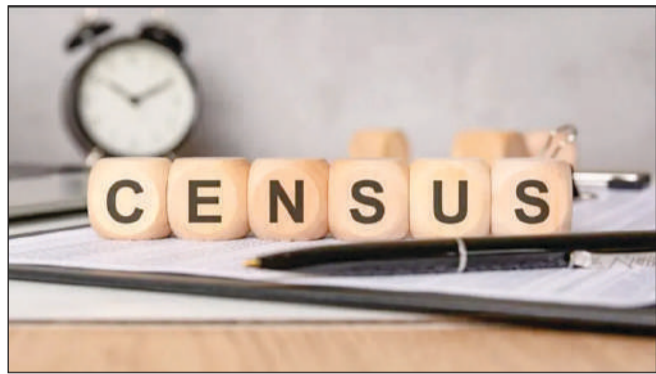


CENSUS-2027

Govt Warns Staff Of Penalties For Negligence



Observer News Service

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has directed teaching staff and other government employees engaged in Census-2027 operations to perform their assigned duties diligently and within prescribed timelines, warning that refusal, negligence or failure to discharge census responsibilities could invite penal and disciplinary action.

In a circular issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), the government said a large number of government employees, particularly teaching staff and

field-level officials, have been appointed as Enumerators and Supervisors for the House Listing Operation (HLO) of Census-2027, which is being conducted across the Union Territory from June 1 to June 30.

The circular stated that census duties are statutory in nature and must be performed within the prescribed timelines to ensure the successful completion of the national exercise. It reiterated the responsibilities of Supervisors and Enumerators, including field verification, data validation, mapping, door-to-door data collection and ensuring complete

India Rejects Polls In Gilgit-Baltistan

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: India said on Thursday it had lodged a strong protest with Pakistan over Islamabad's plans to hold elections to the Gilgit-Baltistan assembly, reiterating its claim that the region is part of Indian territory and accusing Pakistan of attempting to alter the status of areas under its control.

Pakistan is scheduled to hold general elections for the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly on June 7 in the mountainous region that India claims as part of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement, India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said New Delhi had conveyed its objections to Islamabad and reaffirmed its position that the entire Union Territories of Jammu | More on P10

Art 370 Never Hindered J&K's Development: CM

Says Statehood Biggest Political Demand; J&K Chose India In 1947

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said Article 370 was never responsible for the lack of development in Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that decades of violence and instability, rather than the erstwhile state's special constitutional status, hampered economic growth and investment in the region.

Speaking at The Hindu Huddle 2026 in Bengaluru, Omar also reiterated that restoration of statehood remains the biggest political demand of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and stressed that the region had chosen to be part | More on P10

Body Of Srinagar Man Swept Away Saving Son Recovered

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The body of a Srinagar man who was swept away in the Lidder River while attempting

to rescue his son near Pahalgam was recovered on Friday, six days after the incident.

Officials said the body of Muhammad Ashraf Mir

(42), a resident of Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar, was retrieved from the Amad area of Aishmuqam following an extensive search operation. Mir had gone missing

on Sunday after entering the Lidder River near Langanbal, around eight kilometres downstream of Pahalgam, in a bid to save his teenage | More on P10

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'Enough Is Enough': Narco-Terrorists Will Pay A Heavy Price, Says LG Sinha

Calls Drug Menace a National Security Threat; Threat to Society's Survival

Anti-Drug War In J&K Has Become People's Movement: LG

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said the fight against drugs and narco-terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir has evolved into a mass movement, warning that those involved in drug trafficking and narco-terror activities would face severe consequences.

Addressing a gathering after joining the 'Nasha-Mukt Jammu Kashmir Campaign' in Ganderbal, Sinha said the anti-drug initiative launched 55 days ago has gained widespread public



support across the Union Territory.

"Enough is enough," the Lieutenant Governor said, asserting that the administration would not allow narco-terrorists to

destroy the future of the region's youth.

He said that during the past 55 days, authorities have registered 1,036 FIRs, arrested 1,128 drug smugglers, | More on P10

Inaugurates Emergency Ops Centre, Yatra Control Room

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday inaugurated two facilities set up in Ganderbal district to ensure a seamless pilgrimage experience for devotees during the upcoming Amarnath Yatra. These were the District Emergency Operations Centre and Shri Amarnathji Yatra Control Room established at the Deputy | More on P10

HC Sets Aside Order Granting Pay To Contractual Employees

Agencies

Srinagar: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has set aside an earlier order directing the Union Territory administration to pay remuneration to a group of contractual professionals, ruling that the claimants failed to establish that they had performed authorized duties beyond the expiry of their contractual engagements.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Sanjay Parihar delivered the judgment while hearing an appeal filed by the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir against an earlier decision in favor of the contractual employees.

The dispute arose from the engagement of subject specialists and professionals by the Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) and the Town Planning Organization, Kashmir (CTPK) in 2017 and 2018 for preparation of Master Plans and Zonal Plans for Srinagar and

Anantnag. The appointments were purely contractual and carried specified end dates.

The professionals had approached the court claiming they continued to work under verbal instructions until March 2020 despite the expiry of their contracts and sought remuneration for the period. A Single Judge had earlier accepted the claim relying on experience certificates produced before the court.

However, the Division Bench found that official circulars issued in June and August 2019 had directed the contractual professionals to disengage and return official equipment and data, contradicting claims that they remained in service thereafter.

The court observed that the petitioners had failed to demonstrate that they were authorized to continue working beyond their contractual tenure and questioned the credibility of experience certificates issued subsequently. The Bench | More on P10

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Bad Cholesterol Reduction: Single Gene Therapy Dose Shows 62% Drop



Press Trust Of India

A one-time gene therapy for treating hypercholesterolaemia could lower up to 62 per cent 'bad' cholesterol in the blood, with reductions sustaining over time, according to results of a Phase 1b clinical trial published in The New England Journal of Medicine. Developed by the US-based pharmaceutical and biotechnology giant Eli Lilly and Company, VERVE-102 is an experimental gene therapy that works by durably turning off the 'PCSK9' gene in the liver and lower blood levels of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) following a single infusion, it said in a statement. The interim analysis of the 'Heart-2' trial looked at data from 35 adults with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia (HeFH) or premature coronary artery disease (CAD). "In the Heart-2 study, a single intravenous infusion of VERVE-102 resulted in meaningful lowering of circulating PCSK9 protein and corresponding reductions in LDL-C across all evaluated dose levels,"

the statement reads. It said, "In this interim analysis of 35 participants, a single dose of VERVE-102 resulted in dose-dependent mean reductions in PCSK9 ranging from 51 per cent to 88 per cent, at the lowest 0.3 milligrams per kilogram dose to the highest 1.0 milligrams per kilogram dose, respectively." Corresponding mean reductions in LDL-C ranged from nine per cent for a dose of 0.3 milligrams per kilogram, 44 per cent (0.45 milligrams per kilogram dose), 51 per cent (0.8 milligrams per kilogram dose), to 62 per cent (1.0 milligrams per kilogram dose), the company said. Riyaz S Patel, cardiologist at Barts Health NHS Trust and professor of cardiology at University College London, said, "These early data give us encouraging evidence that in vivo base editing of PCSK9 may offer a novel approach to achieving substantial and durable LDL-C reduction with a one-time treatment." Patel added that many patients with an elevated LDL-C struggle to achieve sustained control de-

spite ongoing efforts with the medicines available today, putting them at a significant risk for cardiovascular events. "With coronary artery disease still one of the leading causes of death worldwide, the need for new approaches is real," Patel said. The gene therapy, VERVE-102, was found to be well-tolerated across all dose levels with no treatment-related serious adverse events and no dose-limiting toxicities reported, according to the statement. Adverse events included low-grade infusion-related reactions and fatigue, it said. "The Heart-2 results provide early clinical evidence that a single dose of VERVE-102 may mimic the LDL-C lowering effects of PCSK9 cardioprotective variants, potentially transforming cardiovascular care from chronic management to a one-time treatment," Sekar Kathiresan, Lilly senior vice president and co-founder of Verve Therapeutics, said. Lilly plans to begin enrolling the Phase 2 clinical study of VERVE-102 by the end of this year.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for public information that my name & parentage has been wrongly written as S BILAL AHMAD HAMDANI S/O S. MOHD SHARIEF in my 10th class board record bearing Registration No. 10681-KRP-IX-81, session 1984 (April), while my correct name & parentage is BILAL AHMAD & parentage SYED MOHAMAD SHARIEF which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard, he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the concerned JKBOSE within seven days from the publication of this notice, after that no objection will be entertained.
Name: BILAL AHMAD
S/O: SYED MOHAMAD SHARIEF
R/O: KREERI fko

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR

I have passed in secondary School Examination class 10th under roll no 127065103 Annual regular 2025 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board Of school Education. The error has been committed wrongly in the school admission records against my mother's name Kulsooma Begum instead of Shahzada Akhter. Now, I have applied for the correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education New campus Bemina Srinagar. If any person have any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Deputy 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. This is published for the information of general public.
Name: Aaliyan Amin Tantry
Father's name: Mohammad Amin Tantry
Mother's name: Shahzada Akhter
Date of birth: 04/03/2011
Reg. no: 242700000360058
Residence: Handwara fko



THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR

I have passed in secondary School Examination class 10th under roll no 128018019 Annual regular 2024, class 11th under roll no 227037132 Annual Regular 2025 & class 12th under roll no 327046056 Annual regular 2025 Oct novrespectively through the Jammu and Kashmir Board Of school Education. The error has been committed wrongly in the school admission records against my mother's name Kulsooma Begum instead of Shahzada Akhter. Now, I have applied for the correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education New campus Bemina Srinagar. If any person have any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Deputy 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. This is published for the information of general public.
Name: Khushboo Amin
Father's name: Mohammad Amin Tantry
Mother's name: Shahzada Akhter
Date of birth: 04/10/2009
Reg. no. 2228010000360038
Residence: Handwara fko



PUBLIC NOTICE

I intend to change the name recorded on the electricity bill bearing Consumer ID No. 0213040006022 from Ab. Salam Rather S/o Late Gh. Hassan Rather, R/o Chanderhama, Pattan to Mehraj Uddin Rather S/o Ab. Salam Rather, R/o Chanderhama, Pattan.
If anybody has any objection regarding this name change, he/she may submit the same before the concerned PDD Office 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 name change process shall be proceeded with accordingly.

Mehraj Uddin Rather
S/o Ab. Salam Rather
R/o Chanderhama, Pattan fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Imad Rashid, S/o Abdul Rashid Mir, R/o Kanigam, Tehsil Barbugh Imam Sahib, District Shopian, J&K, hereby notify the general public that my name has been incorrectly recorded as "Imad Rasheed" in certain documents/records due to a clerical/typographical error. My correct and actual name is "Imad Rashid". Both names refer to one and the same person, and there is no change in my identity. Henceforth, I shall be known and identified only as Imad Rashid. If any person has any objection to this correction, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained and the necessary correction shall be carried out accordingly.
Imad Rashid
S/o Abdul Rashid Mir
R/o Kanigam, Tehsil Barbugh Imam Sahib, District Shopian fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Shamim Ahmad Bhat, F/o Shagufta Shamim, R/o Pathallan, Tehsil Pattan, District Baramulla, J&K (UT), hereby inform the general public that the name of my daughter has been wrongly recorded as "Ahaquta Shamim" in her Aadhaar Card bearing No. 7185-1066-8625. Her correct and actual name is "Shagufta Shamim." Henceforth, she shall be known and identified by the name Shagufta Shamim for all purposes. Any person having any objection to this correction may submit the same to the concerned authorities within the prescribed period.

Shamim Ahmad Bhat
F/o Shagufta Shamim
R/o Pathallan, Pattan, Baramulla, J&K fko

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub... issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
PUBLIC NOTICE...
The registrar birth EO MC pattan has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Sakawat Mehdi Joo s/o Bilal Ahmad Joo R/o Diver Yakhmanpora Tehsil Singapora with verified date of birth 29/09/2024 occurred at SDH pattan in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
Sd
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Office of the Naib Tehsildar Pattan

Sub... issuance of registration order in respect of delayed birth..
Public Notice
The registrar birth BDO Sherabad Khore has submitted a case file pertaining to birth of Zainab Basit D/o Basit Shafi Ganale R/o Hanjiwera Bala with verified date of birth 20/01/2019 occurred at home in this connection if any body having objection for issuance of said certificate he may contact to this office within 04 days after that no objection shall be entertained.
Sd
fko Naib Tehsildar Pattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Saja Bano W/o Late Abdul Rehman Dar, R/o Wagar, Budgam, do hereby declare for the information of the general public and concerned authorities that the electric agreement/consumer connection (Consumer ID 0206010005853) recorded in the name of my deceased husband namely Abdul Rehman Dar R/o Wagar Budgam is required to be transferred/changed in my favour after his demise. Henceforth, I request the concerned authorities of PDD Budgam to kindly change the electric agreement/consumer record from the name of Late Abdul Rehman Dar to Saja Bano W/o Late Abdul Rehman Dar R/o Wagar Budgam. If any person has any objection regarding the said change, he/she may file the objection before the concerned office within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, it shall be presumed that nobody has any objection and further necessary action may be taken accordingly.
Sd/-Saja Bano
W/o Late Abdul Rehman Dar
mcb R/o Wagar, Budgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is information for the general public that in Birth Certificate of my son the name is entered as HUZAIF AHMAD DOBHI S/O MOHD YASEEN DOBHI while his actual name is HUZAIF AHMAD DOBHI S/O MOHD YASEEN DOBHI. Now I want its correction, in this regard if anybody having any objection may contact EXECUTIVE OFFICER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUDGAM with in a period of seven days. No objection shall be entertained after that.
MOHD YASEEN DOBHI
F/o HUZAIF AHMAD DOBHI
R/o HEWADRA BUDGAM
CELL. 6006623616 mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that my name as mentioned in my Aadhaar Card has been incorrectly recorded as RAFIT ZEHRA while as my actual name is RIFAT IBRAHIM. Now I want to change my name from old name (RAFIT ZEHRA) to new name (RIFAT IBRAHIM). In future I will be known as RIFAT IBRAHIM. Any person who has any objections or concerns regarding these changes is requested to raise them within 07 days from the date of this notice.
Rifat Ibrahim
D/O-Mohammad Ibrahim malik
Iskander pora Budgam J&K 193411 bmg_r

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION NEW CAMPUS BEMINA SRINAGAR

I have passed in secondary School Examination class 10th under roll no 128022002 Annual Regular 2023, class 11th under roll no 228017073 Annual Regular 2024 & class 12th under roll no 327046106 Annual regular 2025 respectively through the Jammu and Kashmir Board Of school Education. The error has been committed wrongly in the school admission records against my mother's name Kulsooma Begum instead of Shahzada Akhter. Now, I have applied for the correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education New campus Bemina Srinagar. If any person have any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Deputy 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. This is published for the information of general public.
Name: Mehak Amin
Father's name: Mohammad Amin Tantry
Mother's name: Shahzada Akhter Date of birth: 05/06/2007
Reg no. 2128010000360046
Residence: Handwara fko



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

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have passed/appeared in SSE/HSE-I/HSE-II (Class 10th /) under Roll No. 121021060 Session oct-Nov Year - 2025 through the J&K Board of School Education. The error has been committed against my Fathers and Mothers Name as Mohammad Hanief & Shabnum instead of Mohd. Hanief Ganai & Shabnum Akhter respectively. Now I have applied for correction in The J&K Board of School Education Magam. If any person has any objection in this regard may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary JKBOSE MAGAM within seven days from the date of the publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection will be entertained. This is published for the information of the general public. The correction particulars be recorded as under:
Name: Zaara Binti Hanief.
Father's Name: Mohd. Hanief Ganai
Mother's Name: Shabnum Akhter
Date of Birth: 24/11/2009
Residence: Adina Magam
Mobile No. 7889944082. bmg



GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. Ground Water Division Srinagar

Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.
E- mail: - suresh05.gupta@jk.gov.in Tel./ Fax No:- 0194-2411285

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
GIST of Detailed e- NIT No: - 19/J5-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2026-27.

