

Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication



Drug-free J&K campaign demands not just sympathy but collective action because it is not an individual plight but a collective crisis, not one family's tragedy but a challenge to us all. Together, with unwavering resolve, we will fight and defeat the scourge of drug abuse.

GMK

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Local Body Polls In J&K Unlikely In Near Future

Government Not Keen On Early Panchayat Elections



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Even though the State Election Commission has initiated the process of revising Panchayat electoral rolls, the chances of holding local body elections in the near future appear bleak. Sources said that the elected government is not keen on conducting Panchayat polls anytime soon.

“There are no chances of the polls in the near future. The earliest window for any such exercise would be between September and December this year,” sources disclosed.

A minister in the NC-led government, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the polls would be held at an appropriate time. “The matter has not been discussed yet,” he added.

Sources further said the government is also averse to hold direct elections for the third-tier of the Panchayati Raj system, i.e., district development councils (DDCs). “No

decision has been taken yet to disband direct elections for the third tier of the Panchayati Raj system, but there is a view among MLAs of both the ruling party and the opposition that DDCs encroach upon the mandate of MLAs. It is considered better to revert to indirect elections for the third tier,” sources disclosed.

A senior government official pointed out that the cabinet is yet to take a final call on the report submitted by a panel headed by former High Court Judge Justice Janak Raj Kotwal, which determined reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies.

“The cabinet has to decide whether to adopt or reject the report,” he said.

The revision of Panchayat electoral rolls is currently underway in Jammu & Kashmir and is scheduled to be completed by May 15, 2026, with the publication of the final rolls. ●P-06

■ ‘Don’t Spare Guilty’

LG Sinha Launches Historic Mass Movement For “Drug-Free J&K”

Says Drug-Free J&K Campaign Demands Not Just Sympathy But Collective Action

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Spearheading a decisive battle against the drug menace, the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday launched the historic mass movement for a “Drug-Free Jammu Kashmir” from MA Stadium in Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor flagged-off Padyatra and joined the public representatives, senior officials and thousands of citizens in the walkathon from MA Stadium to Parade Ground, marking the beginning of 100-days intensive campaign under Nasha Mukti Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan.

Addressing a massive gathering, the Lieutenant Governor gave a clarion call to make Jammu Kashmir free from the scourge of drugs.

“We have given voice to a resolve that will reach every village, town, city, home, and heartbeat in Union Territory, fulfilling the pledge of a drug-free region.

Next three months are pivotal, with campaign advancing in six clear phases- Awareness intensive drives, youth focused events, community



engagement, strict enforcement, rehabilitation and evaluation. We will move forward with the whole of government approach to rid J&K of drug menace,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the eradication of drug addiction is a collective responsibility that rests upon us all.

“We pledge resolutely

that the administration will not let any youth, family, or dream fall into the dark abyss of addiction. I firmly believe that drug addiction statistics show mere percentages and case files but behind each lies a vivid story, a family's struggle and agony.

Drug-free J&K campaign demands not just sympathy but collective action because it is not an individual ●P-06

Thousands of citizens participated in the Padyatra marking the beginning of 100-days intensive campaign

We have given voice to a resolve that will reach every village, town, city, home, and heartbeat in UT

Next three months are pivotal, with campaign advancing in six clear phases

We pledge resolutely that the administration will not let any youth, family, or dream fall into the dark abyss of addiction

Drug abuse is among J&K's gravest challenges and we stand firm in our commitment to confront drug abuse

Three-month long people's movement across J&K will make every person grasp the issue

Drug Smugglers' assets will be seized, ringleaders prosecuted, and punishment will be delivered swiftly

...AI-Driven **Fraud** Rises

‘Digital Arrest’ Complete Myth: Crime Branch

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Amid a growing surge in cyber crime cases across Kashmir, the Cyber Crime Investigation Centre for Excellence (CICE), Crime Branch Srinagar, on Saturday said over 22 lakh Rs has been recovered in the last three months, even as officials underlined that lack of awareness continues to be the biggest factor behind people falling prey to online frauds.

Addressing a media workshop here to expand awareness on cyber crime, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Dy SP) Ashiq Hussain Malik, said cyber crime is increasing proportionately with technological advancement, making every individual with a phone or internet access vulnerable.

“Today, there is hardly any person, educated or uneducated, who does not have a phone. The moment a person has an internet-enabled device, he becomes vulnerable to cyber fraud. Awareness is the only way to prevent such crimes,” he said.

Malik said the purpose of engaging media was to ensure that awareness messages reach the masses beyond limited institutional programmes. “Our awareness ●P-06

J&K Govt revamps GST framework

RSP Taxation, Online Gaming Brought Under New Rules

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has introduced a series of amendments to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) framework through multiple notifications, aimed at tightening compliance, revising tax structures, and streamlining procedures across sectors.

A key change relates to taxation based on retail sale price (RSP). As per the amended GST Rules, the value of supply for specified goods—including pan masala and tobacco products—will now be calculated as the declared retail sale price minus applicable tax. The move links tax liability directly to RSP, reducing the scope for under-reporting.

In a related step, the government, has amended the GST Act notification to

formally bring these goods under the RSP-based valuation system. The list includes pan masala, cigarettes, cigars, tobacco extracts, and nicotine-based inhalation products.

Additionally, the Finance Department has revised GST rate schedules, placing several tobacco-related products under higher tax slabs. Biris have been included in the 9% category, while pan masala, unmanufactured tobacco, cigarettes, and similar items have been moved to the 20% tax bracket, reinforcing the government's focus on boosting revenue from sin goods.

The government has also introduced special procedures for rectification of GST orders, particularly in cases involving wrongful availment of input tax credit (ITC). Taxpayers earlier denied ITC under ●P-06



Wular Lake Conservation Restores 5 Sq Km Area, 1.31 Lakh Trees Removed

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Conservation efforts at north Kashmir's Wular Lake, one of Asia's largest freshwater lakes and a crucial Ramsar site, have restored around five sq km of critically silted area and involved the phased removal of 1.31 lakh willow trees as part of a scientific plan to revive the wetland's ecological balance, officials said.

Nearly 78.43 lakh cubic metres of silt have been dredged to reclaim the lake area and enhance water-holding capacity. Protection bunds have been strengthened along about 15 km of vulnerable stretches to prevent encroachments and provide flood buffering, the Wular Conservation and Management Authority officials said.

The eco-restoration drive is supported by infrastructure development, including a 2.5-km



non-motorable walkway at Baniyari-SK Payeen featuring cycling tracks and viewing points, along with the development of parks at multiple locations to promote eco-tourism.

Highlighting major achievements, the officials said the boundary demarcation of the lake has been completed by installing 1,159 geo-referenced RCC pillars using GPS and

remote sensing technology.

They said the revenue area of Wular Lake is 130 sq km, which aids protection and prevents further encroachments.

Desilting has restored about five sq km of critically silted lake area by dredging 78.43 lakh cubic metres of silt, enhancing the lake's water-holding capacity.

Bund consolidation has been undertaken by ●P-06

■ CCTV Used To Track Indian Army Routes

ISI-Backed Espionage Module Busted, 11 Held

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: An espionage network with direct links to Pakistan has been unearthed, revealing how handlers across the border were remotely monitoring real-time movement of Indian Army personnel through a covert grid of solar-powered CCTV cameras installed at strategically sensitive locations across northern India, an official said on Friday.

The surveillance network spanned key cities including Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Pathankot, Patiala and Moga in Punjab, Ambala in Haryana, Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir, and Bikaner and Alwar in Rajasthan -- all of which are crucial due to the presence of Army can-

tonments, proximity to the international border and their role as major troop movement and logistics corridors.

According to police, the cameras were deliberately positioned to capture activities near military installations, highways used for troop mobilisation and border-linked infrastructure.

What makes the operation particularly alarming is that these devices were transmitting live footage directly to Pakistan-based handlers, allowing them to "sit across the border and watch Indian Army movements unfold in real time".

The module, busted by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police in a coordinated operation, led to the arrest of 11 accused involved ●P-06



Snow Leopards Hunt On Sunday As RKFC Eye First Home Win

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir Football Club will look to end their winless run when they face Gokulam Kerala FC at TRC Srinagar Ground tomorrow, hoping to finally convert strong performances into a positive result.

Despite dominating recent games, the Snow Leopards have struggled to convert chances into wins, making Sunday's clash a crucial test of character at home

A spokesperson in a statement issued said the match is scheduled to kick off at 4 pm and will be live on several channels.

He said, owned by Arshad Shaul, RKFC have had a challenging season so far in the IFL, formerly known as the I-League. Despite consistent performances, the team has struggled to convert dominance into victories, especially in their recent home fixtures.



“Head coach Ishfaq Ahmad, however, remains optimistic ahead of the crucial encounter.”

Speaking at a pre-match press conference, he said the team has shown significant improvement over the last few matches.

the strength of the opposition, noting their experience and new signings. “We have faced them in previous seasons. They have a good coach and have brought in new foreign players, so we expect a tough

“WE HAVE FACED them in previous seasons. They have a good coach and have brought in new foreign players, so we expect a tough contest,”

contest,” he added.

RKFC player Huzaifa echoed similar sentiments, saying the team has been playing good football and is hopeful of delivering a strong performance. He also urged fans to turn up in large numbers to support the home side—(KNO)

Govt Directs SSSA Rollout By May-2026

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The government has directed the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) to ensure implementation of State School Standards Authority (SSSA) by May 2026.

Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir in a review meeting was informed that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has introduced several benchmarks to ensure quality in education across India.

One such key initiative is the establishment of the State School Standards Authority (SSSA) as an independent body.

The objective of the SSSA is to enable States and Union Territories to evaluate and ensure adherence to basic quality standards across all schools, irrespective of whether they are public or private.

“Prior to NEP 2020, school recognition and regulation were often handled in an uneven manner, resulting in variations in compliance ●P-06

1,222 Out Of 2,262 Posts Lying Vacant At SKIMS Soura



JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir's premier tertiary care hospital, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, is grappling with an acute manpower crisis, with more than half of its sanctioned posts lying vacant, raising serious concerns over patient care and healthcare delivery in the Valley.

According to details accessed, out of a total sanctioned strength of 2,262 posts at SKIMS Soura, only 1,040 employees are currently in position, while a staggering 1,222 posts remain vacant,

reflecting a shortage exceeding 50 per cent.

A further breakdown of the figures reveals that out of 250 sanctioned faculty positions, only 152 are filled, leaving 98 posts vacant. Similarly, in the paramedical category, only 518 staff members are in position against 1,303 sanctioned posts, with 785 vacancies reported.

The nursing segment is also severely affected, with just 370 staff in place out of 739 sanctioned posts, leaving 369 posts unfilled.

The alarming shortage has sparked concern among the general public, who view SKIMS Soura as ●P-06

Div Com chairs MDC Meeting on Traffic Management

Emphasizes on effective decongestion measures

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Saturday chaired a meeting of the Multi-Disciplinary Committee (MDC) on Traffic Management to review ongoing initiatives and assess measures for streamlining traffic flow and reducing congestion across Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), Vice Chairpersons of Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) and LCMA, Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic), and senior officers from the Education and Roads & Buildings (R&B) departments.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed the status of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the development of parking facilities,



progress on key infrastructure projects, and ongoing works at critical junctions including Natipora-Chanapora T-Junction and the Shalteng-Parimpora Fly-over.

He also assessed the progress of Smart City initiatives, including painting of bus stops, marking of stop lines at major crossings, operational readiness of the Zoonimar charging station, and development works at Batamaloo and Hazratbal.

Emphasizing to ease

congestion due to school buses, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned officers to convene a meeting with stakeholders to explore regulation of school timings, subject to approval by the competent authority.

He further instructed the SSP Traffic to intensify enforcement against traffic violations and ensure effective issuance of challans to violators.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on measures to curb on-road

parking and proposed the identification and declaration of no-parking zones in heavily congested areas.

