

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication



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India is watching the deeply shameful conduct of Congress and their friends, which obviously includes the Communists, in the wake of the situation in West Asia.

Srinagar • Sunday 05, April 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 83 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 1/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

CM Omar Hails Passage Of Pvt Universities Bill; Congratulates Stakeholders



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Congratulating Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo, and all stakeholders, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Saturday described the passage of J&K Private Universities Bill as a milestone moment for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. “The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly has passed the Private Universities Bill today, marking a significant step towards shaping a brighter future for our youth,” the Chief Minister said. The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly passed the Jammu and Kashmir Pri-

ivate Universities Bill, 2026 (L.A. Bill No. 08 of 2026). Highlighting the broader vision behind the legislation, Omar Abdullah said the Bill will open new avenues for quality higher education within the Union Territory, significantly reduce the need for students to move outside for studies, and attract reputed institutions to establish campuses in J&K. He emphasised that the move reflects the government’s commitment to strengthening academic infrastructure, fostering innovation, and creating a vibrant ecosystem for learning and research. ● P-06

Speaker Hailed For Successful Conduct Of Budget Session

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary and Legislators Saturday commended the Speaker Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, for smooth and efficient conduct of the Budget Session- 2026. The Deputy Chief Minister praised the Speaker’s experience and leader-



ship, noting that despite the usual challenges and differing ● P-06

Budget Session Wraps Up, J&K Assembly Adjourned Sine Die



BILAL DAR

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly was adjourned sine die on Saturday, bringing down the curtains on a budget session that stretched over 22 sittings across three months, the second-highest among all states, behind only Gujarat. Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather, addressing the House before adjournment, said the session functioned for a

total of 6,636 minutes (110.6 hours) since it first convened on February 2. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had presented the Union Territory’s Budget on February 6. Eight government bills were introduced and passed, Rather said. The secretariat received 1,528 questions, 802 starred and 726 unstarred, of which 151 starred questions were taken up along with 331 supplementaries. The House also received ● P-06

Chill Returns To Kashmir Amid Fresh Snowfall, Widespread Rains

Gurez, Tulail, Gulmarg Turn White; Plains Record Heavy Downpour

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: A chill returned to Kashmir on Saturday as fresh snowfall in the upper reaches and rains across the plains sent temperatures plunging across the region. An official said that Gurez, Tulail, Gulmarg and Sonamarg received fresh snowfall, while widespread rains lashed the plains across the Valley. According to rainfall data for the past 24 hours ending 8:30 am, Baramulla recorded 45.5 mm of rain, followed by Nowgam Handwara at 45.6 mm and Lolab at 42.2 mm. Srinagar received 25.1 mm of rainfall, while the airport recorded 29.2 mm. Budgam and Kulgam recorded 24 mm and 24.2 mm respectively, while Sopore received 22.8 mm. In the Jammu region, Rajouri recorded the highest rainfall at 61 mm, followed by Batote at 53.8 mm and Poonch at 45.5 mm. Udhampur received 31.7 mm and Katra 32.2 mm, officials said. Meanwhile, the Meteorological Department said erratic



weather conditions are likely to continue across Jammu and Kashmir till April 10, with intermittent spells of rain and snow forecast in the coming days. According to the MeT office on April 5 and 6, the region is expected to witness partly cloudy conditions with light rain at isolated locations. A fresh spell of light to moderate rain and snowfall in higher

reaches, along with thunder and gusty winds, is likely at many places on April 7 and 8. Between April 9 and 11, brief spells of light rain and snowfall in higher reaches are expected at scattered places, while the weather is likely to remain generally dry from April 12 to 15. The MeT office has issued an advisory warning of thunder, hailstorms and gusty winds

reaching speeds of 40-50 kmph at a few places on April 4 and April 7-8. It said intense showers for short durations may trigger flash floods, landslides and waterlogging in vulnerable and low-lying areas. Farmers have been advised to suspend farm operations, while travellers have been asked to plan their movement accordingly. Meanwhile, multiple roads across Jammu and Kashmir remained closed or witnessed disruptions on Saturday following fresh rainfall, snowfall and landslides, while the Traffic Police issued an advisory urging commuters to avoid unnecessary travel and check road status before undertaking journeys. Officials said movement on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) remained slow over the past 24 hours due to landslides between Nashri tunnel and Banihal, and single-lane traffic between Marog and Kishtwari Pather. The situation was further affected by the breakdown of three heavy motor vehicles. ● P-06

MET WARNS OF FLASH FLOODS TILL APRIL 10; RAIN, LANDSLIDES DISRUPT TRAFFIC, multiple roads shut in J&K; Slow traffic on Sgr-Jammu National Highway, Kishtwar-Sinthan, Bandipora-Gurez road closed, Mughal Road open for limited hours, SSG road restricted

■ Recruitment, Infrastructure Top Priorities

J&K Govt Unveils Comprehensive Health Sector Revamp Plan

Over 1,800 Vacant Posts To Be Filled; Focus On Digital Health, New Facilities

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo on Saturday informed the Legislative Assembly that the J&K Government has rolled out a comprehensive and multi-pronged strategy to strengthen the healthcare sector across the Union Territory. While replying to a question raised by MLA Sunil Bhardwaj, the Minister said that since assuming office, the government has prioritized expansion and upgradation of healthcare infrastructure, alongside strengthening human resources and public health initiatives. “The plan includes enhancement of hospital facilities across districts, expansion of infra-



structure in newly established medical colleges, and capacity building in nursing institutions to improve training standards,” she said, adding, “To address manpower shortages, the government has accelerated recruitment processes. Over 480 posts of Medical Officers have

already been referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission, while contractual engagements under the National Health Mission (NHM) and academic arrangements are being utilized to meet immediate requirements.” Itoo said that digital ● P-06

...Admin Promises Action

Lal Chowk Set For Revamp As Traders Flag Gaps



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: With tourist footfall rising and pressure on civic infrastructure mounting, the Traders Association Lal Chowk on Saturday pitched for a comprehensive revamp of the city’s commercial hub during a meeting with the Divisional Commissioner, Srinagar, securing an assurance of phased, time-bound action. The delegation, led by President Mohammad Iqbal Khan and comprising members Jatinder Singh, Naresh Kumar Mehra and Nisar Ahmad Bhat, raised a series

of issues ranging from urban planning gaps and traffic congestion to sanitation, pedestrian access and overall aesthetics. “Lal Chowk is the face of Srinagar’s economy and culture. But without planned development and efficient civic management, the pressure of increasing business and tourism is clearly showing,” Khan said. He stressed that the area requires structured urban planning, streamlined traffic and pedestrian movement and sustained beautification to match its growing importance as both a ● P-06

CDS Chauhan Advocates Multi-Domain Warfare In Key J&K Visit Underlines Imperative Of Jointness And Multi-Domain Preparedness

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Anil Chauhan Saturday visited the strategically important areas under Chinar Corps, Srinagar, reviewing the security landscape and operational posture along LoC in North Kashmir and commended the formation’s exemplary operational preparedness, doctrinal coherence and resolute professionalism. In Baramulla, he was briefed on Future Force Application & Technology Infusion. In his address to the Officers of the Chinar Corps, he highlighted that the character of warfare is undergoing profound transformation, necessitating a shift from Domain-Centric Approach to Multi-Domain Operations (MDO), underpinned by a robust & integrated architecture. He underscored the centrality of



jointness, stressing that seamless integration across Land, Air, Maritime, Cyber, Space and Cognitive domains is indispensable for achieving decisive outcomes. He called for accelerated Joint Training for Futuris-

tic Warfare, Harmonisation of Doctrines and development of Interoperable Command and Control Structures to enable synchronised effects, across all domains. The CDS emphasised the need

for a deliberate roadmap to counter emerging challenges – one that fosters technological adaptation, cognitive resilience and collective preparedness through integrated efforts. He reiterated that preparation for the threats envisaged must be anchored in foresight, innovation, a unified warfighting philosophy and Whole of a Nation effort. He highlighted the importance of operational readiness and resilience in the face of evolving security challenges. Gen Chauhan exhorted all ranks to maintain operational excellence, embrace jointness as a way of life and remain prepared to dominate the full spectrum of future conflict. He also interacted with representatives of Civil Administration, eminent personalities and functionaries in Baramulla and reviewed the efforts towards Nation Building.