For and on behalf of Government of UT - J&K, e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Firms/Companies/drilling agencies/Joint Ventures etc for "registered experienced Contractors of Production Tube wells" as per details given below. The bidding process shall be completed online on www.jktenders.gov.in in two covers viz. Cover 1st consisting of Pre Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2nd shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No	Name of work	Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs	Earnest money	Cost of Tender Document	Class of contract	Time of completion	Technical Sanction	Major Head / Programme	Tender Call
1.	Improvement to water supply Scheme Chandsuma.	Rs.35.80 Lacs		Rs.1,000/-	45 Days	Registered for Construction of Production Tube Wells		JKIFDC	1st

Position of Funds: - Available:
This office letter No. PHE/GWD/2026-27/TS-2122-25, Dated: 04-06-2026 & 2079-80, Dated: 03-06-2026
Executive Engineer PHE Division Baramulla's letter No. PHE/Bl/4896-99, Dated: 10-11-2025.
AAA: Accord of Administrative Approval issued by the District Superintending Engineer Hyd. Circle Sopore vide Order No: SE/DB/PHE/Baramulla/AAA/75 of 2019-20, issued under endorsement No. SE/DB/909-11, Dated: 27-04-2019.
The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website: https://www.jktenders.gov.in From 05.06.2026 (04:00 PM) to 25.06.2026 (02:00 PM)

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Bill of quantities (B.O.Q.), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: https://www.jktenders.gov.in As per Critical Dates/Information scheduled given below Table-II

1.	Publishing Date	05-06-2026 (04:00 P.M)
2.	Period of Downloading of Bids	05-06-2026 (04:00 P.M) upto 25-06-2026 (02:00 P.M.)
3.	Period of Submission of bids	05-06-2026 (04:00 P.M) upto 25-06-2026 (02:00 P.M.)
4.	Date of opening of Tender.	26-05-2026 (02:00 P.M)
5.	Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Srinagar Kashmir-190011	
6.	Cost of Tender Document : To be deposited online (If available) or Non-Refundable should be in form of DD /TR/ deposited to Account Head 0215 or in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)	
7.	Note: In case the firm/agency/contractor submits/uploaded scanned copy of tender document fee in the shape of DD /TR/ the hard copies shall have to be submitted in the divisional office before opening of cover 2nd. (Financial Cover) of e-NIT (if needed)	
8.	Bid Validity Period: 180 Days	
9.	The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on www. jktenders.gov.in	

No instrument—such as an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), Treasury Receipt, or Challan—generated prior to the publication of the tender document will be accepted. Any bid submitted contrary to this requirement is liable for summary rejection. In the event the tender is retendered due to government exigencies or otherwise, an instrument shall be considered valid only if generated after the date of the initial tender publication.
The cost of Tender Document under Account Head 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Ground Water Division Srinagar (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for 180 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Division Srinagar (H.Q. Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar) on 25-05-2026 (11:00 AM) If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/26-27/Camp/2129-41
DIPK-1857/26 Dated: - 05-06-2026.

Sd/= Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt. Ground Water Division Srinagar.

ACB Books Former Horticulture Officials, Contractor in Zawoora Garden Case

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered a corruption case against former Horticulture Department officials, committee members and a private contractor over alleged financial irregularities and procedural violations in development works executed at Zawoora Garden in Srinagar, officials said on Friday.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, the case was registered following the outcome of a Joint Surprise Check conducted into allegations of corruption, financial irregularities, procedural violations and abuse of official position in connection with works executed by the Horticulture Department at Zawoora Garden.

The statement said the Joint Surprise Check was initiated by Police Station ACB Srinagar to examine allegations relating to the development of the Centre of Excellence at Zawoora Garden. The enquiry revealed prima facie evidence of serious irregularities in the tendering and execution of works undertaken under the project.

"During the verification, it surfaced that the NIT was allegedly framed in a manner that lacked specific quality parameters and technical specifications, thereby creating scope for arbitrary decision-making. It was further found that the financial provisions incorporated in the tender were substantially higher than those envisaged in

the approved Detailed Project Report (DPR)," the spokesperson said.

The enquiry also revealed that the eligibility criteria relating to financial turnover were allegedly fixed at an unusually high threshold despite the actual requirement being significantly lower. The statement said the restrictive condition allegedly curtailed fair competition and favoured a particular bidder.

The spokesperson said the findings of the Joint Surprise Check prima facie indicate abuse of official position, criminal misconduct and criminal conspiracy involving public servants and the beneficiary private firm, resulting in undue pecuniary advantage to the contractor and corresponding loss to the government.

"Accordingly, FIR No. 09/2026 has been registered at Police Station ACB Srinagar under Section 5(1)(d) read with Section 5(2) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, Svt. 2006, and Section 120-B RPC against the then Director Horticulture Kashmir, members of the District Level Purchase Committee (DLPC), members of the Inspection Committee, the beneficiary contractor M/S Fruit Master Agro Fresh Pvt. Ltd., and other involved persons," the spokesperson said.

He added that further investigation has been taken up to identify the role and culpability of all concerned and to take appropriate legal action in accordance with law.

Srinagar Police Attach Properties, Vehicles in Anti-Drug Crackdown



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Police on Friday attached immovable and movable properties worth more than ₹4 crore in separate actions carried out under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, targeting assets allegedly linked to narcotics trafficking in the city. The action was undertaken by Police Stations Lal Bazar and Khanayar as part of the ongoing anti-drug campaign being conducted across Jammu and Kashmir.

In one of the cases, Police Station Lal Bazar attached a double-storey residential house constructed on nine marlas of land belonging to Aadil Ahmad Dhobi of Sikh Bagh, Lal Bazar. A Swift Dzire vehicle bearing registration number JK01U-0980 linked to the accused was also attached under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act in connection with FIR No. 05/2026 registered under Sections 8/22 and 29 of the NDPS Act.

In another action by Lal Bazar Police, a Santro vehicle bearing registration number DL4CAP-6047 belonging to Arshid Ahmad Sheikh of Haka Bazar was attached in connection with FIR No. 50/2025 registered under Section 8/20 of the NDPS Act.

Meanwhile, Police Station

Khanayar attached a double-storey residential house along with 12 marlas of land valued at approximately ₹2 crore belonging to Owais Hussain Mir of Tangbagh, Khanayar. The attachment was made in connection with FIR No. 12/2024 registered under Sections 8/20 and 29 of the NDPS Act.

Police said that during the course of investigation, the property was identified as an illegally acquired asset allegedly generated through proceeds of narcotics trafficking. The attachment was carried out after completion of legal formalities under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act.

Officials said the cumulative value of the attached properties and vehicles exceeds ₹4 crore, making it one of the significant asset-attachment actions undertaken in recent months.

As per KNT, Police stated that the objective of such measures is to dismantle the financial infrastructure supporting the narcotics trade by depriving accused persons of assets allegedly acquired through unlawful activities.

Srinagar Police reiterated its commitment to combating drug trafficking and urged citizens to share credible information related to narcotics peddling and substance abuse with law enforcement agencies.

NC Will Attend INDIA Bloc's Meeting on June 8: Farooq Abdullah

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Friday said his party will attend the meeting of the INDIA bloc in Delhi on June 8.

"The meeting is going to taking place. Omar (Abdullah) or

I, one of us will go. Obviously, we are part of that. We will be there," Abdullah told reporters in Hazratbal here.

The National Conference on Wednesday announced that its legislators will protest in Delhi to press for the restoration of statehood and special status.

Blaze Destroys 3 Houses in Rainawari, Locals Seek Financial Assistance for Victims



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Three residential houses were damaged in a devastating fire incident at Kalwal Mohalla, Rainawari here on late Thursday night, leaving several families homeless and in distress.

Eyewitnesses and local residents told KNO that the fire broke out suddenly during the night when most residents were asleep.

"We were downstairs when suddenly flames appeared. Within minutes the fire spread rapidly and people started running out of their homes in panic," Bashir Ahmed local resident said.

Nazir Ahmad, another local said women and children were crying as neighbours rushed to rescue the families and shift household items to safety.

Similarly, residents said the narrow lanes and congested locality added to the panic, while locals joined firefighters in preventing the flames from spreading further.

Officials said the Fire and Emergency Services personnel,

assisted by police and local volunteers, launched an immediate firefighting operation and managed to bring the blaze under control after strenuous efforts.

The incident caused damage to three houses, while household goods, bedding, clothes and other valuables were reduced to ashes, locals said. He added the partial damage was also done by the water.

Meanwhile, the affected families appealed to the administration and civil society to provide financial assistance and rehabilitation support, saying they have lost most of their belongings in the fire incident.

"We appeal to the government and kind-hearted people to help these families rebuild their homes and lives. They are in urgent need of support," Mubashir a local resident said.

Meanwhile, MLA Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq visited the affected area on Friday and met the families affected by the blaze.

"Visited Kalwal Mohalla, Rainawari and met the families affected by the devastating fire

incident last night. My heart goes out to them during this difficult time," Sadiq said.

He said he spoke with Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo and requested immediate assistance for the victims. "I have requested that every possible assistance be extended to the affected families. I am personally arranging immediate essential relief and will also provide the maximum permissible assistance from my Constituency Development Fund for fire victims," he said.

Appealing for solidarity and community support, Sadiq said such difficult moments require collective efforts from society. "At times like these, we must stand together as a community. I appeal to everyone to come forward and support these families in whatever way possible," he added.

He also appreciated the efforts of Fire & Emergency Services personnel, police and local residents for their timely response in preventing further damage.

JKPPS Bemina Organizes Plantation Drive on World Environment Day

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In observance of World Environment Day, J&K Police Public School (JKPPS), Bemina, organized a plantation drive within the school premises to promote environmental awareness and reinforce the importance of ecological conservation.

The programme was graced by Shri Maqsood-ul-Zaman, IPS, Administrative Officer, as the Chief Guest. On the occasion, he planted a sapling and commended the efforts of the school in fostering environmental responsibility among students. He highlighted the significance of tree plantation in combating climate change, preserving biodiversity, and ensuring a sustainable future.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members, and staff, who actively took part in the plantation activity and reaffirmed their commitment to environmental stewardship.



Speaking on the occasion, the school administration reiterated its dedication to promoting green initiatives and instilling environmental values among young learners. The plantation drive served as a meaningful reminder of the collective

responsibility to protect and preserve the environment for future generations.

The programme concluded with a pledge by the participants to contribute towards a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable environment.

LCMA Holds World Environment Day Programme

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On Friday, the Jammu and Kashmir Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (JK LCMA), in collaboration with Crescent Public School Srinagar, on Friday organised a World Environment Day programme to promote environmental awareness and sustainable practices among students.

In a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, a spokesperson said the programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers and officials of JK LCMA.

The event featured awareness sessions, environmental presentations, poster-making activities and a plantation drive aimed at sensitising young minds about the importance of environmental conservation and ecological sustainability.

"The programme was graced by Vice Chairman JK LCMA, Khurshid Ahmad Shah (JKAS), as



the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, he stressed the need for collective action to tackle environmental challenges such as pollution, climate change and loss of biodiversity," the spokesperson said.

He said the Vice Chairman highlighted the crucial role of educational institutions in fostering environmental responsibility among the younger generation.

The spokesperson said Khurshid Ahmad Shah also spoke

about the importance of conserving Kashmir's fragile ecosystem, particularly its lakes, wetlands, forests and water resources and urged students to adopt environmentally responsible lifestyles and actively participate in conservation efforts.

"The Watershed Manager (Project Officer), JK LCMA, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, also spoke on the occasion," he said.

According to the statement, students presented awareness messages focusing on environmental protection, waste management and preservation of natural resources. The activities reflected the creativity and commitment of students towards building a greener future.

The spokesperson added that the school management appreciated JK LCMA for organising the awareness programme and providing students an opportunity to engage with important environmental issues.

• 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
• PAMPOR: 01933-294132
• PATTAN: 01954-293507
• QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

PRAYERS

FAJR	3:37
ZUHR	12:28
ASR	5:25
Magrib	7:41
ISHA	9:20

HIJRI CALENDAR
20 Zil-Hajj
1447

From KO Archives

- 640- Arab Muslim army sent by Caliph Omar (RA) begins siege of Heliopolis, city succumbs mid to late July, paving way for Muslim conquest of Byzantine Egypt
- 1744 France and Prussia sign peace treaty
- 1801- Peace of Badajoz: Spain-Portugal
- 1882- Cyclone in Arabian Sea (Bombay, India) drowns 100,000 (disputed event)
- 1882- Electric iron patented by New York inventor Henry W. Seely. It weighed almost 15 pounds and was very slow to heat up.
- 1912- The eruption of Novarupta in Alaska begins, the largest volcanic eruption of the 20th century
- 1916- The death of Yuan Shikai, ruler of much of China since 1912, causes central government to virtually collapse in the face of pressure from warlords, and from political reformers including Sun Yat-sen
- 1918- Battle of Belleau Wood, 1st US victory of WW I
- 1919- Finland declares war on bolsheviks
- 1919- The Republic of Prekmurje ends
- 1926- Egyptian government of Adly Pasha forms
- 1942- Japanese forces retreat, ending Battle of Midway
- 1944- Operation Overlord: D-Day begins as the 156,000-strong Allied Expeditionary Force lands in Normandy, France, during World War II
- 1944- World War II: All Major League Baseball games are cancelled in honor of the D-Day landings in northern France
- 1947- Treaty drawn up for establishment of International Patent Institute
- 1966- Gemini 9 completes 45 orbits after rendezvous with "angry alligator"
- 1966- NFL & AFL announce their merger
- 1967- Israeli troops occupy Gaza during second day of the Six-Day War
- 1971- Air West flight 706 collides with a US Marine Corps F-4B Phantom jet over Los Angeles killing all 49 aboard the DC-6 and the pilot of the F-4B
- 1972 - Explosion at world's largest coal mine kills 427 (Wankie, Rhodesia)
- 1972 - US bombs Haiphong, North-Vietnam; 1000s killed
- 1975 - Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam established
- 1977 - Washington Post reports US has developed neutron bomb
- 1981 - A passenger train travelling between Mansi and Saharsa, India, jumps the tracks at a bridge crossing the Bagmatiriver, killing 268 officially with another 300 or more missing.
- 1983 - Nicaragua expels 3 US diplomats
- 1985 - Soyuz T-13 carries 2 cosmonauts to Salyut 7 space station
- 1988 - George H. W. Bush makes campaign promise to support reparations for WW II to Japanese-American internees (promise broken, May 1989)
- 1990- 2nd International Rock Awards
- 1993 - PunsalmaagiynOtsjirbat recognized as president of Mongolia
- 1993 - Ramiro de Leon Carpio elected President of Guatemala
- 1994 - Cricketer Brian Lara hits record 501 not out/390 runs in 1 day
- 1994 - Tupolev-154M crashes at Xian China, 160 killed
- 1999 - Largest jailbreak in Brazilian history at the Putim maximum security prison in Brazil, 345 prisoners run from the main gate. In the ensuing manhunt, two fugitives are killed and five innocent bystanders are accidentally jailed.
- 2002 - A near-Earth asteroid estimated at 10 metres diameter explodes over the Mediterranean Sea between Greece and Libya. Resulting explosion estimated to have a force of 26 kilotons, more powerful than the Nagasaki atomic bomb.
- 2004 - Tamil is established as a Classical language by the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in a joint sitting of the two houses of the Indian Parliament.
- 2012 - Transit of Venus (between Earth & Sun) occurs - last transit of 21st century
- 2012 - The Solar Impulse completes the world's first intercontinental flight

Translators, Patient Guides Among Delhi Fire Victims

Mansi Jagani

New Delhi, Jun 5 (PTI) When the phone rings these days, Ben no longer knows whether it will be a patient confirming travel plans to Delhi or one postponing the journey indefinitely.

For more than a decade, the Congolese national has built a life around helping French-speaking African patients navigate Delhi's hospitals, translating medical records, accompanying them during consultations and arranging everything from accommodation to transportation.

But two days after a fire tore through a bed-and-breakfast (B&B) facility in Malviya Nagar's Hauz Rani area, killing 21 people, including several foreign nationals, many of those plans have come to a standstill.

"We were expecting patients, but they have put their tickets on hold till further notice," Ben told PTL.

