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CM To Chair Key NC Legislature Meet Today

Agencies

Srinagar: All eyes are on the crucial meeting of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah with National Conference MLAs and MPs, and five independent MLAs supporting his government.

Sources said that all NC MLAs, four MPs, and the five independent MLAs have been invited to the meeting, which will be chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah himself.

The party leadership is tight-lipped about the agenda of the meeting, with sources suggesting that only the Chief Minister is aware of the issues to be discussed.

"Nobody, including ministers, has any idea what will be discussed in the meeting or what agenda will come up," sources said, adding that governance-particularly the functioning of ministers-would be discussed there.

Sources further said that MLAs from Pir Panchal have complained to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah about bias in the allotment of funds by the Roads & Buildings Ministry under different schemes.

"They have alleged that the Deputy CM's | More on P6

Hailstorms, Flash Floods Batter J&K, Damage Crops Across Regions

» Man Killed After Tree Falls On Couple In Anantnag; Woman Dies In Lightning Strike In Doda

» Cloudbursts Trigger Flooding In Kishtwar; LG Monitoring Situation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Severe weather conditions swept across Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, claiming two lives, triggering flash floods and road blockades, and causing extensive damage to crops and orchards in several districts.

A man was killed and his wife critically injured after a tree uprooted by strong winds fell on them near the Janglat Mandi-Lal Chowk road in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. The deceased was identified as Mohammad Rafiq Kujwal of Utross. His wife was shifted to a hospital, where her condition was stated to be critical.

In Doda district, a woman identified as Pinki Devi of Khuddhar died after being struck by lightning during the evening.

Meanwhile, three cloudbursts and heavy rainfall triggered flash floods in parts of



Doda and Kishtwar districts.

Officials said a cloudburst in Bandekhra Nalla near Thatthri town in Doda sent debris into parts of the local market area. No casualties were reported.

In Kishtwar, separate cloudbursts struck the Gahan and Machhpal areas, leading to flash floods and road blockades. Authorities said there was no loss of life or damage to

property, and restoration work was launched immediately.

Kishtwar Deputy

Commissioner Pankaj Sharma

said the cloudburst in a forest area triggered flash floods accompanied by heavy debris flow, affecting the Vrikshshala-Trofik stretch, Vrikshshala Zero Point, Machhpal, Saroor and the Sarthal village road.

"A large | More on P6

Srinagar Records Hottest Night Of Season At 19.2°C

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Srinagar experienced its hottest night of the season, with the minimum temperature settling at 19.2 degrees Celsius, reflecting the ongoing spell of unusually warm weather across Kashmir.

The overnight temperature in the summer capital remained significantly above normal for this time of the year, providing little relief from the heat even after sunset.

According to

meteorological data, Qazigund recorded a minimum temperature of 17.6°C, while Kupwara settled at 15.2°C. Kokernag recorded 16.5°C and Pahalgam, traditionally among the coldest places in the Valley during summer, registered a low of 12.4°C.

Gulmarg, the famed ski resort, recorded a minimum temperature of 10.5°C, while Sonamarg settled at 11.8°C.

Other parts of the Valley also | More on P6

Rajouri Military Operation Enters 11th Day

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: General Officer Commanding (GoC) of the White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General P K Mishra, on Tuesday reviewed the progress of Operation Sherwali, the ongoing anti-terror operation in the forested areas of Rajouri district that has now entered its 11th day.

Lt Gen Mishra, accompanied by General Officer Commanding of Counter Insurgency Force (CIF) Romeo, visited the Gambhir Mughlan area in Manjakote sector to assess the operational situation and review efforts to track down suspected terrorists believed to be hiding in the dense forests.

According to the Army, the Corps Commander was briefed on the operational plan, ongoing actions and sustainment measures being undertaken by troops engaged in the operation. He also reviewed the logistics framework supporting forces operating in the difficult terrain.

In a post on X, the White Knight Corps said Lt Gen Mishra assessed the situation on the ground and reviewed the progress of the operation.

The Army | More on P6

First Batch Of J&K Haj Pilgrims Returns To Srinagar



Observer News Service

Srinagar: The first batch of Haj pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir returned from Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, marking the commencement of the return phase of Haj-2026 operations through the Srinagar Embarkation Point.

The inaugural flight carrying 144 pilgrims, including 74 men and 70 women, landed at Srinagar International Airport in the afternoon. The pilgrims were received by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani,

Deputy Commissioner Budgam Athar Aamir Khan and other senior civil and police officials.

J&K Haj Committee Chief Executive Officer Dr Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi said all 144 pilgrims scheduled on the first return flight arrived safely in Srinagar.

He said elaborate arrangements had been made at the airport, including transportation facilities, medical assistance, help desks and distribution of Zamzam water to ensure a smooth arrival process.

Addressing concerns regarding baggage, Dr Qureshi said nearly

15-Day Srinagar Airport Closure Plan Worries Tourism Sector

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The proposed 15-day closure of Srinagar International Airport in October for runway maintenance has triggered concern among tourism, travel and business stakeholders, who fear the move could disrupt one of Kashmir's busiest tourist seasons and hurt an economy still recovering from recent setbacks.

Airport officials said flight operations will remain suspended from October 1 to October 15 to facilitate critical runway repairs. Ahead of the complete shutdown, flight services will also be curtailed for two days every week beginning next month as part of a phased maintenance schedule.

The repairs are part of ongoing efforts to upgrade airport infrastructure and ensure operational safety. Flight operations have already been affected since April 6 after the Indian Air Force issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM), restricting



aircraft movements between 8 am and 5 pm. Daily flight operations have since dropped from around 25-30 flights to about 18.

The timing of the shutdown has become a major concern for stakeholders as it coincides with the Durga Puja holiday season, when thousands of tourists, particularly from West Bengal, visit Kashmir to witness the Valley's famed autumn colours. The season is often referred to as "Golden Kashmir" because of the golden-yellow hues of Chinar leaves.

Industry representatives

fear the suspension of air services could lead to widespread cancellations and financial losses for hotels, tour operators, transporters and other businesses dependent on tourism.

Hotelier Asif Burza said while airport upgrades were necessary, authorities should explore ways to minimise inconvenience to travellers and businesses.

"The repair works are important for the future, but efforts should also be made to reduce inconvenience to the public," he said, suggesting that flight | More on P6

Mehbooba's Unity Call Triggers Public Spat With Omar

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: A call for political unity in Jammu and Kashmir devolved into a public spat on Tuesday after PDP president Mehbooba Mufti claimed Chief Minister Omar Abdullah ignored her meeting requests, a charge Abdullah swiftly denied and accused her of misrepresenting facts to score political points.

In a letter posted on social media addressed to the chief minister and leaders across the political spectrum, including the BJP, Mehbooba urged Jammu and Kashmir's fractured political leadership to take a cue from Ladakh's recent success and unite to safeguard the region's special identity and constitutional rights.

However, the call for solidarity was immediately overshadowed by a war of words over political etiquette.

In her letter, Mehbooba claimed she was forced to write publicly because she had sought an appointment with Abdullah, but "due to his preoccupation, it

has not been possible." "Therefore, I am taking the liberty of writing to you since time is running out and we cannot afford to delay things any further," the former chief minister said.

Abdullah hit back swiftly, accusing the PDP chief of misrepresenting facts to score political points.

"Mehbooba Mufti Sahiba, we spoke on Saturday when you asked to meet. I told you I was in Pahalgam on Sunday and would get in touch on Monday or Tuesday to fix to meet."

"Your letter gives the impression that I've kept you waiting for an appointment for weeks on end, which is clearly not the case. Be that as it may, your letter to me is now in the public domain," he said in a post on X.

The chief minister added that he would formally respond to her proposal only after consulting senior leaders of his National Conference (NC) party and route it "similarly", an indication that he will post his reply on social media only.

Senior NC | More on P6



A woman washes clothes along the banks of Dal Lake as a shikara glides past under dark clouds in Srinagar. KO Photo By Abid Bhat

New Registration Rules for Foreigners Take Effect

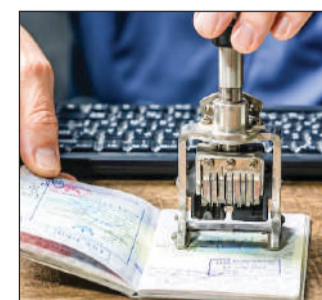
Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has amended the Immigration and Foreigners Rules, 2025, requiring foreign nationals who wish to stay in India beyond 180 days to register before the expiry of that period.

The changes, notified through a gazette notification on Monday, replace an earlier provision that allowed registration within 14 days after the completion of 180 days of stay in India.

Under the revised rules, foreigners holding visas valid for 180 days or less and seeking to remain in the country beyond the permitted period must register with the authorities any time before the expiry of the 180-day limit.

The amended rules also apply to foreigners holding visas for more than 180 days that carry a condition that each stay should not exceed 180 days. Such



individuals must now complete registration before the expiry of the permitted stay if they intend to remain in India beyond that period.

The notification further clarifies that registration beyond the prescribed limit will be granted only in emergent circumstances.

In a separate amendment, the government eased certain requirements relating to children born in India to foreign nationals. Earlier, parents were required to inform the | More on P6

Golf Tourism Holds Immense Potential for J&K: CM

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday called for positioning Jammu and Kashmir as a premier golfing destination on the global tourism map while chairing the ninth Governing Body meeting of the Royal Springs Golf Course (RSGC) at SKICC.

The meeting reviewed the functioning, finances, infrastructure and future development plans of the prestigious golf course.

