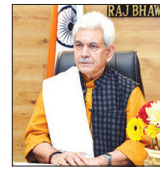


Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year of Publication

Office of LG & J&K
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The news of the deaths of several people in the boat accident that occurred in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, is extremely heart-wrenching. I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the swift recovery of the injured.

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DIPK-314/26 Dated: 10/04/2026

Dal Lake Shrinks Over 10%, CAG Flags Lapses

Encroachments Rise, Sewage Flows Untreated, Conservation Projects Delayed



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Dal Lake has lost more than 10 per cent of its open water area over the past decade, with a government audit flagging encroachments, untreated sewage and weak monitoring as key factors behind its ecological decline.

According to a report of

the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), the lake's open water spread reduced from 15.40 square kilometres in 2007 to 12.91 square kilometres in 2020, marking a decline of 10.15 per cent.

The audit noted that the shrinking water area coincided with an increase in human activity. **•P-06**

Flags Serious Ecological Concerns Over Wular Lake

SRINAGAR: Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has flagged

serious ecological concerns over Wular Lake in Kashmir, warning that the wetland is under severe stress due to encroachment and siltation. **•P-06**

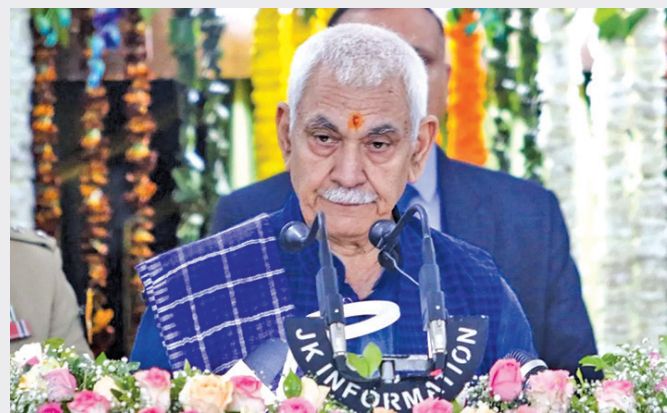
LG Sinha Calls For Mass Movement To Curb Drug Menace In J&K

AGENCIES

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that Jammu and Kashmir stands at a "very critical juncture" and called for a united mass movement to combat the growing menace of drug abuse among the youth.

Jammu and Kashmir will launch a massive assault on the drug addiction ecosystem and is all set to roll out a 100-day intensive campaign under 'Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan' from April 11, with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha reviewing its preparedness on Thursday.

The campaign will start from the Panchayat level to the Union Territory level, with the LG himself leading it. It will not only involve all sections of society but also target the issue on legal,



criminal and rehabilitation fronts. "Friends, Jammu and Kashmir today stands at a very critical juncture. Under a certain conspiracy, there is an ongoing attempt to push our youth into drug addiction and destroy an entire generation," Sinha said while addressing people of the union territory

through a video message.

Referring to efforts taken so far, the Lieutenant Governor said that the 'Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan' launched in 2020 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has led to significant anti-drug initiatives in the Union Territory.

"Since then, significant efforts have been made in Jammu and Kashmir to combat drug abuse. Last year, in 2025, a major anti-drug campaign was carried out. The actions of the police and security forces have also been effective," he said.

However, Sinha emphasised the need for a broader societal response, stating that a comprehensive plan, including a 100-day programme, has been prepared to intensify the fight against drugs.

Announcing the launch of the campaign, Sinha said that a large gathering has been planned at M A Stadium in Jammu on April 11, where civil society members, political leaders, academicians and sports persons will participate.

"On that day, we will take a pledge against drug abuse and also undertake **•P-06**

Temperature Set To Rise Across J&K: MeT



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The India Meteorological Department on Friday forecast generally dry weather in Jammu and Kashmir over the next few days, with a gradual rise in day temperatures.

An official of the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said that brief spells of light rain or thunder-showers are likely at a few places on April 11, mainly during late afternoon or evening hours.

The weather is expected to remain largely dry on April 12, with isolated light rain spells, followed by completely dry conditions on April 13 and 14. Similar conditions are likely on April 15, while scattered rain and thundershowers may occur again. **•P-06**

De-Escalation In West Asia A Relief, Humanity Must Be Saved: Dr. Farooq

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah on Friday welcomed the de-escalation of tensions in West Asia, expressing relief that the "war has stopped" and calling for lasting peace across the world.

"Thank God the war has stopped. I hope it remains stopped in the future as well, peace prevails in the world and we all benefit from it," the veteran leader told reporters here.

Emphasising the heavy toll of conflict, the former chief minister said the focus must remain on preventing human suffering.



"It is humanity that is suffering and it is humanity that must be saved," Dr Farooq Abdullah added. (KNS)

Govt Committed To Equitable Development Of Jammu, Srinagar Cities: Dy CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Friday reiterated the Government's firm commitment towards ensuring balanced and equitable development of both Jammu and Srinagar cities.

The Deputy Chief Minister made these remarks while interacting with various public and individual delegations at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

A delegation led by former MLC, Rattan Lal Gupta, along with Tejinder Pal Singh (Aman) called on the Deputy Chief Minister and highlighted several issues and demands pertaining to the



development of Jammu city.

Giving a patient hearing to the delegation, the Deputy Chief Minister assured that the Government is focused on holistic

and robust development across all regions, with special emphasis on key urban centres like Jammu and Srinagar.

He stated that a series of progressive initiatives are being undertaken, ranging from city beautification to creation and upgradation of essential infrastructure, including roads and civic amenities, aimed at enhancing the overall quality of life for residents.

The Deputy Chief Minister issued necessary directions to the concerned departments for prompt and effective redressal of issues impacting day-to-day life in the Jammu region.

During the interaction, **•P-06**

■ Census 2027 Summit

Census 2027 'NDTM' Setting Foundation For Viksit Bharat: CS



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Highlighting that India is at a crucial "data inflection point," Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today stated that the upcoming Census 2027 is not merely an enumeration exercise but a National Digital Transformation Mission that will set the bedrock for a 'Viksit Bharat' and evidence-based policy planning.

The Chief Secretary

made these remarks while speaking at the Census 2027 Summit held today at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu.

The summit was participated by the senior administrators, development partners and policy experts to deliberate upon the roadmap, preparedness and significance of Census of India 2027, the country's first-ever fully digital and paperless census exercise.

The Summit **•P-06**

'Sabka Malik Ek Hai'

Army Chief Says 'Op Sindoor' Attacks Timed To Avoid Namaz Hours

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Chief of Army Staff General Upenendra Dwivedi said that the timing of India's cross-border strikes under Operation Sindoor was carefully chosen to avoid hitting targets when prayers were being offered, underlining a calibrated approach during the operation.

Speaking at the 'Ran Samvad 2026' forum in Bengaluru, the Army chief said the armed forces had the operational flexibility to strike at any hour but consciously avoided specific timings.

"We could have struck at 2

am or 4 am, at any given time. But we ensured we did not act when people might be offering Namaz at the terrorist camps," he said, adding that the decision reflected both operational planning and broader considerations.

Dwivedi remarked that the forces chose a window when such religious activity was not taking place, noting that "there is one God for all," while explaining the rationale behind the timing.

Operation Sindoor was launched in May last year following the April 22 terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, in which 26 people, mostly tourists,



were killed. Indian forces carried out precision strikes on terror launchpads across the border and in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

The Army chief said the

operation marked a significant step in enhancing jointness among the armed forces, describing it as a "case study" in evolving military coordination. However, he added that the next objective is to achieve deeper integration and fusion across domains.

He also highlighted the growing importance of non-kinetic aspects of warfare, stating that a portion of the effort during the operation was focused on countering misinformation.

"Nearly 15 per cent of the effort went into managing disinformation," he said, adding that the military has since taken steps **•P-06**

India-Japan Discuss West Asia Conflict

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke to his Japanese counterpart on Friday to discuss the developments in West Asia and international shipping via the Strait of Hormuz.

The call between the leaders lasted for approximately 20 minutes.

Sharing the details of the conversation in a post on X, EAM also appreciated the message of condolence for the lives of Indians lost in the conflict during his call with Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi.

"Good to speak with FM Toshimitsu Motegi of Japan. Discussed developments in West Asia, including international shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. Appreciate his condolences for the Indian lives lost in the conflict", EAM wrote on X. **•P-06**

J&K, Ladakh Likely To Face 8% Power Crunch This April

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are likely to face nearly eight percent power deficit against the total availability during the peak hours in the ongoing month of April.

According to the official documents, Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) has anticipated a power deficit of minus 7.7 per cent during the peak hours for the month of April-2026.

The officials have projected that there will be a total of 2880 Megawatts (MWs) power availability in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh against the total anticipated require-

ment of 3119 MWs during the peak hours.

It also said that there will be surplus power of 4.8 per cent during the other hours except from the peak hours.

As already reported in March that from the upcoming financial year 2026-27, Jammu and Kashmir will likely require 3813 MWs of power during the peak demand.

The authorities had further projected that in the financial year 2027-28 Jammu and Kashmir will require 3964 MWs of electricity during the peak hours followed by 4117 MWs of energy in the financial year 2028-29.

Apart from peak **•P-06**

DC Anantnag reviews JK Samadhan

Stresses on ensuring Time-Bound, quality Redressal of Public Grievances

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat, Friday directed officers to ensure time-bound and quality redressal of public grievances received through the JK Samadhan and CPGRAMS portals, adding that prompt response by concerned officials is essential to enhance public service delivery.

He also called for the speedy disposal of offline grievances pertaining to various departments to clear pendency in the district. The public must get the benefits of responsible and accountable governance which focuses on expeditious and quality grievance redressal, he remarked.

The DC issued these directions while chairing a comprehensive review meeting of all departments at Dak Bungalow, Khanabal. Principal GMC Anantnag, ADC, GM DIC, SE PWD, ACR, CPO, SDMs, ACD, Executive Engineer R&B, Jal Shakti, PDD and I&FC, all district and sectoral officers attended the meeting.



On the occasion, the DC took a detailed review of the JK Samadhan and CPGRAMS grievances of each department and enquired about the status of their resolution. He was informed that out of 5418 grievances received on JK Samadhan and 5908 on CPGRAMS, 4934 (91.07 percent) and 5350 (84.90 percent) respectively have been resolved so far. Further, a total of 03 and 19 grievances in different departments are pending resolution above 28 and 60 days respectively.

Taking note of the grievances pending above 28 & 60 days, the DC directed the

concerned departments to immediately resolve the same adding it should be a norm that no grievance remains unresolved beyond 28 days.

Regarding status of citizen registration on JK Samadhan, Dr. Bilal directed the departments to make efforts to push the figures to 100 percent from current 89 percent, in near future.

Asking officers to personally monitor the grievance redressal process on JK Samadhan and CPGRAMS Portals, the DC directed them to make proper analysis of grievances received with special

focus on their nature and place of origin. The mapping of data will shift the approach of redressal from mechanical to organic one, helping departments to take corrective measures at administrative and grass root levels ab initio and avoid recurrent public concerns, he noted.

He further directed that a uniform format be devised to help the officers to analyse the grievances received and submit details regularly. Committees shall be constituted to test check the quality of grievance redressal and performance of departments will be rated as per the actual public satisfaction, he said.

Stating that quality grievance redressal shall no way act as an impediment, the DC enjoined upon the officers to minimise any delays, ensuring grievances do not become chronic and turn into complaints.

At conclusion, the DC announced that the district is working to launch a Digital Arzi Management System enabling him to keep track of the offline grievances forwarded to the concerned departments.