"People are scared to come. We had already given them estimates about hotel costs and treatment expenses. Now we don't know where we will accommodate them," he added.

The tragedy has exposed

the ripple effects of the fire beyond its immediate victims, unsettling a community of translators, interpreters and patient facilitators who serve as the first point of contact for hundreds of foreign nationals arriving in Delhi every year for medical treatment.

Ben first came to India in 2009 to study animation and graphic design at a private college in Chennai. After spending nearly two years there, he moved to Delhi after realising he could find work in the national capital.

Today, besides teaching French, he assists patients arriving from French-speaking African countries, charging around Rs 2,000 an hour for services that include translating prescriptions and discharge summaries, accompanying patients during consultations and helping them navigate cultural and language barriers.

"We are all helping people coming from our countries. Most of us are from French-speaking countries, like Congo. We don't charge every patient. Those who can afford to pay do so, but many who come here for long-term treatment already face high expenses. They contribute whatever they can afford," he explained.



A man holds an image of Iran's Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, at Imam Khomeini shrine in Tehran- Photo: WANA

Trump Extends Hand to Iran Leader, Tehran Rejects It

Trans Asia News

Washington- U.S. President Donald Trump's surprise declaration that he would be "honored" to meet Iran's new Supreme Leader was swiftly rebuffed by Tehran on Thursday, with Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi dismissing the prospect as unrealistic and urging people to "live in the real world."

"I'd be honored to meet him," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. "If we make a deal, it's possible that I would meet... I'd be okay with that." The remarks came amid fragile diplomatic contacts aimed at transforming a ceasefire between the two countries into a more permanent settlement following months of conflict.

Mojtaba Khamenei assumed Iran's highest political and religious office in March after the assassination of his father, former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in a U.S.-Israeli strike on his residence in Tehran on Feb. 28.

Trump's comments marked a notable shift in rhetoric toward Tehran's leadership even as the United States continues measures that Iran has repeatedly condemned, including a naval blockade on Iranian vessels and ports.

Tehran has described the restrictions as a violation of the ceasefire that took effect on April 8.

Speaking separately on Thursday, Trump also revealed that his administration had at one point considered a covert operation to seize Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium but ultimately abandoned the idea because of the risks involved.

"There was a time at the very beginning when we thought about doing that, because they would have not been watching, but they would have found out," Trump said.

The U.S. president said he was concerned about becoming entangled in a prolonged military operation similar to the failed 1980 American hostage rescue mission in Iran, which damaged then-President Jimmy Carter politically.

"I didn't want to be Jimmy Carter. I didn't feel like being Jimmy Carter," Trump said.

He added that removing Iran's uranium stockpile would have required a substantial military presence and specialized equipment.

"It's not like Venezuela, like you go in, you're there for a matter of minutes, and you're out and everybody's

waving goodbye," Trump said. "You need massive equipment to airlift the equipment, and you're in a war zone."

Trump's comments came after reports that U.S. military planners had explored options involving Iran's nuclear facilities during the conflict.

IRAN PLAYS DOWN MEETING PROSPECTS

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, however, dismissed the likelihood of a meeting between Trump and Iran's new supreme leader, suggesting the proposal was unrealistic under current circumstances.

"I saw a report which apparently said that he (Trump) had stated that he was ready for a meeting or that he wanted to hold a meeting," Araqchi said in an interview with Lebanon-based Al Mayadeen television aired on Thursday.

"I think we should be realistic and think and live in the real world," he said.

Araqchi also provided new details about the strike that killed Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei, saying he had been inside the leader's office complex during the attack but escaped unharmed because he was located in a different section of the building.

UN Boosts Lebanon Aid Appeal As Israeli War Drives Humanitarian Crisis



The aftermath of Israeli air strikes in the Burj Shermal area near the southern city of Tyre, on June 2, 2026 [Kawnat Hajju/AFP]

Al Jazeera

Washington: The United Nations has doubled its call for aid to Lebanon as it bids to stem a "severe and deteriorating" humanitarian crisis brought on by four months of war with Israel.

The UN's humanitarian agency OCHA said on Friday that it needs nearly \$640m over the next six months. In March, as the hostilities broke out in response to the United States and Israeli attacks on Iran, the UN had said \$308m would be needed.

OCHA said on Friday that only \$185m had been received from that appeal, but that it was now calling for an additional \$331m on top of the original target sum.

Israel has been expanding its military operations in southern Lebanon as it insists it must continue to fight the Iran-linked Hezbollah group.

Lebanon's Ministry of Public Health reports that the death toll from Israeli attacks has risen to

3,526 people, with a further 10,733 wounded since March 2. More than one million people have been forced to flee their homes and remain displaced.

"Repeated displacements, insufficient shelter capacity and limited prospects for safe return are deepening vulnerability," OCHA said in a statement.

It added that "affected people are rapidly exhausting their coping capacities, and essential services are under increasing strain".

"In the past three months, communities across Lebanon have faced an appalling situation due to the escalation of hostilities," UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Imran Riza said, adding that the "toll on civilians is alarming and worsening by the day."

The UN said the economy was worsening the situation in Lebanon, as fuel and electricity prices have risen due to the effects of the US-Israeli war on global energy supplies.

Proposal Calls for Iranian Leader's Funeral Procession in Iraq

Agencies

WANA (Jun 04) - An Iranian lawmaker has proposed that the body of the late Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution be taken to the Iraqi holy cities of Najaf and Karbala for funeral processions before the final burial ceremony, describing the initiative as one with significant religious, cultural, and diplomatic dimensions.

Ehsan Azimirad, a member of Iran's Parliament representing Mashhad and Kalat, said he had submitted the proposal in separate letters to Iran's Supreme Leader, the heads of the three branches of government, the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, and the For-

eign Minister.

According to Azimirad, the proposal aims to honor the late leader and allow funeral ceremonies to be held in Najaf and Karbala, two of the holiest cities in Shiite Islam. Najaf is home to the shrine of Imam Ali, while Karbala houses the shrines of Imam Hussein and Abbas ibn Ali.

The lawmaker said the initiative goes beyond a religious ceremony and could help strengthen ties between Iran and Iraq, foster greater unity among Shiite communities, and expand cultural and political cooperation between the two countries.

He also noted that such an event could attract widespread regional attention and

serve as a symbolic occasion for millions of Shiite Muslims around the world.

Azimirad added that his letters also called for the formation of specialized committees and the launch of diplomatic, security, and logistical consultations with Iraqi authorities to assess the feasibility of the proposal and examine its various aspects.

He concluded that implementing the plan would require close coordination among Iranian institutions and cooperation from the Iraqi government, and that, if realized, it could become one of the most significant religious and symbolic events in the Shiite world in recent years.

wanaen.com

Anthropic Says AI Labs Need Coordinated Plan To Halt Development If Risks Rise

Trans Asia News

Anthropic said on Thursday frontier AI developers should establish a coordinated, verifiable way to slow down or temporarily pause development if advanced systems begin improving themselves faster than society can manage the risks.

AI that can build itself would be a major development in the history of technology, but "full recursive self-improvement also might increase the risks of humans losing control over AI systems," the AI startup said.

"If systems are capable of fully building their own successors, the ways we secure them, monitor them, and shape their behavior all grow much

unilateral or poorly coordinated slowdowns could backfire if less cautious actors continue advancing, potentially reducing overall safety.

It highlighted that a meaningful pause would require agreement among "multiple well-resourced labs" operating at the technological frontier, as well as rules on what conditions would trigger or lift such a pause and who would oversee it.

A unilateral pause by a single company would be easier to implement, Anthropic added, but would have limited impact, primarily shifting leadership rather than fostering broader global deliberation.

Its research arm, Anthropic Institute, plans to study and help build systems that would be necessary to support a slowdown.



more important."

As an example, Anthropic said that as of May, more than 80 percent of the code merged into its codebase was authored by Claude.

It would be "good for the world to have the option to slow or temporarily pause frontier AI development to enable societal structures and alignment research to keep up with the advance of the technology," the company said.

However, it cautioned that

In the coming months, Anthropic plans to convene discussions involving policymakers, researchers, civil society groups and other AI firms to examine key questions.

These questions include how to manage AI-related risks such as recursive self-improvement and how to improve mechanisms for coordination.

Last month, Anthropic concluded a fundraising round that valued the company at \$965 billion and confidentially filed for a US initial public offering on Monday.

Ireland Imposes Travel Ban on Israeli Ministers Ben-Gvir and Smotrich

Al Jazeera

Dublin: Ireland has barred Israel's National Security Minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir and Finance Minister, Bezalel Smotrich, from visiting the country, citing their conduct towards pro-Palestinian activists and support for policies that would displace Palestinians from their homeland.

Ireland's Prime Minister Micheal Martin - known as the Taoiseach - confirmed the move on Friday, saying the two far-right ministers had advocated positions that amounted to "a desire to see the elimination of Palestinians from Palestine".

Both Ben-Gvir and Smotrich have repeatedly called for Israel to annex Palestinian territories and push Palestinians out of Gaza, provoking condemnation from rights groups and several foreign governments.

Martin also referenced the

treatment of pro-Palestinian activists who were part of a Gaza-bound aid flotilla last month.

Ben-Gvir provoked widespread condemnation when he shared video of himself mocking the detained activists as they knelt on the floor, blindfolded, with their hands bound.

In a statement, Ireland's justice ministry said Justice Minister Jim O'Callaghan had instructed immigration officers to refuse entry to Ben-Gvir and Smotrich should they seek to enter the state.

Ben-Gvir became a minister in 2022, after an alliance with Smotrich's far-right Religious Zionist party came third in legislative elections.

Smotrich, who himself lives on an illegal Israeli settlement, has been a vocal advocate of Israel annexing the occupied West Bank, saying he hopes to "kill the idea" of a Palestinian state.

NEWS MAKERS

Ex-Army Man Held After 33 Years on the Run

New Delhi, Jun 5 (PTI) A man who was selected for the Indian Army in 1984 but was court-martialled and dismissed from service within a year has been arrested after 33 years for allegedly murdering a truck driver and robbing a truck loaded with copper, an officer said on Friday.

Rajender Dagar, now 59, was on the run since 1993 and declared a proclaimed offender the next year. He was arrested on June 1.

"For ... 33 years, he was constantly changing his identities, appearances and locations across several states," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said in a statement.

"Teams tracked down the fugitive despite the absence of digital records, modern surveillance tools and original case documents from the early 1990s," he said.

The case dates back to June 15, 1993, when Ram Singh, a truck driver from Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu, was allegedly murdered at a hotel in the Lahori Gate area of Old Delhi.

According to police, Rajender and his



The team then focused on the accused's native village in Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu. Officers discreetly gathered information about his family members and conducted repeated field visits over several months

associates allegedly gave poison to Ram Singh to steal his truck carrying a consignment of copper belonging to a company.

Rajender targeted Ram Singh be-

cause he knew his route and the nature of the cargo he was carrying, they said.

On June 17, 1993, an FIR was registered at Lahori Gate Police Station.

The police found that Ram Singh was last seen in the company of Rajender. But before investigators could close in on him, he disappeared, and was going to remain so for years to come.

Years of no leads into his whereabouts mounted pressure.

"The accused was around 25 when the murder took place and is now nearly 60. No recent photographs, no digital footprint and very limited records from the period. Many of the conventional leads available in modern investigations simply did not exist when the crime was committed," the DCP said.

Officers revisited court records, examined old case files and studied the accused's criminal background in detail. A detailed examination of judicial records revealed that Rajender had allegedly been involved in similar crimes in the past.

The police found references to cases

involving cheating truck drivers, stealing loaded vehicles and misappropriating valuable consignments. Investigators believed these patterns could help them understand his movements and habits.

"The team then focused on the accused's native village in Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu. Officers discreetly gathered information about his family members and conducted repeated field visits over several months," the DCP said.

The investigation led to the information that Rajender was alive and often visited his village, although he remained extremely cautious and avoided prolonged stays.

The breakthrough came when a suspicious mobile phone number surfaced during surveillance.

The number remained switched off most of the time, but whenever it became active, its location was traced to different hotels and guest houses across various cities. The pattern suggested that Rajender was leading the life of an itinerant, frequently changing his place of stay.

Chief of Army Staff Visits Ayodhya Ram Temple



Ayodhya (UP), Jun 5 (PTI) Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi on Friday visited the Ram Janmabhoomi temple in Ayodhya and offered prayers.

General Dwivedi arrived in Ayodhya in a military aircraft that landed at the city's airport. He was received by administrative officials and senior officers of the Dogra Regiment, which is deployed at the Faizabad Cantonment.

According to the Ram temple trust, the Army Chief was welcomed at the temple premises by senior Vishwa Hindu Parishad leader Gopal Nagarkatte.

After spending around 30 minutes at the temple, General Dwivedi proceeded to the headquarters of the Dogra Regiment, officials said.

Climate Change, Unsustainable Activities Threatening Kashmir's Fragile Ecosystems: Experts

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the occasion of World Environment Day, prominent environmental experts and academicians from Jammu and Kashmir stressed the urgent need to safeguard the region's fragile ecosystems, warning that climate change and unsustainable human activities pose serious threats to the Himalayan environment and the livelihoods dependent upon it.

Professor Shakeel Ahmad Romshoo, distinguished Earth scientist, glaciologist and Vice-Chancellor of the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), as per KNO, said World Environment Day serves as a reminder of the profound environmental challenges confronting the Indian Himalayan region, including Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the region faces multiple interconnected challenges such as climate change, glacier retreat, water insecurity, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, all of which threaten environmental stability and sustainable development.

"World Environment Day reminds us of the profound environmental challenges confronting the Indian Himalaya, including Jammu and Kashmir. These chal-



lenges are deeply interconnected and require solutions rooted in science and guided by sustainability," he said.

Highlighting the significance of this year's World Environment Day themes, including Nature-based Solutions, climate resilience

and the circular economy, Prof Romshoo said these approaches provide a practical framework for protecting the environment while simultaneously supporting economic growth and social well-being.

He said advances in science and

technology have significantly enhanced the understanding of environmental changes taking place across the Himalayan region. Scientific monitoring, environmental assessment and knowledge generation have enabled researchers and policymakers to

make informed decisions regarding conservation and climate adaptation, he added.

Echoing similar concerns, environmentalist and former academician Dr M.R.D. Kundangar stressed the need to conserve the region's natural assets before irreversible damage occurs.

"Our natural resources, including lakes, wetlands, rivers and streams, are under immense pressure due to misuse and neglect. Climate change is increasingly threatening glaciers and other critical ecosystems. These resources are our heritage and must be preserved at all costs for future generations," he said.

Dr Kundangar warned that continued degradation of water bodies and ecological systems could have far-reaching consequences for water security, biodiversity and public welfare across the region.

Dr Aamir Hussain Bhat, Manager SECAP (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan), said environmental protection should be viewed not merely as an option but as a collective responsibility.

"Environmental protection is no longer a choice; it is a responsibility. The true measure of development lies not in what we build today, but in what we preserve for tomorrow," he said.

CS Reviews Preparations for NEET (UG) Re-Examination

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Friday chaired a high-level meeting to review and finalize foolproof arrangements for the smooth, secure and transparent conduct of the NEET (UG) re-examination scheduled for June 21, 2026, across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Director General, National Testing Agency (NTA); Principal Secretary, Home; ADGP, Law & Order; Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department; Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; IGP Kashmir; Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; Director, School Education, Jammu/Kashmir, besides other senior officers.

Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police from all districts participated through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the need for meticulous planning and seamless coordination among all stakeholder departments to ensure the examination



is conducted in a fair, transparent and secure manner. He directed the concerned authorities to prepare a comprehensive checklist of all arrangements and activities required for the successful conduct of the examination.

Emphasising accountability at the district level, Dulloo instructed the Deputy Commissioners to personally supervise preparations in their respective districts in close coordination with the Police Department and the NTA-designated City Coordinators. He stressed that examination centres should, as far as possible, be established in government educational institutions and thoroughly inspected well in advance of the examination date.

The Chief Secretary further directed the district administrations to ensure

the availability and functionality of CCTV surveillance systems, mobile jammers, uninterrupted power supply with backup arrangements, drinking water facilities and other essential amenities at every examination centre.

