

Fight Is To End Narco-Terror & Heal Families: LG

Says Drug Cartels That Thrived For Decades Are Being Wiped Out



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said drug cartels and narco-terror networks operating in Jammu and Kashmir were being systematically dismantled, asserting that the administration would continue its crackdown until "every drug smuggler is eliminated" from the region.

Addressing a gathering during a massive anti-drug Padyatra in Bandipora, the Lieutenant Governor said the fight against narcotics was not limited to law enforcement but aimed at rebuilding lives and restoring dignity to families affected by addiction.

"Forty-five days ago, I pledged not only to dismantle the smugglers and narco-terrorists ecosystem, but also to spark a movement that restores dignity to families scarred by addiction," Sinha said.

Leading the rally amid large public participation, the Lieutenant Governor said Jammu and Kashmir stood united in its resolve to eradicate drugs and narco-terror.

"The action against narco-terrorists and drug smugglers will continue. It will not stop until every drug smuggler is eliminated from the sacred soil of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Sinha said security and enforcement agencies had launched an "unprecedented drive" to trace and destroy hidden drug networks operating in the region.

"No drug smuggler, drug peddler, or anyone seeking to poison our society is beyond reach. The entire narco-terror ecosystem is being pursued," he added.

The Lieutenant Governor said several supply chains that had remained hidden for years were now being exposed and dismantled.

"Drug cartels that thrived for decades are being wiped out. We have sent a clear message that Jammu and Kashmir will not be a safe haven for those who profit from the suffering of others," he said.

Highlighting the social impact of substance abuse, Sinha said the administration was preparing a comprehensive rehabilitation policy to help recovering addicts reintegrate into society.

"Our aim is that not a single young person | More on P6

Mid-Air Ordeal: 300 Tourists Rescued From Gulmarg Gondola

» Cabins hovered nearly 500 ft above ground as rain slowed evacuation efforts

» Rescuers used ropes and ladders to evacuate stranded tourists from 65 cabins

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A routine Gondola ride in Gulmarg turned into a mid-air ordeal on Monday after a technical snag left around 300 tourists hanging hundreds of feet above ground for hours before they were rescued safely.

The snag developed around noon, forcing suspension of operations on both phases of the cable car service, regarded as Asia's highest ropeway.

Officials said several cabins remained suspended at



a height of nearly 500 feet above the ground, making

Full story on kashmiobserver.net

CM Omar Orders Probe

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah announced on Monday that an investigation will be conducted into the gondola malfunction in Gulmarg, which left over 300 tourists stranded in mid-air for hours.

He assured that action would be taken if any lapses were found. The tourists were trapped inside 65 cabins of the famous Gulmarg Gondola cable car after a major technical issue halted | Full story on kashmiobserver.net

Nation Salutes Disaster Response Forces: LG

Soon after security forces rescued 320 tourists stranded mid-air following a technical snag in the Gulmarg Gondola, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha hailed the courage and swift response of the rescue teams, while Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat announced commendation awards for police and rescue personnel involved in the successful operation.

LG Sinha wrote on X, "The nation stands united in applauding extraordinary bravery of disaster response teams, who safely rescued 300 tourists stranded mid-air in Gulmarg's cable cars. Army, JKP, SDRF, NDRF, DC, SSPs | More on P6

J&K Govt Grants Extra Eid Holiday To Employees

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Monday sanctioned a special one-day casual leave for employees of the Union Territory on May 29, marking the third day of Eid-ul-Azha.

An order to this effect was issued by the General Administration Department.

"Sanction is hereby accorded to the grant of one day special casual leave on 29th May 2026 (Friday), in favour of the employees of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir who wish to avail the leave on account of observance of Eid-ul-Azha," the order stated.

Meanwhile the ruling Jammu and Kashmir National Conference compared the decision with the West Bengal government's reported move to reduce Eid-ul-Azha public holidays from two days to one.

"Couple of days ago, BJP government in West Bengal down-sized Eid ul Zuhra holidays from two days to one. Today JKNC government expanded Eid holidays | More on P6

Budgam Minor's Killing Leaves Kashmir Shocked & Grieving

One Accused Arrested; Police Say Preliminary Investigation Points To Rape & Murder

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A wave of grief and outrage swept across Kashmir after a 12-year-old girl from Budgam, who had gone missing on Saturday evening, was found dead near her home the next morning in a case that police suspect involves rape and murder.

The chilling incident in Galwanpora village of central Kashmir's Budgam district has shaken public conscience, sparked widespread condemnation and reignited fears over the safety of children in spaces once considered secure.

Police on Monday said one



of the accused persons had been arrested within 36 hours of the crime.

Addressing a press briefing, Senior Superintendent of

Police (SSP) Budgam K.K. Hari Prasad said several suspects had been detained and questioned during the investigation before police | More on P6

Petrol Up Rs 2.61, Diesel Rs 2.71 In Latest Price Shock

Fourth Fuel Hike In 12 Days; Rates Highest Since 2022

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Petrol and diesel prices were raised again on Monday, marking the fourth increase in less than two weeks and pushing fuel rates to their highest levels since 2022 amid soaring global crude oil prices linked to the Iran conflict.

State-run fuel retailers increased petrol prices by Rs 2.61

per litre and diesel by Rs 2.71 per litre. With the latest revision, cumulative hikes since May 15 have climbed to nearly Rs 7.5 per litre.

In Delhi, petrol now costs Rs 102.12 per litre, up from Rs 99.51, while diesel rose to Rs 95.20 from Rs 92.49.

The back-to-back increases come after months of relative stability in fuel prices, which had largely remained unchanged for over two years except for a Rs 2-per-litre cut announced in March 2024 ahead of Lok Sabha | More on P6

Govt Took Rs 1 Lakh Cr Hit to Shield Fuel Consumers: FM

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday defended the recent hikes in petrol and diesel prices, saying the government had already foregone more than Rs 1 lakh crore annually in tax | More on P6

Festive Buzz Returns, But Eid Markets Feel Inflation Pinch

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Markets across Kashmir witnessed a festive rush ahead of Eid-ul-Adha on Monday, with shoppers thronging major business hubs for last-minute purchases, even as traders and livestock dealers complained of weak sales and cautious spending amid rising prices and financial strain.

From Srinagar's busy commercial centres to markets in south and north Kashmir districts, roads and shopping lanes remained crowded through the day as families purchased clothes, bakery items, footwear, cosmetics and sacrificial animals ahead of Eid celebrations on Wednesday.

Major markets including Lal Chowk, Residency Road, Maharaja Bazar, Maisuma, Bohri



Kadal, Goni Khan and Jamia Market in Srinagar wore a festive look, with shopkeepers extending business hours to cater to the rush.

The historic markets around Jamia Masjid and Pather Masjid

also witnessed heavy footfall, especially in shops selling traditional wear, spices, bakery products, perfumes and prayer essentials.

Despite intermittent rainfall during the afternoon, markets remained packed till late

evening, while mehendi stalls and beauty parlours saw brisk activity as women and young girls prepared for the festival.

Similar scenes were reported from districts including Baramulla, Kupwara, Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian, Bandipora, Budgam and Ganderbal, where markets and livestock sale points remained active throughout the day.

However, beneath the festive atmosphere, traders said business remained weaker than expected compared to previous Eid seasons.

"People are visiting markets, but spending very cautiously. Most families are buying only essentials because prices have gone up sharply," said Javid Ahmad, a garment trader in Lal Chowk.

Shopkeepers dealing in ready-made garments, | More on P6

Sad NTA Has Not Learnt Lessons From NEET Leak: SC

Observer News Service

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday pulled up the National Testing Agency (NTA) over the alleged NEET-UG 2026 paper leak, saying it was "sad" that the agency appeared not to have learnt lessons from the controversy surrounding the medical entrance examination last year.

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe sought responses from the Centre, the NTA and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on a batch of petitions seeking restructuring or replacement of the testing agency with a more robust and autonomous body to conduct the examination.

"It's sad that they have not learnt their lessons. The matter travelled to this court earlier also," the bench observed while hearing the pleas.

The court directed the NTA to file an affidavit by Thursday detailing the steps taken to comply with recommendations made by a court-appointed monitoring committee after the 2024 NEET paper leak controversy.

The bench also asked the Centre-appointed committee headed by former ISRO chief K Radhakrishnan to place on record the progress made in implementing reforms suggested earlier by the apex court.

The matter has been listed for further hearing on Friday. The petitions, | More on P6

Jel Terror-Funding Case NIA Raids Multiple Locations Across Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The National Investigation Agency on Monday conducted searches in the Kashmir Valley as part of its probe into a terror-funding case linked to the banned Jamaat-e-Islami.

The searches, conducted at three locations in Srinagar and Shopian districts of Kashmir, led to the recovery of several incriminating financial documents and electronic gadgets suspected to be related to the activities of Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) and its various trusts/associations in J&K.

Officers of the National Investigation Agency (NIA)

carried out searches at the Darul Uloom Sirajul Uloom, a school in the Imam Sahib area of Shopian, which was declared an "illegal entity" last month, official sources said.

Searches were also conducted at the residence of the former Jel chief, Shahzada Aurangzeb, at Molu Chitragam in the district, and at the Jamiat ul Banaat, a religious school for girls in Srinagar's Lal Bazar area.

The federal anti-terror agency has been probing the separatist and secessionist activities of Jel, declared an unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The investigations so far have revealed | More on P6

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Study Finds Brain Region Important For Cognitive Flexibility

Press Trust Of India

A new study has found a region in the brainstem, the structure which connects the brain to the spinal cord, that could be important for the mental ability to adapt to changing conditions and shift strategies. An impairment in cognitive flexibility is associated with disorders including attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). Researchers at the US University of California, Riverside, said the 'locus coeruleus' — a tiny region on the brainstem — may be central to how the brain "changes gears", helping it switch between behavioural rules and maintain flexible thinking. "The brain is constantly faced with changing environments and demands. Our work shows that the

locus coeruleus acts as a key regulator that helps the brain transition between behavioral states efficiently," said Hongdian Yang, an associate professor of molecular, cell, and systems biology and senior author of the study published in the journal eLife. The study trained mice on a rule-switching task designed to test attentional flexibility. The animals were first taught to find food rewards using one type of sensory cue, such as the texture of bedding material. Then, without warning, the rule changed — the mice now had to ignore the old cue and rely on odour instead. Activity of neurons or brain cells in the locus coeruleus and their input to the medial prefrontal cortex was silenced. The medial prefrontal cortex is part of the prefrontal cortex, which is critical for higher-level functions, including attention, planning and decision-making. The

team found the mice struggled to adapt to the new rule, continued relying on outdated strategies, and required significantly more attempts to learn the switch. "We revealed that suppressing either the LC (locus coeruleus) or its mPFC (medial prefrontal cortex) projections severely impaired switching behaviour, establishing the critical role of the LC-mPFC circuit in supporting attentional switching," the authors wrote. Yang said, "We found LC signals help reorganise neural activity patterns in the prefrontal cortex so the brain can disengage from an old rule and engage with a new one." Silencing activity in the locus coeruleus was found to produce the opposite effect among neurons — more prefrontal neurons became active, and individual neurons responded to broader, more mixed information.

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, SRINAGAR

10-Karan Nagar, Srinagar Kashmir, 190010
(ACADEMIC SECTION)

Subject: OA No. 412 of 2026 Dated. 28.04.2026 titled Dr. Afshan Zargar D/O Mr. Riyaz Ahmad Zargar R/O Makhdoom Kocha, S R Gunj, Srinagar Versus Health and Medical Education Department.

