

## Census 2027 Self-Enumeration Begins In J&K

Online Facility To Remain Open Till May 31

Details To Be Verified During House-listing Phase In June

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The process of self-enumeration for Census 2027 will officially begin at midnight across Jammu and Kashmir, allowing residents to submit household details online through the official census portal.

Director of Census Operations for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, said that citizens can

start filling in their details from 12:00 am on May 17.

"The facility of self-enumeration for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh under Phase-I of the Census will be available from May 17 to May 31," Sharma said.

He said the details submitted online would later be verified by enumerators during the Houselisting Operation scheduled from June 1 to June 30 across the Union Territories. | More on P6



## Army Chief To Pak: 'Choose Geography Or History'

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: In a stern military message to Islamabad, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday said if Pakistan continues to harbour terrorists and operate against India, then they have to "decide whether they want to be part of geography or history or not".

At an interactive session hosted by 'Uniform Unveiled' at the Manekshaw Centre here, he was asked about how the Indian Army will respond if circumstances that led to Operation Sindoor last year comes up again.

The Army chief said, "If you have heard me earlier, what I have said... that Pakistan, if it continues to



harbour terrorists and operate against India, then they have to decide whether they want to be part of geography or history or not." His remarks at the event, 'Sena Samwad', came days after the country and the

Indian military marked the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor.

Gen Dwivedi's remarks, though brief carried a blunt message to Pakistan, and reiterated India's stand against terrorism.

Operation Sindoor was launched early on May 7 last year in retaliation to the deadly Pahalgam terror attack, with Indian forces conducting precision strikes on multiple terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Pakistan later also launched offensives against India, and all subsequent counter-offensives by India were also carried out under Operation Sindoor.

The military | More on P6

## India Rejects CoA Award On Indus Waters Treaty Dispute

India on Saturday rejected the latest award issued by the Court of Arbitration (CoA) on the Indus Waters Treaty dispute with Pakistan, maintaining that the tribunal had been constituted "illegally" and New Delhi doesn't recognise its authority or jurisdiction. Responding to media queries, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India categorically rejects the award issued by the so-called Court of Arbitration on May 15 regarding matters linked | More on P6

## Dry Weather Till May 18; Rain Likely Thereafter

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Meteorological Department has forecast mainly dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir till May 18, with fresh spells of light rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds likely thereafter.

According to the MeT Department, weather conditions remained partly to generally cloudy across the Union Territory on Friday, with light rain and thundershower activity reported at several places.

The department said weather is expected to remain generally dry on May 17 and 18.

However, from May 19 to 20, Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness generally cloudy weather with spells of light rain and thundershowers at scattered places.

Generally cloudy conditions with brief spells of rain are also expected at isolated places on May 21, while | More on P6

## 2 Tourists Killed In Pahalgam Accident

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Two tourists from Gujarat were killed and three others injured after a vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a gorge in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday, officials said.

The accident took place at Mandian area of Pahalgam when a Tavera vehicle bearing registration number JK21A-0379 was travelling from Pahalgam to Aru.

Officials said one tourist died on the spot, while four others sustained injuries in the accident. "One of the injured later succumbed at the hospital," they said.

The deceased have been identified as Bawin Bhavsar and his wife Awin Bhavsar, both residents of Gujarat.

The injured were identified as Naina, wife of Ashokbhai; Ashok Naina, both residents of Gujarat; and Rayees Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Pahalgam. All the injured were shifted to GMC Anantnag for treatment.

Police have registered a case and initiated investigation into the incident.

## 'Kashmir Feels Complete Again' Emotional Return Of KPs Revives Memories of Shared Past

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Emotional scenes unfolded across north Kashmir on Saturday as displaced Kashmiri Pandits returned to ancestral temples in Sopore and Bandipora, reconnecting with old neighbours, reviving memories of coexistence, and participating in religious gatherings after decades of separation.

At the historic Nandkishwar Ji Maharaja temple in Seer Jagir area of Sopore, devotees gathered on the occasion of Jyeshtha Amavasya to offer prayers amid a peaceful atmosphere. Local Muslim residents joined the gathering, welcoming the visiting families in what many described as a powerful reminder of Kashmir's shared heritage.

For several attendees, the visit carried significance beyond religion, symbolising a return to roots and relationships disrupted by the migration of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley in the 1990s.

"We had once thought returning here would never be possible," said Sanjay Pandith, one of the devotees. "Today the atmosphere | More on P6

## DISPLACED FAMILIES VISIT temples in Sopore, Bandipora after decades; locals welcome return as symbol of harmony and reconciliation."

## Why Are Kashmir Patients Still Spending Heavily On Branded Medicines?

Agencies

Srinagar: Despite the availability of low-cost generic medicines under government-backed schemes, a large section of people in Jammu and Kashmir continues to spend heavily on expensive branded drugs, with many patients blaming poor awareness and weak public outreach for keeping cheaper alternatives out of public knowledge.

Across Srinagar and other districts, patients visiting private chemist shops routinely purchase costly branded medicines, often unaware that the same medicines are available at significantly lower prices under generic names through government-supported outlets.

The issue has become a growing financial burden, particularly for poor families, elderly patients, and those suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension, and cardiac ailments that require long-term medication.

Generic medicines are sold under their chemical names rather than | More on P6




# OUR CENSUS, OUR DEVELOPMENT

(First Phase of Census 2027)

Houselisting and Housing Census by the Government of India is about to begin in your State/Union Territory  
Before this, a 15-day special facility is being provided where you can fill in your information online yourself


I am Pragati



## SELF-ENUMERATION

Simple and Secure Digital facility

I am Vikas



### How to do Self-Enumeration?

- 1 Visit the official portal ([se.census.gov.in](http://se.census.gov.in))
- 6 You will receive an SE ID after submission
- 2 Login via OTP using your mobile number
- 7 Keep the SE ID safe
- 3 Select your State, District and Local details
- 8 Provide the SE ID to the enumerator when they visit
- 4 Mark your house location on the Digital Map
- 9 The enumerator will confirm the information
- 5 Fill in information related to the house and family

### It's Benefits

- Time-Saving
- Accurate Information
- Fast Data Processing

Remember: Self-enumeration is a special facility

If you are unable to self-enumerate, do not worry; an enumerator will definitely visit your home during the scheduled period to record the information

All your information will remain completely confidential and secure

### Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh

## Self-Enumeration

### 17<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May

### Houselisting

### 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June

LET US FULFILL OUR RESPONSIBILITY AND PARTICIPATE IN THE CENSUS

**TOLL FREE - 1855**
CensusIndia2027

CBC 19108/13/0099/2627



To place an advertisement  
**CALL +91-194 2502327**

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)  
No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

# Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

**Scholarship Name 1: MynVidya: Myntra Cares Scholarship Program**  
Description: The MynVidya: Myntra Cares Scholarship Program extends financial support to students belonging to the families of garment workers and artisans and helps them pursue their higher education in recognised State and Central Universities, including artisan-related NSDC-certified upskilling training programs, empowering students to overcome financial barriers in pursuit of their academic and career goals.  
Eligibility: Applicants from families employed as a full-time garment workers and artisans who must have completed Class 12 in any stream with a minimum of 60% marks. Must be enrolled in a full-time graduation course in any year (B.A., B.Sc., B.Com., BBA, BCA, etc.) in a recognised State/Central University.  
Annual family income of the ap-

plicants must be less than INR 5,00,000.  
Applicants for the NSDC Artisan Upskilling program must be 14 to 30 years old, must have completed Class 10 (no minimum percentage), and be enrolled in a recognised NSDC-certified training course in approved institutes or under the NHDP, SAMARTH, or IITHT programs, etc.  
Prizes & Rewards: Selected students will receive a scholarship of INR 20,000 per year for 3 years. (Note: Renewable for up to 3 years for students enrolled in full-time graduation courses, subject to academic performance and fulfillment of renewal criteria.)  
Last Date to Apply: 19-05-2026  
Application mode: Online applications only  
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/MVMCSP1  
QR Code: https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/177855811.png

**Scholarship Name 2: Dr. Rajendra Prasad Scholarship Program 2026-27**  
Description: The Dr. Rajendra Prasad Scholarship Program 2026-27, an initiative by Buddy4Study, supports meritorious students from economically weaker backgrounds who have passed Class 10 or 12 in the academic year 2025-26. The program offers a one-time scholarship of up to INR 30,000 to help students continue their education without financial constraints.  
Eligibility: The scholarship is open to students across India who meet the following criteria:  
Students must have passed Class 10 or Class 12 in the academic year 2025-26  
Applicants must have secured a minimum of 65% marks in their previous class  
The annual parental income must not exceed INR 8 lakh from all sources

Note: Preference will be given to: Students passed from government schools  
Persons with Disabilities (PwD)  
Students from the North-East region and aspirational districts  
Prizes & Rewards: Selected students will receive a one-time fixed scholarship of up to INR 30,000, depending on the fee structure.  
Last Date to Apply: 28-06-2026  
Application mode: Online applications only  
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/DRPSP1  
QR Code: https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/2026-271778566027.png

of students.  
Eligibility: Application is open to graduates from the Engineering Faculty of Savitribai Phule Pune University or final-year B.E. or B.Tech students from NBA-accredited institutes in the PMC/PCMC areas. Applicants must have secured merit-based admission for a Master's in Engineering or Technology at accredited universities in the USA, Canada, Germany, England, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, or EU countries and maintain a minimum academic record of B grade or higher.  
Prizes & Rewards: A supplemental funding for 1-year of Master's course.  
Last Date to Apply: 30-05-2026  
Application mode: Online applications only  
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/DKBS2  
QR Code: https://d1e9eg0t05513.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/20261778566094.png

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SYED SARIR AHMAD, S/o SYED GH HASSAN R/o NARBAL, BUDGAM hereby state that my correct name as per my Date of Birth certificate and Class 10th records is SYED SARIR AHMAD. However, due to an inadvertent typographical error, my name has been wrongly recorded as SYED SARAR AHMAD in my service book and certain official records.  
Therefore, I hereby declare that both the names refer to one and the same person, and henceforth I shall be known and identified by the name SYED SARIR AHMAD for all official, legal, educational, and other purposes.  
If any person has any objection regarding this notice, they may report the same to the office of the SSP Budgam within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

SYED SARIR AHMAD  
Date: 15-05-2026  
Place: NARBAL, BUDGAM  
bmg

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) NASEEMA AKHTER to (New name) NASEEMA ALTAF. In future will be known as (new name) NASEEMA ALTAF. If any body having any objection he/she may contact passport office, Srinagar with 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted

mcb

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) BISMAL NAZIR to (New name) BISMAL NAZIR. In future I will be known as (new name) BISMAL NAZIR.  
If any body having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

mcb

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Adhar card of my daughter bearing No 269836791200 the name is entered as RAIMA ASHRAF while her actual name is RAHIMA ASHRAF. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact Concern department within a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.  
MOHAMMAD ASHRAF MIR GOJAR  
F/O RAHIMA ASHRAF  
R/o MIR MOHALLA CHITHI BANDI BANDIPORA.

mcb

## Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Mohammad Inayat Bhagat s/o Gh Qadir Baghat R/o kathpora Palhallan Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 30/05/218 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  
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

## 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 Abdul Hannan S/o Firdous Ahmad Sheikh R/o Palhallan Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 17/10/2023 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  
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

## 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 Dawood Ahmad Dar D.o.B 05/05/2019, Mohammad Saifulah Dar D.o.B 14/06/2022 and Mohammad Imad Dar D.o.B 03/07/2023 ss/o Tajamul wali R/o Chichilora Dildarpora tehsil Kawarhama. 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  
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

## Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

The registrar birth BDO pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Daniyal Manzoor Dar s/o Manzoor Ahmad Dar R/o Khambiyah Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 16/08/2018 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

ذاتیات پھان  
عنوان:- درخواست از جانب نذیر احمد راجہ ولد غلام محی الدین راجہ ساکن موضع پھان  
برآمدگی EWS سرٹیفکیٹ  
اشتراک برادر ادا گاہی برضام و نام  
معاملہ، مندرجہ عنوان، الصدمہ میں اول پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی مطابق  
رپورٹ پٹواری حلقہ ساکن عاقب نذیر موضع پھان کا مستقل سکونت دار ہے ساکن ایک  
غیر کنبہ سے تعلق رکھتا ہے ساکن موضع پھان میں ایک منزلہ مکان میں رہائش پذیر  
ہے جس کی پیمائش مطابق رپورٹ پٹواری حلقہ 28x26.5=749 مربع فٹ ہے  
مزید رقمیں 740.5 مربع فٹ کے قریب سے نقل رقم 1489.5 مربع فٹ ہے۔  
لہذا سرٹیفکیٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ  
اپنا عذر یا اعتراض سات دان کے اندر دفتر پٹواری حلقہ میں پیش کریں۔ معیار و گزرنے کے بعد کوئی  
بھی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
نایب تحصیلدار fko

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Asif Ali Bhat S/o Ali Mohmed Bhat R/o Wahdatpora, Budgam, hereby inform that my son's name has been wrongly recorded as Mohammad Hasnain instead of his correct name Mohammad Hasnain Bhat. Also, my wife's name has been wrongly recorded as Sameena instead of her correct name Sameenah Akhter. Henceforth, the correct particulars should be read as Child's Name: Mohammad Hasnain Bhat Mother's Name: Sameenah Akhter. Objections, if any, may be conveyed to the undersigned within 7 days of this publication.  
Asif Ali Bhat R/o Wahdatpora, Budgam  
mcb

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mushtaq Ahmad Shah, father of Muskan Mushtaq, hereby declare that the correct name of my daughter is "Muskan Mushtaq" as recorded in her Date of Birth Certificate, Aadhaar Card, and other valid documents. However, due to an inadvertent error, her name has been wrongly mentioned as "Muskaan Mushtaq" in certain school records.  
If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may contact the Principal of Govt Boys School, Awantabawan, Srinagar, within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the expiry of the said period.

