of weak purchasing power, rising costs, online competition and complicated tax compliance. A recent report quoted handicraft traders saying some businesses had fallen by nearly 70 percent over two years.

The pressure is visible everywhere. Shopkeepers who once hired extra workers during Eid now cut staff to reduce expenses. Families that depended on small retail stores are borrowing money to pay school fees and electricity bills. Several markets that once stayed crowded late into the evening now begin shutting early because there are simply not enough buyers.

India's economy may be growing on paper, but Kashmir's small traders operate inside a far more fragile environment. Consumer spending remains weak and inflation continues to hurt household budgets. Recent reports showed retail inflation in Jammu and Kashmir staying above the national average, particularly in urban areas where rent, transport and fuel costs have climbed steadily.

Online shopping has deepened the crisis. Large e-commerce platforms offer discounts that neighbourhood stores cannot match. A trader paying rent, wages, taxes and transport costs cannot compete with companies backed by massive capital and nationwide supply chains. Similar complaints are now emerging across India as small retailers warn that unregulated discounting is destroying traditional markets.

Tax compliance has become another burden. Many small businesses in Kashmir still operate with limited digital infrastructure and weak internet connectivity. Filing GST returns, managing invoices and handling online documentation often require accountants that small traders cannot afford. Several trade bodies in Kashmir have repeatedly raised concerns about technical hurdles and compliance stress.

This crisis carries consequences beyond economics. Small markets in Kashmir are social spaces, community anchors and sources of local identity. A shawl seller in downtown Srinagar or a hardware shop owner in Sopore represents more than commerce. These businesses sustain families across generations.

Policy discussions in India often celebrate startups, digital growth and billion-dollar valuations. Much less attention goes to the small trader who opens his shop every day despite shrinking profits and growing uncertainty.

Kashmir economy cannot rely only on tourism trends and infrastructure announcements. Stable local commerce matters equally. A society where small businesses gradually collapse eventually loses both economic strength and social confidence.

The valley traders are not asking for miracles. Most simply want fair competition, easier compliance and customers who still have enough money to spend.

CASH COURSE

Read This Before You Buy Anything

Future Fund

Why young Kashmiris must learn to save before debt and rising costs consume their future.

Irshad Mushtaq

The shift from student life to adulthood comes fast in the valley. One day it is pizzas, new phones, and late-night drives. The next, it is school fees, rent, and rising bills.

For many, the transition is rough because money was never treated with foresight.

The thrill of spending feels harmless in youth, yet it plants habits that grow expensive. A car on loan, credit card debt, and pressure to keep up appearances create chains that tighten by the 40s. Families then struggle to juggle mortgages, children's education, and daily costs.

By the 50s, the burden grows heavier, just as retirement nears. There is another path. If young Kashmiris save and invest even a quarter of their earnings, they build a cushion. Compound growth turns small amounts into real wealth over time. Starting early makes all the difference.

The lesson is old but significant: cut your coat according to your cloth. Saving is not about denying life's pleasures, it is about securing tomorrow's freedom. Every rupee set aside buys choice and stability later.

For Kashmiri youth, financial wisdom is the key to living without debt, raising families without fear, and building a future strong enough to weather uncertainty.

The author is a Srinagar-based reputed financial educator.

The Great Exam Betrayal

Recurring paper leaks and recruitment fraud now threaten public trust, mental health, and the future of an entire generation of students.



Muzamil Arif

Swami Vivekananda once described education as the force that builds character, sharpens the mind and allows a person to stand on their own feet. Millions of Indian students still believe in that promise. They wake before sunrise, study under dim hostel lights, skip family gatherings and spend years preparing for competitive examinations that decide the course of their lives.

That faith now stands shaken.

India's examination system, once viewed as the great equaliser for poor and middle-class families, faces a crisis that grows deeper with every new scandal. Allegations of paper leaks, organised cheating rackets and manipulated recruitment processes have become a recurring feature of public life.

These controversies leave students exhausted, angry and emotionally broken, while investigations continue to erode the credibility of institutions that claim to reward merit.

The latest uproar surrounds NEET-UG 2026, conducted on May 3. Allegations soon emerged that a "guess paper" circulating before the exam closely matched many questions in the actual test. Rajasthan Police's Special Operations Group detained more than 20 people for questioning as the probe expanded. The National Testing Agency stated that security arrangements remained strict and investigations continue.

Students have heard similar assurances before. NEET joins a long list of examinations dragged into controversy during the past decade. JEE, UGC-NET and several state recruitment tests have all faced allegations involving leaked papers, impersonation schemes and organised cheating networks. Messaging platforms often become the delivery system for leaked content. Coaching centres sometimes function as hubs of influence where money and access appear to matter more than hard work.

Authorities usually respond with cancellations, re-examinations and criminal investigations. Public outrage rises for a few weeks and then fades until the next scandal erupts. This cycle has created a dangerous public perception: honest preparation alone may no longer guarantee success.

That perception holds devastating consequences.

Competitive examinations remain the primary route to upward mobility for millions of students from villages, small towns and lower-income households. A government job or a medical seat can transform an entire family's future. Parents mortgage land, borrow money and drain savings to fund coaching fees and hostel expenses. Students spend years preparing under relentless pressure.

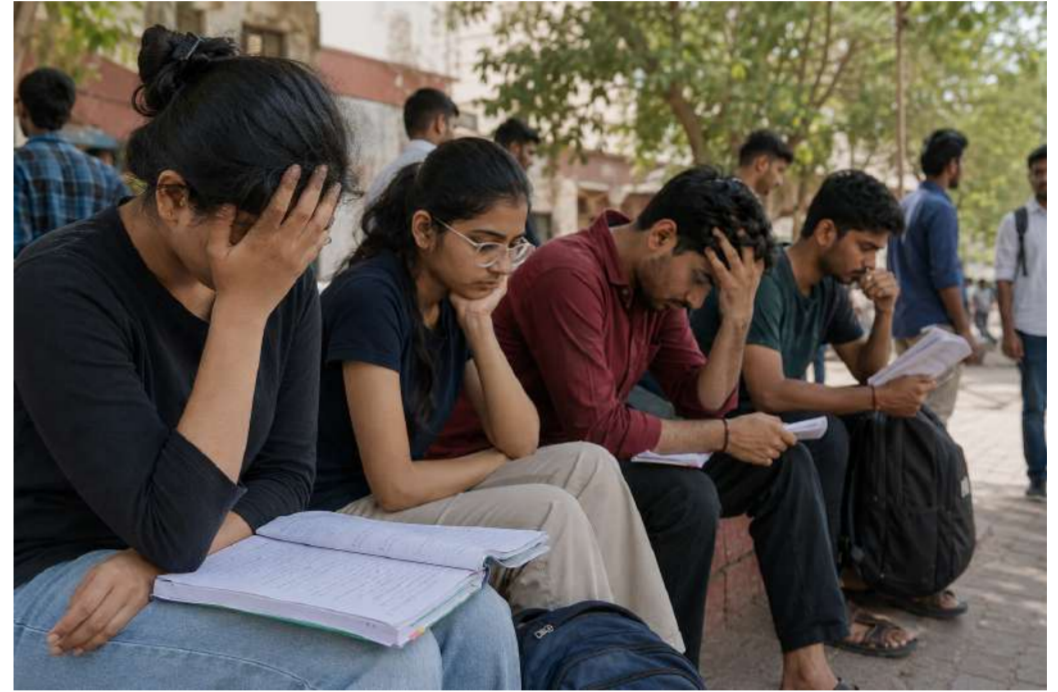
Exam irregularities destroy time, confidence and belief in fairness.