Emphasising the potential of golf tourism in Jammu and Kashmir, Omar directed the Royal Springs Golf Course management to formulate a strategy for attracting more national and international tournaments and strengthening | More on P6



To place an advertisement
CALL +91-194 2502327

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

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education
New Campus Bemina Srinagar

I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th,11th) under Roll No.: 124034046, 224027 065, 324022072 Session: 2024/2025/2025 Year 2024 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. Due to the error committed by the parents during admission as Farhat Nabeel D/o Ghulam Mohammad Lone, M/N Nabla Begum instead of Farhat Nabeel D/O Ghulam Mohamad Lone, MM/N Nabla Bano
Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education, New Campus Bemina, Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.
Name: Farhat Nabeel
Father's name: Ghulam Mohamad Lone
Mother's Name: Nabla Bano
DOB: 16-05-2009
Residence: Ajas Lone Mohalla
Mobile no:



rko

PUBLIC NOTICE

In my Metlife policy bearing no. 24989342, my name has been wrongly admitted as Sufi Imaad while as my Actual name is "Sufi Imaad ud Din", Now I am applying for its correction, in this regard if anybody is having any objection may file the same to Metlife office Sopore within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Sufi Imaad ud Din
S/o: Sufi Mohammad Yousuf
R/o: Baba Raza Opposite Industrial Estate Sopore

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Dr Sameena Khan D/O Gh Ahmad Khan working as Dental Surgeon resident of Jammu & Kashmir (UT), do hereby inform the general public that my fathers spelling has been recorded in JKHRMS and Service book as Ghulam Ahmad Khan and Gulam Ahmad Khan respectively. That correct and actual spelling of my fathers name is Gh Ahmad Khan and both Gh Ahmad Khan, Ghulam Ahmad Khan and Gulam Ahmad Khan refer to one and the same person. I have executed an affidavit to this effect and have applied to the concerned authorities for correction of the name of my father in the official records.
If anybody has any objection in this regard, they may come forward and file their objection within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, the name of my father shall be corrected as Gh Ahmad Khan in the departmental/records.
Dr Sameena Khan
Medical Officer (Dental Surgeon)
D/O Gh Ahmad Khan

INF

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, MOHD AZHAR LONE, S/o Mohd Ashraf Lone R/o House No 02 Sector B Green Avenue Peerbagh SRINAGAR have applied for issuance of a Legal Heir Certificate before the Tehsildar, Chanapora/Natipora, Srinagar. It is hereby notified that my father namely Mohd Ashraf Lone expired on 09/05/2017, leaving behind the following legal heirs:

S.NO	NAME	AGE	Relation-ship with Deceased	Marital Status
1	Mohd Azhar Lone	41	SON	Married
2	Afroza Pandit	72	Wife of deceased	Window
3	Taqveen Ashraf	43	DAUGHTER	Married
4	Ambreen Ashraf	34	DAUGHTER	Married

If any person has any objection(s) regarding the issuance of the said certificate, they may file their objection(s) before the office of the Tehsildar, Chanapora/Natipora or the concerned Naib Tehsildar (Nowgam/Sanatnagar), Srinagar.

Signature of Applicant
Name: MOHD AZHAR LONE
Contact No: 9419014426

INF

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Waris Mushtaq Wani, S/o Mushtaq Ahmad Wani, R/o Chatapora, Pulwama, hereby inform the general public that my Character Certificate (12th Pass-Out) has been lost in Pulwama. Despite my best efforts, the document could not be traced. Anyone who finds the said document is requested to kindly return it to the undersigned. If anybody has any objection regarding this notice, they may contact the undersigned within seven days from the date of publication of this notice; otherwise, the document shall be treated as lost and a duplicate may be obtained from the concerned authorities.

Sd/-
Waris Mushtaq Wani
R/o Chatapora, Pulwama

bko

NORTHERN RAILWAY

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
No. 22-Med/WS/Testing Dated: 01.06.2026
Chief Medical Supdt. Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of the President of India, invites expression of interest on the prescribed form for the following work:-

1	Name of work	Expression of interest from NABL accredited laboratories for empanelment for testing of water samples (E.coli and Chemical analysis under 80 parameters) of Firozpur Division
2	Completion period	Two years from the Date of starting
3	App. Cost of the work	NA
4	Bank Guarantee	Rs.2 Lakhs (For successful bidders)
5	Date and time availability & Place of procuring form/ tender application document	Chief Medical Supdt, N Rly, Divisional Hospital, Firozpur up to 30.06.2026 11:00 Hrs.
6	Place of Submission of bids	Chief Medical Supdt, N Rly, Divisional Hospital, Firozpur up to 30.06.2026 11:30 Hrs.
7	Place of Opening	Office of Chief Medical Supdt/N.Rly./Firozpur on 30.06.2026 at 12.00 Hrs

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1856/26

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
CERTIFICATES-KD, NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR
ATTENTION PLEASE

The candidate whose photograph is published in the notice is claimed to have lost his qualification certificate of with the following particulars..

1. Roll No:- 235192
2. Class:- 10th
3. Year & Session:- 1991, April - May
4. Name : BASHIR AHMAD MALYAR
5. Fathers Name: GH. AHMAD MALYAR
6. Mothers Name: JANA BANO
8. Date of Birth: 03-03-1971.
9. Residence:- JAWALAPORA (HEEWODER) BUDGAM

Now the candidate has applied for the DUPLICATE QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE. before the same is provided and provided to the candidate, any person having any objection in this regard may please file the same before the secretary BOSE or undersigned within 7 days from the date of issue of this notice. Besides, the above lost QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE be treated as CANCELLED.

Sd/=
mcb Assitant Secretary
Certificates - KD

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from (old name) HASSINA AKHTER to (New name) HASSINA AKHTER. In future I will be known as (new Name) HASSINA AKHTER. If any body having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.
HASSINA AKHTER
PASSPORT NO. N5408267.

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of the general public that my name has been inadvertently recorded as "Muzafar Ul-Zaman" in my Service Book maintained by the Jammu & Kashmir Police Department at the time of my appointment, which is incorrect. My correct and actual name is "Muzafar Uzaman Teli", as recorded in my Matriculation Certificate, Aadhaar Card and other official documents.
I have applied before the competent authority for correction of my name from "Muzafar Ul-Zaman" to "Muzafar Uzaman Teli" in my service records.
If any person has any objection to this proposed correction, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained and the correction shall be processed as per rules.
Muzafar Uzaman Teli
S/o Gh. Mohd Teli
R/o Yall, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, J&K (UT)
ASI, Jammu & Kashmir Police Department.

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of the general public that my name has been incorrectly recorded as "Muzafar Ul-Zaman Teli" in my Service Book maintained by the Jammu & Kashmir Police Department at the time of my appointment. My correct and actual name is "Muzafar Uzaman Teli" as recorded in my Matriculation Certificate, Aadhaar Card and other authentic documents.
I have applied before the competent authority for correction of my name from "Muzafar Ul-Zaman Teli" to "Muzafar Uzaman Teli" in my service records.
If anybody has any objection to the proposed correction of my name, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained and the correction shall be processed as per rules.
MUZZAFAR UZAMAN TELI
S/o Gh. Mohd Teli
R/o Yall, Tehsil Kunzer, District Baramulla, J&K (UT)
ASI, Jammu & Kashmir Police Department

fko

نمبر پلیٹ کی گمشدگی

میری گاڑی (ALTO K-10) کے نمبر JK01BC-8436 زبردستی (NUMBER PLATE) گم ہو گیا ہے۔ بہت ڈھونڈنے پر نہیں ملی۔ اگر کسی نے اٹھائی ہو تو وہ برائے انسانیت نیچے پتہ پر واپس کرے۔ بصورت دیگر اسکی ڈپلیکیٹ نکالنی مطلوب ہے۔ اس بارے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتے کے اندر اندر RTO کشمیر سٹیٹنگ کے دفتر میں پیش کریں۔ بعد از مبعاد کوئی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
فیاض احمد ولد غلام مصطفیٰ میر
ساکن آستان محلہ کڈھسی بٹ سترنگر۔

mcb

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.
Department of Urban Local Bodies Kashmir Srinagar
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE PAMPORE

Subject: E-Auction of Entry Fee Collection contract for the year 2026-27

AUCTION NOTICE.
E - NIT No: MC/P/2026/06
Dated: 30/05/2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, the e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited from the interested persons / parties for Auction of Entry Fee / Terminal Tax of Municipal Committee Pampore for the year 2026-27. The Minimum bid after increase of 5% to Rupees 2445410 i.e bid for the pervious year 2025-26 worked out to the tune of Rs. 2567680/- (Twenty five lacs Sixty seven thousands six hundreds and eighty)for the year 2026-27 w.e.f 17-06-2026 to 16-06-2027. The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen /downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in, as per the schedule of dates given below:

S.No.	Particulars	Date / Time / Details
1	PQ submission start date and time (documents)	01-06-2026 4:01 pm
2	PQ submission end date and time (documents)	11-06-2026 4:00 pm
3	PQ assessment start date and time	11-06-2026 from 04:00 PM
4	PQ assessment end date and time	12-06-2026 upto 04:00 PM
5	EMD payment start date and time	13-06-2026 at 10:00 AM
6	EMD payment end date and time	14-06-2026 at 9:45 AM
07	Auction start date and time	15-06-2026 at 10:00 AM
08	Auction end date and time	17-06-20026 at 4:00 PM
09	Submission of CDR	The bidder shall be bound to accompany his bids offers with Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) of 50000/- (rupees fifty thousand Only) of the Minimum Reserve Bid drawn from any Nationalized bank, pledged to the Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Pampore (without which offers shall be liable for rejection)
10	Mode of Payment	Deposition of 10% of the total bid amount as token amount on spot. 65% to be deposited before taking possession. Balance 25% amount shall be deposited within three months from the date of taking possession for which irrevocable bank guarantee from nationalized bank shall be appended.

Be it known that the successful highest bidder is bound to recover Entry Fee as per the following rate schedule.

S.No	Nature of vehicle	Rate
01	Govt. vehicles/Security forces vehicles	Exempted
02	All private light vehicles	Exempted
03	Four Wheeler / diesel auto / Tractor / Tata 407/ Metadar / Buses/Tata mobiles/Bolero	Rs. 20 per day
04	Sumo / Tavera / Private School Buses / LP Buses	Rs20 per day
05	Truck / Tipper / Ficher loaded / JCB / Roller	Rs. 40/- Per day
06	Truck / Tipper / Ficher Mini Tipper unloaded	Rs. 30/per day
07	Trucks / Trailers Ten Tver	Rs. 50/per day
08	Truck / Trailer 12/14 Tyers	Rs. 100/per day
09	Three Wheeler Auto / Battery Auto / Commercial Van / Echo	Rs. 10/per day