Grand Finale of MY Bharat Budget Quest 2026 to be Held in Srinagar

Women's Youth Parliament on "Nari Shakti: Viksit Bharat Ki Awaaz" to be key highlight

GMK NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar: Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, will organise the grand finale of MY Bharat Budget Quest 2026 - Zone 1 (J&K-Ladakh) on April 12-13, 2026 at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre, Srinagar.

The two-day event will bring together selected youth participants from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh who have progressed through a multi-stage national competition linked to the Union Budget 2026. The programme forms part of a nationwide initiative involving over 15,000 youth across 17 locations representing all States and Union Territories.

Launched on February 2, 2026 by Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, the MY Bharat Budget Quest has emerged as a platform for engaging youth in policy discourse aligned



with national development priorities. The initiative was conducted in three stages, including a national quiz, an essay competition across nine development themes, and interaction with leadership.

The programme witnessed participation from over 12 lakh youth and received more than 46,500 essay submissions from across the country.

During the Srinagar finale, participants will deliberate on themes such as human capital development, education, skill development, employment and sustainable development, reflecting key priori-

ties of national policy. A major highlight of the event will be the Women's Youth Parliament on the theme "Nari Shakti: Viksit Bharat Ki Awaaz". The session will feature structured parliamentary-style discussions by women participants on the Women's Reservation Bill, culminating in the adoption of a resolution.

The programme will also include an inaugural session, MY Bharat engagement sessions and expert panel discussions on April 13, focusing on sectoral aspects of the Union Budget.

As part of community engagement, a 'Sundays on Cycle' initiative will also be organised in Srinagar in collaboration with the Sports Authority of India, promoting awareness on sustainable development.

A total of 621 selected participants from Zone 1 will engage in discussions and interactions with experts and peers, contributing ideas and perspectives on policy and development.

The event aims to provide a platform for youth to participate in policy dialogue and contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

Show Cause Notices Issued to 3 LPG Agencies in Anantnag Over Irregularities



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Kashmir, Office of the Assistant Director Anantnag (Executive Magistrate 1st Class), has issued show cause notices to three LPG distributorships operating in Anantnag district over alleged irregularities in LPG distribution and violation of statutory provisions.

As per the notices issued to three gas agencies in the district, the action has been initiated on the basis of inspections, consumer complaints and official reports highlighting serious lapses in service delivery.

The department has observed that there have been repeated complaints of undue delays and non-delivery of LPG cylinders to registered consumers despite confirmed bookings, with reports of delays extending up to 60 days in several areas.

It further states that consumer grievances were either not addressed or were inadequately resolved, indicating alleged negligence in grievance redressal mechanisms.

The notices also take serious note of reports regarding issuance of false or fake delivery confirmation messages without actual supply of LPG cylinders to consumers.

In addition, one of the agencies has been accused of distributing LPG cylinders

from unauthorized locations despite repeated directions from the concerned authorities.

The department has stated that the alleged acts amount to violations of the LPG (Regulation) Order, 2000 and the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, particularly Section 7 thereof, besides constituting deficiency in service and unfair trade practices under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

All three agencies have been directed to submit their replies within three days along with supporting documents, failing which action as deemed fit under relevant laws shall be initiated without further notice. (KNC)

Public delegations from Bijbehara, Uri call on Altaf Bukhari

Apprise Apni Party president of pressing public issues and grievances



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A couple of public delegations Friday met Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari and apprised him of several pressing public issues and grievances, requesting him to use his influence to ensure these issues are addressed promptly.

According to a press release issued here, a delegation from South Kashmir's Bijbehara met Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari and informed him about the continuous closure of tourist spots, including those located in Langanbal, Bijbe-

hara and Srigufwara in South Kashmir's Anantnag district. They said that the prolonged closure of these and several other tourist destinations is adversely impacting the livelihood of hundreds of families who depend on tourism. Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari assured them that he would take up the issue at the highest levels of government and urge the prompt reopening of the closed tourist destinations in south Kashmir and other parts of the valley.

Apni Party's Senior Vice President Ghulam Hassan Mir, General Secretary Rafi Ahmad Mir, and District President Anantnag

Mufti Mohammad Sarwar were also present on this occasion.

Meanwhile, a delegation of members from the Pahari Forum also met Apni Party President to inform him about certain issues. The visiting delegation raised several issues that their community is facing. They demanded ST status for the entire Uri. Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari gave a patient hearing to the delegation members and assured them that he would raise the issues highlighted by them at the appropriate level in the administration.

SEBI organizes Regional Investor Awareness Seminar to promote financial literacy



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Regional Investor Awareness Seminar was successfully organized by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd, in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare, Srinagar.

The initiative aimed to promote financial literacy and enhance investor awareness among stakeholders connected with child care institutions.

The seminar witnessed enthusiastic participation from officials of the Department of Social Welfare, along with representatives and beneficiaries from several child care institutions, including Palaash/Paresha, Intellectual Home, Observation Home, and the Specialized Adoption Agency (SAA).

The program was designed to equip participants with essential knowledge on financial planning, prudent investment practices, and the importance of making well-informed financial decisions.

Key sessions covered a broad range of topics such

as an introduction to the securities market, strategies to identify and avoid fraudulent investment schemes, and the critical role of SEBI in protecting investor interests. SEBI officials underscored the importance of extending financial awareness initiatives to grassroots levels, particularly targeting vulnerable and underserved communities.

The seminar also featured interactive sessions that encouraged active engagement, allowing participants to seek clarifications and deepen their understanding of core financial concepts.

The Department of Social Welfare expressed sincere appreciation for SEBI's efforts and emphasized the value of such collaborative initiatives in empowering individuals associated with child care institutions through financial education.

The program concluded with a strong and impactful message advocating responsible investing and reaffirming the collective commitment to fostering a financially aware and informed society.

DC Budgam reviews progress of 125-Bedded Hospital, 100-Bedded CCU at Reshipora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: In a follow-up review meeting, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Friday assessed the progress of the under-construction 125-bedded hospital and the 100-bedded Critical Care Unit (CCU) at Reshipora Budgam.

The DC conducted a comprehensive review of both projects, which are being developed to significantly enhance healthcare infrastructure and ensure improved medical services for the people of the district.

During the meeting, the DC took a detailed appraisal of the proposed hospital infrastructure, including building arrangements,

functional requirements, and floor-wise facilities.

He emphasised that the hospital must be developed as a modern, patient-centric institution equipped with all essential healthcare services.

A detailed status of the 100-bedded CCU, a G+3 structure, was also reviewed. The CCU is envisioned as a key facility for strengthening emergency and critical care services in the district.

Officials informed that since the project was handed over in May 2024, substantial physical progress has been achieved. Major works including pile cap casting, plinth level columns, plinth beam RCC, and ground floor slab have been completed. Construction of upper floors



is progressing steadily, with nearly 50% completion of the first and second floor slabs, while AAC block masonry work is also underway.

It was further informed that the remaining work on the second floor slab is targeted for completion by mid-

dards, safety norms, and timelines.

He reiterated that the 125-bedded hospital and the 100-bedded CCU at Reshipora Budgam will play a transformative role in strengthening healthcare delivery, particularly in critical and emergency care services.

The DC instructed officers to maintain close coordination, promptly address bottlenecks, and ensure timely completion of both projects for the larger public benefit. He further reiterated that the district administration remains committed to augmenting healthcare infrastructure and providing accessible, quality medical services to the people of Budgam.

3-day Divisional-level awareness programme concludes in Udhampur

GMK NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: The three-day Divisional-level awareness Programme concluded Friday with the District Administration Udhampur, in collaboration with School Education Department, organizing a padyatra to promote Nasha Mukta Udhampur Abhiyan, with the message 'Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life.'

The padyatra was flagged off from Domail Chowk by Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa in presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Joint Director School Education

Udhampur-Reasi Dr. Jagdish Chander Mehra and Chief Education Officer Subash Gupta.

Briefing the media, the Deputy Commissioner informed that a series of activities were conducted across the district during the three-day programme to sensitize students and other stakeholders on essential issues such as road safety, environmental protection, mental health, drug de-addiction and career guidance. He emphasized the need to promote responsible behaviour and strengthen grassroots outreach.

The DC stated that the main objective of organizing the padyatra was to educate people about the harmful effects of drug and substance abuse. He reiterated that awareness and education are the most powerful tools in the fight against drug abuse.

A large number of staff members, students and other stakeholders participated enthusiastically in the rally. The padyatra passed through Dhar Road, Barian, Slathia Chowk, Court Road, Ramnagar Chowk, Gole market and culminated at Government Boys Higher Secondary School.

MP Mehdi chairs review meeting at G'bal, stresses improved healthcare delivery

₹129.14 lakh approved for utilization across various CSSs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Member of Parliament (MP) from Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi Friday chaired a review meeting in Ganderbal to assess healthcare services and development works at District Hospital Ganderbal.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of implementation of government health schemes was carried out. The Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Ganderbal, presented a detailed overview of the hospital's performance, achievements, and ongoing initiatives aimed at strengthening patient care.

Commending the efforts of the hospital administration and staff, the MP lauded their dedication and professionalism in delivering healthcare services. He appreciated the visible improvements and urged the team to further enhance their efforts to provide quality healthcare facilities to the people.

Highlighting recent developments, the MP said that most of the demands projected by the hospital for better equipment and facilities have been approved. He informed



that one CT scan machines has already been installed and inaugurated recently, while another is planned for Budgam. He also stated that a formal request has been placed with the Government of India for MRI machines to further strengthen diagnostic services.

Emphasizing the need for self-sufficiency in healthcare, the MP said the objective is to make local health institutions fully functional and well-equipped so that referrals to other districts are minimized. He stressed that performance will be assessed based on public feedback and measurable

improvements in patient care.

The MP assured full support in addressing healthcare needs and reiterated his role as a facilitator between the district administration and the Union Health Ministry.

The meeting also reviewed the functioning of the Rogi Kalyan Samiti (RKS), which serves as a platform for planning and improving hospital services with a focus on patient welfare and efficient use of resources. Key programmes including Ayushman Bharat, DNB, DEIC and NQAS were discussed with emphasis on patient-centric service delivery.

An amount of ₹ 129.14 lakh was approved under existing resources of the District Hospital for utilization across various centrally sponsored schemes.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Faheem Bhaq; Chief Planning Officer, Shah Nawaz Ahmad; Medical Superintendent District Hospital Ganderbal, Dr. Faraz Shafi and other district and sectoral officers besides Doctors and officials from D.H Ganderbal.

Govt to leverage ADV to ensure timely delivery of welfare benefits to public

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a significant move towards strengthening digital governance and ensuring fiscal prudence, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has launched a Centralized Aadhaar Data Vault (ADV) to streamline public service delivery and enhance oversight of social security schemes across departments and financial institutions.

The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, who underscored the transformative potential of the initiative and directed the concerned departments to identify and onboard additional government services that can be brought under the ambit of the Aadhaar Data Vault to maximize its impact and utility.

The meeting was also attended by ACS, Finance, Shailendra Kumar; MD, J&K Bank, Amitava Chatterjee; Commissioner Secretary, Information and Planning Departments, R Alice Vaz; DG, E&S, Ather Hussain Qadri; Scientists from NIC (J&K Chapter); Representatives from SBI and other Banks along with senior officers from the PD&MD.

Importantly, the Chief Secretary urged the banks to leverage this platform to streamline insurance claim settlements under PMJJBY and PMSBY by enabling instant verification of death records,



thereby facilitating timely disbursement of benefits to rightful nominees.