13,800 Contractual Workers Engaged In NHPC Projects In J&K: GoI
GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Government of India (GoI) has said that around 13,800 contractual workers are currently engaged across various projects of National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) and its joint ventures in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Replying to an unstarred question in Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Power, Shripad Naik, informed that these workers are employed through contractors for execution of project-related works in different locations of J&K. The GoI further stated that NHPC ensures that wages paid to contractual workers are higher than the minimum wages notified by the competent authority. The wage structure also includes statutory and welfare benefits such as Employees’ Provident Fund (EPF), Employees’ State Insurance ● P-06

‘1.01 Lakh Applications Rejected’ ‘Over 3.21 Lakh Category Certificates Issued In J&K In Two Years’

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has issued 3,21,165 reservation and social category certificates across the Union Territory over the last two years, while 1,01,436 applications were rejected and 9,346 cases are still pending, as per official data tabled in the Assembly. The information was provided in response to a starred question (AQ No. 591) raised by MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Para regarding district-wise issuance of certificates across Jammu and Kashmir. According to the official reply accessed, certificates for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST-1 & ST-2), Other Backward Classes (OBC), Residents of Backward Areas (RBA), and Actual Line of Control/International Border (ALC/IB) are being issued under the provisions of



the J&K Reservation Act, 2004 and rules framed thereunder. The data reveals that out of the total certificates issued, Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificates accounted for the highest share at 1,05,908, followed by OBC certificates at 97,179, SC certificates at 65,700, RBA certificates at 61,155, EWS certificates at 32,165, and ALC/IB certificates at 5,025. A division-wise analysis shows that Jammu division recorded a significantly higher number of certificates at 2,86,061, while Kashmir division accounted for 35,104 certificates ● P-06

J&K Private Universities Act Seen as Major Step to Transform Hr Edu



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The passage of the Jammu & Kashmir Private Universities Act Bill has been warmly welcomed by civil society groups and education stakeholders, who see it as a long-awaited reform that could reshape the region's higher education system.

At a press conference in Srinagar, members of civil society along with the WathHarbor Foundation said the new law has the potential to strengthen academic infrastructure, expand opportunities for students, and support the growth of a knowledge-based economy in Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr. Mehboob Makhdoom, Founder of the WathHarbor Foundation, described the Act as a much-needed and progressive step. He pointed out that for years, the absence of a proper framework for private universities forced many students to leave the region in search of quality education, putting both financial and emotional

pressure on families.

"With this Act, we are creating opportunities for reputed institutions to set up campuses within Jammu & Kashmir. This will open doors for better education, research, and global exposure right here at home," he said.

He added that modern universities go beyond classroom learning, serving as centres for innovation, skill development, and research in emerging fields like artificial intelligence, data science, and sustainability. Such institutions, he said, can also generate jobs and attract investment to the region.

G.N. Var, Founding President of the Private Schools Association J&K, also welcomed the move, appreciating the efforts of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Education Minister Sakeena Itoo, and members of the Legislative Assembly for supporting the bill. He termed it a "historic decision" that reflects a forward-looking approach to improving education standards and expanding

access for students.

He also acknowledged the contribution of MLA Farooq Ahmad Shah for actively supporting the bill and raising important education-related issues in the Assembly.

S.P. Qaisar, an eminent consultant, said the Act will help establish a clear and transparent regulatory system, ensuring accountability and quality in the private education sector. He expressed hope that it would encourage credible institutions to invest in the region. Representatives from trade and industry also supported the initiative. Ishaq Zehgeer from the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries said the move would boost economic growth, create jobs, and support innovation. Qazi Touseef from KTMF noted that stronger higher education infrastructure would also strengthen the overall business environment.

Education experts highlighted the academic benefits of the reform. Prof. Nighat Fatima said it would widen access to

specialised and research-based courses, while Dr. Afifa Kamili emphasised its potential to improve research culture through better infrastructure and global collaborations.

Dr. Touseef Bhat underlined the role universities can play in promoting sustainable development and shaping policy through research-based insights.

Welcoming the development, Nasir Khuehami, National Convenor of the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association, said the move would greatly benefit students by reducing the need to study outside the region.

"This will not only ease the financial burden on families but also allow students to access quality education closer to home," he said, adding that it would open up new opportunities for skill development and career growth.

Overall, speakers described the Act as the beginning of a new phase for higher education in Jammu & Kashmir. They stressed that the next step is effective implementation, ensuring that institutions set up under the law are credible, inclusive, and aligned with the region's long-term needs.

Civil society members also expressed their willingness to work with policymakers, academic institutions, and industry stakeholders to ensure the Act leads to a transparent, accountable, and future-ready education system in the region.

'When Heard, We Heal'

JKCPJ's 'Let's Connect' Season 2 Opens at Badamwari



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The JK Centre for Peace and Justice (JKCPJ) on Saturday successfully organized the first chapter of Season 2 of its flagship "Let's Connect" initiative at Badamwari, Srinagar, bringing together around 60 participants in a warm, open, and engaging environment.

The session was designed to foster mean-

ingful human connections while encouraging open conversations around mental health in a serene outdoor setting. Participants actively engaged in a series of interactive activities, including Perception vs Person, Soul on Paper, and Miscommunication Chain, which added depth, reflection, and energy to the overall experience.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Nadir Ali

expressed optimism about the growing impact of the initiative and reiterated the organization's commitment to hosting more such sessions in the future.

Advocate Sharika Zargar underscored the importance of creating safe and supportive spaces, noting that individuals are more likely to open up about their mental health when they feel secure and understood.

Sharing her experience, a participant, Rutba, highlighted that connecting with non-judgmental individuals remains one of the most valuable aspects of such gatherings.

The session concluded on a reflective note, reaffirming the importance of building inclusive spaces where individuals can express themselves freely, feel heard, and experience a sense of belonging.

Departure of Hajj Pilgrims: Div Com reviews preparations

Stresses on close coordination among agencies for smooth departure of pilgrims



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In preparation for the upcoming Hajj pilgrimage, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Saturday chaired a high-level meeting to review arrangements for the smooth departure of pilgrims.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners from across Jammu & Kashmir and Kargil, besides departments including Airport Authority, Emigration, Customs, Tourism, Public Works (R&B), PHE, KPDC, Health, Transport, Traffic, Police, CISF, J&K Bank, and other concerned agencies.

Hajj flights are scheduled to operate from April 18 to April 28, 2026. This year, a total of 4,706 pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir will undertake the sacred journey of Hajj.

Emphasizing the importance of coordinated efforts, the Divisional Commissioner directed all departments to ensure comprehensive preparations for the pilgrimage. He instructed Deputy

Commissioners to oversee arrangements and facilitate pilgrims effectively.

Special attention was given to ensuring the availability of essential services at the Hajj House, including uninterrupted electricity and water supply, sanitation, and healthcare facilities.

The Divisional Commissioner further instructed J&K Bank to maintain adequate availability of foreign exchange in lower denominations to avoid inconvenience to pilgrims. He also called for proper boarding and lodging arrangements for pilgrims arriving from Jammu and Ladakh.

To ensure seamless travel, Customs and Emigration authorities were asked to establish special facilitation counters at the airport for quick clearance.

For real-time coordination and information sharing, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Hajj Officer to create a dedicated WhatsApp group comprising all concerned officials and Hajj aspirants.

Budget Session

House passes J&K Private Universities Bill

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The House Saturday passed the Jammu and Kashmir Private Universities Bill, 2026 (L.A. Bill No. 08 of 2026) on establishment and incorporation of private universities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Bill moved by Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo read, "A Bill to provide for the establishment and incorporation of Private Universities in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, and to regulate their functioning, management, and academic standards for ensuring quality education and protecting the interests of students".

Speaking regarding the Bill, the Education Minister said that the Government has taken into consideration all the issues and concerns regarding Higher Education sector

in Jammu and Kashmir before formulation of this Bill. She further said that this Bill will pave way for establishing Private Universities and will boost the Higher Education sector here. She added that numerous students of Jammu and Kashmir will be benefited by this as they used to go outside J&K for achieving Higher education.

Legislators, Mir Saifulah, Nizam-ud-din Bhat, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah and Tanvir Sadiq had moved amendments on the Bill. These Legislators withdrew their amendments after assurances by the Education Minister.

Legislator Balwant Singh Mankotia had also moved an amendment, which was rejected through voice vote. Later, the Speaker put the Bill to voice vote, and subsequently it was passed.

Budget Session: House passes Jan Vishwas 2nd Bill

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Saturday passed the Jammu and Kashmir Jan Vishwas Second (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026 (L.A. Bill No. 07 of 2026).

The Bill was moved for consideration and passing by Minister for Agriculture Javid Ahmed Dar on behalf of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

While moving the motion, the Minister said, "A Bill to amend certain enactments, decriminal-

ising and rationalising offences for ease of living and ease of doing business, and also to repeal certain enactments (L.A. Bill No. 07 of 2026), be taken into consideration."

The Bill was subsequently taken up for consideration and passing by the Speaker before the House and was passed.

Members Nizam-ud-din Bhat, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah and Tanvir Sadiq withdrew their amendments following assurances from the Minister.

Multi-pronged strategy in place to mitigate porcupine threat to saffron fields: Rana

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Government Saturday informed the Legislative Assembly that a comprehensive, multi-pronged strategy is being implemented to address porcupine-induced damage to saffron crops in Pampore and adjoining areas, with field evidence confirming active presence of the species in the region.

This information was given by Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment, Javed Ahmad Rana, while replying to a Calling Attention Notice moved by Legislator Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi.

The Minister said that habitat conditions such as caves, crevices, hilly terrain and overgrown private lands provide favorable shelter for porcupines near saffron-growing areas.

To mitigate the issue, the Government has proposed a series of measures, including clearance of caves, bushes and undergrowth in coordination with the Rev-



enue Department and Panchayati Raj Institutions. He added that these measures include installation of deep-set mesh barriers (up to 1.5 metres underground) around vulnerable fields; protection of orchard trees using aluminum wrapping and reflective coatings; plantation of naturally repellent species such as iris, wormwood and wild yam; use of organic repellents and olfactory deterrents like naphthalene; and deployment of motion-activated lighting and sound systems.