1. Bids must be accompanied with the cost of tender document in shape of Bank Challan / Receipt (Credited to A/c No. 0016040100016969 maintained with Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. Branch: Pampore in favour of Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Pampore amounting to Rs. 1000/- (One Thousand Only) and Bid securing declaration as per format Annexure 1, below on stamp paper duly attested by Notary in favour of Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Pampore, failing which tender will be rejected.
2. The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in. The bids of the responsive bidders shall be opened online on the same website in the office of the Executive Officer Municipal Committee Pampore.
3. The bids for the tender shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
4. BID SECURITY.
- a) Bid Security Declaration: The bid security declaration shall be submitted as per the Format Annexure - 2 (format for the bid security declaration).
- b) Any bid not accompanied by the Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) and BID security declaration shall be summarily rejected by the Authority as non responsive.
5. The contract of collection of Entry Fee shall be for the year 2026-27 w.e.f 17-06-2026 to 16-06-2027, and no claim for extension on any pretext will be entertained beyond the allotted period.
6. That, the successful bidder has to execute an agreement duly registered in the Hon'ble court of law with the Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Pampore before issuance of allotment and taking over the possession of the collection posts and no permission shall be granted for recovery fees until agreement / allotment is made in favour of successful contractor/bidder.
7. The successful Bidder shall be bound to effect recovery of Entry Fees as per approved schedule of MC Pampore, which is available with this office as mention above. In case of any violation to the approved schedule, legal action shall be taken against the contractor / allottee.
8. That, the successful bidder shall have to bear /provide/arrange Manpower, Stationary, furniture, Sanitation, Toll posts etc without maintaining any compensation thereof, from the office of the undersigned.
9. The Highest Bid offered shall be inclusive of all applicable taxes under rules.
10. After expiry of the contract i.e on 16-06-2027, the successful bidder shall hand over the possession of the Entry posts to the Municipal Committee Pampore in its original position without any damage.
11. That, the successful contractor shall have to collect Entry Fee on the following toll Posts only;
01.KADLABAL PAMPORE 02.TULBAGH PAMPORE 3. BAGANDER PAMPORE as per the approved schedule of this institution and the realization of the entry fee / terminal tax shall be in a public friendly manner without causing any inconvenience to visitors, and also the display of schedule of rates shall be visible at each Post in the Town.
12. The contractor shall be responsible to maintain entry fee collection posts with special care to sanitation / hygiene of the environment and surroundings.
13. That, the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof;
14. In case of any dispute arising between the parties with respect to any of the conditions as laid down herein above or any ambiguity will be referred to arbitrator and the decision of the arbitrator, Director Urban Local Bodies shall be final and binding upon the parties.

No: MC/P/2026/1334-37
DIPK-NB-635/26
Dated: 02/06/2026

Executive Officer
Municipal Committee Pampore

PUBLIC NOTICE

The electricity connection with consumer ID:0204040028914 registered in the name of Abdul Razak Dar, S/o Mohammad Subhan, R/o Buchpora to be transferred in favour of Owais Rasool Mir, S/o Ghulam Rasool Mir R/o Buchpora.

If anybody has any objection, he/she may contact concerned department within 7 Days after that no objection shall be entertained.

Media Line Advt

KVK Srinagar, SKUAST-K Kickstarts "KHET BACHAO ABHIYAN"



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Under the nationwide "KHET BACHAO ABHIYAN" launched by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and ICAR, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Srinagar, SKUAST-K, kickstarted the campaign through an awareness-cum-capacity building programme at Aspire World School, Humhama. The campaign aims to enhance soil health, reduce the indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers, and promote sustainable agricultural practices through the adoption of green manuring, integrated nutrient management, and regenerative agriculture.

Recognizing teachers as key agents of change in society, KVK Srinagar initiated the campaign by engaging educators and youth from adjoining educational institutions in collaboration with Aspire World School. The programme sought to sensitize participants about the importance of soil conservation and sustainable farming for ensuring long-term food and nutritional security.

At the outset, Prof. Shamim A. Simnani, Head, KVK Srinagar, highlighted the importance of healthy soils for sustaining agricultural productivity, environmental quality, and farmers' livelihoods. He emphasized the need for regenerative agriculture to address the adverse impacts of excessive chemical fertilizer and pesticide use, stressing that sustainable soil management practices are essential for improving soil health, enhancing nutrient-use efficiency, strengthening farm resilience, and ensuring long-term food and nutritional security.

Srinagar Steps Up Water Conservation Efforts Under Catch the Rain Campaign

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Tuesday chaired a meeting here at the Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex to review the progress of Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Abhiyan 2.0 under Jal Shakti Abhiyan - Catch the Rain Campaign in the District.



The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Joint Commissioner SMC, Suhail ul Islam, Superintendent Engineer Hydraulic, Er Amreen Anjum, Assistant Commissioner Development, Tariq Ahmad, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, Executive Engineers of I&FC, Water Works Division, Rural Water Works, UEED, SMC, City Drainage, SMC, LCMA and other concerned.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for effective inter-departmental coordination to achieve the objectives of the campaign. He directed stakeholder Departments to ensure timely completion of ongoing works and stressed the importance of creating sustainable rain water harvesting systems and ground water recharging systems across the district to augment availability of water.

The DC directed the Jal Shakti Department to continue the geo-tagging of water sources and recharge structures, while extending technical support to Panchayats in identifying and implementing suitable water conservation interventions. He also emphasized the need to intensify IEC activities across the District to promote awareness on water conservation, sustainable water management and community participation in safeguarding water resources.



Emphasizing the importance of collective action, the DC stated that water conservation is a shared responsibility and called upon all Departments to adopt a coordinated and proactive approach for the successful implementation of Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Abhiyan 2.0 throughout the District.

The DC directed the Education Department to promote rooftop rainwater harvesting structures in educational institutions and conduct awareness programmes among students. He further asked the Education Department to identify "Jal Doots" and "Student Water Champions" in Schools who can serve

as ambassadors for water conservation and help promote sustainable water management practices.

The Agriculture Department was directed to promote water-efficient farming practices, including micro-irrigation techniques and to generate awareness among farmers about water-saving crops. The Irrigation and Flood Control Department was instructed to prioritize watershed management, rejuvenation of water bodies, desilting of canals and ponds and the creation of groundwater recharge structures.

DIPR Officers, Officials condole with Shahid Ali, Hamid Ullah

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Officers and officials of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) today expressed profound grief and sorrow over the demise of the close family members of senior colleagues Shahid Ali, Assistant Information Officer and Hamid Ullah, Information Assistant.



Zahoor Ahmad Raina, the officers and staff members conveyed their heartfelt sympathies to Shahid Ali on the demise of his Uncle. They also extended their condolences to Hamid Ullah Buchoo on the demise of his Maternal Uncle.

In a condolence meeting held under the Chairmanship of Joint Director Information (Hqrs) Dr.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-22/06/2026 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information login to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
29.05.2026	08.06.2026	22.06.2026 / 15:00 Hrs

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
1.	35-2026-27-SrDEN-III-FZR	Provision of Relay Hut at (25 Nos Level crossings) for Gate Signalling at Non Interlocked Lxing gates over Firozpur Division (TVU between 10,000 and 20,000) in the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN-III/FZR as per Type Plan No. HQ/01/02-2017/R-1.
		Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money Validity of offer Period of completion
		4,54,09,308.70 9,08,200.00 60 Days 10 Months
		Similar nature of work: - "Construction of building/quarters."
2.	36-2026-27-SrDEN-III-FZR	Provision of Relay Hut at (24 Nos Level crossings) for Gate Signalling at Non Interlocked Lxing gates over Firozpur division (TVU between 10,000 and 20,000) in the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN-III/FZR as per Type Plan No. NRHQ Plan No. 0-97/2017/R1.
		Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money Validity of offer Period of completion
		3,08,03,482.52 6,16,100.00 60 Days 08 Months
		Similar nature of work: - "Any structural work made of Pre-cast PSC/RCC panels."

Note : 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against Tender. Tender No: 35 & 36-2026-27-SrDEN-III-FZR Date: 01/06/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1860/26

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name (Old Name) Naseema Akhtar to (New Name) Naseema Shah. In future I will be known as (New Name) Naseema Shah. If anybody is having any objection, he/she may contact the Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR

-----Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- mechhospsgr@jk.gov.in -----

GIST OF E-TENDER

e-NIT No: M&HDS/TS/2026-27/16/e-tendering, Dated: 01.06.2026 (Short Term)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from Original Equipment manufacturers /registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion (in days)	AA Accorded Vide No:	TS No	Earnest Money	Position of Funds
1. SITC of Fire Alarm system at State Guest House East, Srinagar	8.007/-	500	30	Order No:38-DH&P of 2026 Dt:15.04.2026	MHED/K/TS/05 DT:-17.04.2026	2% of the estimated cost	Available with intending department
2. SITC of Fire Alarm system at State Guest House West, Srinagar	8.007/-	500	30	Order No:38-DH&P of 2026 Dt:15.04.2026	MHED/K/	2% of the estimated cost	Available with intending department
3. SITC of Fire Alarm system at VIP Guest House at Dachigam	7.325/-	500	30	Order No:38-DH&P of 2026 Dt:15.04.2026	MHED/K/	2% of the estimated cost	Available with intending department
4. SITC of Fire Alarm system at Nehru Guest House Cheshmashahi, Srinagar	15.491/-	1000	30	Order No:38-DH&P of 2026 Dt:15.04.2026	MHED/K/TS/03 DT:-17.04.2026	2% of the estimated cost	Available with intending department

- Downloading of Bids:- The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 01.06.2026 (18.00 hrs) and can be downloaded from 01.06.2026 (18.00 hrs)
- Uploading: The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site 01.06.2026 (18.00 hrs) to 10.06.2026 (13:00hrs) in two (02) covers.
- Opening of Bids:- The bids received upto due date and time shall be opened on 10.06.2026 at 15.00 (hrs)

Sd/- Executive Engineer, M&H, Srinagar

No: M&HDS/TS/1120-24
DIPK-1740/26
Dated: 02.06.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Javaid Ahmad Mir S/o Abdul Gani Mir, R/o Gulwanpora, Sebdan, Budgam, hereby inform the general public that the name of my son Mohammad Talha Mir, studying in Class 5th at Little Angels Kids Play School, Nasrullah Pora, has been wrongly recorded in the school records. His father's name is entered as "Javaid Ah Mir" instead of "Javaid Ahmad Mir", and his D.O.B. is recorded as 23/06/2017 instead of 15/06/2015. I have applied for correction of the same. If anybody has any objection, he/she may file it before the concerned school within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Javaid Ahmad Mir
R/o Gulwanpora, Sebdan, Budgam.

0194-2310283 mb-rajbagh@jk.gov.in

UNION TERRITORY GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION RAJBAGH SRINAGAR.

H.Q's: Lal Mandi, Near L.D Hospital Srinagar-190008.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT No. 19/R&B/RAJ of 2026-27 issued under Endorsement No: 1933-43 Dated: 02.06.2026.

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

S.No.	Name of Work	Base Cost Excl. GST (in Lacs)	TOTAL / Adv. Cost (Base Cost + GST) (in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc.	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of Completion	Major Head	Class of Contractor / Agency
1.	Augmentatiomn of Chief Horticulture Office at Lal Mandi Srinagar.	56.24	66.36	1600/-	1,32,720/-	60 Days	UT Capex Budget 2026-27 (Horticulture)	AAY

Position of AAA: Accorded vide No. 230/Plan of 2026 Dated: 30.04.2026.
Position of TS: Accorded Vide No. SE-PWD(R&B)Sgr-South/TS/41 of 2026-27 Dated: 01.06.2026.
Position of Funds: Budgeted / Committed.