Media line addt

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Tawheed Ahmad Shah the authorized proprietor of M/S TREKTIDE TRAVELS, situated at first floor al ahad complex Buchpora Srinagar hereby inform the general public and concerned authorities that the electricity connection bearing: Consumer ID: 0204040035862 Account ID: 8258188934 registered in the name of M/S TREKTIDE TRAVELS, is no longer required and shall be treated as cancelled/disconnected. The concerned department is requested to process the cancellation/disconnection of the said electricity connection and clear all future liabilities from the date of publication of this notice.  
If any person has any objection regarding the cancellation of the above-mentioned electricity connection, they may contact the concerned department within seven days from the publication of this notice. After that, no claim or objection shall be entertained.

bmg

## PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly spelled in my birth certificate as Sahil Abbas Mir While my correct name is Sahil Abbas Mir. Now I have applied for the correction of the same if anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the MC Magam within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
Sahil Abbas Mir  
bmg

## Government of Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION GANDEBAL

NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
CIVIL WORKS

e-NIT No. 08/EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl of 2026-27 under Endorsement No.:1888-93  
Dated:- 14-05-2026

For and behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, UT of J&K, e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of Completion	Class Of Contractor
01	Upgradation of Treasury Office Lar. (Balance Work).	Rs.149 Lacs	Rs.200/=	Rs.2980/=	10-Days	DEE
02	Road cut charges connection WSS Watschan Manigam road b.w.o macadamization.	Rs.39.20 Lacs	Rs.1100/=	Rs.78,400/=	30-Days	BEE/AAY

Major Head: NFB, 8443-D/C  
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14-05-2026
2.	Period of Downloading of Bidding Documents	14-05-2026
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	14-05-2026 from 04:00 PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	20-05-2026 upto 04:00 PM
5.	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids (Online)	21-05-2026 at 11:00 AM in the Office of PW(R&B) Division Gandebal.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Gandebal. NOTE:- The Date of Treasury Challan and CDR must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-Responsive.

2. The Bidders shall upload earnest money equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG at the time of tendering pledged in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Gandebal.

3. The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of Allotted Cost as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Gandebal within 03 days before Fixation of contract and shall be released after completion of DLP and the 2% EMD shall be released in favour of successful bidder only after the receipt of 5% Performance Security.

4. Unbalanced Bid:- As per the Circular Instructions of Finance Department Vide No. (Principal Secretary to Government Finance Department's circular issued under endorsement No: FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated:- 08.08.2025), which is reproduced as:-

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

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

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

The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security.  
In case bid of the bidder is unbalanced. The lowest bidder (L-1) has to provide additional performance security, immediately after issuance of LOA/LOI. The successful bidder shall submit the additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 03 days after the issuance of LOA/LOI and in case of the delay in submission of additional performance security, the tender shall be re-advertised without any notice at the cost, risk and responsibility of the L-1 or penalty shall be imposed as per the rules.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on the website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Website in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Gandebal.

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

7. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-  
a). Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

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

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

Sd/-

Executive Engineer  
PW(R&B) Division Gandebal

No.:1888-93  
DIPK:1361/26  
Dated: 16-05-2026

## Government of Jammu and Kashmir Office of The Naib-Tehsildar Palhallan Executive Magistrate 1<sup>st</sup> Class.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that an application for issuance of Legal Heir Certificate has been received in this office in respect of deceased \*\*Shri/Smt. Mohd yousuf Pujoo S/o Haji Mohd Akbar Pujoo R/o Sultanpora Tehsil Pattan Distt Baramulla who expired on 09-02-2022.

As reported, the deceased has left behind the following legal heirs:

1. Mst Haleema Begum. W/O Late Mohd Yousuf Pujoo
2. Sajad Hussain Pujoo S/O Mohd Yousuf Pujoo .
3. Fayaz Hussein Pujoo S/O Mohd Yousuf Pujoo
4. Zulkarnain Yousuf. S/O Mohd Yousuf Pujoo

Any person having any objection, claim, or interest regarding the issuance of the Legal Heir Certificate in favour of the above-mentioned legal heirs may file objections before the office of the undersigned within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice, along with supporting documents/evidence.

In case no objection is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that no person has any objection and the case shall be processed accordingly under rules.

fko

Naib Tehsildar Palhallan

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT Civil Secretarial. J&K

Subject: Constitution of Joint Enforcement Teams for coordinated enforcement drives across all food business establishments

Government Order No.:907-JK(GAD) of 2026

Dated: 13.05.2026

Sanction is hereby accorded to the constitution of Joint Enforcement Teams, comprising the following, for coordinated enforcement drives across all food business establishments in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir:

### A. District-Level Joint Enforcement Team

1.	Deputy Commissioner	Chairperson
2.	Assistant Commissioner, Food Safety, of the concerned district	Member Secretary
3.	Chief Medical Officer	Member
4.	Deputy Controller, Legal Metrology	Member
5.	Deputy Superintendent of Police (HQ)	Member
6.	Executive Officer, Municipal Corporation/Council/Committee (ULB)	Member

### B. Tehsil-Level Joint Enforcement Team

1.	Tehsildar	Chairperson
2.	Food Safety Officer (FSO)	Member Secretary
3.	Block Medical Officer	Member
4.	Inspector, Legal Metrology	Member
5.	Executive Officer, Municipal Committee concerned	Member
6.	Station House Officer concerned	Member

### C. Block-Level Joint Enforcement Teams

1.	Block Development Officer concerned	Chairperson
2.	Food Safety Officer (FSO)	Member Secretary
3.	Naib Tehsildar concerned	Member
4.	Medical Officer	Member
5.	Inspector, Legal Metrology	Member
6.	Police Sub-Inspector (Jurisdictional Police Station)	Member

The District-Level Team shall supervise and coordinate Tehsil and Block-level teams, and enforcement drives shall commence within seven days of issuance of this order.

### Terms of Reference:

i. To verify validity of licenses/registrations of restaurants, butcher shops, bakeries, milk outlets and other food business operators.

ii. To ensure hygienic meat handling, use of gloves and compliance with slaughterhouse norms.

iii. To prohibit sale of offal, heads and hooves in open stalls; enforce hygiene safeguards against dust and vehicular smoke.

iv. To conduct targeted inspections of outlets run by individuals, particularly fish and chicken sellers, to check compliance with licensing and hygiene standards.

v. To undertake random sampling and testing of milk and milk products for adulteration.

vi. To establish a helpline/complaint cell at District HQ for citizens to report violations; ensure prompt redressal.

vii. To submit fortnightly reports to the Health & Medical Education Department through the Deputy Commissioner, highlighting enforcement actions, penalties imposed and compliance status.

By Order of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sd/-(M. Raju) IAS  
Commissioner/Secretary to the Government

No. GAD-ADM01V/73/2026-09-GAD  
DIPK-1338/26  
Dated: 16.05.2026

## Director Lauds First Successful Infant Bone Marrow Transplant Performed at SKIMS



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Director SKIMS/EOSG Prof. (Dr.) M. Ashraf Ganie congratulated the Department of Clinical Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences for successfully performing the first infant Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant (Bone Marrow Transplant) in an eight-month-old child diagnosed with Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH), a rare and life-threatening immune disorder.

He described the achievement as a major milestone in advanced cellular therapy and bone marrow transplantation services in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. He appreciated the dedicated efforts of the transplant team and reiterated the institute's commitment to strengthening and expanding world-class hematology and transplant care facilities within the region.

The infant had been suffering from severe manifesta-

tions of HLH, a condition characterized by uncontrolled immune system activation leading to persistent fever, multiorgan involvement, and potentially fatal complications. For children affected with this disorder, Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation remains the only curative treatment option. Without timely transplant intervention, survival in such infants remains extremely poor.

Following extensive evaluation and meticulous multidisciplinary planning, the child successfully underwent the stem cell transplant and is being discharged today in a stable condition.

Dr. Sajad Ahmad Geelani, Professor & Head, Department of Clinical Hematology and BMT, stated that this landmark achievement marks a major milestone for the transplant programme at SKIMS and reflects the institution's growing expertise in managing highly complex disorders requiring advanced cellular therapies.

## Spend Time in Libraries, Playgrounds: SSP to Youth

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Urging youth to shun drugs, excessive social media use and other harmful influences, SSP Srinagar Dr. G.V. Sundeeep Chakravathy on Saturday called on youngsters to actively engage in sports and constructive activities.

Speaking during an inter-college cricket tournament organised by the district administration in Srinagar, Dr. Chakravathy, as per KNO said such events provide an important platform for youngsters to channelise their energy positively. "We are very happy to be here at the inter-college cricket tournament organised by the district administration. I would like to thank the district administration, our colleges and the notarial office for starting this wonderful initiative. This is a

good platform for our youth to display their energies and channelise them into constructive activities," he said.

The SSP said sports activities are the need of the hour, especially at a time when various national missions aimed at youth engagement and nation-building are progressing rapidly across the country.

"As we all know, the national mission of Bharat Aavahan is running at a very fast pace in the country. In this season, such cricket tournaments keep our youth busy in positive and constructive activities. And it is the need of the hour," he said.

Highlighting the importance of youth participation in nation-building, Dr. Chakravathy said youngsters should spend more time in educational and sporting spaces instead of falling prey to negative distractions.

## 'Shuhul Thakh Pend' Opens at Rajbagh Resort

Observer News Service

Srinagar, May 16: A new addition to Kashmir's hospitality landscape was unveiled on Saturday evening with the grand opening of "Shuhul Thakh Pend" at Shuhul Resort in Rajbagh.

The inauguration ceremony, held amid a warm and welcoming atmosphere, witnessed the presence of guests, members of the local community, well-wishers, and media representatives who gathered to celebrate the occasion.

Developed under the theme "Your Space. Your Time. Your Vibe.", Shuhul Thakh Pend has been designed as a peaceful retreat aimed at offering visitors a relaxing experience surrounded by natural beauty and calm surroundings.

The newly launched space features freshly brewed coffee, snacks, sandwiches, and a variety of refreshments, with the management describing it

as an effort to create a comfortable destination where people can unwind and spend quality time.

The evening also provided visitors an opportunity to experience the hospitality and scenic charm of the resort, as guests interacted over refreshments in a relaxed setting.

The management of Shuhul Resort expressed gratitude to attendees for their presence and support, stating that the initiative reflects their commitment to enhancing hospitality experiences in Kashmir through thoughtfully designed spaces focused on comfort and leisure.

## Surge in Animal Bite Cases

# SMHS Records Over 17,000 Dog, Cat Bite Incidents in One Year

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A whopping 17,127 bite victims, mostly from dog and cat bites, sought treatment at the Anti-Rabies Clinic at Srinagar's Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital in the past year.

An official while sharing details with KNO said the prevalence of dogs across the valley has contributed to human-dog conflicts, leading to a rise in cases of dog bites in the region while cats are being reared at home now which leads to cat bite cases.

"In the last one year that is from April 2025 to March 2026 ARC SMHS Hospital received 17,127 including 7,307 dog bites 9,144 cat exposures and 676 other bite cases," the official said, adding, "The cat exposure is increasing exponentially and have overpassed dog bite cases as many people are keeping them as pets while almost all dog bites are reported from stray dogs."