The Minister further informed that the Agriculture Department in collaboration with the Saffron

Research Station, Dusoo, Pampore, is documenting the extent of damage to develop long-term scientific management strategies.

He added that a dedicated Man-Animal Conflict Control Room has been established at Khrew, along with regular night patrolling, installation of capture cages for live trapping and awareness campaigns for farmers.

Addressing concerns regarding monkey intrusion in agricultural fields at Wahab Sahib, Pampore, the Minister said that while monkeys are currently not listed under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, awareness initiatives are being undertaken and firecrackers are also being distributed to farmers as a deterrent.

He added that a coordinated, time-bound action plan involving the Agriculture, Revenue and Wildlife Departments, along with local communities, is being formulated to address the issue through field protection, habitat management and long-term population control.

Speaker JKLA appreciates Info depts for smooth conduct of Budget Session

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Speaker, J&K Legislative Assembly (JKLA), Abdul Rahim Rather Saturday expressed deep appreciation for the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) and other line departments for their coordinated efforts in ensuring the smooth and efficient conduct of Budget Session 2026 of Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker also lauded the contributions of other allied departments, including the Legislative Assembly Secretariat, Police, Health, Transport, Power, Hospitality and Protocol and other supporting agencies for maintaining seamless arrangements throughout the session period. He noted that their collective efforts ensured orderly proceedings, security management, logistical support, and uninterrupted services for legislators, officials, media personnel, and visitors.



living here.

MLA Ali Mohammad Dar demanded shifting of Sub-division Kanipora of Chadoora Division from Rambagh area to its original place for the ease-ment of people.

MLA Justice (Retd) Hasnain

Masoodi sought installation of an ATM facility at a Wahab Khar Sahib shrine in his constituency for the convenience of devotees.

MLA Qaysar Jamshaid Lone demanded desilting of canals in his constituency to improve the

irrigation facilities.

MLA Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurezi) highlighted the issue of pending rent for land used by defence forces, seeking immediate release of payments to the owners.

MLA Mubarak Gul highlighted the need for desilting of canals and nallahs in his constituency.

MLA Muzaffar Iqbal Khan raised concern over high prices of building materials and alleged black marketing due to the closure of crusher plants in his constituency.

MLA Javid Riyaz Bedar demanded repair of irrigation lifting pumps and adequate power supply to operate these units so that the farmers do not suffer during the agricultural season for breakdown of machinery in these lift stations.

MLA Shakti Raj Parihar pointed out that Doda district is an accident-prone area and demanded priority provision of medical staff, paramedical facilities and ambulances there.

MLA Kuldeep Raj Dubey raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board aspirants who qualified examinations and sought implementation of directions issued by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court and Central Administrative Tribunal regarding their appointments. He also demanded compensation for the families whose houses were damaged or acquired during road widening.

MLA Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi urged the government to convene advance meetings to ensure proper arrangements for the upcoming Muharram

observances.

MLA Sajad Gani Lone sought clarity from the administration regarding the questions related to commercial leases given by the government.

MLA Javid Iqbal Choudhary raised the concern over engagement of teaching staff in Indian Census duties, stating that it adversely affecting the students' studies.

MLA Zafar Ali Khatana demanded exemption from permission requirements for the tribal communities who migrate seasonally to Kashmir Valley with their cattle on foot.

MLA Peerzada Feroze Ahmad demanded opening of a branch of Jammu and Kashmir Bank at Bonigam area of his constituency to facilitate the local residents and businessmen.

Budget Session: Zero Hour: Legislators raise key public issues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Several important public issues were raised by the Members during the Zero Hour in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Saturday, seeking timely intervention and action from the government.

MLA Ghulam Ahmad Mir raised the issue that fuel required for agricultural and horticultural machinery is not being adequately provided to the farmers in South Kashmir in view of the restrictions on loose sale of fuel by petrol pump.

MLA Rajiv Jasrotia demanded bifurcation of ration cards so that the deserving citizens can avail the benefits of various social welfare schemes of the Union Territory and the Central Government.

MLA Khurshid Ahmad demanded that Gool Gulabgarh be granted the status of a Pahari district.

MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia sought that copies of speeches and proceedings of the House be provided to all legislators as per the past practice.

MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami highlighted the shortage of LPG and demanded that people who have not yet registered for e-KYC should also be facilitated to receive benefits, with necessary directions issued to the concerned authorities.

MLA Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Mir raised the issue of equitable distribution of irrigation water between the areas of Pulwama and Budgam districts as the issue could spiral into a controversy between the people

'Govt formulates comprehensive R&R plan for Sawalkote Project'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Government has formulated a comprehensive Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) plan for the Sawalkote Hydro-electric Project, taking into account the extent of impact on the local communities.

This was stated by Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, while replying to a question raised by MLA Pawan Kumar Gupta in the Legislative Assembly, on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah.

The Minister said that the rehabilitation plan included compensation measures for the landowners and a range of rehabilitation and resettlement entitlements in accordance with the standard practices for all affected districts. "Therefore it won't be prudent to say that Udhampur district is out of commensurate development benefits," he said.

The Minister informed the House that the project components fall across three districts of Jammu and Kashmir, Ramban, Udhampur and Reasi, with Ramban district bearing the maximum submergence and emerging as the most affected district in the Union Territory.

The Minister further informed that out of the total land requirement of 1,401.35 hectares for the



project, Ramban accounts for the largest share at 1,097.55 hectares, followed by Udhampur with 197 hectares and Reasi with 106.8 hectares.

With regard to submergence, it was informed that out of 1,158.75 hectares of total land, Ramban accounts for 1,030.55 ha (88.94%), Udhampur for 63 ha (5.44%) and Reasi for 65.2 ha, firmly establishing Ramban as the most affected district in the Union Territory.

The Minister provided a detailed breakdown of project components across the three districts. He informed that the diversion tunnel, right abutment of the Dam and right bank tunnels fall under Reasi district, the addit of right bank tunnels, most of the

submergence area and other construction facilities fall under Ramban district while the Powerhouse, main tunnel and left abutment of the Dam are located in Udhampur district.

On the question of road connectivity, the Minister noted that the road connecting Jammu city to Ramban is an all-weather road being maintained by NHAI while the road connecting Ramban to Zero Morh is constructed and maintained by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

Regarding the shortest and most logical Pancher-Lander-Galiote route, the Minister informed that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared based on technically fea-

sible and commercially viable site conditions and has been duly approved by the Central Electricity Authority, Union Ministry of Power, outlining all project features including access roads to various project components.

The Minister further noted that the proposed road from MH Morh to Chakka is a single-lane route with high maintenance costs and would not be suitable for transportation of heavy machinery and equipment required for construction of the project. He added that the selection of access roads depends on detailed engineering and economic considerations and any change at a later stage could result in construction delays and cost overruns.

FIRs lodged in PHE equipment theft cases: Javed Rana

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana, Saturday informed the Legislative Assembly that prompt action has been taken and FIRs have been lodged with the concerned authorities in cases involving theft of transformers and allied Public Health Engineering (PHE) equipment.

The Minister was replying to a Calling Attention Notice moved by Legislator Devyani Rana.

Reiterating the government's commitment, the Minister said that all necessary measures are being taken to safeguard the public assets and prevent such incidents.

The Minister said that the Jal Shakti (PHE) Department is undertaking extensive water supply infrastructure development under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), with 3,253 schemes either under execution or already completed across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He

'Land compensation determined as per Land Act 2013'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The compensation for proprietary acquired land is determined strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 and the National Highways Authority Act, 1956.

This was stated by Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, while replying to a question raised by

MLA Shabir Ahmad Kullay. He was replying on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah in the House Saturday.

The Minister informed the House that discrepancies have been observed in certain cases between the actual use of land as orchards and the classification recorded in revenue records in the Kashmir Division. It stated that, as per inputs from the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, such variations generally arise in cases where the land use has been changed over time from agriculture to horticulture

of the land owners themselves without following the prescribed procedure under law.

The government further said that revenue records are updated regularly during Rabi and Kharif harvest inspections, in accordance with the Standing Order No. 22 (Jamabandi) and Standing Order No. 23-B.

On the issue of additional compensation or relief, the government reiterated that the matter is governed by the existing legal framework and no separate provision is envisaged.

added that a substantial inventory of pre-existing water supply infrastructure is also operational.

He further stated that given the wide spread and scale of these assets, their safeguarding is being ensured through regular monitoring and deployment

of available manpower.

The Minister informed the House that the majority of the schemes are still under execution and remain in the custody of executing agencies until their physical and financial completion, making them responsible for safeguard-

ing the infrastructure during this period.

He also highlighted that the Department is promoting community participation through Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs/Paani Samitis) to foster a sense of ownership at the grassroots level.

Govt releases Rs 17 lakh for renovation of MMCH Zakoor: Sakeena Itoo



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The government has released Rs 17 lakh for repair and renovation of Mini Maternity-cum-Child Care Hospital (MMCH), Zakoor to further enhance patient care in the region.

This was stated by Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, while replying to a Calling Attention Notice moved in the House Saturday by Legislator Salman Sagar.