A student who studies honestly for three years and then faces a cancelled examination loses far more than a date on the calendar. Careers stall, financial burdens grow heavier, and age limits for recruitment exams become a source of panic. Many students begin another cycle of preparation while watching peers move ahead in life.

Distrust also deepens social inequality. Wealthier candidates often possess stronger institutional connections, better coaching access and greater financial cushioning after setbacks. Poor students possess fewer second chances. Merit begins to look like a privilege reserved for those who can afford endless preparation cycles.

Mental health experts and educators have raised concerns for years about the emotional pressure linked to India's examination culture. Current trends reveal a deeply disturbing picture.

According to the NCRB's Accidental Deaths



NEET joins a long list of examinations dragged into controversy during the past decade. JEE, UGC-NET and several state recruitment tests have all faced allegations involving leaked papers, impersonation schemes and organised cheating networks. Messaging platforms often become the delivery system for leaked content. Coaching centres sometimes function as hubs of influence where money and access appear to matter more than hard work.

and Suicides in India 2024 report, student suicides reached 14,488 cases, marking a rise from the previous year. Academic stress frequently appears among the contributing factors. Coaching centres such as Kota continue to witness heartbreaking deaths involving students who come with dreams and left behind grieving families.

Exam controversies intensify that emotional burden.

Students repeatedly ask a painful question: What value does honesty hold if corruption decides outcomes?

That thought weakens motivation and fuels despair. Many aspirants withdraw socially, develop severe anxiety or sink into depression after repeated uncertainties surrounding examinations and recruitment drives.

Families often contribute to this pressure, wittingly or unwittingly. They invest money, expectations and emotional hope into a child's preparation journey. Students absorb that pressure daily.

Counselling services and helplines exist in some places, though the scale remains far too limited for a country with millions of aspirants competing for a narrow number of opportunities.

Another concern receives far less public discussion: competence.

Examinations determine entry into professions that directly affect public life. Doctors, engineers, police officers and administrators require strong conceptual understanding, ethical judgement and discipline. Genuine preparation builds those qualities over time, while fraudulent entry weakens institutional standards and damages public trust.

A medical student who gains admission through unfair means may eventually improve through training and experience. Public systems, however, cannot depend upon chance improvement.

Citizens deserve competent professionals selected through credible processes. Public institutions function effectively when recruitment rests upon fairness and capability rather than manipulation and shortcuts.

The Indian government has attempted to respond through the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024. The law includes prison terms and heavy financial penalties for organised

cheating operations. Authorities now possess stronger legal tools to target what many describe as the education mafia.

But legislation alone will not solve this crisis. Effective enforcement remains essential. Investigations need speed, transparency and independence. Delayed probes create suspicion and anger. Examination systems require stronger technological safeguards including biometric verification, encrypted digital question banks and tighter logistics during paper transportation.

Coaching centres also need closer scrutiny. Many institutions operate responsibly and help students prepare honestly. Others thrive within a high-pressure ecosystem where commercial success outweighs ethics. Regulatory oversight must become sharper and more consistent.

Schools and families also need a cultural reset regarding success and failure. A student's worth cannot rest entirely upon one examination result. Public debate around education must place greater emphasis on learning, ethics and capability rather than rank obsession alone.

India possesses one of the world's youngest populations. That demographic strength will matter only if young people trust the institutions governing their future. Persistent examination scandals send the opposite message. They tell hardworking students that influence and manipulation stand stronger than discipline and merit.

That message carries consequences far beyond exam halls and recruitment offices.

A country that fails its students eventually weakens its own institutions, public services and democratic credibility. When young people stop believing that hard work will be rewarded fairly, cynicism replaces trust and talent begins to drift away.

Faith in merit once stood at the heart of India's educational promise. Restoring that faith is one of the country's most immediate national responsibilities.

The author is a columnist based in Doda Bhattessa, Jammu and Kashmir. He can be reached at muzamilarifbatt@gmail.com.

Letter to Editor

Kashmir Schools Struggle to Balance Technology

Kashmir's education system is undergoing a profound transformation as digital technology makes its way into classrooms. In remote villages of the valley, students now access online courses, virtual classrooms, and interactive learning platforms. This shift breaks barriers of distance, offering a flexible, personalized approach to learning that was unthinkable a decade ago.

The promise of digital education lies in its potential to democratize access, develop essential digital skills, and streamline the learning process.

However, the bright prospects of digital education in Kashmir face a serious challenge: the uncontrolled use of smartphones by students during school

hours. Reports from across the region show students increasingly distracted by social media apps, messaging platforms, and games during lessons. Rather than enhancing focus, smartphones often derail it, pulling students away from study into an endless scroll of notifications.

A UNESCO report highlights how unequal access to technology fuels a growing digital divide. In Srinagar, students may attend virtual classes smoothly, while in Kupwara or Bandipora, poor internet speeds and device shortages leave many stranded. The hope of equal educational opportunity turns hollow when some children remain excluded from this digital revolution.

Health implications are equally troubling. Prolonged screen exposure

leads to eye strain, sleep disruption, and poor posture. These issues grow worse in Kashmir, where winters are long and daylight limited, impacting students' well-being and alertness in class.

Beyond distraction and health concerns, smartphones expose students to cyberbullying and privacy risks. In several instances, children have been subjected to harmful content or data breaches, while others face peer harassment in digital spaces.

Schools have begun responding by restricting cellphone use during lessons, creating designated tech zones, and implementing digital citizenship programs. These steps are necessary but insufficient on their own.

A balanced strategy is crucial, one

that integrates technology thoughtfully, offers equal access, and teaches students how to use digital tools responsibly.

Kashmir stands at a pivotal point in its educational journey. Technology's potential to uplift should not be undermined by its unintended consequences. Thoughtful policies, teacher training, and community engagement must shape this digital evolution, ensuring the next generation learns with purpose, not distraction.

Sincerely,

Qazi Tahir
qazitahir22@gmail.com

Caregivers in Crisis

Burnout, anxiety, and isolation are becoming alarmingly common among doctors across Kashmir.

Umer Ahmad Ganaie

Kashmir has lately seen doctors take to social media to voice what was once unspoken: their exhaustion, anxiety, and loss of purpose.

Posts describing sleepless nights, moral fatigue, and fear of failure have drawn hundreds of comments from colleagues who feel the same.

Behind the reassuring faces we meet in clinics and hospitals lies a growing mental health crisis among those who save lives.

For years, the region has leaned on its medical community to carry more than their share of burdens, first through decades of unrest, then the COVID-19 pandemic, and now a deepening public health demand with few resources.

Doctors continue to show up, but their own well-being has silently eroded. "We are trained to work till we collapse," said a young resident at Government Medical College, Srinagar. "There's no space to say we're breaking."

A 2022 study by the college's Department of Psychiatry found that nearly half of resident doctors showed symptoms of burnout, depression, or anxiety. Many cited long duty hours, absence of rest, and a constant fear of being judged for seeking help.

"Weakness" is a word many still fear in medicine. But what they are experiencing is not weakness. It is a human response to relentless pressure.

The problem is not confined to Kashmir. A study from a tertiary hospital in South India reported that over 75 percent of resident physicians and 78 percent of interns suffered extreme stress. Many

resorted to isolation or unhealthy coping habits, unsure where to turn.

Medical education teaches them to diagnose physical pain, but rarely how to manage emotional strain. While they mend others, they often have no cure for themselves.