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02.06.2026.
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	03.06.2026 from 10:00 AM
3.	Bid submission Start Date	03.06.2026 from 10:00 AM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	08.06.2026 Up to 04:00 PM
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	09.06.2026 at 11:00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar.

- Bids must be accompanied with the cost of Tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan under M.H-0059 in favour of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (Tender Inviting Authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan & EMD should be between the Date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to the Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).
- At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload Earnest Money/Bid security as mentioned above in the form of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG pledged to the Tender Receiving Authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar. The Earnest Money/Bid security will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of Performance and Additional Performance Security (if applicable) and Draw of Agreement as per FORM-25 (Double Cover).
- *Abnormally Low Bid Price: As per the Circular instructions of Finance Deptt. Vide NO.FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated:08.08.2025, which is reproduced as:-
Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the Project Cost put to bid, the additional Performance Guarantee/ Security Percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security & shall be released after the DLP is over successfully.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

No. 1933-43
DIPK-1774/26 Dated: 02.06.2026.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, R&B Rajbagh Division Srinagar (NM)

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
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

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

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

PRAYERS

FAJR 3: 38
ZUHR 12:28
ASR 5: 27
Magrib 7:40
ISHA 9: 19

HIJRI CALENDAR
17 Zil-Hajj
1447

This Day In History

- 1934- Dr Frederick Banting co-discoverer of insulin, is knighted - 1935-
- French liner SS Normandie sets Atlantic crossing record of four days, three hours and 14 minutes on her maiden voyage
- 1940- Last British/French troop leave Dunkirk
- 1943- United Nations Relief & Rehabilitation Administration forms
- 1944- Nazis pull out of Rome
- 1946- International Military Tribunal opens in Tokyo against 28 Japanese war criminals
- 1947- British Viceroy of India Lord Mountbatten visits Pakistan
- 1948- 200" (5.08 m) Hale telescope dedicated at Palomar Observatory
- 1950- French expedition reaches top of Himalayan peak of Annapurna in Nepal
- 1959 - Singapore adopts constitution
- 1965 - Gemini 4 launched; 2nd US 2-man flight (McDivitt & White)
- 1966 - Gemini 9 launched; 7th US 2-man flight (Stafford & Cernan)

KASHMIR OBSERVER®

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Distribution & Advertising: Firdous Ahmad
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Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 8899256463
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmirobservers.net

KO VIEW

Banking Against Youth

Jammu and Kashmir has spent years searching for answers to one stubborn problem: unemployment. Government data and labour surveys have repeatedly shown that joblessness among young people in the Union Territory remains among the highest in the country. Every recruitment drive attracts thousands of applicants. A handful of vacancies often draw graduates, postgraduates and even doctorate holders. Such numbers tell a simple story: Kashmiri youth are searching for opportunities wherever they can find them. That reality explains why Mission YUVA was launched with such ambition. The programme seeks to move young people away from endless queues for government jobs and towards entrepreneurship, self-employment and enterprise creation. Official targets are ambitious. The mission aims to facilitate around 1.37 lakh enterprises and generate nearly 4.25 lakh employment opportunities over five years through support for nano enterprises, MSMEs and innovative ventures. Government has promoted it as a flagship intervention that can transform job seekers into job creators. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has publicly described Mission YUVA as a programme that should become a national benchmark for self-employment and entrepreneurship. Government has also strengthened the initiative through district-level implementation structures, business help desks and a recently announced Credit Guarantee Fund designed to improve access to finance. More than 900 crore has already been disbursed under the mission within months of its launch. Such achievements make one question impossible to ignore: why are many aspiring entrepreneurs still getting stuck at the bank counter? Reports from applicants suggest that some bank branches continue to seek guarantors and additional assurances even when young entrepreneurs have completed project reports, fulfilled eligibility conditions and complied with procedural requirements. Many applicants say their files remain pending because they cannot produce a government employee or another financially secure person to stand behind them. That approach defeats the very logic of entrepreneurship promotion. Most first-generation entrepreneurs do not come from wealthy families. Many do not have influential contacts. Several are attempting to start businesses precisely because stable employment has remained out of reach. A scheme designed for unemployed youth cannot function smoothly if access to finance depends on social connections that many applicants simply do not possess. Banks certainly have a responsibility to protect public money. Credit assessment is part of their job. Lending cannot become reckless. At the same time, a government-backed employment mission loses credibility when policy promises and ground-level implementation move in different directions. Mission YUVA was built on the idea that lack of capital should not prevent a good business idea from becoming reality. That principle must remain visible at every stage of implementation. Clear instructions, uniform guidelines and stronger monitoring can help eliminate confusion. District administrations, implementing agencies and banking institutions must speak the same language. Young people should spend their energy building enterprises, refining business plans and creating jobs. They should not spend months searching for guarantors to satisfy interpretations that appear disconnected from the spirit of the scheme itself.

Crime in the Apple Belt

A mass act of destruction in Budgam strikes at farmers, livelihoods and Kashmir's hard-won shift toward productive agriculture.



Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat

The destruction of 3,500 apple plants in Chadoora deserves swift justice. Kashmir cannot build a stronger rural economy while criminal acts of this scale pass without accountability.

Last year, the Supreme Court of India delivered a landmark judgment on illegal tree felling.

Hearing a case involving the cutting of 454 trees in the protected Taj Trapezium Zone, a bench comprising Justices Abhay S. Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh per illegally felled tree. The court accepted the recommendation of the Central Empowered Committee and made an observation that drew national attention.

Trees, the court said, create environmental wealth that takes generations to build. Green cover lost through reckless destruction demands a serious response because regeneration takes decades.

That principle holds profound relevance for Kashmir today.

During the night of May 29 and 30, while families throughout the valley prepared for Eid-ul-Azha celebrations, unknown persons entered orchards in Rangeen Kultreh village of Chadoora and cut down roughly 3,500 high-density Italian apple plants. Those orchards covered nearly 20 to 30 kanals and represented years of planning, investment and labour by local educated youth who chose horticulture as a profession.

Anyone who has planted a high-density orchard understands the scale of this loss. Farmers spend years preparing land, arranging irrigation, purchasing quality plants and waiting for commercial returns. A single night wiped out work that had consumed enormous financial and emotional investment.

This crime extends far beyond damage to private property. It strikes at a larger transformation taking place in the karewa belt of Budgam.

Rangeen Kultreh has a rich history. Older residents recall vast orchards and even deodar forests in the area. Local tradition links the village to Hazrat Jameela Bibi, daughter of Sultan-ul-Arifeen Makhdoom Sahib (RA), who rests there alongside 29 disciples. That association gave rise to the name Kul Treh, meaning thirty.

Until the 1990s, the village enjoyed recognition for its almond orchards. Production declined over time due to prolonged drought conditions, weak irrigation infrastructure and changing agricultural realities.

As Karewa lands remained dry and underutilized, brick kiln operators saw an opportunity. Landowners began leasing agricultural land for kiln operations, and nearly two dozen brick kilns emerged in the area over two decades.

Economic returns appeared attractive at first. Long-term consequences became visible later.

Agricultural land suffered extensive damage, and productive use of the karewas declined sharply.

A turning point came in 2023.

Several residents considered leasing additional karewa land for four or five new brick kilns. Local apple growers raised concerns, and environmental advocacy followed.

Authorities received representations, public discussion intensified, and even the Air Force Station



According to affected farmer Asrar Ahmad and his relatives, the attack has links to a conflict that extends beyond orchards. They believe they became targets because they spoke publicly against illegal earth excavation and mining activities in the area.

Srinagar highlighted concerns because of the area's proximity to the airport.

The proposal stalled. What happened afterward tells an important story about Kashmir's agricultural future.

Land once earmarked for brick kilns began changing into high-density apple orchards. Solar-powered water pumps appeared in fields. Farmers invested in modern horticulture, and young people saw opportunity in agriculture.

Today, nearly 1,000 kanals of karewa land in Rangeen Kultreh support high-density apple cultivation.

That transformation deserves celebration. Productive agriculture generates employment, strengthens rural incomes and preserves land for future generations. Which makes the recent destruction even more alarming.

According to affected farmer Asrar Ahmad and his relatives, the attack has links to a conflict that extends beyond orchards. They believe they became targets because they spoke publicly against illegal earth excavation and mining activities in the area.

Their allegations need a thorough and impartial investigation.

Illegal extraction of clay, sand and soil has generated controversy in Chadoora and surrounding regions for years. Concerns reached the National Green Tribunal, which sent a team to inspect the area earlier this year. Questions regarding environmental clearances continue to surface. Local activists and residents have repeatedly sought transparency regarding excavation activities.

Within this environment, whistleblowers often face tremendous pressure.

Asrar Ahmad says he and others raised objections when illegal activities affected the karewas. He claims previous attempts were made to intimidate him through false complaints and harassment. During the National Green Tribunal team's visit and meetings with district officials, he discussed those concerns openly.

Now his orchard lies devastated.

His family believes the destruction served one purpose: revenge.

Police have reportedly detained some suspects. Senior political leaders from different parties have expressed support for the affected farmers. Former Prin-

icipal Accountant General K.P. Yadav has also written to authorities seeking action.

Those developments give some hope, but hope alone cannot substitute for results.

Budgam Police now carry a crucial responsibility. Investigators must identify the perpetrators, establish motive and present a strong case before the courts. Public confidence depends upon a transparent investigation supported by evidence.

The Supreme Court's 2025 judgment also raises an important question: if illegally cutting 454 trees in a protected zone justified a penalty of Rs 1 lakh per tree, what legal and financial consequences should follow the destruction of 3,500 apple plants cultivated through years of effort and investment?

Courts will determine the answer through applicable law. Authorities, however, should pursue the strongest available legal provisions.

Financial penalties must match the scale of the damage. Criminal accountability should send a clear message that agricultural sabotage has severe consequences.

Kashmir's economy relies heavily on horticulture. Government agencies encourage young people to enter the sector. Farmers invest savings and borrow money to establish orchards. Rural families build futures around apple cultivation.

Those aspirations flourish when the rule of law protects honest enterprise.

Rangeen Kultreh stands today as a symbol of agricultural revival. Vast stretches of karewa land that once faced industrial degradation now support productive orchards. That success story should continue.

The criminals who cut down 3,500 apple plants attempted to destroy more than an orchard. They attacked livelihoods, community progress and faith in lawful economic activity.

Kashmir now needs answers.

The farmers of Kultreh have waited long enough.

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



Wajahat Qazi

The Rogue Next Door

Understanding the Koshur budmash reveals Kashmir's socio-economic gaps, peer dynamics, and society's complicity in antisocial behaviour.