"We receive around 1500 animal bite scratch exposures every month in Anti Rabies and in the last one year around 17,000 cases have been reported," he said.

"This figure of 17,127 cases marks the highest recorded in the past decade, underscoring the urgent need to address the issue immediately."

Details reveal that 14554 bite cases were reported in Srinagar in last one year followed by 751 in Budgam, 266 in Baramulla, 231 Kupwara, 304 in Bandipora, 235 in Ganderbal, 152 in Pulwama, 96 in Shopian, 99 in Kulgam, 111 in Budgam and 328 from other districts.

An expert told KNO that cats do transmit Rabies similar to dogs and cat bite cases are on rise and people need to take precautions in this regard. "The trend of keeping cats as pets has gone up especially post COVID times but in many instances the owners are not following norms like vaccination, deworming, timely treat-



**We receive around 1500 animal bite scratch exposures every month in Anti Rabies and in the last one year around 17,000 cases have been reported**

ment and hygiene practices," he said.

"We have seen many fold increases in the number of cases visiting Anti Rabies Clinic SMHS over the last four years. More than half cases are victims of cat exposures now," he added.

Reviewing the yearly data on bite cases, the official said that from April 2015 to March 2016, 7,061 bite cases were reported to ARC SMHS, followed by 5,832 cases from April 2016 to March 2017, 6,802 from April 2017 to March 2018, 6,397 from April 2018 to March 2019, 6,139 from April 2019 to March 2020, 4,808 from April 2020 to March 2021, 5,469 from April 2021 to March 2022, 6,875 from April 2022 to March 2023, around 8800 from April 2023 to March 2024, around 12000 from April 2024 to March 2025 taking total cases since April 2015 to over 85,000.

"Kashmir is witnessing a surge in pet ownership for the last decade and in contrast to farm animals that provide milk, meat and eggs; pets are companion animals and are kept

purely for companionship," he said.

"Adherence to personal hygiene while handling pets is important for keeping Zoonosis at bay. A person who intends to keep a pet must be mentally prepared to take proper care of his pet animal with respect to behavioural requirements, adequate feeding, shelter and healthcare facilities. There is no fun in bringing home an animal without taking due care of it," he added.

They said that regular hygiene practices, such as routine grooming and dental care, help prevent skin infections and dental diseases in pets.

In Kashmir, dog bites pose a serious public health concern, with thousands of people becoming victims of animal bites, particularly dog bites, and some developing rabies.

Rabies is a universally fatal viral disease, resulting in approximately 59,000 human deaths annually worldwide, with 95 percent of cases occurring in Africa and Asia.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SYED SIBTUL HUSSAIN HAMDANI S/O SYED AHMAD HAMDANI R/O Sattboni Lalbazar Srinagar, hereby state that my name in bank records is wrongly entered as "SYED SIBTUL HUSSAIN". My correct name as per Aadhaar No. 2386 7131 8744 is "SYED SIBTUL HUSSAIN HAMDANI".

This notice is issued for correction/updates in J&K Bank Branch Lar, Ganderbal. Objection, if any, may be raised within 7 days from publication of this notice.

BKO

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, FAROOQ AHMAD GANAIE S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD GANAIE R/o Lalpora, Kunzer, Baramulla, hereby inform that my Passport No. R6097258 issued at Srinagar on 20-11-2017 has been lost/misplaced on 13-05-2026 from Lalpora to Kunzer.

Now, I am applying for issuance of a duplicate passport. Anybody having any objection may contact the concerned Passport Office within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Deponent  
FAROOQ AHMAD GANAIE fko

إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ  
INNA LILLAHI WA INNA ILAHI RAJIJOUN

**CONDOLENCE**

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of

## Ghulam Qadir Mir

Resident of Narwara eidgah Srinagar

Who left for heavenly abode on 16.05.2026 after brief illness.

The congregational Fatiha Khawani will be held on

19 of May - Tuesday - 2026 at

their ancestral graveyard Narwara Near Ahad Zargar shrine

at 10:00 am.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لَهُ وَارْحَمْهُ وَعَافِهِ وَاعْفُ عَنْهُ  
May Almighty grant him highest place in Jannah.

**BEREAVED FAMILY**  
Farooq Ahmad Mir (Son)  
Shabir Ahmad Mir (Son)  
Contact No. 7006511708

**The Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.**  
IAPM Department, Zonal Office Srinagar,  
M. A. Road, (Opposite Women's College), Srinagar-190001, Kashmir.  
0194-2452658, Ext.:132;iapmd.kmr@jkbmail.com

**POSSESSION NOTICE**

**Notice under Section 13 (4) of the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 read with Rule 8 (1) of the Security (Enforcement) Interest Rules, 2002**

Whereas the Authorized Officer of the Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notice dated 14.10.2025 thereby calling upon the Borrowers namely 1) Shahrani Shafi S/O Mohammad Shafi Bhat R/O Dukani Sangeen, Fateh Kadal (prop. Of M/s Shahrani Shafi) (Borrower), 2) Mr. Mohammad Shafi Bhat S/O Ghulam Mohammad Bhat R/O Dukani Sangeen Fateh Kadal, Srinagar (Mortgagor/Guarantor), 3) Mst. Naseema W/O Mohammad Shafi Bhat R/O Dukani Sangeen, Fateh Kadal (Mortgagor/Guarantor) and other 2 guarantors namely 4) Mohammad Yaseen Zargar and Mr. Aamir Bilal Modi to repay an amount of Rs. 2,83,84,470.54 (Rupees Two Crores Eighty Three Lacs Eighty Four Thousand Four Hundred Sevey and Paise Fifty Four only) being the balance outstanding as on 13.10.2025 in the account of the borrower, within 60 days from the date of the said notice together with the future interest and other charges thereon.

The said borrowers having failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the said borrowers in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being authorized officer of the J&K Bank Ltd. has taken possession of the mortgage property described herein below, in exercise of the powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules, on 16.05.2026.

The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned against dealing with the said property in any manner whatsoever and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of the J&K Bank Limited for the amount in aggregating to Rs.3,02,99,306.54 (Rupees Three Crores Two Lac Ninety Nine Thousand Three Hundred Six and Paise Fifty Four only) together with future interest thereon from 01.05.2026 and other charges incurred or to be incurred.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**Description of the Immovable Property**

Land measuring 2 Kanals 13 Marlas falling under Khasra No. 1386/870/622/311 min, Khata No.76 and Khewat No.28 situated at Doodhpathri, in mouza Raiyari Ich, Tehsil Khanshabih, District Budgam standing in the name of Mr. Shahrani Shafi S/O Mohammad Shafi Bhat R/O Dukani Sangeen, Fateh Kadal, Srinagar.

**Authorized Officer**

**HELP**

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 941993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

**AIRPORTS**  
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

**RAILWAYS**

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

**HIGHWAY STATUS**

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

**PRAYERS**

FAJR 3: 52  
ZUHR 12:27  
ASR 5: 21  
Magrib 7:30  
ISHA 9: 04

**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
29 Zil-Qadah  
1447

**This Day In History**

- 1756 - Britain declares war on France (7 Years' or French & Indian War)
- 1803 - John Hawkins & Richard French patent the Reaping Machine
- 1814 - Denmark cedes Norway to Sweden (National Day)
- 1865 - The International Telegraph Union (later the International Telecommunication Union) is established.
- 1897 - The first successful submarine that can run submerged for any considerable distance and combines electric and gasoline engines is launched in the USA by its designer John Philip Holland
- 1902 - Greek archaeologist Valerios Stais discovers the Antikythera mechanism, an ancient mechanical analog computer.
- 1940 - Germany occupies Brussels, Belgium & begins invasion of France
- 1940 - Nazis bombs Middelburg/B IJzerdrat begins illegal defiance

# Iran's New Diplomatic Pitch

At BRICS, Iran delivered a message aimed at Washington, Beijing, and New Delhi alike: military pressure has reached its limit, and the next phase of global power politics will run through diplomacy, energy routes, and emerging alliances.



Prof Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi

Tehran's top troupe arrived in New Delhi with a political performance carefully staged for a changing world order.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi spoke at the BRICS foreign ministers' meeting with the language of defiance, calculation, and strategic outreach. The message was aimed at two audiences at once: Washington heard a warning against pressure and confrontation, while emerging powers heard an invitation to help draft a different diplomatic order.

The speech drew attention because it revealed a noticeable shift in tone.

Tehran still speaks through the vocabulary of resistance and sovereignty, though it now places equal emphasis on negotiations and political engagement.

Araghchi's declaration that there is "no military solution" on Iran marked one of the clearest acknowledgments from Tehran that the current regional crisis demands diplomacy rather than escalation.

That statement had massive impact because it came during one of the most combustible moments in the Middle East in years. Regional tensions continue to rise, while shipping lanes remain vulnerable. Energy markets react to every military signal from the Gulf.

Global powers watch closely because any confrontation involving Iran would spread rapidly through oil markets, maritime routes, and regional alliances.

Araghchi framed the central obstacle with unusual bluntness: trust. He argued that Iran has ample reasons to distrust the United States after decades of sanctions, military threats, and abandoned agreements. Tehran still views Washington's withdrawal from the nuclear deal as proof that Western commitments can dissolve with changing administrations and domestic politics.

That grievance sits at the center of modern Iranian foreign policy.

Since the 1979 revolution, Iranian leaders have built political legitimacy around resistance to foreign pressure. Economic sanctions, diplomatic isolation, and military confrontation strengthened that worldview rather than weakening it. Tehran now presents endurance itself as a geopolitical victory.

Araghchi pushed that narrative further when he claimed the United States turned toward negotiations only after military pressure failed. That argument serves a clear strategic purpose.

Iran wants diplomacy to appear as recognition of Iranian strength rather than concession under



**“Military confrontation with Iran would carry staggering consequences far beyond the region. Iran occupies one of the world's most strategically sensitive positions. Its alliances, missile capabilities, and maritime influence give Tehran the ability to disrupt commerce far beyond its borders. Global energy markets understand that reality well.”**

pressure. Tehran believes such framing protects domestic political credibility while preserving leverage abroad.

Military confrontation with Iran would carry staggering consequences far beyond the region. Iran occupies one of the world's most strategically sensitive positions. Its alliances, missile capabilities, and maritime influence give Tehran the ability to disrupt commerce far beyond its borders. Global energy markets understand that reality well.

The Strait of Hormuz remains the clearest example. A substantial share of global oil and gas supplies passes through that narrow corridor. Araghchi acknowledged that conditions there have grown increasingly complicated, though he also stated that Iran continues to permit neutral commercial traffic. His warning came with deliberate precision: countries engaged in war against Iran should expect consequences.

That message landed far beyond the Gulf.

Oil-importing economies in Asia, Europe, and Africa understand the stakes immediately. Rising shipping costs, energy shocks, and supply-chain disruptions would spread quickly through already strained global markets.

India entered the conversation at exactly that point. New Delhi provided more than a diplomatic venue for the BRICS meeting. India now occupies a pivotal position in the emerging balance between Western powers and rising non-Western coalitions. Tehran recognizes that influence clearly.

Araghchi openly encouraged India to play a

stronger political role in the Middle East. That appeal shows India's growing diplomatic profile as well as its longstanding ties with Iran.

Projects like the Chabahar Port carry enormous strategic value for India's regional connectivity ambitions. Energy dependence also gives New Delhi a direct interest in Gulf stability.

India's position remains uniquely complex. Prime Minister Narendra Modi maintains strong ties with Washington while preserving relationships with Tehran and Moscow. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has repeatedly stressed the dangers of instability in the Gulf because India understands how deeply regional conflict would affect its economy.

China also emerged as a central player in Araghchi's remarks. He praised Beijing's diplomatic intentions and welcomed Chinese involvement in regional negotiations. That praise describes the deepening partnership between Tehran and Beijing over recent years.

Western sanctions pushed Iran closer to China economically and politically. Beijing became one of Tehran's most significant partners during periods of isolation. Chinese diplomacy in the Middle East has also expanded gradually, particularly after Beijing helped facilitate rapprochement between regional rivals.

Iran now views China as both economic lifeline and geopolitical counterweight.

That broader alignment points toward a larger transformation in global politics. Institutions such

as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation increasingly function as platforms for states seeking alternatives to Western-led financial and diplomatic systems. Iran sees those institutions as pathways out of isolation and into a more multipolar international structure.

That vision, however, still faces major obstacles.

BRICS members share frustration with Western dominance, though they pursue different strategic interests. India maintains deep security cooperation with the United States. China and Russia back Iran diplomatically while advancing their own geopolitical calculations. Unified alignment remains elusive.