Simultaneously, he underscored on the necessity that the system should be utilised in automatically identifying cases where government benefits such as pensions, social security assistance, and rations under Public Distribution System (PDS) continue to be availed even after the death of beneficiaries, thereby plugging leakages and safeguarding public resources.

He enjoined upon the NIC to allow this initiative be also used to ease the onboarding process for departments and institutions by providing a single, secure gateway for verification and eligibility checks, reducing both administrative and technical complexities.

On this occasion it was presented by the NIC that the newly established Aadhaar Data Vault has been integrated with the Civil Registration System, including the Birth and

Death Portal here, to function as a secure and specialized Aadhaar Data Vault-as-a-Service (ADVaaS). This unified digital infrastructure is designed to act as a "Single Source of Truth," enabling real-time, secure, and authenticated access to vital records while strictly adhering to UIDAI-prescribed security and privacy protocols.

The initiative focuses on creating a robust and scalable platform for managing civil registration data and Aadhaar-based authentication services. It incorporates seamless API integration with the Office of the Registrar General of India (ORGI) to access real-time master and transactional data. Automated schedulers have been deployed to ensure periodic updates of records, keeping the system dynamic and accurate.

Additionally, the platform enables inter-departmental integration through standardized APIs, thereby eliminating the need for multiple Memorandums

of Understanding and significantly simplifying data-sharing processes.

The Centralized ADV is expected to play a transformative role in strengthening the delivery and monitoring of welfare schemes. By introducing a "Single Token per Aadhaar" framework, the system facilitates effective de-duplication, preventing multiple or fraudulent claims across schemes and departments.

Describing the initiative as a milestone in governance reforms, the Chief Secretary emphasized that the centralized Aadhaar Data Vault reflects the administration's commitment to leveraging technology for data-driven decision-making. He reiterated that by ensuring accurate, secure, and real-time access to critical data, the government aims to protect public funds while guaranteeing that welfare benefits are delivered efficiently and reach to the intended beneficiaries in a time-bound manner.

Anantnag's maternity hospital continues to function from unsafe structure

'Work on 250 bedded maternity & child care hospital to start soon'

JAHANGEER GANAIE

ANANTNAG: The maternity hospital in Anantnag, a key healthcare facility catering to patients from across south Kashmir as well as parts of Ramban and the Chenab Valley, continues to operate from a building deemed unsafe for over a decade, raising serious safety and infrastructure concerns.

Officials said that the hospital witnesses heavy patient inflow daily, with nearly 100 patients admitted in labour and surgical wards every night. In addition, the Out-Patient Department (OPD) records thousands of visits each day.

Despite the overwhelming demand, the facility is limited to just two labour wards and four surgical wards, along with a single operation theatre.

The acute shortage of space has led to overcrowding, with multiple patients often sharing beds. The hospital environment

remains congested and chaotic, making it difficult for patients and attendants to move freely within the premises.

An official said the current building was declared unsafe by the Fire and Emergency Services department nearly 12 years ago. Concerns have repeatedly been raised about the potential risks, with officials questioning accountability in case of any untoward incident.

"Following the declaration, there were initial plans to relocate the hospital to the Janglat Mandi. However, the decision was reversed within a day due to external pressures. Later, the government proposed shifting the facility to the Rehmat-e-Alam Trust building in Sarnal," he said.

Although around Rs 13 crore were spent on constructing two additional floors, the plan was eventually shelved after the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu found the structure non-compliant with post-2005 earthquake safety norms. Experts had suggested retrofitting and strengthening the building's core structure at an estimated cost of ₹8 crore.



However, the proposal was not pursued, leaving the hospital to continue functioning in the same unsafe and overcrowded conditions. Data indicates that the hos-

pital caters to over 50,000 OPD patients and around 10,000 indoor patients every month, with many travelling from remote areas of South Kashmir and even parts of Jammu division.

In a partial step towards decongestion, the paediatrics section was shifted last year to the associated hospital of Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag at Janglat Mandi. Officials said that efforts are underway to relocate the gynaecology and obstetrics sections as well.

Meanwhile, the government has sanctioned a 250-bedded Maternity and Child Care Hospital at Janglat Mandi, and work on the project is expected to commence soon. However, until the full relocation is completed, the existing situation continues to pose significant challenges for both patients and healthcare staff—(KNO)

Director A&T Kashmir reviews functioning of Saddar Treasury Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director, Accounts and Treasuries (A&T) Kashmir, Imtiyaz Ahmad Wani, Friday paid a maiden visit to Saddar Treasury Srinagar to review its functioning and assess service delivery mechanisms.

During the visit, the Director laid special emphasis on ensuring smooth, efficient, and citizen-friendly services for pensioners. He took a detailed review of the pension section, focusing on ease of access, availability of ramps, and adequate seating arrangements for visiting pensioners. He also interacted with sev-

eral pensioners on the spot to gauge their satisfaction levels and receive direct feedback.

The Director further reviewed the overall functioning of the treasury with respect to financial governance. He assessed the status of IT interventions, the level of computerisation, and inspected the attendance of employees to ensure discipline and efficiency in service delivery.

Reiterating the importance of responsive and transparent governance, the Director stressed the need for continuous improvement in public service delivery and effective utilisation of technology in treasury operations.

183 out of 236 posts lying vacant at GMC Udhampur

31 among 34 posts unfilled at Trauma centre Udhampur

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Government Medical College (GMC) Udhampur is facing a severe manpower crisis, with an overwhelming majority of sanctioned posts lying vacant, raising serious concerns about the quality of healthcare services being delivered at the institution.

According to details accessed, out of a total of 236 sanctioned posts at GMC Udhampur, only 53 personnel are currently in position, while as many as 183 posts remain vacant, severely affecting the functioning of the hospital.

The data further reveals a significant shortage across key categories. Of the 67 sanctioned posts of Assistant Professors, only 34 are filled—including six on an academic arrangement basis—while 39 posi-

tions continue to remain vacant. Similarly, the situation among Medical Officers is alarming, with just one doctor in place against 12 sanctioned posts, leaving 11 posts unfilled.

The nursing segment,

is equally grim. Of the 34 sanctioned posts, merely three are filled, while 31 positions are lying vacant, severely impacting emergency and critical care services. Residents have

expressed deep concern over the staff shortage, stating that the lack of adequate manpower is directly affecting patient care and leading to hardships for those seeking treatment. "Patients are suffering due to the shortage of doctors and paramedical staff. The government must act

considered the backbone of patient care, is also under immense strain. Out of 163 sanctioned staff nurse posts, only 30 are currently filled on an academic arrangement basis, while a staggering 133 positions are vacant.

The situation at the Trauma Centre Udhampur

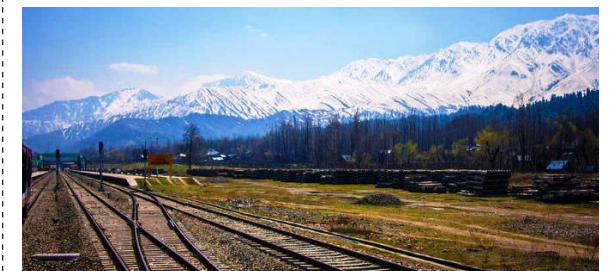
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The situation at the Trauma Centre Udhampur

Railway Ministry approves 'Final Location Survey' for Reasi-Poonch rail line



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Ministry of Railways has approved the 'Final Location Survey' (FLS) for a proposed new railway line between Reasi and Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to an order issued by the Railway Board, the survey to be carried out by Northern Railway, will cover a distance of around 190 kilometres and has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs 26.41 crore.

The order stated: "The approval was communicated on April 8, following a proposal submitted by Northern Railway in

December last year."

Officials said the survey will determine the feasibility, alignment and technical aspects of the proposed rail link aimed at improving connectivity in the region.

The expenditure for the survey will be met under the Railways' head for policy formulation, research and miscellaneous works, the order added.

The proposed line is expected to enhance rail connectivity in the border districts of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly linking the Pir Panjal region with the existing rail network—(KNO)

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

A Step In The Right Direction

After a phase of political distance, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi appears to be re-engaging on the ground, signalling a more hands-on approach to public issues. His recent visit to District Hospital Ganderbal sends a positive message—that healthcare at the grassroots is beginning to receive the attention it has long needed.

For years, residents of smaller districts have faced a common struggle: travelling to Srinagar even for basic diagnostic tests. This not only increases expenses but often delays timely treatment. In that context, the installation of a CT scan machine at Ganderbal hospital is a meaningful development. It brings essential services closer to people's doorsteps, easing both financial and physical strain. The proposal to introduce MRI facilities further adds to this sense of progress.

What makes this visit noteworthy is its focus on practical improvements rather than mere announcements. Schemes like Ayushman Bharat have already helped make healthcare more affordable, but their true impact depends on how effectively they are implemented at the local level. Regular reviews and monitoring can ensure that these benefits actually reach the people they are meant for.

Equally important is the emphasis on public feedback. Healthcare is ultimately about the patient's experience—how quickly they are treated, how they are cared for, and how accessible services are. Taking people's feedback seriously can help build trust and improve the overall quality of care.

That said, challenges cannot be ignored. Installing new machines is only the beginning. Hospitals also need trained staff, proper maintenance, and efficient systems to ensure these facilities are fully utilized. Without this, even the best resources may not deliver the desired results.

The larger goal of strengthening local hospitals and reducing referrals is both important and timely. When district hospitals become self-reliant, patients no longer need to move from one place to another for treatment. This not only saves time and money but can also make a critical difference in emergencies.

Overall, this initiative reflects a step in the right direction. The real test, however, lies in consistent follow-up and visible improvements on the ground. For the people of Ganderbal, the hope is simple—that these efforts translate into better, more accessible healthcare in their everyday lives.

Mahatma Jyotirao Phule: A Light That Still Shows India The Way



NARENDRA MODI

Today, 11th April, is a deeply special day for all of us. It is the birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, one of India's greatest social reformers and a guiding light for generations. This year, the occasion carries even greater significance, as it marks the beginning of his 200th birth anniversary celebrations.

Mahatma Phule was a great reformer. In addition to that, his was a life of moral courage, restless enquiry and unshakable commitment to social good. Mahatma Phule is remembered for the institutions he built and the movements he led. At the same time, his contribution to our civilisational journey lies in the hope he aroused, the confidence he instilled and the strength his thoughts continue to give to millions of people across the nation.

Born in the great state of Maharashtra in 1827, Mahatma Phule emerged from modest beginnings. But his initial hardships never stood in the way of his learning, his courage or his commitment to society. This is a trait that remained with him forever: whatever the challenges may be, one must work hard, acquire knowledge and mitigate those challenges instead of doing nothing about it. From his school days, young Jyotirao was deeply curious and became a voracious reader, often reading books far beyond what children his age were expected to engage with. Years later, he said, "The more questions we generate, the more knowledge emerges from them." Clearly, the spirit of enquiry he was blessed with since his childhood remained constant in his journey.

Throughout his life, learning and education became central to Mahatma Phule's mission. He recognised with rare clarity that knowledge is not a privilege to be guarded, but a force to be shared. At a time when the joys of learning were denied to many, he opened pioneering schools for girls and for those kept out of formal education. He used to say, "Any improvement that comes in children through mothers is deeply



valuable. Therefore, if schools are to be opened, they should first be opened for girls." He worked to create a new social imagination in which the classroom became an instrument of justice and equality.

His vision for education inspires us greatly. Over the last decade, we have worked to make research and innovation a cornerstone for the youth of India. Efforts are being made to create an ecosystem where young minds are encouraged to question, explore and innovate. By investing in knowledge, skills and opportunity, India is empowering its youth to become problem-solvers and drivers of national progress.

