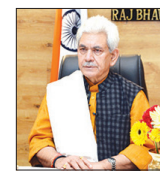


Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
@OfficeOfLGJandK



We have succeeded in dispelling the shadow of injustice & ushering a new dawn of justice at doorsteps of terror victims' families. To date, around 400 NoKs have received employment and will continue relentlessly until we reach the very last family still awaiting justice.

Srinagar • Monday 16, March 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 66 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 1/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

Kashmir Higher Reaches Receive Fresh Snow, Rains Lash Plains

Key Roads Closed, MeT Forecasts Erratic Weather Till Mar 20



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Fresh snowfall was reported in several higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, while plains received rainfall, prompting closure of some key roads, officials said.

"Snowfall was recorded in areas including Peer Ki Gali, Sinthan Top, Gulmarg, Doodhpathri, Gurez Valley, Sadhna Top and along the Sonamarg-Zojila axis," an official said.

He said that due to slippery roads, the Gurez-Bandipora road and the Mughal Road, which connects the Kashmir Valley with the Pir Panjal region, have been closed to vehicular traffic.

Many places in the Kashmir division and a few areas in the Jammu division also received rainfall during the

day, a MeT official said.

Erratic weather conditions are likely to continue across the Union Territory until March 20, he added.

The MeT also forecasts intermittent light to moderate rain and snowfall in higher reaches at many places until the forenoon of March 16. "On March 17, the weather is expected to remain partly cloudy, with brief spells of light rain or snowfall at isolated higher-altitude locations," the official said.

From March 18 to 20, generally cloudy conditions are expected, with intermittent light to moderate rain or snowfall at many places, mainly during night and morning hours.

The department predicted generally dry weather from March 21 to 23, while skies are expected to

■ Eid Gift

LG Sinha Hands Over Job Letters To 27 Noks Of Terror Victims In J&K

Says Campaign To Deliver Justice To Terror Victims' Families Has Restored Their Tomorrow

Resolute in securing justice for every terror victim's family and pending cases will reopen to hold perpetrators accountable

We have succeeded in dispelling the shadow of injustice and ushering a new dawn of justice at doorsteps of terror victims' families

To date, around 400 NoKs have received employment and will continue relentlessly until we reach the very last family still awaiting justice

For decades, NoKs of our poor and vulnerable brothers and sisters, felled by terrorists' bullets, had clung to the hope of redress

Campaign launched from Baramulla last year has provided these families with support, courage, and renewed self-belief

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday handed over appointment letters to 27 Next of Kins (NoKs) of victims of terrorism, at Lok Bhavan Srinagar.

Appointment letters were also handed over to 22 NoKs of deceased government employees, under Jammu & Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022 and SRO 43.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated his resolve to secure justice for every terror victim's family. He stated that pending cases will be reopened to hold perpetrators accountable.

Paying homage to the civilian martyrs, the Lieutenant Governor said that for decades, NoKs of our poor and vulnerable brothers and sisters, felled by terrorists' bullets, had clung to the hope of redress. He said the campaign launched from Baramulla last year has pro-



vided these families with support, courage, and renewed self-belief.

"Our campaign to deliver justice to terror victims' families has restored their tomorrow. We have succeeded in dispelling the shadow of injustice and ushering a new dawn of justice at doorsteps of terror victims' families. To date, around 400 NoKs have received employment and will continue relentlessly until we reach the very last family still awaiting justice," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that it is not merely an administrative exercise of signing papers, shuffling files, or filling posts but a profound commitment to justice.

"My aim throughout this process is to ensure that no terror-affected family slipped into the cracks of neglect, fading from public and official gaze. I view these appointment letters as true justice- and today's event stands as its living testament," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, important initiatives were taken over the past five to six years with a singular, overarching goal- to forge a Jammu Kashmir undefined by the pains of its past, but brimming with self-confidence.

"In August 2020, I had set this vision- to develop a Jammu Kashmir that measures its strength by the

Terrorist Killed As Army Foils Infiltration Bid In Uri

JAMMU: Alert troops of the Army foiled an infiltration bid on Sunday on the Line of Control (LoC) in Uri sector of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, and during the operation, one terrorist was killed.

Srinagar headquartered Chinara Corps of the Army said on X, "Based on a specific intelligence input provided by #JKP regarding an infiltration attempt, a joint operation was launched on intervening night of 14-15 Mar 26 in Gen area

NC Leaders Meet LG, Seek Youth Release Ahead Of Eid

SRINAGAR: Legislators of ruling National Conference (NC) on Sunday requested Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha, to order the release of people detained during the anti-US and anti-Israel protests in Kashmir.

A delegation, led by NC spokesperson and Zadibal MLA, Tanvir Sadiq, gave a memorandum to the L-G, seeking to draw his "urgent attention to the arrests, detentions, and registration of FIRs against citizens



Government of Jammu & Kashmir



Witness a mesmerizing sea of colors with over 1.8 million tulips on display

Inauguration of

Tulip Festival 2026

Tulip Garden, Srinagar

by

Jenab Omar Abdullah

Hon'ble Chief Minister, J&K

March 16, 2026

Department of Floriculture, Gardens and Parks, J&K

DIPK-11919/25 DATED: 15-03-2026

Traffic suspended on Srinagar-Kargil Highway after fresh Snowfall



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Vehicular movement on the Srinagar-Kargil highway was suspended again on Sunday after fresh snowfall at Zojila Pass rendered the road unsafe for travel, officials said. Authorities had earlier allowed limited traffic movement from Sonamarg towards Kargil

after the highway was temporarily reopened following a six-day closure caused by heavy snowfall and accumulation of snow along the Zojila stretch. Officials said snow clearance operations were carried out by the Border Roads Organisation after improvement in weather conditions to restore connectivity on the strategic route. Following the clearance, traffic authorities permitted nearly 300 vehicles, including passenger vehicles and carriers transporting vegetables and other essential supplies, to move from Sonamarg towards Kargil on Sunday morning, they said. However, fresh snowfall

at the high-altitude pass soon made road conditions unsafe, forcing authorities to suspend vehicular movement again as a precautionary measure. Officials said further decisions regarding the resumption of traffic would be taken after assessing the weather conditions and road safety along the Zojila axis.(KNS).

Social Forestry Deptt Budgam celebrates Chinar Day



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Social Forestry Department Budgam Sunday celebrated Chinar Day with great enthusiasm across the district by organizing plantation drives and awareness activities to mark the occasion. The day was observed with the aim of promoting environmental awareness and encouraging the conservation of the iconic Chinar tree, which holds great ecological and cultural significance in Kashmir. As part of the celebrations, saplings of the majes-

tic Chinar tree were planted at prominent locations, including SIDCO Budgam and NIFT Budgam, in order to enhance green cover and promote environmental sustainability in the district. The plantation drive was carried out in a coordinated manner with the active involvement of officials and employees of the Social Forestry Department along with representatives from various institutions and stakeholders. The events were headed by the Range Forest Officer, Social Forestry Range

Budgam, who highlighted the importance of preserving the Chinar tree and urged participants to contribute actively towards environmental protection and afforestation initiatives. He emphasized that the Chinar tree is not only a symbol of Kashmir's natural heritage but also plays an important role in maintaining ecological balance. Employees of the Social Forestry Department, staff members of NIFT Budgam and other stakeholders enthusiastically participated in the plantation drive and expressed their com-

mitment to safeguarding the environment. The participants appreciated the department for organizing such initiatives that promote environmental responsibility among the public. The Social Forestry Department reiterated its commitment to continue similar plantation drives and awareness programmes in the future, with the objective of promoting greenery, protecting natural resources and restoring ecological balance through consistent afforestation efforts across Budgam district.

KU holds two-day national workshop on intergenerational action for gender equality



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Centre for Women's Studies and Research (CWSR), University of Kashmir (KU), organised a two-day national workshop on "Give to Gain: Intergenerational Action for Gender Equality" at the Main Campus to deliberate on collaborative approaches for advancing gender equality through shared learning and engagement across generations. The workshop aimed to bring together academicians, researchers and students to reflect on the importance of intergenerational dialogue, knowledge sharing and collective action in addressing contemporary gender challenges. Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, highlighted the importance of inclusive dialogue in

strengthening gender justice initiatives. "Gender equality requires sustained engagement across generations, where experience, new ideas and collective commitment come together to build more inclusive and equitable social spaces," she said, adding that universities must serve as platforms for critical discussion and collaborative action on issues of gender and social justice. Dean, College Development Council KU, Prof. Aneesa Shafi, said that it is important to utilise the potential of each generation and create meaningful networks that can translate ideas into actionable solutions for achieving gender equality. In her keynote address, Prof. Pamela Singla, Department of Social Work, University of Delhi, spoke about the role of intergenerational engage-

ment in strengthening feminist scholarship and practice, emphasizing the need for collaborative frameworks that address evolving gender concerns in society. Earlier, in her welcome address, Coordinator, CWSR KU Dr Roshan Ara, highlighted the objectives of the workshop and underlined the Centre's continued efforts to promote research, dialogue and awareness on issues related to gender and social development. The two-day workshop featured technical sessions by experts and academicians on various aspects of gender equality, intergenerational dialogue, policy perspectives and contemporary gender challenges. The proceedings of the event were conducted by Dr. Shazia Malik, faculty at CWSR KU, who also proposed the vote of thanks.

BDA inaugurates Modern Health Club in Baderwah

Hosts Iftar party, interaction with Media persons

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BHADERWAH: Baderwah Development Authority (BDA) inaugurated a modern Health Club and Gym at the scenic Teligarh Resort to enhance facilities for tourists and promote a healthy lifestyle among visitors. The facility was inaugurated by the Chief Executive Officer BDA, Sanjeev Sharma, in the presence of ASP Vinod Sharma, Sub Divisional Police Officer and other officials. The newly established health club is equipped with modern fitness machines and the latest gym equipment to provide visitors and tourists with a dedicated space for exercise and



physical fitness during their stay at the resort. The initiative aims to strengthen the recreational infrastructure at Teligarh Resort and further improve the overall tourism experience in Baderwah, known for its breathtaking landscapes and serene environment. Speaking on the occasion, the CEO said that the addition of the health club will provide tourists with another activity option, allowing them to maintain their health and fitness while enjoying the natural beauty of Baderwah. He

added that the development of such facilities is part of BDA's continued efforts to upgrade tourism infrastructure and attract more visitors to the region. Later, the Baderwah Development Authority also hosted an Iftar Party and interaction with media

persons at the Resort. The gathering provided an opportunity for cordial interaction between officials and members of the media, acknowledging their role in highlighting tourism potential and developmental initiatives in Baderwah.