Relations between Tehran and Washington also remain burdened by decades of hostility, proxy conflicts, sanctions, and military confrontations. Political mistrust runs deep on both sides. Regional rivalries involving Israel and Gulf states add another volatile layer.

Even with those tensions, Araghchi's speech marked an important diplomatic moment because it blended confrontation with pragmatism.

Iran projected strength while keeping the door to negotiations open. Tehran signaled that pressure campaigns would fail while diplomacy still held value if conducted through mutual sovereignty and political equality.

That combination reveals how much the global order has changed.

Emerging powers now expect a larger role in conflict resolution, economic governance, and regional diplomacy. Western capitals still hold enormous influence, though they no longer control every negotiating table or diplomatic initiative.

New Delhi became the perfect stage for that transition. Iran used the BRICS platform to speak beyond its immediate adversaries and toward a broader coalition of rising powers searching for greater influence in international affairs.

The larger message reached well beyond Iran itself.

Military coercion now produces diminishing returns in an interconnected world tied together by energy routes, trade networks, and economic interdependence.

Diplomacy remains difficult, uneven, and deeply frustrating. But global stability still depends upon it.

Araghchi's speech captured that reality with unusual clarity.

Tehran still speaks through resistance, historical grievance, and national sovereignty. Diplomacy now sits beside that language as strategic necessity.

That shift may define the next chapter of Middle Eastern politics and the wider contest over who writes the rules of the emerging global order.

*The author is a reputed Kashmiri academic known for his work on Islamic philosophy, comparative religion, and Muslim intellectual history. He has taught at the University of Kashmir and the Central University of Kashmir and has written extensively on religion, society, and contemporary Islamic thought.*



Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat

The most important development in Srinagar this month did not come from a tourist boulevard, a political rally, or a ribbon-cutting ceremony. It came from a garbage mountain at Achan.

The Omar Abdullah government has now approved an Rs 361-crore Integrated Solid Waste Management project at Achan, with a promise that scientific waste processing will reach full capacity by March 2027.

That decision came after relentless pressure from the National Green Tribunal, public outrage in downtown Srinagar, and years of environmental neglect that turned an entire neighbourhood into a gas chamber.

I see this decision as a turning point. I also see it as a test of political sincerity.

Achan landfill site has haunted Srinagar for almost four decades. Authorities set it up in the late 1980s on nearly 984 kanals of wetland and agricultural land at Saidapora. Families cultivated paddy there for generations. Green fields once surrounded the area. Black leachate now runs through that soil.

The crisis intensified sharply during the last five to six years. Residents of Downtown Srinagar, especially people living around Shehar-e-Khaas, started living with unbearable foul smell day and night.

Windows stayed shut during summer, children developed respiratory problems, and elderly people struggled through sleepless nights. Public frustration kept growing while official machinery moved in circles.

I approached the National Green Tribunal more than two years ago because local institutions had exhausted public patience. That intervention changed the course of this issue.

The NGT treated Achan as a serious environmental disaster instead of a routine municipal lapse. Landmark hearings followed. A joint committee visited the landfill on July 15, 2024. Officials from the Central Pollution Control Board, the National Wetlands Committee, the J&K Pollution Control Committee, and the Srinagar administration inspected the site. I accompanied

the team during that visit.

What they saw shocked them.

The inspection exposed massive institutional failure inside the Srinagar Municipal Corporation. The committee found key waste-processing systems lying defunct. A mechanical segregator with a capacity of 100 tonnes per day had stopped functioning. Workers handled segregation manually under dangerous conditions. Three leachate treatment plants with a combined capacity of 120 KLD had ceased operations. Borewells meant for groundwater monitoring remained non-functional.

The report also exposed the collapse of sewage treatment systems. A faecal sludge treatment plant and septage treatment plant had stopped working. Untreated leachate flowed directly into a drain connected to Anchar Lake, located barely 500 metres away from the landfill.

That single fact should shame the entire administration.

Srinagar still enjoys a carefully polished image outside Kashmir. Tourists see the front side of Dal Lake, manicured gardens, and postcard views. Achan tells the real story of urban governance in the city. Srinagar produces nearly 1,600 tonnes of municipal waste daily, according to submissions made before the NGT. Projections place that figure at nearly 1,918 tonnes per day by 2028.

Authorities kept dumping waste at Achan through deeply flawed methods. Official claims stated that 150 tonnes of waste underwent treatment daily while 450 tonnes reached landfill sites. Ground reality painted a very different picture. Processing systems barely handled a fraction of that volume. A magnetic disintegration machine installed around seven years ago with huge public expenditure lay abandoned and defunct.

Meanwhile, waste piled into toxic mountains.

**“Cities cannot survive on image management while wetlands turn toxic and neighbourhoods choke under mountains of waste. Srinagar needs functioning institutions, scientific planning, transparent spending, and continuous public scrutiny.”**

The NGT responded with unusual seriousness. The tribunal imposed heavy environmental compensation on the Srinagar Municipal Corporation and initiated civil action against several former commissioners who served between 2017 and 2025. That action sent a strong message through the bureaucracy.

The hearings during March and April 2026 pushed the issue into a decisive phase.

On March 20, 2026, a three-member bench headed by Justice Prakash Srivastava heard the matter. Senior officials from the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, the Pollution Control Committee, and the Central Pollution Control Board attended the proceedings. During the hearing, the then SMC Commissioner Owais Ahmad assured the tribunal that legacy waste would undergo complete removal within two years through biominning.

That commitment held major significance because Achan currently holds nearly 11.5 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste.

The tribunal also heard that nearly Rs 12 crore in

environmental compensation would be imposed on the SMC. Civil proceedings against former commissioners entered discussion as well. Accountability finally entered the conversation after years of bureaucratic evasion.

A compliance report submitted on March 27, 2026 laid out short-term and long-term plans. During the April 6 hearing, SMC informed the tribunal that biominning had already started. Officials also confirmed that a DPR for an 800-tonnes-per-day Integrated Solid Waste Management Plant had undergone vetting through NIT Srinagar. The government later approved the project formally through the Cabinet.

That brings us to the present moment.

The Rs 361-crore allocation gives Srinagar a real chance to end this civic disaster. Scientific collection, segregation, treatment, and disposal systems can finally emerge if the administration uses these funds honestly and efficiently. The target set before the NGT states that full scientific waste processing will begin by March 2027.

I believe that goal remains achievable.

The government now has funding, institutional scrutiny, technical planning, and judicial pressure moving together in the same direction. That combination rarely appears in Kashmir's environmental governance.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and SMC Commissioner Fazlul Haseeb deserve appreciation for showing seriousness at this stage. Their administration moved the project into an actionable phase after years of drift. The National Green Tribunal also deserves immense credit for forcing institutions to confront a crisis they had buried beneath files and public relations exercises.

Achan now stands at the centre of a larger question about Kashmir's future.

Cities cannot survive on image management while wetlands turn toxic and neighbourhoods choke under mountains of waste. Srinagar needs functioning institutions, scientific planning, transparent spending, and continuous public scrutiny.

Civic systems thrive through accountability and execution rather than slogans.

Rs 361 crore can transform Achan if authorities spend that money with discipline and dedication. The city now stands closer than ever to clearing 11.5 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste by March 2027.

Kashmir has waited long enough for that day.

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

# Ruskin Bond's Fictional Oeuvre

Ruskin Bond built an entire literary universe from rain-soaked hills, passing trains, lonely children and the strange tenderness of ordinary life.

Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee

A mist-covered road curves through Landour at dusk. Rain-water gathers beside moss-dark stones. Somewhere beyond the cedar trees, a train whistle drifts upward from the plains. A lonely boy watches the evening settle over the hills and waits for something he cannot name.

That emotional atmosphere belongs unmistakably to Ruskin Bond, perhaps the most intimately loved storyteller in Indian English literature.

Bond never built his fiction through literary grandstanding or ideological performance. His stories move through serene emotional territories: Children abandoned to boarding schools, aging bachelors living in old bungalows, railway travellers haunted by memory, and anglo-Indians stranded between identities.

Hill villagers, eccentric uncles, schoolboys, ghosts, tea sellers and dreamers all move through his pages with extraordinary familiarity. Readers enter his fiction and immediately feel the warmth of recognition.

That emotional intimacy explains the enduring power of Bond's fictional oeuvre.

Several generations have grown up reading him, though his work rarely depends upon dramatic plots or theatrical conflicts. He writes about ordinary moments with such precision that they acquire permanence. A candid chat at a railway station, a monsoon evening, a child's attachment to a blue umbrella or the brief kindness of a stranger becomes emotionally unforgettable.

Much of Bond's writing emerges from autobiography, though his fiction never collapses into self-indulgence. Childhood loneliness, fractured belonging and life in the Himalayan foothills remain central to his imaginative world. Personal memory enters his fiction transformed into something larger and more universal. Readers see their own fears, longings and vanished childhoods inside his stories.

The hills themselves stand at the center of Bond's literary imagina-

tion. Dehradun, Mussoorie, Landour and the Himalayan foothills appear repeatedly throughout his fiction, though these landscapes function as living presences rather than decorative settings.

Forests breathe through his pages, rain changes emotional weather, empty roads intensify solitude, and old houses remember forgotten lives.

Bond writes about place with deep emotional attentiveness. Mist settles over pine-covered slopes. Railway stations emerge through smoke and fading light. Wet earth carries the scent of memory. Nature in his fiction possesses companionship and consciousness. Human beings exist within those landscapes rather than above them.

His first major novel, *The Room on the Roof*, introduced many of the themes that later defined his career. Written during his youth, the novel follows Rusty, an Anglo-Indian orphan trapped under the stern authority of an English guardian. Rusty searches for freedom and emotional belonging within India's crowded social world. Adolescence unfolds here as emotional exile.

Rusty exists between cultures and identities, though Bond approaches this tension with remarkable tenderness. Political bitterness never overwhelms the novel. Emotional uncertainty remains the true subject. Friendship, loneliness and the ache of belonging move through every chapter.

Several decades after publication, the novel still feels startlingly alive because Bond understands youthful vulnerability with uncommon honesty.

His short stories perhaps represent the finest achievement of his fictional oeuvre. Bond understands how fleeting moments alter emotional lives forever. Very little appears to happen in many of his stories, though readers remember them for years afterward.

*The Night Train at Deoli* remains one of the most haunting examples. A young traveller briefly encounters a basket-selling girl during a train halt. The meeting lasts only moments, though memory transforms the en-



**CHILDREN OCCUPY A SACRED EMOTIONAL SPACE IN BOND'S FICTION. HE WRITES ABOUT THEM WITHOUT SENTIMENTALITY OR CONDESCENSION. Curiosity, fear, jealousy, wonder and loneliness all appear with psychological authenticity. Adults frequently misunderstand children in his stories, while nature and animals often provide deeper companionship.**

counter into lifelong longing. Bond grasps something essential about human experience here. Fleeting encounters often leave deeper marks than grand events.

*The Woman on Platform No. 8* reveals his equally profound understanding of childhood loneliness. A boarding-school boy meets a mys-

terious woman during a late-night railway stop. Maternal warmth enters the boy's emotional world briefly and disappears again. Bond captures childhood hunger for affection with devastating clarity.

Children occupy a sacred emotional space in Bond's fiction. He writes about them without sentimental-

ity or condescension. Curiosity, fear, jealousy, wonder and loneliness all appear with psychological authenticity. Adults frequently misunderstand children in his stories, while nature and animals often provide deeper companionship.

*The Blue Umbrella* illustrates this beautifully. A small Himalayan village becomes the stage for a deceptively simple tale involving Binya and her treasured blue umbrella. Beneath the novella's surface rests a profound exploration of greed, innocence and redemption. Bond transforms an ordinary household object into the emotional center of an entire community.

Nature remains inseparable from Bond's moral imagination. Birds, rivers, flowers, forests, rain and mountain winds possess emotional significance throughout his fiction. Characters often discover healing and self-understanding through solitude within the natural world. Environmental grief also enters his stories silently. Expanding towns, vanishing forests and fading hill cultures appear repeatedly as sources of sorrow.

Animals receive especially memorable treatment in his work. Monkeys raid kitchens with comic intelligence. Leopards move silently through forests. Snakes, birds and stray dogs inhabit his fictional world as fellow creatures sharing existence with humans rather than serving as decorative details.

Humour gives additional richness to his storytelling. Bond's comic vision emerges through affection rather than cruelty. Forgetful relatives, boastful neighbours, greedy ghosts and mischievous children populate his stories with warmth and amusement. Human weakness fascinates him deeply.

His ghost stories occupy a unique place within Indian fiction. Bond avoids spectacle and graphic horror entirely. His supernatural tales unfold through suggestion, silence and emotional unease. Old cemeteries, abandoned houses and mist-covered roads create haunting psychological atmospheres.