She informed that during 2023-24, Director Health Services, Kashmir authorized the work namely 'up-gradation of MMCH Zakura Srinagar' in order to complete the remaining works including the internal finishing and other allied development works and granted AAA in July 2022 to the tune of Rs. 299.98 lakh. "Subsequently, the funds to the tune of Rs. 75.00 lakh were released but could not be utilized due to non-relocation/occupation of the building by the security forces", she

added.

The Minister said that the works on MMCH Zakoor were under execution through J&K Housing Board but remained incomplete due to occupation of the building by the security forces during the year 2019. She further said that during the year 2025, the security forces vacated the building and subsequently the building required repairs and renovation.

She informed that the project "HMESS2526100050-BALANCE WORK AT MMC ZAKURA SRINAGAR" has been approved under the UT Capex Budget 2025-26 with Rs. 17 lakh has been released. The PWD (R&B) was asked to prepare a DPR, which initially estimated costs at Rs. 10 crore, deemed high.

She added that a revised DPR has been requested with due cost effectiveness from PWD and accordingly the repair and renovation of the building shall be taken up at the earliest to make the building operational for hospital purposes.

'Public role key to smooth water supply'

Jal Shakti Min appeals consumers to clear pending dues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, Saturday informed the Legislative Assembly that the temporary one-day disconnection of water supply in parts of Handwara division was undertaken as part of departmental revenue realization drive aimed at improving the recovery and meeting the prescribed targets.

He was replying to a Calling Attention Motion moved by Legislator Sheikh Khurshed in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister stressed that timely payment of user charges is crucial for uninterrupted water

supply, emphasizing that it is a shared responsibility between the public and authorities.

He informed that the disconnection was resorted to as a last measure after sustained efforts by the department, including door-to-door campaigns and mass awareness drives through local community platforms.

The Minister said that the disconnection affected certain pockets of Magam, Neelipora and other habitations witnessing poor revenue realization. He added that the water supply was restored on March 30, 2026 and has remained normal and uninterrupted thereafter.

Deputy Chief Minister inaugurates Bridge at Bus Stand Jammu

Says Govt committed to public welfare, robust development

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Saturday inaugurated vital single span RCC Bridge and allied works at Bus Stand, Jammu.

Terming the bridge a significant utility for all regions of Jammu and Kashmir, the Deputy Chief Minister, who was accompanied by local MLA Yudhvir Sethi, said that it will enhance the mobility and transport facilities for the people of J&K. He said that the bridge, damaged during last year floods, was reconstructed in a record time.

"The bridge was not merely a structure but a lifeline for livelihoods, transport and connectivity across Jammu, Kashmir and the Chenab Valley," maintained the Deputy CM.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the government is committed to public welfare and robust development being carried out across the Union Territory.

Addressing a gathering of locals, members from transport and markets



associations and other stakeholders, the Deputy Chief Minister highlighted his determination to infrastructure development and public welfare with the successful reconstruction and inauguration of a vital bridge in Jammu.

He also acknowledged MLA Yudhvir Sethi's persistent efforts in ensuring timely completion of the project.

Recalling the devastating floods that had washed away the bridge a few months ago, the Deputy Chief Minister noted the sense of helplessness among the stakeholders and the urgent need to restore it.

The Deputy Chief Minister also assured the stakeholders that their other concerns, such as parking issues, traffic regulation and operational challenges at the bus stand, would be addressed promptly. He said that despite challenges, the government has prioritized to ease the public difficulties and deliver on its promises.

MLA Yudhvir Sethi and members from stakeholders also spoke on the occasion and expressed their appreciation for the Deputy Chief Minister and concerned department for ensuring time bound completion of the ambitious project.

Rana expresses deep grief over the demise of Babu Noor Muhammad Noor

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, has expressed profound grief and deep sorrow over the passing of Babu Noor Muhammad Noor, a revered figure of the Gujjar-Bakerwal tribe, who passed away Saturday.

In his condolence message, the Minister described late Babu Noor Muhammad Noor as a person of immense wisdom, deep cultural rootedness whose life embodied the rich traditions, values and ethos of the Gojri-speaking community.

He was a great poet and writer, whose works earned him immense popularity among the tribe.

His passing, the Minister said, is not only a personal loss to his family but also a significant loss to all those who cherish and uphold the cultural and social heritage of tribal communities.

The Minister conveyed his heartfelt condolences to noted tribal activist and Secretary Kala Kendra, Dr. Javid Rahi, and other members of the bereaved family.

He prayed for eternal peace for the departed soul and strength for the grieving family to bear this irreparable loss.

Two drainage projects undertaken to address water-logging in Sopore town: Govt

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The government has taken up two exclusive drainage projects in Sopore town to improve the drainage network and mitigate water-logging, particularly during heavy rainfall.

This information was given by Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, in reply to a Calling Attention Motion moved by MLA Sopore, Irfan Rasool Kar, regarding water logging in Sopore town following rains.

She was replying on behalf of the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah.

The Minister stated that Sopore town is predominantly a low-lying area and water accumulation in such locations is natural during heavy showers.

She added that to mitigate



the situation, five dewatering pumps available with the Municipal Council, Sopore, are being deployed for immediate drainage of accumulated water with additional support from the Fire and Emergency Services as and when required.

The Minister further informed

that under the UT Capex (Drainage Sector), two projects have been taken up in Sopore town. The Drainage Scheme Sopore (D/S Sopore) is currently under execution at a sanctioned cost of ₹4.97 crore. Besides, construction of a deep drain at Lane number 06, Bagi Sana, Badam Bagh,

Sopore, costing ₹35 lakh, has been completed, she informed.

She added that these works are aimed at strengthening the drainage infrastructure and mitigating water-logging during heavy rainfall. In addition, the matter has been taken up with the J&K Urban Environmental Engineer-

ing Department on March 25, 2026, for preparation of a comprehensive DPR for the drainage network in Sopore town, she said.

The Minister also stated that the Municipal Council, Sopore, is regularly undertaking the cleaning of drains with available manpower and machinery, wherever required.

She further informed that the PW (R&B) Division Sopore has been approached on March 19, 2026, for preparation of estimates for desilting of existing drains within the urban limits of Sopore town and action will be initiated during the current financial year upon receipt of these estimates.

The Minister added that funds amounting ₹6.40 lakh have been released by the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir, for the desilting of drains.

Budget Session

Protect MLAs' dignity, privileges: Speaker

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Saturday directed the government to take the corrective measures to maintain the dignity, privilege and protocol of the Members of Legislative Assembly. He gave these directions while concluding the Short Duration Discussion on the last day of Assembly session.

MLA Pawan Kumar Gupta initiated the discussion on privileges, dignity and protocol of the august House/ Hon'ble Members during Short Duration Discussion. He said that the dignity of the MLAs have

been compromised. He also pointed out that MLAs are not taken into confidence while drafting the development plans of their respective constituencies.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary assured the members that the dignity of the members is our prime concern. He also said that government always takes serious note of the complaints registered by the MLAs and assured strong action against the officers who breaches the privilege of the members.

Chairman Privilege Committee Nizam-ud-din Bhat, Hasnain Masoodi also participated in the discussion.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Rains Raise Worry, But Situation Remains Under Control

The ongoing spell of rain across Jammu and Kashmir has understandably made people uneasy, especially given the region’s past experiences with flooding. However, the latest data brings some relief—water levels in the River Jhelum and its tributaries are still well within safe limits. Measurements taken on Saturday morning show that the Jhelum is flowing far below danger levels at key points like Sangam, Pampore, and Munshibagh. Other streams and tributaries, including Vishwa Nallah, Rambiyara, Lidder, Doodhganga, and Sindh Nallah, are also running at normal levels. In simple terms, despite continuous rainfall, there is no immediate flood threat at the moment. That said, the concern among residents is not without reason. Many parts of Kashmir and the Jammu region have received moderate to heavy rainfall over the past 24 hours. Areas like Baramulla, Handwara, and Lolab in Kashmir, along with Rajouri and Batote in Jammu, have recorded significant precipitation. With weather patterns remaining unpredictable, people are naturally keeping a close watch. For now, officials have not issued any flood alerts, and the overall situation is stable. But caution is still important. Even if rivers are within safe limits, continuous rain can lead to waterlogging in low-lying areas and cause localised problems. The silver lining is that authorities are closely monitoring the situation, and regular updates are being shared. This helps keep panic in check and ensures that people are informed about any changes. At the ground level, a little awareness can go a long way. Staying updated with official advisories, avoiding flood-prone spots, and being mindful during heavy rainfall can help people stay safe. In the end, while the rains may continue to cause some worry, there is no need for alarm right now. The situation is being watched carefully—and for the moment, it remains under control.

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

EDIT

When Education Teaches Adjustment, Why Does The World Still Choose Hatred?



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

We live in an age of astonishing progress and disturbing contradiction. Humanity has reached extraordinary heights in science, technology, communication, and education. Never have people been so informed, so connected, and so equipped with knowledge. Classrooms preach coexistence. Books speak of peace. Universities celebrate reason, dialogue, and critical thinking. Yet outside those classrooms, the world continues to burn with hatred, suspicion, arrogance, and conflict.