Stationery Kits distributed among students under BBBP in Shopian

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti Shopian organized a stationery distribution drive among school students as part of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative. The programme was aimed at promoting education, encouraging school participation, and providing essential learn-

ing materials to young students. During the drive, stationery kits were distributed among students of Government Boys Upper Primary School Sedow, Government Primary School Parraypora Sedow, Boys Upper Primary School Rangmarg Sedow, and Government Upper Primary School Checki Sedow. On the occasion, officials from the Sankalp

Hub for Empowerment of Women interacted with students and teachers and emphasized the vital role of education in building a progressive and empowered society. They also highlighted the core message of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative, stressing the importance of ensuring equal educational opportunities and nurturing the potential of every child.

DC Poonch reviews progress of work on Eklavya Model Residential School



GMK NEWS NETWORK

POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, chaired a meeting to review the progress of work on Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) being constructed at an estimated cost of ₹1594.99 lakh at Behra Mendhar. The meeting was attended by SDM Mendhar, Executive Engineer PWD Mendhar, Executive Engineer PWD Poonch, Chief Planning Officer, Principal EMRS Behra Mendhar, AEE PWD Mendhar and the concerned Junior Engineer (JE). During the meeting, the progress of various components of the project was reviewed in detail. It was informed that out of 15 components of the building project, 8 components

have been completed and handed over, while work on the remaining 7 components is in progress. The Deputy Commissioner directed the PWD authorities to expedite the pace of work and ensure completion of the remaining components at the earliest. He further instructed the Principal EMRS and Executive Engineer PWD to submit a detailed estimate of the remaining works of the project. The DC also emphasized the need to include infrastructure development works such as construction of the compound wall, approach road, internal paths, finishing of the remaining building components and other allied works to ensure the timely completion of the prestigious educational project.

QRT Kupwara seizes 144 MTs of Nallah muck at Geerhatti

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Acting on specific information, a Quick Response Team (QRT) headed by the District Mineral Officer Kupwara, Mumtaz Ahmad Shah conducted a raid Sunday at Girhatti and seized 144 metric tons of Nallah muck that had been illegally stocked near a marriage hall in Goose area. The QRT comprised Naib

Tehsildar Headquarter Kupwara, a police party from Bazar Police, and members of the Mining Squad. During the operation, the team also identified individuals allegedly involved in illegal mining activities at the site. The seized material was subsequently handed over to the Bazar Police for further legal action. It is pertinent to mention that the Quick Response Team, the first of its kind in

the Kashmir province, was earlier constituted by the Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse. The initiative aims to strengthen enforcement against illegal mining in the district. The activities of the QRT have been widely appreciated across the district for their proactive role in curbing the menace of illegal mining and protecting natural resources.

Altaf Bukhari extends greetings to people on Shab-e-Qadr

Urges administration to ensure uninterrupted power, water supply

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Sunday extended greetings to the people, especially the Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir, on the auspicious occasion of Shab-e-Qadr. In a message, Bukhari said the sacred night

holds immense spiritual significance as it was on this blessed occasion that Almighty Allah revealed the Holy Quran to Prophet Muhammad (SAW) for the guidance of mankind. "Shab-e-Qadr provides us with an opportunity to seek forgiveness, divine mercy and blessings from Almighty Allah," he said.

Apni Party President also urged the administration to ensure the availability of all essential facilities for the people, including uninterrupted power and water supply. He further called for adequate transport facilities so that devotees can reach holy places for congregational prayers without inconvenience.

117 Civilians Lost Their Lives in 657 Terror Incidents in J&K Over Five Years: Centre

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: According to data presented in the Rajya Sabha by the Ministry of Home Affairs, a total of 117 civilians lost their lives in 657 terrorist incidents across Jammu and Kashmir during the five-year period from 2019 to 2023.

The statistics, sourced from the National Crime Records Bureau's 'Crime in India' dataset, also indicate that 344 civilians sustained injuries in these attacks over the same timeframe. Additionally, the data reveals that 158 security force personnel were killed and 380 others were wounded in militant-related violence within the Union Territory.

A year-wise breakdown of the data shows that 2019 recorded 157 terror incidents, resulting in the deaths of 32 civilians and injuries to 126 others. During the same year, 33 security personnel were killed and 129 were injured.

In 2020, the number of incidents decreased to 112. This year saw 19 civilian fatalities and 48 injuries, while 32 security personnel were killed and 56 were injured.

The following year, 2021, witnessed a rise in attacks to 164 incidents. The toll included 35 civilians killed and 74 injured, alongside 43 security personnel deaths and 90 injuries.

The year 2022 marked the highest number of ter-



rorist attacks in the five-year span, with 195 incidents recorded. During this period, 21 civilians were killed and 79 were injured, while 25 security personnel lost their lives and 88 were wounded.

Preliminary data for 2023 indicates 29 incidents, in which 10 civilians were killed and 17 injured. The casualties among security forces for the year stood at 25 killed and 17 injured.

In its parliamentary response, the Ministry of Home Affairs noted that "Police" and "Public Order" are matters handled by the states. It explained that the NCRB compiles its nationwide statistics based on data furnished by individual states and Union Territories.

The government detailed its multi-pronged

approach to thwarting terrorist activities, emphasizing the strengthening of intelligence gathering, counter-terror operations, and overall security preparedness.

Key measures outlined include bolstering the counter-insurgency grid, the deployment of Central Armed Police Forces, the modernization of security equipment, and the implementation of capacity-building initiatives for police and other law enforcement agencies.

The Centre further stated that intelligence sharing has been improved through platforms like the Multi Agency Centre and its state-level counterparts. Both technical and human intelligence networks have been expanded to foster better coordination among

security forces, police, and intelligence bodies.

Additional steps mentioned involve the deployment of drones and satellite surveillance in sensitive border regions, the implementation of the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System equipped with sensors and radars, and the construction of strategic infrastructure, including roads, tunnels, and border outposts.

Authorities are also leveraging advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data analytics, and facial recognition tools to monitor and disrupt terrorist networks. Simultaneously, social media and cyberspace are being closely monitored to counter online radicalization and recruitment efforts.

No shortage at LPG distributorships, fuel stations in India: Govt reiterates

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: There have been no reports of dry-outs of gas supply at LPG distributorships across India, the government said on Sunday in its latest update.

In a statement, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said that LPG bookings have shown a decline, with about 77 lakh bookings recorded yesterday compared to 88.8 lakh bookings on March 13, 2026.

Several States and UTs, including Bihar, Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan, have issued orders for allocation of non-domestic LPG in line with government guidelines.

The Ministry said that commercial LPG cylinders have been placed at the disposal of State Governments for priority distribution and are now available to consumers in 30 States and UTs.

Similarly, no cases of fuel dry-outs have been reported at retail outlets by Oil Marketing Companies, and supplies of petrol and diesel continue to be maintained regularly, the ministry said. However, citizens are advised not to resort to panic buying as adequate stocks of petrol and diesel are available across the country.

"All refineries are operating at high capacity and maintaining adequate crude oil inventories. Our country remains self-sufficient in the production



of petrol and diesel and, no imports of petrol and diesel are required to meet domestic demand," said the ministry.

Priority sectors continue to receive natural gas supplies, including 100 per cent supply to PNG and CNG, while supplies to industrial and commercial consumers are being regulated at about 80 per cent.

Commercial LPG consumers in major cities and urban areas are encouraged to opt for PNG connections and may apply through email, letter or the customer portal of City Gas Distribution (CGD) companies.

A meeting was held on March 14, 2026, by senior officials of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas with other stakeholders to review the status of PNG connections and LPG-to-PNG conversion.

State Governments are undertaking enforcement measures to prevent hoarding and black marketing of petrol, diesel and LPG.

Raids are being carried out in several states, including Andhra Pradesh and Bihar to check hoarding and black marketing of LPG cylinders.

The Government said it continues to prioritise the interests of domestic consumers and ensure uninterrupted LPG supply, particularly for households and priority sectors such as hospitals and educational institutions.

Domestic LPG production from refineries has been maximised and several supply and demand-side measures have been implemented.

An amendment to the LPG Control Order issued on 14 March 2026 requires consumers with PNG con-

nections to surrender their domestic LPG connections and prohibits new LPG connections for PNG consumers.

Booking intervals have been rationalised to 25 days in urban areas and up to 45 days in rural areas to ensure equitable distribution.

An additional allocation of 48,000 KL of kerosene has been provided to States and UTs to support alternate fuel needs.

Alternate fuels such as kerosene and coal have been activated for certain sectors, including hospitality and restaurants, to ease pressure on LPG supplies.

"PSU Oil Marketing Companies are promoting digital bookings, discouraging panic bookings and keeping LPG distributorships open on Sundays to facilitate smooth supply," the ministry said. (ANI)

DGCA eases FDTL norms for Air India amid airspace curbs due to Iran war

IANS

NEW DELHI: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has allowed temporary relaxations in flight duty norms to Air India for long-haul flights to Europe, USA, and Canada as the airline has been forced to take longer routes due to airspace restrictions on account of the Iran war which has adversely impacted operations and the movement of passengers, according to sources.

With airspace restrictions over Iran and Iraq due to war, the Tata Group airline has been taking a detour via Egypt for its flights to western countries, leading to longer flying hours and higher fuel burn.

According to sources, the civil aviation regulator has, after examining Air India's request, granted some easing in pilot Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) norms until April 30.

The DGCA has permitted the airline to operate long-haul flights with two pilots and extended the Flight Time (FT) by 1.30 hours to 11.30 hours and the Flight Duty Period (FDP) by 1.45 hours to 11.45 hours.

The exemption also includes relief from the 30-minute roster planning



buffer requirement. Flight Time refers to the total duration from the moment an aircraft first moves for the purpose of take-off until it finally comes to rest at the end of the flight.

The Flight Duty Period begins when a flight crew member reports for duty and ends when the aircraft engines are switched off after the final flight.

It was not immediately clear whether low-cost carrier IndiGo has also received similar exemptions for its long-haul services.

The escalating war between the US-Israel alliance against Iran, which broke out on February 28, has resulted in airspace restrictions in the Middle East, as a result of which several airlines have reduced services.

The Tata Group-owned airline had requested permission to operate certain long-haul flights with a two-pilot crew instead of

the standard three, along with an extension in maximum flying time.

The airline firm had sought a one-hour and three-minute increase in permissible flying time, which would raise the limit from 10 hours to about 11-11.5 hours.