It was also informed that all ITMS cameras are fully functional and actively supporting traffic monitoring and enforcement.

The Divisional Commissioner stressed the importance of coordinated and sustained efforts among all stakeholders to achieve effective traffic decongestion and improved mobility in the city.

100 Day ‘Nasha Mukht J&K’ Campaign commences in Shopian

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: 100 day Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Campaign was formally inaugurated in Shopian Saturday, marking a coordinated effort to promote a drug-free society.

The district wide campaign commenced from Government Boys Higher Secondary School Shopian in the presence of MLA Zainapora, Showkat Hussain Ganie, Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta, Senior Superintendent of Police Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmad Choudhary, ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, ADC Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz and other officers.

The programme witnessed large participation from students, staff and the general public, reflecting a unified approach toward combating drug abuse.

The initiative is part of a broader UT wide campaign inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir.

MLA Zainapora, while addressing the gathering, emphasized the social responsibility of every citizen in eliminating drug



abuse. He stressed that awareness at the grassroots level, especially among youth, is essential and called for collective vigilance by families, communities, and institutions, stating that drug addiction not only destroys individuals but weakens the social fabric of society.

The Deputy Commissioner, in his address, highlighted the administrative commitment toward making the district drug free. He emphasized coordination among departments, regular awareness drives, and strict monitoring mechanisms.

He also urged students and youth to act as ambassadors of change and active-

ly participate in awareness activities. Senior Superintendent of Police, Shopian, in his address focused on the enforcement aspect of the campaign. He underlined the strict action being taken against drug peddlers and reiterated the role of the police in dismantling drug networks.

He also highlighted the importance of community cooperation, urging citizens to socially boycott drug peddlers and report their activities and stated that public support is crucial in strengthening law enforcement efforts and ensuring long-term success.

On the occasion, various

sports activities including volleyball, cricket, and tug of war were held reinforcing the campaign's focus on engaging youth in positive and healthy activities.

A painting competition, depicting the harmful effects of drug abuse was also organized, with enthusiastic participation from students of different schools.

As part of the district wide schedule, similar awareness and outreach programmes were conducted across multiple locations, including at Subdivision Zainapora, panchayat level initiatives and institutional activities, ensuring wider community engagement.

100-Day Mega Campaign under NMJK Abhiyan commences in Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: In sync with the UT-level launch of a 100-day mega campaign under the Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan commenced across Anantnag Saturday.

To mark the start of the intensive drive, a grand function was organized by the District Administration at the DC Office Complex. The program witnessed participation of Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat, SSP, Amod Ashok Nagpure; ADC, ACR, ACD, CPO, ASP, DSEO, DSWO and district sectoral and police officers along with officials, civil society members, and volunteers.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC termed the fight against drugs a "collective responsibility", noting while administration and law enforcement agencies are targeting the supply side, the role of parents, teachers, and civil society is essential to eliminate the menace from society. He stressed there is high need of creating mass sensitisation among the youth and vulnerable population to reduce the demand appreciably. He further called for active participation of common citizens and other stakeholders through "Jan Bhagidari," in scheduled activities at panchayats, villages, and educational institutions.

Cautioning about the devastating effects of addiction on young lives and families,

the DC pledged tough action against drug peddlers and suppliers by invoking stringent clauses of the NDPS Act. However, he advocated for a compassionate, non-stigmatized approach towards victims, emphasizing the need for proper identification at the village level to ensure they receive treatment and rehabilitation at District Drug De-addiction Centres (DDAC) and Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATF), while maintaining strict privacy and secrecy.

Advising participants to make sincere efforts in the fight against drugs, Dr. Bilal expressed hope that the coherent and concerted approach will lead to a drug free district, UT and country at large. He further called upon the Masjid Imams to reserve a specific portion of their Friday Sermons sensitising masses on fight against drugs by invoking the moral and theological scriptures.

The SSP also addressed the gathering, urging participants to make coordinated efforts and become active stakeholders in the campaign to achieve the goal of a drug-free district, UT and country.

Earlier, the DC administered pledge to the participants reaffirming their commitment towards a drug free society and nation. Notably, similar ceremonies were held across all sub-divisions, tehsils, blocks, ULBs, schools, colleges and educational institutions of the district.

Pulwama Admin launches 100-Day campaign under Nasha Mukht JK Abhiyaan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: In alignment with the UT-wide launch of the 100-day intensive campaign under Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the District Administration Pulwama Saturday formally launched the campaign at Circuit House Pulwama.

The campaign aims to curb drug abuse through a comprehensive and sustained approach, with a strong focus on awareness generation, community participation, rehabilitation of affected individuals and strict enforcement measures.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, chaired a comprehensive review of all sectors to discuss and review the action plan for effective implementation of the campaign over the next 100 days.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the 100-day campaign has been launched with the aim of eliminating drug abuse from society through coordinated efforts of all stakeholders. He stressed the need for a three-pronged strategy focusing on Information, Education and Communication (IEC), treatment and rehabilitation, and enforcement to achieve tangible results on the ground.

He further stated that the thrust of this special



campaign is on community-led initiatives and public participation. He called upon officers to ensure active involvement of youth, religious leaders, elected representatives, former PRI members, influential personalities, social activists, market associations, village communities, students and civil society organizations so that the message of the campaign reaches every nook and corner of the district.

He also directed the Assistant Commissioner Development Pulwama and Executive Officers of Municipalities to recreate and revitalize the youth clubs in all panchayats and wards so that the training sessions are started immediately.

Highlighting the role of key departments, the DC stressed that the Health, Education and Social Wel-

fare departments have a pivotal role in early identification, counselling and awareness. He directed for organizing sustained awareness programmes in educational institutions and strengthening counselling and de-addiction services, alongside promotion of helplines and community-based support mechanisms.

The DC further stressed on organizing parent-teacher meetings in educational institutions to sensitize parents about early signs of drug abuse, adding that parents, especially mothers, play a crucial role in guiding and monitoring their children and can act as the first line of defence against substance abuse. He also emphasized the active participation of Self Help Group (SHG) women in awareness and counselling campaigns, noting their strong grass-

roots connect and ability to influence community behaviour.

Emphasizing enforcement, the DC called for joint enforcement drives against drug peddlers to ensure strict action against illegal networks. He also stressed the need for identifying and destroying illicit crop cultivation, and directed that coordinated enforcement drives be carried out by multi-departmental teams comprising Revenue, Excise and Police departments.

Furthermore, the DC highlighted that inter-departmental coordination is crucial for effective implementation and called for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to ensure the success of the campaign.

Besides, as part of the launch event, DC flagged off an IEC van aimed at disseminating awareness messages across rural and urban areas of the district. Later, the Deputy Commissioner also inaugurated a cricket match at the Sports Stadium Pulwama as part of the campaign.

Addressing the gathering, he emphasized the importance of sports and constructive engagement of youth as a powerful means to channel their energy positively and keep them away from drug abuse, adding that sports activities will be promoted during the campaign.

Key aspects of Draft Master Plan-2042 reviewed in Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: A meeting of the Board constituted for scrutiny of objections, representations, and suggestions regarding the GIS-based Draft Master Plan-2042 for Anantnag, Bijbehara, and Mattan towns was held Saturday at DC Office, Anantnag.

The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat and focused on evaluating inputs received from various stakeholders to ensure comprehensive and planned urban development in the region.

Officers including the Director Urban Local Bodies and Chief Town Planner, Kashmir, ACR, CEO MC Anantnag besides EOs of MCs Bijbehara and Mattan attended the meeting.

During the meeting, key aspects of the Draft Master Plan were reviewed and discussed threadbare. A detailed GIS-based map was presented, highlighting various land-use categories including residential, commercial, agricultural, indus-

trial, and horticultural zones across the three towns.

It was informed that a primary survey of all three towns viz Anantnag, Bijbehara, and Mattan, has been conducted to gather ground-level data for effective planning. Regional-level issues were deliberated upon, with emphasis on addressing key developmental challenges in a coordinated manner.

On the occasion, the DC stressed the need to give a practical and implementable shape to the Master Plan and assured that all genuine concerns and suggestions would be duly considered while finalizing the document. He said the plan shall be tailored to cater to the futuristic needs of people living in and vicinity of these towns while ensuring protection of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources.

The main objective of the Master Plan-2042 is to regulate urban growth in a planned and systematic way, ensuring balanced and sustainable development and optimal utilization of resources.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public that I Ibrahim Abdullah Lone R/o Malla Bagh Naseem Bagh Hazratbal Srinagar intend to correct the name of my daughter on her Aadhar Card bearing No. 911381475627 from Tahzeen Ibrahim to Anaya Ibrahim Lone as per her Date of Birth certificate issued by SMC Srinagar. In this regards if anybody have any kind of objection he/she may file the same with concerned authority within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public I intend to correct the name on my J&K Bank Account passbook bearing No.0753040100000106 from MS. Shaheena W/o Mushtaq Ahmad Wani R/o Syed Colony Naseembagh to Shaheena Akhtar As per my Aadhar Card (bearing No. 870712724842). In this regard if anybody have any kind of objection he/she may file the same with Branch Manager JK Bank Branch Habak Srinagar within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public that I Ajaz Ahmad Macha R/o Habak Naseem Bagh Hazratbal Srinagar intend to correct the name of my Son on his Aadhar Card bearing No. 235659926150 from Muhammad Afham to Ahmad Ajaz Macha as per her Date of Birth certificate issued by SMC Srinagar. In this regards if anybody have any kind of objection he/she may file the same with concerned authority within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

100-Day intensive Nasha Mukht Campaign launched in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: The 100-day intensive campaign under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan was Saturday launched in Kulgam with a series of awareness activities aimed at combating drug abuse and promoting a healthy, drug-free society.

The campaign was kick-started by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kulgam, Anayat Ali Choudhary. On the occasion, a plantation drive was organised and a pledge-taking ceremony was held wherein participants pledged to stay away from drugs and work collectively towards building a drug-free society.

A Pad Yatra, which started from Mini-Secretariat to DPL Kulgam, was also organised.

A blood donation camp was also organised as part of the programme at DPL Kulgam.

An awareness session was also held at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat.

While addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised the need for coordinated efforts from all stakeholders, including government departments, educational institutions, community leaders and youth, to effectively tackle the issue of drug abuse. He urged people, particularly the youth, to actively participate in the campaign and contribute towards building a drug-free society.

He added that youth have a vital role to play in the campaign and encouraged them to take advantage of various government employment and livelihood schemes aimed at generating opportunities for

young people.

He further said that strong willpower and community support are essential in overcoming substance abuse and added that strict action will be taken against drug suppliers as per law.

The SSP also addressed the gathering and said that substance abuse is a serious issue affecting society. He stated that the 100-day campaign aims to strengthen awareness and enforcement efforts to curb the menace. He stressed that community participation is crucial in dismantling the drug network and urged people to come forward with information about drug peddlers. He assured that strict action will be taken against those involved in drug trafficking while emphasising the need to support victims through rehabilitation.

CM congratulates SKUAST-K on breakthrough in Morel Mushroom research

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Saturday extended his heartfelt congratulations to Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) for achieving a significant scientific breakthrough in the research and advancement of Morel (Gucchi) mushrooms.

The Chief Minister, who is also Pro-Chancellor of the university, lauded the university's remarkable accomplishment, stating that the breakthrough reflects SKUAST-K's unwavering commitment to scientific excellence and the promotion of high-value natural resources.

Highlighting the broader impact of the research, the Chief Minister noted that the development holds



immense potential for enhancing livelihoods, particularly in mountainous and rural regions where Morel mushrooms are both an economic asset and an integral part of traditional heritage.

He emphasized that the university's efforts are poised to open new avenues for sustainable cultivation, value addition, and increased income generation.

The Chief Minister also

placed on record his special appreciation for the dedicated efforts of the scientists involved in the research.

Conveying his best wishes, the Chief Minister expressed hope that the entire SKUAST-K fraternity, including its scientists and researchers, will continue to excel in future endeavours and contribute meaningfully to agricultural innovation and rural prosperity.