Due to his knowledge and wisdom, Mahatma Phule developed a strong understanding of areas such as agriculture, healthcare and rural development. He often said that injustice towards our farmers and workers weakens our society. He saw how social inequalities manifested themselves in daily life, be it in the farms or in villages. Hence, he immersed himself in ensuring dignity for the poor, the downtrodden and the marginalised. At the same time, he made every possible effort to ensure social harmony was maintained.

Mahatma Phule opined, (True freedom cannot be achieved until everyone in society is granted equal rights). And for that, he built institutions that translated this vision into action, contributing to a just society. The Satyashodhak Samaj, founded by him, was one of the most

important social reform movements in modern India. It was at the forefront of social reform, community service and furthering human dignity. It became an effective voice for women, youngsters and those living in villages. This movement reflected Mahatma Phule's intrinsic belief that society could be strengthened by placing at its core justice, respect for every person and a spirit of collective progress.

His personal life, too, carried lessons in courage. Always working and being among the people took a toll on his health. But even the most serious health challenges did not dim his resolve. After suffering a debilitating stroke, he continued to work and fulfil his vision. Yes, his body had been tested, but his commitment to society had not yielded. For millions today, especially those who draw courage from struggle, this remains one of the most powerful dimensions of his life.

No remembrance of Mahatma Phule can be complete without a respectful mention of Savitribai Phule, who was herself one of the tallest reformers of our nation. As one of India's pioneering women teachers, she played a defining role in advancing education for girls, thus giving them the opportunity to pursue their dreams. After Mahatma Phule's passing, Savitribai carried forward that torch and, in 1897, during a plague outbreak, she served victims with such devotion that she herself contracted the dis-

ease and lost her own life.

Our land has been blessed, time and again, by great men and women who have strengthened society through thought, sacrifice and action. They did not wait for change to arrive from somewhere else. They became its source. For hundreds of years in our land, the clarion call for social betterment has often risen from within society itself, from those who could see suffering clearly and refused to accept it as fate. Mahatma Jyotirao Phule was one such voice.

I fondly recall my visit to Pune in 2022, when I had offered tributes to Mahatma Phule at his grand statue in the city. As we mark the beginning of his bicentenary year, the most fitting tribute to Mahatma Jyotirao Phule is about renewal. Renewal of our commitment to subjects close to his heart, such as education. Renewal of our sensitivity to injustice. Renewal of our faith that society can improve itself from within. His life tells us that the power of community can achieve miracles in India when joined with moral clarity and public purpose. That is why he still gives strength to millions. That is why his words and work still carry hope. And that is why, nearly two hundred years after his birth, Mahatma Jyotirao Phule remains not a figure of the past, but a guide for India's future. (PIB)

Author is Prime Minister of India

COMMERCIALIZATION OF FAITH

Question On VIP Darshan And Neglect Of Common Devotees

Where Does The Common Devotee Stand In The Growing Trend Of VIP Darshan?



DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

In a country like India, where religion and faith are not merely a matter of personal belief but an integral part of social and cultural life, temples and pilgrimage sites have played a vital role. For centuries, these places have been considered symbols of equality, peace, and spiritual balance. "All are equal in God's court"—this statement is not just an ideal but a deeply held belief in Indian society. However, in recent years, this belief has been questioned.

Many major temples and pilgrimage sites across the country charge hefty fees for VIP darshan, special pujas, abhishekam, and aarti. In exchange for these services, devotees are promised relief from long queues, reduced darshan time, and a more convenient experience. At first glance, this system appears to be an alternative, but when it impacts the experience of ordinary devotees, it becomes a serious social problem.

Today, the situation is such that on one hand, there are those who, by paying extra money, can easily have darshan

in a few minutes, while on the other, large numbers of ordinary people stand in queues for hours, sometimes even entire days. During this time, they face crowds, jostling, rude behavior, and sometimes even physical violence. This experience is not only uncomfortable but also humiliating—especially when one has come there with faith and devotion.

It's natural to question whether faith itself is becoming a "premium service"? Should there be discrimination based on economic status even for the sake of seeing God? This situation isn't limited to religious sites, but rather reflects the growing inequality in our society. From ration shops to gas cylinder lines, and now even temples—the middle class and common people often face chaos and struggle.

The argument in favor of VIP culture is that it provides additional revenue to temples, which can be used to improve their facilities and services. This argument is somewhat valid. Large temples receive millions of devotees daily, making it difficult to manage them. Therefore, if some people pay an additional fee and demand special arrangements, the proceeds could be used for public amenities.

But problems arise when this system becomes unbalanced. When VIP privileges become so abundant that the resources



and time available to ordinary devotees begin to fall short, it becomes a form of injustice. It has often been observed that general queues are blocked for VIP darshan, further prolonging the wait for ordinary people. This naturally leads to dissatisfaction and resentment.

Furthermore, the behavior of temple staff and security personnel is also a significant issue. In many cases, ordinary devotees are treated rudely and disrespectfully, while VIPs are treated with extreme courtesy. This duality further deepens the existing class divide in society.

This is also negatively impacting the very spirit of religious sites. Temples are not just places of worship, but also centers of mental peace and spiritual balance. When visitors encounter chaos, crowds, and discrimination, their spiritual experience

is affected. This experience can leave them feeling disappointed and frustrated.

The solution to this problem is not easy, but it is not impossible. First, temple administrations should ensure that the number and impact of VIP services are limited. These services should only be intended to provide additional convenience, not to curtail the rights of ordinary devotees.

Second, modern technologies can be used for crowd management. Measures such as online booking, time slot systems, and digital queue management can better manage crowds, ensuring an orderly and respectful experience for all devotees.

Third, staff and security personnel should be trained in sensitivity and courtesy. Every devotee, whether VIP or ordinary, deserves respect. This sentiment should be reflected not only in

policies but also in practice.

Fourth, the government and relevant trusts should establish clear guidelines on this issue. Ensuring equality and transparency at religious sites is not just an administrative responsibility, but also a moral one.

Finally, it's also essential that society itself becomes aware of this issue. As long as people continue to accept this inequality as normal, it's difficult to bring about change. Faith isn't just about worship, but also about embracing values like equality, compassion, and justice.

It's time to reflect on the direction we're headed. Are we heading toward a society where even the vision of God is determined by money and access? Or will we preserve the original spirit, where every person enjoys equal rights and respect?

The sanctity of temples is determined not merely by their grandeur or order, but by the experience one receives there. If that experience is fraught with discrimination and inequality, the foundation of faith will be weakened. Therefore, it is essential that we take this issue seriously and work together to create an environment where every devotee feels truly present in the court of God—where all are equal.

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Juvenile Brutality: Time For Collective Intervention

LALIT GARGG

The rising tendency of violence and brutal mindset among Indian adolescents is deeply alarming. It stands as an ugly blot. In recent times, the increasing inclination toward aggression among teenagers has become frightening, distressing, and horrifying. The concern is even more serious because the very age that is meant for building the mental and social foundation of young minds is now witnessing the growth of cruelty and violent behavior. With changing times, the intensity of aggression in society is no longer confined to adults. Its most disturbing impact is now clearly visible among the juvenile generation. In recent years, the number of crimes committed by juveniles and the brutality involved have shaken society at its core. This is no longer merely a law-and-order issue; it has become a reflection of a deep crisis in social structure, family values, the education system, and cultural influences.

A recent incident in Delhi's Dayalpur area, where a young man was brutally murdered over a dispute of merely four hundred rupees by three juveniles while a fourth recorded the act, exemplifies this horrifying distortion. This was not just a murder—it symbolized the erosion of sensitivity, the decline of morality, and the disappearance of fear of law. Naturally, the question arises: where is this audacity and violent tendency among adolescents coming from? In reality, the rising graph of juvenile crime is the result of several interconnected factors that require careful analysis.

The foremost reason is the breakdown of family structures. Earlier, in joint families, children naturally imbibed values of discipline, morality, and social conduct from elders. Today, in nuclear families, due to the busyness of parents and lack of time, communication with children has significantly reduced. As a result, adoles-

cents seek answers to their questions and problems outside the family, often leading them in the wrong direction. The second major factor is the uncontrolled influence of digital and social media. While the internet has opened doors to knowledge, it has also made violent, criminal, and explicit content easily accessible. Films, web series, and television shows often glamorize violence, which deeply influences young minds. Adolescents begin to perceive crime as an act of courage or thrill, forgetting its devastating real-life consequences.

The third aspect concerns the education system. Today, education is largely confined to examinations and employment. Moral education, character building, and value-based learning have nearly disappeared. Teachers, too, are increasingly restricted to completing syllabi rather than acting as mentors and guides. The atmosphere of discipline and dialogue that schools should nurture is gradually fading. Additionally, growing intolerance and aggression in society are shaping adolescent behavior. When young individuals observe people resorting to violence even over minor disputes, such behavior becomes normalized for them. Increasing hostility in politics, media, and public discourse further reinforces similar reactions in their minds.

Another serious factor behind juvenile crimes is the exploitation of adolescents by criminal gangs. Due to relatively lenient laws for juveniles, these groups often use them as tools for illegal activities. Moreover, the rising trend of substance abuse is pushing teenagers toward crime. To sustain their addiction, they may resort to theft, robbery, and even heinous acts like murder. It is also important to note that the leniency in juvenile justice laws sometimes acts as a shield for offenders. Despite involvement in serious crimes, juveniles are often released early, diminishing their fear of legal consequences. This has



sparked an ongoing debate: should juveniles involved in heinous crimes be treated and punished like adults? However, merely making laws stricter is not the solution. The roots of the problem lie much deeper and demand a multidimensional approach.

First and foremost, families must reassume their responsibility. Parents need to engage more with their children, focus on their emotional and mental development, and guide them in distinguishing right from wrong. Providing material comforts alone is not enough—time, attention, and values are far more crucial. Secondly, comprehensive reforms are needed in the education system. Schools must incorporate moral education, life skills, and practical behavioral training as essential components. Teachers must evolve into mentors and motivators rather than mere instructors. Strengthening counseling systems in

schools is also vital so that adolescents can openly share their concerns.

Thirdly, the media and entertainment industry must recognize their social responsibility. Instead of glorifying violence and crime, they should promote positive and inspiring content. Social media platforms, too, must enforce stricter monitoring and regulation of harmful content. Fourthly, law enforcement agencies need to shift their approach from reactive to preventive. Community policing, awareness programs in schools, and active engagement with adolescents can prove effective in preventing crime.

A study conducted by the University of Klagenfurt in Austria revealed that over 35.8% of adolescents worldwide are struggling with mental stress, insomnia, irrational fear, family or social violence, irritability, and related issues. Increasing loneliness is pushing them toward

aggressive and destructive thinking. The "blue poison" flowing through mobile phones and social media platforms is further exposing them to chaotic sexual behavior and violent tendencies. There is often no one to guide them that this path leads to self-destruction. Countries like Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom are introducing laws to limit adolescents' access to mobile phones. In India too, the Supreme Court has, from time to time, expressed serious concern over such incidents. The question remains—will these painful events awaken parents, policymakers, and society at large?

These gruesome incidents involving children have shaken the very fabric of life. Development and progress must also be evaluated in terms of human values. Violence is increasingly replacing entertainment in young minds. As a result, even school-going children are committing extreme acts like killing their peers. Without understanding the psychological dimensions of adolescent behavior, how can this problem ever be resolved? If a juvenile turns toward crime, somewhere the responsibility lies not just with the individual, but also with the family, society, education system, and government. What is needed today is a coordinated and compassionate approach, where government, society, families, and educational institutions work together.