Stories such as *A Face in the Dark*

and *The Haunted Bicycle* reveal how effectively Bond uses restraint. Ghosts in his fiction often appear lonely rather than terrifying. Memory and unresolved feeling remain more unsettling than the supernatural event itself.

Another striking dimension of Bond's work lies in its preservation of a disappearing India. Boarding schools, dak bungalows, handwritten letters, old railway journeys and small-town life survive vividly within his fiction. Nostalgia enters these narratives gracefully because Bond remembers the past without romantic blindness.

His prose style contributes enormously to his lasting appeal. Bond writes with lucidity and emotional precision. Ornament never overwhelms observation. A rainy evening, the creak of wooden stairs or the smell of wet earth emerges vividly through a few carefully chosen details. Beneath that apparent simplicity rests extraordinary craftsmanship.

Bond's fictional universe finally rests upon a profound faith in human connection. Solitary schoolboys, widows, travellers and aging men search continuously for companionship in his stories. Kindness acquires immense emotional significance because loneliness runs so deeply through his world.

Modern life grows louder and more distracted with each passing year. Bond's fiction moves patiently in the opposite direction.

His stories teach readers to notice rain gathering beside railway tracks, silence filling old rooms and affection appearing unexpectedly between strangers.

That attentiveness gives his work lasting beauty.

— The author is an International Dickens Medal Winner writer of fiction, former Affiliate Faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University and author of bestselling books *Six Feet Distance*, *Twilight of Love and Our Time Revisited*. He can be reached at [prfratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com](mailto:prfratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com).

# The Woman Behind Arundhati Roy

Part memoir, part reckoning, Arundhati Roy's latest work revisits a mother-daughter relationship marked by brilliance, cruelty, admiration and trauma.

Khushboo Javed

I was at a well-known bookstore in Srinagar to buy some books. *Mother Mary Comes to Me* was one of them.

An Australian lady, close to 70 years of age, walked in and asked for the same book. I exchanged pleasantries and told her that I was there to buy a copy too. She had already read the book (and perhaps needed it now to gift someone).

"It is about her mother," she told me.

"I thought it was an autobiography," I replied, slightly confused.

"Yes, it is, but she writes about her mother. That is why it says 'Mother Mary' Comes to Me."

The title of the book and a verse from the Beatles' song: Let it Be.

I couldn't understand that a single person, even if a parent, could have so much impact on a person's life that their autobiography, its title, would revolve around that one person.

To speak of the negatives first, so far I could count two things that are not right with the book. Arundhati chose Penguin as her publisher when she is an anti-capitalist. The second is her picture on the book cover, smoking a cigarette. She does look charismatic. Mine would have been holding a Cuban cigar like a poor Godmother.

But then, there is nothing charismatic about smoking. Not remotely so.

Arundhati writes that her mother, Mary Roy was a victim to a patriarchal system. Mary Roy's father was an abusive husband and parent. To evade the brutality, Mary Roy married the first person who proposed to her – Rajib Roy. Unhappy with her "nothing-man" and the second pregnancy with Arundhati that she unsuccessfully tried to abort, Mary Roy eventually left her husband.

Mary Roy turned the anger of her dishonoured life towards her children, the only two people she had power over, channelling her disgust for the

patriarchal system towards her son, often calling him a "male chauvinist pig". When the same male figure became Arundhati's "greatest protector", Mary Roy became unhappy about it.

*The God of Small Things*, first work of Roy, was published in 1997. Roy has taken shelter in fiction. All her family members, including herself, have heavily inspired the main characters in the novel, except her mother. Mary Roy is divided into two characters: the loving mother, Ammu, who has faced the same struggles as Mary Roy and the distant cunning grandaunt, Baby Kochamma.

Roy writes: "[Mary Roy] embraced the character of Ammu . . . whom she would refer to as 'I' and 'me'. She wanted to be Ammu because she knew very well that she wasn't." "When the book came out, she was worried about what secrets it might reveal. To be safe, she . . . read it hurriedly and was greatly relieved that it wasn't any kind of exposé."

Roy clarifies: "Ammu wasn't really Mrs Roy."

Mary Roy went on to become a successful educator, a women's rights activist. She successfully challenged the inheritance laws in Kerala in the Supreme Court of India and dragged her brother, G. Issac, to court, the brother she became inseparably close to towards the end of her life. She curated a strong image of an educator, one with great pedagogical skills, within her society. Arundhati says that quite often she found herself wishing she had been her mother's student instead of her child.

While Mary Roy regularly meted out the physical and verbal abuse to Arundhati (and her brother), the same mother would tell her daughter that she could be anything she wanted. Mary Roy had introduced her concept of "free writing" to Arundhati very early in life, encouraging her to write whatever was on her mind.

"All her life she remained puzzled about how I knew anything other than



**THE GOD OF SMALL THINGS, FIRST WORK OF ROY, WAS PUBLISHED IN 1997. Roy has taken shelter in fiction. All her family members, including herself, have heavily inspired the main characters in the novel, except her mother. Mary Roy is divided into two characters: the loving mother, Ammu, who has faced the same struggles as Mary Roy and the distant cunning grandaunt, Baby Kochamma.**

what she had taught me," Arundhati says. Mary Roy could not forgive her own mother who supported the son in the legal battle. Not even when the dying mother begged Mary Roy to visit her. She as well did not attend the moth-

er's funeral while her children did. Mary Roy died in September 2022. After her mother's death, Arundhati says, "I had constructed myself around her." Classical trauma-bonding. "I didn't make sense to myself anymore."

Arundhati wanted her mother back. She wanted Mary Roy to jump back from her ashes.

The statement, "You are a millstone around my neck," was used by Mary Roy for young Arundhati. Though

Ammu is a mild character in the novel, she says the same thing to her kids, Rahel and Estha. Arundhati made Ammu pay a huge price for those words in the novel.

There is not much that needs to be said about the artistry in the writings of the Booker Prize winning author. Some lines would knock the breath out of me. For instance, six-year-old Arundhati is in a plane flying for free with her mother. Mary Roy is angry because of little Arundhati's remark about her mother's weight. Mary tells her she will be triple her size by the time she's her age.

Later in the same plane, Mary tells Arundhati that she is both their mother and their father, and so she loves them double.

Arundhati writes about six-year-old Arundhati's thoughts in the plane: "And there were still some unresolved issues... What is double-love divided by triple-my-size multiplied by free tickets divided by careless words?"

The storyline in *The God of Small Things* is full of spoilers which, remarkably, instead of taking away any depth from the design act as the novel's very base of construct. That's the deal about the book. It doesn't follow a chronology. Slowly, poetically, non-dramatically and with great architectural touch, the pages reveal the plot. 'Dum Dum.'

I have also left with a personal touch from the book. Recently, I adopted two kittens (and they adopted me). Spontaneously, as *The God of Small Things* sat by my side and my feline babies were monitoring their new home, I started calling them - and hence named them - Estha and Rahel.

Sometimes they watched me peacefully type this article. Sometimes they sat on my laptop, clicking buttons, making it impossible for me to work. Rahel the Golden and Estha(ppen) the Silver.

— The author can be reached at [khushboojaved3@gmail.com](mailto:khushboojaved3@gmail.com).

## NCB Seizes First-Ever Consignment Of Captagon Drug Worth Rs 182 Crore

Observer News Service

New Delhi: The Narcotics Control Bureau has busted an international drug syndicate involved in the trafficking of Captagon and seized approximately 227.7 kg of the "jihadi drug" worth Rs 182 crore, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said on Saturday.

The success was announced by Home Minister Amit Shah on X. He lauded the agency for seizing the first-ever consignment of Captagon.

Captagon is the street name historically linked to fenethylamine, a synthetic stimulant developed in the 1960s which earned the sobriquet of the "jihadi drug" due to repeated allegations and intelligence inputs linking its abuse and trafficking with extremist and conflict-zone networks operating in parts of West Asia, sources said.

The terminology emerged because the stimulant effects of the drug allegedly enabled users to remain awake for extended periods, suppress fear and exhaustion, increase aggression and risk-taking behaviour, and sustain prolonged combat-like activity under stressful conditions.

In his post on X, Shah said the Modi government has resolved to make a "Drug-Free India".

"Glad to share that through 'Operation RAGEPILL', our agencies have achieved the first-ever seizure of Captagon, the so-called 'jihadi drug', worth Rs 182 crore," Shah said.

"The busting of the drug

consignment destined for the Middle East and the arrest of a foreign national stand out as shining examples of our commitment to zero tolerance against drugs," he said.

"I repeat we will clamp down on every gram of drugs entering India or leaving the country using our territory as the transit route. Kudos to the brave and vigilant warriors of the NCB. @narcoticsbureau," the minister said.

Sharing the details of the operation, the MHA said in a statement that the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) received the information from a foreign drug law enforcement agency that India is being used as a transit route for the trafficking of Captagon.

A house was identified in Neb Sarai, New Delhi, and searches were conducted on May 11, which led to the recovery of about 31.5 Kg Captagon tablets carefully concealed in a commercial chapati-cutting machine. Preliminary investigation suggests that the machine was intended for export to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, the statement said.

The said house in Neb Sarai had been rented by a Syrian national, who had entered India on a tourist visa on November 15, 2024. His visa expired on January 12, 2025, and he was illegally staying in India, the MHA said.

His questioning led to the recovery of about 196.2 kg of Captagon powder from a container in the Container Facilitation Station (CFS) at Mundra, Gujarat, on May 14.

## CBSE Makes Three-Language Compulsory In Classes 9-10



Observer News Service

New Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has made the study of three languages compulsory for students of Class IX from July 1, in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023.

In a circular issued on May 15, the CBSE said students will be required to study three languages – R1, R2 and R3 – with at least two of them being native Indian languages.

"With effect from July 1, 2026, for Class IX, the study of three languages shall be compulsory, with at least two languages being native Indian languages," the circular stated. The Board, however,

clarified that there will be no Board examination for the third language at the Class X level.

"All assessments for R3 shall be entirely school-based and internal," the CBSE said, adding that students' performance in the third language would be reflected in the CBSE certificate.

The Board said no student would be barred from appearing in the Class X Board examinations because of the third language requirement.

According to the circular, schools may offer any language listed by the CBSE, provided at least two of the three selected languages are Indian languages. Foreign languages may only be studied as the third language if the other two are Indian languages, or as an optional fourth language.

As part of the transition process, Class IX students will temporarily use Class VI textbooks for the third language until dedicated secondary-level textbooks are developed. Schools have also been asked to supplement the curriculum with local and regional literary content.

The CBSE further said schools facing shortages of qualified language teachers may adopt interim measures such as inter-school resource sharing, virtual teaching support, and engagement of retired teachers or qualified postgraduates.

Special relaxations have also been announced for Children with Special Needs (CwSN), schools located outside India, and foreign students returning to the country on a case-by-case basis.

## BIS Organizes Consumer Awareness Programme In Shopian

Observer News Service

Shopian: The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, organized a Consumer Awareness Programme at Town Hall, Municipal Office Shopian, in collaboration with the Municipal Committee Shopian, to educate consumers about their rights, product quality standards, and recent quality control order initiatives.

The programme witnessed active participation from members of civil society, traders, local consumers, students, and other stakeholders. During the event, Sh. Saaqib Rahi, Scientist-C and Deputy Director, BIS-JKBO, delivered a detailed presentation highlighting various BIS initiatives aimed at consumer protection and quality assurance.

The main objective of the programme was to create awareness among consumers regarding BIS certification marks and quality standards applicable to manufactured products. BIS officials emphasized the importance of certification marks such as the ISI Mark, Hallmarking for jewellery, and the CRS Mark, which enable consumers to identify safe, reliable, and quality-assured products.

Addressing the gathering, Sh. Ashish Kumar Dwivedi, Standard Promotion Officer, BIS-JKBO, informed participants about various quality standards

and mandatory certification requirements prescribed under BIS regulations. He urged consumers to remain vigilant while purchasing products and to always verify the authenticity of certification marks before making any purchase.

A special demonstration of the BIS Care App was also conducted during the programme. Officials explained how consumers can use the mobile application to verify whether a product is genuine or counterfeit.

Ms. Syed Sanjeeda, Resource Person, demonstrated the features of the BIS Care App and informed participants that consumers can also register grievances and complaints through the application against fake or substandard products available in the market.

Participants appreciated the initiative and stated that the programme provided valuable information regarding the identification of genuine and duplicate products. They emphasized the need for conducting such awareness programmes regularly so that consumers in both rural and urban areas can make informed purchasing decisions and gain access to quality-assured products.