Pr Secy DMRRR chairs UT-level review meeting on Pre-Monsoon readiness

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR), Chandraker Bharti Saturday chaired a UT-level review meeting regarding preparedness-cum-coordination for Pre-Monsoon preparedness here at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Deputy Commissioners (Chairpersons DDMMs)-All, besides officers from Jal Shakti Department, Public Works (R&B) Department, Housing & Urban Development Department, Health & Medical Education Department and Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Department.

Representatives from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Shri Amar-nath Ji Shrine Board, JMC, SMC NDRF, SDRF, Civil Defence, Army, Police, Central Armed Police Forces, Border Roads Organisation, NHA and other stakeholder agencies also participated in the meeting.



During the meeting, it was informed that Jammu and Kashmir is highly vulnerable to a wide range of natural and human-induced disasters including floods, flash floods, landslides, earthquakes, forest fires, Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), fire incidents and other calamities, resulting in loss of precious human lives and damage to property and infrastructure.

Emphasising on the importance of disaster risk reduction, the Principal Secretary underscored the need for a proactive and comprehensive approach through sustained and coordinated efforts among Government agencies,

Non-Governmental Organisations and the general public with active community participation.

He stressed upon adoption of proactive 'Zero Casualty Approach' during natural calamities and called for strengthening inter-departmental coordination, identification of structural and non-structural vulnerabilities and leveraging technology for robust early warning systems.

The Principal Secretary also directed all Emergency Support Functionaries, line departments, Divisional and District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMMs), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Fire and Emergency Services and other concerned

agencies to adopt a proactive approach towards preparedness, mitigation and prompt response to any disaster-related eventuality during the pre-monsoon period.

He directed all departments and DDMMs to regularly update details of human resources, machinery and equipment on the India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN) portal.

He also emphasised on conduct of regular mock drills, including night-time simulations, and called for making such drills mandatory to ensure better preparedness.

The DDMMs were directed to share Incident Response System (IRS) notifications and opera-

tional details with Army, Police, Central Armed Police Forces and SDRF for better coordination during emergencies.

The Principal Secretary further stressed upon regular training of frontline workers across departments and active involvement of youth and Aapda Mitras in disaster preparedness initiatives at district and sub-district levels through capacity building programmes.

The Geological Survey of India (GSI), Central Water Commission (CWC), Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment (DGRE) and National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) were directed to convene coordination meetings for effective data sharing and constitute a Steering Committee involving all stakeholders.

Regarding preparations for the forthcoming Machil Mata Yatra, the Principal Secretary asked the Divisional Commissioner Jammu to ensure all preparedness measures are put in place for smooth and successful conduct of the Yatra scheduled to commence from April 2026.

Rana chairs meeting to finalise plan for structured, sustainable traffic management

GMK NEWS NETWORK

MENDHAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Saturday chaired a comprehensive meeting with the sub-divisional administration and representatives of the Transport Union to finalise a structured and sustainable traffic management plan for Mendhar.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the need to address long-standing challenges related to vehicular congestion, enhancing commuter convenience, parking and public transport in the town. The meeting also held deliberations on development of designated parking facilities to address the persistent issue of roadside congestion.

Emphasising on the importance of planned urban mobility, Javed Rana said that the government is committed to implement a



comprehensive and effective traffic management strategy in Mendhar.

He directed the concerned departments to expedite all procedural formalities and ensure that work on these vital infrastructure projects is initiated at the earliest.

He noted that the proposed measures would not only ensure smoother vehicular movement but also help decongest key commercial zones and improve accessibility for pedestrians and commuters alike.

Highlighting on the broader impact, Javed Rana remarked that

improved traffic regulation and infrastructure would provide a significant boost to local businesses, facilitate better public transport operations, and contribute to the town's orderly and sustainable development.

He further called for close coordination among all stakeholders, including civil administration, transport authorities, and local representatives, to ensure the timely and effective implementation of the proposed initiatives in the larger public interest.

During the meeting, officials informed that suitable land parcels have already been identified for the establishment of new bus stands on both the upstream and downstream sides of Mendhar town.

The participants also emphasised on the need for a scientific, well-regulated traffic system, incorporating proper zoning, regulated movement, and efficient use of available road space.

Javid Dar reviews irrigation facilities, ongoing developmental works in Rafiabad

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar Saturday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at Dak Bungalow, Rafiabad here to assess the status of irrigation facilities and ongoing developmental works in the area.

During the meeting, the Minister emphasized on the need for immediate repairing and de-silting of canals to ensure adequate irrigation facilities for farmers ahead of the forthcoming irrigation season.

He observed that efficient water management and timely maintenance of irrigation infrastructure



are critical for enhancing agricultural productivity and safeguarding farmers' interests.

He further directed that all ongoing projects be executed strictly within stipulated timelines, with focus on quality, durability and sustainability.

The Minister urged officers to maintain close inter-departmental coordination, adopt a result-oriented approach, and

remain responsive to public needs so that developmental initiatives translate into tangible outcomes on the ground.

Later, the Minister also held a public darbar to hear grievances and address the demands of local residents. The Minister reiterated that developmental planning must remain aligned with priority public needs to ensure inclusive and need-based growth.

Wasim Hanif Elected New District President of PSAJK Pulwama



GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: In a significant development for the Private School Association Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK), members of the Pulwama district assembled in large numbers to elect their new district leadership. Wasim Hanif, Chairman of Solace International School, was elected as the new District President for Pulwama.

The election process was conducted in the presence of the Convenor of the Election Committee, Farooq Ahmad ashahi along with Mr. Majid Bhatt, member of the Election Committee. Observers from three different districts namely Mr. Tahir wagay, district President Srinagar, Mr. Tariq Balli state coordinator psajk Mr. Shabir Ahmad

Malik district coordinator, were also present to ensure transparency and fairness in the proceedings.

Despite prevailing challenges faced by the private education sector, the members participated enthusiastically, reflecting their commitment to strengthening institutional representation. During the proceedings, election representatives highlighted the pressing issues confronting private schools and emphasized the need for collective efforts to address them.

The Ex-District President Mr. Khalid Reshi expressed confidence in the newly elected leadership and reiterated his continued support, particularly for low-budget and budget schools. He further emphasized the importance of initiating

new training programs and fostering collaborative learning across institutions in the district.

The State President of PSAJK, Dr. Baba Nazrul Islam, extended his congratulations to the newly elected team and expressed hope that the new leadership would work with dedication and integrity.

The election was also observed by noted academician Prof. Abdul Hamid Sheikh, former Registrar of Cluster University, who expressed optimism that the new leadership would bring positive changes to the educational ecosystem of Pulwama.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment from members to work collectively for the advancement of private education in the region.

KPDCL announces power shutdown on April 12, 15

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) on Saturday said that power supply to few parts of Kashmir division will remain affected on April 12 and 15.

In a statement issued, Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL said that the shutdown of 33 KV Burzhama Tapline will

be observed due to which power supply to Danihama, Khimber, Chaterhama, Telbal, Burzhama, Gassu, Shoperbagh, Rahbagh, Batpora and adjoining areas from 10 AM to 03 PM on 12 April 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Rangreth JAKLI Tapline will be observed due to which power supply to JAKLI and Beacon will be affected from 10 AM to 02 PM on 15 April 2025.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, I Umar Mushtaq Malik, S/o Mushtaq Ahmad Malik R/o Dolipora, Kreeri Baramulla, Kashmir, intend to apply in the Department of Tourism for registration of my proposed travel unit under the name and style "M/s Bharat Voyages", situated at Kreeri Baramulla, Kashmir, under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, PAN Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance ₹10,000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photographs of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and two Passport Size Photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to registration of my unit as a Travel Agency / Tour Operator.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of the general public, financial institutions/banks/organizations, etc. for objection, if any. The same should reach the Deputy Director, Tourism Registration (email id: ddtreq123@gmail.com) within a period of 07 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond the stipulated period shall be entertained.

NOTICE

This is an information for general public that Electricity Agreement bearing Consumer ID No: 0211020002837, which is Registered in the name of Shareefa Bano, W/O Gh Mohiudin Wani. Now I want to apply for transfer this Electricity Agreement in my name as Firdosa Bano, S/O Gh Mohiudin Wani, in this regard any person having any objection he/she may file the Objections in office of the Assistant Executive Engineer Electricity Sub Division Nawa pulwama with in a period of seven days from the date of the publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be accepted.

Firdosa Bano, S/O Gh Mohiudin Wani
R/O Rahmoo Pulwama, District Pulwama.

Subject: Grant of registration of Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under that name and style "ROYAL HANAN RESORT" situated at Manzpura Khimber Hazratbal Srinagar Kashmir.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Where, I Mr. Aashiq Ahmad Dar S/o Abdul Rahim Dar R/o Khimber Hazratbal Srinagar Kashmir, intends to apply in the office of Prescribed Authorities of Directorate of Tourism Kashmir for registration of my proposed Paying Guest House / Home Stay under the name and style of ROYAL HANAN RESORT situated at Manzpura Khimber Hazratbal Srinagar Kashmir under the tourist trade act 1978/802/2011.

Whereas, I will submit Landownership Certificate from concerned Tehsilidar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner concerned, Rent Deed/ Partnership deed issued by concerned sub Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable) NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as Home Stay, Character Certificate of the applicant from the concerned police station, undertaking from the owner as self-declaration, public notice inviting objections, if any in print media, list of family members Name, Age and photograph self-attested by owner. Photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application each exterior and the individual bed rooms and bathrooms, Inspection report by the committee (the recommendations of the inspection committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not, keeping in view the type of accommodation and amenities and other amenity), Aadhar card.

Now before my case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority. The matter is hereby notified to the information of general public/ organisations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of Prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the Valley. Objections received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be processed under the rules as permit stop.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Determined Push Against Growing Menace

The launch of a 100-day anti-drug campaign by Manoj Sinha marks a significant and much-needed escalation in the fight against substance abuse in Jammu and Kashmir. The initiative, Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan, comes at a time when concerns around drug addiction, especially among the youth, have moved from being a quiet worry to a visible social crisis.

What stands out in this campaign is its dual approach: a firm enforcement strategy paired with community-driven awareness. The emphasis on a zero-tolerance policy against drug peddlers sends a clear message that the administration is willing to act decisively. Measures such as financial investigations, property attachments, and cancellation of official documents are intended to dismantle the economic backbone of narcotics networks. If implemented fairly and consistently, these steps could disrupt the supply chain that fuels addiction.

However, enforcement alone cannot resolve a problem that is as much social and psychological as it is criminal. The campaign's focus on rehabilitation and public participation is therefore equally important. Substance abuse often stems from deeper issues—unemployment, stress, peer pressure, and lack of awareness. Addressing these root causes requires sustained engagement with communities, educational institutions, and families.

The call for greater involvement of civil society, particularly the role of women within families, is both culturally relevant and practical. In many households, early signs of addiction are first noticed at home. Empowering families with awareness and support mechanisms can help in early intervention, potentially saving lives before addiction deepens.

Equally noteworthy is the use of digital platforms by the Jammu and Kashmir Police to spread awareness and encourage reporting. In an age where information travels fast, leveraging social media can amplify outreach, especially among the youth who are both the most vulnerable and the most reachable through such channels.

Yet, the real test of this campaign will lie in its execution and sustainability. Crackdowns often generate initial momentum, but long-term success depends on institutional consistency, transparency, and public trust. Safeguards must also be in place to ensure that punitive measures are not misused and that innocent individuals are not caught in the dragnet.

Ultimately, making Jammu and Kashmir drug-free is not a 100-day goal—it is a long-term commitment. This campaign can serve as a strong foundation, but its success will depend on whether it evolves into a sustained movement that combines strict law enforcement with compassion, rehabilitation, and collective responsibility.

The message is clear: the fight against drugs cannot be won by the government alone. It must become a shared mission—one where every citizen has a role to play.