These challenges are amplified by Kashmir's social and political realities. Hospitals operate under uncertainty: power cuts, staff shortages, and delayed supplies. Many doctors work through night shifts that stretch beyond 24 hours, juggling emergencies and personal loss in an environment already shadowed by trauma.

The emotional cost of caring for the sick in such circumstances is rarely acknowledged, much less treated.

The pandemic deepened this invisible crisis. Doctors in Kashmir were celebrated as heroes, but the reality was harsh: months spent in isolation wards, relentless deaths, and fear of infecting families.

A 2020 study published in *Frontiers in Public Health* found that nearly half of India's healthcare workers reported symptoms of anxiety or depression. Young doctors, especially those away from home, were the most affected.

Long after the virus receded, many continued to battle fatigue and flashbacks.

Healing minds, though, requires more than therapy or medicine. The science of psychiatry may stabilise the brain, but connection heals the spirit.

Sometimes all a doctor needs after a long shift is a meal with family or a calm evening with friends who understand without asking.



SOMETIMES ALL A DOCTOR NEEDS AFTER A LONG SHIFT IS A MEAL WITH FAMILY OR A CALM EVENING WITH FRIENDS WHO UNDERSTAND WITHOUT ASKING. Studies show that doctors with stronger social support networks report less burnout. Emotional intimacy often works as an invisible antidepressant.

Studies show that doctors with stronger social support networks report less burnout. Emotional in-

timacy often works as an invisible antidepressant. Such support can be lifesaving in

Kashmir, where family bonds still shape daily life. "When I go home after 36 hours in the ward, I don't

need advice," said a senior surgeon in Srinagar. "I need my mother's food and a few minutes of laughter."

These small acts of care are what keep many from collapsing under the weight of their profession.

Still, empathy at home cannot replace systemic reform. Hospitals must build stigma-free spaces where doctors can seek help without fear. Medical colleges should integrate emotional resilience into training, treating mental health as a professional skill rather than a private shame.

The Care Under Pressure report from the UK's National Institute for Health Research called physician burnout a "systemic failure" rather than an individual flaw, a truth that applies equally to Kashmir.

Overwork, emotional isolation, and lack of recognition signal an unhealthy system, not weak individuals.

As patients, we too can help by shifting how we see our doctors. They are human before they are healers: vulnerable, fallible, and in need of the same compassion they offer every day.

After thanking a doctor, it may help to ask, "How are you holding up?" The answer might surprise us.

Medicine can repair the body, but healing the mind often begins with understanding.

If Kashmir is to remain healthy, it must first care for those who care for it. The least we can do is listen when our healers finally speak.

—The author is a medical practitioner. He can be reached at drumerahmad15@gmail.com

The Cost of Control

Generations of silence and control still define many households in Kashmir, but a younger generation is beginning to challenge inherited roles with courage and compassion.

Heena Nazir

I grew up in a home where decisions had a familiar pattern.

Men led, women followed, and silence was treated as peace.

It was never announced as a rule, but everyone knew their place. From how tea was poured to who spoke in family gatherings, there was an order that seemed natural.

Only later did I realise that what we called respect was often restraint, and what we mistook for harmony was habit.

Patriarchy doesn't always scream in the valley. It lives in expectations handed down through generations. It hides in the way we teach daughters to be obedient and sons to be strong. Families repeat these lessons without thinking, believing they preserve culture.

The truth is, this pattern has shaped our homes for centuries and still defines many lives today.

Growing up, I saw how women carried the invisible weight of adjustment. Mothers woke first, worked last, and ate only after everyone else. Daughters learned early to soften their voices. Many women I knew lived with the belief that compromise was a virtue.

At the same time, I saw how men were confined too. My brothers were expected to stay firm, never cry, and always provide. They were praised for being responsible, but no one asked if they were tired or afraid.

This is what patriarchy does. It shapes everyone, even those who seem to benefit from it. Women lose agency, and men lose tenderness. It is a system that hardens hearts and silences emotions on both sides.

When I began working, I met women who had managed to break through the barriers. Some became teachers, administrators, or activists. Their success was inspiring, but I noticed something unsettling.

A few, once they gained authority, used it harshly. They ruled as they had been ruled. I understood



CHANGE IN PLACES LIKE KASHMIR CANNOT HAPPEN OVERNIGHT. It must grow through awareness and trust. It begins in homes where parents teach equality through example, and children learn that fairness is a part of love. When boys are told that emotions do not make them weak, and girls are taught that ambition is not arrogance, the culture will start to heal.

then that power alone doesn't heal old wounds. If pain turns into revenge, the pattern continues under a new name. True empowerment needs balance.

Religion, in its essence, offered this balance long ago.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) granted women rights to education, inheritance, and dignity. He reminded men

that the best among them were those kind to women. The spirit of Islam rests on justice and compassion, values that seek to equalise.

But in many Kashmiri households, these principles have been replaced by customs that serve convenience more than conscience. Culture has overshadowed faith. What was once mutual respect has been turned into

control.

Still, change is happening, even if slowly. Many young women are entering universities and professional fields. According to recent education data, women now make up nearly half of higher education enrolments in the valley. Many of them challenge inherited silence with reason and grace. They demand equal say in

careers, marriages, and family life. Their courage has started to shift the atmosphere inside homes and workplaces.

Some men are changing too. A new generation is beginning to see that strength has many forms. They are learning that empathy can lead as powerfully as authority.

When fathers allow daughters to study freely, husbands share domestic work, and brothers respect a sister's choices, the structure begins to bend.

These small acts are steps toward a different future.

Change in places like Kashmir cannot happen overnight. It must grow through awareness and trust. It begins in homes where parents teach equality through example, and children learn that fairness is a part of love.

When boys are told that emotions do not make them weak, and girls are taught that ambition is not arrogance, the culture will start to heal.

Patriarchy has long shaped our sense of identity, but it does not have to shape our destiny. The real progress of any society depends on how well it balances dignity and compassion.

Kashmir's story can evolve if both men and women learn to walk together, neither leading nor following, but supporting.

In the end, what we need is not a battle between genders, but a shared understanding that humanity loses when one side dominates.

Balance is what our faith calls for, and what our times demand.

The day we see equality as harmony rather than threat, we will move closer to the justice our culture once promised, and the peace our valley still seeks.

—The author is an MBA graduate who has previously worked as a Training Executive and a Public Speaking Guide with an edtech platform. She can be reached at henan8853@gmail.com

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

India Flags West

Jaishankar said India stands ready to contribute constructively towards de-escalation efforts and to support initiatives aimed at restoring stability while noting that "peace cannot be piecemeal" and "it is essential to uphold international law, protect civilians, and avoid targeting public infrastructure."

The external affairs minister also strongly pitched for ensuring safe and unimpeded maritime flows through the Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea and voiced concerns over the "grave humanitarian implications" of the conflict in Gaza.

The India-hosted meet assumed greater significance as the influential bloc grapples with the economic consequences of the West Asia crisis, particularly the severe energy supply disruptions and Washington's policy on trade and tariffs.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Brazil's Mauro Vieira, Indonesian Foreign Minister Sugiono and South Africa's Minister for International Relations Ronald Lamola is among the senior leaders attending the meeting.

"The conflict in West Asia merits particular attention. Continuing tensions, risks to maritime traffic, and disruptions to energy infrastructure highlight the fragility of the situation," Jaishankar said.

The external affairs minister said safe and unimpeded maritime flows through international waterways, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea, remain vital for global economic well-being.