## Experts Flag Cardiac Dangers Linked To Extreme Workouts, Unsupervised Supplement Use

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The growing obsession with muscular physiques and rapid body transformations among the urban youth in India is fuelling dangerous misuse of steroids, stimulant-heavy pre-workout powders and unregulated gym supplements, with cardiologists warning of rising risks of arrhythmias, heart failure and sudden cardiac events in seemingly healthy young men.

The trend, amplified by social media fitness culture and online supplement marketing, is pushing many gym-goers towards products and exercise regimens that may severely strain the heart, said Dr Rahul Chandola, Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeon and Chairman, Institute of Heart and Lung Diseases.

"We are increasingly seeing

young individuals with palpitations, abnormal heart rhythms, high blood pressure spikes and even early structural heart changes linked to unsupervised supplement or steroid use," Chandola said.

"The concern is not exercise itself. Regular exercise protects the heart. The danger comes when people combine extreme workouts with stimulants, anabolic steroids, dehydration and unrealistic body-image expectations," he said.

Sudden collapses and cardiac deaths among young fitness enthusiasts and amateur body-builders have become a growing concern not just in India but globally.

Dr Mayank Yadav, a cardiothoracic and vascular surgeon at AIIMS, said many young consumers wrongly assume that

supplements sold online or promoted by influencers are medically safe.

"People think if a product is available on an e-commerce platform or being used by fitness influencers, it must be harmless. That assumption is dangerous because many formulations are poorly regulated or consumed in unsafe quantities," Yadav said.

India's booming fitness economy and social media-driven "aesthetic fitness" culture are contributing significantly to the trend, he said.

Platforms such as Instagram and YouTube are flooded with transformation videos, supplement promotions and extreme fitness challenges targeting the youth, the doctor said.

"People think if a product is available on an e-commerce platform or being used by fitness

influencers, it must be harmless. That assumption is dangerous because many formulations are poorly regulated or consumed in unsafe quantities," Yadav said.

India's booming fitness economy and social media-driven "aesthetic fitness" culture are contributing significantly to the trend, he said.

Platforms such as Instagram and YouTube are flooded with transformation videos, supplement promotions and extreme fitness challenges targeting

"Many young individuals may already have silent or underlying cardiac abnormalities that remain completely undiagnosed until a catastrophic event occurs during intense exercise," he said.

He pointed out that most routine annual health check-ups are often inadequate for identifying hidden cardiovascular disease.

"Many patients who suffer heart attacks later tell us they had recently undergone a 'normal health check-up'. Unfortunately, most standard annual packages consist primarily of blood tests and a resting ECG, which is only a brief snapshot of the heart's electrical activity and has limited ability to detect underlying blockages or deeper structural problems," he said.

According to Chandola, this creates a dangerous false sense of reassurance, leaving many high-risk individuals undiagnosed despite undergoing regular health checks.

He stressed that individuals engaging in high-intensity fitness programmes, gym training or endurance exercise should undergo more meaningful cardiovascular screening, particularly those above 40 years of age

or those with risk factors such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity, smoking history or family history of heart disease.

"Preventive cardiology must evolve beyond routine blood reports. Advances in biosensor technology and AI-driven cardiovascular screening are enabling earlier and more accurate assessment of heart health," Chandola said.

He added that emerging technologies such as iLiveConnect, an AI-powered wellness health care management platform, are helping shift healthcare towards proactive and preventive screening models capable of identifying hidden cardiac risk with greater precision and scalability.

"The future of heart care lies in early detection. If we can identify vulnerable individuals before symptoms appear, we can prevent

many avoidable tragedies."

Doctors also warn against the widespread use of stimulant-loaded pre-workout powders before intense gym sessions.

"These products may contain extremely high caffeine concentrations along with multiple stimulants. Some users consume double scoops or mix them with energy drinks, creating enormous cardiovascular stress," Chandola said.

Yadav also advised young gym-goers to avoid shortcuts to rapid muscle gain and seek professional medical guidance before using performance-enhancing substances.

"Exercise and fitness routines should prioritise overall health and longevity rather than endangering the heart for appearance-driven goals or social media approval," he said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

### Census 2027

Sources said Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is likely to submit his census details on Saturday as part of the self-enumeration exercise.

The Houselisting Operations constitute Phase-I of Census 2027, while Population Enumeration forms Phase-II. The second phase will be conducted in September 2026 in snow-bound areas and in February 2027 in the plains.

The upcoming census is being seen as significant for Jammu and Kashmir both politically and socially, as it is expected to form the basis for future delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies and help determine community-wise beneficiaries of reservation and quota policies.

Officials said the exercise would also assist the government in addressing various concerns linked to reservation and representation in the Union Territory.

### Army Chief To

conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbours, lasting nearly 88 hours, halted after they reached an understanding on the evening of May 10.

### India Rejects CoA

to the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). He said India has consistently opposed the establishment of the arbitral body and considers all proceedings and decisions issued by it as "null and void".

"The illegally constituted so-called Court of Arbitration has issued what it termed an award concerning maximum pondage supplemental to the award on issues of general interpretation of the Indus Waters Treaty," Jaiswal said.

He added that India had never recognised the constitution of the tribunal and reiterated that the country's decision to keep the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance would continue.

India had earlier announced that the treaty would remain in abeyance following the April 22, 2025 terror attack in Pahalgal in which 26 civilians were killed.

Pertinently, the Indus Waters Treaty, signed between India and Pakistan in 1960 with the mediation of the World Bank, governs the sharing of waters of the Indus river system between the two countries. Under the agreement, the

waters of the eastern rivers – Ravi, Beas and Sutlej – were allocated to India, while Pakistan received rights over the western rivers – Indus, Jhelum and Chenab – with certain usage provisions granted to India.

The current dispute relates to hydroelectric projects being developed by India on western rivers, including the Kishanganga and Ratle projects, which Pakistan has challenged under the treaty's dispute resolution mechanism.

India has maintained that disputes under the treaty should first be addressed through the mechanism of a Neutral Expert, as provided under the agreement, and has objected to parallel proceedings before the Court of Arbitration constituted under the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague.

New Delhi has argued that initiating arbitration proceedings without following the agreed dispute resolution sequence amounted to a violation of the treaty provisions.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration, headquartered in the Netherlands, facilitates arbitration and dispute resolution between states and international entities. India, however, has refused to participate in the proceedings related to the Indus Waters Treaty dispute (KNO)

### Dry Weather Till

weather is likely to remain mostly dry again on May 22 and 23.

Fresh spells of light rain and thundershowers are likely to be scattered places during May 24 and 25, the department said.

The Met office also issued an advisory warning of possible thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds with speeds of 40-50 kilometres per hour at a few places in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions during May 16 and again between May 19 and 20.

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

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 26.9 degrees Celsius on Friday, 1.5 degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 12.4 degrees Celsius.

Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 37.1 degrees Celsius, slightly below the seasonal average, while tourist resorts including Pahalgal and Gulmarg witnessed cloudy conditions during the day.

### Emotional Return Of

is peaceful and normal. The love shown by our Muslim brothers made us emotional. Kashmir is in our veins."

Another devotee, Rakesh, said the gathering revived memories of communal harmony that once defined life in Kashmir. "Coming here brings back memories of the same brotherhood we grew up with. We hope to organise a full hawan next year with even greater participation," he said.

Local residents described the return of Pandits to the shrine as emotionally significant for the wider community as well.

"Kashmir feels complete again when our Pandit brothers are among us," said Rameez Ahmad, a resident of Sopore. "They are part of our society and culture. Seeing them here again strengthens trust and brotherhood."

Younger residents, many of whom had only heard stories about Kashmiri Pandits from elders, also reflected on the moment.

"My father broke down after meeting a childhood friend after decades," said Umar Fayaz, 24. "I had only heard stories about Pandits living here. Today I saw those stories come alive."

Meanwhile, in Bandipora's Sumbal area, hundreds of displaced Kashmiri Pandits returned to the historic Nand Kishore Temple after 37 years to participate in the annual three-day Sumbli Mawas festival.

The festival, observed on the birth anniversary of Nand Kishore Maharaj, drew devotees from different parts of the country who gathered to offer prayers, revisit ancestral villages, and reconnect with old neighbours and friends.

The temple premises witnessed emotional reunions as families met after decades during the annual gathering, which many described as a symbol of remembrance and communal harmony.

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Indu Kanwal Chib, who visited the shrine and participated in prayers, said the participation of local residents reflected Kashmir's shared traditions.

"It is heartening to see the local community actively participating in the event and welcoming the visiting families. Such gatherings strengthen bonds between communities and preserve our collective heritage," she said.

Many devotees said returning to Kashmir

after decades was deeply emotional.

"We are happy to return to our motherland after so many years. Our Muslim neighbours took care of this temple in our absence, and we will always remain thankful to them," said Sunil Kaul, a devotee visiting from outside Kashmir.

Another participant, Ashok Kumar, said the annual gathering helped the displaced community maintain its connection with the Valley. "No matter where we live, our roots are here. Coming back every year keeps our traditions and memories alive," he said.

Locals also assisted in arrangements for the festival and welcomed the visiting families.

"Pandits are part of our family. Their return reconnects us with our shared traditions and old memories," said Rather Mehraj, a resident of Sumbal.

Officials said elaborate security and administrative arrangements had been put in place for both events.

The gatherings in Sopore and Bandipora come as Kashmir has witnessed increasing inter-community participation in religious and cultural events in recent years, offering fresh hope for reconciliation and revival of old bonds fractured by decades of conflict.

### Why Are Kashmir

company brand names. Doctors say both generic and branded medicines generally contain the same active ingredients, strength, dosage, and therapeutic effect once approved by regulators. Yet public perception continues to favour expensive branded variants.

To make affordable medicines accessible, the Government of India launched the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), under which Jan Aushadhi Kendras provide medicines at prices often 50 to 90 percent lower than branded alternatives.

However, many residents interviewed said they either knew little about generic medicines or had never been informed that cheaper options with similar effectiveness existed.

"People spend thousands every month on medicines while the same salts may be available at a fraction of the price," said a retired government employee from Srinagar. "Most patients simply buy whatever doctors prescribe or chemists hand over."

Several residents said awareness regarding

generic medicines remains almost invisible compared to other public campaigns.

"There are rallies and social media campaigns on many issues, but hardly any serious effort telling poor people where to buy cheap medicines," said a trader from downtown Srinagar. "This directly affects household expenses."

Doctors admitted that misconceptions continue to dominate public thinking.

"Many people wrongly believe that if a medicine is cheap, it must be inferior," said a Srinagar-based physician, stressing the need for scientific awareness and public education.

Another senior doctor said hospitals, Primary Health Centres, and community-level workers should be actively involved in spreading awareness.

"If the department is serious, district-level campaigns can be launched within weeks," he said. "Display boards in hospitals, awareness camps, radio programmes, and generic prescription practices can make a major difference."

The issue has also triggered public debate over the dominance of branded medicines in the retail market. Some residents alleged that commercial interests discourage aggressive promotion of generic alternatives, though no official evidence has emerged to substantiate claims of collusion.

"Chemists often earn better margins on branded medicines," said a private-sector doctor. "Naturally, cheaper alternatives can affect that business model."

Doctors and public health experts said wider availability of generic medicines could substantially reduce healthcare expenses for economically weaker families. They stressed the need for stronger regulation, mandatory generic prescriptions in government hospitals, expansion of Jan Aushadhi stores in rural areas, and sustained public awareness campaigns through newspapers, television, and social media.

Experts also said uninterrupted supply of generic medicines is necessary to build public confidence, as inconsistent availability discourages patients from shifting permanently to cheaper alternatives.

For many families struggling with inflation and rising healthcare costs, the debate over branded and generic medicines is no longer just a medical issue but an economic survival concern.

# J&K Govt Approves Restructuring of Jal Shakti Department

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Government has approved a comprehensive cadre review and re-organization of the Jal Shakti Department aimed at strengthening the technical, administrative and field-level capacity of the department for effective management of drinking water supply, irrigation and flood control infrastructure across Jammu & Kashmir.

The proposal, according to KNO was approved by the Council of Ministers vide Cabinet Decision No. 067/07/2026 dated 08.05.2026 after detailed examination and concurrence of the Finance Department. The restructuring has been formulated on the principles of administrative efficiency, scientific manpower management and institutional strengthening, while remaining fully finance neutral. The entire exercise has been carried out under the guidance of Javed Ahmed Rana, Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti.