Every social phenomenon has its roots in society, culture, and the values they produce. While Kashmir and its people are known for their hospitality, generosity, and warmth, there is, as in any other society, a darker side as well.

One such element is the budmash, an ever-present figure in every culture and community. So, what exactly is a budmash?

Typically male, how can the budmash be defined? While much is lost in translation, the closest equivalent would be a blend of a rogue and a hooligan, with rogue being the closer match.

Given this rough and loose definition, what, then, is the Koshur budmash, and where does this phenomenon originate?

Koshur budmash first. A certain pecking order in the socio-economic hierarchy forms the cradle of the Koshur budmash: he usually emerges from the marginalized and underprivileged segments of society.

Given the casteist features that, to some extent, define Kashmiri society, the Koshur budmash is not a "born rogue". He is, rather, socialized into budmashi.

Looked down upon by the broader society and perhaps even exploited, shaped by bad parenting, abuse, and a peer group that values cocking the proverbial snook at society through assertive anti-social behaviour, the Koshur budmash is a social construct and phenomenon par excellence.

Psychology, growth, and the development of the self, and the attendant self-concept, are other explanatory variables.

From a psychological perspective, the Koshur budmash seems to internalize only the negative views and perceptions of society and culture. Within these interstices, his self and self-concept take shape: through vulgarity and other antisocial

behaviours and attitudes, the Koshur budmash asserts his sense of self.

Here it is all about self-assertion and an identity driven by the desire for recognition and respect, albeit in a distorted way.

The more egregious and provocative the behaviour, the more inflated the self becomes. This is fed and amplified by the peer group the budmash socializes with: friends, chelas, adversaries (and how they rate him), and their perceptions.

The awe inspired by the Koshur budmash, whether through his actions or attitude, sets the limits of his extremities. While chelas cheer and broader society watches in awe or fear, the ultimate compliment for the budmash is the opinion of his enemy.

Overlaying the social and psychological explanations is an economic one. The Koshur budmash must feed himself and his family, toward whom he feels, at least on a psychological level, a loose sense of filial responsibility. This is where things

become tricky: he may turn into a low-level arm-twister, offer his services as a protector to others, teenagers with turf or romantic disputes, wealthy individuals, even politicians, or involve himself in feuds over property, land, or money.

But the supreme irony is that the Koshur budmash is not, in the strictest sense, a criminal.

Swagger, bravado, antisocial behaviour, and the like do not make the Koshur budmash a notorious criminal or even a psychopathological one.

This may be due to the distinctive consciousness of Kashmiris, forged over centuries, or to the particular psychosocial dynamics at play.

Rarely do we hear of heinous crimes, like murders, rapes, or rapes, committed by the Koshur budmash. Given that overall crime rates in Kashmir remain low, at least for now, this further testifies to the essentially sub-criminal nature of the Koshur budmash.

But the Koshur budmash is what he is: a crude bully who walks and talks with swagger, is inventive with verbal abuse, and practices, to some extent, basic and rudimentary violence.

None of this is meant to exonerate the Koshur budmash, but rather to place him, and the phenomenon, into perspective. However, all said and done, who really is the Koshur budmash?

It appears he is yet another face of Kashmir, shaped by an inferiority complex, a need to assert himself, and a craving for recognition expressed in a warped idiom.

Who creates the Koshur budmash? Broader society, harsh socio-economic conditions, and broken social systems that, often facetiously and in a self-serving way, normalize his existence.

Can the Koshur budmash be socialized into a "decent," "social," and "normal" member of society? Probably.

But for this to happen, broader society must rise to the occasion, shed its many hypocrisies, and, with empathy, honestly accept all its members.

In the final analysis, budmashee and the Koshur budmash are social phenomena. Undercutting and denying space to budmashee must emerge from the very wellsprings of society, shaped and sustained by an honest social discourse.

The rest is mere corollary.

The author holds a Distinction in International Relations from the University of Aberdeen and combines scholarship with real-world engagement. He has worked in academia and media, including as Associate Editor at Kashmir Observer.

Looking at Kashmir From Virginia's Sky

A scientific fact about the Moon's slow drift from Earth became a meditation on memory, inheritance, and the ties that keep Kashmir close no matter how far life takes us.



Dr. Akhtar Purvez

The other day, I came across a report that said the Moon is moving away from Earth.

The change is tiny, only a few centimeters a year. Nobody looking up at the night sky would notice it.

The Moon still hangs above us, tides continue to rise and fall, and Earth and its companion remain bound together.

Time, however, has a way of turning small changes into large ones. Given enough centuries, even a few centimeters become a meaningful distance.

The discovery drew me in, and the remarkable slowness of the process kept me thinking about it.

Life teaches us to pay attention to dramatic moments. We remember elections, wars, weddings, funerals, births, departures, and reunions.

Stories usually begin with a turning point, newspapers thrive on sudden developments, and human beings enjoy the clarity of a moment when everything changes.

Experience tells a different story. Many of the deepest transformations in our lives happen so slowly that we recognize them only after they have already taken place.

As a physician, I have spent years watching people move through those changes. Patients often imagine that a diagnosis will divide life into a clear before and after. Sometimes it does. More often, life shifts through a series of small adjustments that escape attention while they occur.

A man who once climbed stairs without thinking stops midway to catch his breath. A woman who spent decades caring for children gradually finds herself receiving care from those same children. Parents look up one day and discover that the little boy or girl who filled their home now speaks with the confidence of an adult.

People often ask when the change happened. Most of the time, nobody can answer. The transformation unfolded silently through ordinary days.

That realization has changed the way I think about distance. We tend to imagine separation as a single event.

Someone leaves, someone dies, someone moves away, and we assume the story has turned a page. But life rarely changes through such clean divisions.

Distance usually grows through accumulation. Childhood recedes, familiar neighbourhoods become memories, and friends drift into different routines.

The person staring back from the mirror begins to resemble someone older than the version we still carry in our minds.

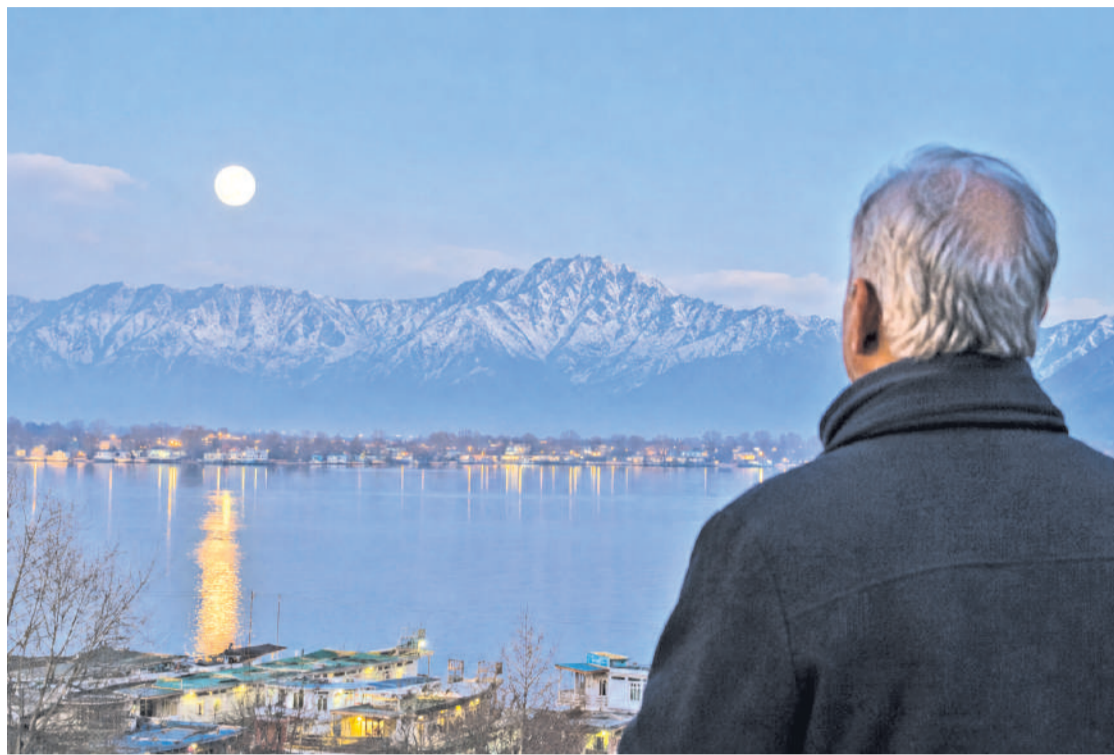
Nothing dramatic occurs, time simply keeps moving.

Perhaps that explains why the Moon stayed in my thoughts long after I finished reading the report. Its slow journey seemed strangely familiar.

The Moon grows farther from Earth, though gravity continues to hold them together. Separation exists alongside connection.

That idea led me toward thoughts of my father.

He was a poet. Many years have passed since I heard his voice filling a room, though I still encounter him with surprising frequency. Sometimes I find him in a sentence I am writing. A phrase begins with my own intention and ends with a cadence that feels unmistakably his. A question I consider modern suddenly reveals roots planted long before I was born.



“WHENEVER I LOOK UP AT THE MOON, I THINK OF KASHMIR. Distance has altered many parts of my life. The bond itself remains untouched. That silver light above Virginia belongs to the same sky that watches over the valley.”

Age has made one thing clear to me. Human beings contain far more inheritance than they realize.

My niece, a psychologist, likes to ask people a deceptively simple question: “Whose life are you living, anyways?”

The question unsettles people because it challenges a cherished

belief. Many of us enjoy seeing ourselves as entirely self-made. Reality tells a richer story.

We inherit eye colour, facial features, habits of thought, emotional instincts, preferences, fears, and ways of interpreting the world. Some of these traits come through biology, others emerge through

years spent listening, observing, admiring, arguing, and loving.

Long before we begin defining ourselves, foundations have already been laid beneath our feet.

Thinking about that inheritance brought me back to the Moon. Distance changes relationships, but it does not erase them.

Kashmiris who live far from home understand this instinctively.

Many of us build lives in different countries and different cultures. We spend our days speaking other languages. We adapt to new weather, new customs, and new expectations. Careers advance, families grow, and addresses change. But then something small happens.

A phrase spoken by an elder, the smell of rain, a winter morning, an old song, a family gathering, or a memory from homeland appearing without invitation can suddenly collapse years and continents.

The distance remains real, but the connection with roots remains real

as well.

That duality once puzzled me, but today it feels perfectly natural.