The solution does not lie in punishment alone—it lies in dialogue, values, and positive guidance. If timely and concrete steps are not taken, this growing aggression may evolve into an even more severe crisis for future generations. This is the time to awaken, to reflect, and to act collectively—so that our youth may abandon the path of violence and move toward creation, compassion, and constructive growth.

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Digitisation Of Land Records

Bridging The Gap Between Policy And Ground Realities

MOHD AMIN MIR

In an era where governance is increasingly driven by digital transformation, the recent meeting of the Patwari Association Unit of District Anantnag assumes profound significance. Convened under the chairmanship of the District President Anantnag, the meeting brought together tehsil presidents and members of the district body to deliberate upon pressing issues confronting the revenue department—particularly the digitisation of land records and the uploading of backlog mutations.

The deliberations reflected not only administrative concerns but also the lived realities of field functionaries who stand at the frontline of land governance. At the heart of the discussion lay a fundamental question: Can digitisation succeed without addressing the structural, technical, and procedural bottlenecks faced by those tasked with implementing it?

To understand the importance of this meeting, one must first appreciate the pivotal role played by Patwaris in Jammu & Kashmir's administrative framework. As custodians of land records, Patwaris are responsible for maintaining Jamabandies, recording mutations, conducting Girdawaris, and ensuring the accuracy of revenue data. Their work forms the backbone of land ownership systems, agricultural planning, dispute resolution, and even developmental policymaking. In a region where land is not merely an economic asset but a source of identity and security, the accuracy and accessibility of land records assume immense importance.

Digitisation, therefore, is not just a technological upgrade—it is a transformative shift that seeks to modernise an entire system rooted in centuries-old practices. The digitisation of land records has been envisioned as a panacea for many longstanding issues—delays, inaccuracies, corruption, and lack of transparency. By converting manual records into digital formats, the government aims to create a system that is accessible, efficient, and reliable.

However, as highlighted during the meeting, the transition from manual to digital is fraught with challenges. While policies are framed at higher administrative levels, their implementation depends largely on field



staff who often grapple with inadequate infrastructure, limited training, and unrealistic deadlines. This paradox—between policy ambition and ground reality—was at the core of the discussions held by the Patwari Association.

One of the most pressing issues discussed was the uploading of backlog mutations. Mutations, which record changes in land ownership due to sale, inheritance, or other transactions, are essential for maintaining updated land records. Over the years, a significant backlog of undigitised mutations has accumulated. The government's directive to upload these mutations within a stipulated timeframe is undoubtedly well-intentioned. However, the practical challenges involved in this process cannot be overlooked.

Patwaris reported that uploading even a single mutation can be time-consuming, often requiring meticulous verification of records, cross-checking of documents, and navigation through complex software interfaces. When multiplied by hundreds or even thousands of pending cases, the task becomes daunting.

The meeting observed that the current deadlines for uploading backlog mutations are unrealistic given the workload and technical constraints. Patwaris, already burdened with routine duties, find it increasingly difficult to meet these

targets without compromising on accuracy.

In this context, the association made a collective appeal to the Financial Commissioner Revenue to consider extending the deadline. This request is not merely about seeking leniency; it is about ensuring that digitisation is carried out with precision and integrity.

Rushed digitisation, driven by rigid timelines, risks introducing errors into the system—errors that could have far-reaching legal and social consequences.

Beyond time constraints, the meeting highlighted several technical issues that hinder the smooth execution of digitisation efforts. Chief among these is the inefficiency of the software used for uploading mutations. Patwaris reported that the system is often slow, prone to glitches, and not user-friendly. Frequent server downtimes and lack of technical support further exacerbate the problem, leading to delays and frustration among field staff. In an age where digital tools are expected to simplify processes, the current system appears to be doing the opposite—adding layers of complexity to an already demanding task.

The lack of software support for these categories creates a significant bottleneck in the digitisation process. Patwaris are left with no

option but to either delay these cases or attempt manual workarounds, both of which undermine the efficiency and completeness of the digital system. The association rightly emphasized the urgent need for the development of appropriate software modules to address this gap.

Mutations under S-432 and Section 8 of the Agrarian Reforms Act are not routine entries; they involve complex legal and historical considerations. These mutations often pertain to ownership rights, tenancy issues, and land redistribution policies that have shaped the agrarian landscape of Jammu & Kashmir.

Digitising such records requires not only technical capability but also a nuanced understanding of legal provisions. The absence of software tailored to handle these complexities reflects a gap in planning that needs immediate attention. Without incorporating these categories into the digital framework, the objective of comprehensive digitisation remains incomplete.

Similarly, land acquisition mutations—critical for infrastructure development and public projects—remain outside the purview of the current software system. This omission has serious implications for governance, as it affects the accuracy of records related to government land holdings and compensation processes. The inclusion of land acquisition mutations in the digital system is not just a technical requirement; it is a governance imperative.

Recognizing these challenges, the Patwari Association has called for the immediate development of software modules to accommodate all categories of mutations. This demand is both reasonable and necessary. A robust digital system must be comprehensive, inclusive, and adaptable. It must cater to the diverse nature of land records and provide solutions that are both efficient and user-friendly.

The government must engage with field functionaries to understand their needs and design systems that reflect ground realities.

One of the most insightful aspects of the meeting was its emphasis on the human element in the digitisation process. Technology, no matter how advanced, cannot replace the expertise and judgment of trained personnel. Patwaris bring to their work a deep understanding of local

contexts, historical records, and legal nuances. Their role in verifying and validating data is indispensable. Any attempt to digitise land records without adequately supporting these functionaries is bound to face challenges.

The District President, in his address, underscored the importance of honesty, dedication, and collective effort. He directed all members to work on a war footing to clear the pendency of backlog mutations at the earliest. This call to action reflects a sense of responsibility and commitment within the Patwari fraternity. However, it also highlights the need for institutional support to complement individual efforts.

Leadership at all levels—administrative, technical, and political—must work in tandem to ensure the success of digitisation initiatives.

One of the key takeaways from the meeting is the need to strike a balance between speed and accuracy. While timely completion of digitisation is important, it must not come at the cost of data integrity. Land records are legal documents with long-term implications. Errors in digitisation can lead to disputes, litigation, and loss of public trust. Therefore, the process must be approached with caution, diligence, and a commitment to quality.

The meeting of the Patwari Association Unit of District Anantnag serves as a timely reminder that the success of digitisation depends not only on technology but also on people, processes, and policies. By highlighting ground-level challenges and proposing practical solutions, the association has contributed constructively to the ongoing discourse on land record modernisation. The government must take cognizance of these concerns and adopt a realistic, inclusive, and responsive approach. Only then can the promise of digitisation be fully realised—transforming land governance in Jammu & Kashmir into a system that is efficient, transparent, and just.

In the final analysis, digitisation is not merely about converting records into digital formats; it is about building a system that reflects accuracy, accountability, and accessibility. The voices from the field, as echoed in this meeting, must guide this transformation.

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JKSA Raises Alarm Over Unregulated Vendors, Urges Public Awareness on Solar Systems

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The JK Solar Association Friday held a press interaction to highlight key issues in the solar energy sector and to create mass awareness about on-grid solar systems, the Government's PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, and the growing challenges faced by consumers due to unprofessional vendors.

Addressing media persons, the Association emphasized that an on-grid solar system, when used properly, can significantly reduce electricity bills. The system generates power during the day, supplies electricity to households first, and exports excess energy to the grid under net metering, ensuring bill adjustments for consumers.

The Association stressed the importance of proper usage, advising consumers to operate heavy appliances during daytime hours to maximize solar benefits. It also clarified realistic power generation expectations, stating that a 3 kW system produces around 10-12 units

per day, while a 5 kW system generates approximately 18-22 units, depending on sunlight conditions in Jammu & Kashmir.



Highlighting the benefits of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, the Association noted

that the scheme aims to reduce household electricity expenses through government subsidies while promoting clean and

renewable energy. However, serious concerns were raised over the increasing presence of inexperienced and temporary vendors in the market. The Association warned that many consumers are being misled by false promises such as "zero electricity bills" without proper system understanding or usage. Poor installation quality and lack of after-sales service were also identified as major issues.

Calling solar energy a long-term investment rather than a short-term business, the JK

Solar Association urged the public to choose registered and experienced vendors, understand system capacity before installation, and avoid falling prey to misleading claims.

The Association reaffirmed its commitment to spreading accurate awareness, guiding consumers, and ensuring quality installations while safeguarding public interest.

The media was also urged to play an active role in disseminating correct information and raising awareness among the general public.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Dal Lake Shrinks Over

within and around the lake. Floating gardens expanded significantly, while areas under cultivation and plantations also grew during the period under review. Built-up spaces saw a rise, indicating increasing habitation and infrastructure pressure on the lake.

Encroachments in many main areas were identified as major contributors to these changes, with the expansion of floating gardens and settlements reducing the lake's water surface.

The report pointed to untreated sewage as another major concern. Despite investments exceeding Rs 45 crore in sewage treatment plants (STPs), waste continued to flow into the lake due to incomplete sewerage networks and delays in connecting households and houseboats.

The audit further highlighted gaps in the functioning of the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), stating that it failed to regulate land use effectively or assess the reasons behind the rapid changes in the lake's ecosystem.

Key conservation initiatives taken up under central schemes, including the National Lake Conservation Programme and the Prime Minister's Reconstruction Programme, were found to be delayed or inadequately implemented.

Works related to relocation of houseboats and hotels, dredging of acquired land, and catchment area management remained incomplete, while even the executed components did not meet prescribed standards, the report said.

The CAG also flagged underutilisation of funds between 2017 and 2022, attributing it to irregular board meetings and the absence of adequate project management mechanisms.

The report warned that nutrient inflow from untreated waste has accelerated the growth of weeds, further reducing open water and deteriorating water quality.

Calling for urgent corrective measures, the audit recommended a comprehensive lake management policy, improved monitoring of water spread, proper functioning of sewage treatment systems and faster execution of conservation works.

Without systemic improvements in planning and implementation, the report cautioned, restoration of the lake's ecological health may remain difficult—(KNO)

Flags Serious Ecological

In a recent audit report examining changes in water bodies between 1967 and 2020, the CAG, said 315 lakes in the Union Territory have disappeared, while several others have deteriorated significantly.

The report noted that Wular Lake in Baniptora district has witnessed a reduction in its water spread due to large-scale encroachments along its periphery and continuous silt accumulation, affecting its role as a natural flood buffer for the Kashmir Valley.

Officials said out of 697 water bodies studied, only a handful — including Wular, Dal, Hokersar, Manasbal, Surinsar and Mansar — have received any focused conservation efforts, while the majority remain without restoration plans.

The audit also highlighted that many water bodies have been lost to urban expansion, agricultural conversion and unregulated development.

It further pointed out that several lakes, including Rakh-e-Arth, Marhama and Galwal Talao, have dried up completely over the years.

The report recommended the creation of a unified institutional mechanism to prevent further degradation and called for immediate intervention to protect critical wetlands.

Meanwhile, officials said a bathymetric and hydrodynamic study of Wular Lake is currently being carried out by the National Institute of Hydrology to assess its capacity and siltation levels.

Experts have warned that without urgent conservation measures, the lake could face further ecological decline, impacting flood management and water security in the region—(KNO)

LG Sinha Calls For

a padayatra. This march will continue across the entire Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Calling for public participation, the Lieutenant Governor said the campaign is not limited to any individual but concerns the future of the youth.