He also reviewed district-wise preparedness and sought detailed inputs from the Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners regarding the number of examination centres, candidates appearing and the arrangements being put in place within their jurisdictions.

Earlier, Director General, NTA, Abhishek Singh, briefed the meeting about the comprehensive and technology-driven measures being adopted to ensure the examination is conducted in an exceptionally fair, transparent and efficient manner.

He stressed the need to effectively curb rumour-mongering on social media and other platforms, directing the concerned authorities to take proactive measures against the dissemination of any misleading or unverified information that could adversely impact the interests and morale of the aspirants

Mehbooba Claims AIIMS Legacy, Sakina Hits Back Over Project Review

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A political war of words erupted over the prestigious AIIMS Awantipora project on Friday after Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti visited the under-construction institute and described it as the realization of a dream envisioned by her late father.

During her visit to the AIIMS site in Awantipora, Mehbooba Mufti, as per KNO expressed satisfaction over the pace of construction and said the institute would emerge as a landmark healthcare facility for the entire Union Territory.

"I am delighted to visit the site here in Awantipora where the AIIMS is being constructed. This was a dream of my father," Mehbooba said while speaking to reporters at the site.

She acknowledged that the project had witnessed delays over the years due to various reasons but noted that construction work was now moving ahead steadily.

"Although there were some delays, the work is now progressing well. I have assured the team that I will provide whatever support is needed, even if it means taking up the mat-



ter with the Union Health Minister," she said.

The PDP chief said AIIMS Awantipora would become a model healthcare and medical education institution not only for Kashmir but for the entire Jammu and Kashmir region.

"This institute will serve as a model for the whole region. The location itself is stunning and peaceful. I believe patients coming here will experience a sense of comfort and well-being in such an environment," she added.

The visit, however, drew a sharp response from Health Minister Sakina Itoo, who questioned the purpose and authority under which former rulers were conducting reviews of government projects.

In a post on X, Itoo, without naming Mehbooba Mufti, said some political leaders appeared to be suffering from "political am-

nesia" and continued to behave as though they were still in power despite being out of office since 2018.

"Some people seem to be suffering from political amnesia. They still behave as if they are in power, even though they lost office in 2018 and have since been repeatedly rejected by the people," she said.

The minister emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir currently has an elected government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and questioned in what capacity former rulers were reviewing the AIIMS project.

"The elected government today is led by Hon'ble Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. One wonders in what capacity former rulers are conducting reviews of the AIIMS Awantipora project and who is signalling them to undertake such exercises," she said.

Tanvir Sadiq Says Mehbooba's Letter to CM Was Politically Motivated

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) Chief Spokesperson and MLA Zaidal, Tanvir Sadiq on Friday questioned the intent behind Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti's recent letter to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, alleging that the move was politically motivated.

Speaking with reporters here, Sadiq, as reported by KNO, defended the NC's outreach to New Delhi over restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, saying the party was only reminding the Centre of commitments made to the people of J&K.

"When we do something, we clearly say why we are doing it, and when we don't do something, we also explain why. We went to Delhi on the very first day to remind the Prime Minister, Home Minister and the Supreme Court about the promises made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir regarding statehood," he said.

Sadiq termed the NC's initiative a "joint programme of the people"



and said elected representatives had every right to raise public concerns before the Centre.

He welcomed support from Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam, saying it reflected the aspirations of the people who want their elected representatives to engage with New Delhi on J&K's political issues.

Targeting opposition parties, the NC Chief Spokesperson accused them of trying to politicise every move made by the government.

"Unfortunately, some opposition parties only want headlines and brownie points. Every positive step is turned into negative politics because they feel politics is slipping

out of their hands," he said. Referring to Mehbooba Mufti's letter to CM Abdullah, the NC MLA said the matter should not have been taken to social media if the intention was genuine dialogue.

"If you speak to the Chief Minister and he says he will meet you on Monday, then what was the need to put the letter on social media? That itself shows what kind of politics is being played," he said.

On Congress's reactions to the NC's statehood campaign, Sadiq said there was no contradiction between the alliance partners and claimed the outreach had been carried out after discussions with Congress leadership. "This has hap-

pened after consultations with Congress leadership. There is no contradiction between Congress and the National Conference," he said.

Reacting to criticism that the NC's Delhi outreach was aimed at sidelining the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), he said some of the parties raising objections had themselves walked away from the alliance earlier. "This is not about politics or which party gets credit. It is about translating the emotions and mandate of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

MLA Sadiq said the NC leadership wanted elected representatives to lead the dialogue process with the Centre and maintained that the demand for restoration of statehood remained the party's primary focus.

Asked about upcoming Panchayat and Urban Local Body elections, he said the government was currently focused on reviewing electoral rolls and other administrative matters, adding that decisions would be taken at the appropriate time.

Sajad Lone Questions Mehbooba Mufti's AIIMS Review Meeting

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference President and MLA Handwara, Sajad Lone, on Friday raised a clarion call and criticism over PDP president and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti chairing a review meeting at AIIMS, terming the development a "constitutional crisis" and questioning the authority under which such a meeting was conducted.

In a strongly-worded statement, Lone said the episode represented yet another instance of institutional disempowerment in Jammu and Kashmir and accused the present administration of remaining silent despite what he described as a direct challenge to the constitutional competencies of the elected government.

"Irony does a thousand deaths today on Kashmiri politics," Lone remarked, expressing surprise that a former chief minister had presided over a review meeting of an institution functioning under the Union Government. He argued that constitutional



powers vested in the elected government are, in essence, assets belonging to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and cannot be allowed to be diluted or bypassed.

Questioning the legal and administrative basis of the meeting, Lone asked under what authority Mehbooba Mufti chaired the review. He sought clarity on whether there had been any special notification, government order, or authorization from New Delhi permitting such an arrangement.

"Constitutionally, a former chief minister cannot chair review meetings of departments functioning under the elected government, let alone institutions that fall under the Central Government. Chairing a review meeting of a Central Government institution is a constitutional impossibility," he said.

CM Omar Plants Sapling at J&K House, New Delhi

SRINAGAR: On the occasion of World Environment Day, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah planted a sapling at Jammu & Kashmir House, New Delhi, marking the Government's continued commitment to environmental sustainability and green development.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that every tree planted today is an investment in cleaner air, healthier communities, and a more resilient tomorrow. He emphasized that such efforts, though symbolic, carry long-term significance in addressing the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation.

Reaffirming the Government's commitment on World Environment Day, the Chief Minister highlighted the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable development as key priorities of governance.

He called upon all citizens to actively participate in the collective mission of preserving natural heritage and building a greener, cleaner, healthier, and more climate-resilient Jammu and Kashmir for future generations.

Pahchan App Rolled Out for Amarnath Yatra Pilgrims

ANANTNAG: To enhance the safety and security of pilgrims and tourists during the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra, Anantnag Police launched the 'Pahchan App', a QR code-based mobile application aimed at registering and verifying service providers operating along the Yatra route and at major tourist destinations.

A police officer explained to KNO that the application was developed to register and regulate service providers associated with the Yatra and the tourism sector.

"The application enables instant, on-the-spot verification of service providers and creates a secure ecosystem by clearly distinguishing registered and verified individuals from unregistered ones," he said.

The officer said the primary objective of the initiative is to strengthen the security grid during the Yatra by preventing the entry of unverified or anti-social elements in the guise of service providers.

"By creating a digital record of all authorised persons, the app brings greater transparency and accountability to the services offered to pilgrims and tourists," he added.

The application would also facilitate better crowd management by ensuring organised and regulated service delivery, thereby reducing disputes, overcharging and congestion along the Yatra tracks.

The officer said the app is expected to instil confidence among pilgrims, tourists and residents. "It will ensure that Yatris, tourists and local citizens interact only with verified service providers," he said, adding that the app also empowers genuine service providers by giving them a digital identity and formal recognition. A tourist said it would contribute immensely to public safety.

"The QR code provides a sense of security and safety for tourists. It is a very good initiative. Safety is the priority and is extremely essential," the tourist said.

Meanwhile, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Anantnag, Amod Ashok Nagpure, told KNO that elaborate security arrangements have been put in place to ensure a safe and peaceful pilgrimage scheduled to commence on July 3.

He said 140 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) will be deployed across the district, while several technology-driven measures, including the newly launched 'Pahchan App', have been introduced to strengthen security and streamline pilgrim services.

Nagpure said all service providers associated with the Yatra, including pony handlers, pithoos and taxi operators, have been verified through the app and issued QR codes by the police. (Observer News Service)

DGP J&K Launches Tree Plantation Drive in Anantnag

SRINAGAR: Director General of Police, Jammu and Kashmir, Nalin Prabhat on Friday launched a tree plantation campaign in south Kashmir's Anantnag on the occasion of World Environment Day, reaffirming the police department's commitment towards environmental conservation and sustainable development.

According to KNO, the campaign was inaugurated with the plantation of a deodar sapling (Cedrus deodara), symbolising the importance of preserving nature and increasing green cover across the Union Territory.

"Today, on the occasion of World Environment Day, Shri Nalin Prabhat-IPS, DGP J&K, started a tree plantation campaign by planting a Cedar tree (Cedrus deodara) at Anantnag to support environmental conservation, increase green cover and promote environmental awareness among employees and the public," Kashmir Zone Police said in a post on X. (Observer News Service)

4 Drug Peddlers Arrested in Anantnag

SRINAGAR: Continuing its sustained campaign against drug trafficking and substance abuse, J&K Police in Anantnag achieved another significant success by arresting four drug peddlers in three separate operations and recovering contraband substances from their possession.

According to a statement issued to Kashmir Observer, in the first operation, a police party from Police Post Khanabal during routine naka checking at TB Shah-Harnag Crossing apprehended one person identified as Mehraj-ud-Din Bhat, son of Mohammad Iqbal Bhat, resident of Batpora Anantnag. During his search, approximately 580 grams of grinded cannabis was recovered from his possession. Accordingly, FIR No. 169/2026 under Sections 8/20 NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Anantnag. The recovered contraband was seized and the accused was arrested.

In another operation, a police party from Police Post D.K Pora during routine naka checking at Brinty apprehended two persons identified as Yawar Ahmad Itoo, son of Fayaz Ahmad Itoo, resident of Wategam Wanihama and Abid Hussain Bhat, son of Mohammad Jabar Bhat, resident of Batpora Anantnag. During their search, approximately 09 grams of heroin-like substance was recovered from their possession. In this regard, FIR No. 50/2026 under Sections 8/21, 29 NDPS Act has been registered and both accused persons have been arrested. Investigation is underway.

In the third operation, a naka party of Police Post Sangam conducting routine checking at Halmulla apprehended one person identified as Shabbu, son of Abdul Lateef, resident of Kharamia Pandri, P.O. Pauta Kalan, District Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh, presently residing at Pujteng, Sangam. During his personal search, 04 charas stick-like substances weighing approximately 70 grams were recovered from his possession. Accordingly, FIR No. 149/2026 under Section 8/20 NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Bijbehara and investigation has been taken up. (Observer News Service)

KASHMIR OBSERVER™

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of Kashmir Observer LLP
Printed at: K.T Press Pvt. Ltd 120-Electronic Complex, Industrial Estate, Rangreth-Budgam
Published from: 5-Boulevard Srinagar J&K
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider
Managing Editor: Bilal Handoo
News Editor: Farzana Nisar
Online Editor: Syed Hamid
Head Layout & Design: Muntazir Yaseen,
Digital Media Head: Amir Ali Shah
Distribution & Advertising: Firdous Ahmad
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2502327 | +91 8899256463
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email: editor@kashmiroserver.net

KO VIEW

Kashmir's Therapy Boom

Kashmir has become a booming market for mental health services. Therapists, counsellors, wellness coaches, and self-styled experts continue to arrive with new labels, new diagnoses, and new treatment models. Anxiety, depression, trauma, stress, burnout, and a growing list of related conditions now dominate public discourse. Greater awareness has indeed helped many people understand their emotional struggles and seek support. Public discussion around mental health has also broken old silences and encouraged people to speak openly about suffering. That progress is valuable. A troubling trend, however, has emerged alongside this growing awareness. Many families find themselves trapped in a cycle of endless consultations, recurring therapy sessions, and long-term medication plans. Treatment often becomes an expensive commitment with no clear endpoint. Financial strain grows while emotional dependence deepens. Demand naturally attracts supply. Kashmir's difficult experience over the past three decades has created a large population struggling with grief, uncertainty, fear, and emotional exhaustion. Many practitioners see this as a professional opportunity. Mental health services continue to expand, turning human suffering into a thriving marketplace. But before anxiety, trauma, and depression became common clinical terms, how did Kashmir heal its emotional wounds? Pain, loss, heartbreak, and psychological distress did not suddenly appear in modern times. Earlier generations faced their own hardships and found ways to cope. Back then, spiritual healing occupied a central place in Kashmiri life. People turned toward faith, prayer, contemplation, remembrance, and the wisdom of spiritual traditions. These practices helped individuals make sense of suffering and discover meaning during difficult periods. Such traditions never promised instant relief. They encouraged patience, perspective, and inner clarity. A troubled mind often found comfort through a connection with something larger than itself. Spiritual practice helped many people regain purpose when life felt confusing and overwhelming. Public confidence in these traditions has gradually weakened. Scientific language dominates modern discussions about emotional well-being. Many people now view spiritual healing as outdated or secondary. Clinical frameworks receive attention while older sources of comfort fade into the background. A healthier path may lie in balance. Mental illness is real, and professional treatment has an important role. Severe psychological conditions demand qualified medical care and evidence-based interventions. Scientific treatment remains essential for many people. Human well-being, however, extends beyond diagnosis and treatment plans. Life consists of relationships, faith, purpose, community, and hope. Spiritual healing speaks directly to those dimensions. It reminds people that they are more than patients and more than a collection of symptoms. Kashmir's progressive debate on mental health should include both science and spirituality. Clinical expertise can address illness, while spiritual traditions can restore meaning. And together they can help people move beyond survival and reconnect with a fuller sense of life. A society heals most deeply when treatment eases suffering and wisdom illuminates a path forward.

Humanitarian Diplomacy

As conflicts spread from Gaza to Sudan and Ukraine, diplomacy centered on human survival becomes the decisive test of global responsibility.



Dr. Sohail Nasti

War extends far beyond the moment weapons fall silent. Its consequences continue through displaced families, damaged cities, and disrupted lives that stretch across years.

Children grow up inside temporary shelters, elderly people lose contact with places they once called home, medical systems struggle under sudden pressure, and entire communities carry memories of sudden departure and uncertain return.

Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine, Syria, Yemen, and other regions demonstrate a global pattern of sustained conflict and large-scale displacement.

International agencies report millions uprooted, many of them children. Civilian life becomes entangled in military decisions, political strategies, and contested borders. Human suffering expands alongside battlefield developments, forming a parallel crisis that extends far beyond combat zones.

A central question rises from this reality: can global security discussions advance while human survival remains secondary in moments of conflict?

Humanitarian diplomacy places human survival at the center of political decision-making during conflict.

It secures access to food, medicine, shelter, evacuation routes, and medical care while helping reunite families separated by war.

Through these efforts, civilian protection becomes a central objective of diplomatic engagement rather than a secondary concern in military and strategic calculations.

Fundamentally, humanitarian diplomacy safeguards civilian life and human continuity amid negotiations often focused on territory, power, and ceasefire terms.

The true strength of a society emerges in how it treats people facing hardship.

Systems that protect civilians during conflict and crisis reveal the character of nations and institutions. Humanitarian action, therefore, serves as one of the clearest measures of global leadership and human progress.

Syria shows how war can force millions from their homes and leave lasting political and social consequences. Sudan continues to endure mass displacement, with families facing hunger, homelessness, and deep uncertainty. In Gaza, civilians live under constant pressure as conflict strains hospitals, schools, and other essential services.

Refugees often enter policy debates as numbers on a page. Those numbers represent people with families, memories, and hopes for the future.

A child in a refugee camp wants the same things as any other child: a safe home, a good education, and a better future.



The world spends trillions on weapons while humanitarian appeals struggle for funding. Even a small shift toward education, refugee support, mental health services, and conflict prevention could change millions of lives and strengthen long-term stability.