Good Morning Kashmir

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Technology And The Making Of The Indian Century

Artificial Intelligence, Semiconductors, And Human Capital Can Shape India's Next Phase Of Economic Growth

ER. SUHAIB BAKSHI

The global economy is entering a decisive technological era in which artificial intelligence, advanced computing, and digital infrastructure are reshaping how nations grow, innovate, and compete. For India, this moment presents an opportunity not only to adopt emerging technologies but also to accelerate economic development and strengthen its position in the global knowledge economy.

Artificial intelligence is increasingly becoming a foundational layer of modern industry. From manufacturing and finance to healthcare and agriculture, intelligent systems are improving productivity, enabling better decision making, and creating new business models. Governments and companies around the world are investing heavily in research, computing infrastructure, and advanced semiconductor supply chains to prepare for an AI driven economic landscape.

Countries are pursuing different strategies in response to this transformation. The United States continues to lead in frontier innovation through its research universities, venture capital ecosystem, and globally influential technology companies. China has demonstrated strong capability in deploying technology at scale across manufacturing and industrial systems, supported by extensive infrastructure and coordinated investment.

India is developing its own approach within this evolving landscape. Rather than focusing on a single component of the technology ecosystem, the country's strategy increasingly combines infrastructure, talent, research, and entrepreneurship. Public initiatives such as the IndiaAI Mission aim to expand access to advanced computing resources for startups, researchers, and academic institutions. By lowering barriers to high performance computing, such programmes can help strengthen domestic innovation and support the growth of technology driven enterprises.

Announcements at the India AI Impact Summit in 2026 highlighted plans to expand computing capacity and deepen collaboration with international technology partners. Greater access to computing resources can accelerate research and experimentation in artificial intelligence, enabling Indian institutions and companies to develop solutions that serve both global markets



and domestic needs.

India's strategy also reflects the country's linguistic and social diversity. Platforms such as BharatGen multilingual models and the Bhashini language initiative aim to extend digital tools across a wide range of Indian languages. Expanding technological access across linguistic and regional boundaries can broaden participation in the digital economy and create new opportunities for businesses and consumers alike.

Another important dimension of India's technology strategy is the strengthening of domestic technological capability. In the modern global economy, reliable access to computing infrastructure, data ecosystems, and semiconductor supply chains has become increasingly important for long term competitiveness.

India's investments in data centres, artificial intelligence research, and semiconductor development aim to strengthen technological resilience. These initiatives seek to ensure that Indian companies and research institutions are able to participate more actively in the development of advanced technologies rather than relying primarily on imported solutions.

Perhaps the most significant advantage India brings to the global technology landscape is its human capital. India's large and youthful population represents a substantial reservoir of scientific and technical talent. Each year, a growing number of graduates enter fields such as engineering, electronics, computer science, and data science.

Harnessing this talent effectively will require sustained investment in education, research institutions, and innovation ecosystems. Universities, research laboratories, and technology companies will play critical roles in translating

academic research into commercially viable solutions and technological breakthroughs.

Educational initiatives that introduce students to artificial intelligence, advanced computing, semiconductor design, and robotics can help prepare the workforce for the next phase of technological development. Programmes aimed at strengthening semiconductor engineering skills and digital expertise are important steps toward building a stronger industrial and research base.

Artificial intelligence is already contributing to improvements in productivity and governance. Digital technologies are helping streamline welfare delivery systems, assist medical professionals in diagnostics, and enable better analysis of large datasets for planning and decision making. As these technologies continue to mature, they can support greater efficiency and productivity across multiple sectors of the economy.

At the same time, global research communities are exploring future developments in artificial intelligence, including systems capable of performing a wide range of cognitive tasks. Continued investment in research, responsible governance, and international cooperation will be important for countries seeking to remain competitive in this rapidly evolving technological landscape.

Hardware capability remains another crucial component of technological progress. Semiconductors form the backbone of modern computing systems and digital industries. India's Semiconductor Mission seeks to strengthen domestic capability across chip design, manufacturing, and supply chains.

Projects involving both international and domestic companies are expected to contribute to the development of a

stronger semiconductor ecosystem. Over time, sustained investment in this sector could support the growth of a more resilient technology manufacturing base and reduce vulnerabilities associated with global supply chain disruptions.

India's ambitions also extend beyond artificial intelligence. The National Quantum Mission is supporting research in quantum computing and secure communication technologies. The Gaganyaan programme reflects expanding capability in space technology and aerospace engineering. In biotechnology, advanced computational tools are accelerating research in medicine, agriculture, and environmental sustainability.

These developments illustrate how different areas of science and technology are becoming increasingly interconnected. Advances in artificial intelligence can accelerate progress in quantum computing, biotechnology, and space research, creating new opportunities for industrial growth and scientific discovery.

As India continues to expand its technological capabilities, maintaining a balance between domestic capacity and international collaboration will remain important. Partnerships with global technology companies, research institutions, and innovation networks can help accelerate knowledge exchange while strengthening India's role in shaping emerging technological standards.

India's technological trajectory will ultimately depend on its ability to combine innovation, infrastructure, and human talent. Continued investment in digital capabilities, research ecosystems, and industrial capacity can support long term economic growth and strengthen India's position in the global technology economy.

In the decades ahead, technology will play a central role in shaping productivity, competitiveness, and opportunity. If India continues to nurture innovation, empower its talent, and expand access to advanced technologies, the coming years may mark an important phase in the country's journey toward a more dynamic and knowledge driven economy. In that journey, the growing strength of India's technology ecosystem may become a defining pillar of what many describe as the Indian century.

Author writes on digital infrastructure and emerging technologies. He can be mailed at bakshisuhaib09@gmail.com

An Open Letter To Financial Commissioner Revenue And Comm Secy Revenue

Respected Sir,

With utmost respect, deep regard, and a sense of institutional responsibility, we—the Patwaris and Girdawars of Jammu & Kashmir—take this opportunity to place before your esteemed offices a heartfelt and collective appeal. This is not merely a communication of demands; it is a reflection of lived realities, administrative burdens, and a sincere hope for responsive governance under your dynamic leadership.

At the very outset, we express our gratitude for the administrative vision and reform-oriented approach that your offices have consistently demonstrated. Your stewardship of the Revenue Department has inspired confidence among field functionaries, who view your leadership as both progressive and empathetic.

It is in this spirit of trust and expectation that we submit this open letter. The revenue machinery of Jammu & Kashmir stands firmly on the shoulders of its grassroots functionaries—the Patwaris and Girdawars. Historically, these positions have not merely been clerical or record-keeping roles; they have been the very interface between the State and its citizens in matters of land, rights, and governance.

From maintaining Jamabandies and Girdawaries to facilitating mutations, demarcations, and public services, the Patwari remains the first and often the only accessible authority for rural populations. The Girdawar, as a supervisory officer, ensures that this vast system remains functional and accountable.

However, in the modern era, marked by digitisation, legal complexities, and increasing public expectations—the scope of these roles has expanded exponentially, while institutional support has not

kept pace.

Recently, the Patwar fraternity across Jammu & Kashmir, through its representative bodies, submitted a formal requisition to your esteemed offices. This requisition reflects long-pending demands that have been under discussion since 2014, yet remain unresolved despite repeated assurances and committee formations.

The issues raised are not new. They are structural, systemic, and deeply rooted in administrative realities. The urgency of these demands was further highlighted during the All Jammu & Kashmir Patwar Association meeting held on April 5, 2026, at Srinagar, where a unanimous resolution called for immediate government intervention. It is in continuation of that resolution—and with utmost humility—that we reiterate our concerns.

Key Issues and Demands

Rationalization of Patwar Halqas and Girdawar Circles: One of the most pressing challenges is the irrational distribution of Patwar Halqas and Girdawar Circles. In many areas, a single Patwari is burdened with vast and geographically challenging jurisdictions, often covering multiple villages with difficult terrain. This not only hampers efficiency but also affects service delivery.

Rationalization is not merely an administrative adjustment—it is a necessity for ensuring accessibility, transparency, and timely public service.

Grant of Technical Grade to Patwaris

The role of a Patwari today is highly technical, involving:

- Digital record management
- GIS-based land mapping
- Online mutation systems
- Legal verification processes

Despite this, the designation and pay structure do not reflect the technical nature of the job. Granting Technical Grade status would not only recognize the evolving nature of the role but also enhance



morale and professional dignity.

Enhancement of Grade Pay

The existing Grade Pay of 2400 is disproportionately low when compared to:

- The workload
- The responsibilities
- The risks involved

An enhancement to 2800 is both justified and necessary to bring parity with similarly placed technical and field staff in other departments.

Revision of Naib Tehsildar Quota (75:25 Pattern): Career progression remains one of the most demotivating aspects of the Patwar service.

The demand for revising the quota for promotion to Naib Tehsildar on a 75:25 pattern—on the lines of UT Ladakh—is rooted in fairness and merit. A clear and achievable promotion pathway is essential for sustaining institutional motivation and attracting talent to the service.

The Government's push for digitisation of land records is a commendable initiative. However, its implementation has placed an enormous burden on field staff.

Uploading backlog mutations, verifying legacy records, and ensuring data accuracy require time, infrastructure, and training. Currently, Patwaris are expected to perform these tasks alongside their routine duties, leading to overwork and inefficiency. The request for extending deadlines for

backlog mutation uploads is not an attempt to delay progress—it is a plea for realistic timelines that ensure quality over haste.

A System Under Strain

The cumulative effect of these challenges is a system under visible strain:

- Delays in service delivery
- Increased public dissatisfaction
- Mental and physical stress among field staff

Despite these pressures, Patwaris and Girdawars continue to perform their duties with dedication and integrity. As a last resort, and in accordance with a unanimous decision, the Patwar Association has indicated the possibility of a peaceful three-day pen-down token strike on April 13, 15, and 16, 2026. However, we firmly believe that under your leadership, such a situation can—and must—be avoided through timely intervention.

Respected Sir, it is important to acknowledge that the Revenue Department today is under the stewardship of officers who are widely regarded as capable, efficient, and employee-friendly. Your leadership is often spoken of in terms that reflect both admiration and hope.

In fact, many in the field see in your administrative synergy a modern reflection of the historic administrative duo that once laid the foundations of revenue governance in the region. This perception is not merely symbolic—it is a testa-

ment to the trust you have earned.

The Way Forward: Constructive Suggestions

In addition to the demands, we humbly offer the following suggestions:

Constitute a Time-Bound Committee: A high-level committee with representation from field staff should be constituted to address these issues within a fixed timeframe.

Field-Level Consultations: Regular interactions with Patwaris and Girdawars can provide valuable insights into ground realities.

Infrastructure Support: Provision of adequate digital infrastructure, including devices and internet connectivity, is essential for successful digitisation.

Training and Capacity Building: Continuous training programs should be conducted to equip staff with modern technical skills.

A Collective Appeal: Respected Financial Commissioner Revenue and Commissioner Secretary Revenue, we stand before you not as agitators, but as partners in governance. Our demands are not excessive—they are essential, our tone is not confrontational—it is respectful and our hope is not misplaced—it is rooted in your proven commitment to administrative excellence.

This is a defining moment for the Revenue Department of Jammu & Kashmir; the decisions taken today will shape not only the future of land governance but also the morale and efficiency of its workforce. We urge you to consider our demands with urgency, empathy, and foresight.

Let this moment be remembered not for unrest, but for resolution. Let it mark the beginning of a new chapter—where policy meets practice, and leadership meets expectation.

With Respect and Hope,
The Patwaris and Girdawars of Jammu & Kashmir
Email: miramin354@gmail.com

Beyond The Brand: The Exploitation Of Local Craftsmanship



DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

The transformation of local craftsmanship into commercially branded commodities is often celebrated as a success story of globalization, entrepreneurship, and cultural exchange. Governments, corporations, and even development agencies frequently present such commercialization as a pathway to economic empowerment for artisans and a means of preserving traditional knowledge systems. Yet beneath this optimistic narrative lies a more troubling reality: the systematic exploitation of marginalized communities whose skills, labor, and cultural heritage are appropriated, repackaged, and sold in markets that rarely return equitable value to their creators.