**OFFICE ORDER NO:555 RA of 2026.
DATED: 19-05-2026.**

Whereas, in response to this office Advertisement No. 13 of 2025 Dated. 11.10.2025, among others one Dr. Afshan Zargar (not an in-service candidate) applied for the post of Senior Resident in the discipline of Dermatology, Venereology & Leprosy, Govt. Medical College, Srinagar; and

Whereas, the written examination was conducted on 17.12.2025 for the posts of Senior Resident in various disciplines of Government Medical College, Srinagar and subsequently result was declared vide examination cell Notification No. 50-EC of 2025 Dated. 24.12.2025; and

Whereas, Dr. Afshan Zargar figured in waiting list at S. No. 01 as per the aforementioned result notification; and

Whereas, due to one-month prior notice submitted by Dr. Subreen Kour, Senior Resident, department of Dermatology, Venereology & Leprosy, Govt. Medical College, Srinagar on 10.03.2026, Dr. Afshan Zargar was considered against the vacancy of Senior Resident in the Department to be accrued w.e.f. 14.04.2026, and accordingly a Notification bearing No. 14-RA of 2026 Dated. 18.03.2026 was issued; and

Whereas, vide aforementioned notification, she was directed to report to the Office of the Registrar Academics, Government Medical College, Srinagar along with all pre-requisite documents within (07) days from the date of issuance of the notification for submission of online form through Employee Verification System (EVS) for Verification of Character and Antecedents; and

Whereas, the doctor in question submitted her hard copy of the application form along with all requisite documents within the stipulated time period of (07) days on 20.03.2026 in the office of Academics Section. Govt. Medical college, Srinagar, and

Whereas, among others Dr. Afshan Zargar was engaged as Senior Resident vide this office Order No. 322-RA of 2026 Dated, 24.03.2026 in the Department of Dermatology, Venereology & Leprosy on Academic Arrangement basis under S.O. 364 of 2020 Dated. 27.11.2020 and Government Order No. 383-JK (HME) of 2024 Dated. 20.06.2024 initially for a period of one year, extendable upto maximum period of (03) years only, on the basis of good performance to be certified by the concerned HOD; and

Whereas, Dr. Afshan Zargar failed to report for joining within a period of (21) days from the date of issuance of engagement order No. 322-RA of 2026 Dated. 24.03.2026 and it is germane to mention here that other two candidates namely Dr. Mohsin Mohd Dar & Dr. Ruqaya Amin Mir who were engaged in the department of Pharmacology & Biochemistry respectively figuring in the same engagement order have joined in their department; and

Whereas, Govt. Medical College, Srinagar have issued an Addendum to Advertisement Notice No. 06 of 2026 on 15-04-2026, whereby it has re-advertised the post of Senior Resident in Dermatology, Venereology & Leprosy for which Dr. Afshan Zargar has lost her opportunity; and

Whereas, the doctor in question submitted an application on 23.04.2026, explaining therein that neither the engagement order had been communicated to her nor this engagement order was uploaded on the website till 23.04.2026; and

Whereas, It has been confirmed from in-charge I.T section of this institute that the engagement Order No. 322-RA of 2026 Dated. 24.03.2026 was duly uploaded on the official website of GMC, Srinagar on 24-03-2026; and

Whereas, the doctor filed O.A vide No. 412 of 2026 Dated. 28-04-2026 before the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal, Srinagar, wherein, the operative portion/directions of the judgement are reproduced as under: -

"List for consideration on 26-05-2026. In the meanwhile, subject to objections of the other side and till next date of hearing, it is provided that the respondents shall consider case of the petitioner for her engagement in terms of her order of engagement dated 24-03-2026 and take a decision within two weeks' positively, given the facts and circumstances of the case and till decision is taken in the matter on its merits, no further process shall be initiated by the respondents in terms of re-advertisement notification dated. 09.04.2026"

Now, in light of the above-mentioned facts, circumstances of the case and in light of rules in general and the claim/representation of the doctor, namely Dr. Afshan Zargar, not in-service candidate has been thoroughly examined by the Selection Committee in compliance with orders passed by the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal, Srinagar vide order Dated. 28.04.2026 and found devoid of merits liable to be rejected. Hence rejected.

No. GMCS/Acad/SR/Derm/1662-66/MC
DIPK-1605/26
DATED: 25-05-2026

Principal/Dean
Govt. Medical College
Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ziya Manzoor D/O Manzoor Ahmad Bhat R/O Chersoo Awantipora Pulwama declare that in my recently passed 10th class my mother 's Surname was records in marks card and certificates and in school records at Birla Open Minds International School Pampore incorrectly/erroneously entered as Aisha Manzoor instead of Aisha Akhtar now it needs to be corrected so, in this regard have any body any objection he/she may file his/her objection at Principal Birla Open Minds International School Pampore and CBSC directorate Panchkula Haryana within a period of one week from the date of publication of this notice after due date no objection will or shall be accepted or entertained.
Ziya Manzoor, D/O:Manzoor Ahmad Bhat.
Mother's name : Aisha Akhtar
.R/O: Chersoo Awantipora Pulwama.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No. XXXX XXXX 4500 as "Sumaira Begum" instead of my correct name "Sumeerah Akhter."
My correct particulars are: Sumeerah Akhter S/D/ W/o Mohammad Abdullah Yatoo R/o Yall, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla. Both the names refer to one and the same person.
Now, I have applied for correction of my name from "Sumaira Begum" to "Sumeerah Akhter" in the Aadhaar records. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same before the concerned Aadhaar authorities within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.
Sumeerah Akhter
S/D/W/o Mohammad Abdullah Yatoo
R/o Yall, Tehsil Kunzer
District Baramulla

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the number plate of my vehicle bearing regd no: Jk01 AN .5603. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if any-body has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the RTO Srinagar within seven days. After that no objections shall be entertained.
Firdous Ahmad Mir
S/o Farooq Ahmad Mir
R/o Mazhama Magam

Bmg-r

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of the general public that the name of my ward has been wrongly recorded in the Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No. 8128 6893 5976 as "ROHAN FAYAZ" instead of the correct name "RUHAN FAYAZ DAR".
The correct particulars are:
RUHAN FAYAZ DAR
S/O: FAYAZ AHMAD DAR
R/O: Sharatpora, Tehsil & District Shopian
Now, I have applied for correction of the said name in the concerned Aadhaar records. If anybody has any objection regarding this correction, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.
FAYAZ AHMAD DAR
Father of RUHAN FAYAZ DAR
R/O: Sharatpora, Shopian

fko

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Warden Gujjar And Bakerwal Boys Hostel, Budgam.

Notice No. 01 of 2026 Dated, 25-05-2026

Advertisement Notice for engagement of Part time tutors for six months in Gujjar & Bakerwal Boys Hostel Budgam for the academic session 2026.

Applications on plain papers are invited from the desirous unemployed/retired trained/Graduate/ Post Graduate, candidates for engagement as part time tutors in Gujjar & Bakerwal Boys Hostel, Budgam for academic session 2026 on temporary basis for a period of six months only. The engagement confirms no right of confirmation, regularization or continuation and will be disengaged after the academic session is over. The applications accompanied with attested copies of the qualification certificates, recent passport size photograph and other testimonials duly attested by Gazetted Officer should reach to this office by or before 30 of May 2026 up to 4 Pm. The tutors have to teach inmates before 8 a.m and after 4 p.m. The Honorarium details are as under:

S.no	Class to be taught	Qualification	Honorarium	Vacancy
1.	11th & 12th	Post Graduate	2500 Per/month	02
2.	9th & 10th	Graduate	1500-Per/month	03
3.	6th to 8th	Graduate	1000-Per/month	03

The tutor who will show negligence during coaching, the Hostel administration will disengage him/her without any notice.

The date for interview will be notified separately. For any query, please contact on cell No. 9906510415 or 7006063390 during office hours.

No. GBH/Bud/2026/119-122
DIPK-1574/26
Dated: 25.05.2026

Warden
Gujjar & Bakerwal boys Hostel
Budgam

Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER, GANDERBAL

(Mini Secretariat Complex, Duderhama, 191201)

Subject: Appointment Order for Contractual Engagement for the positions of SBDO/BHDs under Mission YUVA.

ORDER

Whereas, one post of BHD Coordinator, Ganderbal under Mission YUVA has fallen vacant due to non-joining of Mr. Umer Shafi S/o Mohammad Shafi Ganie, who was initially selected/engaged for the said post; and

Whereas, the Assistant Director Employment, Ganderbal vide communication No. DE&CC/GBL/2026-27/290-93 dated 21.05.2026 has intimated about the non-joining of the said candidate and has recommended consideration of the next candidate from the waiting list; and

Whereas, Mr. Aijaz Ahmad Bhat S/o Ghulam Hassan Bhat R/o Rabitar, Ganderbal figures at Serial No. 1 in the notified waiting/merit list issued vide Order No. ADDC/GBL/Mission-YUVA/2026-27/324-30, dated: 11/05/2026;

Now, therefore, sanction is hereby accorded to the engagement of Mr. Aijaz Ahmad Bhat S/o Ghulam Hassan Bhat R/o Rabitar, Ganderbal (9149483133) as BHD Coordinator, Ganderbal under Mission YUVA, against the vacancy caused due to non-joining of Mr. Umer Shafi.

The appointee shall report to the Assistant Director Employment, Ganderbal within a period of seven (07) days from the date of issuance of this order, failing which the order shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab initio without any further notice.

The engagement shall be governed by the terms and conditions already notified for the post under Mission YUVA.

All other terms and conditions shall remain governed strictly under Mission YUVA Operational Guidelines for SBDO and BHD engagements.

Sd/-
District Development Commissioner,
Ganderbal.

No: ADDC/GBL/Mission-YUVA/2026-27/493-500
DIPK-1571/26 Dated: 25/05/2026

Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Ltd. Office of the Executive Engineer, ED-2nd, Rajbagh, Srinagar

Near Silk Factory Rajbagh Srinagar
e-mail: xened-2@jk.gov.in/ Tel/Fax:01942311374

EXTENSION NOTICE-1

Due to poor response of this Office, e-NIT No: ED-II/01 of 2026-27 Dated :29. 04. 2026 having Tender ID : 2026_PDD_309060_1, Tender Class : (Class-A) for the work titled " Perminant Restoration / Stabilization of HT Networks at Rambagh near Crossing and areas around other Flood Channels under SASCI Part I, the date of bid submission has been extended till 4.6.2026. (2.30 PM) and date of opening on 6.6.2026 (2.30 PM) . However, other terms and conditions of the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.

-Sd/
Executive Engineer
KPDCL, ED-2ndRajbagh

No. : ED-II/TS/5846-52
DIPK-NB-593/26 Dated: 25.5.2026

Subject:- Grant Of Registration of the Proposed Travel unit under the name & Style "M/S Kahwa Routs Tour & Travels situated at Takia Batapora Kunzer

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I, Mr. Dawood Ahmad Khan S/O Manzoor Ahmad Khan Takia Batapora Kunzer Tangmarg intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name & style of M/S Kahwa Routs Tour & Travels situated at Takia Batapora Kunzer under tourist trade act 1978/82/2011-12.
Whereas I will submit state subject / Domicile certificate , Qualification Certificate, pan card \ Experience Certificate(Minimum 5years), Police character certificate, Bank statement (minimum balance 10000), site plan, Affidavit, Rent deed duly attested by sub Registrar, printing material (Letter head / Visiting card) Photograph of the unit (indoor and outdoor) and Two passport size photographs to the department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist I Prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.

/ Adventure Tour Operator Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12) before my case is processed for my registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general public/ Financial Institutions/Bank/ Organisation, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration(email id: ddtregl23@gmail.com) within a period of 7days from the publication of this notice in a leading newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objection beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of the general public that my ward namely IZHAAR FAROOQ S/O FAROOQ AHMAD GANIE R/O Kreshhama, Tehsil Kunzar, District Baramulla was born on 20/10/2012 at home and his birth has not been registered in the records of the concerned authority till date.