Restricted airspace in parts of the region -- along with continued closure of Pakistan airspace for Indian carriers -- has forced airlines to take longer detours over the Arabian Sea, Central Asia, and parts of Africa.

These diversions significantly increase flight times, raising fuel consumption and putting additional pressure on crew duty limits.

For Air India, avoiding the skies of Iran and Iraq has added substantial block time to several long-haul routes, with the airline cancelling multiple flights this week due to operational constraints.

Dy CM reaffirms commitment towards strengthening road network, seamless accessibility

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI: Reaffirming commitment towards strengthening road connectivity and seamless accessibility for the people, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Sunday laid the foundation stones for several road projects in Nowshera Constituency of Rajouri district.

During his day-long visit, the Deputy Chief Minister held an extensive public outreach programmes in the Nowshera area to listen to public grievances and developmental concerns.

He laid the foundation stone for construction and maintenance of the link road from Auto Stand Kheri to Masjid Potha East in Block Seri of Rajouri district under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). The project, spanning 4.0 kilometre, has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of ₹927.62 lakh and is expected to significantly improve the connectivity and facilitate smoother movement for the local population.

On the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister also laid foundation stones for two additional road proj-



ects including "Dwaka to High School Moh Potha" and "Gania to Patli (Link Road)" aimed at strengthening the rural road infrastructure and enhancing access to essential services in the region.

Following the foundation stone laying ceremonies, the Deputy Chief Minister held public outreach programmes where he interacted with the local residents and listened to their grievances and suggestions regarding development works.

Key issues raised by the public included construction of a road from Mangal Devi to Shamshan Ghat, forest clearance for developmental projects, scarcity of drinking water, establishment of a library at Panchayat Gagrote, construction of a community hall at Gania, development of a mini sports stadium near Gania School and dilapi-

dated condition of the road from Chowki to Langhar.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment towards accelerating development works and ensuring that basic amenities reach every corner of the region. He assured the public that the issues raised during the outreach programmes would be taken up with the concerned departments for prompt redressal.

He also directed the officers to prepare development plans in consultation with the local population so that projects reflect the genuine needs and priorities of the people.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister undertook local visits and engagements in Nowshera, interacting with the residents and reviewing developmental requirements of the area.

NIT Srinagar Hosts BIS Workshop on MOS Devices, Antennas

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE) at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar organized a one-day workshop on "MOS Devices, Antennas, Their Applications, and the Role of BIS" under the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) - ECE Student Chapter.

The workshop aimed to acquaint students with the fundamentals and applications of MOS device technology while highlighting the role of BIS in ensuring quality, safety, and reliability through national standards in engineering and technology.

The programme was coordinated by BIS-ECE Student Mentor Dr. Ashok Kumar under the guidance of Dr. G.R. Beigh, Head ECE Department.

During the sessions, Dr. Brajendra Singh Sengar delivered a detailed session on antennas, their applications, and the relevance of BIS standards in communication technologies.

Dr. Pramod Yadav from the Department of Com-

puter Science and Engineering also attended the workshop as a special guest. While Student coordinators Harshita, Arfa, Lakshya, and Anshu Choudhary assisted in the smooth conduct of the event.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, appreciated the initiative and said that such academic engagements play a crucial

role in enhancing students' understanding of emerging technologies.

He said that collaboration with national standard-setting bodies like BIS helps students align their technical knowledge with industry requirements and global standards.

Registrar Dr. Atikur Rehman also lauded the efforts of the ECE department and the BIS Student Chapter. He said workshops of this nature provide an important platform for students to interact with experts and gain practical insights into modern technological developments.

The workshop provided ECE students with practical insights into emerging electronic technologies and emphasized the importance of standardization in advancing innovation and maintaining quality in the engineering domain.

Samba residents thrilled over third new bridge on Basantar River

IANS

SAMBA: The third bridge constructed over the Basantar River in the Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir is now fully complete and has been opened for vehicular traffic.

There had been a long-standing demand for the construction of this bridge because of multiple road accidents at the SIDCO Chowk and severe traffic jams.

With the inauguration of the new bridge, significant improvements in the traffic management system are anticipated.

Local residents state that the construction of this bridge will not only lead to a reduction in accidents but will also provide immense relief to daily commuters.

Previously, traffic jams lasting for several hours were a common occurrence at SIDCO Chowk and its surrounding areas, adversely affecting both the general public and commercial activities. Now that the bridge is operational, the traffic burden is expected to decrease, allowing for a much smoother flow of vehicular movement.

According to officials, sev-

eral key projects have been completed on National Highway-44 with a focus on enhancing safety and improving passenger amenities. A total of approximately Rs 171.25 crore has been invested in these works.

These projects include rectifying "black spots"—or accident-prone zones—located between SIDCO Chowk and Gole Mela-Sangur, constructing an LVUP (Lower Vehicular Underpass) alongside the service road in Samba and developing modern roadside amenities at Jhajjar Kotli, Qazigund, and Marhama.

Local residents are delighted at the completion of this project and have extended their gratitude to the government and the concerned agencies.

Speaking to IANS, a local resident remarked that the construction of the third bridge has brought immense relief to the people of Samba.

"For the past several months, this area had become a hotspot for accidents, and Sidco Chowk had been identified as one of two major 'blackspots,'" he said and noted that the National Highway Authority took serious cognisance of this issue and took action.

Vikas Dongra, a resident of Samba, also expressed his happiness over the bridge's construction, noting that there had been a long-standing demand for a bridge in this area.

He explained that, previously, the region would frequently experience traffic jams lasting for hours, causing considerable inconvenience to commuters.

"Moreover, road accidents were occurring almost every other day. Now that the bridge is open for use, these issues will subside, and the public will benefit from safer and smoother travel," he said.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Eid Gift For Long-Deserving Victims

The decision by Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, to hand over appointment letters to the next of kin of 50 terror victims under the compassionate appointment scheme comes as a welcome step for families that have waited years for recognition and support.

For many of these households, the loss of a loved one during the years of militancy meant not only deep emotional trauma but also severe financial hardship. In several cases, the victims were the sole breadwinners, leaving families to struggle for survival. Providing government job The move by Manoj Sinha, the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, to provide job appointment letters to the next of kin of 50 individuals who fell victim to terrorism through the compassionate appointment scheme is a welcome development for families who have awaited acknowledgment and aid for many years. For numerous households, the death of a family member during the years of insurgency resulted in not only profound emotional pain but also significant financial difficulties. In many instances, the victims were the primary earners, leaving families to face hardships in their day-to-day lives. Offering government employment to their relatives provides a level of stability and respect that has been long overdue. The timing of this initiative, coinciding with Eid al-Fitr, adds an extra layer of significance, conveying a message of hope and solidarity.

Good Morning Kashmir

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B-11, Budshah Flats, Jehangir

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Printed at:

Khidmat Offset Printing

Press, The Bund, Srinagar

Published From:

Main Bus Stand, Near Masjid Rehmat,

Lal Bazar, Srinagar - 190023

Layout Designer

Aijaz Ahmad Dar

Rising Tobacco Use Among Youth: A Growing Social Challenge



MOHAMMAD HANIEF

Tobacco addiction has increasingly become one of the most pressing social and public health concerns affecting young people in many parts of India. In the region of Jammu and Kashmir, this issue has begun to take on worrying proportions, particularly among school, college and university-going students. Health experts, teachers and social workers in the region warn that the rising number of young smokers reflects not only a health concern but also a broader social challenge that demands urgent attention from families, educational institutions and policymakers alike.

For many years, tobacco use has been recognised globally as one of the leading preventable causes of disease and death. According to the World Health Organization, millions of people die every year due to illnesses caused by tobacco consumption. These illnesses include heart disease, lung cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and several other life-threatening conditions. While global public health campaigns have worked tirelessly to reduce tobacco consumption, the habit continues to spread among younger populations in various regions, including parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Across towns and cities in the Union Territory, it is not uncommon to see young students smoking cigarettes outside campuses, in markets or at social gathering spots. What is particularly concerning is that many of these students are still in their teenage years or early twenties. For them, smoking often begins as a casual experiment influenced by curiosity, peer pressure or the desire to appear socially confident among friends. However, this seemingly harmless experimentation can quickly turn into nicotine dependence.

Nicotine, the addictive substance found in tobacco, has a powerful effect on the human brain. When a person smokes, nicotine reaches the brain within seconds and creates temporary feelings of relaxation or alertness. Over time, the brain begins to depend on this chemical stimulation, leading to repeated cravings and withdrawal symptoms whenever a person attempts to stop. For young students whose bodies and brains are still developing, this addiction can have particularly harmful consequences.

Doctors in Jammu and Kashmir are increasingly reporting tobacco-related health issues among younger individuals. Persistent cough, breathing difficulties, reduced stamina and early signs of cardiovascular strain are



being observed even in individuals in their twenties. Medical professionals warn that if tobacco use continues at such levels among the youth, the long-term health burden on the region could become severe.

Another major concern is the social normalisation of smoking among young people. In some college environments, smoking is often seen as a symbol of maturity or independence, which can encourage more students to try it. In reality, however, smoking creates long-term dependence that is difficult to overcome without support. Many young smokers eventually realise the dangers of tobacco but struggle to quit due to the strong grip of nicotine addiction.

Studies have shown that most smokers make several attempts to quit before they succeed. Unfortunately, many of these attempts fail because the withdrawal symptoms associated with nicotine addiction can be intense. These symptoms may include irritability, anxiety, restlessness and strong cravings for cigarettes. Without access to proper support systems, young smokers often return to their old habits even after trying to quit.

In recent years, health experts have emphasised the importance of nicotine replacement therapies as a practical method to support individuals who want to stop smoking. Products such as nicotine gums are designed to help smokers gradually reduce their dependence on nicotine. These gums provide controlled amounts of nicotine to the body without exposing users to the thousands of harmful chemicals found in cigarette smoke.

Research conducted by international organisations, including studies reviewed by Cochrane, has consistently shown that nicotine replacement therapy significantly increases the chances of successfully quitting smoking. Smokers who use such therapies are far more likely to overcome their addiction compared to those who attempt to quit without any medical assistance.

Nicotine gums, typically available in

strengths of 2 mg and 4 mg, have been used globally for more than three decades as medically approved smoking cessation aids. They are recognised by the World Health Organization as effective tools for tobacco cessation and are included in its Essential Medicines List. Unlike cigarettes, nicotine gums do not produce tar, carbon monoxide or other toxic substances generated by burning tobacco.