"This campaign does not belong to any one individual—it concerns the future of the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. Painful incidents are being reported almost every day, which are truly heartbreaking," he said.

Urging people to actively join the initiative,

Sinha added, "This is not merely a march, but a journey with a purpose—to make Jammu and Kashmir drug-free and to ensure effective action against drug traffickers."

He said the administration has prepared a comprehensive strategy involving all departments, along with the police and security forces, to carry forward the campaign.

"I will also make efforts to reach every district of Jammu and Kashmir, to energise this campaign through padayatras and to appeal to people directly," he added. (PTI)

Temperature Set To

on April 16 and 17. The department has forecast dry weather from April 18 to 20.

The MeT office has advised farmers to resume agricultural operations, stating that maximum temperatures are expected to rise gradually over the next five days.

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 20.2 degrees Celsius, above the normal of 18.8 degrees, while the minimum settled at 4.6 degrees, below normal by 2.3 degrees.

Qazigund recorded a high of 20.0 degrees Celsius and a low of 4.0 degrees, while Pahalgam registered 16.6 degrees and 0.2 degrees respectively.

Kupwara recorded a maximum of 19.8 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 2.2 degrees, while Kokernag settled at 18.6 degrees and 3.4 degrees.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 9.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of minus 1.9 degrees.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 28.3 degrees Celsius, below normal by 2.1 degrees, and a minimum of 12.4 degrees.

Banihal recorded 20.4 degrees and 4.5 degrees, Batote 20.8 degrees and 5.7 degrees, while Katra registered 26.2 degrees maximum and 10.9 degrees minimum, the MeT office said—(KNO)

Govt Committed To

several other delegations and individuals also met the Deputy Chief Minister and raised concerns related to road and bridge construction, employment opportunities, industrial growth, water supply, electricity, and other public welfare issues.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured that all genuine issues raised by the delegations will be taken up with the respective departments for timely and appropriate resolution.]

Census 2027 'NDTM' Setting

was also attended by Amit Sharma, Chief Principal Census Officer and Director Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh; Andrea M. Wojnar, Resident Representative, UNFPA India; Praful Kumar Sigtia, Deputy Director General (Information Security), UIDAI and Rohit Kumar, Co-Chair (Policy Making) G20, as special dignitaries.

Delivering keynote address as the chief guest, the Chief Secretary observed that India is entering a new era of governance driven by technology and real-time insights. Contrasting the upcoming exercise with the manual, time-consuming 2011 census, he emphasised the paradigm shift towards a technology-first, citizen-centric framework utilising mobile-based enumeration, artificial intelligence and cloud technology to ensure accuracy, transparency and speed.

Speaking on the rapid global advancements in technology, the Chief Secretary stressed that data is going to be the key driver, oil and fuel of any nation's economy in the AI-driven future. He noted that India's vast demographic diversity provides a far richer dataset compared to Western nations, giving the country a strategic advantage in training AI systems and stepping up as a globally benchmarked data-driven nation.

Atal Dulloo also highlighted how the integration of trusted national datasets with the JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile) has enabled the Government to target the beneficiaries directly, reducing leakages from astronomical to negligible levels. He observed that moving away from older "one-size-fits-all" centralised planning, this dynamic data ecosystem will allow for micro-level scientific urban and rural planning, supporting health, education and employment infrastructures tailored to the unique strengths of individual villages and districts.

Underlining the immediate administrative tasks at hand, the Chief Secretary directed the Deputy Commissioners and district administrations to ensure seamless grassroots execution. He issued clear directives for immediate completion of training for all the Census officers and Enumerators, ensuring full readiness for the self-enumeration process beginning from May 17 and the subsequent house to house field work starting June 1, 2026. He

further highlighted that census data plays a pivotal role in determining the financial share of States and Union Territories and guiding development initiatives for the next decade.

Earlier, delivering the welcome address, Chief Principal Census Officer Amit Sharma shed light on the two-phased structure of Census 2027. The first phase will cover House Listing and Housing Census (HLO), consisting of Self Enumeration Period from May 17 to May 31 and House to House Field Work from June 1 to June 30, 2026. The second phase shall focus on Population Enumeration (PE), which will commence in September 2026 for snow-bound areas and in February 2027 for the non-snowbound regions.

He emphasised that Census 2027 will be a fully paperless, technology-driven initiative. Enumerators will collect and submit data directly via a dedicated mobile app. However, self-enumeration will be the preferred method. A secure web portal, available in 16 languages, will allow citizens to submit their details online before the door-to-door surveys begin. Additionally, a new Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) will enable near real-time tracking of all field operations.

To ensure smooth execution, Amit Sharma noted that a structured training hierarchy is already in place, with comprehensive training for Enumerators and Supervisors currently underway across the region.

Speaking on the occasion, Andrea M. Wojnar, Resident Representative of UNFPA India, said that similar census practices anchored in digital technology and self-enumeration are being adopted across the world. She expressed confidence that Census 2027 will be a robust and comprehensive exercise in India as well.

Wojnar underscored the fundamental purpose of any census, emphasising that it is designed to ensure that no segment of society is left unaccounted for in welfare programmes and policy decisions. Accurate and inclusive enumeration, she stated, is foundational to evidence-based governance and equitable development.

Praful Kumar Sigtia, Deputy Director General (Information Security), UIDAI, drew parallels between Census 2027 and the colossal exercise of Aadhaar enrolment, highlighting the scale, complexity and technological sophistication common to both national exercises. He laid emphasis on the meaningful processing of data for practical purposes, acknowledging the critical importance of translating vast volumes of collected information into actionable insights.

Sigtia also touched upon the efficacy and security of data, stressing that robust compliance frameworks are in place to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of citizen data — frameworks that impart confidence to the data owners, namely the citizens of India.

Rohit Kumar, Co-Chair (Policy Making) G20, shed light on the monumental scale of the census exercise and its technical aspects. He elaborated on the global implications of the exercise for informed policy-making at both national and international level, underlining the significance of Census 2027 in the context of India's evolving data governance landscape.

Army Chief Says 'Op

to strengthen capabilities in this area. According to him, new structures have been initiated to deal with information warfare and psychological aspects of conflict, reflecting the changing nature of modern warfare.

Dwivedi further said that challenges remain in synchronising responses across strategic, operational and tactical levels, particularly in dealing with what he described as "grey-zone" threats.

Such tactics, he said, often operate below the threshold of conventional warfare and are aimed at exploiting vulnerabilities without triggering a full-scale conflict.

The remarks come amid continued focus on evolving military doctrines in response to hybrid and multi-domain threats.(KNS)

India-Japan Discuss

Sharing the details of the call, the Japanese Foreign Ministry noted that the leaders appreciated the recent announcement by US and Iran.

The Japanese Foreign Minister called for closer coordination with the international community and EAM Jaishankar noted that Delhi and Tokyo would continue to work closely with each other.

The two leaders underlined the need to promote multilateral cooperation to enhance energy resilience and resource supply

"In light of the current situation in the Middle East, Minister MOTEGI expressed his condolences regarding the casualties among Indian nationals. In addition, Minister MOTEGI stated that Japan welcomes

the recent announcement by both the United States and Iran as a positive development. He also stated that what matters most is that de-escalation, including the safety of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz, is steadily achieved, and expressed his hopes that a final agreement will be reached promptly through the negotiations between the United States and Iran. He further stated that he would like to closely coordinate with the international community, including India", the statement said.

"In response, Minister Jaishankar stated that India will continue to work closely with Japan so that de-escalation of the situation would be realized, including the safety of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz. Both Ministers concurred that Japan and India will continue to communicate closely with each other. Furthermore, both Ministers concurred on promoting multilateral cooperation, including Japan and India, to enhance the resiliency of energy and resource supply", it added.

The call between the leaders comes after US and Iran announced a two-week ceasefire following weeks-long conflict that impacted several countries in West Asia and Gulf in light of US-Israeli military operations in Iran. (ANI)

J&K, Ladakh Likely

demand, the authorities had also projected that there will be an electrical energy requirement of 23,372 Million Units (MU) in the financial year 2026-2027.

It also said that in the year 2027-28, Jammu and Kashmir will likely require 24,559 MU of energy followed by 25,780 MU in the year 2028-29.

Earlier the news agency reported that Jammu and Kashmir is likely to face a four percent Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) increase in electricity requirement and six percent increase in peak electricity demand for the period of 2025-26 to 2035-36.

The official documents in this regard reveal that it has considered electrical energy requirement projections as per J&K State Load Despatch Center (SLDC).

The documents further reveal that the SLDC has projected that the annual electrical energy requirement of the UT is likely to grow at a CAGR of 4 percent while the peak electricity demand for the utility is likely to grow at a CAGR of 6 percent for the period of 2025-26 to 2035-36.

About the day-wise surplus coal capacity, the documents said that the surplus capacity is available with the Union Territory due to RE availability, demand variation etcetera..

"The UT has likely surplus capacity of around 700-900 MW during May to June months and 500 MW from July to September in 2028-29 which can be shared with other states and Discoms," it reads—(KNO)

Public Notice

Whereas, I Kaneez Fatima, D/o Bashir Ahmad Wani, Proprietor of the Excursion Agency/Travel Agency, have applied in the Tourism Department for change in location of my Excursion Agency/Travel Agency under the name and style Red stag holidays from Saida Kadal to Arabal Shalimar as per Section 39 of the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/2011. Whereas, the said excursion agency/travel agency is registered with the Department of Tourism, Kashmir under the name and style "Red stag holidays" in the name of Mr./Mrs./Ms Kaneez Fatima, D/o Bashir Ahmad Wani, R/o Barji, Harwan bearing registration No. JKEA00004249 dated 03/10/24, and the same is renewed up to 31/12/25; Whereas, I/We have submitted all the documents related to relocation, and photocopy of registration certificate; Before considering my request for change in location/ title of my Excursion Agency/Travel Agency from Saida Kadal Chowk to Arabal Shalimar, Srinagar information of General Public/Financial Institutions/Banks/Development Authorities/PHE Department/Electric Department is hereby notified that in case of any objection, the same should reach the office of the Deputy Director Tourism, Registration within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections beyond a period of 07 days will be entertained and my request for the same will be considered under rules after submission of requisite documents.

DDC Shopian reviews preparation of District CAPEX Budget 2026-27

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian Shishir Gupta Friday chaired a meeting to review and discuss the preparation of the District CAPEX Budget 2026-27.

At the outset, the DDC emphasized the importance of timely and comprehensive planning for the upcoming financial year.

All departments were directed to prepare and submit well structured, realistic, and need based proposals in line with the developmental priorities of the district.

The meeting primarily focused on identifying priority sectors, ensuring optimal allocation of resources, and streamlining the planning process for effective implementation of works under CAPEX 2026-27.

Officers were instructed to give due importance to



projects of public utility and long-term impact.

During the deliberations, review of District CAPEX 2025-26 was also discussed. It was highlighted that the district achieved 100% physical targets, reflecting effective execution and monitoring of developmental works across sectors.

The DDC stressed the need for improved coordination among departments and adherence to timelines to avoid delays in project execution.

Emphasis was also laid on maintaining quality stan-

dards and ensuring transparency in implementation.

The meeting also discussed tourism development proposals, with departments directed to identify potential sites and submit viable, project based proposals under CAPEX 2026-27.

Emphasis was laid on developing basic infrastructure, improving accessibility, and creating facilities to promote tourism and generate local employment.

Officers were further directed to ensure timely submission of inputs,

removal of bottlenecks, and proactive planning to facilitate smooth execution of works in the upcoming financial year.