That reality often gets lost in political debate. Displaced people are frequently portrayed as burdens rather than victims of war and instability.

Such narratives weaken empathy and undermine the humanitarian commitments that nations have pledged to uphold.

Host nations, especially developing countries, have substantial pressure while receiving large displaced populations. Public services face increased demand, housing systems experience strain, and employment markets adjust under sudden demographic change.

International responsibility requires coordinated burden-sharing among states with greater financial and logistical capacity rather than isolated response by immediate neighbouring countries.

Humanitarian workers operate in increasingly hazardous environments. Access routes become restricted during active conflict zones, relief convoys encounter security risks, and aid delivery becomes entangled in political disputes that limit operational neutrality.

These conditions reduce the effectiveness of relief systems designed to function above political divisions.

Diplomatic practice needs expansion beyond traditional state-centered negotiations. Contemporary diplomacy benefits from integrating civilian protection into its core agenda. Humanitarian coordination, civilian evacuation frameworks, and medical access agreements belong alongside ceasefire discussions and political settlements.

Temporary humanitarian pauses in conflict zones demonstrate that dialogue channels remain

active even during intense confrontation. Prisoner exchange agreements and cross-border medical evacuations illustrate the presence of negotiation space inside conflict environments. Aid coordination mechanisms show that structured cooperation continues even under severe pressure.

International institutions, including United Nations agencies and regional organizations, maintain critical roles in coordinating relief operations and establishing legal frameworks for civilian protection.

Civil society groups contribute through advocacy, field operations, and documentation of humanitarian conditions. Their effectiveness depends on political commitment from member states and consistent adherence to international humanitarian principles.

The world spends trillions on weapons while humanitarian appeals struggle for funding. Even a small shift toward education, refugee support, mental health services, and conflict prevention could change millions of lives and strengthen long-term stability.

The true measure of a society lies in how it treats people caught in war.

Diplomacy should protect lives as vigorously as it protects borders, because when humanity becomes a casualty of conflict, everyone loses.

The author is a diplomacy analyst based in the United Kingdom, with a focus on international security and strategic affairs. He can be reached at sohail.nasti@gmail.com.

Politics of Veil

From Hollywood to policy debates, the hijab is often misread as oppression rather than interpreted through lived experience.



Faizaan Bhat

Last week, I met a friend in Jammu. He brought along a white French acquaintance. The moment my friend introduced me as a Muslim, the Frenchman launched into a lecture about Islam being backward, barbaric, and oppressive toward women.

He spoke with the confidence of someone who had assumed he knew better than any Muslim woman alive.

This scene plays out repeatedly, and often with a clear intent behind it.

Western audiences absorb the same message through books, films, and political speeches: Muslim women live under a religion that hates them. Western feminists frame themselves as rescuers, swooping in to save brown women from brown men.

During the Afghan war, media was filled with images of women in burkas labelled oppression and women in miniskirts labelled freedom. The message was clear that clothing meant liberation and liberation was defined as looking like us. But the reality is far more layered.

Some Western thinkers built entire careers on this misunderstanding. Jacques Derrida claimed Islam lacked democracy, Slavoj Žižek fixated on the oppression of Muslim women, and John Rawls imagined a fictional Muslim world that could join the global order only by meeting Western standards of human rights.

These thinkers spoke about Muslim women rather than asking them to define their own lives.

Hollywood and Bollywood often cast veiled women as either terrorists or victims. The veil becomes a sign of danger or submission, and choice is erased.

At the same time, the Islamic world holds its own contradictions.

Sudanese journalist Lubna Al-Hussein was arrested in July 2004 for wearing trousers in public. Saudi activist Malek Al Shehri faced arrest in November 2016 for posting a photo bareheaded. Banaz Mahmod was killed by her own family for choosing her husband.

These horrors are real and tied to specific places and specific men, rather than Islam as a whole or all Muslim women.

Some Muslim men do compound the problem. Andrew Tate, the former kickboxer turned social media star with millions of followers, converted to Islam in October 2022 while continuing his misogynistic rants.

Scores of Muslims defend him, and this hypocrisy exists, though it does not define the faith or the women who practice it.

But then, Western politicians have made the veil a political football. Boris Johnson, during his time as a British columnist, called Muslim women in veils "letterboxes" and "ninjas." Martha Nussbaum wrote in the New York Times in 2010 that veiling signals oppression and fails to defend a woman's right to choose her own dress.

Pierre Bourdieu provided a rare counterpoint, arguing that veiling resists capitalism by refusing to turn the female body into a commodity. But his voice remains the exception.

Much of this 'veiled' attack comes from a white savior mentality rooted in colonial history.

European powers justified their invasions



by calling Eastern people barbaric, uneducated, and incapable of self-governance. They imposed their culture at gunpoint, and that mentality survived the end of empire.

Edward Said, in Orientalism, showed how the West constructed the East as its opposite: enlightened versus backward, civilized versus savage.

This framework dehumanized entire populations. Today, it manifests as the othering of Muslim societies and the Islamicate world.

But Muslim women bear the heaviest cost of all.

Joan Wallach Scott noted in her 2007 book *The Politics of the Veil* that 80 percent of Muslim women reported feeling harassed and discriminated against, up from 35 percent seven years earlier.

Those numbers came from 2007, and eighteen years later, the figure has almost certainly climbed higher.

Banning the veil in Western countries is a symbolic act. It declares Islam itself a threat. Australian politician Bronwyn Bishop called the veil "the icon of the clash of cultures," adding that it runs "much deeper than a piece of cloth."

The message is clear that patriarchy is seen as something unique to Islam.

When the war on Palestine began, 50,000 pregnant women were left without healthcare, food, or safe shelter. About 150 babies were born every day in those conditions. Many white feminist organizations stayed silent because the suffering did not fit their narrative.

The veil has meaning that Western critics

refuse to see.

Many Muslim women wear it as a protest against colonialism and Western ideals. It is a refusal to participate in the commodification of the female body, restores personhood, and is part of Islam and its culture. It gives women respect and a sense of self rooted in modesty and religious belief.

Saba Mahmood, in *Politics of Piety*, argued that people in different societies think about freedom in different ways. The concept shifts based on community, religion, culture, and upbringing. Muslim women interpret the veil through their own histories, including the discrimination and violence their cultures endured under colonial rule.

Their understanding of freedom looks different because their experience of the world looks different.

My French acquaintance in Jammu spoke with certainty about a life he never tried to understand. He spoke about Muslim women instead of asking them why they cover their hair. He filled the gaps with prejudice instead of considering that their choice may be active, informed, and deeply personal.

He saw a piece of cloth and only his own assumptions.

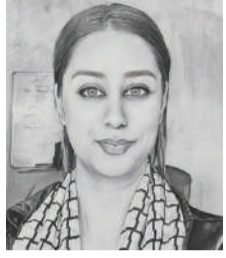
The politics of the veil is about power. It decides who defines freedom, who speaks for Muslim women, and who is seen as enlightened.

Muslim women have their own voices. The West would do well to listen.

The author is an independent researcher based in Jammu, with contributions to several regional and national media platforms. He can be reached at bhatfaizan10@gmail.com.

Kashmir's Unwanted Ride Problem

Women from different backgrounds recount remarkably similar experiences of intimidation in everyday outings.



Haziqah Showkat

For much of her life, Sameera viewed the banks of the Jhelum as a refuge.

One evening recently, after a demanding day at work, she headed toward the river that winds through Srinagar. The air felt cool, and the water moved calmly beneath the bridges. A bench overlooking the river seemed like the right place to stop before returning home.

She sat for a few moments and watched the fading light settle over the city.

Then a car pulled up nearby. A man inside looked toward her and motioned for her to get into the vehicle.

Sameera initially assumed some mistake had occurred. The stranger remained there, staring and smiling. Within seconds, she understood that the encounter had a different meaning. She stood up and started walking away.

The car moved too. What followed transformed an ordinary evening into a frightening memory.

As she walked, the vehicle continued behind her. Fear grew with every step. She wondered whether the driver would stop again or attempt something more serious.

Eventually, she reached safety. The experience remained with her long afterward.

Many women in Kashmir describe similar encounters, creating a picture that extends beyond isolated incidents. Stories shared in neighbourhoods, colleges, workplaces and family gatherings point toward a growing sense of insecurity in public spaces.

Women speak of harassment, stalking, intimidation and unwanted approaches that disturb their daily life.

Those experiences often unfold in places associated with routine and normalcy.

A schoolgirl waiting for an auto-rickshaw near her school recently found herself confronting a similar situation. A car approached, and the man inside repeatedly gestured for her to enter the vehicle.

The area surrounding a school typically represents familiarity and protection. That afternoon, it became a source of fear.

A teacher and working professional recalled another encounter near the Jhelum while wait-



ing for public transport after leaving college. A man approached her and attempted to engage her in a manner she found inappropriate and unsettling. Her commute home became an experience she continues to remember.

Seen separately, these incidents may seem unconnected. But viewed together, they reveal a design.

The women involved belong to different age groups and professional backgrounds. Their stories share a common thread: public spaces that should belong to everyone increasingly feel uncertain for many women.

The consequences extend far beyond the moment itself.

Researchers who study harassment frequently note that the lasting impact lies in how people alter their behaviour afterward. Women describe making calculations that many men rarely consider.

They examine routes before leaving home, assess lighting conditions, keep phones in hand while walking, and remain connected to friends or relatives through calls and location-sharing applications.

"Ordinary choices now come with calculations," says Suraya Shafi, a young techie who commutes daily between home and work. "An evening walk feels uncertain, a bus stop demands caution, and familiar roads lose their sense of comfort after sunset."

These adjustments rarely attract public attention because they happen silently within daily routines. Their cumulative effect, however, changes who feels comfortable occupying public space.

"When women reduce their presence in parks, markets, riverfronts and transportation hubs, the character of those spaces changes as well," believes Shamim Mir, a Srinagar-based scholar. "Public life becomes narrower, while opportunities for movement and independence become more limited."

Many residents say this shift feels particularly unsettling because it contrasts with how Kashmir has often viewed itself.

The valley is celebrated for its natural beauty, cultural traditions and strong community ties. Generations grew up with memories of neighbourhoods where social familiarity cre-

ated a sense of collective responsibility.

"Srinagar's riverbanks, crowded markets and residential streets formed part of everyday life for women and men alike," says Wajahat Ali, a retired school teacher. "But contemporary Kashmir is experiencing rapid social change."

Many say technology has transformed communication and social media has altered patterns of interaction, while urban growth has changed the structure of neighbourhoods and public spaces.

"Those developments have brought new possibilities," Ali continues, "while also exposing challenges that communities continue to confront."

Among them, he adds, is the persistence of behaviour that objectifies and intimidates women. Many women say troubling encounters often receive dismissive responses.

People describe incidents as misunderstandings or harmless behaviour. Advice frequently focuses on precautionary measures women should take rather than examining the conduct of those responsible.

"Such reactions leave many victims feeling

that the burden rests primarily on them," says Nusrat Nisar, a college student.

Social researchers and women's rights advocates frequently point to a broader dynamic: harassment gains strength when communities treat it as routine, while perpetrators gain confidence when they expect little scrutiny.

"Victims, at the same time, grow reluctant to speak publicly," Nusrat says, "and witnesses become accustomed to looking away."

Over time, community standards begin to shift: conduct that once sparked widespread disapproval starts appearing ordinary.

Many Kashmiris argue that reversing that trend depends on institutions as well as families. Law enforcement agencies also occupy crucial position.

Women frequently cite visible policing in vulnerable areas as a factor that strengthens confidence. Prompt responses to complaints and reporting mechanisms that feel accessible can encourage greater trust in public institutions.

Citizens also influence the atmosphere of public spaces through their willingness to intervene, report misconduct or support those who experience harassment.

Community members often describe silence as one of the conditions that allows intimidation to flourish.

The experiences of Sameera, the schoolgirl and the teacher point toward a challenge that touches public life itself. Their stories raise questions about who feels welcome in shared spaces and who feels compelled to remain alert while moving through them.

Women's safety extends beyond crime statistics and police records. It includes the ability to sit beside a river without anxiety, wait for transportation without apprehension and walk home without constantly looking over one's shoulder.

Late in the evening, the Jhelum continues its slow journey through Srinagar, passing bridges, homes and neighbourhoods that have witnessed generations of Kashmiri life.

The river remains one of the valley's most familiar landmarks.

Its banks tell a newer story as well. Many women now approach those spaces with calculations that previous generations seldom described. Their experiences reveal dread in their daily routines and ordinary journeys.

Whether Kashmir confronts that reality today will help determine whether its public spaces remain places of belonging for everyone who calls the valley home.

— With a background in Law and EdTech, the author engages with the deeper structures that shape society.

Lessons Beyond TET

As frustration over TET grows, the debate points to a larger question: why does educational reform begin and end with teachers while deeper institutional failures escape scrutiny?



Pir Iqbal Rashid

The Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) entered India's education system with a clear objective: improve teaching standards and ensure that qualified candidates enter classrooms.

The goal sounded sensible. Strong schools depend on capable teachers, and educational standards benefit when recruitment follows transparent criteria.

Public anger surrounding TET, however, tells a different story.

Teachers in many parts of the country view the examination as a policy that creates anxiety rather than educational progress. Demonstrations, petitions, and growing dissatisfaction point toward a deeper crisis within the education system itself.

A central grievance concerns the way TET policies have been implemented.

Thousands of teachers joined the profession under earlier recruitment rules and spent years serving in schools. They taught generations of students, fulfilled administrative duties, and became pillars of their communities.

Their competence remained unquestioned throughout their careers.

Fresh demands that such teachers once again prove their eligibility through examinations generate a strong sense of injustice.



Experience inside a classroom counts for something. Years spent teaching children, handling diverse learning needs, and guiding young minds provide evidence of professional ability that a single examination cannot fully capture.

Fear surrounding job security has intensified these concerns.

Many teachers worry about their future, particularly those working in rural areas and economically modest households. Preparing for competitive examinations after years of service places immense pressure on educators who already juggle professional and personal responsibilities.

Such pressure affects more than individual teachers. Classrooms feel its impact

as well.

An educator consumed by uncertainty struggles to devote full attention to students. Education flourishes when teachers work with confidence, stability, and professional respect.

The larger problem is that educational quality depends on far more than teacher testing.

Schools in many regions continue to function with inadequate infrastructure. Libraries remain underdeveloped, laboratories lack equipment, digital facilities remain limited, staff shortages place additional burdens on existing teachers, and overcrowded classrooms and outdated curricula continue to hinder student learning.

These shortcomings stem from administrative and policy failures. Repeated examinations for teachers cannot compensate for weak planning or poor institutional management.

Education specialists consistently emphasize that strong governance sits at the heart of successful school systems. Better monitoring, updated curricula, professional training, and effective administration contribute far more to educational improvement than a narrow focus on eligibility examinations.

Accountability should extend through the entire chain of decision-making, including education departments, policymakers, and institutional authorities.

Teachers themselves support accountability. Most educators welcome opportunities for professional growth and skill development. They understand the importance of maintaining high standards. Their concern centers on evaluation systems that appear disconnected from the realities of teaching.

Teaching extends well beyond answering multiple-choice questions. Great educators communicate complex ideas with clarity. They understand students' emotional needs, and manage classrooms, inspire curiosity, encourage critical thinking, and build confidence among young learners.

These qualities emerge through practice, commitment, and human interaction. Written examinations capture only a small part of that process.

Another source of frustration lies in the growing industry built around TET preparation.

Coaching centers and private institutions thrive as candidates spend substantial sums on classes, study material, and repeated examination attempts. Many talented in-

dividuals remain professionally insecure despite possessing strong teaching abilities and practical classroom skills.

This cycle leaves many educated young people disillusioned with the profession they once hoped to join.

A stronger approach would combine multiple measures of competence.

Recruitment systems could evaluate classroom demonstrations, academic performance, teaching internships, communication skills, and practical experience alongside formal examinations. Continuous training and institutional support would strengthen educational outcomes far more effectively than dependence on repeated testing.

Teachers form the foundation of any education system. Students succeed when teachers feel valued, supported, and confident in their profession. Educational reform gains strength when policymakers treat teachers as partners in improvement rather than as the primary target of reform efforts.