In India, nicotine gums are regulated under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and are categorised as therapeutic medicines intended to help smokers quit tobacco. Health experts emphasise that these products should not be confused with recreational nicotine products. Instead, they are medical tools designed to support individuals who genuinely want to overcome nicotine addiction.

For the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, increasing awareness about these cessation tools could make a significant difference. Many students who are addicted to tobacco remain unaware that medically approved methods exist to help them quit. Public health specialists believe that educating students about nicotine replacement therapy could encourage more young smokers to seek help rather than continuing their harmful habits.

Educational institutions across the region have a crucial role to play in addressing this growing social issue. Schools, colleges and universities can serve as platforms for spreading awareness about the dangers of tobacco use. Health education programmes, seminars and counselling sessions can help students understand the risks associated with smoking and the benefits of quitting early.

Teachers and parents must also play an active role in guiding young people toward healthier choices. Open communication about the dangers of tobacco and the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle can discourage experimentation with smoking. Encouraging students to participate in sports, cultural activities and academic pursuits can also reduce the likelihood of tobacco use by pro-

moting positive outlets for stress and energy. Another important step is the strict enforcement of smoke-free environments in educational institutions. Creating smoke-free campuses sends a strong message that tobacco use is not acceptable within spaces dedicated to learning and personal development. Such policies also protect non-smokers from exposure to second-hand smoke, which itself poses serious health risks.

Globally, several countries have adopted comprehensive strategies to reduce tobacco consumption. Nations such as the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Australia have combined strong anti-tobacco campaigns with easier access to smoking cessation tools. These approaches have helped millions of people quit smoking and have contributed to a gradual decline in tobacco use in many developed countries.

Public health experts believe that a similar approach could help address the tobacco problem among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. Preventive education must be combined with supportive measures that help individuals who are already addicted to nicotine. When young smokers are given the right information and the right tools, they are more likely to take the difficult step of quitting.

The growing prevalence of tobacco use among students in the region is not merely a health issue; it is a social challenge that affects families, communities and the future workforce of Jammu and Kashmir. If large numbers of young people become addicted to tobacco, the consequences could extend beyond individual health to impact productivity, healthcare systems and the overall well-being of society.

Jammu and Kashmir is home to a vibrant and talented youth population with immense potential to contribute to the progress and prosperity of the region. Protecting this generation from the harmful effects of tobacco must therefore become a collective priority. By promoting awareness, strengthening prevention programmes and ensuring access to effective cessation support, society can help young people lead healthier and more productive lives.

Ultimately, addressing the problem of tobacco addiction requires cooperation from all sections of society. Governments, healthcare providers, educators, parents and students themselves must work together to create an environment where tobacco use is discouraged and quitting is actively supported. Through sustained awareness and community engagement, Jammu and Kashmir can take meaningful steps toward overcoming this growing social challenge and safeguarding the health of its youth for generations to come.

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I'tikaf: A Spiritual Retreat With Its Own Divine Math



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

As Ramadan enters its most sacred stretch, Muslims across the world begin to think more seriously about I'tikaf—the spiritual retreat in the mosque that is most closely associated with the last ten nights of the holy month. At first glance, I'tikaf may appear to be a practice of withdrawal: less talking, less movement, less engagement with the outside world. But in truth, it is one of the most profound examples of how Islam turns time into meaning, intention into discipline, and small acts into multiplied reward. In that sense, I'tikaf has a mathematics of its own.

This mathematics is not about numbers for their own sake. It is about understanding how Islam teaches believers to value time, measure devotion, and structure worship in a way that transforms the heart. The most visible numerical frame of I'tikaf is, of course, the last ten nights of Ramadan. Traditionally, this period begins before sunset on the 20th of Ramadan and continues until the moon of Shawwal is sighted. Depending on the lunar cycle, this becomes a retreat of nine or ten days. Yet within these limited days lies the possibility of encountering Laylat al-Qadr—the Night of Decree—which the Qur'an describes as better than a thousand months. In simple terms, that means one night can carry the spiritual weight of

more than eighty-three years.

This is where the spiritual logic of Islam becomes deeply moving. Human life is short. Most people do not live long enough to accumulate centuries of worship. But divine mercy creates moments in which time opens up beyond its ordinary limits. The believer enters I'tikaf not merely to spend ten nights in seclusion, but to seek a night whose worth exceeds a lifetime. That is not merely symbolism. It is a lesson in hope. It tells the exhausted believer, the sinner trying to return, the distracted heart seeking renewal, that one sincere turning back to Allah can outweigh years of heedlessness.

At another level, I'tikaf teaches discipline through structure. Islamic scholarship identifies clear conditions and forms for this retreat. There is the Sunnah I'tikaf of the last ten days, the obligatory I'tikaf when a person has made a vow, and the voluntary form, for which some scholars allow even a shorter stay in the mosque with the right intention. This shows something beautiful about Islam: while it honors the highest form of devotion, it also leaves the door open for those who can offer only a little. A person may not be able to spend the full last ten nights in retreat. But even a few hours spent in focused remembrance, prayer, recitation, and reflection can still become spiritually meaningful.

That is an important message for modern Muslims. We live in an age of constant interruption. Phones vibrate, screens glow, schedules overflow, and attention is fragmented. The modern person is physically present in one place but mentally scattered across many. I'tikaf confronts this condition with a radical proposal: stop, withdraw, simplify, and return to the essentials. It is a reminder



that a distracted life weakens the soul, while a disciplined pause can restore inner clarity. The mosque, in these last nights, becomes more than a place of prayer. It becomes a school of self-control.

But the mathematics of I'tikaf is not limited to counting nights. It also includes multiplying deeds. The attached guidance on daily good actions beautifully expands this idea by showing that spiritual retreat is not only about private worship; it is also about service, kindness, and quiet generosity. Helping with iftar or suhoor at the masjid, donating to charity regularly, assisting a brother or sister in need, making du'a for others in their absence, smiling, spreading salaam, sharing food, and distributing beneficial resources are all acts that turn devotion into social goodness.

This is where many people misunderstand piety. They imagine that holiness is measured only by long prayers, lengthy recitation, or visible austerity. But Islam's moral vision is more balanced and more humane. A smile can be a deed. Sharing food can be worship. Helping prepare iftar can be as spiritually meaningful as sitting alone in reflection, because both acts, when

done for Allah, shape the soul and strengthen the community. In the setting of I'tikaf, these deeds take on even deeper meaning. They protect the retreat from becoming self-centered. They remind the worshipper that nearness to Allah should make a person more useful to others, not less.

There is also something remarkably practical about this spiritual mathematics. It teaches planning. If Muslims can organize their work calendars, academic deadlines, travel itineraries, and financial budgets, why should they not also organize their path to Allah? The list of suggested good deeds offers exactly that kind of practical framework: do not let the last ten nights pass in vague intention alone. Enter them with a plan. Dedicate time for Qur'an, prayer, dhikr, charity, service, silence, and du'a. A spiritually serious person is not merely emotional about worship; he or she is intentional about it.

One of the most powerful dimensions of this idea is that Islam dignifies even the smallest effort. Not everyone can give large amounts in charity. Not everyone can spend all ten nights in the mosque. Not everyone can

maintain hours of uninterrupted worship. But almost everyone can offer a smile. Almost everyone can make du'a for someone else. Almost everyone can share food, help a tired volunteer, or support the worship of others. This is the true generosity of the faith: it does not reserve spiritual excellence for the elite. It invites every believer, at every level, into the economy of reward.

In a world obsessed with material mathematics—profit, productivity, output, accumulation—I'tikaf introduces a different arithmetic. It teaches that ten nights can be greater than a lifetime of ordinary living. It teaches that one blessed night can outweigh a thousand months. It teaches that a few moments of sincere withdrawal can repair what months of distraction have damaged. And it teaches that seemingly small deeds—one smile, one shared meal, one private prayer for another person—may carry immense value in the sight of Allah.

That is why the last ten nights of Ramadan should not be approached casually. They are not just the end of the month. They are its summit. They are an invitation to recalculate life itself: what matters, what lasts, what saves, and what brings the servant closer to the Creator.

The mathematics of I'tikaf is therefore simple, but life-changing: withdraw from noise, invest in worship, multiply goodness, and seek a night worth more than eighty-three years. If understood properly, these are not only ten nights in a mosque. They are ten nights that can reorder a human being from within.

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IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

More Than A Result

Deconstructing The Social Pressure Of The UPSC



DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) results were recently announced. Like every year, the stories of successful candidates are making headlines. The interviews of the toppers, their strategies, their hard work, and their struggles are being discussed across the country. This is natural. The achievements of the young people who succeed in this exam after years of rigorous preparation are certainly worthy of praise.

But amidst all this celebration, there's another aspect that's less frequently discussed. It's the mindset that's forming in our society around the UPSC, which has transformed this exam into not just an opportunity but the ultimate measure of success.

Gradually, the belief that the ultimate goal of education is the UPSC has become deeply ingrained in our social environment. In homes, among relatives, and even in school and college settings, the message often echoes: true success lies in passing this exam.

If a young man or woman in a household is selected for the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) or Indian Police Service (IPS), it becomes a matter of pride for the entire family and neighborhood. This pride is natural, but it also carries an unspoken message: those who fail to clear this exam are perhaps not as successful.

This mindset often creates unnecessary pressure on the minds of millions of young people. At the age of 18 or 19, when a student is contemplating their future, the UPSC is often presented as the ultimate goal. Interestingly, very few of these young people actually pursue this path, understanding the complexities of governance, policy-making, or public service. Often, this



decision is driven more by the desire for social prestige than by motivation.

This trend has intensified in the age of social media. Short video clips, images of officers in uniform, and popular portrayals like "Collector Sahib" or "Supercop" create an attractive image in the minds of young people. But the reality behind these images—long working hours, administrative complexities, constant responsibility during natural disasters, political pressure, and the difficulties of decision-making—is rarely mentioned.

Another important issue related to this exam is that of language. Over the past few years, the representation

of Hindi-medium candidates in UPSC results has been steadily declining. This is not just a language issue, but also an issue of equality of opportunity. Many students from smaller cities and towns across the country prepare for this exam with limited resources. They face challenges with the English language, a lack of study materials, and expensive coaching facilities.

Ironically, the officials who must work with the country's diverse population often think and speak in their local languages. Hindi, Bhojpuri, Maithili, Awadhi, or other Indian languages are not just a medium of communication but also an expression of

social experiences. If the experience of linguistic inequality increases in the selection process, it should be a matter of concern.