Nations still threaten one another. Communities still divide themselves on the basis of race, religion, language, ideology, and identity. Powerful societies still look down upon weaker ones. Even educated individuals, who have read history and studied ethics, often become participants in prejudice rather than protectors against it.

This raises a painful but necessary question: if education teaches human beings to adjust, cooperate, and resolve conflict, then why do people — and even nations — continue to fight?

The answer lies in one of the deepest paradoxes of modern civilisation: education can sharpen the mind, but it does not automatically soften the heart.

Education teaches logic, but hatred is often driven by emotion. It teaches communication, but superiority is often rooted in insecurity. It explains history, but people still choose selective memory. It encourages discipline, but not always humility. In other words, education may show us how to live together, yet it does not always give us the will to do so.

One major reason is that human beings do not act only on reason. They also act on fear, ego, wounded pride, greed, and a deep attachment to their own group. A person may hold degrees and still remain trapped inside a narrow mentality. A nation may possess advanced institutions and still behave with primitive aggression. The world today shows us clearly that intellectual development and moral development do not always progress together.

This is why some of the most destructive actions in history have not been committed by the ignorant alone. They have often been planned, justified, and executed by educated people. Knowledge, when separated from conscience, becomes dangerous. The same education that can produce healers can also produce propagandists. The same science that can



cure disease can also build weapons. The same communication technology that can spread understanding can also spread lies at breathtaking speed.

Another reason lies in the way many education systems are structured. Much of modern education is designed to create efficiency, productivity, and national usefulness. Students are trained to compete, perform, and succeed. They are told to master subjects, but they are not always taught how to master anger. They are encouraged to speak, but not always to listen. They learn how to win arguments, but not how to understand pain. They are prepared for careers, but not necessarily for coexistence.

As a result, many societies produce technically skilled individuals who are emotionally underdeveloped. The mind becomes powerful, but the spirit remains fragile. Such people can build systems, lead institutions, and influence nations, yet still be driven by superiority, prejudice, and hostility.

This imbalance is visible everywhere in the present world. We see it when nations speak the language of peace while preparing for war. We see it when political leaders exploit fear to strengthen their power. We see it when communities glorify their own suffering but refuse to acknowledge the suffering of others. We see it when patriotism turns into contempt, when faith turns into fanaticism, and when identity turns into arrogance.

At the centre of much of this lies the poisonous idea of superiority. Superiority is one of the oldest illnesses of human civilisation. It is the belief that “we” are more deserving, more civilised, more moral, more chosen, or more important than “they” are. Sometimes this superiority is national. Sometimes racial. Sometimes religious. Sometimes cultural. But its logic is always the same:

my group matters more, and therefore your dignity matters less.

- Once that mindset takes hold, hatred becomes easier to justify.
- A nation can then call domination “security”.
- A group can call prejudice “tradition”.
- A leader can call aggression “honour”.
- An individual can call arrogance “confidence”.

This is how modern hatred survives even in an educated world. It does not always appear in crude form. Sometimes it wears a tie, sits in parliament, speaks fluent language, writes polished speeches, and hides itself behind terms like strategy, civilization, interest, and order. But beneath the language, the same old instinct remains: the desire not merely to exist, but to stand above others. That is why the present world crisis is not only political or economic. It is moral and educational.

We have taught people how to compete globally, but not how to care globally. We have built institutions that reward achievement, but not enough systems that reward empathy. We have strengthened national identity, but not always human solidarity. Too often, education teaches students to become loyal to a flag before they become responsible to humanity.

This does not mean national history or patriotism should be abandoned. A person can love their country deeply and still respect the rest of the world. True loyalty is not blind obedience. True loyalty means helping one’s nation become more just, more humane, and more honourable. A mature citizen does not prove love for their country by hating another country. Rather, they prove it by ensuring that their own nation does not lose its moral soul. That is why the future of peace depends on a new educational

balance — one that keeps knowledge but adds wisdom; keeps identity, but adds humanity; keeps excellence, but removes arrogance. Students must not only learn mathematics, science, economics, and technology. They must also learn emotional intelligence, ethical reasoning, dialogue, historical empathy, and the discipline of seeing themselves in others.

A child should not leave school merely knowing how to succeed. A child should leave school knowing how not to dehumanize.

The world does not suffer today because there is too little information. It suffers because there is too little inner refinement. It suffers because power has outrun compassion. It suffers because many people have been trained to prove themselves, but not enough have been taught to restrain themselves. If education remains limited to technical success, then the future may become even more dangerous: smarter machines, sharper propaganda, stronger weapons, and colder hearts. But if education begins to form character as seriously as it forms intellect, then perhaps humanity can still step back from the edge. The real test of education is not whether it produces powerful people. The real test is whether it produces people who know how to use power without hatred.

Until that happens, the world will continue to live with this tragic contradiction: educated minds, but uneducated egos; advanced nations, but primitive hatreds; global connection, but moral isolation. And that is why the world still fights — not because it has learned nothing, but because it has not yet learned the most important lesson of all: no superiority can save a civilization that has forgotten how to see others as fully human.

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Strength Of Mind: The Greatest Gift We Can Give

MOHAMMAD HANIEF

In a world that is increasingly fast-paced, competitive, and unpredictable, raising mentally strong children has become one of the most pressing priorities for parents and educators alike. While academic success and talent development continue to receive significant attention, there is a growing recognition that mental resilience is what ultimately determines how children navigate life’s challenges. Strength of mind enables young individuals to cope with stress, adapt to change, recover from setbacks, and move forward with confidence.

Mental strength is often misunderstood as emotional toughness or the ability to suppress feelings. In reality, it is a balanced combination of emotional awareness, rational thinking, and constructive behavior. Children who develop these qualities are better equipped to face disappointment, uncertainty, and pressure without becoming overwhelmed. They learn not only how to succeed, but also how to endure and grow when things do not go as planned.

The foundation of mental strength is laid early in life, primarily within the home environment. Children learn how to respond to difficulties by observing the adults around them. When parents handle stress with patience, accept responsibility for mistakes, and demonstrate perseverance, children absorb these behaviors naturally. This modeling effect is powerful, as it provides real-life examples of resilience in action. On the other hand, environments that encourage avoidance, excessive worry, or fear of failure can hinder the development of emotional strength.

One of the most significant



challenges in modern parenting is finding the right balance between support and overprotection. While it is natural to want to shield children from discomfort, constantly removing obstacles from their path can limit their ability to develop coping mechanisms. Experiencing manageable difficulties is essential for growth. When children face setbacks, solve problems independently, or navigate social conflicts, they gradually build confidence in their own abilities. These experiences teach them that challenges are not threats to be avoided, but opportunities to learn and improve. Emotional awareness plays a central role in this process. Children need to understand what they are feeling and why. When emotions are acknowledged rather than dismissed, children become more comfortable expressing themselves. This creates a sense of security and trust, allowing them to process their experiences in a healthy way. Over time, they develop the ability to regulate their emotions, which is a key component of mental resilience. Instead of reacting impulsively, they learn to pause, reflect, and respond thoughtfully.

Another important aspect of

raising mentally strong children is shifting the focus from outcomes to effort. In many environments, success is measured by visible achievements such as grades, awards, or recognition. While these are important, an excessive emphasis on results can create pressure and fear of failure.

Children may begin to associate their self-worth with performance, leading to anxiety and avoidance of challenges. When effort, persistence, and improvement are valued instead, children develop a growth-oriented mindset. They begin to see mistakes as part of the learning process rather than as indicators of inadequacy. Discipline and structure also contribute significantly to mental strength. Clear expectations and consistent boundaries provide children with a sense of stability and responsibility. When rules are fair and predictable, children learn to manage their behavior and make thoughtful choices. This form of guidance is most effective when it focuses on teaching rather than punishment. Understanding the consequences of actions helps children develop accountability, which strengthens their decision-making skills over time.

Modern society presents a unique set of challenges that make

mental resilience even more critical. The influence of digital media, for instance, has introduced constant comparison and exposure to unrealistic standards. Children are often confronted with curated versions of others’ lives, which can affect their self-esteem and sense of identity. Additionally, academic pressure and uncertainty about future opportunities contribute to stress at an increasingly young age. In such an environment, it becomes essential to create spaces where children feel valued for who they are, not just for what they achieve.

Encouraging independence is another key factor in building mental strength. When children are given opportunities to make decisions and take responsibility for their actions, they develop a sense of control over their lives. This autonomy fosters confidence and reduces reliance on external validation. Even small choices can have a meaningful impact, as they allow children to experience the consequences of their decisions and learn from them. Over time, this builds resilience and prepares them to handle more complex challenges.

Failure, often perceived negatively, is one of the most valuable experiences in a child’s development. It teaches perseverance, adaptability, and humility. Children who are allowed to fail in a supportive environment learn that setbacks are temporary and manageable. They begin to approach challenges with curiosity rather than fear, understanding that growth often comes from difficulty. Normalising failure helps remove the stigma associated with it, making it easier for children to take risks and explore new possibilities.

The role of schools in this process cannot be overlooked. Edu-

cational institutions are not just centres of academic learning; they are also environments where children develop social and emotional skills. When schools incorporate programmes that promote emotional intelligence, teamwork, and problem-solving, they complement the efforts of families. A consistent approach between home and school creates a strong support system that reinforces positive behaviours and attitudes.