The growing opposition to TET points toward a larger truth: India's education challenges stem from structural weaknesses that extend far beyond teacher eligibility examinations.

Meaningful reform begins with stronger institutions, better administration, improved infrastructure, and sustained investment in professional development.

Governments and teachers share the same goal: better education for children.

Progress becomes possible when both work together toward that objective, with responsibility shared throughout the system rather than concentrated solely on those standing at the front of the classroom.

— The author can be reached at iqbal-rashid75@gmail.com

Post-Surgery Radiation Therapy Lowers Risk Of Bladder Cancer Recurrence: Study

Press Trust Of India

Post-surgery radiation therapy significantly reduces risk of recurrence in patients with high-risk muscle-invasive bladder cancer (MIBC), following a surgical removal of the organ and perioperative chemotherapy, results from a phase-3 clinical trial suggest.

Findings published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology hint at potential benefits for a disease-free and overall survival, even though the effects were not 'statistically significant', or meaningful, researchers, led by those from the Tata Memorial Centre in Mumbai, said.

The phase 3 randomised controlled trial was conducted at four academic centres in India, involving 153 patients with nonmetastatic MIBC. Seventy one per cent of the participants were treated with pre-surgery chemotherapy and 20 per cent with post-surgery chemotherapy.

Radiotherapy began within eight weeks of surgery or the last chemotherapy session. After a typical follow-up of 47 months, the primary outcome, a 2-year locoregional recurrence-free survival,



was notably higher in the radiotherapy group at 87.1 per cent, compared to 76 per cent in the observation group.

"Adjuvant pelvic IMRT (intensity-modulated radiation therapy) after radical cystectomy and

perioperative chemotherapy suggests an improvement in locoregional control in patients with high risk urothelial MIBC with no additional severe toxicity," the authors wrote.

The radiotherapy arm showed improved

rates of disease-free survival (71.6 per cent vs 58.7 per cent), bladder cancer-specific survival (79.6 per cent vs 65 per cent), and overall survival (70.4 per cent vs 57.4 per cent). The rates were not "statistically significant", or 'meaningful'.

Of the patients experiencing a disease recurrence, roughly 31 per cent developed distant metastases, with similar rates observed across both study arms. Locoregional recurrence, however, was significantly less frequent among those receiving pelvic radiotherapy (7.9 per cent), compared to those under observation (25.6 per cent), the researchers said.

The authors underscored the potential of adjuvant pelvic IMRT (post-surgery pelvic radiation therapy) to enhance locoregional control with minimal added severe toxicity.

They said that the study's results bolster the integration of radiotherapy into the adjuvant treatment regimen for patients with high-risk MIBC.

However, it should be noted that 14 patients did not receive the intended radiotherapy, and the absence of immunotherapy in the trial limits the applicability of findings to current clinical practices, the team said.

Scientists Develop Targeted Drug Delivery For Arresting Tumour Growth, Reducing Off-target Effects

Press Trust Of India

Scientists have developed a cancer cell-targeting strategy that they say can drive an effective tumour inhibition, while reducing off-target effects, a key limitation of conventional therapies.

In a paper published in the journal Advanced Healthcare Materials, the team from Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, have described a biodegradable nanocarrier platform engineered for a targeted gene therapy in breast cancer.

They explained that the targeting system is built on biodegradable mesoporous silica nanoparticles, known for their high loading capacity and tun-

able surface chemistry, which enable an efficient delivery of small interfering RNA (siRNA) molecules -- they prevent the production of disease-causing proteins.

The siRNA molecules are delivered against two critical genes that promote tumour survival and a resistance to therapy. A controlled release of the therapeutic payload inside the tumour microenvironment ensures an efficient intracellular delivery and activity, the team said.

Experiments in breast cancer models demonstrated a robust gene knockdown, resulting in an increased cancer cell death and a substantial inhibition in tumour growth.

In mice with a form of im-

munodeficiency, the nanocarrier was noted to accumulate effectively at tumour sites and exhibit minimal systemic toxicity.

The findings align with growing evidence that aptamer-guided nanocarriers -- a targeted drug delivery system using nanoparticles as vehicles -- can significantly improve tumour specificity and therapeutic efficacy, the researchers said.

"These results indicate that the biodegradable siMCL-1/siSur@MPPM nanocarrier provides a significant combination of targeted delivery, biodegradability, effective gene silencing, and reduced off-target effects, suggesting its potential as a promising nanomedicine for breast cancer treatment," the authors wrote.

4.9 Million Children Died Globally Before Turning 5 In 2024, Estimates Study

Press Trust Of India

A series of five research papers published in The British Medical Journal estimate that globally, 4.9 million children died before turning five in 2024, including 2.3 million neonatal deaths. Mortality was found to be highest in sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia, even as researchers cited uncertainty in values due to data sparsity and quality.

Researchers, including those from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Office of Strategy and Evidence-Innocenti, Italy, said that global progress in reducing preventable deaths among newborn babies, children, and adolescents has slowed substantially since 2015.

While the mortality rate among children under five declined by 3.9 per cent during 2000-15, the rate of decline was only 1.5 per cent in 2015-24, they said.

"An estimated 4.9 million children died before age five in 2024, including 2.3 million (2.1 to 2.5 million) neonatal deaths. Mortality was highest in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where uncertainty intervals were widest due to data sparsity and quality," the authors wrote.

Pre-term birth complications and pneumonia were found to be the major causes of mortality among children under five.

The researchers added that an estimated 134 countries have achieved the sustainable development goal target for U5MR, which is to reduce the rate to 25 or fewer deaths per 1,000 live births by the year 2030.

Based on a projection of current trends, six more countries are expected to achieve the target by 2030, leaving 60 countries -- home to about 42 per cent (274.2 million) of the global under 5 population (645.8 million) in 2024 -- falling short of the target.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

BO acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works/ services listed below. 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 online payments against these tenders. Document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender Type : Open
Bidding System : Single Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders : 20.05.2026
Bid Closing Date/Time : 30.06.2026, 14:30
Date and Time of Opening E-Tender : 30.06.2026 & 14:30
S. No. : 1 Tender Number / Notice No. : 95265160
Name of Work : Supply & commissioning of one Set of Hydraulic re-railing equipment.
Advertised Value : Rs. 86,62,380
Earnest Money : Rs. 1,73,250
Validity of Offer : 90 Days
Funds are available in Allocation Number : 20427504
For more details, please log on to www.ireps.gov.in 1939/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written/depicted as Shugufta Quasar in Service Book and Shugfta Kouser in appointment letter instead of my actual name: Shigfta Quasar as per DOB issued by Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education (JKBOSE). Now I want to change/rectify my name in service records as: Shigfta Quasar as mentioned in DOB of JKBOSE. Anybody having any objection in this regard may contact the offices of ZEO Soolbuh, CEO Budgam within seven days from the publication of this notice, after which no objection will be entertained.

Shigfta Quasar hko

Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department
Office of the Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF
Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Address: Srinagar Office: Forest Complex, Shiekh Bagh, LalChowk, Sgr-190001, Phone: 0194-2483937
Jammu Office: Forest Resource Mgmt. Centre, Narwal Jammu-180006, Phone: 0191-3511909

URL Address:<https://forest.jk.gov.in> E-mail:pccf-for-jk@nic.in

Subject: Appointment to the post of Junior Assistant (UT Cadre) in the Forest Department in pursuance to Advertisement Notification No 04 of 2022 under item No 174 issued by the J&K Service Selection Board.
Reference: Letter No: FST-CORD/14/2021-02 dated 17-04-2026 of Administrative Department ii. Letter No JKS JB/Scry/2/2025-06 (E-7628025) dated: 10-04-2026.

FOREST ORDER NO: 105 of 2026
Dated 05/06/2026

On the recommendation of the J&K Services Selection Board, and endorsed by the Administrative Department vide their letter referred above, sanction is hereby accorded to the temporary appointment of Sh. Prabhpreet Singh Tulla (OM), S/o Sh. Bikramjit Singh Tulla, R/o Siomah Tral, Pulwama-192123 as Junior Assistant (UT Cadre) in the Forest Department, in the pay level-4 (25500-81100) with immediate effect.

The appointee shall report to the Office of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, J&K, Jammu/Srinagar within a period of twenty-one (21) days from the date of issuance of this order failing which he shall forego his right to appointment, and the same shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio without any further notice.

The appointees shall be allowed to join only on the production of the following certificates (in original) to be verified subsequently:

- Academic/ Qualification Certificates.
- Matriculation/ Date of Birth Certificate.
- Health Certificate from the concerned Chief Medical Officer of the District.
- Domicile Certificate issued by the Competent Authority.
- Valid relevant Category Certificate, if any, applicable.

The appointment of the above candidates shall further be subject to the following conditions:

- The appointee shall give an undertaking in the shape of an affidavit to the effect that if on verification, his Qualification /Date of Birth/ Reserved Category Certificates from the concerned issuing authorities are found fake/ forged his/her appointment as Junior Assistant shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio and the legal action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against his/her.
- That if the candidate has taken loan for self-employment from DIC/Employment Department, to be ascertained from the District Industries Centre (DIC) and District Employment & Counselling Centre of the domicile District, he shall relinquish the proprietorship of unit /enterprise and also stakes, if any, in such self-employment unit/enterprise before joining the Government service. He shall be required to repay the entire loan liability in suitable EMIs to be worked out by the DDO concerned from his salary. DDO Concerned shall obtain an affidavit from the Concerned appointee regarding both relinquishment of proprietorship and stakes, if any, in such a self-employment unit/enterprise and recovery to be made and also personally monitor its recovery.
- (c) The salary of these appointee shall not be drawn and disbursed to his/her unless the satisfactory reports in respect of genuineness of Qualification/Date of Birth /Relevant Category Certificate is received from the concerned Authorities/Agency.
- (d) The appointee shall be on probation for a period of two years and shall undergo and qualify the Secretariat Assistant Examination (Foundation Course) during the period of probation.
- (e) The appointment of the candidates shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as notified vide SRO-400 of 2009 dated: 24.12.2009.
- (f) The inter-seniority of the above appointees shall be on the basis of the merit secured by these appointees as recommended by the J&K Service Selection Board.
- (g) The cadre allocated by the appointing authority/JKSSB shall not be changed under any circumstances.
- (h) The appointment of the above appointee shall be subject to outcome of writ petition(s), if any, pending before Competent Court of law.

DIPK-1875/26 dated: 05-06-2026

No: PCCF/Estt/NG/C-28697/2042-49
Dated: 05-06-2026

Sd/
(Sarvesh Rai)IFS
Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF,
Jammu & Kashmir

FORM NO 14
[See Regulation 33(2)]
By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 1)
2nd Floor, SCO 33-34-35, Sector-17 A, Chandigarh
DEMAND NOTICE
NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.
RC 687/2025 27.05.2026
JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED
Versus
M/S SHEIKH FRUIT COMPANY
To (CD 1) M/S SHEIKH FRUIT COMPANY SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP CONCERN SITUATED AT MURRAN PULWAMA SRINAGAR J AND K THROUGH ITS SOLE PROPRIETOR MR MANZOOR AHMAD SHEIKH SON OF MR MUHAMMAD ABDULLAH SHEIKH Pulwama JAMMU AND KASHMIR-
(CD 2) MR MANZOOR AHMAD SHEIKH SON OF MR MUHAMMAD ABDULLAH SHEIKH RESIDENT OF MURRAN SRINAGAR J AND K JAMMU AND KASHMIR BANK LIMITED
(CD 3) MR MUHAMMAD ABDULLAH SHEIKH SON OF MR LASOO SHEIKH RESIDENT OF MURRAN TEHSIL AND DISTRICT PULWAMA, SRINAGAR J AND K
(CD 4) MR MANZOOR AHMAD MIRSON OF ALI MUHAMMAD MIR RESIDENT OF MURRAN TEHSIL AND DISTRICT PULWAMA SRINAGAR J AND K SINCE DECEASED SURVIVED BY FOLLOWING LEGAL HEIRS
Legal heirs: 1
MS ZAINAB BANO WIFE OF DECEASED RESIDENT OF MURRAN TEHSIL AND DISTRICT PULWAMA SRINAGAR J AND K
Legal heirs: 2
MR UMER MANZOOR SON OF DECEASED RESIDENT OF MURRAN TEHSIL AND DISTRICT PULWAMA SRINAGAR J AND K
Legal heirs: 3
MS SUMAIRA DAUGHTER OF DECEASED RESIDENT OF MURRAN TEHSIL AND DISTRICT PULWAMA SRINAGAR J AND K
Legal heirs: 4
MS AFSHANA DAUGHTER OF DECEASED RESIDENT OF MURRAN TEHSIL AND DISTRICT PULWAMA SRINAGAR J AND K
Legal heirs: 5
MS SABOORA DAUGHTER OF DECEASED RESIDENT OF MURRAN TEHSIL AND DISTRICT PULWAMA SRINAGAR J AND K
(CD 5) MRS NISARA AKHTER WIFE OF MR MANZOOR AHMAD SHEIKH RESIDENT OF MURRAN TEHSIL AND DISTRICT PULWAMA SRINAGAR J AND K
This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 1) in OA/192/2023 an amount of Rs 10594721.53 (Rupees One Crore Five Lakh Ninety Four Thousands Seven Hundred Twenty One And Paise Fifty Three Only) along with pendentlite and future interest @ 11.55% Compound Interest Monthly w.e.f. 26/12/2022 till realization and costs of Rs 108010 (Rupees One Lakh Eight Thousand Ten Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).
2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.
3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.
4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 03/07/2026 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/execution proceedings.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 27/05/2026.
[Recovery Officer
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 1)

Timely Rainfall, Favourable Weather Fuel Bumper Lavender Crop In Bhandarwah



Press Trust Of India

BHANDARWAH/JAMMU- Favourable weather conditions and timely rainfall have raised hopes of a bumper lavender harvest in Jammu and Kashmir's Bhandarwah valley, providing a major boost to the region's growing "Purple Revolution" under the union government's Aroma Mission.

Farmers in the hilly Raie hamlet of Shiva Panchayat, many of whom have shifted from traditional maize cultivation to lavender farming in recent years, have begun harvesting the aromatic crop and are expecting higher yields this season.

Around 20 farming families in the valley are optimistic about higher returns, as the lavender fields have experienced healthy flowering and vibrant blooms, enhancing both the quality and market value of the crop.

"Most farmers are very happy because their hard work has paid off. It seems to be giving them big dividends as favourable weather coupled with timely rainfall has not only resulted in bumper crop of Lav-

ender but also the purple flowers are blooming in best colour adding to the value of exotic aromatic crop", Touqeer Bagban, a farmer said.

Touqeer, popularly known as the "Lavender man of India", for promoting lavender cultivation in the region, said the initiative launched under the Aroma Mission by the union ministry of science and technology, in collaboration with the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), has transformed the economic prospects of farmers in remote areas.

"The efforts of Union Minister Jitendra Singh and CSIR-IIIM have yielded significant benefits for farmers. Their continued support has helped the purple revolution reach even far-flung villages like Raie," Bagban said.

The success of lavender cultivation has also brought national recognition to Bhandarwah, often referred to as 'Chhota Kashmir'.

To further promote the region's lavender industry on the global stage, the fourth edition of the two-day Lavender festival will be held on June 6 and 7 under the theme, "Lavender Goes Global".

India's GDP Grows 7.8% In Q4, Full-Year Growth Rises To 7.7%

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- India's economy expanded 7.8 per cent in the January-March quarter, exceeding forecasts on strong domestic demand and government expenditure, before rising oil prices and supply-chain disruptions began clouding the outlook.

The GDP growth compared with 7 per cent expansion a year back and 8 per cent in the previous quarter. Full-year growth accelerated to 7.7 per cent from 7.1 per cent in FY25, supported by healthy consumption and robust investment activity.

The January-March period accounted for just one month of disruptions caused by the war in Iran. The spike in oil prices and the disruption in supplies from the Middle East -- a key source for India's crude oil, natural gas and LPG -- will be fully visible in the current April-June quarter.