At the same time, we must recognize that a nation isn't built solely by administrative services. Today, the contributions of scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, teachers, doctors, and technical experts are equally important to India's progress. Thousands of young people working in information technology are strengthening the country's digital infrastructure. New ideas in the startup world are finding solutions to the problems of farmers, small businesses, and ordinary citi-

zens.

Yet these professions rarely enjoy the social prestige that civil service commands. This imbalance also impacts young people's career choices. Many talented students, simply due to societal expectations, spend years preparing for the UPSC, even though their potential could contribute significantly in other fields.

It's also a harsh reality that out of millions of candidates, only a few hundred ultimately succeed in this exam. For the remaining candidates, the process can often prove lengthy and mentally demanding. Some students persevere for five or six years, during which their age, financial resources, and sometimes even personal relationships are compromised. In the event of failure, they are left feeling as if their struggle was in vain.

In fact, this attitude is the biggest problem. Success or failure in an exam cannot determine a person's full potential or worth. The UPSC is certainly an important exam, but it is not the door to life's possibilities.

As a society, we must understand that there are many paths to success. If we encourage young people to pursue only one path as supreme, we will inadvertently limit their potential.

The need today is that while we respect exams like the UPSC, we shouldn't let them become the sole goal of life. Young people must be assured that their hard work, their talent, and their contributions are not diminished by any single result.

Every profession has its own dignity, and every responsibility has its own importance in society. If we can develop this balanced approach, it will not only reduce unnecessary pressure on young people but also provide the country with talented and dedicated citizens in diverse fields.

Ultimately, it's important to remember that the result of any exam determines only an opportunity, not a person's worth. Life's possibilities are much broader than that—and it is these possibilities that are the true strength of a society.

(The author is a PhD in Political Science. He contributes to various publications)

Revisiting The Lost Importance Of 'Lal Kitab' In Revenue Administration

MOHD AMIN MIR

Lal Kitab has always occupied a central position in the socio-economic life of Jammu and Kashmir. For centuries, the agrarian structure of the region revolved around land ownership, cultivation rights, and the maintenance of accurate records to establish those rights. In such a system, the reliability of revenue records became the backbone of governance, justice, and rural stability. Among the numerous registers maintained in the revenue department, one document historically stood out for its authority and credibility: the Lal Kitab.

For generations of revenue officials, landowners, and cultivators, the Lal Kitab was more than just a register. It was regarded as the authentic and permanent record of land rights in a village. The entries made in it carried immense legal value and administrative significance. However, with the passage of time, administrative changes, technological shifts, and institutional neglect have gradually eroded its importance. Today, a document that once commanded immense respect in the revenue hierarchy is increasingly treated as a relic of the past.

The declining relevance of the Lal Kitab raises important questions about the transformation of land governance in Jammu and Kashmir. Understanding its historical importance, legal foundation, and administrative role is essential to appreciate why its diminishing credibility is a matter of concern for the integrity of the revenue system.

The Lal Kitab emerged during the period when modern land revenue administration was gradually taking shape in the Indian subcontinent under colonial influence. When systematic land settlement operations began in different parts of the region, revenue authorities realized the need for maintaining comprehensive village records that could document land ownership, cultivation patterns, and revenue liabilities.

In this framework, several registers were introduced as part of the revenue record system. Among them were Jamabandi, Girdawari, Mutation Registers, Khasra Registers, and Lal Kitab. Each of these served a

specific purpose within the broader structure of land record management.

While Jamabandi recorded ownership and rights of landholders and Girdawari documented crop cultivation during different seasons, Lal Kitab functioned as a permanent village record containing historical and administrative information about land in a particular village.

Traditionally bound in red covers, hence the name Lal Kitab, this register contained a comprehensive record of various features of a village including: The history of settlement, classification of land, revenue rates, village boundaries, water sources, irrigation systems, grazing lands, forest areas, public utilities, demographic information, historical changes in land records. Thus, Lal Kitab served as a foundational document that provided the background and context for other revenue records.

Unlike routine revenue registers that recorded transactions or seasonal details, Lal Kitab contained information of a permanent and descriptive nature. It was essentially a documentary history of a village maintained by the revenue administration.

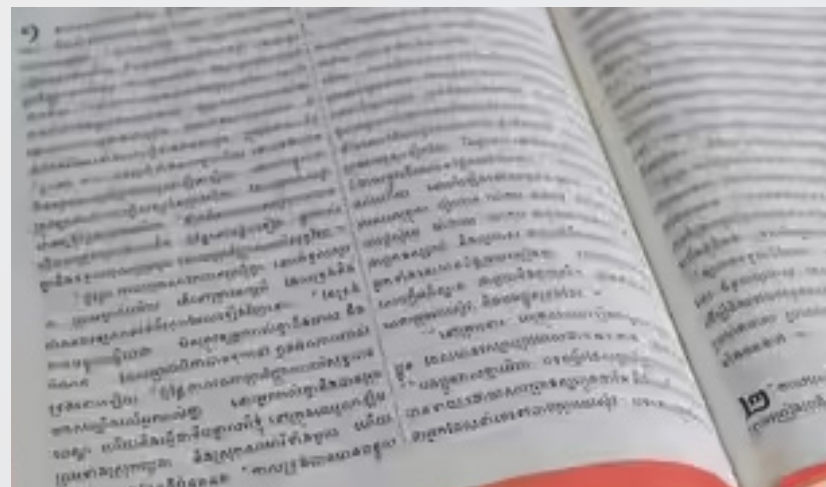
Historical Narrative of the Village: One of the most important sections of Lal Kitab contained the historical background of the village. It described the origin of the settlement, the major landholding families, historical disputes, and the administrative evolution of the village.

Such information was extremely valuable for revenue officials when dealing with complex land disputes or verifying long-standing rights.

Settlement Details: During settlement operations, detailed surveys were conducted to measure land, classify soil types, and determine revenue rates. Lal Kitab recorded the outcomes of these surveys.

Description of Village Boundaries: Boundary disputes between villages were common in rural areas. Lal Kitab contained a detailed description of village boundaries including natural landmarks such as rivers, streams, hills, and roads. This record played a crucial role in resolving inter-village land disputes.

Irrigation and Water Resources: In an agrarian economy, water resources determined agricultural productivity. Lal Kitab included details of irrigation canals, springs, streams, ponds, and traditional water systems



used by farmers. This information was particularly important for planning agricultural development.

Whenever a new settlement was conducted, the changes made in revenue assessment or land classification were recorded in Lal Kitab.

In this sense, the register functioned as a permanent institutional memory of the revenue department. During settlement operations, officers relied heavily on Lal Kitab to understand the historical pattern of land use in a village. It helped them assess whether changes in cultivation or land classification were genuine or manipulated.

Many land disputes involve questions about traditional rights, customary usage, and village boundaries. Lal Kitab often contained historical information that could clarify such issues. Encroachments on village common land have been a persistent problem across rural India. The entries in Lal Kitab regarding grazing grounds, graveyards, and public land helped revenue officials identify such encroachments. In the revenue department, officers frequently get transferred from one area to another. Lal Kitab served as a repository of historical information that helped newly posted officers understand the land structure of a village.

One of the most significant reasons for the declining importance of Lal Kitab is administrative neglect. Over the years, the focus of revenue administration shifted toward operational

registers such as Jamabandi and mutation records. Ideally, Lal Kitab should be updated during settlement revisions or whenever significant changes occur in village land structure. However, such updates have not been carried out systematically in many areas.

In recent years, the government has undertaken major initiatives to digitize land records. Digitised Jamabandies, online mutation systems, and digital cadastral maps have transformed the way revenue records are maintained. While these reforms have improved accessibility and transparency, they have also unintentionally sidelined traditional registers like Lal Kitab.

Another important factor is the declining awareness of Lal Kitab among younger revenue officials. Many officers entering the department today are trained primarily in digital record systems and may not fully appreciate the historical importance of Lal Kitab. Lal Kitab contains valuable historical data about villages. If these records are ignored or allowed to deteriorate, the revenue department risks losing an important part of its institutional memory. Certain land disputes involve historical questions that cannot be answered solely through modern records. In such cases, Lal Kitab could provide valuable insights.

The decline of Lal Kitab also reflects a broader disconnect between traditional revenue administration and modern digital systems. Ideally, modernization should strengthen historical records rather than

replace them. The declining relevance of Lal Kitab does not mean that it has lost its usefulness. On the contrary, its revival could significantly strengthen land governance in Jammu and Kashmir.

Several steps can be taken in this regard. Just as Jamabandi records have been digitised, Lal Kitab should also be digitised and integrated into the digital land record system. This would ensure that historical information becomes easily accessible to revenue officials and researchers. Training programs for Patwaris, Girdawars, and Tehsildars should include modules on the importance and use of Lal Kitab.

Understanding the historical dimension of land records can greatly improve administrative decision-making.

The story of Lal Kitab reflects the broader evolution of land administration in Jammu and Kashmir. Once regarded as an authoritative village record, it played a vital role in documenting the historical and administrative foundations of rural land systems. However, changing administrative priorities, lack of updates, and the transition to digital records have gradually diminished its importance. What was once a central document in the revenue department is now often treated as a neglected register gathering dust in record rooms.

Yet, dismissing Lal Kitab as obsolete would be a mistake. Its historical depth, descriptive richness, and documentary value make it an irreplaceable component of the land record system.

Revisiting its importance through digitisation, updating, and institutional recognition can greatly enhance the credibility of revenue administration. In an era when land disputes and documentation challenges continue to affect rural governance, preserving the wisdom embedded in traditional records like Lal Kitab is not merely a matter of nostalgia—it is a practical necessity. The future of land governance in Jammu and Kashmir should not be built by abandoning the past but by intelligently integrating it with modern reforms. Lal Kitab, once the custodian of village land truth, still holds the potential to contribute meaningfully to that future if its significance is rediscovered and restored.

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CS takes stock of key land records digitization initiatives

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Sunday chaired a comprehensive review meeting on the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP), Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas (SVAMITVA), Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) and National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of urban Habitations (NAKSHA) here.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Shaleen Kabra; Secretary Revenue Department, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan; Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir divisions; and Deputy Commissioners who joined

through video conferencing from their respective District Headquarters, and other concerned officers.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary underscored the transformative potential of these land digitisation initiatives, drawing a parallel with some of India's most successful digital revolutions. "These initiatives are going to revolutionise governance just like the success of UPI and other ambitious programmes like Agristack. We are witnessing a technological revolution and Jammu and Kashmir must be an active and leading part of it," he observed.