The meeting was attended by the Additional District Development Commissioner Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; CEO, DUBJAN Peer Ki Gali Development Authority, Rouf ul Rehman; ACD, Muzafar Ahmad; Sub Divisional Magistrate, Zainapora, Bilal Ahmad; CPO, CEO, CMO, CAO, CHO, Executive Engineers of R & B, Irrigation, PHE, REW, KPDCCL, and other concerned officers.

ADC Handwara chairs meeting on digitization of backlog Mutations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

HANDWARA: Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi on Friday chaired a meeting to review the progress of digitization of backlog mutations across the sub division.

During the meeting, a detailed assessment of pending mutation cases was carried out. The ADC emphasized the importance of timely and accurate digitization of revenue records to ensure transparency, efficiency, and ease of access for the public. He directed all concerned Tehsildars to expedite the process and clear the backlog within the stipulated timeframe.

The ADC stressed the

need for close coordination among revenue officials and instructed Tehsildars to closely monitor the progress at the field level.

He also underscored the importance of maintaining data accuracy and adhering to prescribed guidelines during the digitization process.

Officers were asked to identify bottlenecks, if any, and take immediate corrective measures to ensure smooth and speedy completion of the task.

The ADC reiterated that digitization of land records is a key step towards strengthening governance and improving public service delivery.

The meeting was attended by Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, and other concerned revenue officials.

Swift Govt action ensures safety of Nandimarg Students crossing River

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Taking cognizance of a video circulating on social media showing students from the upper belt of Nandimarg Kulgam crossing a flowing stream to reach school, the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Kulgam Friday visited the area to assess the situation on the directions of the Education Minister. During the visit, the CEO observed that nearly 90 students from the upper areas were required to cross the stream daily due to the absence of a bridge while commuting to school.

Considering the seriousness of the issue and to ensure the safety and uninterrupted education of the students, the matter was addressed on the spot.

It was decided to facilitate teaching for Classes 9th and 10th at the newly constructed double-storey concrete school building located in the upper area of Nandimarg, where the



majority of students from these classes are enrolled.

Accordingly, three well-qualified subject-specific teachers have been deployed to conduct classes at the said building, enabling students to continue their studies without facing the difficulty of crossing the stream.

With this arrangement put in place, the issue has been resolved and normal academic activities for the concerned students will now continue smoothly and safely.

Neighbourhood First policy: India, Mauritius deepen ties during EAM Jaishankar's visit

IANs

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to Mauritius has delivered a series of impactful outcomes across health, education, infrastructure, and green mobility, reaffirming India's commitment to its Neighbourhood First policy, Vision MAHASAGAR, and support for the Global South.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the visit underscored a shared focus on sustainable and people-centric partnership.

Among the key outcomes was the signing of a Letter of Exchange between the governments of India and Mauritius for the implementation of projects under the Special Economic Package 2025.

Eleven High Impact Community Development Projects were inaugurated across Mauritius, covering areas such as sustainable development, energy, sports, and infrastructure.

The visit also marked the launch of the first dedicated iGOT Karmayogi platform for a partner country, aimed at enhancing capacity build-

ing and governance. In the health sector, Jaishankar inaugurated a Renal Transplant Unit at Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital, while India handed over 90 electric buses to Mauritius to promote green mobility.

Educational cooperation was strengthened through a Memorandum of Understanding between the University Grants Commission of India and the Higher Education Commission of Mauritius.

Additionally, India handed over a royalty cheque of USD 45,000 from the sale of nautical charts, in line with the protocol on navigational chart sales.

India and Mauritius share deep historical and cultural ties, with Mauritius hosting one of the largest Indian diasporas.

Bilateral relations have been marked by close cooperation in trade, investment, and development projects.

India has consistently supported Mauritius in areas ranging from infrastructure to capacity building, reflecting its broader commitment to the Indian Ocean region under Vision MAHASAGAR.

Blaze engulfs Darul Uloom at Hyderpora

Fire brought under control; 2 civilians, 1 firefighter sustain minor injuries

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: A fire that broke out at Jamia Arabia Ashraf-ul-Uloom in Hyderpora area of Srinagar on Friday evening was brought under control after an extensive firefighting operation.

An official said that in the operation, two civilians and one firefighter sustained minor injuries. "Fire erupted in the multi-storeyed structure and quickly spread to the upper portions of the building, triggering a large-scale emergency response."

He said fire tenders were immediately rushed to the spot, with additional support from command units, to contain the blaze.

"Upon arrival, firefighters found the attic and upper floors of the L-shaped four-storeyed Darul Uloom structure engulfed in flames. A coordinated operation was launched on a war footing to prevent the fire from

spreading to adjoining structures," the official said.

He said that after sustained efforts, the fire was brought under control, while cooling operations were later carried out to eliminate remaining hotspots and ensure there is no re-ignition.

The official said two injured civilians and one firefighter were immediately attended to on the spot and their condition is stated to be stable. They were later shifted to hospital for medical aid.

"Fire and Emergency Services personnel continued operations for several hours amid dense smoke and difficult conditions, with ambulances also stationed at the site as a precautionary measure," he added.

He said the exact cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained and a detailed assessment will be carried out to determine the extent of damage to the structure—(KNO)



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT KHAG

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE: NO. 02 OF 2026

DATED: 09-04-2026

Subject: 2nd Re-Advertisement for Recruitment of Sahayika (Anganwadi Helper) AWC Bamruda-A (Pethpora) of Poshan Project Khag.

Reference:

- 1-Government order No: 222-JK (SWD) of 2022 dated: 30-11-2022.
- 2-Government order No: 103-JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28-04-2023.
- 3-SWD/ICDS/Recruitment/2022-23/6239-42 Dated: 21-04-2024.
- 4-CDPO Khag vide Advertisement Notice No. 03 of 2024 Dated: 06-12-2024.
- 5- CDPO Khag vide Advertisement Notice No. 02 of 2025 Dated: 14-05-2025.

Approval has been accorded, vide letter No: 103-JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28.04.2023 for filling up of various vacancies of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helper) in Anganwadi Center Bamruda-A Pethpora of POSHAN Project Khag, as per the details given below:

Sr. No.	Name of Project	Name of Post	No. of Post
01	Khag	Sahayika (Anganwadi Helpers)	01(One)
Total		01(One)	

Applications are invited in the Prescribed Performa in Annexure "A" from the eligible candidates for engagement as Anganwadi Helper on Honorarium basis for aforementioned posts of Anganwadi Center Bamruda-A. The important dates/details with regard to the posts are as under:

- a) Date of commencement for submission of application 10-04-2026
- b) Last date for submission of applications is 20-04-2026
- c) Annexure B- Name of the Post, Location/Ward, Qualification and Criteria for selection
- d) Annexure C- Affidavit

ANNEXURE 'A'

Format of Application

S.No.....

Name of POSHAN Project KHAG

1. Name of Anganwadi Centre _____
2. Post applied for _____
3. Name of the Candidate _____
4. Father's Name _____
5. Husband's Name _____
6. Residence _____
Ward No. _____
7. Address for correspondence _____
8. Contact No. _____
9. Date of Birth _____
10. Age as on 01.01.2026 _____
11. Academic Qualification: _____

Photograph of the applicant duly attested by Gazetted Officer

Sr. No.	Examination passed	Board/University	Year of Passing	Marks Obtained	Total Marks	Percentage

12. Do the candidate belong to Retiring AWW/AWH (YES/NO)

13. Document Attached:

Date: _____

Signature of the Candidate _____

ANNEXURE 'B'

Detail of Vacant Posts (AWW)/(AWH) along with name and location of AWC.

Sr. No.	NAME OF ANGANWADI CENTRE	NAME OF PANCHAYAT/ MUCIPALITY WARD	NAME OF POST	NO. OF POSTS
1	Bamruda-A	Ward No.10 (Bamruda) Pethpora	Anganwadi Helper	1

A. Anganwadi Helpers

1. The selection of Helper shall be restricted to the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre is located.
2. Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible.
3. The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.
4. Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Helper shall be matriculation.
5. In case no matriculate candidate available in the ward, candidates with qualification not less than 8th standard shall be considered.
6. The committee shall select the most destitute/needily married woman of the ward as helper from amongst those who fulfil the qualification criteria. In case no married candidate is available, unmarried candidate may be considered.
- B. In case eligible candidate is available within the family of retiring AWWs/AWHs, the said candidate shall qualify for additional two percent points.

Document Verification

- 1) The candidate who is shortlisted for Document verification will be required to appear for Document Verification along-with the original documents as well as self-attested Photostat copy of each document as per the Advertisement Notification. The candidate must be in possession of the prescribed academic qualification and other document like Domicile Certificate, on or before the last date of submission of application form.
 - a) Marks sheet(s)/Diploma/Degree of the qualification prescribed for the post as per Advertisement Notification.
 - b) Date of Birth/Matriculate Certificate.
 - c) Domicile Certificate.
 - d) Unmarried Certificate (where required)
- 2) Candidates have to bring two passport size recent color photographs and one original Photo ID proof. Photo ID Proof can be:
 - i) Aadhaar Card
 - ii) Voter ID card.
- 3) The candidate who are supposed to furnish various certificate issued by or before the prescribed cut-off date, shall be required to produce them at the time of Document Verification or as may be sought by the Committee; in case of failure, the committee shall take necessary decision which shall be final.

ANNEXURE C

All applicants to submit affidavit stating following facts:

1. All Documents submitted are correct, without any mismatch, scanning, duplicate or fallacious in nature. If found incorrect or in any of the above stated situation the candidature of deponent may be cancelled and liable to action under law.
2. Maximum qualification is Graduation for vacancy of Anganwadi worker and Class X for and this is as per facts and onus of proving it to be true lies with the deponent.
3. The deponent has read the HR policy no. 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated: 30.11.2022 and is well versed with all salient features of the policy and shall be applicable to the deponent in case of selection as Anganwadi worker/ Anganwadi Helper.

No.: CDPO/ICDS/KHG/ POSHAN/Advt./2026/
Date: 09-04-2026

DIPK-307-26
DT: 10/04/2026

Child Development Project Officer
Poshan Project Khag

Girl dies after stray dog attack in Sopore

AGENCIES

SOPORE: An 8-year-old girl died after being attacked by a stray dog in the Seloo area of Sopore in north Kashmir on Friday, officials said.

An official said, that the incident occurred when the minor had gone to her family land, where she was suddenly attacked by a stray dog.

He said, she sustained critical injuries in the attack while the deceased has been identified as Aiman Adnan Sheikh (08), daughter of Adnan Ahmad Sheikh, a resident of Seloo, Sopore.

He added, she was rushed for medical treatment, but succumbed to her injuries. Meanwhile, investigation has been taken up—(KNO)

US, India discuss energy cooperation after passing of SHANTI Bill

IANs

NEW DELHI: United States Ambassador to India Sergio Gor on Friday said he had a "productive interaction" with US Secretary of State Wright and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri in New Delhi, focusing on the future of US-India energy cooperation.

The meeting comes in the backdrop of India's historic passage of the Sustainable and Holistic Advancement of Nuclear Technology and Infrastructure (SHANTI) Bill, which paves the way for expanded civil nuclear collaboration.

Ambassador Gor noted that the US is ready to cooperate with India not only in civil nuclear energy but also in other areas such as coal gasification and liquefied petroleum gas exports.

"The SHANTI Bill marks

a significant milestone in India's energy policy. We are committed to working with India to strengthen clean and secure energy pathways," he said.

The SHANTI Bill, passed earlier this year, is aimed at modernising India's nuclear energy framework, enhancing safety standards, and opening avenues for international partnerships.