Now, I have applied for issuance/registration of Birth Certificate before the concerned authorities. If anybody has any objection regarding the date of birth or particulars of my ward, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.
FAROOQ AHMAD GANIE
Father of IZHAAR FAROOQ
R/O: Kreshhama, Kunzar, Baramulla

fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Aayat Jan D/o Mohammad Rafiq Khuru R/o Ghat Gopalan Palhalla Tehsil Pattan with verified date of birth 26/06/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing Aadhaar No. XXXX XXXX 0618 as "FAZIYA JAN" instead of my correct name "FOZIA AKHTAR".

My correct particulars are: FOZIA AKHTAR D/O PEER SHAMAS UD DIN R/O GUL NEELOFAR KRALAWAT, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla as per my school certificate record.

Now, I have applied for correction of my name from FAZIYA JAN to FOZIA AKHTAR in the Aadhaar records. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same before the concerned Aadhaar authorities within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.
FOZIA AKHTAR
D/O PEER SHAMAS UD DIN
R/O GUL NEELOFAR KRALAWAT
Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla

fko

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KHANSAHIB

SUBJECT: Application of Sameer Ahmad Magloo S/O Abdul Rehman Magloo R/O Rawalpore Tehsil Khansahib District Budgam for issuance of Legal Heir Certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The case of the above captioned applicant is under process for issuance of legal heir certificate. In this regard, report submitted by pashari concerned reveals that the applicant's mother namely ZAINA BEGUM W/O ABDUL REHMAN MAGLOO R/O Rawalpore Tehsil Khansahib District Budgam has expired on 17-04-2026 (Death Certificate enclosed). The applicant's deceased Father has left behind the following legal Heirs:-

S.NO	NAME OF LEGAL HEIR	RELATIONSHIP WITH DECEASED	AGE	OCCUPATION	MARTIAL STATUS
1	SAMEER AHMAD MAGLOO	SON	28	LABOUR	MARRIED
2	MUSHTAQ AHMAD MAGLOO	SON	45	EMPLOYEE	MARRIED
3	ROOMA	DAUGHTER	42	HOUSEWIFE	MARRIED
4	MUBEENA	DAUGHTER	40	HOUSEWIFE	MARRIED
5	JABEENA	DAUGHTER	35	HOUSEWIFE	MARRIED
6	BILKEESA	DAUGHTER	30	HOUSEWIFE	MARRIED

In this context, objections are invited from general public regarding the issuance of requisite certificate in favour of the applicant. If anybody has any objection, he/she may submit his/her objections in this office within 07 days during office hours. No objection shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.
mcb NAIB TEHSILDAR KHANSAHIB

Brari Nambal Shrinks Amid Encroachments, Waste Dumping

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Fresh evidence of environmental degradation has surfaced around the historic Brari Nambal lagoon in Srinagar, where large quantities of construction debris, scrap material and waste appear to have been dumped along portions of the water body, raising serious concerns over alleged encroachment and gradual land reclamation.

Reports from Baba Demb and adjoining areas show mounds of broken bricks, timber waste, demolition material and garbage lying along the lagoon margins, with some stretches appearing heavily disturbed.

Concerned citizens alleged that such dumping is no longer confined to isolated pockets but has become a recurring pattern across areas surrounding Brari Nambal, including Baba Demb, Babapora and Khayam.

Locals claimed that debris from nearby construction activity, commercial establishments and scrap-related activity was allegedly being deposited near the water body, raising fears that sections of the lagoon are being slowly choked and converted into usable land.

"This is not ordinary littering. The lagoon is being buried bit by bit," a local told the news agency Kashmir News Trust while expressing concern over the visible accumulation of waste.

According to KNT, Brari Nambal, historically linked to Srinagar's old aquatic network and once connected through the Nallah Mar canal system, has already suffered decades of ecological decline due to pollution, shrinking water spread and disrupted drainage.

Environmental observers warned that unchecked dumping and alleged reclamation around wetlands and lagoons could accelerate ecological collapse, damage biodiversity and further weaken Srinagar's fragile water system. The latest situation has renewed questions over monitoring and enforcement in protected and environmentally sensitive zones surrounding Brari Nambal.

Concerned citizens demanded immediate intervention by the concerned agencies and district administration to identify those responsible for illegal dumping, remove accumulated waste and prevent further encroachment, if confirmed.

SMC Mobilises Hopper Vehicles & Tippers for Waste Collection

Observer News Service

Srinagar: As part of Eid-ul-Azha sanitation preparedness exercise, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) on Monday said they have mobilised an extensive network of men, machinery and transport vehicles across all 35 municipal wards to ensure swift collection and disposal of sacrificial animal waste across the city.

An official of SMC said that at least 186 drivers and operators, along with a large fleet of hopper vehicles, tippers and waste carriers, will be deployed ward-wise for the Eid sanitation drive.

He said the special operation will begin on second day of Eid-ul-Azha—May 28. The field staff and transport wings have been directed to remain on high alert to avoid the accumulation of animal waste in public places.

The official said dedicated hopper services and mobile collection units will operate across major city areas, including Downtown Srinagar, Lal Chowk, Hazratbal, Batamalo, Bemina, Chanapora, Pantha Chowk, Khanyar, Nowshera, Safa Kadal, Eidgah outskirts and uptown localities.

He said the corporation has already put "men and ma-

chinery on toes" and all departments concerned have been instructed to ensure zero-delay response during Eid days.

"Comprehensive arrangements have been made for the scientific disposal of sacrificial waste. Hopper vehicles, transport carriers, loaders and sanitation teams are being kept ready from the second day of Eid. Emergency manpower has also been kept on standby," the official said.

The official added that control mechanisms have been established ward-wise and residents can directly contact designated drivers and field teams for lifting of hides, skins and sacrificial waste.

According to the official deployment list, accessed by KNO, multiple vehicles and drivers have been earmarked for each ward to ensure uninterrupted collection services in densely populated areas.

The SMC has appealed to people not to dump animal waste along roadsides, water bodies, open spaces or drains and instead cooperate with sanitation workers for maintaining hygiene during the festival.

"Public cooperation is equally important. Citizens should use the free collection service and avoid mixing sacrificial waste with routine household garbage," the official said.

District NCORD meeting DC, SSP Call for Continued Collective Enforcement efforts

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Monday chaired a meeting of the District Level NCORD Committee to review the impact and progress achieved under the ongoing 100-day anti-drug campaign being implemented across the district.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Dr. Sundeep Chakravarty was also present in the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Regional Transport Officer Kashmir, Qazi Irfan; Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aadil Fareed; SP Headquarter, Umar Shah; IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas; SDM West, Irfan Bahadur; SDM East, Zubair Ahmad; and Officers from Excise, Drug Control Organisation, DYS&S, heads

of ATF's and Officers of other concerned departments.

At the outset, the meeting held a comprehensive review of the District's anti-



drug strategy, enforcement actions and preventive interventions undertaken during the ongoing 100-days anti-drug Jammu and Kashmir Nasha Mukti Abhiyan. During the meeting, it was informed that intensified enforcement operations and coordinated action against drug peddling networks have yielded significant results across Srinagar district.



LG Visits Hazratbal Shrine, Reviews Eid-ul-Adha Arrangements

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday visited the sacred Hazratbal Shrine to review preparations for the upcoming auspicious festival of Eid-ul-Adha.

He was accompanied by Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board; Mufti Reyaz ul Haq, Chief Imam Hazratbal Shrine; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Rajiv Omprakashn, DIG

CKR; Dr. GV Sundeep Chakravarty, SSP Srinagar; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Faz Lul Haseeb, Municipal Commissioner Srinagar and officials from all line departments.

During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor reviewed the water supply, sanitation, electricity and other facilities being put in place for smooth conduct of the festival. He instructed the senior officers to ensure that every arrangement is carried out with diligence.

"The festival reminds us of the virtues of humility and charity, inspiring us to dedicate ourselves to the greater good of humanity. We will ensure that the celebration is not only well-organized but also truly grand, marked by devotion and festive fervor," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Spiritual leaders, Waqf officials, senior officers of Police and Civil administration and prominent citizens were also present.

Eid-ul-Adha Markets Wear Festive Look across City

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Markets across Srinagar city wore a festive look on Monday as thousands of shoppers thronged major business hubs ahead of Eid-ul-Adha.

According to the details available with KNO, the Valley witnessed hectic buying of clothes, footwear, bakery items, sacrificial animals and other items.

The famous Lal Chowk markets, Goni Khan, Maharaja Bazar, Residency Road, Jamia Market, Maisuma and Bohri Kadal remained abuzz with activity throughout the day as families, youth and children rushed to complete Eid shopping.

The historic markets around Jamia Masjid and Pather Masjid areas, also witnessed good footfall, with shoppers purchasing traditional wear, spices, bakery items, perfumes

and prayer essentials.

Despite intermittent rainfall in the afternoon, markets continued to remain crowded, with the cool weather adding to the festive atmosphere as shopkeepers extended business hours amid growing customer rush.

Traders said business picked up during the past few days. Shops dealing in readymade garments, footwear, cosmetics, bakery products and more witnessed brisk sales.

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

(ADMISSION -2026) POSTGRADUATE (PG) PROGRAMMES

Central University of Kashmir announces admissions to Postgraduate Programmes for the academic session 2026-2027. Candidates who have appeared in CUET-PG-2026 and are interested in seeking admission to any of the Postgraduate (PG) Programmes (as shown below), offered by the University, are hereby informed to register for admission as per the following schedule:

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FOR REGISTRATION

Registration Link & Detailed Information shall be available on	http://cukashmircuet.samarth.edu.in/pg
Registration Link shall be open from	21 st May, 2026
Registration Link shall close on	11 th June, 2026 (upto 11:55 PM)
Registration Fee	General/UR = Rs.200/- SC/ST/OBC/PwD/EWS/Women Candidate = Rs.100/-

LIST OF POSTGRADUATE (PG) PROGRAMMES

S.No	Name of the programme	S.No	Name of the programme
1.	M.A. English	12.	M.Sc. Botany
2.	M.A. Urdu	13.	M.Sc. Chemistry
3.	M.Com	14.	M.Sc. Zoology (Lateral Entry)
4.	M. A. Mass Communication & Journalism	15.	M.Sc. Biotechnology (Lateral Entry)
5.	M. A. Economics	16.	M.Sc. Physics (Lateral Entry)
6.	M. A. Political Science	17.	M.Sc. Mathematics (Lateral Entry)
7.	M.A. Kashmiri	18.	MBA (Master of Business Administration)
8.	LLM	19.	MBA (Travel & Tourism Management)
9.	M.Ed.	20.	M.A Philosophy (with specialization in Religious Studies)
10.	Integrated B.Ed.-M.Ed.	21.	M. Tech. (Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning)
11.	M.P.Ed	22.	M. Tech. (Structural Engineering)

NOTE:

- While registering for admission, the candidates are required to exercise the same options, as reflected by them in National Testing Agency (NTA)-CUET-PG-2026 application form. The admission shall be purely based on CUET-PG-2026 Score/Merit.
- For admission to MBA and MBA (TTM), the preference will be first given to candidates who have appeared/qualified CMAT 2026. In the event of seats remaining vacant thereafter, candidates who have appeared in CUET (PG) 2026 in the relevant subject/paper code shall be considered for admission strictly on the basis of CUET Score/Merit.
- For admission to M.Tech. Programmes, the preference will be first given to candidates coming through CCMT-2026 based on their GATE Score. In the event of seats remaining vacant thereafter, candidates who have appeared in CUET (PG) 2026 in the relevant subject/paper code shall be considered for admission strictly on the basis of CUET Score/Merit.