Ultimately, raising mentally strong children requires patience, consistency, and intentional effort. It is not about eliminating struggles or ensuring constant success but about equipping children with the tools they need to navigate life independently. This involves allowing them to face challenges, guiding them through their emotions, and encouraging them to keep trying even when the outcome is uncertain.

As the world continues to evolve, the importance of resilience will only grow. Children who are mentally strong are more likely to become adaptable, confident, and empathetic individuals. They are better prepared to handle uncertainty, build meaningful relationships, and contribute positively to society. By prioritising mental strength alongside academic and physical development, parents and educators can help shape a generation that is not only capable but also resilient in the face of life’s complexities.

The responsibility is shared, and the impact is long-lasting. Investing in a child’s mental strength today is an investment in a more balanced and resilient society tomorrow.

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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

Shadows Of Speculation: How Rumours Shape The Course Of War



DR.RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

Rumours have always travelled alongside war-like, invisible shadows, unseen, elusive, yet profoundly influential. While armies clash on battlefields with weapons of steel and fire, another quieter, more insidious battle unfolds in the realm of perception, belief, and fear. Rumours during war are not mere whispers; they are potent psychological instruments capable of shaping destinies, altering morale, and even rewriting the course of history. In many ways, wars are fought as much in the minds of people as they are on physical terrain, and rumours become the ammunition of this invisible conflict. At their core, rumours thrive in uncertainty. War is perhaps the most fertile ground for uncertainty to flourish. Information becomes scarce, censored, or manipulated, leaving gaps in knowledge that people instinctively attempt to fill. In such conditions, speculation becomes a substitute for truth. A single unverified claim can spread rapidly, amplified by fear, anxiety, and the human tendency to believe what resonates with existing emotions or biases. Thus, rumours become not just byproducts of war but integral elements of its psychological landscape.

Historically, rumours have played a decisive role in shaping wartime narratives. During conflicts, governments and military authorities often impose strict control over information to maintain strategic advantage and public order. While such control may be necessary, it inadvertently creates a vacuum that rumours eagerly fill. In the absence of reliable information, people turn to hearsay, conjecture, and imagination. Stories of enemy atrocities, impending attacks, or miraculous victories circulate widely, often without any factual basis. Yet, these stories influence public sentiment and behaviour in powerful ways.

One of the most significant impacts of rumours during wars is their effect on morale. For civilians, rumours can generate panic or false hope. A rumour about an imminent invasion may trigger mass evacuations, hoarding of resources, and social unrest. Conversely, exaggerated claims of victory can create a fragile sense of optimism that collapses when confronted with reality. For soldiers, rumours can be equally impactful. Stories about enemy strength or weakness can influence their



confidence, sometimes leading to hesitation or overconfidence in critical moments.

Rumours also serve as tools of propaganda. In modern warfare, psychological operations are carefully designed to manipulate perceptions and undermine the enemy's resolve. Disseminating false information, whether about troop movements, casualties, or internal dissent, can weaken the opponent from within. During wartime, rumours are often deliberately planted and spread to confuse, mislead, and demoralise. In this sense, rumours are not accidental; they are strategic weapons deployed with precision.

The social dynamics of rumours during wars are equally fascinating. They reveal a lot about human psychology and collective behaviour. People tend to believe rumours that align with their fears or desires. In times of war, fear becomes a dominant emotion, making populations more susceptible to alarming narratives. At the same time, rumours that offer hope or reassurance will also find fertile ground, even if they lack credibility. The dual nature of rumours, feeding both fear and hope, makes them powerful drivers of collective action. Another critical aspect of wartime rumours is their role in shaping enemy images. Rumours often exaggerate or fabricate stories about the enemy's cruelty, barbarism, or inhumanity. Such narratives dehumanise the opponent, making it easier to justify violence and sustain

the war effort. By portraying the enemy as monstrous or evil, rumours contribute to moral polarisation that deepens divisions and prolongs conflict. This process not only affects wartime behaviour but also leaves lasting scars on post-war reconciliation.

Communication technologies closely link to the spread of rumours. In earlier times, rumours travelled via word of mouth, letters, and limited print media. Today, the advent of digital communication has transformed the speed and scale with which rumours can spread. Social media platforms enable information—true or false—to reach millions within seconds. Modern conflicts can orchestrate misinformation campaigns with unprecedented efficiency, blurring the line between reality and fiction. The digital age has amplified the power of rumours, making them more widespread and harder to control. Despite their often negative impact, rumours can serve a purpose. In some cases, they act as coping mechanisms, helping people make sense of chaotic and frightening situations. When official narratives are incomplete or untrustworthy, rumours provide alternative explanations that, however flawed, offer some semblance of understanding. They can also create a sense of community, as people share information and experiences in an attempt to navigate uncertainty together. In this sense, rumours reflect the human need

for meaning and connection, even in the darkest times.

However, the dangers of rumours during the war cannot be overstated. False information can lead to tragic consequences, including unnecessary violence, discrimination, and loss of life. Rumours about spies or traitors within communities can incite suspicion and hostility, sometimes resulting in wrongful accusations and persecution. In extreme cases, rumours have triggered mob violence, exacerbating the chaos and suffering caused by war. The line between rumour and reality becomes dangerously blurred, and the consequences can be devastating. The ethical dimensions of rumours during war are complex. While some rumours arise spontaneously, others are deliberately created and disseminated for strategic purposes. This raises questions about the morality of using misinformation as a tool of warfare. Is it justified to spread falsehoods if they contribute to victory? Or does such practice undermine the very values that wars are often fought to defend? These questions remain unresolved, reflecting the broader ethical dilemmas inherent in conflict.

When examining rumours during war, it is also important to consider the role of media and journalism. Responsible reporting can counteract rumours by providing accurate and timely information.

However, in the rush to report breaking news, even established media outlets can inadvertently contribute to the spread of misinformation. The pressure to be first rather than accurate can lead to the dissemination of unverified claims, further complicating the information landscape. Thus, the responsibility of journalists becomes even more critical during war-time. Education and critical thinking are essential tools in combating the influence of rumours. An informed and discerning public is less likely to accept unverified information at face value. Encouraging people to question sources, seek evidence, and verify claims can reduce the impact of rumours. However, achieving this level of awareness is challenging, especially in the emotionally charged environment of war. Fear and urgency often override rational judgement, making individuals more vulnerable to misinformation.

Governments also play a crucial role in managing rumours during wars. Transparent communication can reduce uncertainty and build public trust, thereby limiting the spread of false information. When authorities provide clear, consistent, and credible information, they create a counterweight to rumours. Conversely, secrecy and inconsistency can fuel speculation and mistrust, creating fertile ground for rumours to thrive. Thus, effective communication is not merely a matter of public relations but a strategic necessity.

The persistence of rumours during wartime underscores a fundamental aspect of human nature: the need to understand and predict. In situations where control is limited and outcomes are uncertain, rumours offer a way to fill the gaps in knowledge. They provide narratives that, however inaccurate, make the world seem more comprehensible. This psychological function ensures that rumours will continue to exist as long as uncertainty persists. In conclusion, rumours during war are far more than trivial gossip; they are powerful forces that shape perceptions, influence behaviour, and impact the course of events. They arise from the interplay of fear, uncertainty, and the human need for meaning. While they can serve as coping mechanisms, their potential for harm is immense. In an age where information travels at unprecedented speeds, the challenge of managing rumours has become more complex than ever. Addressing this challenge requires a combination of responsible communication, critical thinking, and ethical reflection. Ultimately, understanding the role of rumours in war is essential for navigating the intricate relationship between truth, perception, and power in times of conflict.

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Beyond Boundaries

Why Structured Freedom Matters More Than Unlimited Choice

SHAHRUKH SHOWKAT

Freedom is one of the greatest gifts parents can offer their children. It brings up independence, builds confidence, encourages creativity, and prepares young minds to face the real world. Freedom does not mean the absence of rules. True freedom includes responsibility, discipline and awareness of consequences. When parents provide structured freedom allowing children to make choices within healthy boundaries, they help them to grow into mature individuals. However, like any powerful gift, freedom without guidance, boundaries and responsibility can become harmful.

When children are given excessive or unguided freedom, it may lead to misuse, poor decision-making and long-term consequences that affect their character and future. Children, especially during adolescence, are naturally curious and emotional. Their emotional development often progresses faster than their ability to reason logically. This makes them more unsafe to misuse the freedom they receive. Without proper guidance they may experiment in ways that are risky or harmful.

The causes of excessive freedom: First, guilt plays a significant role. In households where both parents work long hours, they may compensate for their absence by allowing children to do as they please. Saying 'no' may feel like adding more disappointment to a child's life.

Second, fear of damaging the parent-child relationship can influence

parenting decisions. Some parents worry that setting strict rules will make their children rebel or distance themselves emotionally. To avoid conflict, they choose sympathy.

Third, societal changes have encouraged a more liberal approach to parenting. Children today are exposed to technology, social media, and global influences at an early age. Parents may feel that strict control is unrealistic or outdated, leading them to adopt a stress-free approach.