Emphasising the direct public benefit of the ongoing digitisation drive, he noted that a great number of public grievances pertain to land-

related issues and these will be resolved as the digitisation process reaches completion. "This is a great service to the masses. It will bring immense convenience to the public and usher in new arenas for development and governance," the Chief Secretary said.

Speaking on the occasion the Additional Chief Secretary (Financial Commissioner, Revenue) Shaleen Kabra, highlighted the transformative potential of land records digitisation, describing it as a major step towards transparent, efficient and citizen-centric governance. He emphasized that the initiative will significantly improve accessibility, accuracy and reliability of land records, thereby reducing disputes and enhancing public trust in the revenue adminis-

tration.

Stressing the importance of maintaining high standards, he underscored the need for rigorous quality checks at every stage of the process to ensure that the digitised records remain error-free and authentic. He called upon the concerned revenue officers down the line to exercise due diligence and accountability so that the digitisation exercise results in a robust, reliable and future-ready land records management system.

Presenting the progress made under DILRMP, the Administrative Secretary, Revenue, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan apprised the meeting that 98 per cent of Khasras across the Union Territory have been digitised and approved, with 97 per cent of villages completing

the first-level freezing process.

Additionally he gave out that in over 5,401 grievance camps have been organised at the village level for public reading of Jamabandis, during which over 52,000 non-quasi judicial and more than 5,700 quasi judicial grievances have been recorded and are being addressed. Final freezing of the updated Jamabandis 2026 has been targeted for completion by 31st March this year.

Regarding ULPIN or Bhuaadhar, the meeting was apprised that over 20.56 lakh Unique Land Parcel Identification Numbers have been generated for 3,320 villages so far. Under the digitisation of cadastral maps, 6,518 out of 6,857 villages, accounting for 95.2 per cent, have been geo-referenced. Moreover it was divulged

7.28 crore revenue documents including Jamabandis, Mutations and Girdawari records have been scanned and uploaded on the Land Records Information System (LRIS). The NAKSHA programme for creation of land records in urban habitations is also progressing, with aerial survey, ORI generation and ground truthing completed for Bishnah.

The Chief Secretary acknowledged the significant ground covered but maintained that the remaining targets are well within reach. "We have covered a lot of ground and progressed greatly. We have just so much more to finish, but the targets are achievable," he said, adding that many states are already leading in these endeavours and J&K must keep pace.

He gave several specific directions for resolution of deadlocks and tough situations being encountered during the digitisation process. He called for strict adherence to rules at every step, cautioning officers to avoid complications and focus on weeding out illegal mutations. "We have to take every step based on rules. Let us put in concerted efforts to weed out illegal mutations and purify revenue records," he directed.

The Chief Secretary asked the Divisional Commissioners to personally monitor progress under each component and actively guide the Deputy Commissioners for effective on-ground implementation. Specific timeline-based targets were assigned to all districts for completion of pending milestones.

Women leading changing social landscape in J&K, RSKS activist tells UNHRC

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The emancipation and empowerment of women, powered by their active participation in the labour force has turned out to 'key contributor' in the changing social landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, Rashtriya Sewa Kendra Sangh (RSKS) activist Darakshan Hassan Bhat told the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

The RSKS activist, while speaking at the 61st session of UNHRC in Geneva, spoke about the upliftment of women and girls in the Valley and also pointed to their social and economic transformation under the government-led employment initiatives.

Impressing about key growth indicators, Bhat said that female labour force participation rate in the location has reached 34.1 per cent, which is higher than



the national average.

Highlighting the impact of government-led employment initiatives, she noted that more than half a million women have secured wage employment over the past five years through flagship programmes and this targeted programme has resulted in their financial independence as well as "strengthening the resilience of their households".

Pointing to two specific verticals - Sambal and Samarthya, she told that this has

provided legal aid, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship opportunities to thousands of women, thus facilitating their empowerment.

In her statement, Bhat said that women's helplines, emergency response systems, one stop centres and women help desks have proved instrumental in ensuring safety and assistance for women.

She also highlighted the growing participation of women in Self-Help Groups (SHGs), saying that more

than 700,000 women have now access to micro-credit facilities and market linkages.

She said that the region despite beset by cross-border terrorism continues to move forward and rewrite new stories of growth and development. She also told about the improving gender ratio, credit schemes like "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" for the change.

"The gender ratio in the region improved from 918 in 2011 to 942 in 2019," she told the global rights body. She extended that following abrogation of Article 370, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, have been extended to the region.

She reiterated that the growing participation of women in education, employment, and governance is shaping a new and hopeful future.

J&K achieves 97 pc target under PMAY-G, 3.23 lakh houses built

AGENCIES

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir has completed more than 3 lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin, achieving 97 per cent of the target, officials said on Sunday.

Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department Secretary Mohammad Aijaz Asad directed officials to accelerate the pace of work for the remaining 11,340 houses under the scheme.

During a meeting to review the progress of PMAY-G in the Union Territory, he said the current phase of the scheme is nearing completion, and all works sanctioned under the existing phase must be completed without delay before the new phase begins.

The meeting was informed that a total of 3,23,299 houses have been completed, while work is in progress on the remaining 11,340 houses.

Asad directed assistant commissioners of development (ACDs) and block development officers (BDOs) to track each case and ensure that



no sanctioned house remains incomplete.

He also instructed that any technical or administrative bottlenecks hindering progress be resolved immediately.

The secretary said that all pending works must be completed by April 15, stressing that officers should make every possible effort, even if it requires working around the clock, as houses left incomplete under the previous phase will not be taken up once the new phase begins.

He also directed the directors of rural development of the Jammu

and Kashmir region to hold weekly review meetings and keep the department informed about the progress achieved.

He stressed the need for early release of pending instalments to beneficiaries, directing ACDs to conduct block-wise reviews in this regard.

Highlighting the recent survey conducted ahead of the launch of the new phase, he said that although it has been carried out using AI-based technology, deputy commissioners will still review to ensure that no eligible households are missed.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Kashmir Higher Reaches

remain generally cloudy with light rain or snowfall in higher reaches at scattered locations on March 24 and 25.

The MeT has advised travelers and transporters, particularly those moving through higher reaches and key mountain passes, to plan their journeys accordingly.

It also warned of thunderstorms and gusty winds reaching speeds of 40-50 kmph at a few places during March 15-16 and again between March 18 and 20. Farmers have been advised to suspend farm operations from March 15 to 20 due to expected adverse weather, the department added. — (KNO)

LG Sinha Hands Over

heights of its dreams, and to build a system rooted in social justice, dignity, and equal opportunity," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the Principal Secretary Home to conduct a comprehensive review of the cases pertaining to property encroachment of victims of terrorism.

"I have repeatedly affirmed that lands or homes forcibly seized from terror-affected families will be liberated and returned, and cases yet to undergo investigation will receive impartial, transparent probes," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the administration is committed to the rehabilitation of those left scarred by terror.

"There are many victims of terrorism who have lost their eyesight or are living with severe disabilities. We will chalk out a robust framework for their rehabilitation. The administration has also outlined a timeline for providing essential housing and other support to the victims of terrorism," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon people to preserve the unity and foil the efforts of separatist elements.

"Adhering to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's mantra of 'Zero Tolerance towards Terrorism', the administration, Police and Security forces are taking decisive action to dismantle terror networks.

We must remain vigilant against divisive elements attempting to divide us along sectarian lines. We are Indians; our collective duty is the peace and progress of our nation. Officials and citizens must also work together to strengthen faith in our government institutions," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

Principal Secretary Home, Shri Chandraker Bharti; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari;

Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department, Shri M Raju; IGP Kashmir, Shri VK Birdi; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Shri Akshay Labroo; Dr GV Sundeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Chairman, Save Youth Save Future Foundation, Shri Wajahat Farooq Bhat and other members of the Foundation, senior officials, members of various social organisations and family members of victims of terrorism were present.

Terrorist Killed

Buchhar, Uri sector. "Alert troops spotted suspicious movement of a terrorist in the thicket. The ambush was readjusted and the terrorist was challenged resulting in terrorist opening indiscriminate fire. In the Contact a Pak terrorist was eliminated," the Army further said.

Warlike stores, including an AK rifle, pistols and a large quantity of ammunition, have been recovered by the troops.

The Army said that the anti-infiltration operation continued. Earlier, one terrorist was gunned down while trying to cross the LoC on March 10 in the Nowshera sector in Rajouri district.

The Army had said that the movement of two terrorists was detected in the general area of Jhangar, Nowshera, along the LoC. Responding with swift and calibrated combat action, alert troops engaged the infiltrators, triggering an exchange of fire. In the ensuing engagement, one Pakistan-sponsored terrorist was eliminated, effectively thwarting any breach of the LoC.

Army is deployed along the 740 km-long LoC in Jammu and Kashmir. The LoC is situated in Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara districts of the Valley and in Poonch, Rajouri and partly in Jammu district of Jammu division.

In addition to the LoC, J&K has a 240 km-long international border situated in Samba, Kathua and Jammu districts where the Border Security Force (BSF) is deployed.

The Army and the BSF are deployed to prevent infiltration, exfiltration, drug smuggling and drone activity initiated from the Pakistani side.

Drones are used by terror outfits with the help of Pakistan's ISI to drop payloads of arms, ammunition, cash and drugs on the Indian side of the border.

These payloads are picked up by the over-ground workers (OGWs) of the terrorists and then passed on to the terrorists to sustain terrorism in the union territory.

The Army and BSF have deployed special hi-tech anti-drone equipment along the border to check the drone menace, while

human surveillance and intelligence continue to monitor the activities on the border 24/7. Drones are used more often by the enemy along the international border rather than the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir

NC Leaders Meet LG,

who participated in mourning gatherings following the death of Ayatollah Syed Ali Khamenei, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who was martyred on 28 February 2026."

"We respectfully urge Your Excellency to direct the immediate release of all detained individuals, the withdrawal of all FIRs, and a halt to any further punitive action against those who gathered spontaneously and peacefully to express their grief."

The memorandum noted that Ayatollah Khamenei was not merely a head of state for a significant section of Kashmiri Muslims but "a revered religious and spiritual leader, a Marja' (source of emulation), and a figure of profound theological authority. His passing was therefore experienced not as a geopolitical development but as a moment of deep personal and religious loss".

It said that despite the peaceful and religious nature of these gatherings, the administrative response has been disproportionate and may prove counterproductive. "FIRs have been registered, including the invocation of provisions under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), a stringent law whose application against mourners sets a deeply concerning precedent."