For queries related to registration process, candidates are advised to contact on: +919469147277 during office hours (i.e. from 09:00 AM to 5:00 PM)
No:CUKmr/DOA/Admission.PG-05/2026/136
Dated: 20-05-2026
S/d Director I/C
Directorate of Admissions

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

AIRPORTS
SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS
SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
BIJBHARA: 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: 43
ZUHR 12:28
ASR 5: 25
Magrib 7:36
ISHA 9: 13

HIJRI CALENDAR
09 Zil-Hajj
1447

This Day In History

- 1961- USAF bomber flies Atlantic in a record of just over 3 hours
- 1966- Guyana (formerly British Guiana) declares independence from UK
- 1969- Apollo 10 astronauts returned to Earth
- 1970- The Soviet Tupolev Tu-144 becomes the first commercial transport to exceed Mach 2.
- 1972- US President Richard Nixon & Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev sign SALT accord
- 1980- Soyuz 36 carries 2 cosmonauts (1 Hungarian) to Salyut 6
- 1983- Space Shuttle Challenger moves to launch pad for STS-7
- 1983- NASA launches Exosat
- 1984-US President Ronald Reagan rules out US military intervention in Iran-Iraq war.

This Day In History

'Love Bug' Computer Virus Wreaks Fresh Havoc

AGENCIES

NEW YORK, MAY 05: Copycat variants of the "Love Bug" virus labeled "Joke" and "Moth-er's Day" infected computers around the world on Friday, a day after the most widespread cyberattack ever-wreaked havoc on business and government operations.

Tens of millions of the computers have been disabled so far as the virus, first detected in Asia, spread around the globe, forcing network administrators to shut down e-mail systems at major companies and penetrating the Pentagon, the Central Intelligence Agency and Britain's Parliament.

Security experts said the virus was far more devastating than last year's Melissa bug, with losses now counting in the billions from damaged data and the distractions of fighting the software scourge, and warned that it could take weeks to stem the invasion.

"There's a potential that anyone who receives this virus can go to the Internet and (n) tools to change codes within the virus program that can give the e-mail or the attachment a new name," said Simon Perry, vice president for security products at Computer Associates International Inc. (NYSE: CA - news).

The Islandia, N.Y. is a leading maker of anti-Virus software such as inoculiteT.

For the time being, most of the virus variants are only cosmetically different from the original virus. "Based on our research, we believe that the variants are coming from a number of different people," Perry said.

ASIA AND EUROPE TAKE STOCK OF IMPACT: Computer users woke up on Friday to the chilling implications for a world that is now so wired up that quarantining such bugs may prove an endless cat-and-mouse game — with far-reaching financial consequences.

Computer Economics, a market research firm located in Carlsbad, Calif, estimated that the virus already had caused \$2.61 billion dollars in damages worldwide, but most experts said precise figures would be difficult to pin down.

The impact of the bug in Asia on Friday was possibly muted by the fact the markets in four countries—Japan, South Korea, China and Thailand - were closed for public holidays on Friday.

European Enterprise Commissioner Erkki Liikanen said: "The Love Bug is a warning to us all that security must be given top priority if consumer and user confidence is to be maintained as we move into the information age."

A German government spokeswoman said the virus had penetrated its foreign, justice, interior and economics ministries. The spokesman reported no serious damage as the interior ministry called in a special task force to advise on counter-measures.

Britain's Consumers Association said 30 to 50 percent of UK businesses seemed to be affected. "It is spreading very rapidly. Yesterday we had 10 to 15 percent," said Alan Stevens.

Kit experts warned the full effects of the bug may carry through the weekend.

(Kashmir Observer, May 26, 2000)

PUBLIC NOTICE

My father's name has been wrongly written as Ab Hamid Bhat in my Service Book. Now I want to change my father's name to Abdul Hamid Bhat in my Service Book.

Anybody having any objection in this regard, may contact JKAP 12 BN Sheikh Pora Budgam within seven days from the publication of this notice, after which no objection will be entertained.

Anwar Kamal Bhat
S/O: Abdul Hamid Bhat
R/O: Nund Reshi Colony B Plot No: 36 B/A Bemina, Srinagar hko

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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KO VIEW

After Budgam Horror

Kashmir has long taken pride in the closeness of its communities.

Children walked through villages with familiar faces around them. Parents trusted neighbours, local shopkeepers and crowded lanes that felt socially connected and emotionally secure.

A child heading to school, tuition or a Darsghah rarely sparked fear inside a family home.

That sense of trust suffered a devastating blow this Sunday.

A 12-year-old girl from Budgam disappeared on Saturday evening. Her family searched desperately through the night before approaching police. The next morning, her body was found only a short distance from her home. Investigators say the case points to rape and murder. Police later arrested a local man after examining CCTV footage, witness accounts and forensic evidence.

The speed of the investigation brought some reassurance, but the crime itself shattered something much larger.

Kashmir reacted with grief and anger because this case touched a fear many parents already carried silently. Children walk daily to schools, tuition centers and Darsghahs through roads families know well. Parents wave goodbye believing local communities still watch over them. This tragedy exposed how vulnerable that belief has become.

Social media in Kashmir filled with photographs of the child, emotional messages and demands for justice. Candlelight marches appeared in Budgam, Srinagar and several other areas as students, parents and activists gathered in silence holding placards and candles. Public anger felt intense because people saw this crime as more than a police case.

Many saw it as a sign of deeper social damage growing inside communities that once felt closely connected.

Political leaders and religious figures responded with visible anguish. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah called the killing deeply disturbing. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq asked what kind of society Kashmir is becoming if children cannot feel safe while seeking education and guidance. Those statements echoed public feeling on the ground.

This tragedy also exposed how easily communities depend on reaction instead of prevention. Public outrage rises after a horrific crime. Leaders condemn the violence. Candlelight marches fill the streets for a few evenings. Attention then slowly fades until another tragedy drags society back into grief and anger.

That cycle needs to end.

Child safety demands constant public alertness rather than emotional responses after catastrophe. Schools, mosque committees, local volunteers and parents need stronger coordination around isolated roads, transport routes and spaces where children move alone. Communities need honest conversations about abuse, predatory behaviour and online exploitation without silence or embarrassment blocking them.

Kashmir also needs stronger neighbourhood awareness. People once knew children from their localities by name. Adults noticed unusual behaviour quickly. Families stayed connected through regular social interaction and shared responsibility. Modern life has weakened many of those bonds while isolation and social distrust have grown stronger.

This tragedy needs more than one arrest. Kashmir needs to stay alert even after the social media anger fades.

While a family in Budgam is grieving, Kashmir now faces a hard question: do parents still feel safe letting their children walk home alone?

Kashmir's Viral Cruelty

A grieving mother in Shopian exposed something larger than social media excess: the collapse of privacy, restraint and due process in the digital age.



Suhail Gaznavi

A mother in Kashmir recently lost her child in the waters of Shopian's Dubjan area during a picnic. Within moments, mobile phones rose into the air.

Videos captured her screams, her collapse, and her devastation. Clips spread rapidly through Facebook pages and WhatsApp groups while strangers consumed her grief like breaking entertainment.

That scene should disturb far more than our emotions. It exposes a dangerous collapse in public morality and legal restraint.

Kashmir, like the rest of India, now lives inside a digital culture where private suffering turns into viral spectacle within minutes. Phones record first, humanity comes later.

India's Constitution speaks clearly on this question.

Article 21 guarantees the right to life and personal liberty. The Supreme Court, in Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) vs Union of India, affirmed privacy as a fundamental right inseparable from human freedom and personal autonomy.

That protection extends far beyond homes and bank accounts. It includes dignity during moments of pain, tragedy and vulnerability.

The grieving mother in Shopian received none of that protection.

A civilized society understands that some moments belong only to the people enduring them. Death, trauma and shock call for compassion and restraint. Social media culture has produced the opposite instinct.

Public tragedy now functions as raw material for engagement, clicks and online visibility.

This crisis also exposes the widening gap between journalism and what many Kashmiris now describe as "Facebook hawkers."

Journalism rests on ethics, verification and restraint. Responsible reporters understand the consequences of exposure. They weigh public interest against human harm, verify before publication and avoid turning pain into spectacle.

Facebook hawkers operate through an entirely different logic. Speed outranks truth, virality overwrites accuracy, and sensational captions replace reporting. Human suffering becomes content designed to generate reactions and shares.

That transformation has devastating consequences for the justice system as well.

Criminal law functions through a foundational principle: an accused person remains innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Social media has almost erased that principle from public culture.

The moment an F.I.R. surfaces, photographs circulate online, accusations harden into accepted truth and public opinion delivers punishment before investigation even begins.

Courts examine evidence, social media rewards outrage. This phenomenon damages far more than individual reputations. Fair investigation suffers when digital mobs construct narratives before facts emerge. Witnesses become influenced by online pressure, public discourse turns poisonous, and acquittals lose meaning because the internet rarely forgets an allegation once it turns viral.

Kashmir has witnessed this trend repeatedly. Names, photographs and personal details spread through Facebook pages within hours of arrests or accusations. Comment sections transform into public courtrooms where abuse replaces evidence and anger substitutes legal process.



This debate has nothing to do with hostility toward free media. Democracy depends upon a strong and independent press capable of questioning power and informing citizens. Kashmir especially understands the importance of credible journalism during politically and socially tense periods.

lice action. Those posts gather likes, comments and shares while legal safeguards collapse in plain sight.

This debate has nothing to do with hostility toward free media. Democracy depends upon a strong and independent press capable of questioning power and informing citizens. Kashmir especially understands the importance of credible journalism during politically and socially tense periods.

Freedom of expression, however, functions alongside responsibility. Rights gain strength through ethical exercise. Public platforms cannot become instruments for harassment, misinformation and reckless exposure of vulnerable people.

Legal enforcement now needs sharper focus. Existing privacy protections, defamation laws and child-protection provisions need swift implementation instead of symbolic existence on paper. Authorities also need stronger mechanisms tailored to digital platforms where harmful content spreads within seconds.

Social media companies bear responsibility too. Platforms profit enormously from viral engagement while harmful content flourishes unchecked. Stronger fact-checking systems, faster removal procedures and active cooperation with law enforcement should form part of basic platform accountability.

Law alone, however, cannot repair this culture.

Society itself needs moral clarity about the difference between witnessing and exploiting. Possessing a smartphone does not create automatic entitlement to broadcast another person's suffering. Human pain should awaken empathy rather than content creation instincts.

Neither grief is entertainment, nor allegation is conviction. Childhood mistakes should never become permanent public branding.

Kashmir's tragedy in Shopian simply exposed a society increasingly comfortable watching suffering through screens instead of responding with humanity.

That grieving mother entered a moment no parent should ever endure. Strangers transformed that agony into viral material within minutes.

Article 21 promises privacy as constitutional right rather than optional courtesy dependent on internet behaviour. Those protections lose meaning when digital culture rewards humiliation, exposure and public shaming.

Kashmir now stands before a serious question: will humanity guide technology, or will virality govern public life?

The answer may determine whose pain becomes tomorrow's spectacle.

The author is an advocate practicing at the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in Srinagar. He can be reached at suhailadv13@gmail.com.

Inside Kashmir's Arafah Economy

The sacred day before Eid al-Adha fuels a massive flow of livestock, spending and charity that keeps large parts of Kashmir's local economy alive.



Dr. Bilal Ahmad Ganaie

The Day of Arafah holds deep meaning for Muslims. Families in Kashmir spend the day in prayer, fasting and preparation for Eid al-Adha.

Homes prepare for guests, and markets stay busy deep into the night as people buy food, clothes and essentials for the days ahead.

Most chatter about Arafah focus on faith alone. Another story moves beside it, though, and Kashmir sees it clearly every year.

Arafah also pushes a huge wave of economic activity through the valley.

That movement begins weeks before Eid.

Truckloads of sheep enter Kashmir through the Jammu-Srinagar highway. Livestock markets in Srinagar, Baramulla and Anantnag fill with buyers and traders. Bakers increase production, butchers prepare for packed schedules, and small shopkeepers stock extra goods hoping festival sales will ease months of financial pressure.

This seasonal business carries serious economic weight.