"The wider region also gives rise to serious concern. The conflict in Gaza has grave humanitarian implications.

"A sustained ceasefire, humanitarian access, and a credible pathway towards a durable and peaceful resolution remain essential. India supports a two-state solution where the Palestine issue is concerned," he said.

Jaishankar also made a mention of challenges facing Lebanon and Syria as well as the prevailing situation in Sudan, Yemen and Libya while calling for sustained international engagement and coordinated diplomatic efforts to address them.

"Taken together, they underline a clear reality: stability cannot be selective, and peace cannot be piecemeal. It is essential to uphold international law, protect civilians, and avoid targeting public infrastructure."

"India stands ready to contribute constructively to de-escalation efforts and to support initiatives aimed at restoring stability," Jaishankar said.

Without naming any country, he also underlined the need for addressing what he called "the increasing resort to unilateral coercive measures and sanctions inconsistent with international law and the UN Charter."

"Such measures disproportionately affect developing countries. These unjustifiable measures cannot substitute dialogue, nor can pressure replace diplomacy," he said.

The external affairs minister also described terrorism as a "continuing threat" and said that there can be no justification for terrorism in any form.

Iran FM Warns

"firmly and proudly" against what he described as aggression and coercion.

"It is a fragile reality. Imperial power in decline wants to turn back the clock, and is desperately lashing out on its way down," Araqchi said.

He added that pressure and military confrontation had historically strengthened rather than weakened Iran.

"It ought to be clear that Iran is unbreakable and only emerges stronger and more united when under pressure. While ready to fight with everything we have in defense of our freedom and our soil, we are equally ready to pursue and defend diplomacy," he said.

Araqchi's comments come amid continuing regional tensions months after conflict erupted following U.S. and Israeli military strikes against Iran on Feb. 28 and subsequent Iranian retaliatory actions that widened instability across the Middle East.

Iranian officials have repeatedly argued that military pressure and sanctions have failed to alter Tehran's strategic posture.

Addressing BRICS members, Araqchi accused Washington and Israel of carrying out what he called two unlawful acts of aggression against Iran in less than a year.

He said the actions had been justified using "false claims" that contradicted assessments by the International Atomic Energy Agency and U.S. intelligence agencies.

"Like many other independent nations, Iran is the victim of illegal expansionism and warmongering," he said.

Araqchi warned that instability generated by conflict would ultimately damage all parties involved.

"Those who pursue reckless adventures may believe it furthers their geopolitical interests. But as consumers and governments around the world now sense and understand, regional instability is a lose-lose proposition for all sides—including the aggressors," he said.

The Iranian minister said Tehran's resistance represented more than a national struggle and reflected a wider challenge faced by emerging powers and developing nations.

He described BRICS as a symbol of a changing international order in which developing countries increasingly shape global politics.

"BRICS symbolizes the emergence of a new global order in which the Global South is a primary architect of the world's future," Araqchi said.

He added that "the battle Iran has fought in defense of all of us—of the new world that we are building together."

Araqchi thanked BRICS countries for what he described as their solidarity with Iran and urged greater coordination to confront what he called U.S. exceptionalism and coercive

policies.

He said Iran's confrontation with Washington reflected a broader experience shared by many countries.

"It is high time for us to jointly step up and work towards making clear that those practices belong in the dustbin of history," he said.

Araqchi also warned that periods of geopolitical transition historically create instability and unpredictable behavior by major powers. "History has shown that empires in decline will stop at nothing to arrest their inevitable fates. A wounded animal will desperately claw and roar on its way down," he said.

The Iranian minister argued that crimes and violations of international norms persisted because of what he described as a culture of impunity.

"Crimes such as horrific genocide, shocking violations of the sovereignty of nations, and outright state piracy on the high seas can only take place if there is a sense of impunity," he said.

"That false sense of entitlement must be shattered, by all of us."

Araqchi urged BRICS member states and the wider international community to condemn what he described as violations of international law by Washington and Israel and to take stronger action against military escalation.

He said international institutions should not be politicized and called for efforts to halt what he termed warmongering.

Despite his criticism of Western powers, Araqchi said Iran remained committed to diplomacy and rejected military solutions.

"We Iranians never bow to any pressure or threat, but we reciprocate the language of respect," he said.

"As much as our powerful armed forces remain ready to exact devastating retribution on foreign aggressors, my people are peace-loving and do not seek war. We are not the aggressor in this sordid situation, but the aggrieved."

He concluded by describing BRICS as a potential pillar of a future international order.

"We believe that BRICS can—and must—become one of the principal pillars in shaping a more just, balanced, and humane global order; an order in which might can never make right."

"Nations which stand up for their dignity and independence may endure hardship, but they will never be defeated," he said.

PM Modi Meets

energy supply disruptions and Washington's policy on trade and tariffs.

India, as the chair of the BRICS, is hosting the two-day conclave from Thursday ahead of the annual summit of the grouping in September.

BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates, with Indonesia joining in 2025.

It has emerged as an influential grouping, as it brings together 11 major emerging economies of the world, representing around 49.5 per cent of the global population, around 40 per cent of the global GDP and around 26 per cent of the global trade.

The BRICS meeting will be chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

J&K Charts

beneath bridges, raising of high-tension and low-tension power lines, provision of electricity and water supply at terminals, construction of connecting roads and sewage treatment facilities at important ghats.

Dulloo stressed that modern inland waterways infrastructure has significant tourism, economic and environmental potential for Jammu and Kashmir and directed departments to work in close coordination with IWAI for timely completion of the projects.

He said development of water transport systems would provide a sustainable mode of transportation, boost tourism, generate employment and create new economic opportunities along riverfronts across the Union Territory.

The Chief Secretary also emphasised the need to integrate water transport facilities with tourism infrastructure while ensuring ecological sensitivity and preserving the natural character of rivers and surrounding landscapes.

During a presentation before the meeting, IWAI Chairperson Sunil Paliwal informed that substantial progress has been achieved on development of National Waterway-49 on river Jhelum, where a nearly 76-kilometre river cruise corridor from Pantha Chowk to Wular Lake is being developed.

Officials informed the meeting that construction of eight floating jetties along the Jhelum corridor is underway and expected to be completed by July 2026. Development of associated onshore infrastructure is targeted for completion by July 2027, while navigational aids are scheduled to be installed by July 2026.

Fairway maintenance along the river stretch is also being jointly carried out by IWAI and the Jammu and Kashmir government through deployment of dredgers to ensure safe navigation.

The meeting was further informed that procurement of ten hybrid electric boats, each with a carrying capacity of 20 passengers, is under process. Bids are currently under evaluation and the contract is expected to be awarded by May 2026, while delivery of the vessels is likely by March 2027.

Reviewing projects in the Jammu region, officials informed the meeting that cruise tourism infrastructure is also being developed on river Chenab under National Waterway-26.

A nine-kilometre cruise stretch from Reasi to Akhnoor Fort has been proposed, where construction work on two jetties has already been awarded and is expected to be completed by July 2026.

The meeting was told that development of onshore infrastructure for the Chenab project

has been entrusted to Indian Port Rail and Ropeway Corporation Limited, which is currently preparing the Detailed Project Report expected to be finalised by June 2026.

Officials said adequate water depth remains available throughout the year for cruise operations in the proposed stretch.

Similarly, under National Waterway-84 on river Ravi, a 15-kilometre river cruise corridor is being developed at Sohar in Jammu district. Construction of a jetty for the Ravi project has already been awarded and is expected to be completed by July 2026. DPR preparation for onshore facilities is also underway, while navigational aids are proposed to be tendered by July 2026 and completed by December 2026.