Maturity has taught me that continuity does not depend upon physical closeness. People continue through memory, influence, and affection. Places continue through language, imagination, and habit. Home survives in ways that geography cannot fully explain.

Kashmir survives within those who leave it.

Its landscapes, stories, silences, humour, anxieties, and wisdom accompany us. Home becomes part of our internal architecture. Time alters the relationship, though the bond endures.

Tonight, the Moon will rise above Virginia, where I now live. The same Moon will rise above Kashmir.

It will sit slightly farther from Earth than it did yesterday. Science tells us that much. Looking at it, nobody will feel that distance. Familiarity remains intact, so does affection. That may be the most human lesson hidden inside this celestial story.

Life brings separation, time introduces change, while miles and years simply accumulate. People grow older, places evolve, and relationships acquire new forms.

Endurance gives those relationships their true meaning.

Whenever I look up at the Moon, I think of Kashmir. Distance has altered many parts of my life. The bond itself remains untouched. That silver light above Virginia belongs to the same sky that watches over the valley.

Some connections live beyond geography and time.

The Moon knows that, so do those of us who have carried Kashmir with us wherever life has led.

— The author is a physician, poet, author, and clinical researcher from Kashmir based in Virginia, United States. His writing explores the intersections of science, memory, literature, and human experience.

The Exam-First Mindset

As exam pressure intensifies and coaching culture expands, Kashmir must move beyond rote learning and embrace an education system that values understanding, creativity, and growth.



Dr. Mushtaq Rather

During exam seasons, living rooms in Kashmir turn into study corners, parents whisper about question papers, and children measure their moods by mock test scores.

Every conversation circles back to one thing: marks.

For years, exam scores have been treated as the only sign of success. But the real purpose of education is to build knowledge, skills, and values that help young people live meaningful lives.

The race for grades has replaced the joy of learning. Schools now reward memorization instead of understanding, and many children feel trapped under expectations they can't escape.

This pressure is visible everywhere. From Kupwara to Kulgam, young students spend long hours in crowded coaching centers. Parents invest their savings hoping that high marks will secure better futures for their children. The idea seems right, but it comes with a cost.

A 2022 survey by the National Council of Educational Research and Training found that 81 percent of Indian students feel stress and anxiety before exams.

This pressure is worse in Kashmir because of sudden disruptions, poor infrastructure, and limited access to digital tools.



According to the National Statistical Organization, one in five students across India takes private coaching to handle exam stress. In Kashmir towns, coaching centers have replaced playgrounds.

The outcome is worrying. The National Crime Records Bureau reported that more than 13,000 students across India died by suicide in 2022. These numbers reflect a system where exams have become a source of fear instead of learning.

Exams were meant to test knowledge. Instead, they now divide students into winners and losers. They reward those who can memorize quickly and repeat what they learn on paper. Creativity, empathy, and problem-solving rarely count.

As a result, many graduates in Kashmir leave college with degrees that do not match the skills needed in today's job market.

The National Education Policy

(NEP) 2020 tried to change this pattern. It suggested that assessment should help children learn and grow. The policy encourages teachers to use regular, small assessments that show how students think and apply ideas. It also introduced an initiative called PARAKH, which promotes projects, portfolios, and performance-based tasks as better ways to test learning.

If applied properly, these ideas could change how students in Kashmir experience education. They could reduce the fear of exams and make learning more engaging. But progress has been slow.

The old system still dominates classrooms. Many teachers and parents continue to value grades over understanding. Students are still taught to memorize answers instead of explore questions.

Exam scores have also become symbols of family pride. Relatives discuss results in gatherings as if they reflect

the family's honour. Children grow up believing that their worth depends on marks written in red ink. This comparison culture starts early and erodes confidence.

Psychologists call this a fixed mindset, the belief that intelligence cannot grow. It makes students afraid to fail or experiment.

What they need instead is a growth mindset, the belief that effort and feedback lead to improvement.

When students see a low score as a step toward progress, they become stronger. Teachers and parents can help by appreciating effort, curiosity, and persistence, rather than perfection.

Education should prepare children for life, not lifelong stress. Exams can be useful when designed well, but they lose meaning when they only test memory.

Changing the way we assess students is essential in Kashmir, where

young people already live with many challenges.

The NEP 2020 offers a good starting point, but it will work only if everyone participates. Teachers need support and training to design better assessments. Parents must see education as more than report cards. Policymakers have to ensure that schools get the resources to make learning creative and flexible.

Children in Kashmir deserve classrooms where they can ask questions, explore ideas, and make mistakes without fear. Real education begins when students learn for understanding.

When that happens, exams will no longer be a burden. They will become moments of growth.

— The author is an educator and columnist from Mattan, Anantnag. He can be reached at aroshfatimamar15@gmail.com.

“WHEN STUDENTS SEE A LOW SCORE AS A STEP TOWARD PROGRESS, THEY BECOME STRONGER. Teachers and parents can help by appreciating effort, curiosity, and persistence, rather than perfection.”

Anti-Drug Drive

176 NDPS Cases Registered; 202 Arrested In 50 Days In Jammu

₹5.19 Cr Worth Properties Attached; Narcotics Worth ₹16.6 Cr Seized



KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Jammu Police have registered 176 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and arrested or detained 202 accused persons during the first 50 days of the ongoing 'Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan', officials said on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference, Jammu Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Joginder Singh said the campaign's zero-tolerance approach towards narcotics, backed by intelligence gathering, enforcement measures, community participation and legal action, has yielded significant results.

According to the police,

5,533 kilograms of heroin, commonly known as chitta, valued at around Rs 16.60 crore, was seized during the period. Besides heroin, police recovered 29,267 kilograms of ganja worth approximately Rs 8.78 lakh, 3,250 kilograms of poppy straw valued at around Rs 87,000, and one kilogram of opium worth nearly Rs 27,000.

In a move aimed at dismantling organised drug networks, police detained a notorious drug offender under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act.

The SSP said financial investigations formed a key component of the campaign. As part of these efforts, 37 vehicles allegedly linked to

drug trafficking were seized, while 123 grams of gold worth around Rs 13.70 lakh was frozen. Police also froze 26 bank accounts involving transactions of nearly Rs 18 lakh.

Authorities attached properties worth Rs 5.19 crore in eight separate cases, including both movable and immovable assets. In coordination with the district administration, 22 properties belonging to known drug offenders were demolished.

Administrative action was also taken against individuals allegedly involved in narcotics trafficking, resulting in the cancellation of 27 driving licences and 143 vehicle registration certificates (RCs).

Police further demolished 22 illegal structures, including

11 pucca houses and 11 khullas, which were allegedly being used to facilitate drug-related activities.

Describing the fight against drugs as a collective responsibility, Singh appreciated the support extended by citizens, civil society groups, educational institutions and youth. He urged the public to continue sharing information about drug peddling and related activities, assuring that all credible inputs would be acted upon promptly.

Reaffirming the force's commitment to a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir, the SSP said the crackdown on narcotics trafficking would continue with full intensity to protect young people from the menace of drugs.

CBSE Opens Portal for Answer Book Verification, Re-Evaluation

Observer News Service

New Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Tuesday opened its online portal for students seeking verification of issues in scanned copies of answer books and re-evaluation of answers following the declaration of board examination results.

The facility is available only to students who have already obtained scanned copies of their evaluated answer books.

In a notification, the board said students who are dissatisfied with the evaluation process or have identified discrepancies in the scanned copies can submit applications through the portal from June 2 to June 6.

"The portal for applying for Verification of Issues observed in supplied scanned copy of answer book and Re-evaluation of answers has been made live on June 2, 2026," CBSE said.

According to the board, students can report issues such as missing pages, missing supplementary sheets, missing maps or graphs, blurred pages, incorrect answer books or evaluation against a different question paper set.

Applications must be submitted online through the CBSE website using Aadhaar-based authentication. The board said no offline applications or requests received after the deadline will be entertained.

The fee for verification of issues in a scanned answer book has been fixed at Rs 100 per answer book, while re-evaluation of answers will cost Rs 25 per question. Payments can be

made through UPI, credit card, debit card or net banking.

CBSE said students will be allowed to submit only one application each for verification of issues and re-evaluation and advised candidates to include all subjects and questions before final submission.

The board also cautioned students that once the "Freeze and Proceed to Payment" option is selected, application details cannot be modified.

Applications will be considered complete only after successful online payment, it said. Students seeking re-evaluation may apply for one or more questions across one or multiple subjects by specifying the relevant question and page numbers.

To assist candidates, CBSE has made available a visual guide and tutorial video explaining the application process.

The board said Aadhaar-based verification has been introduced for security purposes. In cases where a student does not possess an Aadhaar card, the Aadhaar details of a parent, relative or guardian may be used.

The portal was opened after a brief delay. CBSE had earlier indicated that the process for verification and re-evaluation was expected to begin by May 29.

The move comes amid concerns raised by some students and parents regarding the On-Screen Marking (OSM) system and reports of technical glitches, payment failures and access-related issues during the post-result process.

Gold Rebounds ₹1,050, Silver Jumps ₹1,300 Amid Global Cues

Observer News Service

New Delhi: Gold prices rebounded by Rs 1,050 in the national capital on Tuesday, supported by a firm trend in international markets and a weaker US dollar.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, gold of 99.9 per cent purity rose to Rs 1,61,450 per 10 grams, inclusive of all taxes, from the previous session's closing level of Rs 1,60,400 per 10 grams.

Silver also witnessed a sharp rise, gaining Rs 1,300 to settle at Rs 2,71,000 per kilogram, inclusive of all taxes. The white metal had closed at Rs 2,69,700 per kg on Monday. In the international market, spot gold climbed 1 per cent to USD 4,528.75 per ounce, while silver advanced 2 per cent to USD 76.29 per ounce.

Market analysts attributed the recovery in bullion prices to a combination of softer US Treasury yields, a weaker dollar and easing crude oil prices. Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst-Commodities at HDFC Securities, said gold continued to trade above the key level of USD 4,500 per ounce as investors awaited greater clarity on geopolitical developments and upcoming US economic data.

He said the decline in crude oil prices, coupled with lower Treasury yields and weakness in the US dollar, provided support to bullion and helped stabilize prices after the previous session's losses.

Bullion markets are expected to remain sensitive to global economic indicators and geopolitical developments in the coming days, traders said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Hailstorms, Flash Floods

amount of debris has been deposited on the road and water has entered areas around residential settlements," Sharma told reporters.

He said teams from various departments, including the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL), were rushed to the affected areas. JCB machines and equipment under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) were deployed to clear debris and restore connectivity.

The deputy commissioner said the cloudburst occurred along the ridge between Drabshalla and Gujuwa, resulting in flash floods that affected several roads, including the Drabshalla Zero Point, Suru-Sarthal, Gahan and Machhipal routes.