The Reserve Bank of India has already cut its 2026-27 (FY27) GDP growth forecast to 6.6 per cent from 6.9 per cent, citing elevated energy and commodity prices and persistent supply-chain disruptions linked to the conflict in West Asia.

Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said India could return to a growth rate of more than 7 per cent in FY28 if external conditions improve.

He said even if growth slows below 7 per cent in FY27, as projected by the RBI, policy measures aimed at preserving macroeconomic stability and



ensuring adequate supplies could help the economy return to a growth trajectory above 7 per cent in FY28, provided external conditions improve.

Gross value added, which strips out the volatile components such as indirect taxes and government subsidies to present a more accurate measure of underlying economic activity, grew 7.9 per cent during the January-March quarter, the data released by MoSPI showed.

"The fact that GVA growth at 7.9 per cent outpaced GDP growth suggests that India's expansion was not solely demand-driven but also backed by strong production momentum," said Rumki Majumdar, economist at Deloitte India.

Firm performance across services, manufacturing and construction indicates that the economy has entered a period of global uncertainty from a position of strength, which should help it better absorb potential supply-side shocks, she said.

"We remain cautiously optimistic that tensions in the

Middle East will ease over the coming months and that supply-chain disruptions will gradually subside by the end of the year," she said.

"Real GDP or GDP at constant prices is estimated to attain a level of Rs 323.12 lakh crore in the 2025-26, against the First Revised Estimate (FRE) of GDP for the year 2024-25 of Rs 299.89 lakh crore," according to the data released by National Statistical Office (NSO).

The nominal GDP or GDP at current prices is estimated to attain a level of Rs 346.36 lakh crore in 2025-26, against Rs 318.07 lakh crore in 2024-25, showing a growth rate of 8.9 per cent.

This is the second set of GDP data in the new series with 2022-23 as the base year.

Commenting on the data, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to further drive the "reform express" with decisive policy measures to ensure positive economic momentum amidst the global challenges.

Govt Committed To Further Drive 'Reform Express', Ensure Economic Momentum: FM

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the government is committed to further drive the 'Reform Express' with decisive policy measures to ensure positive economic momentum amid global challenges.

Earlier in the day, the Reserve Bank lowered its GDP forecast for FY27 to 6.6 per cent from the 6.9 per cent estimated in April, citing elevated energy and other commodity prices, as well as continued supply disruptions arising from the West Asia conflict, which are likely to weigh on economic activity.

However, real GDP is estimated to rise by 7.7 per cent in FY26 (Provisional Estimates), and real GVA has grown by 7.9 per cent in FY26.

Real GDP and Real GVA have been estimated to grow by 7.8 per cent and 7.9 per cent, respectively, in Q4 of FY26.

Notably, manufacturing, trade, repair, hotels, transport, communication & services related to broadcasting,



storage and financial, real estate & professional services sectors have attained double-digit growth at both constant and current prices in FY26.

"Our government, led by Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi is committed to further drive the 'Reform Express' with decisive policy measures to ensure positive economic momentum amidst the global challenges," Sitharaman said in a post on X.

Earlier in the day, the government exempted foreign investors from income tax on interest earnings and capital gains from government securities, as it looked to attract foreign capital to counteract pressure on the rupee.

The government promulgated an ordinance to amend the Income Tax Act to provide tax exemptions on interest income and capital gains arising from the sale, exchange or transfer of government securities, effective from April 1, according to a gazette notification dated June 5.

The exemption would be applicable with effect from April 1 and will apply to any interest or capital gains arising to FPIs on or after April 1 in respect of investments in G-Secs.

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RBI Holds Interest Rates As Oil Shock Clouds Outlook

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday kept its benchmark repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent, as expected, and announced a raft of measures to attract foreign capital and support the rupee amid growing risks to growth and inflation from the prolonged West Asia conflict, elevated energy prices and global supply-chain disruptions.

To support the rupee, the measures included scrapping taxes on interest income and capital gains for eligible foreign investors in government securities, offering concessional terms for foreign-currency deposits from non-resident Indians and subsidising hedging costs for select offshore borrowings.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously voted to leave the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent, and continue with its "neutral" stance.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said India had entered the latest episode of global turbulence with stronger macro-economic fundamentals than in previous crises, but warned that escalating geopolitical tensions, elevated commodity prices and supply disruptions were clouding the economic outlook.

"The committee noted that the global environment has deteriorated," he said announcing the policy decision. The panel felt it would be "prudent" to wait for greater clarity to emerge, he added.



The central bank said underlying inflation pressures remain subdued, but cautioned that rising costs could spill over into wages and inflation expectations. It also cited risks from a below-normal monsoon forecast and possible El Niño conditions, which could put pressure on food prices in the months ahead.

RBI lowered its growth expectations for the current fiscal year, projecting real GDP growth at 6.6 per cent in 2026-27, below the 6.9 per cent April forecast. The projection is also lower than 7.6 per cent estimated for 2025-26.

It forecast inflation to rise to 5.1 per cent in 2026-27, with price pressures expected to peak at 5.9 per cent in the third quarter before easing. This compares to the previous projection of 4.6 per cent average retail inflation for the year.

Core inflation is expected at 4.7 per cent, up from earlier projection of 4.4 per cent.

While headline inflation remains below the RBI's 4 per cent target with a tolerance band of 2-6 per cent, MPC cautioned that higher global energy prices and supply shocks could trigger broader second-round effects on wages and inflation expectations.

RBI Raises FY27 Inflation To 5.1% As Higher Fuel Price Impacts Input Costs

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI- Reserve Bank on Friday projected the retail inflation for 2026-27 at 5.1 per cent, higher from its earlier estimate of 4.6 per cent, largely due to mounting input costs, triggered by the pass-through of higher global energy prices to retail rates of petrol and diesel.

Since May, retail fuel prices have been raised cumulatively by 7.4 per cent for petrol and 8.4 per cent for diesel.

The increase implies a direct impact of about 36 basis points on headline inflation, which, along with second order effects, would get reflected in consumer price (CPI) inflation in the coming months, the RBI said in its monetary policy statement.

Pass-through of higher global energy prices are also visible in several other inputs such as commercial LPG, industrial raw materials, chemicals, rubber and plastic products, it said, and added the second-round impact of higher input costs could exert upside pressure on CPI inflation going forward.

Announcing the June monetary policy, Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra also said the inflation forecast is subject to upside risks due to global supply



chain disruptions, commodity price shocks, uncertainty about distribution of the monsoon and El Niño conditions.

Although firming up marginally from 3.2 per cent in February, headline CPI inflation was below the target during March and April 2026 (3.4 per cent and 3.5 per cent, respectively).

While food inflation edged up, fuel inflation remained muted as retail prices of petrol and diesel were unchanged in March and April. Core inflation remained stable at 3.7 per cent during March-April. Excluding precious metals, core inflation was much lower at 2.1-2.2 per cent during the same period.

"International crude oil prices (Indian basket) have averaged around USD 110/barrel during April-May 2026 and indications are that average oil prices for 2026-27 would be substantially higher than what were assumed during the last policy statement," Malhotra said.

Forex Kitty Jumps USD 938 Mn To USD 682 Bn

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI- India's forex reserve jumped by USD 938 million to USD 682.321 billion during the week ended May 28, the Reserve Bank said on Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the kitty dropped USD 7.511 billion to USD 681.384 billion.

The kitty had expanded to an all-time high of USD 728.494 billion during the week ended February 27 this year before the onset of the Middle East conflict which led to several weeks of a drop as the rupee came under pressure and the RBI had to intervene in the forex market through dollar sales.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also made multiple public appeals starting May 11 to countrymen to conserve forex by cutting down on foreign travel, limiting fuel use and refraining from gold buys for a year.

For the week ended May 29, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, increased USD 3.116 billion to USD 546.148 billion, the central bank's data showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include effects of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units, such as the euro, pound, and yen, held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Value of gold reserves declined USD 2.186 billion to USD 112.6 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The special drawing rights (SDRs) were unchanged at USD 18.747 billion, the apex bank said.

India's reserve position with the IMF was up by USD 8 million to USD 4.826 billion at the end of the reporting week, according to the apex bank's data.

India Launches High Ethanol-Blended E85 For Flex-Fuel Vehicles

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- India on Friday launched E85 fuel, a high-ethanol blend designed for flex-fuel vehicles, at Rs 20 a litre discount to normal petrol.

The fuel will initially be available at select petrol pumps and can be used only in vehicles with flex fuel engines.

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri unveiled the fuel at an IndianOil retail outlet in New Delhi on World Environment Day, with the rollout beginning at 48 public sector fuel stations nationwide.

He said the government plans to expand its availability to 500 outlets by December 2026 and to about 5,000 outlets by December 2027.

E85 contains 80-85 per cent ethanol and 14-19 per cent petrol, and can be used only in flex-fuel vehicles capable of operating

on ethanol blends ranging from E20 to E100.

The expansion of E85 infrastructure is expected to help raise India's overall ethanol blending level to nearly 26 per cent by 2030-31, he said.

Puri said India had successfully balanced energy security, affordability and sustainability, while shielding consumers from global energy market volatility. He noted that domestic fuel prices had seen among the lowest increases globally since February 2026.

India has increased ethanol blending in petrol from 1.53 per cent in 2014 to 20 per cent currently, achieving its target five years ahead of schedule, the minister said. The programme has helped save more than Rs 1.84 lakh crore in foreign exchange and reduced crude oil imports by nearly 302 lakh metric tonnes, he added.

The government has priced E85 at nearly Rs 20

per litre below conventional petrol, aiming to pass on the benefits of domestically produced ethanol to consumers, he said.

According to ministry estimates, flex-fuel vehicles running on E85 can reduce lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions by around 61 per cent compared with conventional petrol vehicles. Ethanol's higher octane rating also enables improved engine performance and cleaner combustion with significantly lower particulate emissions.

Puri said that if half of all new two-wheelers and passenger vehicles sold in India shift to flex-fuel technology, annual ethanol demand could rise by more than 312 crore litres, generating roughly Rs 12,403 crore in additional income for farmers. Such a transition could also save about Rs 15,151 crore in foreign exchange annually and cut carbon dioxide emissions

by 66.4 lakh metric tonnes, he said.

Drawing comparisons with Brazil, where more than 80 per cent of light vehicles operate on flex-fuel technology, Puri said India was moving from pilot projects to a structured national flex-fuel ecosystem.

He also sought to dispel concerns about ethanol-blended fuels, saying E85 is intended exclusively for flex-fuel vehicles and that no engine failures linked to ethanol blending had been reported since E20 became the national standard fuel.

The minister urged state governments to support the transition through favourable taxation policies for E85 fuel and flex-fuel vehicles, describing ethanol as a key component of India's drive toward energy self-reliance.

"Every litre of ethanol replaces imported fossil fuel," Puri said. "Every drop of E85 carries the spirit of an Atmanirbhar Bharat."

India, US Held Positive Negotiations For Trade Deal: MEA

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI- India on Friday said it and the US held "positive and constructive" conversations in finalising a bilateral trade agreement.

In February, the two sides released a joint statement about agreeing on a framework for an interim trade deal for reciprocal and mutually-beneficial trade. Since then, both sides are holding negotiations to firm it up.

A delegation from the US Trade Representative (USTR) visited India from June 1 to 4 to advance discussions on the trade agreement.

"The conversations have been positive and constructive. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to taking this interim trade and bilateral trade agreement forward," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing while referring to a statement by the commerce ministry.

The commerce ministry said the two sides held constructive and positive discussions across a wide range of issues covering trade in goods, non-tariff measures, customs and trade facilitation, economic security alignment and other areas of mutual interest.

The US team was led by its chief negotiator Brendan Lynch. India's chief negotiator is Darpan Jain, who is an additional secretary in the Department of Commerce.

CBSE Extends Class 12 Certification, Re-evaluation Application Deadline Till June 7



Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The CBSE on Friday extended the last date for submission of applications for verification and re-evaluation of Class 12 answer sheets by one day till June 7.

The move comes after several students flagged issues in accessing answer books and applying for verification and re-evaluation on the CBSE's post-result services portal launched on June 2.

"In the interest of students, the CBSE has decided to extend the last date for submission of applications for verification and re-evaluation for the Class 12 board examinations, thereby providing students additional time and support to complete the process," the board said in a post on X.

The previous deadline of June 6 (midnight) has now been extended to June 7 (midnight), it said.

"Students are requested to take note of the revised schedule and submit their applications accordingly," it added.

The CBSE on Tuesday opened the online portal for verification of issues observed in scanned copies of answer books and re-evaluation of answers for students dissatisfied with their board exam evaluation.

The board had said that for verification of issues in scanned copies of answer books, students can report concerns such as missing pages, missing supplementary sheets, missing maps or graphs, blurred pages, incorrect answer books or evaluation against a different question paper set.

The CBSE has been embroiled in controversy after some Class 12 students claimed that the scanned copies of their answer sheets, uploaded by the board, did not match their handwriting, raising concerns about potential mismatches in the on-screen marking (OSM) system.

The Cabinet Secretariat has announced the formation of a one-member committee to investigate the procurement of services for the OSM system by the CBSE.

LG Inaugurates Yatri Bhawan At Kheer Bhawani Shrine



Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday inaugurated Yatri Bhawan at the Kheer Bhawani temple in Ganderbal and said it would enhance the capacity of the shrine to host pilgrims visiting from across the country and abroad.

The temple at Tulmulla is one of the most revered shrines in Jammu and Kashmir. Dedicating the new facilities to the public, the LG said the new Yatri Bhawan will substantially improve the pilgrimage experience by providing safe, hygienic and comfortable accommodation facilities.

Located approximately 25 kilometres from Srinagar, the shrine attracts a large number

of devotees throughout the year, particularly during the annual Mela Kheer Bhawani and Jyeshtha Ashtami, when thousands of pilgrims, including members of the Kashmiri Pandit community, visit the temple.

In 2023, several delegations met Sinha to request a Yatri Bhawan -- to cater to the visiting devotees.

Subsequently, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, through the Rural Engineering Wing (REW), designed the plan and the lieutenant governor laid the foundation stone for the facility in 2024, an official spokesperson said.

"With Mata Kheer Bhawani's blessing, I had laid the foundation stone on Jyeshtha Ashtami in 2024.

The project will enhance the capacity of the shrine to host pilgrims visiting from India and abroad. My goal has been to provide the Kashmiri Pandit community visiting the shrine with excellent facilities and a serene spiritual experience," Sinha said.

The facility constructed within the temple premises at a cost of Rs 3.85 crore comprises a ground-plus-two reinforced cement concrete (RCC) framed structure with a plinth area of 3,885 square feet and is designed to accommodate approximately 800-900 pilgrims through floor bedding arrangements, the spokesperson said.

Earlier, the LG paid obeisance at the temple and prayed for peace, prosperity and the well-being of all.

Sakeena Seeks to Put Kulgam's Panchanpatri on J&K Tourism Map



Agencies

Srinagar: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the tourism potential of the picturesque Panchanpatri area in Kulgam district.

During the meeting, the Minister took detailed assessment of various measures to be taken for bringing the Panchanpatri area of Kulgam on tourism map of Jammu and Kashmir. She directed the officers to establish all kind basic amenities in this picturesque area so that maximum visitors are attracted towards it.

The Minister directed the Tourism department to assess the scope for strengthening tourism infrastructure in the area for visitors. "Panchanpatri possesses immense natural beauty and holds tremendous potential to emerge as a major attraction for nature lovers, trekkers and adventure tourists", she stated.

Sakeena Itoo highlighted that the Government is focused on identifying and

developing offbeat destinations to diversify the tourism landscape of Jammu and Kashmir and generate new livelihood opportunities for local communities.

"Promotion of unexplored tourist spots not only enhances visitor experiences but also contributes significantly to rural economic growth through employment generation and entrepreneurship", she stated.

Reaffirming the Government's vision for inclusive tourism development, Sakeena Itoo said that emerging destinations like Panchanpatri will play a vital role in strengthening Jammu and Kashmir's position as a premier tourist destination and creating long-term economic benefits for local residents.

During the meeting, Joint Director Tourism Kashmir briefed the Minister about ongoing and proposed tourism initiatives in the Panchanpatri.