The presentation also highlighted several enabling interventions required for smooth operation of inland waterways, including land acquisition and transfer formalities.

Officials informed the meeting that eleven land parcels required for various components of the projects have already been identified, with approvals and transfer processes at different stages of completion.

NIA Files 7,500

notified as terrorist organisations by the Ministry of Home Affairs in June 2018.

The NIA, which unravelled a major "jihadi conspiracy" through a detailed scientific and forensic investigation, found the accused, some of whom were radicalised medical professionals, to have been inspired by AQIS/AGuH ideology to carry out the deadly attack, an official statement said.

The chargesheet has been filed under relevant provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Explosive Substances Act 1908, Arms Act 1959, and Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act 1984, it said.

Charges against Pulwama-based Dr Nabi, an ex-assistant professor of medicine at Al-Falah University in Faridabad (Haryana), have been proposed to be abated, the statement said.

Apart from Dr Nabi, others named in the chargesheet are Aamir Rashid Mir, Jasir Bilal Wani, Dr Muzamil Shakeel, Dr Adeel Ahmed Rather, Dr Shaheen Saeed, Mufti Irfan Ahmad Wagay, Soyab, Dr Bilal Naseer Malla and Yasir Ahmad Dar, the probe agency said.

At a clandestine meeting in Srinagar in 2022, the accused reconstituted the AGuH terror outfit as "AGuH Interim" following a failed 'Hizrat' (migration) to Afghanistan via Türkiye, it said.

Under the umbrella of the newly constituted outfit, they launched "Operation Heavenly Hind" aimed at overthrowing the democratically established Indian government and imposing Sharia rule, said the statement issued by the NIA.

The NIA's investigation revealed that as part of this operation, the accused recruited new members, actively propagated the violent 'jihadi' ideology of AGuH, stockpiled arms and ammunition, and manufactured explosives on a large scale using commercially available chemicals.

The agency said it found that the accused had also fabricated and tested various types of IEDs.

The explosive used in the blast was Triacetone Triperoxide (TATP), which was manufactured by the accused clandestinely after procuring constituent ingredients and conducting experiments to perfect the explosive mixture, the anti-terror agency said.

The chargesheet is based on an extensive investigation spread across Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and the Delhi-NCR region.

It includes detailed evidence in the form of 588 oral testimonies, more than 395 documents and over 200 seized material exhibits, the statement said.

The NIA, which took over the case from Delhi Police, had established the identity of the deceased accused as Dr Umer Un Nabi through DNA fingerprinting, it said.

Evidence collected from the scene of the crime, as well as various locations identified by the accused in and around the Al Falah University in Faridabad and in Jammu and Kashmir, was subjected to thorough forensic examination and voice analysis, etc. as part of the investigation.

The NIA probe had further revealed that the accused had also been involved in illegal procurement of prohibited arms, including an AK-47 rifle, a Krinkov rifle, and country-made pistols with live ammunition.

They had experimented with rocket and drone-mounted IEDs with the objective of targeting security establishments in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India, the NIA statement said.

It was also revealed during the investigation that the accused procured laboratory equipment, including specialised items like MMO Anode, electric circuits, and switches, from various offline and online sources.

The accused also had plans to expand their operations in other parts of the country, the statement said.

A total of 11 people have been arrested so far in the case, in which NIA is continuing with its efforts to track absconders whose role had surfaced during the investigation, it added. New Delhi, May 14 (PTI) The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a 7,500-page chargesheet against 10 accused in the Red Fort area car bomb explosion case, in which 11 people were killed, officials said on Thursday.

The high-intensity Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) blast that rocked the national capital on November 10 last year had also left several injured and caused extensive damage to property.

All 10 accused, including the main perpetrator, Dr Umer Un Nabi (deceased), were linked to Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGuH), an offshoot of the Al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), as per the chargesheet filed before the NIA special court at Patiala House Courts here, a statement issued by the central agency said.

The AQIS and all its manifestations were notified as terrorist organisations by the Ministry of Home Affairs in June 2018.

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Will Decimate Your

Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan" — launched by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on April 11.

"Jammu and Kashmir Police has shown consistent performance in all parameters since 2023. In terms of attachment of property, there has been a 12-fold increase between 2023 and 2026," he said.

Highlighting achievements, Prabhat said Jammu and Kashmir Police has been ranked third nationally in 2025 with regard to property attachments.

"There have been 240 PIT-NDPS detentions, for which Jammu and Kashmir Police has been ranked number one in the country in 2025," he added.

"J&K Police ranked No. 1 in the country in NDPS detentions and No. 3 nationwide in property attachments," Prabhat said.

On the anti-narcotics drive, the DGP said there has been nearly a seven-fold increase in the number of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act cases registered by the police.

"As many as 806 persons have been arrested in 724 cases. The significant arrests made in this regard are Gulzar Ahmad alias Lau Gujjar, who was wanted in 28 cases. He has been recently arrested by Jammu Police. Similarly, Avneet Singh, alias Nagi, who was wanted in 17 cases in Jammu province, has also been apprehended recently," Prabhat said.

The DGP said the police have seized 667 kg of narcotics and 19,000 units of psychotropic substances.

"Preventive action has been taken against 24 habitual drug offenders. As many as 97 properties, worth Rs 41.85 crore linked with narcotics trade have been identified and attached," he said.

Significant achievements during the campaign include Anantnag Police attaching properties worth 6.17 crore in connection with a case, the largest attachment made in a single case, he added.

In another first, he said, the Jammu and Kashmir Police attached properties beyond the jurisdiction of the Union territory in Punjab's Gurdaspur, Pathankot, and in Chandigarh.

He also said 41 properties worth nearly Rs 15 crore, raised through proceeds of narcotics trade, have been demolished so far following due process.

"Destruction of illicit poppy and cannabis cultivation has been carried out on 117 kanals of land. A total of 2,401 awareness and sensitisation programmes have been conducted across schools, colleges, and other public places in identified hotspots, covering over three lakh participants," he said.

Focused inspection of pharmaceutical establishments has also been conducted, with 5,238 chemists scrutinised, and action has been initiated against 151 erring establishments, he added.

The DGP said driving licenses of 162 persons involved in narcotics trade have been cancelled or suspended, while 92 registration certificates of vehicles involved in contraband movement have been cancelled or suspended. Ten passports have been recommended for being impounded.

Army Retrieves

LoC, prompting troops to engage the infiltrators in a brief gunfight.

Alert troops responded swiftly, preventing any breach of the LoC, the Army said, adding that one intruder was "neutralised" during the operation.

Officials said the slain intruder is believed to have been part of a Lashkar-e-Taiba group attempting to infiltrate into the Indian side near Bicho Post in the Mankote area of Poonch district.

Further investigation into the incident is underway, officials added.

Dr. Farooq Backs

and several Union ministers downgrading their cavalades as part of austerity measures, Abdullah said these measures are necessary to tackle the fuel crisis.

"I think it is very good. It shows that we are short of fuel, and obviously, there is a shortage. I hope everybody will reduce their cavalcade," he said.

HC Supports Army's

by Article 33 of the Constitution of India," the court said, adding, "Article 33 which is contained in Part-III of the Constitution of India is itself a part of the Chapter of Fundamental Rights."

The Union of India defended the provision, stating that the Central Government had certified that supplying the proceedings would be against national security interests and, therefore, copies were legitimately withheld.

After examining the provisions, the Court observed that the Army Rules, framed under Section 191 of the Army Act, have the force of law and are therefore protected under Article 33 of the Constitution.

