

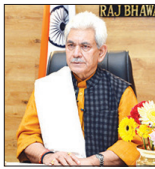
Good Morning

Kashmir

17th
Year Of Publication

Lok Bhavan Jammu & Kashmir

@LokBhavanJandK



I firmly believe when society stands united behind a cause, the law becomes a thousand times stronger. We must build a society where the dealer fears law, and the one who breaks free from drugs feels proud of themselves, their family, their society, and their government, the Lieutenant Governor said.

GMK

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Craftsmen True

Ambassadors Of J&K's

Cultural Heritage: CM

Inaugurates 'Know Your Artisan' Under Soulful Kashmir Initiative



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major boost to promote Kashmir craft sector, Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, Wednesday inaugurated the 'Know Your Artisan' programme at Kashmir Haat here, under the Handicrafts and Handloom's ongoing 'Soulful Kashmir' brand promotion campaign. He also inaugurated the new GI Testing Lab, Giant LED Video Walls and launched high precision fibre analysis equipment along with DesignNWeave software, designed by IICT Srinagar.

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq, MLA Hazratbal, Salman Sagar along with Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh and other senior officers of Industries

& Commerce Department were also present on the occasion. The latest edition of Soulful Kashmir campaign continues the momentum built over the past year, in line with Chief Minister's commitments made during his Budget Speech, aimed at strengthening 'Brand Jammu & Kashmir' and promoting the region's rich handicrafts and handloom heritage. Immediately after his arrival, the Chief Minister inaugurated the Giant LED Video Wall installed at Kashmir Haat and the Know Your Artisan programme. He also inspected the Department's new initiative of Live Demos under 'Try Your Hands' segment, set up to provide an immersive experience to the visitors and tourists so that they feel the hard work of artisans and back-end processes involved **•P-06**

■ Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan

Pak Orchestrating Drug Smuggling

Into J&K To Fund Terrorism: LG Sinha

Says Will Map Every Hotspot, Hit Each One Like A Surgical Strike

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: "Drug abuse isn't just a law & order issue but a social cancer requiring every part of society to fight. I urged for "Whole of Government" and "Whole of Society" approach. I believe when the government's strength and society's resolve act as one, then even the toughest challenges crumble," the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday.

The Lieutenant Governor said for decades, Pakistan has orchestrated drug smuggling into Jammu Kashmir to fund terrorism and destroy our young generation. "If the neighbour's house is on fire, yours is not safe. Because drugs don't spread like flames but they spread like wind. That's why a 'Whole of Society' response is our only real and potent weapon against drug menace. "We will map every hotspot. And I promise you: we will hit each one like a



surgical strike. Not a single smuggler will be spared. The entire network will be dismantled," he said. The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at a public meeting in Ramban as part of the Drug-Free Jammu Kashmir campaign. Intensifying the crusade against drug menace, the Lieutenant Governor led the Padyatra from District Police

Line to District Administrative Complex, Ramban. He was joined by public representatives, senior officials of civil and police administration; civil society members, religious leaders, members of business and trade community; ex-servicemen; prominent citizens, various stakeholders, women, students, youth, and people from different walks of life in large **•P-06**

» Drug abuse isn't just a law & order issue but a social cancer requiring every part of society to fight.

» I promise, we will hit each one like a surgical strike; not a single smuggler will be spared.

» Society's role in fight against drug menace and called for collective action

» If the neighbour's house is on fire, yours is not safe. Because drugs don't spread like flames but they spread like wind.

» History proves that organized societies drive change and women's power plays a crucial role

» This fight belongs to mothers and sisters, elders, youth, teachers, panchayats, athletes, and elected representatives alike

» In schools and colleges, we will make drugs a symbol of cowardice, not cool.

Lok Bhavan J&K

Celebrates Foundation

Day Of HP



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Jammu Kashmir Lok Bhavan Wednesday celebrated the Foundation Day of Himachal Pradesh, at Jammu.

The cultural evening, celebrating the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', was attended by students, senior officials, and the people of Himachal Pradesh living in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, who were the special invitees on the occasion. In his address, the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha extended his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the people of Himachal Pradesh.

"Cultural confluence on Himachal Diwas build the bedrock of a strong nation. When citizens and artists from varied states intertwine traditions, they weave invisible threads that bind civilization together," the Lieutenant Governor said. Paying tribute **•P-06**

Mutton Prices Spike In Srinagar,

Residents Cry Foul Over "Seasonal" Hike

TABIYA ASLAM

SRINAGAR: Mutton prices in parts of Srinagar have shot up to around Rs 800 per kilogram, leaving many residents frustrated and questioning why this spike seems to return almost every year with the onset of spring.