Forms of misused freedom: When freedom is not balanced with discipline, children may misuse it in various ways.

One common example is excessive screen time. Without limits, children may spend hours on mobile phones, video games, or social media platforms. This can affect their academic performance, sleep patterns, and social skills. Overexposure to online content may also expose them to inappropriate material or harmful influences.

Another example is academic neglect. If children are not guided to prioritise education, they may ignore homework, skip classes, or develop a careless attitude towards learning. Over time, this lack of discipline can harm their future opportunities.

Social freedom can also be misused. Teenagers allowed to stay out late without supervision may engage in risky behaviours such as substance use or unhealthy relationships. Peer pressure often plays a strong role, and without parental guidance, children may struggle to resist negative influences.

Financial freedom is another area



of concern. Giving children unrestricted access to money without teaching them its value may lead to wasteful spending and a lack of appreciation for hard work.

Psychological and Emotional Consequences: While excessive freedom may seem enjoyable at first, it can create emotional instability in the long run. Children actually feel safer when there are clear boundaries. Rules provide a sense of structure and security.

When children grow up without limits, they may struggle with self-discipline. Moreover, constant freedom without guidance may create confusion. If parents do not monitor or correct behaviour, children might feel that their

actions do not matter. This can affect their sense of self-worth and belonging.

The role of Technology: In today's digital age, freedom often revolves around technology. Smartphones, laptops, and internet access have become common at young ages. While technology offers educational and creative benefits, it also carries risks.

Without supervision, children may become addicted to social media, comparing themselves to unrealistic standards. They may encounter cyberbullying, online predators, or harmful trends; excessive digital freedom can also weaken real-life communication skills and reduce physical activity. Parents who provide devices without

monitoring usage may unintentionally expose their children to dangers they are not emotionally prepared to handle.

Teaching Responsibility Early: Responsibility should be introduced at an early age. Simple tasks such as cleaning their room, completing homework on time, or managing a small allowance teach discipline. When children understand that privileges come with duties, they develop a perspective on freedom. Parents should also model responsible behaviour. Children observe more than they listen. If parents demonstrate self-control, time management, and respectful communication, children are likely to imitate these habits. Boundaries are not a sign of control; they are an expression of care. Just as a fence protects a garden, boundaries protect a child's growth; they prevent harmful influences while allowing space for exploration.

The power of love and guidance: It is important to remember that freedom itself is not the enemy. The real issue lies in imbalance. Love must be accompanied by wisdom. Providing opportunities for growth while maintaining protective limits reflects thoughtful parenting.

Children need both wings and roots: wings to explore and roots to stay grounded. Excessive restrictions can suffocate potential, but excessive freedom can lead to instability. Parents must act as guides, not dictators or passive observers. Guidance involves patience, understanding, and consistent involvement in a child's life.

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Neurological Burden Eases as Medanta Offers Remote DBS Tuning

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant development for patients suffering from advanced neurological conditions, Medanta, The Medicity in Gurugram, recently ranked as India's best hospital by Newsweek for 2026, is setting new benchmarks in Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) therapy. Also known as 'Brain-Pacemaker surgery,' the procedure is transforming lives by restoring motor function and enhancing quality of life for those with Parkinson's disease, dystonia, epilepsy, and OCD.

Spearheaded by Dr. Anirban Deep Banerjee, Director-Neurosurgery at the Institute of Neurosciences, Medanta, the cutting-edge neurostimulation procedure employs advanced imaging techniques and state-of-the-art innova-

tions, including real-time brain-sensing biomarker feedback for symptom-responsive stimulation.

Explaining the procedure, Dr. Banerjee said, "DBS or Brain Pacemaker Surgery is a transformative therapy where-in electrodes are implanted in specific affected areas of the brain to regulate abnormal signals, restoring motor function, and greatly enhancing quality of life. It is known to bring relief to advanced-stage symptoms of Parkinson's disease, dystonia, epilepsy (adult onset), essential tremor, and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD)."

The technology uses tiny implanted electrodes to read brain signals and understand how the brain is functioning. By correlating these signals with a patient's symptoms, doctors gain clear, measurable insights

that help fine-tune DBS therapy more precisely, resulting in better and more consistent symptom control over time.

Highlighting the urgent need for such advanced care in India, Dr. Banerjee noted, "Neurological conditions are among the leading causes of disability worldwide and account for nearly 10% of our country's total disease burden. While advanced treatments like DBS can significantly improve patient outcomes, access to such therapies remains a key challenge."

Despite the availability of effective treatments, awareness and access remain limited. At Medanta, DBS therapy has already transformed the lives of hundreds of patients, including Jammu resident Mrs. Harmeet Kour and Mr. Gandharv Chand from Udhampur.



Parkinson's had significantly impacted 60-year-old Mrs. Kour's daily life, making even simple tasks like holding a cup difficult. By the time she consulted Dr. Banerjee, her condition had progressed to an advanced stage. She shared,

"After undergoing brain pacemaker surgery, my symptoms improved dramatically. With regular device tuning, my condition is now well managed, and the care I received has truly changed my life."

Chand witnessed a sig-

nificant improvement in his symptoms following DBS surgery, with his tremors resolving. This allowed him to regain independence and confidence in everyday activities that had earlier been difficult. The procedure proved transformative, greatly enhancing his quality of life.

With over 300 successful DBS procedures performed over the past 15 years, Dr. Banerjee is widely regarded as a leading expert in this field. Medanta's DBS program integrates advanced technologies such as AI-guided brain targeting and remote programming, enabling more precise treatment and continuous care. These innovations are particularly beneficial for patients from smaller cities like Srinagar and Jammu, as they reduce the need for frequent travel to metros for fol-

low-up care.

Dr. Banerjee added, "In addition, we have also launched AI-guided Adaptive DBS, which monitors brain activity and automatically adjusts treatment in real time, reducing the need for frequent doctor-led reprogramming sessions that were earlier required."

Medanta is part of Global Health Limited, founded by Dr. Naresh Trehan, a renowned cardiovascular surgeon and recipient of the Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, and Dr. B.C. Roy Award. The company operates a network of six hospitals across Gurugram, Indore, Ranchi, Lucknow, Patna, and Noida, with over 3,579 installed beds and more than 2,300 doctors. Upcoming hospitals are also planned in Mumbai, Pitampura (Delhi), South Delhi, and Guwahati.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

CM Omar Hails Passage

He said the passage of the Bill marks a decisive step towards positioning Jammu and Kashmir as an emerging hub of higher education and academic excellence.

Earlier, on the concluding day of the Budget Session, the Bill was moved for consideration and passing by Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo.

The Speaker later put the Bill to voice vote, following which it was passed by the House.

Speaker Hailed For

viewpoints, the proceedings were conducted in an orderly and effective manner.

He said that all the legislators, particularly first-time MLAs benefitted greatly from the Speaker's guidance and had the opportunity to learn the nuances of legislative functioning.

Sharing his experience, the Deputy Chief Minister said that this session served as a valuable platform for meaningful discussions and constructive debate, contributing significantly towards strengthening democratic processes.

He also expressed appreciation for the dedicated efforts of the Assembly staff, officers and officials, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure seamless functioning of the session. He emphasized that the quality of debates and discussions in the House is a result of their continuous hard work and commitment.

The Deputy Chief Minister further acknowledged the role of the media in taking the voice of the Assembly to the people. He appreciated the press for highlighting public issues and strengthening the democratic engagement.

He also expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister and Members of the House for collectively ensuring that the concerns of the people are effectively raised and addressed.

On the concluding day, the Members cutting across party lines, also expressed their sincere gratitude to the Speaker, for smooth, efficient and impartial conduct of the Budget Session-2026.

Legislators Surjeet Singh Slathia, M.Y. Tarigami, Nizam-ud-Din Bhat, Sajad Gani Lone, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, Tanvir Sadiq, Mir Saifullah, Rafiq Ahmad Naik, Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurez), Sajjad Shaheen, Aijaz Ahmad Jan and Salman Sagar spoke in the appreciation of Speaker.

The Members collectively lauded the Speaker for conducting the proceedings with remarkable efficiency, ensuring that the House functioned smoothly without disruptions.

They highlighted that for the first time, the Members were given adequate and extended opportunities to raise issues related to their constituencies.

The Speaker's commitment towards maintaining decorum, ensuring equal participation and allocating fair time to all members was widely appreciated.

The Members noted that this inclusive approach strengthened the democratic functioning and allowed diverse voices to be heard effectively.

The House acknowledged that the Budget Session-2026 set a positive benchmark in terms of discipline, productivity and member participation.

Budget Session Wraps

2,231 cut motions and 128 resolutions, though none of the resolutions was adopted.

In his closing remarks, Rather singled out the Chief Minister for rare praise.

"The chief minister oversees several key departments and has to ensure their proper functioning. Sitting in the House and personally responding to questions is not an easy task," Rather said.

He added that CM Omar Abdullah answering questions himself "reflects his seriousness towards the House and a strong commitment to accountability. This is a positive practice and deserves appreciation."

The Speaker also lauded Chief Secretary Atal Dullo and government officers for the smooth conduct of the session.