"To emphasize, we would like to reiterate that the expression "law" used in Article-33 encompasses the rules made by the Government under the delegated authority conferred upon it by the Act framed by the Parliament."

However, the High Court found fault with the Armed Forces Tribunal for dismissing the petitioners appeal solely for want of certified copies despite the fact that copies had been denied under Rule 147-A itself.

The court said the Tribunal ought to have summoned the court martial records in a sealed cover and examined the appeal on merits instead of rejecting it on technical grounds.

Setting aside the Tribunal's order, the Court restored the petitioners appeal and directed the Tribunal to hear the matter afresh after summoning the Summary General Court Martial record.

The Court further directed that the petitioners or their counsel be allowed to inspect the proceedings strictly in accordance with Rule 147-A and subject to conditions prescribed under the Rule.

Rabies Scare Triggers

authorities at PHC Parigam said an emergency response was launched immediately after the matter came to light.

"We received information yesterday that suspected contaminated meat had been consumed by locals. Following this, we immediately started a vaccination drive as a precautionary measure. Hundreds of people have already been vaccinated," Dr Jureeda, Medical Officer at PHC Parigam, said.

She said the chances of infection remain comparatively low because the meat had been cooked before consumption, though precautionary vaccination was still being administered to concerned individuals.

"People should not panic because cooking considerably reduces the risk. Still, those who consumed or handled the meat can take anti-rabies vaccination as a preventive measure," she said.

The doctor advised residents to remain alert and seek immediate medical attention in case of symptoms such as vomiting, nausea, fever, unusual behavioural changes or any other health complications.

"Anyone who consumed the meat and develops concerning symptoms should report to the nearest hospital without delay," she added.

Residents said the rumours created fear across the village, especially among families who had either purchased the meat or handled it during cooking.

Many demanded stricter veterinary monitoring, mandatory inspection of animals before slaughter and greater public awareness regarding zoonotic diseases and food safety practices.

Authorities said the situation is being closely monitored and all necessary preventive and medical measures are being taken while investigation into the incident continues. (KNO)

SCW Kashmir Conducts Searches in Land Fraud Case

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Special Crime Wing (SCW) Kashmir of Crime Branch J&K on Thursday said it has carried out searches in Srinagar and Budgam in connection with a land fraud case involving allegations of cheating, forgery, and criminal conspiracy involving lakhs of rupees.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a spokesperson said the Special Crime Wing Kashmir of Crime Branch J&K carried out house searches in connection with FIR No. 06/2026 registered under Sections 420, 468, and 120-B RPC in Srinagar and Budgam districts.

He said the FIR was registered on the basis of a written complaint submitted by a resident of Humhama, Budgam, who alleged that Tariq Ahmad Sofi, a resident of Solina, Srinagar, had fraudulently obtained lakhs of rupees from him under the guise of selling land situated at Narkara, Srinagar.

"The investigation prima facie revealed that the ac-



cused, Tariq Ahmad Sofi S/o Ghulam Ahmad Sofi R/o House No. 53, Tulsi Bagh Srinagar, and Tariq Ahmad Wani S/o Mohammad Abdul Wahid Wani R/o Narkara, Budgam near Unani Hospital (land brokers), in connivance with the then Patwari, had prepared and used forged documents and entered into a criminal conspiracy to deceive the complainant and misappropriate money in connection with the land transaction," the spokesperson said.

He said that consequently, in continuation of the investigation, house searches were carried out at multiple locations in Srinagar and Budgam in the presence of Executive Magistrates to collect incriminating material and other evidence relevant to the case.

Australian Physiotherapist on 5,000-Km Run Mission against Leprosy Stigma



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Australian physiotherapist Om Satheja has completed nearly 4,900 kilometres of his 5,000-km run across India – from Kanyakumari to Srinagar's Lal Chowk – to raise awareness about leprosy and fight the stigma surrounding the disease.

Talking to KNO, at Qazigund, the 23-year-old said the journey was aimed at spreading awareness about leprosy, promoting compassion and inspiring youth through what he termed the "One India Run". Om, who belongs to an Indian-origin family settled in Australia, said he left for the mission on January 26 this year and reached Qazigund on the 109th day of his journey.

The runner said the idea for the campaign emerged from a childhood experience in Rishikesh when he first encountered people suffering from leprosy near Ram Jhula bridge. "When I was 10 years old, I saw leprosy patients for the first time. Years later, when the idea came to run across India, I wanted to support the children of leprosy patients and help fight the stigma attached to the disease," he said.

Calling the run both a personal and social mission, Om

said he wanted to challenge himself physically while also serving society. "When you try to do something difficult, you discover your true self," he said.

During the journey, he covered around 50 to 55 kilometres daily, with his highest single-day distance touching 70 kilometres. He said the run took him through 12 states where he interacted with students, villagers and local communities.

Om said he faced several challenges, including extreme heat in states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and West Bengal, where temperatures crossed 42 degrees Celsius, along with injuries, exhaustion and health issues. "Running eight hours daily in such heat was very difficult. Even in J&K, the mountains have been challenging. But difficult situations help you find inner strength," he said.

Speaking about leprosy stigma, Om said the disease is completely curable, but the lack of awareness continues to create fear and discrimination. "People fear what they don't understand. My message is not only about leprosy but about treating everyone with love, empathy and compassion. Once you understand people, you realise we are all the same," he said.

Northern Railway's Jammu Division to Launch 23-Day Environment Campaign

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Northern Railway's Jammu Division will kick off a 23-day special environment protection campaign from May 15 to June 5, 2026, to mark World Environment Day, a senior official said on Thursday.

The campaign, themed "Climate Change", will be conducted under the Centre's 'Mission LiFE' (Lifestyle For Environment) and aims to raise public awareness on climate change and promote environmental conservation, said Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vivek Kumar.

He added that a series of activities will be organised across railway stations, offices, colonies and other premises in the division. These include tree plantation drives, cleanliness campaigns, plastic-free premises initiatives, 'Say No to Single-Use Plastic' awareness programmes, water and energy conservation activities, plant distribu-



tion, street plays, poster and slogan competitions, walkathons and public rallies.

"The initiative will sensitise employees, passengers and the general public about the adverse effects of climate change and inspire them to adopt small, daily efforts for environment protection," Kumar said.

Messages such as 'Save Water, Save Energy' and 'Say No to Single-Use Plastic' will be widely publicised during the campaign, he added.

The DRM appealed to all officers, employees and citizens to actively participate and contribute towards building a clean, green and sustainable environment.

Light Rain, Thundershowers Expected at Scattered Places in J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir witnessed generally mild weather on Thursday, with the Meteorological Department forecasting light rain, thundershowers and gusty winds at scattered places over the next two days.

According to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 22.8 degrees Celsius, while 1.5 degrees below normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 8.6 degrees Celsius, 2.3 degrees below normal.

As per KNO, Jammu city recorded the highest maximum temperature in the region at 34.8 degrees Celsius, though it remained 2.3 degrees below normal. The minimum temperature there was 21.1 degrees Celsius, 2.9 degrees below normal.

Gulmarg, the famous ski resort in north Kashmir, recorded a maximum temperature of 15.6 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 3 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam registered 19.6 degrees Celsius as the maximum and 4.6 degrees Celsius as the minimum.

The MeT office said isolated places



in Kashmir and Jammu divisions received light rainfall during the day. Pahalgam recorded 3 mm rainfall, while Qazigund and Kulkernag received 0.8 mm each.