According to the Mutton Dealers Association Kashmir, nearly 60,000 sheep entered the valley for Eid-ul-Adha in 2024. The association estimated that mutton consumption during the festival period reached nearly Rs 72 crore. Around 1,800 trucks carrying live sheep entered Kashmir between May 15 and June 15 last year. Total livestock stock entering the valley during that period touched nearly Rs 324 crore.

Those numbers tell an important story about Kashmir's economy.

One sheep sold in a local market supports many people before it reaches a family home. Transport workers earn money moving livestock into the valley. Fodder suppliers gain larger business during the season. Labourers find temporary work in mandis. Butchers, grocery stores and bakery owners see a sharp rise in customers.

Cash moves quickly through neighbourhoods during these days. Auto-rickshaw drivers secure more passengers, tea stalls stay crowded, and families shop for spices, bakery items and cooking supplies before Eid gatherings begin.

Many small businesses depend heavily on this season because the rest of the year often brings uncertainty.

Rising prices, weak consumer spending and higher transport costs have placed serious pressure on local traders in recent years. Several livestock dealers spoke last year about slower sales



and unsold animals remaining in markets as buyers struggled with shrinking household budgets.

That pressure has made Eid business even more important.

Kashmir imports huge quantities of mutton every year because local production cannot meet public demand. Eid-ul-Adha sharply increases that demand within a short time.

The result creates a short but powerful commercial boom that supports traders, labourers and transport workers linked to the livestock economy.

This economic activity also holds a strong social side. Families distribute meat among relatives, neighbours and poorer households as part of religious tradition. Donations rise

sharply during these days. People contribute food, clothes and financial support to families facing hardship.

Money flows through markets while charity flows through communities.

That combination gives Arafah a deeper meaning in Kashmir.

Faith and economic life move together during these days rather than pulling society in separate directions. Religious tradition pushes people toward spending, sharing and supporting others at the same time.

That reality becomes visible throughout the valley.

Markets stay crowded late into the evening. Rural traders travel long distances hoping strong sales will support their households for months. Bakeries work through the night preparing bread and pastries for Eid gatherings. Families move between shops carrying bags filled with food and gifts.

Prayer remains the soul of Arafah, but economic life gives the day another powerful dimension that deserves attention.

Faith fills Kashmir's mosques, while commerce fills its streets.

And charity connects both in ways that keep communities moving long after Eid prayers end.

The author is a columnist who writes on economy, society and public life in the region. He can be reached at gnbilal25@gmail.com.

The Philosophy of Eid al-Adha

At a time shaped by pressure, division and self-interest, the festival's message of sacrifice, compassion and moral discipline feels more relevant than ever



Er Umair Ul Umar

Eid al-Adha enters Kashmir with crowded markets, busy kitchens and families gathering after morning prayers. Children wait for gifts, relatives visit one another and neighbourhoods come alive with celebration.

Most people see the festival through those familiar traditions, but its deeper message has far greater meaning.

Eid al-Adha stands on the idea that human beings grow through sacrifice, discipline and compassion. The festival asks people to place faith, honesty and moral duty above selfish desire.

That lesson speaks powerfully to modern society, where personal ambition often takes center stage.

The foundation of Eid al-Adha comes from the story of Prophet Ibrahim and his son Prophet Ismail.

God commanded Ibrahim to sacrifice the child he loved most. The command brought an enormous emotional test, though Ibrahim accepted it with complete faith. Ismail showed the same trust and obedience.

That moment turned sacrifice into a lasting lesson for humanity.

The story explains the central philosophy of Eid al-Adha. Faith gains meaning through action. Belief becomes real when people stand firm during difficult moments. Human character reveals itself through choices made under pressure.

The festival's first lesson centers on obedience to God. A believer places moral duty above personal attachment and worldly temptation. Easy situations rarely test faith



or character. Real commitment appears during moments demanding restraint and sacrifice.

That sacrifice reaches far beyond the ritual of slaughtering an animal. Eid al-Adha asks people to confront pride, greed, anger and selfishness within themselves. A meaningful celebration begins with inner change.

Daily life already contains many forms of sacrifice. Students spend years working toward education while others enjoy comfort and leisure. Parents spend their lives building better futures for their children. Teachers devote time and energy to guiding young minds.

Honest work, discipline and service all demand personal sacrifice.

EID AL-ADHA CALLS PEOPLE TOWARD COMPASSION, SACRIFICE AND MORAL RESPONSIBILITY. Its message remains deeply relevant for Kashmir today, where stronger communities depend upon empathy, honesty and social trust.

Eid al-Adha brings those lessons together through a spiritual and moral framework. The festival

teaches that meaningful goals demand commitment and sincerity. Its social message also has enormous

importance in Kashmir.

Families distribute meat among relatives, neighbours and poor households during the festival. That tradition strengthens social bonds in a direct and human way.

A struggling family receiving food during Eid receives more than a meal. The gesture brings care, inclusion and emotional support. People facing hardship feel seen by the larger community.

Those acts strengthen families and neighbourhoods at a time when financial pressure continues to grow in many homes.

Compassion remains one of the strongest values within Islamic teaching. Eid al-Adha turns that principle into action. Communi-

ties become stronger when people think beyond personal comfort and remember those facing hardship.

Kashmir's culture has long valued hospitality and collective care. Eid al-Adha strengthens that spirit through generosity rooted in faith and shared responsibility.

Students can also draw powerful lessons from the festival.

Prophet Ismail remains a symbol of discipline, respect and commitment. Young people searching for direction can find guidance in his example.

Education gains real meaning when joined with moral character. Knowledge without honesty creates selfishness, while academic success without compassion weakens society.

Students therefore have responsibilities extending far beyond classrooms and examinations.

Respect for parents and teachers forms the foundation of good character. Patience strengthens growth, truthfulness builds trust, and knowledge used for public welfare strengthens society itself.

The Holy Quran captures the spiritual essence of Eid al-Adha in a powerful verse: "Neither their meat nor their blood reaches God, but your piety reaches Him."

That verse explains the festival with remarkable clarity. God seeks sincerity, purity of intention and righteous conduct.

Ritual alone has little meaning without moral growth.

Eid al-Adha therefore stands as far more than an annual celebration. It calls people toward compassion, sacrifice and moral responsibility. Its message remains deeply relevant for Kashmir today, where stronger communities depend upon empathy, honesty and social trust.

A meaningful Eid lives through action. Caring for poor families, respecting elders, strengthening relationships and improving personal conduct bring the true philosophy of Eid al-Adha into everyday life.

— The author is an Educator at GGHSS Yaripora Kalgam and can be reached at umairulumar77@gmail.com.

The House You Left

A heartfelt portrait of rural Kashmir and the emotional distance growing between people and their roots.



Palveen Kour

The world feels fast these days. Everything keeps growing taller and louder. Trains rush forward, cities climb higher, and screens keep glowing even in the morning light.

From my corner of Kashmir, I see it all. The air here moves slow, like a soft prayer. I stay steady while life races ahead, and that steady pace keeps me alive.

I am your village. I helped you become who you are.

Each day begins the same way. Birds sing from the walnut trees and roosters wake the morning light. The smell of fresh chapattis travels across the courtyards before the grass even dries. The stove warms up, tea starts to boil, and clay cups heat the hands that hold them.

These hands may look rough now, though they once held you with all the softness in the world. They carry soil and fire each day. They put food in front of you without asking for thanks. They shaped your life in ways you only start to understand when you move farther away.

My children wake early because the sun rises on time here. Some take their tools and head to the fields where the cows wait for them. Others sweep the verandas before walking to school along narrow paths lined with bright mustard flowers.

When they come back home, the



school bags drop first and laughter fills the yard. They chase chickens, splash water at the tap, and play with things they make from mud: A small plate, a tiny cup, and a doll with hair made from old threads.

Their happiness grows from what their own hands create.

Seeds teach them patience. Winter teaches them courage. Animals teach them responsibility with their trusting eyes. No book tells them to help their elders. They learn these things from the wind, the soil, and the stories they hear every day.

Some say I belong to the past. They think a simple life means no progress.

I wish they looked a little closer.

The tired hands they often ignore are the hands that feed them. They pick apples and pears from orchards planted long before concrete took over the cities. They stand in snow that bites into the bones and in heat that turns skin the colour of the soil they work.

They still smile, because a smile costs nothing and gives so much.

When autumn arrives, the Chinar leaves turn red and gold before falling to the ground. My people gather them like treasure and burn them in small piles.

The smoke tells everyone that winter is on its way. The ash turns into

warmth. The warmth gathers around a kangri held close.

When the lights go out and electricity fails, candles glow in the windows. Faces shine in their soft light and memories feel closer.

Rice cooks slowly on the lakdi bukhari while conversations move through the rooms with no hurry at all. Night brings a feeling of freedom. Doors stay open for neighbours, and worries soften under a sky full of stars that city lights can never hide.

Anyone passing by will always find another cup of kahwa waiting.

This is the life that raised you. It taught you to share happiness and

sorrow with the same open heart.

Cities have their own gifts. They give you the shine you once wished for. You go there with hope and stay connected through calls and photos instead of visits.

Your name is still on my lips even when your feet no longer touch this soil.

The fields that once rang with loud laughter now wait for voices that never return. Even the old Chinar looks around, wondering where its children have gone. Its roots keep the earth steady while memories rest like leaves that dropped too soon.

I understand your wish to explore the world. I do not carry any anger. I only whisper one thing: remember me. When life feels too fast and you feel tired from all the chasing, think of the warmth here that never needed electricity.

Think of the love that came from a simple bowl of rice.

And think of the care that arrived without a single question.

Bring your children back someday. Let them chase chickens and wake up to the rooster's call.

Let them walk barefoot and feel the earth welcome them. Let them see the place where you first learned what home means.

I am still here with the same hills behind me, the same stream washing my stones, and the same sky full of stars above.

You belong to this soil even when you are far away from it.

I am your beginning, your first teacher, your place of peace.

Come back when you can, because the love here never left.

Do not forget me.

— The author is a Srinagar-based Biotechnology postgraduate student and the writer of three books. She also volunteers with NGOs, teaching children in rural Kashmir.

THE FIELDS THAT ONCE RANG WITH LOUD LAUGHTER NOW WAIT FOR VOICES THAT NEVER RETURN. Even the old Chinar looks around, wondering where its children have gone. Its roots keep the earth steady while memories rest like leaves that dropped too soon.

Jammu Sizzles At 40.3°C Amid Continuing Heat Wave

Agencies

Jammu: Jammu, May 25: There is no respite from the prevailing heat wave conditions as the Jammu city today experienced the maximum temperature around 40.3 degrees Celsius.

Jammu district today recorded a maximum of 40.3 degrees Celsius, and the minimum was 24.6 degrees Celsius, while Katra town in Reasi district was the second hottest place at 37.8 degrees Celsius and the minimum temperature was 22.6 degrees Celsius.

However, Banihal recorded 25.6 degrees Celsius, Bhatote 28.1 degrees Celsius, and Bhabarwah 27.2 degrees Celsius, according to the data provided by the MeT department.

Meanwhile, a MeT official said that May 25 experienced generally dry weather with brief showers, gusty winds, and

hailstorms towards late afternoon hours at scattered places, and May 26-27 will experience generally hot and dry weather.

However, May 28 and 29 will experience generally cloudy with one or two spells of rain, thundershowers and hailstorms with gusty winds at scattered to fairly widespread places and May 30 to June 3, the weather will be generally dry with brief spells of rain and thundershowers at isolated places towards late afternoon hrs can't be ruled out.

The Jammu and Kashmir School Education Department has announced summer vacations for Classes 1 to 6 (Primary) from June 1 to July 22 and for Classes 7 to 12 from June 8 to July 22.

The hilly tourist spots like Bhabarwah, Kishtwar, Patnitop, Nathatop, Sanasar, and Bani in the Jammu Division also witnessed a rush of visitors in view of prevailing hot weather conditions.

Omar Meets Legislators, VCs, Delegations at Civil Secretariat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday met legislators, vice chancellors and several delegations at the Civil Secretariat here and discussed a range of issues related to regional development, public welfare, higher education, healthcare and infrastructure.