The NC memorandum stressed that among those arrested are several young individuals who have only recently crossed the age of 18.

"Many of them are barely adults and appear to have participated in these gatherings in the emotional atmosphere of mourning. We respectfully submit that their youth and the circumstances surrounding the gatherings merit a compassionate and balanced approach, ensuring that their future is not unduly burdened by harsh legal proceedings."

It pointed out that mourning gatherings for Ayatollah Khamenei were held in Lucknow, Kargil, New Delhi, Mumbai, and several other cities across India without any legal action, and it is "therefore both inconsistent and unjust that citizens in Jammu & Kashmir alone face criminal prosecution for expressing the same grief."

"Such disparity undermines the constitutional promise of equal citizenship and equal protection under the law. In light of the foregoing, we respectfully request Your Excellency to kindly ensure the following with immediate effect: Immediate release of all persons detained in connection with the

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Rajnath Singh backs PPP model to boost sports economy



NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday called for enhanced public-private partnership to provide renewed thrust to India's sports economy. Addressing a gathering at a Polo tournament supported by private corporate sponsors, the Defence Minister said, "The government, through a series of initiatives, is fostering a sports culture within the country where athletes and youth have access to opportunities, resources and respect." Rajnath Singh asserted that, in the near future, India will carve out a strong global identity in sports, especially Polo, if the government, the private sector, and various social groups work together. He stated that Polo is deeply rooted in the nation's sporting tradi-

tions, spanning thousands of years, and can rightfully be designated as a 'Heritage Sport' of India. He noted that the Indian Army has made a significant contribution towards bringing talented players into the sport of Polo and in preserving its rich heritage, said a statement. "Working in collaboration with the Indian Polo Association, the Indian Army has played a pivotal role in keeping this legacy vibrant and relevant. I am confident that, working together, we will foster a positive culture for Polo and other sports in India. This will enable our young talent to come to the fore and bring glory to the nation," he said. Rajnath Singh stated that initiatives such as 'Khelo India' and the 'Target Olympic Podium Scheme' coupled with the unprecedented development of sports infrastruc-

ture, have provided the youth with a new platform to excel and move forward. He added that the 'National Sports Governance Act' and the 'Khelo Bharat Policy' are set to yield immense benefits for talented athletes and will foster greater transparency and accountability within sports organisations. The Minister emphasised that, just as private participation has infused new energy and momentum into industrialisation, technology, and education, private players and industry stakeholders would foster the development of a professional approach, a long-term vision, and a sustainable support system. This, he added, would provide athletes with access to superior coaching, world-class facilities, and opportunities for international-level preparation.

Opinion Poll: AIADMK to edge ahead of DMK in Tamil Nadu; LDF, UDF in neck and neck fight in Kerala

CHENNAI: The All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) is expected to unseat the MK Stalin-led Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government in Tamil Nadu elections, while the adjoining state of Kerala is set to witness a close finish, the IANS-Matrize Opinion poll found in its survey. In both Southern states, the regional parties continue to hold sway, but the new entrant does threaten their supremacy as actor Vijay-led TVK is seen seizing a considerable voter base, while in Kerala, the BJP-led NDA is projected to bag vote percentage in double digits, though not impacting the poll outcome. According to IANS-Matrize Opinion polls, AIADMK-led alliance is projected to bag 39-40 per cent vote share, translating into 114-127 seats, while the ruling DMK is likely to fall behind with 37-38 per cent vote share and likely projections at 104-114 seats. AIADMK's lead over DMK remains uniform in all zones except the West and Central regions. For DMK, the Chennai region



continues to remain its stronghold as it is seen outperforming its key rival by over 7-8 vote share and grabbing a lion's share of 37 seats in the region. Actor-turned-politician Vijay's new outfit, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), has emerged as a potential 'disruptor' in the entrenched Dravidian political order in the state. The Opinion poll forecasts a good 14-15 vote share for the outfit and is seen winning at least 6-12 seats in the 234-member Assembly. In Kerala, the Left Democratic Front (LDF) and United Democratic Front (UDF), the two major coalitions, are seen locked in a close contest; however, the Left-led alliance may get the better of the Congress-led outfit. According to the IANS-Matrize Survey, the LDF is projected to fare moder-

ately better as the UDF is not seen as challenging its dominance, thereby keeping the status quo. The LDF is projected to get 42-43 per cent vote share, translating into 61-71 seats, while the UDF is expected to get 41-42 per cent vote share, which could settle the latter's tally at 58-69 seats. The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has emerged as a formidable force in the state, but not as forceful enough to have a role in government formation. According to the Opinion poll, NDA is seen making deep inroads in the Southern state, drawing about 12-13 vote share but fetching just about two seats. The halfway mark in the 140-member Assembly is 71 seats, and the ruling coalition looks firmly in control of the saddle.

BJP will win Assam with a comfortable majority: IANS-Matrize Opinion poll

NEW DELHI: The battle for Assam is expected to be in favour of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), as people remain largely satisfied with the Himanta Biswa Sarma government and are likely to vote him back to power, according to the IANS-

Matrize Opinion polls. According to the Opinion poll, the ruling BJP government is seen dismissing any anti-incumbency wave and returning to power with a comfortable majority. The survey forecasts a whopping 96-98-seat mandate for the ruling party in the upcoming Assembly

elections. The findings, which come minutes after the pronouncement of the election schedule in the Eastern state, show others and independents bagging a moderate share of the polling percentage, but not enough to be a decisive factor in government formation.

Bengal opinion polls: BJP's tally to rise, unlikely to unseat Trinamool

NEW DELHI: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), acknowledged as the 'biggest threat' to Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC)-regime is set to give the ruling dispensation a shock in the ensuing elections but not strong enough to unseat it from power, finds IANS-Matrize Opinion poll. The Mamata government, eyeing its fourth term, is likely to return to power in the state despite a strong anti-incumbency wave. According to an opinion poll, it is likely to fetch 43-45 per cent vote share, translating into 155-170

seats in the 292-member Assembly, the halfway mark of which is 148. BJP-led NDA is expected to improve its tally this time compared to the 2021 Assembly elections and expand its victory in 100-115 constituencies, but will fall short of dislodging the ruling TMC from power. According to the IANS-Matrize Opinion poll, the NDA is seen fetching 41-43 per cent vote share, resulting in victory in about 100-115 seats, which marks a considerable improvement from the 2021 polls, when it got 38 per cent vote share and secured victory in 77 seats. Overall, the survey



shows that the BJP-led NDA is seen improving its vote share and people's mandate, while the TMC is

seen scraping through and emerging victorious in the hotly contested electoral battle.

Earlier, during the announcement of poll dates, the Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar responded to the TMC government's last-minute populist poll promises, which included clearing arrears for government employees and hiking honorariums for purohits and muezzins. "States can take any policy decision just before the model code of conduct kicks in. And the code of conduct has come into force now," the CEC said. The Assembly elections for West Bengal will be held in two phases - April 23 and 29, and the results will be declared on May 4.

ECI enforces MCC, orders removal of ministers' photos from govt websites

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Sunday enforced the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) soon after announcing the schedule for Assembly elections in five states and one Union Territory, imposing curbs on the release of funds under MLA and MP local area development schemes and directing the removal of ministers' photographs from official websites. Apart from Kerala, West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu and Puduch-

erry, which are heading for Assembly elections between April 9 and April 23, the ECI also issued MCC enforcement directives to six states where by-elections will be held for eight Assembly seats during this period. The results will be announced on May 4. In identical letters to the Union Cabinet Secretary and the Chief Secretaries of the poll-bound states, the ECI sought immediate implementation of MCC provisions related to the prevention of defacement of private and public property, misuse of public

spaces, misuse of official vehicles, advertisements at the cost of the public exchequer, and removal of photographs of political functionaries from official websites. "Activities for expenditure monitoring and enforcement of the MCC -- including flying squads, FSTs and video surveillance teams -- as well as intensive checking for liquor, cash and contraband drugs must be activated immediately after the announcement," the ECI said in the letter. The poll panel also

directed that a 24x7 control room at the district level be activated immediately, with sufficient manpower and logistical support ensured by the District Election Officer (DEO) and the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO). The Commission also instructed that after the enforcement of the MCC, ministers shall not combine their official visits with electioneering work and must not use official machinery or personnel for election-related activities. It further cautioned that government trans-

port, including official aircraft, vehicles, machinery and personnel, must not be used to further the interests of the party in power. Regarding development projects, the ECI said no fresh release of funds under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (including Rajya Sabha members) or MLAs' or MLCs' local area development schemes will be permitted in any part of the country where elections are underway until the completion of the election process.

رمضان كريم

Ramadan

2026 | 1447 Hijri

Sehri & Iftar Time Schedule

10 Days Of Rahmat

RAMADAN	DATE	DAY	SEHRI TIME	IFTARI TIME
1	19 FEB	THURSDAY	05:49	06:21
2	20 FEB	FRIDAY	05:48	06:22
3	21 FEB	SATURDAY	05:47	06:23
4	22 FEB	SUNDAY	05:46	06:24
5	23 FEB	MONDAY	05:45	06:24
6	24 FEB	TUESDAY	05:44	06:25
7	25 FEB	WEDNESDAY	05:42	06:26
8	26 FEB	THURSDAY	05:41	06:27
9	27 FEB	FRIDAY	05:40	06:28
10	28 FEB	SATURDAY	05:39	06:29

10 Days Of Magfirat

RAMADAN	DATE	DAY	SEHRI TIME	IFTARI TIME
11	01 MARCH	SUNDAY	05:38	06:30
12	02 MARCH	MONDAY	05:37	06:31
13	03 MARCH	TUESDAY	05:36	06:32
14	04 MARCH	WEDNESDAY	05:34	06:33
15	05 MARCH	THURSDAY	05:33	06:33
16	06 MARCH	FRIDAY	05:31	06:34
17	07 MARCH	SATURDAY	05:30	06:34
18	08 MARCH	SUNDAY	05:28	06:35
19	09 MARCH	MONDAY	05:27	06:36
20	10 MARCH	TUESDAY	05:26	06:37

10 Days Of Najat

RAMADAN	DATE	DAY	SEHRI TIME	IFTARI TIME
21	11 MARCH	WEDNESDAY	05:25	06:38
22	12 MARCH	THURSDAY	05:24	06:38
23	13 MARCH	FRIDAY	05:23	06:39
24	14 MARCH	SATURDAY	05:20	06:40
25	15 MARCH	SUNDAY	05:19	06:41
26	16 MARCH	MONDAY	05:18	06:42
27	17 MARCH	TUESDAY	05:16	06:42
28	18 MARCH	WEDNESDAY	05:15	06:43
29	19 MARCH	THURSDAY	05:14	06:44
30	20 MARCH	FRIDAY	05:12	06:45

DUA FOR IFTER

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي لَكَ صَبْتُ وَبِكَ آمَنْتُ وَعَلَيْكَ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَعَلَى رِزْقِكَ أَفْطَرْتُ

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ISL 2025-26: Rodríguez brace against Jamshedpur earns NorthEast first win



IAN S

GUWAHATI: Andy Rodríguez struck two second-half goals to help NorthEast United FC povert to a 2-1 victory over Jamshedpur FC in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2025-26 season at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati on Sunday.