The phenomenon of branding local craftsmanship thus raises fundamental questions about power, ownership, authenticity, and justice in a globalized economy.

Kashmir's Shawls, Muga Chador from Assam and Bengal's rich tradition of handloom textiles—such as Tant, Jamdani, and Baluchari—and terracotta art from regions like Bishnupur reflects a blend of aesthetic sophistication and cultural symbolism. Kolhapuri Chappals and other such local handcrafted items have increasingly been marketed under boutique and designer labels. However, the artisans, often from rural and economically disadvantaged backgrounds, remain underpaid. Designers and urban entrepreneurs frequently take credit for innovation, while the original creators are relegated to anonymous laborers. In the case of terracotta, mass-produced decorative items have diluted the authenticity of traditional craftsmanship, reducing artisans' income and cultural visibility.

Across all these examples, a common pattern emerges: the separation of creation from profit. The artisan creates, but the brand earns. The narrative of heritage is used as a marketing tool, yet the custodians of that heritage are excluded from its economic benefits. This reflects a deeper structural imbalance where marginalized communities lack access to capital, market knowledge, and institutional support. Moreover, commercialization often alters the very nature of these crafts. Designs are modified to suit market trends, production is accelerated to meet demand, and traditional methods are compromised. What was once a slow, meaningful process rooted in cultural practice becomes a commodified activity driven by profit. The artisan's identity as a creator is diminished, replaced by the role of a laborer in a supply chain.

However, these crafts also hold the potential for ethical transformation. If supported by fair trade practices, cooperative models, and direct-to-consumer platforms, artisans can reclaim agency over their work.

Transparent pricing, recognition of intellectual property, and consumer awareness can help bridge the gap between creator and market. In essence, Kashmiri shawls, Kolhapuri chappals, Assamese muga silk, and Bengali textiles or terracotta are not just products—they are stories of resilience, creativity, and cultural continuity. Their commercialization should not become a narrative of exploitation. Instead, it must evolve into a model of equitable growth where the marginalized are not merely producers but rightful stakeholders in the value they create.

Local craftsmanship is deeply embedded in the social, cultural, and ecological contexts of communities. It is not merely a form of production but a repository of inherited knowledge, collective memory, and identity. Whether it is handloom weaving in rural Bengal, bamboo craft in North-east India, pottery in Rajasthan, or tribal art forms like Warli and Gond, each tradition carries within it centuries of adaptation, symbolism, and meaning. These crafts are often sustained by communities that exist on the margins of economic and political power—indigenous groups, rural artisans, women, and lower-caste populations. For them, craftsmanship is not



only a livelihood but also a mode of cultural expression and survival.

The entry of commercial branding into this ecosystem fundamentally alters the dynamics of production and value. Branding transforms a handcrafted object into a marketable product by attaching to it a narrative of authenticity, heritage, and uniqueness. This narrative is then leveraged to attract consumers, particularly in urban and international markets where there is a growing demand for "ethical," "sustainable," and "artisanal" goods. However, the process of creating and controlling this narrative is rarely in the hands of the artisans

However, such models remain the exception rather than the norm. The dominant paradigm of commercial branding continues to be driven by profit maximization and market expansion, often at the expense of social justice and cultural authenticity. Addressing this imbalance requires a multifaceted approach that involves policy interventions, ethical business practices, and informed consumer behavior.

themselves. Instead, it is dominated by intermediaries—designers, exporters, corporations, and even NGOs—who act as gatekeepers between the producer and the consumer.

These intermediaries often dictate the terms of production, including design modifications, pricing, and quality standards, in order to align the products with market trends. While such interventions may increase the commercial viability of the crafts, they can also lead to the erosion of traditional techniques and aesthetic values. Artisans are compelled to produce what sells rather than what they have historically created, leading to a form of cultural homogenization.

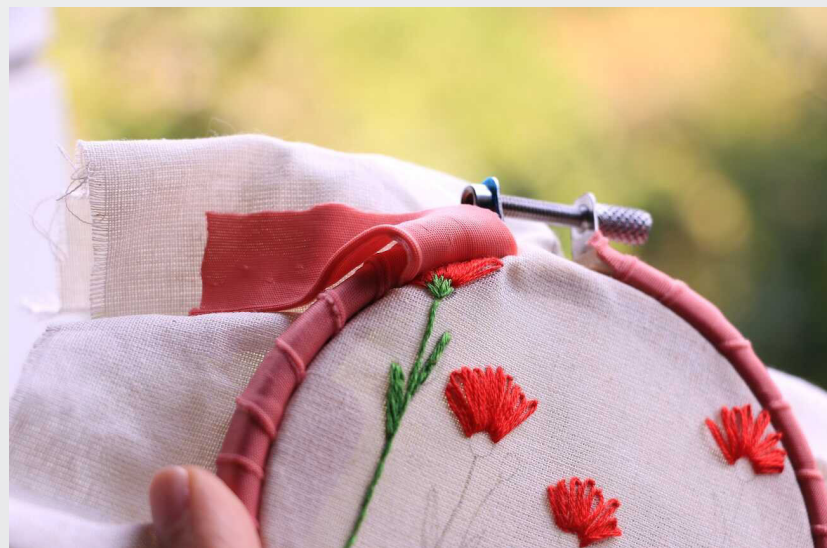
The craft becomes detached from its original context and is reconfigured to fit the tastes and expectations of distant consumers. In this process, the artisan's role is reduced to that of a laborer executing someone else's vision, rather than a creator with agency and cultural authority.

The issue of pricing further exposes the inequities inherent in the commercialization of local craftsmanship. Branded artisanal products often command high prices in boutiques and online platforms, marketed as luxury or premium items. Yet the artisans who produce these goods receive only a fraction of the final sale price. The bulk of the profits is captured by those who control branding, distribution, and marketing. This disparity reflects a broader pattern of value extraction in global supply chains, where those at the bottom—typically the most vulnerable—are compensated the least. The rhetoric of "fair trade" and "ethical consumption" is frequently used to mask these inequalities, creating an illusion of justice while perpetuating

neurs or urban designers as the faces of the enterprise. This invisibility reinforces existing gender inequalities and deprives women artisans of both economic and social recognition.

The environmental dimension of this issue is equally significant. Traditional crafts are often rooted in sustainable practices, utilizing locally available materials and eco-friendly techniques. However, the pressures of commercialization can lead to overproduction, resource depletion, and the introduction of synthetic materials to meet market demand. The emphasis on scalability and profit undermines the ecological balance that has historically sustained these crafts. In this sense, the exploitation of marginalized artisans is intertwined with the exploitation of natural resources, reflecting a broader pattern of unsustainable development.

The role of consumers in this dynamic cannot be overlooked. In recent years, there has been a growing awareness and appreciation of handmade and culturally significant



structural exploitation.

Intellectual property rights present another dimension of this problem. Traditional crafts are often based on collective knowledge that has been passed down through generations. However, in the realm of commercial branding, ownership is frequently claimed by individuals or companies who register designs, logos, or geographical indications. While such legal mechanisms are intended to protect cultural heritage, they can also be appropriated in ways that exclude the very communities they are meant to benefit. For instance, a corporation may trademark a particular style or motif, thereby gaining exclusive rights to its commercial use, while the original artisans are left without legal recognition or compensation. This raises critical ethical questions about who has the right to own and profit from cultural expressions.

Gender dynamics further complicate the landscape of artisanal exploitation. In many communities, women constitute a significant portion of the craft workforce, often engaging in labor-intensive tasks such as weaving, embroidery, and dyeing. Despite their central role, they are frequently underpaid, underrepresented, and excluded from decision-making processes. Commercial branding rarely acknowledges their contributions, instead highlighting male entrepre-

products. Consumers are increasingly drawn to items that tell a story, that appear authentic and ethically produced. While this shift has the potential to benefit artisans, it also creates opportunities for manipulation. Marketing strategies often romanticize the lives of artisans, presenting them as custodians of tradition while obscuring the hardships they face. The narrative of empowerment becomes a selling point, even when the reality is far more complex and often unjust. Consumers, in turn, may unknowingly participate in systems of exploitation, believing that their purchases are contributing to positive change. At the same time, it would be overly simplistic to dismiss all forms of commercialization as exploitative.

There are instances where branding and market integration have genuinely improved the livelihoods of artisans, providing them with access to new markets, better incomes, and greater visibility. Cooperative models, fair trade organizations, and community-led enterprises have demonstrated that it is possible to create more equitable systems. These initiatives prioritize transparency, ensure fair compensation, and involve artisans in decision-making processes. They also emphasize the importance of preserving cultural integrity while adapting to contemporary demands.

However, such models remain

the exception rather than the norm. The dominant paradigm of commercial branding continues to be driven by profit maximization and market expansion, often at the expense of social justice and cultural authenticity. Addressing this imbalance requires a multifaceted approach that involves policy interventions, ethical business practices, and informed consumer behavior. Governments can play a crucial role by implementing regulations that protect the rights of artisans, promote fair trade, and prevent the misuse of cultural heritage.

Legal frameworks must be designed to recognize collective ownership and ensure that benefits are equitably distributed.

Businesses, on their part, must move beyond tokenistic gestures of corporate social responsibility and commit to genuinely inclusive practices. This includes establishing direct relationships with artisan communities, ensuring fair wages, providing capacity-building opportunities, and respecting cultural autonomy. Transparency in supply chains is essential, allowing consumers to understand where their products come from and how they are made. Branding should not be a tool for appropriation but a platform for authentic representation, where the voices and identities of artisans are foregrounded rather than obscured.

Education and awareness are equally important in transforming consumer behavior. Consumers must be encouraged to look beyond aesthetic appeal and consider the ethical implications of their purchases. This involves questioning the narratives presented by brands, seeking out information about production processes, and supporting initiatives that prioritize fairness and sustainability. In a globalized world, where consumption patterns have far-reaching impacts, ethical awareness becomes a form of agency that can challenge exploitative systems.

Ultimately, the issue of local craftsmanship being branded commercially as a form of exploitation of the marginalized is not merely an economic concern but a moral and cultural one. It compels us to rethink the relationship between tradition and modernity, between local knowledge and global markets, and between creators and consumers. It asks us to recognize the human stories behind the products we use and to confront the inequalities that shape their production. The preservation of local craftsmanship should not come at the cost of those who sustain it.

True empowerment lies not in integrating artisans into exploitative market systems but in transforming those systems to be more just, inclusive, and respectful. It requires a shift from viewing craftsmanship as a commodity to understanding it as a living heritage that deserves protection and dignity. Only then can commercialization become a tool for empowerment rather than exploitation, ensuring that the marginalized are not merely participants in the global economy but rightful beneficiaries of its opportunities.

Author is International Tagore Awardee. He can be mailed at prof-ratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com

Local Body Polls In J&K

The electoral rolls for urban local bodies in J&K will only be available after Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise is carried out in the Union Territory. The State Election Commission has no updated electoral rolls for urban local bodies of J&K because the last revision was conducted by the Election Commission of India in 2024—(KNO)

LG Sinha Launches

plight but a collective crisis, not one family's tragedy but a challenge to us all. Together, with unwavering resolve, we will fight and defeat the scourge of drug abuse," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that drug abuse is among J&K's gravest challenges and we stand firm in our commitment to confront drug abuse and emerge victorious.

"Bound by shared purpose, we will rise against drug abuse and claim the victory that awaits us. The three-month long people's movement across J&K will make every person grasp the issue, turning information into responsibility through public participation," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor vowed decisive and uncompromising action against drug smugglers to free the J&K UT from the grip of the drug menace.