Adelegation of MLAs comprising Javid Iqbal from Budhal, Muzaffar Iqbal Khan from Thanamandi, Choudhary Mohammed Akram from Surankote and Itikhar Ahmed from Rajouri called on the Chief Minister and raised various developmental and public welfare issues concerning the Pir Panjal region.

MLA Kulgam M Y Tarigami and MLA Shopian Shabir Ahmad Kullay also separately met the Chief Minister and apprised



him of matters related to their respective constituencies.

MLA Budgam Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi discussed the overall situation in the Budgam constituency and issues concerning the forthcoming month of Muharram-2026 during his meeting with the Chief Minister.

Vice Chancellor of Cluster University Srinagar Prof Mohammad Mobin briefed the Chief Minister about the university's recent progress and developmental initiatives.

Vice Chancellor of Central University of Kashmir Prof A

Ravinder Nath also met Omar Abdullah and apprised him of the institution's academic and developmental activities.

Director of Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Prof M Ashraf Ganie discussed various issues and developments concerning the premier healthcare institution.

Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Construction Company Arjun Dhawan also called on the Chief Minister and briefed him about ongoing works being executed by the company in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the delegations and reiterated the government's commitment towards inclusive development, strengthening public institutions and addressing people's concerns in a responsive manner.

Forest Fire Breaks Out In Rajouri, Vast Forest Area Damaged

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: A major forest fire broke out in the Nowshera belt of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Monday, causing extensive damage to large tracts of forest land, officials said.

The blaze erupted under mysterious circumstances and quickly spread to several areas in the Nowshera region, fanned by dry vegetation and prevailing weather conditions, they added.

Soon after receiving information about the incident, teams of the Forest Department, Jammu and Kashmir Fire and Emergency Services, and local volunteers launched a massive operation to contain the fire and prevent

it from spreading further.

A video circulating on social media showed vast stretches of forest engulfed in flames, while the distress calls of hundreds of birds, including peacocks, could be heard in the background. The footage prompted widespread concern among residents and environmentalists, who urged authorities to intensify efforts to save wildlife and douse the flames at the earliest.

Officials informed that fire-fighting teams were working tirelessly in the difficult terrain to bring the blaze under control and safeguard the ecologically sensitive area.

The fire has destroyed large areas of plantation and other forest wealth, causing significant ecological damage,

Search Under Op Sheruwali Enters 3rd Day In Rajouri

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Security forces busted a terrorist hideout after a brief firing as the search operation to track down suspected militants believed to be hiding in the dense woods of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district entered the third consecutive day on Monday, officials said.

An encounter broke out between terrorists and security forces in the Dorimal-Gambhir Moghla belt on

Saturday following the launch of 'Operation Sheruwali' by a joint team of the Army, police and paramilitary forces.

"The operation to track down suspected terrorists is going on amid a strong cordon. Surveillance has also been put in place," they said.

Armed with drones and sniffer dogs, joint teams have expanded the searches to adjoining areas, intensifying operations and strengthening the cordon with the induction of



additional troops to track down the suspected terrorists believed to be hiding in the area, officials said.

There was brief firing in the area before a hideout was busted, they said. According to reports, there was speculative firing towards the hideout.

The hideout contained eatables, cold drinks, water bottles, pickles, clothes, bags and polythene covers. It appeared these were personal belongings of terrorists, they said.

The security forces also found blood stains, possibly of terrorists who seemed to have been hiding there before the area came under assault by the forces, reports said.

A joint team of the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) launched a massive cordon-and-search operation in the area on Saturday following specific inputs about the movement of suspected terrorists.

The operation led to a brief

exchange of fire after contact was established with the suspected terrorists, prompting security forces to continue extensive searches in the forested terrain. According to preliminary reports, the movement of two to three terrorists was suspected in the area.

The Army's White Knight Corps said on X that contact was established with terrorists around 11:30 am on Saturday in the general area of Gambhir Moghla.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Fight Is To End

is left behind. We will provide jobs, opportunities and the means to live with dignity," he said, adding that the success of a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir would be measured by the number of lives rebuilt and families restored.

The Lieutenant Governor also called for collective public participation in the anti-drug campaign and said the government alone could not win the battle.

"We need the support of families, teachers, religious leaders and every responsible citizen. When people stand united, no narco-terror network or drug cartel can infiltrate society," he said.

On the occasion, Sinha inaugurated the Waqar Knowledge Centre in Bandipora under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan initiative.

The centre has been established to support recovering addicts through rehabilitation, engagement and reintegration programmes. It includes a sports corner, badminton court, reading library and an information desk providing guidance on education, employment, skill development and government welfare schemes.

Officials said similar centres are planned in every block of the district to strengthen community-based anti-drug interventions and youth engagement initiatives.

Nation Salutes

moved promptly & after a 6-hour operation, rescued all passengers from 65 cable cars. All tourists are safe."

"I spoke with senior officials and directed them to ensure every necessary support is provided. The nation salutes the disaster response forces, Army, JKP and district administration for their valor and remarkable skill," he added. Meanwhile, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat announced commendation awards for police and rescue personnel involved in the successful rescue operation.

Addressing the rescue teams at Gulmarg Gondola, the DGP, praised the personnel for carrying out the difficult operation in harsh weather and mountainous terrain.

He said the rescue mission was completed despite major challenges, including rocky terrain, bad weather and the complexity of evacuating people from suspended cable cars.

"Today all of you have made J&K Police proud," the DGP said while commending the efforts of personnel from police, SOG, J&K Armed Police and SDRF.

He announced that all personnel involved in the operation would be nominated for awards. The DGP said those who have not yet received the DGP Commendation Disc will be awarded the honour, while personnel who have already received it will be considered for other commendation awards.

The DGP said the successful operation reflected the bravery, dedication and professionalism of the rescue teams, who continued the mission despite exhaustion and difficult conditions.

He also congratulated the officers and personnel for safely rescuing stranded tourists and completing the operation successfully late at night

J&K Govt Grants

from two days to three. Credit goes to CM Omar Abdullah Sb for this," NC spokesman Imran Nabi Dar posted on X.

"God forbid, if BJP had come to power here also, people would have to rush to their offices with their qurbani baskets in their hands," he added.

Petrol Up Rs 2.61

elections. Officials said the delayed revisions were aimed at gradually passing on the burden

of rising global crude oil prices to consumers. Brent crude had surged sharply in recent months following tensions in West Asia, disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz and the US-Israel conflict involving Iran.

Although crude prices eased on Monday amid tentative diplomatic developments between the US and Iran, domestic fuel prices continued their upward trend as oil companies adjusted for earlier losses.

The fresh hike is expected to further increase transportation and logistics costs and add to inflationary pressures across sectors.

Fuel rates now stand at Rs 111.21 per litre for petrol and Rs 97.83 for diesel in Mumbai, while in Kolkata prices rose to Rs 113.51 and Rs 99.82 respectively. In Chennai, petrol costs Rs 107.77 and diesel Rs 99.55 per litre.

The Congress attacked the government over the repeated hikes, accusing it of delaying price increases until after elections. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged that fuel prices were being raised in instalments to avoid public backlash.

Since mid-May, domestic LPG cylinder prices have also risen by Rs 60, while compressed natural gas (CNG) rates have gone up by Rs 4 per kg.

Despite the increases, industry officials said state-run oil marketing companies continue to suffer heavy under-recoveries due to elevated crude prices and losses on domestic LPG sales.

According to rating agency ICRA, oil companies are still incurring losses of around Rs 700-800 crore daily on the sale of auto fuels and LPG even after the latest price hike.

Budgam Minor's

zeroed in on one individual whose alleged involvement matched the material evidence collected during the probe.

"Within 36 hours we have solved the murder and rape case," SSP Prasad said.

The accused was identified by police as Mudasir Ahmad Mir, a resident of Galwanpora.

According to the SSP, the accused was confronted during questioning and allegedly confessed to the crime.

"Many suspects were detained. One particular suspect corroborated the material evidence. When confronted, he confessed," Hari Prasad said.

Police said some material evidence was recovered on the disclosure of the accused. The SSP said the motive behind the crime remained under investigation and further forensic and investigative procedures were continuing.

"We will ensure the accused are given the harshest punishment for such a gruesome crime," the police said.

The accused, according to residents, was residing in the neighbourhood, a revelation that intensified anger and grief across the area after police announced his arrest and claimed he had confessed to the crime.

Several residents termed the development as deeply disturbing, saying the fact that the accused belonged to the same neighbourhood has created more fear among families, particularly parents of young children.

"We are unable to process that someone living so close could commit such a horrific act," a resident said. "People are now asking who can really be trusted."

Another neighbour said, "We never imagined something like this could happen from someone living among us. If neighbours cannot be trusted, then who can?"

Women in the area said the incident has left parents terrified about the safety of their daughters, even within their own surroundings.

"Children used to move freely in the locality. Now every parent is scared. The fear is not from strangers anymore," said a mother of two.

Locals described the incident as not just a

heinous crime but also a deep social wound that has shaken the sense of security in the entire area.

After the arrest was announced, emotionally charged scenes were witnessed, with large crowds gathering in the locality and raising slogans demanding strict punishment for the accused.

The atmosphere remained tense throughout, as police and district administration officials maintained heavy deployment in the area to manage the crowds and maintain law and order.

Locals demanded speedy justice in the case and called for exemplary punishment to ensure deterrence against crimes involving children.

According to officials, the girl had left home on Saturday evening but failed to return, prompting her family and villagers to launch a desperate search. Police later registered a kidnapping case and began investigation.

Hope turned into horror on Sunday morning when her body was recovered from a field barely 200 metres from her house.

Police said preliminary investigation indicated that the case appeared to be one of rape and murder. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been constituted to probe the crime.

The brutality of the incident triggered strong reactions from political leaders, religious figures and civil society groups across Jammu and Kashmir.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah termed the incident "shocking and deeply distressing" and said society needed to introspect when children no longer felt safe.

"My government will support the agencies to the fullest extent possible to ensure exemplary punishment is given to those found guilty," he said.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha condemned the killing and called for strict action against the culprits.

Chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said he was "heartbroken and deeply disturbed" by the incident.

"What are we becoming as a society if our children cannot even feel safe on their way to seek education and guidance?" he asked.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti described the crime as "shocking, disconcerting and unsettling".

"One shudders at the thought of our children really being safe," she said.

Social Welfare Minister Sakina Itoo and Budgam MLA Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi visited the bereaved family and assured them that those responsible would be dealt with strictly under law.

As police continue investigations and search for the remaining accused, the incident has left Kashmir grieving and confronting difficult questions about safety, social change and the growing anxieties surrounding childhood and public trust.

Govt Took Rs 1 Lakh

revenues through excise duty cuts to protect consumers from the impact of rising global crude oil prices triggered by the West Asia conflict.

Addressing reporters on the sidelines of an event in New Delhi, Sitharaman said the latest increases in fuel prices were market-driven revisions carried out by oil marketing companies (OMCs) responding to soaring international crude prices.

"The increases now are coming from oil marketing companies because they are the ones procuring crude oil and selling the finished product," the finance minister said.

Petrol and diesel prices have risen by nearly Rs 7.5 per litre in four successive hikes since mid-May as state-run oil companies moved to narrow losses caused by the widening gap

between procurement costs and retail prices. Sitharaman said the Centre had previously reduced excise duties on petrol and diesel to cushion consumers from a sharper rise in prices.

"Had we not given that reduction at that time, a Rs 10 increase would have happened, which we absorbed. That is almost a Rs 1 lakh crore hit on the functional budget," she said.

The minister said the government would continue monitoring the situation closely as elevated crude oil prices posed challenges for the economy and foreign exchange reserves.

"These increases in prices are not minor. All this has to be paid through foreign exchange only. These are challenges, but I am confident we will be able to handle them," she said, adding that efforts would be made to ensure people do not suffer because of global developments "not of our making".