Earlier, members cutting across party lines, including M.Y. Tarigami, Sajad Gani Lone, and Tanvir Sadiq, praised Rather for ensuring orderly proceedings. Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary said

first-time MLAs benefitted greatly from the Speaker's guidance.

"This reflects a healthy democratic spirit," Rather said of the House's functioning.

"With this, today's proceedings come to an end, and the House stands adjourned sine die," he said.

Chill Returns To

In view of the forecast of continued rain and snowfall over the next few days, authorities advised commuters to travel only after confirming road conditions from traffic control units in Jammu, Srinagar and Ramban. Night travel on the highway has been discouraged due to the risk of shooting stones, landslides and ongoing construction works along the Ramban-Banihal stretch.

Traffic officials said that subject to weather conditions, light motor vehicles and passenger vehicles would be allowed to ply on NH-44 from both sides. However, no heavy motor vehicles carrying goods will be permitted from Qazigund towards Jammu between midnight and 6 am due to a religious congregation at Vijaypur. Security forces' convoys will be regulated separately.

The Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road remained closed for vehicular movement as per existing orders, while the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri (SSG) road will remain open only for regulated traffic, subject to clearance from road maintenance agencies due to avalanche risk along the Zojila axis.

Authorities said vehicles will be allowed from Srinagar towards Kargil with a cut-off timing in place, and motorists have been advised to carry anti-skid chains.

The Mughal Road will remain open for light motor vehicles from both sides for limited hours between late morning and afternoon, subject to weather conditions.

Meanwhile, the Bandipora-Gurez road continued to remain closed due to fresh snowfall.

In Reasi district, heavy rainfall triggered landslides, blocking key roads in Mahore and Arnas areas and leaving hundreds of people stranded. Officials said restoration work is underway, but continuous rain is hampering clearance operations.

Authorities have advised people to follow lane discipline and avoid overtaking to prevent congestion on highways—(KNO)

LG Suspends IPS Officer

holding the additional charge of Commandant, 1st Border Battalion Jammu, is facing allegations of misappropriation of General Provident (GP) funds and irregularities in income tax deductions concerning police personnel of the JKAP-4 Security Battalion, reported news agency Kashmir Dot Com.

The order states that during the period of suspension, the officer will remain attached to the Police Headquarters, Jammu and Kashmir.

Official sources said the enquiry has been initiated to ascertain the extent of the alleged financial discrepancies and fix responsibility. Further action will be taken based on the findings of the probe. (KDC)

LG Greet People On

of Jesus Christ embodies the spirit of hope and the triumph of light over darkness, love over despair. On this auspicious day, let us embrace the values of righteousness, compassion, sacrifice and selfless service and strive together toward building a more harmonious, peaceful and prosperous society."

J&K Govt Unveils

health services such as e-Sanjeevani teleconsultation are being expanded and aligned with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission to improve access, particularly in remote areas. Public health efforts are also being intensified, with targeted interventions aimed at tuberculosis elimination by

2025 and strengthened immunization coverage under Mission Indradhanush.

Despite these initiatives, the Minister acknowledged that shortages of medical and paramedical staff persist in certain institutions. She attributed this to a limited pool of specialists in critical disciplines, procedural delays in recruitment, migration of skilled professionals, and reluctance among staff to serve in remote and difficult areas.

To overcome these challenges, the government is implementing policy measures including hardship allowances, incentives for rural postings, fast-track recruitment, and rationalization of existing manpower. Capacity building is also being undertaken through the establishment of new medical colleges and paramedical institutions.

Providing details, the Minister said that 834 gazetted posts have been referred to the J&K Public Service Commission and 1,025 non-gazetted posts to the J&K Services Selection Board. Additionally, 802 non-gazetted posts in the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir and 608 in Jammu are under consideration and will be referred shortly, subject to financial concurrence.

The government has also filled a majority of vacant positions in Government Medical Colleges on a temporary basis under academic arrangements as per S.O 364 of 2020 to ensure continuity in patient care and academic activities.

On infrastructure, Itoo said that a comprehensive review of all Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) and associated hospitals has been conducted. While several institutions meet existing academic and clinical standards, newly established colleges face deficiencies in areas such as hostel accommodation, laboratories, diagnostic facilities, and specialized equipment. She said that these gaps are being addressed through centrally sponsored schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) and the National Health Mission, along with UT-funded projects. Construction of additional teaching blocks, expansion of hospital infrastructure, and procurement of modern medical equipment are already underway, with strict timelines set for completion.

Major infrastructure projects include the development of academic and patient care blocks at Government Medical Colleges in Srinagar, Rajouri, Baramulla, and Kathua, as well as critical care and laboratory blocks at SKIMS Bemina. Equipment upgrades are also in progress, with GMC Srinagar alone adding medical equipment worth around Rs 10 crore annually, while other institutions are acquiring advanced diagnostic tools such as CT scans and high-end ultrasonography systems.

The Minister further said that patient-centric reforms, including triage systems, online registration, improved sanitation, and expansion of telemedicine and dialysis services, are being implemented to enhance healthcare delivery.

The Directorate of AYUSH is also upgrading its facilities under the National AYUSH Mission by converting dispensaries into Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and establishing integrated AYUSH hospitals, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Looking ahead, the government plans to introduce advanced healthcare services across the UT. These include robotic surgery facilities at GMC Srinagar and GMC Jammu, establishment of dental units in all GMCs in a phased manner, and setting up of new cath labs at GMC Baramulla and GMC Doda to strengthen cardiac care.

Additionally, PET scan facilities are proposed to be extended to all remaining GMCs by 2026-27, while dialysis services will be expanded to all Sub-District Hospitals (SDHs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs). The government also plans to deploy 50 AI-enabled X-ray machines across district and sub-district hospitals to improve diagnostic efficiency.

Infrastructure upgrades such as restoration of lifts, oxygen plants, toilets, and ramps are also being undertaken to enhance patient safety and accessibility. Under the PM-ABHIM scheme, 13 critical care blocks, 111 Block Public Health Units, and 10 District Public Health Laboratories are set to be completed this year.

The Minister said that research initia-

tives focusing on cancer prevalence in horticulture-intensive areas will be undertaken through SKIMS Soura and GMC Jammu to support targeted interventions. Efforts are also being made to strengthen the nursing workforce by expanding manpower in nursing colleges across the UT.

Reaffirming the government's commitment, Itoo said that sustained interventions under central and UT funding mechanisms will ensure that all medical colleges and healthcare institutions in Jammu and Kashmir are brought at par with national standards, ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare for all—(KNO)

Lal Chowk Set For Revamp

business district and a tourist destination.

"We are not just asking for fixes, we are seeking a long-term, coordinated vision that makes Lal Chowk organized, accessible and truly tourist-friendly," he added.

As per the details, the association said peak-hour congestion, inconsistent sanitation and lack of coordinated infrastructure upgrades are affecting both traders and visitors, particularly as Srinagar witnesses a steady surge in tourist arrivals.

The traders said the Divisional Commissioner gave a patient hearing to their concerns and assured that the issues would be addressed systematically in a phased and time-bound manner.

"The response was positive. We have been assured that concrete steps will follow, and we expect visible improvements on the ground in due course," Khan said.

Reaffirming its commitment, the association said it will continue to work closely with the administration to ensure effective implementation of the proposed measures—(KNO)

13,800 Contractual

(ESI), bonus, and gratuity.

Besides, the contractual workforce is covered under social security schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), along with medical benefits. Workers are also entitled to leave with wages, national holidays, and provisions for conveyance, uniforms, and other facilities.

Meanwhile, the Centre informed that the total number of regular employees working in NHPC Limited across the country stands at 4,590 as of March 1, 2026—(KNO)

‘Over 3.21 Lakh Category

during the period.

In Jammu division, districts such as Rajouri and Poonch reported notably high numbers of Scheduled Tribe certificates, while Jammu, Kathua, and Udhampur districts also registered substantial figures across multiple categories.

In Kashmir division, districts including Baramulla, Budgam, Anantnag, and Kupwara recorded comparatively higher issuance, particularly under ST, OBC and RBA categories.

The data further reveals that 1,01,436 applications were rejected across the Union Territory, with 79,768 rejections in Jammu division and 21,728 in Kashmir division. Additionally, 7,859 applications are pending in Jammu division, while 1,487 cases remain pending in Kashmir division.

Among districts, Poonch (28,989), Udhampur (22,377), and Kathua (13,206) reported the highest number of rejected applications in Jammu division, while Baramulla (6,327), Anantnag (4,668), and Budgam (3,743) topped the list in Kashmir division.

Officials stated that applications are primarily rejected due to incomplete documentation, ineligibility, or verification-related issues, adding that efforts are underway to streamline the process and reduce pendency.

The government reiterated that the issuance of certificates is being carried out strictly in accordance with legal provisions to ensure transparency and equitable distribution of reservation benefits across Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)




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Movies Watchlist

Sunday, 5th April



THE SUPER MARIO GALAXY MOVIE (U/A)

ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

03:45 PM



DHURANDHAR THE REVENGE (A)

HINDI ATMOS - 10:00 AM, 02:25 PM, 06:50 PM

HINDI - 11:15 AM, 12:20 PM, 04:45 PM



PROJECT HAIL MARY (U/A)

ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

09:20 AM, 06:10 PM

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