Restoration work was underway and the main highway up to Drabshalla had already been cleared, he said, adding that efforts were continuing to reopen the stretch beyond Drabshalla towards Fatri.

Sharma warned that ongoing rainfall could trigger further weather-related incidents and urged people not to gather near nallahs, streams and other water bodies.

"Cloudbursts have become a recurring phenomenon over the past few years and people should avoid water bodies as such incidents can occur at any time," he said.

The district administration also issued a weather advisory warning of light to moderate rainfall and the possibility of flash floods in vulnerable areas. Residents, particularly those living near riverbanks and water channels, were advised to remain alert.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh said he spoke to the deputy commissioner immediately after receiving information about the incidents. Citing field reports, he said no casualties, injuries or property damage had been reported.

Later, Singh said Additional Deputy Commissioner Pawan Kotwal had confirmed that there was no loss of life or property. Teams from the District Red Cross, Police and Revenue Department had been dispatched to assess the affected sites, while machinery had been pressed into service to clear blocked roads.

The administration has activated its round-the-clock control room and directed all line departments and field officers to remain on alert and respond promptly to any emergency.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said he was closely monitoring the situation and had spoken to the deputy commissioners of Doda and Kishtwar.

In a post on X, Sinha said emergency response teams had been directed to remain on high alert while district administrations had been asked to expedite the restoration of roads, highways and water supply infrastructure. He also conveyed condolences to the family of Pinki Devi and directed officials to provide immediate relief and assistance.

The weather also disrupted normal life across several parts of Kashmir, where hailstorms accompanied by heavy rain damaged standing crops, vegetables and fruit orchards. Areas in Shopian, Pulwama, Kupwara, Ganderbal and Tral reported hailstorms, with farmers expressing concern over losses to orchards and agricultural fields.

Bandipora MLA Nizamuddin Bhat urged the government to conduct an immediate assessment of the damage and provide compensation to affected growers and farmers. He said villages such as Bonakoot in Bandipora had suffered substantial losses to crops and fruit

orchards.

The spell of rain followed an unusually hot day across Kashmir. According to the Meteorological Department, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 30.7 degrees Celsius, four degrees above normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 19.2 degrees Celsius, the season's highest night temperature so far.

Other stations also recorded above-normal temperatures, with Qazigund at 29°C, Kokernag at 29.4°C, Kupwara at 27.8°C and Jammu city at 37.7°C.

The Meteorological Department has advised people living in vulnerable areas to remain alert, warning of the possibility of further rainfall, thunderstorms and localized flash floods in the coming days.

Srinagar Records

witnessed warm nights. Konibal Pampore recorded 17.2°C, Srinagar Airport 17.4°C, Awantipora 17.0°C, Bandipora 17.6°C, Kulgam 17.6°C, Anantnag 17.5°C, Pulwama 16.5°C and Shopian 13.2°C.

The rise in night temperatures comes amid persistently hot weather conditions across Kashmir, with daytime temperatures also remaining above normal in several areas.

Meteorological officials attributed the warm conditions to prevailing weather patterns and the absence of significant rainfall activity over the past several days.

The unusually high temperatures, particularly during the night, have increased discomfort levels and led to a rise in demand for cooling facilities in Srinagar and other urban centres, where residents are experiencing conditions more typical of peak summer than early June.

Rajouri Military

said the Corps Commander commended the troops for their resilience, professionalism and meticulous execution of operational tasks.

"He praised all ranks for their high morale, relentless focus and ironclad resolve in pursuit of operational objectives," the Army said, reiterating its commitment to maintaining peace and security through sustained operational efforts.

"The hunt continues," the Army added.

Operation Sheruwalli was launched on May 23 following intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists in the Dorimal-Gambhir Mughlan belt of Rajouri district. An encounter broke out after a joint team of security forces established contact with the suspected terrorists.

Since then, security forces have intensified search operations in the area, employing coordinated searches and targeted fire assaults, including the use of multi-barrel grenade launchers, against suspected hideouts located in dense forests marked by deep gorges and natural caves.

On Monday, security forces busted a terrorist hideout in the area after a brief exchange of fire. Officials said blood stains were found at the site, indicating possible injuries to the fleeing terrorists. However, no terrorist has been neutralised so far.

A day earlier, Lt Gen Mishra, accompanied by the GoC of the Ace of Spades Division, had visited forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) to review the prevailing security situation and operational preparedness.

During the visit, he interacted with troops and reviewed measures aimed at enhancing surveillance, precision-strike capability and

future warfare readiness along the LoC.

CM To Chair Key

constituency has virtually walked away with all the funds of the R&B Department, while their segments have been allotted peanuts," sources said, adding that they cited allocations made under different schemes by the R&B Department.

The political parties in J&K are keenly watching the outcome of the meeting particularly NC's stance on the issue of statehood.

The development assumes added significance in light of remarks made by Omar Abdullah last month. Addressing a public gathering in Tangmarg on May 6, the Chief Minister had hinted that he had much to say on certain critical issues but was deliberately exercising restraint.

"I want to burst like a cloudburst," Omar had remarked.(KNO)

First Batch Of J&K

40 per cent of the luggage had not arrived due to operational limitations and was expected to reach Haj House within the next two to three days.

He advised pilgrims collecting their baggage from Haj House to carry the identity cards issued by the Haj Committee to facilitate hassle-free retrieval.

Returning pilgrims expressed satisfaction over the overall arrangements while highlighting some difficulties encountered during the pilgrimage.

One pilgrim said baggage-related concerns had initially caused inconvenience but were addressed promptly.

"We faced an issue regarding luggage yesterday, and CM Omar Abdullah solved it. The arrangements there were very good. We are thankful to the government," he said.

Another pilgrim said that while some challenges related to accommodation and baggage handling were experienced, the overall pilgrimage remained a positive experience.

"We faced accommodation problems and luggage issues with the airlines, but somehow we managed them. Overall, the experience was good. The government should make more efforts to ensure greater convenience for pilgrims in the future," the pilgrim said.

Deputy Commissioner Budgam Athar Amir Khan said all departments, including the Haj Committee, civil administration and airport authorities, were working in coordination to ensure smooth arrivals.

"Every department is trying to make arrangements hassle-free and convenient so that no pilgrim faces any difficulty. Proper help desks have also been established," he said. Officials said the return operations for pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh will continue till June 16.

A total of 4,641 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir performed Haj this year, including 2,583 men and 2,058 women. Of them, 3,952 pilgrims are scheduled to return through Srinagar, including 3,631 from Jammu and Kashmir and 321 from Ladakh. One pilgrim from Punjab is also expected to return through the Srinagar embarkation point.

The remaining 1,061 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir are expected to return through other embarkation points across the country, including Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru.

The return operations commenced amid baggage-related concerns linked to operational limitations at Srinagar Airport due to runway

maintenance work and temporary restrictions under the existing Notice to Airmen (NOTAM).

15-Day Srinagar

frequencies be increased before and after the closure period. He also called for greater utilisation of rail services to offset disruptions.

President of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Javed Ahmad Tenga, said the government should consider alternative arrangements to limit the impact on the local economy.

"If the suspension is unavoidable, railway services should be expanded and additional trains introduced from Delhi and other major cities to maintain connectivity," he said.

The Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TAAK) described the decision as unfortunate and said tourism stakeholders were not consulted before the schedule was finalised.

TAAK president Farooq Kuthoo said travel operators have already begun receiving queries from tourists concerned about the disruption.

"The tourism sector is still in recovery mode after the Pahalgam attack. This closure could become another setback," he said, urging authorities to review the timing of the maintenance work.

With the October shutdown approaching, tourism and business stakeholders are calling for a reassessment of the schedule or the introduction of alternative transport arrangements, warning that prolonged disruption to air connectivity during a peak travel period could have significant economic consequences for Kashmir.

Mehbooba's Unity

leaders alleged that Mehbooba was deliberately attempting to misrepresent the facts only to score political points.

Mehbooba's unity call comes after the recent breakthroughs achieved by Ladakh's Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance in their negotiations with the Centre.

Arguing that "only dialogue can deliver meaningful outcomes", she said Jammu and Kashmir finds itself at a historical crossroads gripped by "despair and disillusionment."

"Given the fact that disagreements and squabbling between regional parties have been detrimental to the collective interests of Jammu and Kashmir, a reasonable consensus especially post-2019 is the only solution. If Ladakh could do it, so can we," she wrote.

Mehbooba emphasised that the chief minister's backing is a prerequisite for the success of this proposed political platform and urged Abdullah, as the head of the state, to set the ball rolling by convening an official meeting of all stakeholders to forge a united outreach to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Reiterating that the initiative should not become a matter of "appropriating political credit or point-scoring", she pleaded with leaders to put contrarian views on the back-burner.

Reflecting her push for an all-inclusive front, Mehbooba sent identical letters to a diverse group of political and civil society leaders, including BJP's Sunil Sharma (Leader of Opposition in J&K), Tariq Hameed Karra (JKPCC president), Mohammad Yousof Tarigami (CPI-M leader), Sajad Gani Lone (People's Conference chairman), Engineer Rashid (member of Parliament) and Sanjay Tickoo (Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti president).

New Registration

Iran Gears Up for Historic Khamenei Funeral

Trans Asia News

TEHRAN – Iranian authorities are planning what officials described as an unprecedented three-day funeral ceremony for former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei, who was assassinated by the United States and Israel earlier this year, according to statements made by Tehran's deputy mayor on Tuesday.

Mohammad Amin, Tehran's deputy mayor for social and cultural affairs, said farewell and funeral ceremonies would be held in Tehran, Qom and Mashhad, with preparations under way to accommodate millions of mourners from Iran and abroad.

"We are witnessing the funeral of the world's greatest anti-arrogance leader, the greatest commander in the fight against the U.S. and Israel, a great source of emulation and the leader of the Islamic Revolution," Amin said.

He said requests to host funeral-related events had been

received from provinces across Iran and that the main ceremonies were expected to take place around the end of Dhu al-Hijjah and the beginning of Muharram in the Islamic calendar, likely in the third week of June.

The final venue for the main ceremony in Tehran has not yet been confirmed, though Tehran's Mosalla prayer grounds and the mausoleum of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, founder of the Islamic Republic, are among the leading options under consideration. Officials are expected to announce a final decision in the coming days.

According to Amin, public farewell ceremonies will be followed by funeral prayers before the official procession begins. He said the funeral procession in Tehran alone is expected to last at least 24 hours.

Iranian officials have said the funeral was postponed for months because of the logistical challenges involved in managing the large crowds expected to attend.