The Jal Shakti Department, comprising the Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) wings, is presently implementing large-scale and technically complex infrastructure projects including water supply schemes, filtration plants, pumping stations, canals, flood protection works, dams and other hydraulic structures across the Union Territory. The increasing scale, geographical spread and technical complex-

ity of these projects demanded strengthening of the institutional and technical framework of the Department.

## More Posts Of Secretary (Technical) Created To Provide Guidance

A major component of the restructuring is the creation of the post of Secretary (Technical), Jal Shakti Department. The post has been created to provide apex-level technical guidance and strengthen technical decision-making within the Department. At present, technical vetting of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) is undertaken outside the Department, resulting in avoidable delays in processing of technically complex hydraulic projects. The creation of the post of Secretary (Technical) will facilitate timely scrutiny and clearance of projects, strengthen coordination between planning and execution wings, ensure uniform technical standards and promote innovation and capacity building within the Department.

The approved restructuring also provides for the setting up of a separate Design Inspection and Quality Control (DIQC) mechanism for the Jal Shakti Department. Following the reorganization of the DIQC setup in the Public Works (R&B) Department with focus on roads, bridges and buildings, the requirement of a dedicated hydraulic design and quality control mechanism for Jal Shakti works had become

necessary. The proposed DIQC will focus on design vetting, quality assurance, material testing and technical supervision of hydraulic works executed by the Department. This is expected to improve the quality, durability and sustainability of water infrastructure assets across Jammu & Kashmir.

## 2 Posts Of Ses Created For Bifurcating Hydraulic Circle

As part of the restructuring, the Government has also approved the creation of two posts of Superintending Engineers bifurcating Hydraulic Circle Jammu Rural into two Hydraulic Circles i.e. I and II and Hydraulic Circle Bandipora, besides establishment of new divisions at Gandoh, Gurez, Tangdhar and Mendhar. These divisions have been created keeping in view the remoteness of these areas, difficult geographical conditions, large territorial jurisdictions and the need for improved field supervision and public service delivery. In the case of Mendhar, the creation of a separate division has also been necessitated due to its proximity to the International Border/Line of Control and the difficult terrain of the area. The new formations are expected to improve monitoring of works, strengthen emergency response during floods and breakdowns, reduce administrative delays and ensure better outreach in remote and border areas.

## Mechanical Sub-Divisions Reorganized

The restructuring also includes re-organization of Mechanical Sub-Divisions to improve operational efficiency and strengthen maintenance and repair mechanisms for critical infrastructure and machinery associated with water supply and flood management systems.

A significant feature of the approved proposal is the strengthening of the water quality monitoring framework through establishment of two dedicated Water Quality Monitoring Divisions at Jammu and Srinagar under the proposed DIQC setup.

The initiative is in line with the sustained focus of PM Modi on provision of safe drinking water and maintenance of prescribed water quality standards under the Jal Jeevan Mission. These divisions will provide focused monitoring and supervision of water quality testing laboratories across the Union Territory and will help in ensuring safe drinking water standards in accordance with prescribed norms. The move is expected to improve surveillance, standardization, testing protocols and quality control mechanisms, besides strengthening public confidence in drinking water supply systems. The restructuring also provides for bringing Water Quality Monitoring Laboratories under the technical supervision and con-

trol of the Chief Engineer, DIQC, Jal Shakti Department for better coordination, accountability and technical oversight.

## Approved Cadre Review Addresses Long-Pending Manpower Management

The approved cadre review further addresses long-pending manpower management issues by providing for encadrement of posts, rationalization of deputation reserves, reassignment of posts within the cadre and optimal utilization of existing manpower resources. The restructuring also takes into account the requirement of providing technical manpower to various organizations and agencies associated with water resource management and infrastructure development.

The cadre review involves creation of 43 posts against corresponding reduction of 62 existing posts and reassignment of posts within the existing cadre strength, thereby ensuring that the entire restructuring remains finance neutral without any additional burden on the public exchequer.

The re-organization is expected to significantly strengthen the technical and institutional capacity of the Jal Shakti Department, improve quality and efficiency in project execution, enhance field-level governance and ensure better delivery of water-related services across Jammu & Kashmir.

## In Fuel Saving Gesture, J&K Minister Opts For Tonga Ride

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir Minister Satish Sharma on Saturday took a ride on a traditional horse-cart, or tonga, in Srinagar, saying it was his way of supporting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal for fuel conservation.

Sharma, who holds the portfolios of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Transport, and Youth Services and Sports, ditched his official vehicle and travelled along Srinagar's Gupkar Road on the horse-cart. The ride was streamed live on the minister's Facebook account.

Calling for austerity and reduced fuel consumption, Sharma urged people to contribute towards conserving petrol and diesel.

"Save petrol. I believe this is the best way to implement austerity measures. Instead of travelling in a car, one should travel like this. Everyone should follow this campaign," he said.

The minister said the ride also gave him an opportunity to experience travelling in a traditional tonga in Kashmir.

"This is good. Today, I got the chance to sit in this tonga in Kashmir," he said, while also inviting tourists to visit Jammu and Kashmir during the ongoing tourism season.

A security personnel and another guest accompanied the minister during the ride.

The move comes amid a broader push for fuel conservation following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal on May 11 urging citizens to reduce the use of fuel-driven vehicles in view of the global energy crisis triggered by tensions in West Asia.

The Prime Minister had suggested measures such as reducing petrol and diesel consumption, car pooling, increased use of electric vehicles, travelling by metro rail, using railways for parcel movement, and working from home to conserve foreign exchange.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has also reduced the size of his cavalcade in response to the Prime Minister's appeal. (KO Web Desk)

## Authorities Undertake Repair Work of Sopore Bypass Bridge

**SOPORE:** Authorities in North Kashmir's Sopore town have initiated repair work on the vital Sopore bypass bridge after growing concerns over its deteriorating condition.

The bypass bridge, considered a crucial connectivity link between Sopore, Kupwara and other parts, as per KNO has for months been giving a difficult experience to commuters due to visible damage at several spots despite repeated patchwork repairs in the past.

The bridge also serves as an important route for transport movement towards Asia's second largest fruit mandi in Sopore, making its condition a matter of concern for traders, transporters and daily commuters.

An official notice issued by the Additional District Magistrate Sopore said the traffic diversion has been ordered following a request made by OC 56 RCC Beacon for smooth execution of repair work and after discussions with the Senior Superintendent of Police Sopore.

According to the order, vehicular movement on the Sopore bypass road will remain diverted from Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 7:00 PM till Monday 7:00 AM.

During the repair period, traffic moving from Sangrama towards Badam Bagh Sopore, while vehicles travelling from Badam Bagh towards Sangrama will follow the route through Degree College.

Authorities have also directed magistrates already deployed on duty to remain present on the spot to ensure proper traffic regulation and minimize inconvenience to the public.

Earlier, MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool RK publicly raised concern over the safety of the bridge and revealed that he had already sought a safety audit of the structure in the Legislative Assembly. (Observer News Service)

## Arigam Tral residents face Drinking water crisis

**PULWAMA:** Residents of Arigam village in Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district have expressed resentment over the persistent shortage of potable drinking water, alleging that a supply scheme sanctioned nearly seven years ago is yet to take off.

The villagers told KNO that they have been suffering due to the lack of safe drinking water for several years and are consuming contaminated water supplied through the existing system, posing serious health risks to the local population.

Ishfaq Gul, a local social activist from Arigam, said that despite repeated representations to the concerned authorities, the issue continues to remain unresolved.

"We are facing immense hardships due to the absence of clean drinking water in the village. The water supplied through the existing scheme is highly contaminated and unfit for consumption. People, especially women and elderly persons, are forced to travel several kilometres to Tral town to fetch water from natural springs," he said.

The activist said that after persistent efforts by the residents, a new water supply scheme for the village was sanctioned in 2018, but even after several years, work on the project has not begun in a meaningful manner.

"The authorities had assured us many times that work would start soon, but nothing concrete has happened on the ground so far. The villagers are losing hope as promises are repeatedly being made without implementation," he added. (Observer News Service)

## NRPC Forecasts Over 42% Surplus Power for J&K, Ladakh

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** For the first time in nearly six months, power regulatory authorities have forecasted more than 42 percent surplus energy availability in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh for the ongoing month of May.

According to KNO, Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) in its updated anticipated power supply position for May 2026 has forecasted 42.5 percent surplus power availability.

The committee said that the regions in the ongoing month will likely have availability of 4310 Megawatts (MWs) of power and a requirement of 3024 MWs.

It has anticipated 1286 MWs of surplus power for the month of May-2026.

Earlier in April KNO reported that in the peak winters of 2025-2026, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were utilizing nearly 1,000 Megawatts (MWs) of coal and gas energy amid dip in hydel power generation.

The official figures in this regard had revealed that in the month of January-2026, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were utilizing 999.21 MWs of thermal energy including 870.14 MWs of coal and 129.7 MWs of gas energy from the allocated shares in joint and central sector utilities.

The figures reveal that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were allocated with a total of 3767.44 MWs of



power from state, private and central share out of which 999.21 MWs were thermal energy and 2673.1 MWs were from the renewable energy.

It also said that out of the total allocated energy, the regions were utilizing 95.13 MWs of nuclear and 1115.88 MWs of hydel energy.

The figures also reveal that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in the month of January-2026 were relying on nearly 66 percent of imported power.

Pertinently, as already reported by this news agency Jammu and Kashmir was importing more than 95 percent of its electricity in the month of December.

The officials earlier in the month had informed that Jammu and Kashmir is importing electricity ranging from 2900 MWs to 3100 MWs during the peak hours.

It also had informed that during the other hours, the region is importing electricity ranging from 2400 MWs to 2800 MWs.

## J&K Bank Engages Jammu Car Dealers to Deepen Vehicle Finance Partnership

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Continuing its outreach to strengthen retail lending partnerships and expand vehicle finance business across the region, J&K Bank on Saturday organised an interaction programme with leading automobile dealers of Jammu at its Zonal Office, Jammu.

The programme was attended by General Manager (Retail, Agriculture & MSME) Rakesh Magotra and General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta besides senior officers of the Bank. The delegation of automobile dealers was led by Chairperson, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), Sanjay Aggarwal.

Leading automobile dealers including Jamkash Vehicledeas, Jammu Motors, Shree Toyota, AM Group, Peaks Auto, NSF, IJM Toyota, Fairdeal Motors and Astro India participated in the interaction, which focused on enhancing collaboration for vehicle finance and business growth while ensuring seamless and customer-friendly financing solutions for buyers.

Addressing the participants, General Manager (RAM) Rakesh Magotra said, "The automobile sector occupies a strategic position in the retail economy and offers immense opportunities for mutually beneficial growth. J&K Bank is committed to building stronger synergies with dealership partners through responsive processes, faster credit delivery and customer-centric financing solutions that enhance both business volumes and customer experience."

He added, "As the premier financial institution of the region, the Bank remains focused on continuously refining its products, delivery



channels and operational mechanisms in line with evolving market expectations so that our vehicle finance portfolio remains competitive, flexible and accessible to a wider customer base."

Further, he gave a detailed presentation on the Bank's Corporate Salary Package and highlighted the customised banking solutions, preferential benefits and convenience-driven offerings aimed at enhancing employee banking experience while strengthening institutional relationships with corporate establishments.

Speaking on the occasion, General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta said, "J&K Bank shares a long-standing and trusted relationship with the automobile dealers' fraternity. We value this partnership and look forward to your continued cooperation in further strengthening the vehicle finance ecosystem while the Bank remains committed to providing best-in-class banking support and hassle-free financial solutions."

During the interaction, the dealers were apprised of the key features of the Bank's car loan products including competitive interest rates start-

ing from 7.70%, repayment tenure up to 84 months, flexible eligibility norms, family income pooling facility and financing of ancillary expenses such as insurance premium, registration charges and accessories. Special benefits available to government employees, pensioners, high net-worth individuals and other customer segments were also highlighted.

Speaking on behalf of the participating dealers, Chairperson FADA Sanjay Aggarwal appreciated the Bank's corporate salary package and thanked MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee for his endeavours towards streamlining mutual collaboration and simplifying procedures and processes for smooth and frictionless business operations.

The Bank also outlined its dealership collaboration framework designed to improve coordination, streamline sourcing and speed up credit processing for enhanced service efficiency and business growth.

Notably, the participating dealers welcomed the initiative and said regular engagements like this would strengthen the partnership and make vehicle finance more convenient for customers.

## HC Raises Monetary Jurisdiction Of Civil Courts

KO Correspondent

**SRINAGAR:** The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Saturday revised the pecuniary limits of jurisdiction of Civil Judges (Junior Division) and Civil Judges (Senior Division) in the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

According to a notification issued by Registrar General M.K. Sharma under Section 21 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Courts Act, 1977, all Civil Judges (Senior Division) will now have powers to hear civil suits valued up to Rs 20 lakh within their territorial jurisdiction.