The Highlanders secured their first victory of the campaign and moved up to seventh in the standings with six points, while Jamshedpur FC suffered their first defeat of the season but remains second with 12 points. Rodríguez was adjudged the Player of the Match for his decisive two-goal performance.

NorthEast United FC head coach Juan Pedro Benali made three changes to his starting lineup, introducing Bekey Oram and Laishram Danny Meitei in midfield along with defender Dinesh Singh in a 4-3-2-1 formation. Jamshedpur FC head coach Owen Coyle also made two alterations in midfield, bringing in Rei Tachikawa and Rosenberg Gabriel while retaining the same tactical setup.

The contest began at a brisk pace with both sides exchanging possession in the opening minutes but struggling to break into the final third. Jamshedpur keeper Albino Gomes produced a sweeping clearance outside the box in the 13th minute to deny a potential attacking opportunity for the hosts.

Jamshedpur created the first real chance in the 19th minute when Messi Bouli tried to meet Mohammed Sanan's cross, but his header drifted narrowly wide. NorthEast responded soon after with midfielder Macarton Nickson testing Gomes from distance, though the goalkeeper comfortably gathered the effort.

The Highlanders looked increasingly dangerous in attack, with Parthib Gogoi troubling the defence before being brought down by center back Pratik Chaudhari during a promising run in the 27th minute.

NorthEast were forced into an early change in the 39th minute when captain Michel Zabaco was substituted due to a hamstring injury, with Asheer Akhtar coming on in his place. The Highlanders nearly found the breakthrough just before the interval when midfielder Danny Meitei headed over from an Andy Rodríguez corner, as the first half ended goalless.

NorthEast broke the deadlock eight minutes into the second half. Andy Rodríguez stepped up to take a free-kick in the 53rd minute and produced a precise left-footed strike into the bottom-right corner to give the Highlanders the lead.

Jamshedpur responded with attempts from Nikola Stojanović and Rei Tachikawa, but both efforts failed to trouble the goal. Stojanović then forced a save from Gurmeet Singh in the 58th minute as the visitors increased the pressure.

The Men of Steel were awarded a penalty in the 66th minute when Bouli was brought down inside the box by center back Dinesh Singh. Bouli stepped up to take the spot kick and calmly converted in the 68th minute, sending

the goalkeeper the wrong way to level the scores at 1-1.

However, NorthEast restored their lead almost immediately. Just a minute later, Rodríguez collected the ball on the edge of the box and unleashed a precise left-footed strike into the net to score his second goal and make it 2-1 in the 69th minute.

Jamshedpur continued to search for another equaliser, with Bouli attempting a long-range effort in the 79th minute that drifted wide. NorthEast too looked to extend their lead, but Ankith Padmanabhan's strike in the 85th minute was blocked.

The hosts came close again in the 89th minute when substitute Thoi Singh fired narrowly wide from inside the box. Jamshedpur pushed forward in stoppage time, but Stojanović's long-range effort in injury time sailed wide of the target.

The final whistle confirmed a 2-1 victory for NorthEast United FC, as Andy Rodríguez's brace secured the Highlanders' first win of the season.

Naman Awards: Winning a World Cup in any format for the country is the ultimate goal, says Shubman Gill

IAN S

NEW DELHI: India Test and ODI captain Shubman Gill said winning the 2027 ODI World Cup in South Africa is the thought that runs through his mind at times, adding that winning the global trophy is still the ultimate goal for him. India had come close to winning the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup, but finished runners-up to Australia.

With the next edition of the mega event coming up next year, all eyes will be on whether Gill will be able to lead the team to glory in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. "Sometimes, definitely it does. I mean, that is the ultimate goal. I think we felt like we were so close last time when we were here in India.

"To be able to get another crack at it in South Africa, I think it's going to be a great opportunity for us. Winning a World Cup in any format for the country is the ultimate goal. So obviously that is something that sometimes runs in my mind," said Gill in a panel discussion during the BCCI's Naman Awards



in New Delhi on Sunday.

Gill also traced his own journey from a wide-eyed schoolboy watching India's 2013 Champions Trophy triumph in England to lifting the same trophy in Dubai in 2025 - a moment he described as nothing short of a dream becoming a reality.

"Definitely, watching that as a kid in 2013, all my idols, Virat bhai, Rohit bhai, Ash bhai, Mahi bhai, watching it on the screen and watching them win the final in England against England was a very special feeling. As a kid, you would want to

replicate that feeling.

"When you think about playing for the country, you dream about winning ICC trophies for your country, and those are the moments that you really dream about. To be able to accomplish one of them obviously felt like a dream, and it was a very big moment for all of us. Winning the Champions Trophy, I think, after 12-odd years, would always be very special," he added.

On the demands of leading India in Tests and ODIs, Gill said he had simplified the weight of captaincy by anchoring himself first and

foremost in his primary role as an opener. "Honestly, I think it's easier said than done, but if you just keep focusing on the things that you have to do. I think the primary job of mine, firstly as a player and as a batsman, is to score runs.

"So I think if I'm able to score runs, then everything else falls in place. So that was my primary focus: how can I contribute to the team, how can I score runs? At the end of the day, you're playing the game to win the game, and you just have to focus on how you can make your team win the game."

North inches closer to JK Bose title; DSJA-1, SJAM-1 to clash in Table Tennis final

IAN S

NEW DELHI: North Zone inched closer to winning the JK Bose Inter-Zonal T20 Cricket Trophy title after Rishabh Singh blazed an unbeaten century to power them to a crushing 10-wicket victory over South Zone on day two of the tournament at the Roshanara Cricket Ground in New Delhi on Sunday.

Rishabh's 100 not out off 54 balls headlined a dominant chase for North Zone as they overhauled South Zone's competitive 187/4 in 18.2 overs. Captain Akash Rawal contributed 38 before retiring hurt, while Amit remained unbeaten on 33 as North Zone cantered home with ease.

South Zone had earlier posted a challenging total



on the back of Shiva Krishna's 89 and VL Sashank's 50, but their effort proved woefully inadequate against a North side in imperious form. A win against East Zone on Monday will hand North Zone the trophy.

The tournament is being played as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) National Conven-

tion in New Delhi.

In the day's second fixture at the Delhi Police Ground, West Zone similarly swept aside East Zone by ten wickets, completing the chase of 133 in just 12.2 overs without losing a wicket.

Taus Rizvi struck an unbeaten 58 while Devedra Pandey made 50 not out to seal a comprehensive win. Pandey had ear-

lier picked up two wickets with the ball as East Zone were restricted to 132/7, with Sandeep Mishra scoring 37 and Sakal Sandha making 35.

In the table tennis team competition at Roshanara Club, DSJA-1 and SJAM-1 advanced to the final after winning their respective matches on Saturday. DSJA-1, comprising Kushan Sarkar, Bharat Sharma, and Norris Pritam, defeated the Sports Writers Association of Bengaluru (SWAB-1).

Meanwhile, SJAM-1, having Amol Karhadkar, Ashwin Ferro, and Akush Dhavre, overcame the Tamil Nadu Sports Journalists Association (TNSJA-1). The two teams will again meet in the final on Monday at the same venue.

Winning Women's ODI World Cup meant a lot, had dreamt about lifting ICC trophy: Harmanpreet

IAN S

NEW DELHI: India captain Harmanpreet Kaur said lifting the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup had fulfilled a dream that had driven every woman who had ever played cricket for the country and meant a lot to her team. In the final, India beat South Africa by 52 runs to lift the trophy for the first time at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai.

Harmanpreet, who took the last catch of the final to seal the title in India's favour, spoke with deep emotion about what the victory meant to a generation of cricketers who had waited years for the moment. "It meant a lot to us because from the day women's cricket started, we have been dreaming about lifting the ICC trophy. All the women cricketers have been dreaming about that. But I think our team was able to do that, so I'm very, very proud of this team.

"So, I think it means a lot, and hopefully we'll continue winning ICC titles, and after winning, you feel amazed, and I think it's a great feeling. So, I'm really happy that as a team we were able to do that," she said in a panel discussion at the BCCI Awards in New Delhi on Sunday evening.

She also recalled the nerve-shredding tension of the final moments before the win in the final was sealed. "100 percent. I think the last wicket that we were looking for, we were all just praying that we would just get that wicket.

"I think not only I, but



everyone in the team, was waiting for that opportunity. I feel blessed that the last catch came to me. I took so many catches, but that was a catch that I will remember for the rest of my life, and I'm grateful that that last catch came to me."

Harmanpreet also shed light on one of the more difficult tactical calls of the campaign - the decision to rest Jemimah Rodrigues for the clash against England in Indore. "That was a very hard call for us because I think we knew that we had four, five batters, and all of them had to take the responsibility for the team. But when one batter is a little bit underconfident, and I think Amol (Muzumdar, head coach) sir and I, we had a very good discussion that sometimes that small break can always give you a lot of confidence.

"I think that was a great move, I would say, because I was still in a little bit of doubt whether we should give her rest or not, but I think Sir was very clear. I

think that little break gave a lot of confidence because sometimes, as a batter, we overthink.

"I think that break gave her time to think about what she needs to do. I think after that, the way she came back, and I think the rest is the result. Credit goes to her for the way she handled the situation. I think as a player, we all have gone through this situation, and we know what we need to do for our team. I think all the credit goes to her and how she handled and how she performed when the team needed it the most."

Looking beyond the trophy, Harmanpreet reflected on how dramatically the landscape had shifted for the next generation of women cricketers. "Well, I think at least from now, girls don't need to go through the time that we went through in earlier days. We didn't know about women's cricket, but we were still playing cricket. But now, at least, there are so many opportunities, so many platforms.

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