The meeting, among others, was attended by Joint Director Tourism Kashmir; senior officers of Tourism and other concerned departments

Timely Rainfall, Favourable Weather Fuel Bumper Lavender Crop in Bhandarwah

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Favourable weather conditions and timely rainfall have raised hopes of a bumper lavender harvest in Jammu and Kashmir's Bhandarwah valley, providing a major boost to the region's growing "Purple Revolution" under the union government's Aroma Mission.

Farmers in the hilly Raie hamlet of Shiva Panchayat, many of whom have shifted from traditional maize cultivation

to lavender farming in recent years, have begun harvesting the aromatic crop and are expecting higher yields this season.

Around 20 farming families in the valley are optimistic about higher returns, as the lavender fields have experienced healthy flowering and vibrant blooms, enhancing both the quality and market value of the crop.

"Most farmers are very happy because their hard work has paid off. It seems to be giving them big dividends as

favourable weather coupled with timely rainfall has not only resulted in bumper crop of Lavender but also the purple flowers are blooming in best colour adding to the value of exotic aromatic crop", Touqeer Bagban, a farmer said.

Touqeer, popularly known as the "Lavender man of India", for promoting lavender cultivation in the region, said the initiative launched under the Aroma Mission by the union ministry of science and

technology, in collaboration with the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), has transformed the economic prospects of farmers in remote areas.

"The efforts of Union Minister Jitendra Singh and CSIR-IIIM have yielded significant benefits for farmers. Their continued support has helped the purple revolution reach even far-flung villages like Raie," Bagban said.

The success of lavender cultivation has also brought national

recognition to Bhandarwah, often referred to as 'Chhota Kashmir'.

To further promote the region's lavender industry on the global stage, the fourth edition of the two-day Lavender festival will be held on June 6 and 7 under the theme, "Lavender Goes Global".

Meena Katoch, a 29-year-old lavender farmer from Hud village in Marmat, said the crop has provided local farmers with a unique identity and new livelihood opportunities. Lavender

cultivation was introduced in Bhandarwah in 2010 under the Aroma Mission of CSIR-IIIM, aimed at improving farm incomes and encouraging entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector.

The region's temperate climate is well suited for lavender cultivation. The drought-resistant crop requires relatively low maintenance, begins yielding flowers from the second year of plantation and can continue production for up to 15 years.

Recognising its growing economic importance, lavender has been designated as the official product of Doda district under the Centre's 'One District, One Product' initiative.

The fourth edition of the famous lavender festival will be organised in the Bhandarwah valley of Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on June 6 and 7, celebrating the success of the "Purple Revolution" and lavender-based rural entrepreneurship in the Union territory.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Govt Warns

coverage without omission or duplication. The government also highlighted penal provisions under Section 11 of the Census Act, 1948, stating that any Census Officer, including Enumerators and Supervisors, who refuses to perform census duties, neglects responsibilities, indulges in misconduct during fieldwork or tampers with census records may face imprisonment of up to three years and a fine of up to 1,000.

Besides statutory penalties, disciplinary action may also be initiated under the Jammu and Kashmir Government Employees (Conduct) Rules. Such action could include adverse entries in service records, salary deductions, withholding of promotions or increments, departmental proceedings, suspension, or even termination in cases of habitual dereliction of duty.

The government has directed all Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and Heads of Departments to provide full cooperation and administrative support to officials deployed for Census-2027 duties and ensure that no avoidable obstacles hinder the conduct of census operations.

The circular said all concerned authorities must accord priority to Census-2027-related work and extend necessary assistance to the Directorate of Census Operations for the successful completion of the House Listing Operation.

India Rejects Polls

and Kashmir and Ladakh, including Gilgit-Baltistan, are an integral part of India.

"The government of India lodged a strong protest with Pakistan regarding the latter's plans to hold 'general elections' to the so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly', in the Indian territories illegally and forcibly occupied by Pakistan, scheduled for June 7," the ministry said.

India said the region formed part of its territory following what it described as the "complete, legal and irrevocable accession" of the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir to India in 1947.

The statement also accused Pakistan of seeking to divert attention from conditions in the region through the electoral exercise.

"The government of India further emphasised that such endeavours by Pakistan cannot mask the underlying issues of grave human rights violations, political repression, economic exploitation and denial of freedom in territories illegally occupied by Pakistan," the MEA said.

India reiterated its longstanding opposition

to any administrative or political measures undertaken by Pakistan in territories claimed by New Delhi.

"The government of India categorically rejects any attempts by Pakistan to bring material change to areas under Pakistan's illegal occupation, and underlines that such actions cannot hide the fact that Pakistan illegally remains in possession of Indian territories, which it must vacate," the statement added.

The dispute over Gilgit-Baltistan forms part of the broader territorial disagreement between India and Pakistan over the Kashmir region, which both countries claim in full but administer in parts.

Relations between the nuclear-armed neighbours have remained strained over Kashmir since their partition in 1947, with both sides frequently exchanging diplomatic protests over developments in territories under each other's control.

Pakistan has not immediately responded to India's latest statement. Islamabad has previously rejected New Delhi's claims over Gilgit-Baltistan and maintained that the people of the region have the right to determine their political future.

The planned elections come amid continuing tensions between the two countries over Kashmir and related territorial issues.

Art 370 Never Hindered

of India in 1947.

"Pakistan wants us. We are a part of India. We chose to be a part of India. That was something they couldn't accept and still are unable to accept," the Chief Minister said while responding to questions on India-Pakistan relations and Jammu and Kashmir's place in the geopolitical landscape.

Calling the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 the "biggest policy mistake" made by the Government of India, Omar said its removal had not brought about any extraordinary development in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Article 370 was never a cause of any lack of development in Jammu and Kashmir, nor has its revocation suddenly resulted in massive development," he said.

The Chief Minister maintained that nearly three decades of militancy had discouraged investors and businesses from operating in Jammu and Kashmir.

"People will not invest money in a part of the country that they deem to be unsafe. The perception that Jammu and Kashmir was an unsafe place to visit or do business in is what hurt us, not Article 370," Omar said.

He also accused the BJP of selectively targeting Article 370 while ignoring similar constitutional protections available in other parts of

the country.

"The only thing that was talked about was Jammu and Kashmir and the fact that you couldn't buy land there. That was the stick used to beat us with," he said, referring to restrictions on land ownership that also exist in Lakshadweep and several northeastern states.

Seeking restoration of statehood, Omar said the Centre had publicly committed to a three-stage process involving delimitation, elections and restoration of statehood.

"We had delimitation. We had elections in which people participated in record numbers. But statehood is nowhere to be seen," he said.

Questioning repeated assurances that statehood would be restored at an "appropriate time", Omar said there was no clarity on the criteria being used to determine such a timeline.

"My target is to achieve statehood, yet I have no idea what goals I have to achieve to reach that point," he said.

The Chief Minister argued that the present Union Territory arrangement limits the powers of the elected government and affects governance.

"How can I be Chief Minister without choosing my Chief Secretary, Director General of Police or Finance Secretary? What sort of government is that?" he asked.

Omar said governance and delivery of public services would improve once Jammu and Kashmir regains statehood.

"I am not using absence of statehood as an excuse. I am saying governance and delivery will be better when you give us what you promised," he said.

Referring to the security situation, Omar said recent incidents had shown that militancy and violence could not be taken lightly, even as the people of Jammu and Kashmir had repeatedly rejected terrorism and demonstrated faith in democratic processes.

"For the first time in 35 years of violence, people came out openly against terror and against the killing of innocent people. They lit candles, marched and said this is not in our name," he said.

The Chief Minister also invited people from southern India to visit Jammu and Kashmir and encouraged filmmakers to explore the region as a shooting destination.

"We do not get enough people from south of the Vindhyas. Tourism follows movies. We would love to see more South Indian films shot in Kashmir," he said.

Body Of Srinagar Man

found during a family outing. The body survived the incident, officials said. Soon after Mir was reported missing, a

large-scale search operation was launched involving teams from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Police, Army, Civil Defence volunteers and local residents.

Search teams continued combing various stretches of the river downstream from the spot where Mir was last seen before his body was finally traced and recovered on Friday.

Officials said legal formalities are being completed and the body will be handed over to the family for last rites.

Police have taken up further investigation into the incident.

'Enough Is Enough'

attached more than 100 properties linked to smugglers, cancelled nearly 700 driving licences and recommended cancellation of passports of 130 accused drug traffickers.

"What began as a war against drugs and narco-terrorism has now ignited into a true people's movement, born of courage and driven by the collective will of ordinary citizens," Sinha said.

Describing the drug menace as a serious security concern, the Lieutenant Governor said drug trafficking was no longer merely a law-and-order issue.

"This is not simply a matter of ordinary crime but also a question of national security and a direct threat to the very survival of our society," he said.

Sinha said the proceeds from drug smuggling are often used to finance terrorism and purchase weapons, making the fight against narcotics inseparable from the fight against terrorism.

"The narco-terrorists, whether sitting in neighbouring countries or operating inside Jammu and Kashmir, are enemies of our people. They are enemies of our children. They are enemies of our progress," he said.

"Let me make this clear that narco-terrorists operating in Jammu and Kashmir will have to pay a heavy price," he added.

The Lieutenant Governor said the administration would ensure strict punishment for those involved in ruining the lives of young people through drugs.

He also reiterated the government's commitment to rehabilitating individuals affected by addiction through treatment, counselling and employment opportunities.

"With compassion and dignity, we will help them return to the mainstream of society," he said, adding that the campaign was not merely a government programme but a social revolution aimed at protecting future generations.

Calling upon women and youth to play an active role in the movement, Sinha urged

mothers, sisters and daughters to become protectors of their communities and asked young people to act as guardians of schools and colleges against the drug menace.

"I promise to the people that narco-terrorists will no longer find refuge. We will hunt them down. Their networks will be dismantled one by one," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also launched Sindh Samvad, a podcast series, and felicitated winners of various competitions organised under the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan.

Sinha has now participated in anti-drug marches in all districts of Kashmir Valley, saying the growing public participation reflects a historic movement against narco-terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Inaugurates Emergency

Commissioner's Office. According to a spokesperson, Ganderbal Deputy Commissioner Jatin Kishore briefed Sinha about the key features of the new facilities.

The Emergency Operations Centre will pool feed from CCTVs installed across Ganderbal by the district administration, police and other security forces; this will ensure real-time monitoring of the yatra at a single centralised location, he said.

The facility is backed by a round-the-clock emergency citizen helpline number to provide immediate assistance and crisis mitigation.

The centre also integrates CCTV feed from the Baltal base camp, its parking areas and the approach roads leading up to it, as well as Sonmarg and the Manigam transit camp.

The Emergency Operations Centre will play a key role in planning and decision-making during the annual pilgrimage, he added.

As per the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, the Amarnath Yatra this year will begin on July 3 and conclude on August 28.

HC Sets Aside

remarked that the certificates appeared to have been managed in connivance with officials and described the material placed on record as insufficient to justify payment from public funds.

Holding that the respondents had "miserably failed" to prove performance of duties beyond their contractual period, the court allowed the appeal, set aside the Single Judge's order and dismissed the writ petitions.

The judgment is expected to have wider implications for contractual service disputes, reaffirming that remuneration claims against government agencies must be supported by clear evidence of authorized service and valid contractual engagement. (KNT)

India Beats Pakistan 5-3 in Thrilling Semi-final

Press Trust Of India

KAKAMIGAHARA (JAPAN): The Indian hockey team showed incredible character to defeat arch-rivals Pakistan 5-3 in a high-voltage semi-final match of the U18 Men's Asia Cup here on Friday.

Trailing 2-3 until the final quarter, India produced an outstanding attacking display in the final minutes to secure their place in the summit clash.

The match began with a quiet and tense opening, as both teams fought hard for control in the midfield. India found their rhythm in the 12th minute when a brilliant run from their own half forced a defensive error from Pakistan, earning India a penalty stroke.

Forward Ashish Tani Purti (12') stepped up and calmly converted it to give India an early 1-0 lead, which they maintained until the end of the first quarter.

Pakistan came out playing aggressively in the second quarter and won their first penalty corner in the 16th minute. Indian goalkeeper Ayush

Rajak and defender Ansh Bahutra combined perfectly to save a powerful drag-flick from Ahmad Uzair.

Pakistan kept pressing and found their equaliser in the 27th minute when Adeel intercepted a pass, broke through the defence, and scored a field goal to make it 1-1 at half time.

The third quarter saw intense action from both sides. India reclaimed the lead in the 35th minute when Shahrukh Ali (35') capitalised on quick passing and smashed the ball into the net.

However, the joy was short-lived as Pakistan responded just two minutes later through a field goal by Muhammad Farhan Aslam in the 37th minute. Pakistan then took the lead for the first time in the 42nd minute when Uzair Ahmad Qureshi converted a penalty corner with a precise drag-flick, leaving India trailing 2-3 at the end of the third quarter.

With their campaign on the line, India launched a furious attack in the final quarter. The pressure forced a green card for Pakistan's



Muzammil Saeed in the 46th minute, and India immediately won consecutive penalty corners. Ashish Tani Purti (49') fired home a superb drag-flick from the second penalty corner to level the score at 3-3.

India completely dominated the following minutes, earning a series of penalty corners. Though Pakistan's defence blocked a few attempts, they could not stop the Indian frontline for long.

In the 53rd minute, Ashish scored another brilliant penalty corner to complete his hat-trick and put India ahead 4-3.

With just four minutes left on the clock, India won another penalty corner, and Ashish (56') hit the back of the net once again to score his fourth goal of the match, extending the lead to 5-3.

The Indian boys held their composure in the dying minutes of the game to defend their lead successfully and book their place in the final.

India will take on Japan in the final on Saturday.

Barcelona teenager Lamine Yamal wins La Liga Player of the Season award

Agencies

Barcelona winger Lamine Yamal has won La Liga's Player of the Season award.

The 18-year-old helped Barca retain their domestic crown, became the first player to win the league's Player of the Month award three times in one season and finished as the club's top scorer in La Liga with 16 goals and 11 assists.

Barcelona's Hansi Flick was named the Coach of the Year on Thursday.

Regarding Yamal, Barca said in a statement: "He is the proverbial headache for opponent defences, who have to make a real effort to try to stop the blaugrana's attacking threats.

"Beyond the intangibles, the young Catalan scored 16 goals and provided 11 assists, with no other La Liga player providing that



many passes leading to goals."

Yamal, who has been sidelined with groin issues several times this term, is expected to be fit for Spain

at the World Cup starting next week in Canada, Mexico and the U.S.

He missed Barca's last six games of the season due to a hamstring injury.

Yamal exploded onto the scene aged 16, and was an integral part of Spain's record fourth European Championship triumph in 2024.

Iran beat Mali in final warm-up before heading to World Cup

Agencies

Iran will head off to their World Cup base this weekend with a spring in their step after beating Mali 2-0 in a friendly in Turkiye, even if some uncertainty still clouds their participation in the tournament.

Goals from midfielder Saeid Ezatollahi and right back Ramin Rezaeian either side of half-time on Thursday gave Team Melli a record of three wins and a single loss in their four friendlies this year in the Turkish resort city of Antalya.

The friendlies are the only competitive football the Iran-based players have contested since the domestic league was suspended in the wake of US and Israel air strikes on the Islamic republic in late February that triggered a regional war.

The squad have received visas for Mexico, officials confirmed this week, and will leave Turkiye on Saturday for their tournament base in the border city of Tijuana.

Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum agreed to host the squad after being told that the US authorities did not want Iran staying in their original



base in Arizona throughout the June 11 to July 19 tournament.

The squad have not yet received the visas they will need to get into the US to play their group games against New Zealand and Belgium in Los Angeles and Egypt in Seattle, however.

Iranian FA (FFIRI) President Mehdi Taj told Iranian media this week that the US visas were the main concern for the federation as Iran's tournament opener against New Zealand on June 15 approaches.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Tuesday there was "no problem" with the Iran squad entering the country, but Washington would not let officials or staff with ties to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) accompany them.

Both the US and Canada, who are cohosting the World Cup with Mexico, classify the IRGC as a "terrorist entity".

Taj was refused entry into Canada for the FIFA Congress in late April because of his links to the elite military force.




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