India has long sought to diversify its energy mix, balancing renewable expansion with nuclear power to meet rising demand while reducing carbon emissions.

Civil nuclear cooperation has been a cornerstone of US-India strategic ties since the landmark 2008 nuclear agreement, which allowed India access to nuclear technology despite not being a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

IPL 2026: Sooryavanshi the hero again as RR thrash RCB by six wickets

IAN S

GUWAHATI: An opening blitz of 78 off 26 balls by batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and a steady knock of 81 off 43 deliveries by wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel helped Rajasthan Royals beat Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) by six wickets in Match 16 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, at the Baraspara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati on Friday.



Sooryavanshi led a powerful assault on the bowling to kick off Rajasthan Royals' chase, easily dismantling RCB's bowling with bold shots. He started strongly against Bhuvneshwar Kumar, driving a near yorker for four and ending the over with a high shot over cover-point. There was no slowing down as he attacked Hazlewood, hitting a series of boundaries that showed his goal to target anything in his range. Even when RCB changed their lengths, Sooryavanshi continued to find ways to score, hitting with impressive skill.

At the other end of the wicket, Yashasvi Jaiswal (13) offered some support before edging a cross-seam delivery, but it hardly affected RR's momentum. Sooryavanshi quickly reached a remarkable 15-ball half-century, matching his previous record. He got there with back-to-back sixes—one a powerful hit over long-on and the other a top-edge pull that went over the bound-

ary. His ability to dominate both fast and bouncing deliveries left RCB searching for answers. The onslaught continued as Dhruv Jurel joined in, hitting boundaries with ease and keeping up the pressure. RR raced to a record 97/1 in the Power-play, their best in IPL history, with Abhinandan Singh's overs turning out to be particularly costly. They maintained this momentum into the middle overs, crossing 100 in just 6.2 overs, the fastest in their IPL history.

Krunal Pandya ended Sooryavanshi's stay with a pace-up delivery as the young left-handed batter handed it straight to Virat Kohli in deep mid-wicket after playing a handy knock of 78 off 26 deliveries. Shimron Hetmyer followed Sooryavanshi on the very next delivery, handing an easy catch to Hazlewood at short third man.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) had a dramatic start as Jofra Archer dismissed Phil Salt with a

sharp bouncer on the very first ball. Virat Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal countered well, putting together a quick 45-run partnership in just 17 balls, but Rajasthan responded strongly. Archer removed Padikkal, while Ravi Bishnoi changed the game with two quick wickets, bowling Kohli and getting Krunal Pandya out. Sharp fielding from Shimron Hetmyer made things worse for RCB. Jitesh Sharma also got out shortly after, leaving RCB struggling at 76/5 in 8.4 overs.

Romario Shepherd offered a brief counterattack, scoring a rapid 22 before being dismissed by Ravindra Jadeja. Debutant Venkatesh Iyer then partnered with Rajat Patidar, shifting the momentum. Patidar went from a cautious start to a fast half-century, marked by several sixes. However, he ultimately fell to Sandeep Sharma. A late effort from Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Iyer (29 off 15) helped RCB reach a good total of 201/8 in their 20-over quota.

RCB made a short comeback in the middle overs. They strung together a series of tight deliveries that included wickets and dot balls, which slowed down the Rajasthan Royals' momentum and built pressure. Krunal Pandya led the effort well by preventing boundaries and reducing the asking rate to about seven runs per over. He even ended a 24-ball boundary drought before Ravindra Jadeja broke the spell with a lucky inside edge to fine leg.

However, Dhruv Jurel stayed calm during the slowdown. He anchored the chase with a well-timed knock and reached his half-century in 25 balls. With wickets in hand and Jurel doing well, RR remained on track despite RCB's determined fightback.

Jurel finished unbeaten on a superb 81 off 43 balls - his highest score in T20s - as Rajasthan Royals chased down 202 with two overs to spare. Despite a brief wobble in the middle overs, Jurel and Ravindra Jadeja steadied the innings with a composed 68-run stand off 50 balls, ensuring there were no late alarms as RR sealed a comfortable win.

Brief scores: Royal Challengers Bengaluru 201/8 in 20 overs (Rajat Patidar 63, Virat Kohli 32, Ravi Bishnoi 2-32, Jofra Archer 2-33) lost to Rajasthan Royals 202/4 in 18 overs (Dhruv Jurel 81, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi 78; Krunal Pandya 2-40, Josh Hazlewood 2-44) by six wickets

ISL 2025-26: FC Goa capitalise on second-half chances to down Odisha



IAN S

MARGAO: Second-half goals by Dejan Dražić, Pol Moreno, and Brison Fernandes helped FC Goa secure a 3-1 victory over Odisha FC, who found a late consolation through Suhair VP, in Indian Super League (ISL) 2025-26 at the PUN Stadium in Margao, Goa, on Friday.

The Gaurs returned to winning ways after a run of draws and a defeat, climbing to fifth in the standings with 13 points, while Odisha FC slipped to 12th with five points. Ayush Chhetri was adjudged the Player of the Match for his composed display in midfield.

FC Goa head coach Manolo Márquez made four changes to his starting XI, handing a debut to 21-year-old goalkeeper Bob Jackson Raj, while Mohammed Yasir, Harsh Shailesh Patre, and Ayush Chhetri were introduced into midfield. Odisha FC head coach T.G. Purushothaman named

an unchanged side for the third consecutive match.

The opening half was a measured contest, with both sides enjoying spells of possession but struggling to create clear-cut chances. Rahul KP was the most lively presence for The Juggernauts, testing the Goa defence with two early efforts, while the hosts found themselves caught offside on multiple occasions as they attempted to build attacks. Odisha continued to threaten from a distance, with Rahul forcing a save from debutant goalkeeper Bob Jackson, who showed composure between the posts. At the other end, Udanta Singh came close after a sharp run into the box, but Amrinder Singh stood firm to deny the winger at the near post.

Set-pieces proved to be a potential avenue for both sides, with Pol Moreno heading straight at the goalkeeper and Subham Bhattacharya missing narrowly, but neither side was

able to break the deadlock as the first half ended 0-0. The tempo increased after the restart, with Odisha coming close to taking the lead around the hour mark. Rahim Ali's intelligent run created space for Isak Vanlruatfela, but the forward's effort was well saved by Bob Jackson, who produced a crucial intervention to keep the scores level.

FC Goa responded almost immediately and broke the deadlock in the 62nd minute with a well-worked move. Ayush Chhetri delivered a precise ball over the top of the Odisha defence to find Dejan Dražić inside the box. A sliding challenge from Carlos Delgado deflected the ball back into Dražić's path, and the forward showed quick reactions to calmly slot the ball past Amrinder and give the hosts a 1-0 lead.

With momentum on their side, Goa continued to push forward. Substitute Abdul Rabeeh injected energy into the attack, setting up Aakash Sangwan soon after, though

his effort was saved. Rabeeh also tried his luck from a distance but failed to hit the target. The hosts doubled their advantage in the 81st minute through a set-piece. Pol Moreno stepped up to take a free-kick from distance and struck a low effort through the wall, the ball taking a couple of bounces before nestling into the bottom-left corner, making it 2-0.

Goa sealed the result in stoppage time after Rabeeh was fouled inside the penalty area. Brison Fernandes stepped up and confidently converted the penalty, placing his shot into the left corner to extend the lead to 3-0. Odisha managed to pull one back moments later when Edwin Vanspaul delivered a cross from the right, which was met by Suhair VP, who finished from close range to make it 3-1.

The final whistle confirmed a deserved victory for FC Goa, as they made full use of their second-half chances to secure all three points at home.

Champions League: Bayern Munich's midfielder Karl ruled out of Real Madrid clash due to injury

IAN S

MUNICH: German Football giant Bayern Munich have suffered a major setback ahead of their crucial UEFA Champions League 2025-26 quarter-final second-phase clash against Real Madrid, with young midfielder Lennart Karl ruled out due to injury.



The club confirmed on Friday that the 18-year-old has picked up a muscle fibre tear in the back of his right thigh. The injury was found after medical tests carried out by Bayern's staff. While the club has not given an exact return date, reports suggest Karl could be out for around three weeks.

"Lennart Karl has suffered a muscle fibre tear in the back of his right thigh. The diagnosis was confirmed by the FC Bayern medical unit. It means the 18-year-old attacking midfielder will be sidelined for the foreseeable future," the club wrote in an official statement.

This means he is set to miss the important second leg of the Champions League quarter-final against Real Madrid to be played at their home ground, Allianz Arena, on April 16. His absence comes at a bad time for Bayern, as the team prepares for one of their biggest matches of the season.

Karl has been one of Bayern's standout young players this season. Despite his age, he has made a strong impact in Europe, scoring four goals and providing two assists in seven Champions League games. His creativity and attacking play have made him an important part of the squad.

Karl has also been impressive in the Bundesliga, with 10 goal contributions in 24 matches. He recently scored a late winner in a 3-2 victory over Freiburg, showing his ability to deliver in key moments.

Apart from the Real Madrid game, Karl is also expected to miss Bayern's upcoming league match and could be doubtful for the DFB-Pokal semi-final later this month. Meanwhile, Bayern beat Madrid by 2-1 in the first round of the quarter-final, and they have a one-goal lead heading into the second leg, but it is very small and can be covered if Madrid performs to their best.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Basharat Ali Khan, resident of Rawathpora Delina Baramulla, hereby inform the general public that I intend to change the name of my daughter from Aabiha Basharat to Safiya Basharat. Henceforth, she shall be known and addressed as Safiya Basharat for all purposes. If any person has any objection to this name change, they may contact the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Baramulla, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Basharat Ali Khan
Rawathpora Delina Baramulla

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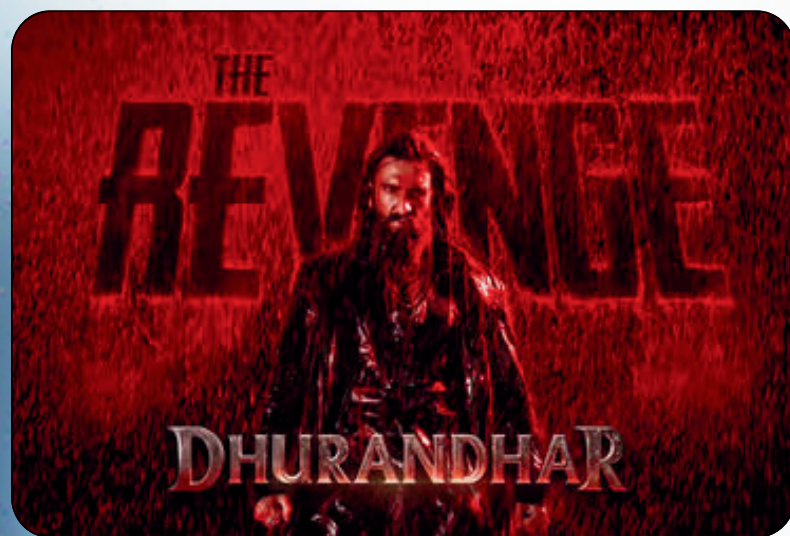
Movies Schedule Saturday, 11th April



PROJECT HAIL MARY (U/A)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
03:25 PM



DACOIT (U/A)
HINDI - 06:35 PM



DHURANDHAR THE REVENGE (A)
HINDI - 11:00 AM, 12:20 PM, 04:45 PM
HINDI ATMOS - 02:15 PM, 06:40 PM



VAAZHA-II-BIOPIC OF BILLION BROS (U/A)
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