Sitharaman also echoed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent appeal for austerity and urged focus on what she termed the "3Fs" — fuel, fertiliser and forex — amid continuing instability in West Asia.

She said the conflict had led to high and fluctuating crude oil prices, a steep rise in fertiliser costs and pressure on foreign exchange reserves.

"There has been an unimaginable increase in fertiliser prices," she said, while cautioning against what she described as "fearmongering" by critics over the economic situation.

"India cannot afford fearmongering. We need to give confidence to the people with our words and actions," the minister said, asserting that India's domestic economy remained "positive and resilient" despite external pressures.

Highlighting broader economic challenges, Sitharaman also pointed to geopolitical disruptions reshaping global trade and supply chains, especially for exporters and small businesses.

She urged banks and financial institutions to redesign lending products according to the business cycles of small enterprises instead of relying on uniform repayment structures.

The finance minister further said delayed payments worth nearly Rs 8.1 lakh crore were hurting MSMEs and appealed to public sector undertakings to clear dues within the mandated 45-day period. (inputs from PTI)

Festive Buzz Returns,

kitchenware, footwear and bakery items said inflation and financial uncertainty had significantly affected consumer spending this year.

"Earlier, Eid shopping used to continue freely for days. This time customers calculate every expense carefully," said Abdul Rashid, a footwear trader from Handwara in Kupwara district.

Livestock dealers across the Valley also reported poor sales of sacrificial animals, saying affordability had become a major concern for many families.

At makeshift cattle markets in Srinagar, Pulwama, Baramulla and Bandipora, buyers were seen bargaining heavily, while many left without making purchases.

"People come, check rates and leave. Traders are struggling to recover transport and feeding costs," said Afaq Ahmad, a livestock dealer from Pulwama.

Another cattle trader from Anantnag said many dealers feared losses if demand failed to improve before Eid.

Bakery owners across Kashmir also expressed concern over declining sales of traditional bakery items usually in high demand during Eid festivities.

"Raw material costs have increased, while customers are purchasing smaller quantities," said Fayaz Ahmad, a bakery owner in Baramulla.

Despite sluggish sales, traders remain

hopeful that markets may witness a last-minute surge on the eve of Eid-ul-Adha, traditionally considered the busiest shopping day across the Valley. (inputs from KNO)

Sad NTA Has Not

including one filed by the Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA), have sought either a complete overhaul or replacement of the NTA, alleging repeated systemic failures in conducting the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG).

The plea argued that repeated paper leaks amounted to a "direct assault" on the rights of more than 22 lakh students appearing for the examination.

The petitioners have also sought the constitution of a high-powered monitoring committee headed by a retired Supreme Court judge, along with cybersecurity and forensic experts, to oversee any re-examination process and prevent future leaks.

The NEET-UG 2026 examination conducted on May 3 was cancelled on May 12 amid allegations of paper leaks, now under investigation by the CBI.

According to the plea, the Rajasthan Police Special Operations Group (SOG) found that "guess papers" circulated on WhatsApp and Telegram allegedly contained 120 questions identical to those appearing in the actual Biology and Chemistry sections of the exam.

The petition alleged that despite claims of advanced security measures, including AI-monitored cameras, GPS tracking and 5G jammers, the safeguards largely existed "only on paper".

Referring to last year's controversy, the petition stated that authorities had failed to implement meaningful reforms despite judicial scrutiny and repeated warnings.

In 2024, while refusing to cancel the NEET examination despite the paper leak row, the Supreme Court had directed major reforms in the conduct of public examinations and expanded the mandate of the Radhakrishnan committee.

The committee had been tasked with recommending measures related to examination security, transportation of question papers, CCTV surveillance, candidate verification, encryption protocols, technological safeguards, grievance redressal systems and adoption of international best practices.

The fresh cancellation of NEET-UG 2026 has left lakhs of medical aspirants uncertain about re-examination schedules, counselling timelines and admission procedures.

The court has directed all parties to file their responses within three days.

NIA Raids Multiple

that Jel was actively involved in collecting terror funds and fuelling terrorism in the Valley and other parts of India.

"It was engaged in collecting funds domestically and internationally in the name of donations for charity and welfare activities, such as health and education.

"It was diverting such funds towards violent and secessionist activities, and also channeling them to proscribed terrorist organisations such as the Hizbul-Mujahideen (HM) and others through well-organised networks of cadres," an NIA statement said.

The Jel terror conspiracy also involved radicalisation and recruitment of impressionable Kashmiri youth as new members ('Rukuns') for carrying out secessionist activities, it said.

The NIA is continuing with its investigation into the case in a bid to end the outfit's secessionist activities and dismantle the terror network operating in J&K, the statement said.

Fresh Snowfall in Minamarg, Drass; Kashmir Plains Receive Rain

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Fresh snowfall was reported from Minamarg and the Drass sector near the strategic Zoji La axis on Monday, while rainfall and hailstorm lashed several parts of Kashmir.

An official told KNO the heavy snowfall covered the upper reaches of Minamarg and areas around Drass, reviving cold conditions in the region.

The fresh spell of snow led to a sharp dip in temperature in higher reaches, while several parts of Kashmir plains received rain and hailstorm during the day.

According to the Meteorological Department, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of



23.3 degrees Celsius, which was 2.1 degrees below normal, while the minimum settled at 13.0 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund recorded a maximum of 21.6 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 20.2 degrees Celsius, Kupwara 24.1 degrees Celsius, Kokernag

21.9 degrees Celsius and Gulmarg 13.6 degrees Celsius.

In Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 40.3 degrees Celsius, 1.9 degrees above normal, while Katra recorded 37.8 degrees Celsius and Batote 28.1 degrees Celsius.

The MeT department said Srinagar received 1.4 mm rainfall during the past 24 hours, while Pahalgam recorded 2.4 mm, Kupwara 3.1 mm and Gulmarg 2.0 mm rainfall.

The weather office has forecast generally dry weather during the forenoon on May 25, with the possibility of brief showers, gusty winds and hailstorm at scattered places towards afternoon or late afternoon hours.

It said weather is likely to remain generally hot and dry on May 26 and 27, while generally cloudy conditions with one or two spells of rain, thundershower, hailstorm and gusty winds are expected at scattered to fairly widespread places on May 28 and 29.

The MeT department has also issued an advisory warning of thunder, lightning, hailstorm and gusty winds with speeds of 40-50 kmph at a few places during Monday afternoon and again on May 28 and 29.

It further said heatwave conditions are likely at a few places in Jammu division during May 26 and 27 due to hot and dry weather.

CM sends Deputy CM to Gulmarg to Monitor Rescue Efforts

SRINAGAR: On the instructions of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary Monday visited Gulmarg to personally oversee the rescue operations following the temporary stoppage of the Gondola service due to a technical fault.

MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq Ahmed Shah, along with senior administrative and police officers, was also present on the site monitoring the situation closely and coordinating the rescue efforts.

The Jammu and Kashmir Government is closely monitoring the situation at the Gulmarg Gondola after the cable car service was temporarily halted due to a technical issue. Officials informed that all cabins remain intact and trained rescue teams are actively engaged on the ground to safely evacuate the stranded tourists.

The Deputy Chief Minister reviewed the ongoing rescue measures and directed all concerned agencies to ensure swift, coordinated and safe evacuation of the remaining passengers.

Authorities said that the majority of the stranded cabins have already been cleared and every effort is being made to safely evacuate those still awaiting rescue. The Government has assured that the situation is completely under control and there is no cause for panic. (Observer News Service)

80-90 Trucks with over 150 Sheep Each Reach Kashmir Daily: KMDA

SRINAGAR: Around 80 to 90 trucks carrying sheep to meet the growing demand for sacrificial animals across the Valley.

The Kashmir Mutton Dealers Association (KMDA) said each truck is carrying more than 150 sheep to meet the growing demand for sacrificial animals across the Valley.

Talking to KNO, Mehraj-ud-Din, General Secretary of KMDA, said the supply has increased steadily over the past few days as Eid markets begin witnessing heavy public footfall, especially during evening hours.

"Nearly 80 to 90 trucks loaded with sheep are entering Kashmir daily in the last week before Eid. Every truck carries over 150 sheep," he said.

He said apart from the livestock arriving from outside Jammu and Kashmir, local breeders and members of the Bakarwal community are also bringing sheep to various mandis and markets across the Valley.

Mehraj-ud-Din said the last two to three days are expected to witness further rush in livestock markets as Eid-ul-Adha draws closer and families begin finalising purchases.

He added that detailed figures related to total livestock arrivals, rates and overall Eid business would be compiled and shared after the festival. (Observer News Service)

CM Omar Hands over Regularisation orders to CPWs of School Education Department

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday handed over regularisation orders to Contingent Paid Workers (CPWs) of the School Education Department at Civil Secretariat function here. Minister for School Education Sakina Itoo was present on the occasion.

Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Special Secretary School Education Gulam Rasool Mir, Director School Education Kashmir Naseer Ahmed Wani and other senior officers of the concerned department were also present during the programme.

The Chief Minister individually handed over the regularisation orders to the CPWs from Ganderbal and Bandipora districts and extended his best wishes to them for their future service. He expressed hope that the employees would continue to work with sincerity, commitment and dedication towards strengthening the School Education Department and improving public service delivery.

The beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister and the government for addressing their long-pending issue and providing them regularisation orders. (Observer News Service)

DC Srinagar Visits B&J Hospital Barzulla; Inspects Progress of Work on Alternate Entry Gate

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Monday conducted a comprehensive visit to Bone and Joint (B&J) Hospital and the Sunner Kul Bund Road behind Super Speciality Hospital Shreen Bagh to inspect ongoing traffic decongestion measures and infrastructure upgradation works around key healthcare facilities in Srinagar district.

The visit aimed at assessing the progress of ongoing interventions undertaken to streamline vehicular movement and improve accessibility for patients, attendants and staff visiting the hospitals.

At Bone & Joint Hospital, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the development of an alternate entry gate to the Bone & Joint Hospital, construction of ramps and small Link Road connecting the main road with the Parking facilities through the Bund side along Bone and Joint Hospital Barzulla aimed at reducing congestion at the main gate and ensuring smooth passage for ambulances and other emergency vehicles.

While taking an on-site assessment of the new parking facility developed to address space constraints around the hospital, the DC was informed that the parking space for attendants and hospital staff is almost completed and will be made functional by June 15, 2026.

The DC also reviewed the progress on improvement works of alternate hospital entry gate to minimize bottlenecks to reduce roadside congestion, particularly during peak hours. He was informed that this part of the project is also nearing completion.

On the occasion, the DC directed all concerned departments to work in close coordination and ensure early completion of the works to facilitate smooth movement of ambulances and vehicles carrying patients, while reducing traffic interruptions in the larger public interest.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the progress of the Sunner Kul Bund Road development behind the Super Speciality Hospital as part of traffic decongestion and management measures in the critical medical zone surrounding the SMHS Hospital, Super Speciality Hospital and Dental College. (Observer News Service)

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR PATTAN

Sub: Issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth.. PUBLIC NOTICE

The registrar birth E0 MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Aayez Zainab D/o Zahoor Ahmad Dar R/o Duslipora Tehsil Singapore with verified date of birth 15/07/2021 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/-
Naib Tehsildar Pattan

'Haven't Seen Such Weather Before': Nomads Bear Brunt of Unusual Weather

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Every summer, long serpentine caravans of sheep, goats and horses begin climbing the rugged mountain tracks of Jammu and Kashmir as the nomadic Gujjar and Bakarwal communities undertake their centuries-old transhumance migration towards the high-altitude Himalayan meadows.

But this year, the journey has turned harsh and uncertain. Unusual snowfall, repeated hailstorms and incessant rain over the past several weeks have disrupted the traditional migration routes, leaving thousands of nomadic families struggling to protect their livestock — their only source of livelihood.