Amin said authorities were preparing for between 15 million and 20 million participants and had called on neighbouring provinces and districts to prepare for a significant influx of visitors.

The ceremonies will then continue in the holy cities of Qom and Mashhad, two of Iran's most important religious centres. Amin said that, in accordance with Ayatollah Khamenei's wishes and recommendations from those close to him, burial is expected to

take place near the sacred shrine of Imam Reza in Mashhad.

He said Iraqi tribal leaders, religious authorities and members of parliament had expressed interest in participating in or hosting parts of the commemorations, though no final decision had been taken on any events outside Iran.

Officials expect Mashhad to become a major gathering point for mourners arriving from across Iran and neigh-

bouring countries, including Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen, Pakistan, Afghanistan and India.

To support the anticipated crowds, authorities are coordinating with surrounding cities, including Karaj, Qom, Qazvin, Saveh, Semnan, Garmsar and Varamin. Local administrations are preparing temporary accommodation and logistical arrangements for visitors travelling from across Iran.

Overall command and co-ordination of the funeral arrangements will be overseen by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), while municipal authorities and other state institutions will assist with transport, public services and crowd management, WANA news agency reported.

Officials described the event as an "unprecedented" funeral because of Ayatollah Khamenei's religious and political standing.

The official also cited what he described as demonstrations of mourning across the region, saying Iraq's judiciary

chief had reported that no marriages were registered in Iraq during the first 40 days after Ayatollah Khamenei's martyrdom. He added that symbolic funeral ceremonies had been held in Iraqi cities and that similar commemorations had taken place in Pakistan, India, Afghanistan and Yemen.

Officials said ceremonies in Tehran, Qom and Mashhad had already been confirmed while authorities continued assessing routes, infrastructure and operational requirements for what they expect to be one of the largest public gatherings in the country's modern history.

Organisers said cultural, artistic and social groups across Iran were also preparing programmes linked to the funeral, describing it as more than a state ceremony and potentially one of the largest public commemorations since the establishment of the Islamic Republic.

Sayyed Ali Hosseini Khamenei, who served as supreme leader since 1989, was assassinated on Feb. 28 at the age of 86

along with his wife, daughter and grandchild, besides several members of his family, when his residence was struck by US and Israeli forces during the opening phase of war launched by the US and Israel. The war has since spread across the region and sent tremors across the world with economies of countries facing the heat.

Khamenei's position as supreme leader made him the central figure in Iran's political system, with broad influence over domestic policy, foreign affairs and the country's security apparatus.

Iranian officials announced in March that Mojtaba Khamenei, the late leader's second-oldest son, had been appointed his successor after reportedly being injured in the same attack.

Mojtaba Khamenei has not appeared publicly or issued any direct public statements since his appointment, prompting speculation in some media outlets about his health and whereabouts. Iranian authorities have not publicly addressed those reports.

Would Like to End Sanctions Waivers on Russian Oil: Rubio

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON: The United States on Tuesday said it would like to end the sanction waivers granted to countries purchasing Russian oil, contending that these measures were time-limited to ease global supplies in the wake of the Iran war.

Testifying before the Senate Foreign Policy Committee, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that the ultimate decision regarding the Russian waiver would be made by the Department of Treasury.

"We would like to end it as soon as we possibly can because the underlying policy of this country has been to sanction their oil. These are time-limited waivers for the purpose of opening up more global supply," Rubio told the Committee.

The US granted a waiver from sanctions on the purchase of Russian oil in March and extended it twice. The last extension was granted on May 17 for one month.

Democrat ranking member Jeanne Shaheen sought to know from Rubio whether he could make a commitment before the panel that the waiver will not be extended



further when it expires on June 17. India is among the countries that have benefited from the waiver from US sanctions on the purchase of Russian oil. Rubio said the sanctions waiver was an attempt to alleviate the global effect of the rising oil prices.

"The problem we're facing, too, is there's a contagion potential, and that is that at some point we can do strategic reserves, we can do some of the other things that we've done to alleviate global supply, but at some point you have to ensure -- this is not so much for us," Rubio said.

He said at the end of the day, the US economy is not in need of it, but other economies around the world have benefited from the Russian waiver.

Bangladesh FM Elected President of 81st Session of UNGA

Press Trust of India

UNITED NATIONS: Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman was on Tuesday elected as the President of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly in a closely-contested election.

Rahman and Cyprus' Special Envoy for Multilateralism Andreas Kakouris were vying to lead the 193-member General Assembly in its 81st session, which will commence in September.

In the closely-contested elections, the Bangladeshi diplomat garnered 99 votes while Kakouris got 91 votes in his favour out of the 190 members present and voting.

To be elected, the candidate required a simple majority of 96 votes.

Rahman takes over the baton from current General Assembly President and former German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, only the



fifth female president of the organisation in its 80-year history.

The UNGA hall broke into applause as Baerbock, flanked by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, announced the results of the voting. Rahman appeared to raise his hands in prayer after the results were announced.

"Having obtained the required majority," Rahman "has been elected President of the General Assembly at its 81st session," Baerbock said,

extending congratulations to her successor.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman congratulated Khalilur Rahman on his election as the President of the 81st Session of the UNGA.

"This achievement reflects Bangladesh's increasing contribution and credibility on the global stage. We believe he will proudly represent Bangladesh and forge connectivity, dialogue, and cooperation in addressing multilateral, shared challenges. We

wish him every success in this new responsibility," the prime minister said in a post on X.

In accordance with the established regional rotation, the President of the 81st session was to be elected from the Asia Pacific Group.

The PGA election was held a day before the general assembly will elect five new non-permanent members of the 15-nation Security Council for the 2027-28 term.

Rahman was sworn in as the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh in February. Previously, he was National Security Adviser and High Representative for the Rohingya Issue in the Interim Government of Bangladesh.

The election for President of the UNGA comes amid raging global conflicts, a deeply polarised UN Security Council failing to fulfil its mandate of maintaining international peace and security and heightened scrutiny over the

relevance of the 80-year global organisation in the wake of increasing geopolitical challenges and financial constraints.

The world body has also kick-started the process of electing its next Secretary General as the tenure of incumbent UN chief Guterres concludes at the end of this year.

In his vision statement, Rahman had outlined six priority areas for his presidency - 'Silence the Guns, Amplify the Voices', 'No One Left Behind, No Country Left Out', 'Our Planet, Our Pact', 'Rights and Protection - Freedom from Fear and Want', 'Innovation with Inclusion' and 'We the Peoples - Reimagined.'

"As a candidate from the Global South, I carry the aspirations of developing countries, but as President, I will be everyone's President - acting without fear or favour and serving the interests of the entire membership," he had said in his vision statement.

MI Securities

POWER OF ₹5,000 SIP

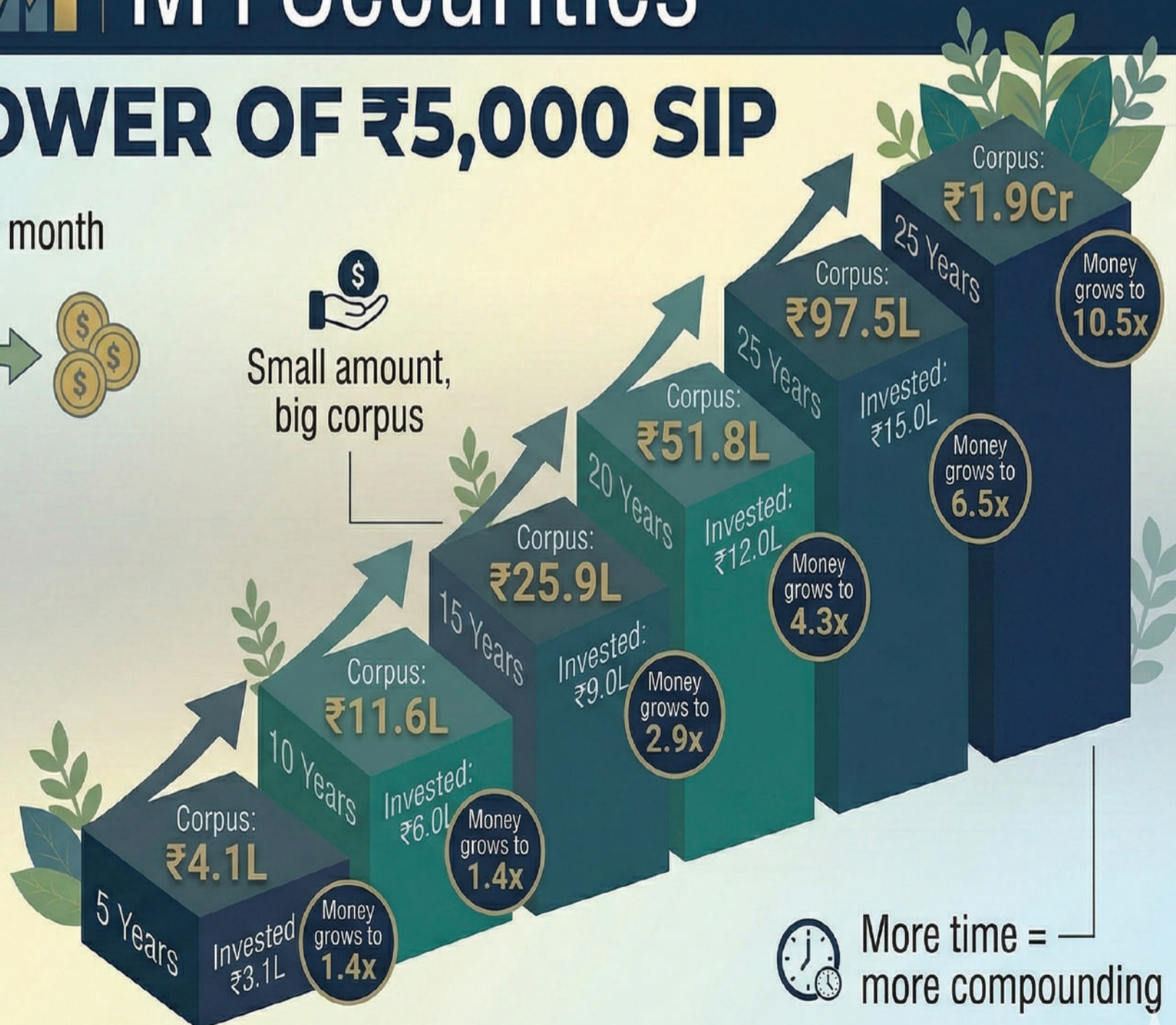
Step 1: You invest ₹5,000 every month



Step 2: You reinvest your total investment growth

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

Small amount, big corpus



More time = more compounding

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