"Those who destroy society will face the full and uncompromising weight of the law. Our neighbor is using cross-border smuggling to poison our communities and undermine our nation's future. Every officer carries one obligation: this must stop. The full force of the law is now directed at smugglers. Their networks will be dismantled without delay," the Lieutenant Governor said.

In a stern warning, the Lieutenant Governor stated that Drug Smugglers' assets will be seized, ringleaders prosecuted, and punishment will be delivered swiftly. "The administration will confiscate all property, revoke licenses, passports, Aadhaar, and freeze bank accounts of all those involved. This crackdown against drug smugglers will echo through generations," he said.

"We have issued a new SoP against drug traffickers. Under this SOP, we have taken a crucial decision to revoke passports, driving licenses, Aadhaar numbers, and arms licenses of smugglers involved in drug trafficking. If they are absconding, a Look Out Circular will be issued immediately. Additionally, their movable and immovable properties will be attached under the NDPS Act, bank accounts frozen, and financial investigation will be launched.

On 2nd April, we had notified the Jammu and Kashmir Substance Use Disorder Treatment, Counselling and Rehabilitation Centres Rules, 2026, ensuring every center is genuine, dedicated to patients affected by addiction, equipped with all required human resources, and under continuous monitoring. Action will be taken against centers operating without support staff or in violation of the rules," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the senior officers for swift action on complaints and strengthening of grassroots intelligence with the help of panchayats, mohalla committees, chowkidars, lambardars and ward surveillance committees to identify and punish every culprit.

"Our strength in Drug-Free J&K Campaign lies in collective action. When departments unite with shared purpose, we prevail.

Since early 2021 we have moved beyond planning to decisive action for Drug-Free J&K. We are successfully implementing initiatives that have reached previously untouched communities, engaged youth in schools, and expanded rehabilitation services. No individual faces this battle alone; the administration stands firmly committed," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon youth, social workers, community leaders, teachers, women and athletes to participate in large numbers since they are the face, force and future of this campaign.

"The next three months will sow seeds of lasting change. Let anti-drug sports tournaments brim with fervor; debates steel youth resolve, quizzes embed awareness. Map drug-affected areas accurately; unity marches, Padyatra inspire neighborhoods; marathons from panchayats to cities declare that J&K will never bow to drugs," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that from village chaupals to district headquarters, every event must pulse with mass movement spirit, followed by reviews because feedback will be our compass to refine, strategize and act stronger.

"April 11 is not a ceremonial start but the first step of a transformative march. Let us build a movement so broad, so resolute, and so deeply people-driven that it lays the foundation of a drug-free J&K," he further said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor administered the "Anti-Drug Pledge" to the citizens and unveiled the official campaign mascot. Awareness Video, singing and cultural performances by renowned artists echoed the message of a drug-free Jammu Kashmir.

The Padyatra was warmly received by business organizations, civil society members, and various stakeholders along the route.

‘Digital Arrest’

campaigns are often confined to offices or institutions. Through media, the same message can reach lakhs of people at once," he added.

He said children are increasingly targeted through social media platforms where their accounts are hacked, photographs misused or morphed using artificial intelligence and later used for blackmail.

"These images are altered in such a way that they become highly objectionable, and children are threatened that they will be shared with family or friends," he said.

For youth, especially students and job seekers, the Dy SP said fraudsters exploit aspirations by offering fake scholarships, admissions in reputed institutions, or lucrative job opportunities in India and abroad. "They ask for money in the name of registration, air tickets or processing. Once the payment is made, the link disappears," he said.

He added that in the business community, fraudsters pitch highly attractive investment

opportunities. "If someone offers you a product worth Rs 1000 at Rs 200, it should immediately raise suspicion. Such offers must be verified thoroughly before any transaction," he said.

Malik said many scams revolve around OTP sharing, fake KYC verification, and impersonation calls from banks or service providers. He further cited instances where fraudsters exploit situations like shortages of essential commodities, offering quick delivery in exchange for OTPs or personal details.

"In earlier times, valuables were kept in safes. Today, everything from banking to identity and money is inside your phone. Sharing credentials means handing over your entire security," he said.

Highlighting a major emerging trend, the Dy SP said fraudsters are using the concept of "digital arrest" to intimidate victims, particularly elderly individuals. "There is no such legal term as digital arrest. No one can be arrested digitally. Fraudsters use fear tactics, often targeting elderly people living alone, threatening them with links to serious crimes to extort money," he said.

The officer said that elderly persons are more vulnerable as they tend to panic under pressure, unlike younger individuals who may question such threats.

Malik warned that the rise of artificial intelligence has made cyber fraud more sophisticated, including voice cloning and identity impersonation. "In today's AI era, a fraudster can clone someone's voice or identity and call their relatives for money. The safest way is to always verify by calling back the concerned person," he said.

He also cited cases of WhatsApp hacking, where fraudsters send urgent financial requests from compromised accounts. "Even if a message comes from a known contact, verify before sending money," he advised.

Sharing enforcement data, the police officer said more than Rs 22 lakh has been recovered in the past three months, while a significant amount remains on hold and is in the process of being returned to victims. "There is still a large amount that has been lost, and efforts are being made to recover it," he said.

He also elaborated on new measures introduced by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), stating that victims of fraud up to Rs 50,000 may not need to approach courts for recovery. "If the cyber police station is satisfied that the claim is genuine, it can recommend that the bank release the amount directly," he said.

However, Malik pointed out practical challenges in implementation. As per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), the victim must approach their bank branch and file a grievance, after which the bank manager seeks a report from the concerned cyber police station.

"Many bank managers are still not fully aware of this process, causing delays. Some may hesitate to take responsibility and refuse release, but there are higher grievance levels where victims can escalate," he said.

He also referred to earlier difficulties where victims were required to obtain court orders, often spending more on legal fees than the amount defrauded.

The Dy SP stressed that immediate reporting is critical in financial fraud cases. "Call 1930 without delay. The transaction can be frozen instantly, but it does not take even a minute," he said.

He described the helpline, along with the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (cyber-crime.gov.in), as "lifelines" for victims, adding that the helpline operates 24x7 despite occasional congestion.

On online gaming frauds, Malik said several platforms involving monetary transactions have been banned, with hundreds of websites blocked, though fraudsters continue to evolve.

He also raised concerns over unregulated online advertisements on social media, which mislead users. "Action can be taken if such content is reported, but authorities depend on public complaints as there is no automatic detection mechanism," he said.

The officer cautioned against posting or commenting on individuals, such as doctors, without consent on social media, warning that such actions may violate legal provisions.

In addition to cyber crime, he highlighted rising drug addiction in Jammu and Kashmir, calling it a more serious societal threat. He said teenagers and young individuals are particularly vulnerable and urged parents to remain vigilant.

Malik described the media as a crucial partner in combating cyber crime. "Through media, awareness can reach lakhs of people instantly. If awareness spreads, fraud will reduce," he said.

He urged citizens to remain cautious, verify all digital interactions, avoid sharing sensitive information and report any suspicious activity promptly to prevent losses—(KNO)

J&K Govt revamps GST

Section 16(4), but now eligible under amended provisions, can apply for rectification within six months, with authorities directed to dispose of such applications within three months.

In another relief measure, timelines have been set for the waiver of interest and penalties under Section 128A. Registered taxpayers can clear dues by specified dates, such as March 31, 2025, to avail waivers, while extended timelines apply in cases involving appellate orders.

The government has further notified special categories of taxable supplies, bringing online money gaming, online gaming (other than money gaming), and actionable claims in casinos under the GST ambit.

On the compliance front, new provisions aim to speed up GST registration. A system-driven process will now allow registration within three working days based on data analysis and risk parameters. Additionally, small taxpayers with a monthly liability below 2.5 lakh can opt for simplified registration, subject to Aadhaar authentication.

The amendments also clarify refund restrictions and appellate procedures. Notably, no refund will be granted for taxes already paid for periods before the enforcement of amended provisions under Section 128A, even if disputes cover multiple periods.

In addition, a notification operationalises provisions of the J&K GST (Second Amendment) Act, 2025, retrospectively enforcing several sections from October 1, 2025.

Further, changes to Schedule IV define "speci-

fied actionable claims," explicitly covering betting, gambling, casinos, horse racing, lottery, and online gaming, bringing J&K's GST framework in line with central provisions—(KNO)

Wular Lake Conservation

strengthening earthen embankments along 15 km of vulnerable stretches to prevent encroachments and provide flood buffering to the local communities residing around Wular Lake, the officials said.

Construction of the non-motorable walkway Phase-II is in the process and expected to start shortly.

Meanwhile, they said the upgradation of Delta Park, Baniyari, at a cost of Rs 2.50 cr, Gurura Park at Rs 4.70 crore, and the construction of Eco-Park at Ningli, Sopore at a cost of Rs 4.90 cr; are under execution.

Two watch towers equipped with CCTV cameras have been constructed, while four additional CCTVs are being installed this year, they said.

Accordingly, the removal of willow plantations within the jurisdiction of Wular Lake is being undertaken as a habitat management and lake restoration measure, in line with the approved Comprehensive Management Action Plan (CMAP) objectives, they said, adding this activity involves ecological restoration intervention and cannot be construed as deforestation.

It does not involve diversion or degradation of forest land but rather the removal of invasive or ecologically adverse vegetation to restore the natural wetland character of Wular Lake.

They said the number of willow trees in and around Wular Lake is 19-21 lakh. However, the CMAP does not envisage blanket removal of all willow plantations. Instead, it prescribes selective, phased, and need-based removal, aligned with specific lake restoration and habitat management objectives. In the first phase, 1.91 lakh willow trees were identified for removal, of which around 1.35 lakh have already been cleared. Revenue generated from these interventions stands at approximately 31.95 crore, officials said.

However, afforestation is conducted in the catchment of the lake in close coordination with the Forest Territorial Wing through approved funding mechanisms, including CAPEX and CAMPA schemes under which 19 lakh plants have been planted since the Authority was established in 2012, the officials said.

In the Bandipora catchment of Wular Lake, an area exceeding 2,900 hectares has been treated through afforestation, plantation, and soil conservation measures, they said, adding more than 19 lakh plants have been planted under these initiatives, contributing significantly to slope stabilisation, erosion control, and reduction of sediment load entering the lake.

ISI-Backed Espionage

in espionage, arms smuggling and reconnaissance activities.

The accused have been identified as Manpreet Singh, a resident of Tarn Taran in Punjab; Anmol and Sahil of Firozpur in Punjab; Atul Rathee, Rohit and Ajay from Delhi; Gurjeet of Kapurthala; Rimpledeep of Fazilka; Salwinder alias Kalu and Boota Singh of Fazilka in Punjab; and Harpreet of Moga in Punjab.

Investigators said the network was operating under instructions from Pakistan's intelligence agency, with operatives on the ground tasked with installing surveillance equipment and relaying sensitive visuals.

The use of solar-powered CCTV cameras ensured uninterrupted surveillance even in remote or low-access areas, making detection difficult and allowing the network to function continuously without relying on conventional power sources.

"The cameras were fitted with SIM cards procured using fake identities and were linked to mobile applications, enabling seamless real-time transmission of footage across the border," Additional Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Pramod Singh Kushwah said.

The police said the accused had conducted detailed reconnaissance before installing the devices, carefully selecting vantage points that offered clear visibility of Army cantonments, border roads and movement routes of security forces. The footage was then analysed by handlers in Pakistan to map patterns, assess vulnerabilities and potentially plan further activities.

"The intention was not just passive surveillance but strategic monitoring of defence movement patterns over a period of time," the officer said, adding that such inputs could have been used for planning terror strikes or facilitating cross-border operations.

"The crackdown was carried out in two phases. In the first operation, six accused were arrested from Punjab and Delhi, with the recovery of nine CCTV cameras, four pistols, including three foreign-made weapons, and 24 live cartridges. The second phase, based on inputs from military intelligence, led to the arrest of five more operatives actively involved in reconnaissance and data sharing," the Additional CP said.