According to the details available with KNO from Gurez to Sonamarg and the upper reaches near Zoji La, fresh snowfall has continued well into late May, while evening hailstorms have become a near-daily phenomenon across several parts of Kashmir.

The mountains, which usually open into green grazing pastures by this time of the year, still remain partially buried under snow. "We have never seen weather like this in recent years. Every evening there is hailstorm or heavy rain. Our animals are weak, the routes are slippery and many families are stuck midway," said Mohammad Yousuf, a Bakarwal herder moving towards the upper reaches of Sonamarg with nearly 300 sheep.

Wrapped in a traditional pheran and standing beside drenched livestock near a



temporary roadside camp. Yousuf said the changing weather has increased fear among nomadic families.

"We spend nights in the open mountains. The children are shivering and the animals have no proper grass to graze because the meadows are still under snow," he added.

The worsening weather recently triggered a major tragedy in south Kashmir's Pahalgam area where more than 69 livestock animals were killed after lightning struck a pasture during heavy rain and thunderstorm.

For many nomadic families, such losses are devastating.

"One animal feeds an entire household. Losing dozens of sheep means losing a year's income," said 55-year-old tribal elder Abdul Rashid near Baltal. "The weather has become completely unpredictable now." The annual migration, locally known as Baharwal, is a vital seasonal movement in which Gujjar and Bakarwal tribes travel hundreds of kilometres from the plains of Jammu towards the alpine dhokas of Kashmir in search of fresh grasslands for grazing.

Traditionally, the migration follows a predictable rhythm shaped by weather and mountain conditions.

However, tribal communities say climate patterns have changed drastically in recent years.

"Earlier snowfall would end by April in many places, but this year even late May looks like winter in the mountains," said Shabir Ahmed, another shepherd from Rajouri district. "Every evening dark clouds gather suddenly and hail starts falling," he said.

The harsh weather has also slowed the movement of caravans along steep mountain passes, forcing many families to halt for days along highways and forest routes.

At several makeshift camps near Sonamarg, smoke rose from damp firewood as women prepared meals inside temporary tarpaulin shelters while children huddled beside livestock to escape the cold winds.

Officials from the Meteorological Department have predicted more rain, thunderstorms and hailstorm activity in the coming days, while fresh snowfall continues in higher reaches.

For Kashmir's nomadic tribes, the changing weather is no longer just a seasonal inconvenience — it is becoming a growing threat to a way of life carried through generations across the Himalayas.

CM Omar Hands Over Compassionate Appointment Letters to Beneficiaries

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday handed over appointment orders to beneficiaries under SRO-43 and the J&K Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (RAS) at the Civil Secretariat here, reaffirming the government's commitment towards supporting families who have suffered irreparable personal loss.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Satish Sharma, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and other senior officers were present during the distribution event.

The outstation Minister, officers and beneficiaries participated in the event through video conferencing.

A total of 52 appointees hailing from different districts of Jammu and Kashmir received appointment orders under SRO-43 and RAS during simultaneous events held in Srinagar and Jammu.

Addressing the newly-appointed beneficiaries, the Chief Minister said that the government was only fulfilling its responsibility and not extending any favour.

"The first thing I would like to say is that the government that has given you these orders here and in Jammu is not doing you a favour; it is our duty. While fulfilling this duty, we also realise that you have had to make a huge sacrifice to get these government orders,"



the Chief Minister said.

Drawing a distinction between ordinary recruitment process and the circumstances under which the beneficiaries had become eligible for compassionate appointment, the Chief Minister said that unlike regular aspirants who secure jobs through examinations and interviews, the appointees under these schemes have endured profound personal tragedies.

"To get a government job, we usually ask our children to pass examinations and interviews. But the test you have faced has been far more difficult because you had to lose someone dear to you to reach this stage. That is why I say we are not distributing these orders as a favour, but rather repaying a moral obligation," he added.

The Chief Minister observed that the government functions as one collective family and emphasized the importance of standing together in times of grief and hardship.

"We want this government and all of us working within it, whether in the Secretariat or outside, to function as one larger family. We must not only share each other's pain but also support one another during difficult circumstances. This initiative is a small step in that direction so that your families can move

forward and not suffer any further hardship," he said.

Urging the appointees to discharge their duties with sincerity and dedication, the Chief Minister said public service should always remain centred on helping people and contributing positively to society.

"Our only expectation from you is that wherever you are posted, you serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir with honesty, commitment and dedication. Whatever role we hold in government, our purpose remains the same — that when we return home in the evening, we should feel satisfied that our day's work has benefited someone. If you perform your duties honestly, that itself will be the greatest tribute to those whose memories brought you here today," he said.

The Chief Minister also reiterated the government's resolve to ensure that eligible beneficiaries are not made to run from office to office for compassionate appointments.

"We are committed to ensuring that you do not have to move from pillar to post to obtain your appointment orders. That would be a grave injustice to all of you. We will ensure that the process is expedited and all remaining cases are cleared at the earliest," he assured.

CS Reviews Implementation of PM's Reform Agenda

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Monday chaired a high-level review meeting with Administrative Secretaries of all departments to assess the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on implementation of actionable points emerging from the Prime Minister's interaction with Secretaries to the Government of India, with special emphasis on strengthening the "Whole of Government" approach, enhancing Ease of Living through end-to-end digitization of public services and undertaking comprehensive process reforms across the country.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary reiterated that the core objective of these reforms is to establish integrated governance, citizen-centric administration and technology-driven systems aimed at ensuring efficient, transparent and accountable delivery of services. He emphasized that departments must move beyond conventional silo-based functioning and work in close coordination to achieve larger developmental goals envisioned under Viksit Bharat @2047.



A detailed presentation on the Action Taken Reports pertaining to various reform initiatives was given by the Planning Development & Monitoring Department. The meeting was informed that several departments including Finance, School Education, Skill Development, Health & Medical Education, Housing & Urban Development, Agriculture Production, Social Welfare, Public Works, Tourism and Higher Education Departments have already adopted convergence-based governance models involving inter-departmental coordination, digital integration and collaborative implementation mechanisms.

Regarding the points of School Education Department it was revealed that vocational education has been expanded to more than 1,350 schools across Jammu & Kashmir with enrolment of over 1.41 lakh students, besides integration

of digital platforms, ICT laboratories and smart classrooms under the framework of NEP-2020.

Similarly with respect to the Skill Development Department it was highlighted that flagship initiatives including Mission YUVA and PM Vishwakarma are being implemented through coordinated institutional mechanisms involving multiple departments, financial institutions and academic organisations.

The Health & Medical Education Department proposed integrated planning with allied departments for convergence of health, sanitation, nutrition, education and livelihood initiatives, while the Housing & Urban Development Department highlighted its focus on technology-driven governance, sustainable urban planning and citizen-centric reforms for improving urban living standards.

PAL KIA Srinagar Delivers 25 SUVs in Single-Day Mass Delivery Event

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In a landmark achievement for Kashmir's automotive sector, PAL KIA Srinagar created history on Monday by delivering 25 brand-new Kia SUVs to customers in a grand mass delivery ceremony at its Srinagar showroom. The mega event saw simultaneous handovers of Kia Seltos, Sonet, Carens Clavis, and the newly launched Syros SUVs, marking the largest single-day SUV delivery by any dealership in the Kashmir Valley. The showroom was transformed into a celebration zone with red carpet unveilings, traditional welcome for customers, and cake cutting to mark the historic occasion. Each customer received their keys from the PAL KIA leadership team amid cheers and photo sessions.

Mushtaq Wani, COO, PAL KIA Srinagar, stated:

"Today we didn't just deliver 25 SUVs, we delivered 25 dreams. This historic mass delivery reflects Kashmir's growing confidence in Kia's design, safety, and technology. It's a proud moment for the entire PAL KIA family and proof of our



commitment to customer satisfaction and timely deliveries. We thank every customer for making Kia the fastest-growing SUV brand in the Valley." The event highlights the rising

demand for premium SUVs in Kashmir and PAL KIA Srinagar's capability to match customer expectations with transparent processes and seamless delivery experiences.



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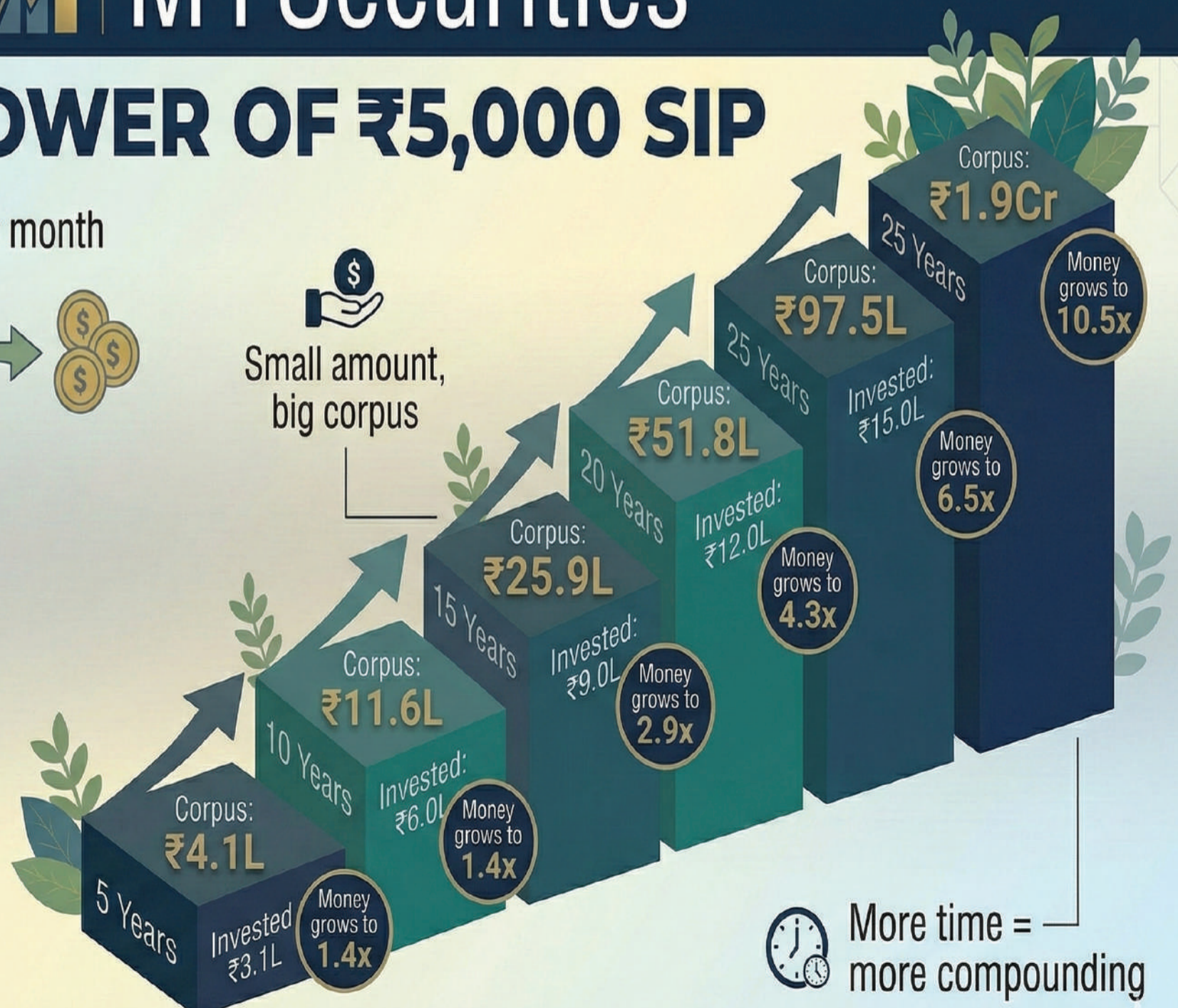
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