It said the weather is likely to remain partly to generally cloudy on May 15 and 16, with light rain, thundershowers and gusty winds expected at scattered to many places across the Union Territory.

The department has issued an advisory warning of thunder, lightning

and gusty winds with speeds of 40-50 kmph at a few places in Kashmir and Jammu divisions during the two days.

"People have been advised to suspend boating and shikara riding generally towards the afternoon and late afternoon hours," the advisory said.

The MeT office said weather conditions are likely to remain generally dry on May 17 and 18, while another spell of light rain and thundershower is expected at scattered places on May 19 and 20.

Assembly Committees Constituted in Balanced Way: Tanvir Sadiq

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) Chief Spokesperson and MLA Tanvir Sadiq on Thursday rejected allegations regarding the constitution of Assembly committees, asserting that the party has consistently strengthened democratic institutions in Jammu and Kashmir over decades.

Rejecting the Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma's allegations over the constitution of Assembly committees as "false accusations", Sadiq, as reported by KNO, said committee allocations were made in a balanced way.

The MLA said that comparisons with Parliament were being misinterpreted, adding that represen-

tation across committees reflects proportional distribution. "If you look at Parliament, BJP members constitute around 62 per cent while others make up 38 per cent. Similarly, in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly committees, around 55 per cent chairmanship goes to the ruling National Conference, while 44 per cent is shared by the opposition and BJP," he said.

He said these figures clearly demonstrate fairness in representation and dismissed claims of discrimination. "We have never discriminated against anyone. These are the figures. The truth will be clear if numbers are seen objectively," he said.

Responding to the remarks, the NC Chief Spokesperson told report-

ers here that Nawa-e-Subha - the party headquarters - has played an important role in shaping leadership in Jammu and Kashmir over the past several decades.

"Nawa-e-Subha is an institution. It has created great leaders in Jammu and Kashmir who have contributed to taking the region forward for the past 70 years. We are happy that Nawa-e-Subha has not only become an assembly of ideas but a part of Jammu and Kashmir's institutional fabric. It should have a place in every institution," he said.

He further said institutional functioning has improved over time and reiterated NC's commitment to strengthening democratic processes in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sakina Itoo Seeks Fair Probe into 'NEET Paper Leak'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Health and Education Minister Sakina Itoo on Thursday called for a transparent investigation into the alleged 'NEET-UG paper leak' incident.

The minister said all those involved in the fraud must face strict punishment, irrespective of their influence or position.

Speaking to reporters, Itoo, as per KNO said the alleged fraud has deeply affected students who worked tirelessly for years to qualify one of

the country's most competitive examinations.

"This is unfortunate because children work very hard and put immense effort into qualifying this examination," she said.

She said any malpractice in such examinations amounts to playing with the future and careers of deserving students.

"The investigation should be conducted properly and in a transparent manner. Whoever is involved should face strict action and severe punishment," she said.

Responding to a question regarding downsizing of government vehicles and related measures announced by the administration, the minister said everyone should contribute if any step helps reduce the country's problems.

"If there is any problem in the country and if we can help in reducing it in any way, then we should also play our role," she said.

Asked about reports of a possible shift to virtual education in view of recent developments, the minister said no such decision has been taken so far.

South Kashmir Village Alleges Lapses in Execution of Jal Jeevan Mission Project

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Residents of Badwan-Ganishpora village in Pahalgam area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district have appealed to the Lieutenant Governor for immediate intervention over the alleged non-functional Har Ghar Jal water-supply project in their area. In a representation submitted to the LG, the villagers said that despite the launch of the Jal Jeevan Mission project nearly four years ago, not a single household in the village has received piped drinking water. The residents stated that pipelines, water tanks and other structures were installed under the scheme, but the project allegedly failed due to poor execution, use of

smaller pipes, lack of proper protection and absence of monitoring by the concerned department. They alleged that 4-inch pipes were used instead of the required 6-inch pipes, resulting in frequent breakdowns and inadequate water flow. The villagers also claimed that several portions of the pipeline were left exposed and damaged, while some pipeline material was allegedly diverted to nearby areas to maintain water supply elsewhere. The representation further alleged lack of accountability and supervision, stating that officials and engineers rarely visited the site despite repeated complaints by locals. According to the villagers, nearly ₹4 crore has reportedly been spent on the proj-

ect, but the intended beneficiaries continue to suffer without access to drinking water. The residents have urged the Lieutenant Governor to order an immediate inquiry into the project, fix responsibility for alleged lapses in design and execution, and ensure completion of the scheme with proper-sized pipelines and adequate protection measures. They also demanded a time-bound action plan from the concerned officials to make the water-supply system functional at the earliest.

DC Srinagar Inspects Progress of Upgradation Works at GBMS Baghat Shoor

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo visited Government Boys Middle School (GBMS), Baghat Shoor in LalBazar area to review the progress of ongoing infrastructure upgradation works.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Executive Engineer, R&B Division Core, Arif Rehman Hazari, Tehsildar, Eidgah, Mohammad Iqbal Zargar, Deputy CEO, Anjum Raja, Officers from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya and other concerned accompanied the DC during the visit.

During the inspection, the DC assessed the pace and quality of construction being carried out by the R&B Department under the Samagra Shiksha scheme. He inspected various sections



of the building. He reviewed the pace and quality of construction work being carried out by R&B department under Samagra Shiksha.

On the occasion, the DC directed the concerned agency to complete the finishing works. He emphasized that improved School infrastructure will provide a better learning environment for students in the area.

Darbagh Shopian Residents Await Vital Bridge over Nallah Tongri

SHOPIAN: Residents of Darbagh village in the Zainapora sub-division of south Kashmir's Shopian district have expressed concern over the delay in the construction of a long-promised bridge over Nallah Tongri, despite the project already receiving official sanction.

The proposed bridge is meant to replace an old and damaged structure that suffered severe damage during the devastating floods of 2014. Since then, the bridge has continued to remain in a fragile and unsafe condition, while serving as a crucial link for Darbagh and several neighbouring villages.

Locals told KNO that the condition of the existing bridge has deteriorated significantly over the years, making it risky for commuters and vehicles. They said the structure has tilted and developed visible weaknesses, forcing heavy vehicles to avoid the route altogether.

"The bridge is in a dangerous condition and can collapse at any time. Small vehicles cross with difficulty, while larger vehicles cannot use it at all," said Amir Ahmad, a resident.

He said the fear intensifies during rainy weather when the water level in the stream rises sharply. "Whenever there is heavy rainfall, people remain worried throughout the day. If the bridge gives way, several households could lose connectivity," Ahmad added.

Locals said they have repeatedly raised the issue with the concerned authorities over the years through public grievance meetings and during election campaigns, but the project has yet to take off on the ground.

"We have been hearing promises for years, but practically nothing has happened so far," another resident said.

Residents said the absence of a proper bridge has hampered overall development in the area, adding that the improved connectivity would help students, patients, traders and commuters, besides ensuring safer movement for the public. (Observer News Service)

8-Year-Old Kashmiri Prodigy Enters Guinness World Records

SRINAGAR: Bringing pride to the Kashmir Valley, Maryam Zukhruf Siddiquah, an eight-year-old girl hailing from Tailwani in Anantnag District, has officially entered the Guinness World Records. Currently a Grade 3 student at Delhi Public School in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the young prodigy shattered records for the fastest recitation of the entire periodic table. In a remarkable display of speed and scientific precision recorded on April 19, 2026, Maryam completed the monumental task in just 33.71 seconds.