"One of the key accused, Manpreet Singh from Punjab, was found to be in direct contact with Pakistan-based handlers and played a central role in coordinating communication and facilitating the movement of illegal arms. Others, including field operatives, were responsible for physically installing the cameras and maintaining the network on the ground," the officer said.

The police said the bust has potentially averted a major security threat, as inputs suggest that the module was also exploring plans to target security establishments using explosives and other means. The integration of espionage with arms trafficking and terror planning points to a larger and well-coordinated conspiracy backed by external elements.

Security agencies are now analysing digital evidence, including mobile phones and data retrieved from the CCTV systems, to identify further links, handlers and sleeper cells.

The probe is ongoing, with officials not ruling out more arrests in the coming days.

Sharing the profile of the accused, the officer said that Manpreet Singh has completed BCA. He came in contact with the Pak handlers through an encrypted app.

Anmol, a 10th pass, is engaged in wallpaper pasting work. He installed CCTV cameras at nine locations with the help of his associate Sahil.

Sahil is a 12th pass, engaged in wallpaper pasting

work. He assisted Anmol in fixing cameras.

Atul Rathee, with a master's degree in business from New Zealand, received four foreign-made pistols from Manpreet and three country-made pistols from an arms trafficker.

Rohit holds a master's degree in business. He accompanied Atul Rathee to receive arms from Punjab.

Ajay, a graduate, received a country-made pistol from Rohit.

Gurjeet Singh, who has studied up to the 12th standard, established contact with Pak-based handlers through his cousin who was engaged in cross-border narco smuggling. He conducted reconnaissance of Army Cantt and shared photos and videos with the Pak handler.

Rimpledeep Singh, who has studied up to the 12th standard, collected and shared sensitive information, including images and videos of Army and BSF Camps.

Harpreet Singh alias Happy, who completed his education up to 10th standard, acted on the instructions of the Pak handler to facilitate drug trafficking across the international border and planned installations of the solar-powered CCTV cameras.

Salwinder Singh alias Kalu, who has studied up to the 10th standard, is presently working as a DJ operator. He accompanied Rimpledeep Singh in conducting reconnaissance and assisting in sharing photos and videos of the Army and paramilitary installations.

Boota Singh has passed 12th and was involved in cross-border smuggling of narcotics.

Govt Directs SSSA

and quality. The Chair directed that the SSSA shall be implemented in letter and spirit by May 2026," reads the minutes of the meeting.

Furthermore, the CS was apprised of the status of implementation of the National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST).

NSPT is a public statement outlining what constitutes teaching quality and what is required to improve educational outcomes for students in India.

These standards comprise a set of guiding principles that define expectations regarding the role of a teacher at various stages of their career and levels of expertise.

They also outline effective teaching practices and the competencies required to function in 21st-century classrooms.

The CS directed that clear targets be fixed for the implementation of NPST and that the same be achieved within a time-bound framework—(KNO)

1,222 Out Of 2,262 Posts

the Valley's most critical referral and tertiary care hospital.

"SKIMS is considered the last hope for patients after Allah. If such a vital institution is facing this level of staff shortage, one can only imagine the condition of hospitals in peripheral areas," said several attendants and patients.

They added that despite the severe manpower deficit, doctors and paramedical staff continue to work tirelessly to provide treatment.

However, they noted that with such a high vacancy rate, the burden on existing staff is immense, especially as the hospital caters to thousands of patients daily. "There is tremendous pressure on the available workforce. While they are doing their best, the shortage inevitably affects efficiency and patient care. The government must take immediate steps to fill these vacancies," they said.

Meanwhile, a similar situation persists at SKIMS Medical College Hospital, Bemina, where a significant number of posts are also lying vacant.

Out of 1,167 sanctioned posts at SKIMS Bemina, only 774 are filled, while 393 posts remain vacant.

The vacant positions at SKIMS Bemina include 70 faculty posts, 12 registrars, 6 junior residents, 23 other gazetted posts, 76 paramedical posts, 67 additional paramedical staff positions, 53 nursing posts, and 86 Class-IV posts.

The persistent vacancies in both institutions have raised questions about healthcare management and staffing policies, with stakeholders urging authorities to address the issue on a priority basis to ensure better patient care across Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

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Budgam launches 100-Day Nasha Mukht Abhiyan with strong call for collective action

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: District Administration Budgam Saturday kickstarted the UT-wide 100 Days Intensive Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, with a strong resolve to eliminate drug abuse and promote a healthier, drug-free society.

In Budgam, the programme was formally inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, along with SSP Budgam Hariprasad KK, at the Drug De-Addiction Centre Budgam, in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare, District Information Centre Budgam, Health Department, and Police Department Budgam.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the critical importance of a unified and sustained effort to tackle the growing drug menace. He stated that the campaign is not merely an awareness initiative but a comprehensive approach combining prevention, enforcement, treatment, and rehabilitation.

The DC emphasized that drug abuse poses a serious threat to the social fabric, particularly affecting the youth, and called upon all stakeholders including parents, teachers, civil society, and community leaders to actively participate in the Abhiyan.

He underscored the need for early intervention, continuous counselling, and community-based support systems to help affected individuals reintegrate into society.

Reiterating the admin-



istration's commitment, the DC said that this campaign spreads awareness, ensures strict enforcement, and provides treatment and rehabilitation.

The DC stressed that enforcement agencies have been directed to intensify efforts against drug trafficking networks, while healthcare institutions are being strengthened to provide accessible and effective de-addiction services.

He also appreciated the coordinated efforts of all departments in ensuring the successful launch of this drive.

Following the inaugural session, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various sections of the Drug De-Addiction Centre Budgam, taking stock of the facilities, treatment mechanisms, and rehabilitation services being provided to the patients. He interacted with the staff and emphasized the need for

compassionate care, professional counselling, and sustained follow-up for successful recovery outcomes.

On the occasion, the SSP also spoke about the various steps taken by Police administration Budgam to curb this menace and to bring the paddlers behind the bars.

Later, the DC, along with SSP Budgam, and other senior officers, led a plantation drive at Boys Higher Secondary School Budgam, symbolizing a commitment towards a healthier environment and a drug-free future.

Addressing students and participants, the DC spoke extensively about the dangers of drug abuse and urged the youth to stay away from harmful substances and act as ambassadors of change in society.

SSP Budgam, in his address, highlighted the crucial role of society in

combating drug abuse. He emphasized the importance of community participation in identifying drug peddlers and supporting victims in their recovery journey. He reiterated that the police department is committed to strict action against those involved in drug trafficking and appealed to the public to cooperate in this mission.

The programme was attended by ADC Budgam, Joint Director Planning, CEO, CMO, District Information Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, ACD, BDO Budgam, and other senior officers of the district.

The launch of the 100-day intensive campaign marks a significant step towards a coordinated, mission-mode approach to eradicate drug abuse and ensure a safer, healthier future for the people of Budgam.

Workshop on Social Evils conducted by DLSA Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: A workshop on dowry and allied social evils was organized by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam in collaboration with Boys Higher Secondary School, Khan Sahib, under the aegis of the Legal Literacy Club (LLC).

The primary objective of the workshop was to create awareness among students regarding the social and legal consequences of the dowry system and to educate them about laws aimed at preventing such practices. It also encouraged youth to take a firm stand against social evils and to promote the values of equality, respect, and justice.

The workshop also included an important session on the rights, protec-

tion, welfare, and entitlements of senior citizens, emphasizing the need to ensure dignity, safety, and legal protection for the elderly.

Participants were sensitized to the challenges faced by senior citizens and informed about the legal safeguards available to them.

The workshop witnessed active participation from students and faculty members, who engaged in interactive discussions with the resource persons. The session provided a platform for meaningful exchange of ideas and enhanced understanding of issues related to dowry and the neglect of senior citizens.

Lateef Ahmad Khan, Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel, and Nazir Ahmad Wagay, Deputy Legal Aid

Defense Counsel, DLSA Budgam, served as the resource persons. They delivered insightful sessions highlighting the harmful impact of the dowry system on society.

The speakers elaborated on the provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, emphasizing that the Act strictly prohibits the giving, taking, or demanding of dowry and prescribes stringent penalties for violations. They noted that the practice of dowry has evolved into a coercive system, often resulting in harassment, domestic violence, and dowry-related deaths.

They also underscored the significance of the Supreme Court judgment in State of Uttar Pradesh vs. Ajmal Beg, which calls for strict enforcement of

anti-dowry laws and promotion of legal awareness.

Furthermore, the resource persons discussed the legal rights of senior citizens and highlighted remedies available in cases of neglect or abuse, stressing society's collective responsibility to safeguard their well-being.

The speakers also deliberated on issues of child marriage and gender-based discrimination, which adversely affect societal stability, public health, and equality, and are often linked to poverty, illiteracy, and substance abuse.

The Vice Principal, Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Shah, appreciated the efforts of DLSA Budgam and all stakeholders in promoting legal awareness and social responsibility among the youth.

Sacred Jyoti installed at Ram Lalla's temporary site in Ayodhya's Garbha Griha ahead of Chal-Vigrah consecration

IAN S

AYODHYA: In a sacred development at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir in Ayodhya, the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has performed a significant ritual ahead of the consecration of Prabhu Shri Ramlalla Sarkar's "Chal-Vigrah" (movable idol) in the Garbha Griha (sanctum sanctorum).

On Saturday, the exact spot in the Garbha Griha where the "Chal-Vigrah" was temporarily placed during the temple's con-

struction phase was ritually marked by the installation of a sacred jyoti (eternal flame).

Vedic scholars and pandits performed traditional pujas and prescribed Vedic rituals before placing the jyoti at the holy site, infusing the site with divine sanctity.

During the initial phase of the grand Ram Mandir construction, which began on August 5, 2020, the movable idol of Shri Ram Lalla had been temporarily enshrined at this very spot within the sanctum sanctorum.

The installation of the sacred jyoti now serves as a symbolic and spiritual marker, preserving the sanctity of the location while preparations continue for the permanent consecration of the new Chal-Vigrah.

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust stated that the ritual was performed with complete Vedic traditions to maintain the unbroken spiritual continuity of the sanctum.

The jyoti will remain as a glowing reminder of the divine presence that has sanctified the Garbha

Griha since the early days of the temple's rebuilding.

The Trust, in a post on X, said that before the consecration of Prabhu Shri Ramlalla Sarkar's Chal-Vigrah in the Garbha Griha, the place where the movable vigrah had earlier been placed was ritually marked by installing a sacred jyoti.

Vedic scholars performed the prescribed pujas and rituals before the placement of the jyoti. It noted that during the construction of the mandir, the vigrah had been temporarily enshrined at this very spot.

PM Modi holds mega road show in Siliguri after three rallies



IAN S

KOLKATA: After addressing three mega campaign rallies in three districts of West Bengal through the day amid the forthcoming two-phase Assembly polls in the state later this month, PM Narendra Modi participated in a mega road show at Bagdogra near Siliguri in Darjeeling district in the northern sector of the state on Saturday evening.

As the Prime Minister's convoy moved through the roads, thousands of local people stood on the roadside shouting "Modi-Modi" and "Jai Shree Ram" slogans.

Initially, the Prime Minister was seen sitting on the front seat of his vehicle beside the driver's seat, waving his hands towards the crowd.

Later, he leaned out of the vehicle window and waved at the crowd carrying a replica of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s symbol, the "Lotus."

The Prime Minister's direct interaction made the crowd on the roadside even more enthusiastic, with the pitch of their slogans rising higher.

BJP's two-time Lok

Sabha member from the Darjeeling constituency, Raju Bista, posted a video of the road show on his social media handle and said that the crowd's enthusiasm proved that PM Narendra Modi is one of the most popular world leaders.

He added that in India, particularly in the Darjeeling hills, the Terai, and the Doora, he is seen as a guardian.

"Today in Siliguri, thousands of people lined up to welcome him to our beautiful region. He obliged by greeting the people in person. What an extraordinary sight it is to see so much love and respect for our beloved PM, and him reciprocating that love by meeting the people in person spontaneously," Bista said.

Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister addressed three campaign rallies: the first at Katwa in East Burdwan district, the second at Jangipur in Murshidabad district, and the third at Kushmandi in South Dinajpur district.

The two-phase West Bengal Assembly polls will be held on April 23 and April 29. The results will be declared on May 4.

Govt raises diesel duties, hikes ATF levy with immediate effect

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Saturday increased excise duties on petroleum products, including high-speed diesel, with immediate effect, according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Finance.

The Union government has hiked the export duty or windfall tax on diesel by Rs 34 per litre to Rs 55.5 per litre from Rs 21.5 per litre, with immediate effect.

As per the Gazette notification, the Special Additional Excise Duty on high-speed diesel has been raised to Rs 24 per litre.

In a separate notification, the Union government also increased the Road and Infrastructure cess on diesel to Rs 36 per

On February 28, the US and Israel launched military strikes against Iran, triggering retaliatory actions from Tehran.

Subsequently, on April 8, Iran, the US and Israel agreed to a two-week ceasefire after the conflict disrupted energy markets and trade flows across the West Asia region.

The notification said the decision to revise duties was taken as circumstances warranted immediate action.

Further amendments have also been made to earlier notifications issued on March 26, 2026, revising applicable duty rates on petroleum products.

All the changes have come into force with immediate effect, the notifica-



tion added.

Earlier, oil marketing companies hiked ATF prices.

Rates for domestic carriers were increased by Rs 8,289.04 per kilolitre, or 8.56 per cent, to Rs 1,04,927.18 per kilolitre from Rs 96,638.14 per kilolitre.

Meanwhile, prices for foreign carriers and non-scheduled, charter and ad-hoc operators were raised more sharply by 114.5 per cent to Rs 2,07,341.22 per kilolitre.

Analysts said the increase in ATF prices may offer short-term relief to oil marketing companies.

0194-2310283

UNION TERRITORY GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

✉:rnb-rajbagh@jk.gov.in

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B)

DIVISION RAJBAGH SRINAGAR.

H.Q'S: LAL MANDI, NEAR L.D HOSPITAL SRINAGAR-190008.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT No.02/R&B/RAJ of 2026-27 issued under Endorsement No: 282-92 Dated: 10.04.2026.

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

S.No.	Name of Work	Base Cost Excl. GST (₹ in Lacs)	TOTAL / Adv. Cost (Base Cost + GST) (₹ in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc.	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of completion	Major Head	Class of Contractor/Agency
1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8
1.	Construction of Meeting Hall including Strong Room at Engineering Complex Rajbagh Srinagar (Phase-1 st).	102.11	120.48	₹2600/-	₹2,40,960/-	09 Months	(NFB) Capex Budget	AAY Class

Position of AAA: Accorded vide No.SE-PWD(R&B)Sgr-South/AA/132 of 2025-26 Dated: 17.12.2025.

Position of TS: Accorded vide No. CE(R&B)CK/TS/118 of 2015-26 Dated: 24.03.2026.

Position of Funds: Budgeted / Committed.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	10.04.2026.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11.04.2026.from 10:00 AM
3	Bid submission Start Date	11.04.2026.from 10:00 AM
4	Bid Submission End Date	16.04.2026 Up to 04:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	17.04.2026 at 11:00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under M.H-0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar(Tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan & EMD should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of Performance , Additional Performance Security and Drawl of Agreement.

*Abnormally Low Bid Price :
As per the Circular instructions of Finance Deptt. Vide NO.FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated:08.08.2025, which is reproduced as :-

➤ Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the Project Cost put to bid, the additional Performance Guarantee/ Security Percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

➤ Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.

➤ The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security & shall be released after the DLP is over successfully.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh Srinagar (Tender Receiving Authority).

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

7. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

8. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

9. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

➤ Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

➤ Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

✓ All other terms conditions shall remain as per the J&K Engineering Manual 2020 and other standing Guidelines of the Govt. of India / Govt. of J&K UT and as per PWD FORM (25) Double Cover.

No. 282-92
Dated : 10.04.2026.

DIPK-342-26
DT: 11/04/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Rajbagh Division Srinagar.

CMYK

DYSS Rolls Out Comprehensive Action Plan for 100-Day Nasha Mukta Campaign



GMK SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: Marking a definitive stand against substance abuse, the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) J&K successfully organized the first day of the historic 100 Day Special Campaign under the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan. As J&K has launched 100-day campaign under Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan, the Directorate of YSS has also devised a comprehensive action plan which was launched Saturday in all districts in collaboration with respective District Administrations. Orchestrated with professional precision across the UT, the initiative utilized sports and community mobilization to promote a healthier, drug-free lifestyle, successfully engaging thousands of students and commoners in a unified mission to reclaim the potential of the youth.

The first day was defined by high energy awareness rallies and Padyatras that

saw a massive groundswell of support in every corner of the region. In Samba, a powerful awareness rally saw over 850 students and 115 employees march from Rani Suchet Singh Sports Stadium to spread the message of a drug-free India, while in Kishtwar, a grand Padyatra commenced from the historic Char Chinar Chowgan, culminating at the DC Office as a symbol of collective resolve. Similarly, in Doda, a high-energy Padyatra transformed the streets into a vibrant wave of awareness, and in Kulgam, the campaign was bolstered by a spirited awareness march from the Mini Secretariat to DPL Kulgam. In Ramban, large-scale rallies were flagged off across multiple locations, including DPL Ramban and Banihal, ensuring the campaign's reach extended through every subdivision.

Beyond the rallies, the Directorate focused on institutional commitment through formal pledge ceremonies and localized

outreach. The Directorate shall be organizing sports activities pertaining to the campaign across the UT to reinforce physical discipline as a barrier to addiction. In Baramulla, the campaign witnessed an overwhelming district wide sweep across all schools in zones like Sopore, Kunzer, and Pattan, where morning assemblies were dedicated to the "Nasha Mukta" oath. In Kathua, students and staff at GHSS Marheen led a solemn pledge ceremony, while in Kupwara, a series of sensitization drives reinforced the "Choose Life, Not Drugs" message. In the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch, the Directorate launched a comprehensive schedule of sports competitions and interactive sessions, highlighting physical discipline as the ultimate barrier against harmful influences and substance abuse.

Highlighting the success of the launch, the Director General of Youth Services and Sports, Anuradha Gupta, lauded the tire-

less dedication of the field staff who remained on the ground throughout the day to ensure the successful roll-out of these diverse activities. She stated that their unmatched commitment to organizing these massive events at the grassroots level is the true driving force behind the mission's success. The DG emphasized that by dedicating their efforts to the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan, the field staff has ensured the message of a drug free J&K resonates in every playground and institution. As this 100-day journey continues, the Directorate remains committed to sustaining this momentum, paving the way for a safe and progressive environment for generations to come.

Meanwhile DG YSS, all officers of the department of YSS including physical education staff and sportspersons also joined the Padyatra flagged off by Lieutenant Governor of J&K at MA Stadium Jammu which culminated at Parade Ground

JAMMU AND KASHMIR NASHA MUKT ABHIYAN DRUG DE-ADDICTION CAMPAIGN



Awareness is the first Step -

Action is the Real Change

CHOOSE LIFE , NOT DRUGS - JAMMU & KASHMIR LEADS THE WAY



DIRECTORATE OF YOUTH SERVICES & SPORTS
Jammu & Kashmir



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IPL 2026: Samson, Overton help CSK beat DC by 23 runs, get first win of the season

IAN S

CHENNAI: Sanju Samson's scintillating unbeaten 115 and Jamie Overton's clinical 4-18 powered Chennai Super Kings to a commanding 23-run victory over Delhi Capitals and got their first win of the IPL 2026 at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Saturday.

Samson, the hero of India's 2026 Men's T20 World Cup triumph, lit up Chepauk with the first century of the ongoing season, smashing 115 off just 56 balls, laced with 15 fours and four sixes at a strike-rate of 205.36, as CSK posted a massive 212/2. In doing so, Samson became the first wicket-keeper-batter to hit an IPL ton for CSK and joined KL Rahul as the only players to score a hundred for three different IPL franchises. He also shared a 113-run stand with youngster Ayush Mhatre, who slammed 59 off 36 deliveries.

Despite the stiff target, DC began their chase brightly as Pathum Nissanka and KL Rahul raced past the 50-run mark in the fourth over. However, the momentum shifted decisively when CSK struck thrice in three overs. Overton picked 4-18 - the best figures of the season so far - and used hard lengths well to stifle the DC middle order, along with CSK being sharp in ground fielding.

Tristan Stubbs provided the lone resistance for DC with a fighting 60 off 38 balls, including four fours and three sixes, but the mounting asking rate proved to be too much. Overton got support from debutant Gurjapneet Singh and Anshul Kamboj,



who claimed 3-35, as DC were eventually bowled out for 189 in 20 overs.

The result ended CSK's six-game losing streak at Chepauk and gave them their first points of the tournament. Inserted into batting first, Samson and Ruturaj Gaikwad added 61 runs in the Power-play. Samson was fluent from the outset, driving, cutting, and chipping with authority, while Gaikwad laboured to 18-ball 15 before falling to Axar Patel in the seventh over.

Mhatre joined Samson at the crease, and the duo regularly sent balls soaring over the boundary ropes and capitalised on sloppy fielding from DC. Mhatre, who got twin reprieves, was retired out in the 18th over after suffering a brief slowdown - a tactical move that brought Shivam Dube to the crease.

Samson, who was dropped on 52, reached the three-figure mark with a flick off T Natarajan and celebrated with a Padayappa-style salute that drew roars from the Chepauk crowd donning yellow, chanting his name loudly. Dube ensured the momentum stayed with CSK by chipping in with a brisk 20 off 10 balls, striking

two fours and a six in the last two overs as CSK crossed the 210-mark.

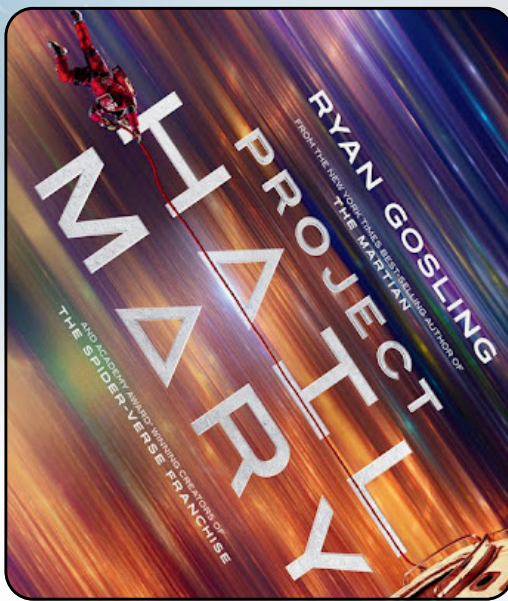
Chasing 213, Delhi began brightly as Nissanka and Rahul took 16 runs off Khaleel Ahmed in the second over and raced past fifty in the fourth over with some stunning stroke-play. Nissanka struck five fours and two sixes in his 41, while Rahul looked fluent with two boundaries and a six before mistiming a pull off Khaleel.

At 61/1 after five overs, DC appeared well placed, but CSK had other ideas - Kamboj accounted for Nissanka in the next over, with Dewald Brevis holding on to the chance at mid on. Gurjapneet then marked his IPL debut with a wicket on the first ball, as Axar Patel cut straight to Sarfaraz Khan at backward point.

Sameer Rizvi briefly resisted but fell to Overton, after pulling straight to Brevis at deep square leg. David Miller and Tristan Stubbs attempted to rebuild DC's chase by taking runs off Noor Ahmad and Khaleel. The duo had a 45-run stand before Overton returned to castle Miller with a pacy delivery.



VAAZHA-II-BIOPIC OF BILLION BROS (U/A)
MALAYALAM WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
11:00 AM



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

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