Similarly, Civil Judges (Junior Division) have been vested with powers to hear civil suits valued up to Rs 5 lakh.

The notification states that the revised pecuniary limits will come into effect prospectively from 1 June 2026.

It further clarifies that all pending suits as on May 31, 2026 shall continue before the respective courts where they are presently pending, irrespective of the revised jurisdiction limits.

The High Court said the notification has been issued in supersession of all previous notifications on the subject.



## Govt Approves Rs 72 Cr Sanitation, Wastewater Projects for Two Districts

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir government has approved used water management projects worth over Rs 72 crore for Baramulla and Rajouri districts to strengthen sanitation infrastructure, ensure scientific sewage treatment, and improve public health, officials said on Saturday.

The government approved Used Water Management Projects for Baramulla and Rajouri at an estimated cost of Rs 37.96 crore and Rs 34.43 crore respectively, they said.

According to PTL, the projects are aimed at strengthening sanitation infrastructure and addressing waste water management challenges in



the two urban areas.

The projects, cleared by the Omar Abdullah-led Government, are expected to ensure scientific treatment of sewage, prevent pollution of water bodies, and significantly improve public health, hygiene, and overall living conditions for the residents of Baramulla and Rajouri, a spokesman said.

He said the Housing & Urban Development De-

partment has formulated Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the projects for Municipal Council Baramulla and Municipal Council Rajouri under the CAPEX component of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0.

The DPRs have been technically vetted by National Institute of Technology, Srinagar. The projects will be executed using Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) technology, which provides high treatment efficiency through a single-step biological treatment process, he said.

The projects are aimed at improving sanitation facilities and create sustainable waste water treatment systems in Baramulla and Rajouri.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

## OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE SRINAGAR

Email: gmdic-srinagar@jk.gov.in Tel. No: 0194-2427478

### PUBLIC NOTICE

M/s Kohinoor Fabrics, I/E Integrated Textile Park, Zakura, Srinagar, formally registered with this office under No. 01/003/09438/PMT/MSME dated 27.06.2022 for the activity of "Weaving of Silk, Woolen and Cotton Cloth on Power Looms" with additional line of activity namely "Machine Embroidery" (on provisional basis) as partnership concern of 1. Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Rather S/o Mohammad Yousuf Rather R/O Soura, Srinagar and 2. Mr. Mohammad Imran Changa S/o Mohammad Rafiq Changa R/o Syed Sahib Rajouri Kadal, Srinagar.

The promoters have applied for transfer of the lease hold rights of the said unit in favour of Mr. Asif Ahmad Mattoo S/o Ab. Rashid Mattoo R/o Koli Pora, Khanyar, Srinagar.

Any person having any objection to the proposed transfer may submit the same in writing to the office of General Manager DIC Srinagar within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice.

DIPK-1354-26  
DT: 16/05/2026

General Manager  
District Industries Centre  
Srinagar

# Iran Says It Will Unveil Hormuz Toll Mechanism Soon

Trans Asia News

**TEHRAN** – Iran is preparing to unveil a new mechanism to regulate maritime traffic through the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz, including the introduction of fees for what officials described as specialised transit services, according to statements by a senior Iranian lawmaker on Saturday.

Ebrahim Azizi, chairman of the Iranian parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said Tehran had designed a "professional mechanism" for managing shipping movement along a designated route through the narrow waterway, which serves as one of the world's most important oil transit chokepoints.

"Iran, within the framework of its national sovereignty and the guarantee of international

trade security, has prepared a professional mechanism to manage traffic in the Strait of Hormuz along a designated route, which will be unveiled soon," Azizi said in a post on social media platform X.

The proposed system would permit passage for commercial entities and countries deemed cooperative with Iran while restricting access for what Azizi called hostile countries and operators associated with a "freedom project", without elaborating further.

"In this process, only commercial vessels and parties cooperating with Iran will benefit from it," Azizi wrote, adding that fees would be collected for "specialised services" provided under the arrangement.

The comments signal a potential shift in Iran's approach toward one of the world's most



sensitive maritime corridors, through which roughly a fifth of global oil consumption traditionally passes. Any disruption or changes to navigation rules in the strait can significantly affect international energy markets and shipping costs.

The announcement comes against the backdrop of height-

ened regional tensions following a prolonged military confrontation between Iran and the United States and Israel. Iranian officials have framed the new proposal as part of broader efforts to safeguard national security interests while asserting sovereign control over strategic waterways.

Iranian authorities have said the country retaliated against US-Israeli military actions by imposing restrictions in the Strait of Hormuz, a move that reportedly contributed to sharp increases in global oil and petroleum product prices.

A temporary ceasefire between Iran and the United States, brokered by Pakistan, took effect on April 8, forty days into the conflict. Diplomatic negotiations later began in Islamabad but reportedly failed to produce a breakthrough as disagreements persisted over the U.S.'s demands and negotiating positions.

Iranian Deputy Parliament Speaker Ali Nikzad said earlier this month that Tehran was drafting legislation to establish a revised legal framework governing the Strait of Hormuz.

Nikzad said the proposed law would reaffirm Iran's rights over the waterway while remaining consistent with international law and the rights of neighbouring states. He added that vessels linked to Israel would be prohibited from transiting the strait under any circumstances and that access for hostile countries – particularly the United States – would also be denied.

Separately, Iranian state television reported Saturday that European countries had begun discussions with Tehran regarding maritime transit arrangements.

"Following the passage of ships from East Asian countries, notably China, Japan and Pakistan, we received information today indicating that Europeans have also begun negotiations with the Revolutionary Guards

navy," state television said, without identifying the countries involved.

The report suggested discussions were underway with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps naval branch to secure transit permissions under the proposed framework.

The Strait of Hormuz lies between Oman and Iran and links the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea. The waterway remains critical for global energy exports from major producers, including Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Iran itself.

Maritime analysts and shipping industry observers are expected to closely monitor details of Iran's proposed mechanism, particularly its legal basis, implementation process, and implications for international shipping norms.

## PM Modi Meets Dutch Royals in Netherlands

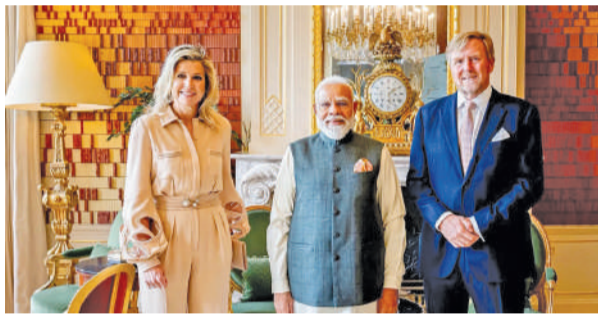
Press Trust of India

**THE HAGUE:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday met King of the Netherlands Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima at the Royal Palace and discussed close cooperation in digital technology, innovation, fintech and blue economy.

Modi arrived in the Netherlands on Friday - after a brief stopover in the UAE - on the second leg of his five-nation tour that also includes Sweden, Norway and Italy.

"Met His Majesty King Willem-Alexander and Her Majesty Queen Máxima at the Royal Palace. It was wonderful exchanging perspectives on boosting India-Netherlands friendship across key sectors like technology, innovation, sustainable growth, commerce and water resources," PM Modi posted on X after the meeting.

Modi said that India and the Netherlands are "connected by shared interests



and a shared belief in building a future-ready planet."

"They discussed the growing partnership between India and the Netherlands," the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal posted on X.

"Both sides noted the close cooperation in the areas of sustainability, climate action, digital technology, innovation, fintech and blue economy," he added.

The two sides also expressed commitment towards further strengthening India-Netherlands relations.

Earlier in the day, Modi

addressed a gathering of the Indian diaspora in The Hague where he called India a "land of opportunities" undergoing an "unprecedented transformation".

The PM's visit to the European nation from May 15 to 17 is his second trip to the country after his 2017 visit and comes at what officials described as an "important juncture" in India-Netherlands ties.

India and the Netherlands have significantly expanded cooperation in recent years beyond traditional sectors such as trade, investment and the priority areas of water, agriculture and health.

## Netanyahu Flaunts UAE Ties; Emirati Leaders Stay Quiet

Julia Frankel/AP

**JERUSALEM** – The tight relationship between Israel and the United Arab Emirates is typically managed discreetly. But this week, it was thrust into the open, illuminating tensions underlying the alliance as the Iran war embroils the entire region.

The US ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee, first brought attention to the strengthening ties between Israel and the UAE by revealing that Israel had sent Iron Dome air-defence weapons and personnel to operate them to help protect the UAE from Iranian attacks.

Then, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had quietly visited the UAE during the war, prompting a hasty public denial from the Gulf nation.

As Netanyahu and the Trump administration ballyhoo their alliances as part of an effort to bolster the region's anti-Iran factions, the Gulf states prefer to downplay these partnerships – a sign of how public ties to Israel remain deeply controversial in the region.

Here's what you need to know about the Israel-UAE relationship:

**Why would the UAE deny Netanyahu's visit?**

Netanyahu's decision to reveal his wartime trip to Abu Dhabi rocked



the boat, particularly coming after Huckabee confirmed military cooperation between the two countries.

Reports swirled that Israel's security chiefs had also visited.

The UAE's official WAM news agency posted an article denying "reports circulating" about the visit. The agency wrote that the country's relations with Israel "are public and conducted within the framework of the well-known and officially declared Abraham Accords and are not based on non-transparent or unofficial arrangements."

The report also denied any Israeli military delegation was received in the UAE.

"It complicates Abu Dhabi's war-time-frame posture by forcing it into the open – which is why the denial was issued so quickly and worded so carefully," said Hesham Alghannam, a Saudi Arabia-based scholar at the Malcolm H. Kerr Carnegie Middle

East Center.

Though the UAE normalised relations with Israel in 2020, its rulers like to keep the alliance somewhat quiet.

Antipathy toward the Jewish state runs high in Arab and Muslim countries across the Middle East. The negative feelings were magnified by the war in Gaza, which began after Hamas, a militant group backed by Iran, attacked Israel on October 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people and taking 251 hostages.

Israel's ensuing offensive in Gaza flattened much of the territory and has killed over 72,700 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilian and militant deaths.

That conflict spilled across the region, with Israel waging deadly and damaging campaigns against Iran-backed militants in Lebanon and Yemen and striking militant targets in Qatar and Syria.

"We are the ugly duckling of the Middle East," said Dan Diker, the president of the Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs, a conservative Israeli think tank.

Diker, who has had extensive talks and relationships with Abraham Accords countries in the region, said the regional officials with whom he often negotiated always asked to keep things under the radar.

**What is the Israel-UAE alliance based on?**

Israel and the UAE collaborated militarily during the war with Iran. Israel benefited from having a defence foothold in a country geographically closer to its arch-enemy. The UAE, meanwhile, gained access to Israeli military technology, like the Iron Dome air-defence system.

The alliance has also been a boon for both countries' economies, with trade between them rising steadily since 2020.

Israel, long isolated in the Middle East, gains legitimacy by partnering with an Arab country. And the UAE gains power in Washington.

The UAE was the third Arab country, after Egypt and Jordan, to establish full diplomatic ties with Israel.

**Why did Netanyahu publicise his visit?**

Netanyahu faces fierce domestic opposition headed into an election season in Israel. He believes his image is bolstered if he can show his base that he is a Middle East power broker.

The Iran war did not much help the leader's domestic popularity. One thing that could help it – while strengthening his strained relationship with President Donald Trump – would be more regional powers following the UAE's lead.

# MI Securities

## POWER OF ₹5,000 SIP

**Step 1: You invest ₹5,000 every month**

**Step 2: You reinvest your total investment growth**

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

Small amount, big corpus

5 Years

Corpus: ₹4.1L

Invested: ₹3.1L

Money grows to 1.4x

10 Years

Corpus: ₹11.6L

Invested: ₹6.0L

Money grows to 2.9x

15 Years

Corpus: ₹25.9L

Invested: ₹9.0L

Money grows to 4.3x

20 Years

Corpus: ₹51.8L

Invested: ₹12.0L

Money grows to 6.5x

25 Years

Corpus: ₹97.5L

Invested: ₹15.0L

Money grows to 10.5x

30 Years

Corpus: ₹1.9Cr

Invested: ₹18.0L

Money grows to 10.5x

**More time = more compounding**

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

MI Securities - AMFI Registered Mutual Fund Distributor | ARN: 47504 | Contact: 9419006271