Maryam's accomplishment goes well beyond mere memorization. While reciting the chemical elements at a record-breaking speed, she simultaneously arranged all of them into their correct scientific groups. This dual feat of cognitive ability and scientific understanding has earned her global recognition in the prestigious "Age 16" category, a staggering achievement for an eight-year-old. Formally announced on 11 May 2026, this milestone has sparked widespread celebration among her family and across her hometown in South Kashmir.

The daughter of Dr. Md Irfanul Haque Siddiqui and Mahida Manzoor, Maryam is being lauded both locally and internationally. Her success is seen as a reflection of extraordinary dedication, intellect, and a deep commitment to academic excellence. Her parents attribute this significant milestone to her relentless hard work, as well as the invaluable guidance, encouragement, and support provided by the Principal of DPS Riyadh Mairaj Mohammad Khan. (Observer News Service)

Alleged Illegal Stone Crushers, Hot Mix Plants in Doda Trigger Public Concern

DODA: Residents, social organisations, and environmental activists in Doda have raised concern over the alleged illegal operation of several stone crushers and hot mix plants across the district, accusing them of violating environmental norms and posing risks to public health and the fragile Chenab Valley ecosystem.

Locals alleged that many units are operating close to residential areas, schools, agricultural land, and water bodies in violation of prescribed buffer zone rules. They said excessive dust, toxic emissions, and noise pollution have led to a rise in respiratory ailments, allergies, and other health issues, particularly among children and the elderly.

Residents further claimed that some units are functioning without valid permissions from the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC), while others continue operations despite expired clearances. Environmental groups also alleged illegal mining activities near riverbeds and ecologically sensitive zones, with mining waste reportedly being dumped into streams and rivers.

National Students Welfare Association and Bhalessa Civil Society head Sadakat Malik said unregulated mining and industrial activities were damaging natural resources and disturbing the ecological balance of the Chenab Valley.

Activists warned that continued violations could increase risks of floods, soil erosion, landslides, and water pollution. Farmers in affected areas alleged that dust accumulation and contamination were harming crops, livestock, and agricultural land fertility. (Observer News Service)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD (JKSSB)

Muthi, Aknoor Road, Jammu/ZamZam Complex Rambagh Srinagar.

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NOTIFICATION

Subject: Result/Score-sheet of Written Test for the post of Career Counselling Officer conducted on 18.03.2025-regarding.

Whereas, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) conducted the OMR based Written Examination for the post of Career Counselling Officer, Employment Department, advertised vide Advertisement no. 04 of 2020, under item no. 074, on 18th March, 2025; and Whereas, the Revised/Final Answer Key in respect of written examination held for the said post has been notified vide No. JKSSB-COEEXAM(UT)/1/2025-03 (7655961) dated: 14.05.2026; and

Now, therefore, in view of the above, the Result/Score-sheet, based on the performance of candidates who appeared in the Written Test for the post of Career Counselling Officer, Employment Department, advertised vide Advertisement no. 04 of 2020, under item no. 074, are hereby notified as Annexure "A"

No.: JKSSB-COEEXAM(UT)/11/2025-03 (7655961)

(Reyaz Ahmad Malik) JKAS

Dated: 14.05.2026

Controller of Examinations

DIPK-1309-26

DT: 14/05/2026

J&K Services Selection Board

Xi Warns Trump on Taiwan During Talks on Iran

Press Trust of India

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping warned his US counterpart Donald Trump that mishandling the Taiwan issue could trigger "clashes and even conflicts" between the two countries, as the leaders held wide-ranging talks on the Iran war, energy security and trade on Thursday.

After concluding the first round of talks in Beijing, which lasted for around two hours, Trump invited Xi and his wife to the White House on September 24, even as both leaders were in agreement that the Strait of Hormuz needs to be opened to support global energy needs. China and the US have agreed on a "new vision" for building constructive bilateral ties, Xi said. "I have agreed with President Trump on a new vision of building a constructive Chi-



na-US relationship of strategic stability."

Xi said the "new vision" would provide strategic guidance for bilateral relations over the next three years and beyond, and should be welcomed by the people of both countries as well as the international community, official media reported.

He, however, stressed that the Taiwan question remained the most important issue in China-US relations. If it is handled properly,

the bilateral relationship "will enjoy overall stability", Xi said. Otherwise, the two countries could face "clashes and even conflicts", putting bilateral ties in great jeopardy, the leader was quoted as saying by the state-run Xinhua news agency.

The Chinese president urged the US to exercise extra caution in handling the Taiwan issue.

Meanwhile, in response to Xi's comments, Taiwan was quoted by the AP news

agency saying: "China is currently the only risk to regional peace and stability."

China regards self-ruled Taiwan as a renegade province that must eventually be reunified with the mainland. It opposes formal diplomatic ties between Taipei and countries that recognise Beijing.

Since establishing diplomatic relations with modern China in 1979, the US has maintained unofficial ties with Taiwan and continued supplying arms to the island while formally acknowledging Beijing's position that Taiwan is part of China without explicitly endorsing it.

According to a White House statement, Trump and Xi discussed expanding economic cooperation, keeping the Strait of Hormuz open and preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

Ship Seized Off Coast Of UAE, Heading To Iran

AP

DUBAI: A ship anchored off the east coast of the United Arab Emirates has been seized and is heading toward Iranian waters, the British military said Thursday.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre said it received reports that the vessel was taken by unauthorised personnel while anchored 38 nautical miles (70 kilometers) northeast of the UAE port of Fujairah, near the Strait of Hormuz.

The seizure comes as US President Donald Trump was meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping on a much-anticipated visit to Beijing. The leaders' talks are expected to focus on the war with Iran, which has seriously disrupted trade in oil, gas and other products and

rattled the global economy.

It happened hours after Israel said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had quietly visited the UAE during the Israeli-US war with Iran, though the UAE swiftly denied that any secret visit had occurred.

The Gulf nation normalised relations with Israel in 2020. Iran has criticised that agreement and has repeatedly suggested over the years that Israel maintained a military and intelligence presence in the UAE.

Israeli leaders have made occasional visits to the UAE in recent years after normalizing relations.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) did not name the ship and said it is investigating. There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the seizure.

Iran Allows Chinese Ships to Cross Strait of Hormuz

Press Trust of India

BEIJING: Iran has allowed dozens of Chinese ships to pass through the Strait of Hormuz as China toughened its stance against the militarisation of the key waterway during talks between US President Donald Trump and President Xi Jinping.

Iran shut down the Strait of Hormuz, a waterway between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, following the launch of the US-Israeli attacks on February 28.

Since Wednesday night, Iran permitted 30 Chinese ships to pass through the Strait of Hormuz in compliance with Iranian management protocols, Iran's semi-official Fars news agency reported, quoting a senior official of the Revolutionary Guard-Navy as saying, according to China's

state-run Xinhua news agency on Thursday.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Thursday said that the Strait of Hormuz is open to all commercial vessels, provided they cooperate with Iranian naval forces to pass through the waterway.

The reports of Iran permitting Chinese ships came as Trump and Xi agreed that the Strait of Hormuz must remain open to support the free flow of energy, according to a readout of their Thursday meeting by the White House.

However, Beijing has not made any comment to back the US claims.

Xi also opposed any implementation of tolls on vessels crossing the strait, which has effectively been closed since the start of the Iran war, it said.

Healthy Habits

Get sunshine for healthy bones

Never skip breakfast

Rest to beat stress

Eat mindfully, chew slowly

Be active

Sleep for 8 hours daily

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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

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

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