The increase has been particularly noticeable in areas like Lalbazar, where customers say they are being forced to pay more without any official announcement. "This happens every year," said Aashiq Hussain, a resident of Umar Colony. "It feels like the administration has no control, and butchers just decide the rates on their own."

Butchers, however, tell a different story. Parvez Ahmad Bhat, who runs a shop in Lalbazar, says the price hike isn't in their hands. According to him, the increase starts at the source. "Rates have gone up at the livestock supply level, especially from outside mar-



kets like Hyderabad. We're just adjusting to those costs, we're not setting the prices ourselves," he explained. Meanwhile, officials from the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs maintain that no official revision has been approved. They have made it clear that selling mutton above the government-fixed rate is a violation of the law. Authorities say enforcement teams are now keeping a close watch on markets, especially in Lalbazar and nearby areas. Consumers have been urged to check the official rate **•P-06**

30K Posts Referred, 15K Youth

Recruited In J&K Since Last Year: Dy CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Wednesday said that the government is prioritising employment generation, having referred nearly 30,000 posts and facilitated recruitment of around 15,000 through various agencies over the past year in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Deputy Chief Minister informed this while addressing a large public gathering at Kunzar in the Gulmarg constituency.

He was accompanied by Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Gulmarg Peerzada Farooq Ahmad Shah and senior officers.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment towards creating sustainable employment opportunities for the youth. He emphasized



that thousands of vacancies have been referred and filled on merit through recruitment agencies, reflecting the administration's focused efforts towards employment generation in J&K. On the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister felicitated the beneficiaries under Mission Yuva scheme and distributed sanction letters, cheques and keys of commercial vehicles

among them. He highlighted that the government is actively strengthening the self-employment ecosystem under Mission Yuva, enabling youth to establish successful business ventures and generate further employment opportunities.

During his address, he also underlined the importance of labour cards and urged people to register themselves to avail benefits such as educational scholarships, financial assistance for specially-abled individuals, and other welfare schemes.

Earlier, the Deputy Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for upgradation of Kunzar-Hardshoor Road in Kunzar.

He stated that several road projects in Kunzar and other areas of the Gulmarg constituency were completed last year under NABARD, PMGSY and other schemes while many more are underway this **•P-06**

CS Sets Outcome-Driven Agenda For

'100-Day Nasha Mukta J&K' Campaign

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the implementation of the UT-wide '100 Days Nasha Mukta J&K' campaign, which was kickstarted by the Lieutenant Governor on April 11 from MA Stadium, Jammu.

The meeting was attended by all Administrative Secretaries designated as District Mentors by the Government, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir, Director, Information; Director, School Education, Jammu/Kashmir; HoDs from Social Welfare and Health Departments along with Deputy Commissioners of all districts.

Emphasizing the importance of the initiative, the Chief Secretary called upon all stakeholders to transform

the campaign into a mass movement reaching every household across Jammu and Kashmir. He underscored the need for a robust and result-oriented implementation plan to be prepared by each department and district for execution during the three-month campaign period.

Taking a detailed review, the Chief Secretary sought inputs from each District Mentor and Deputy Commissioner regarding their respective calendars of activities planned during the campaign. He directed that all Panchayats and Urban Local Body wards must be covered to ensure no area remains untouched.

Highlighting the need to make the campaign outcome-driven, he directed that data generated during these 100 days be distinctly **•P-06**



CA Cold Storage Proving Game Changer For

Apple Growers; 20-30% Stock Still In Units

Prices Rebounded After Brief Dip; Facility Helps Avoid Distress Sales, Say Growers

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Controlled Atmosphere (CA) cold storage units across Jammu and Kashmir are once again proving their importance for apple growers, as farmers continue to fetch encouraging returns despite recent fluctuations in market rates.

Growers said that although apple prices witnessed a dip for a brief period of one to two weeks last month, the rates have now rebounded, offering them profitable returns—though still slightly below the peak levels recorded during January and February.

According to estimates from the horticulture sector, around 20-30 per cent of the apple stock is still lying in cold



storage units, giving growers the flexibility to release their produce in line with market demand.

"Rates had gone down for a short time last month, which caused some distress among growers, but now

prices have picked up again," Abdul Hameed, an orchardist from south Kashmir, told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). "Though the rates are not as high as during peak winter, we are still getting good returns compared

to the main harvest season."

Another grower from Sopore, Ghulam Rasool, said the decision to store apples instead of selling them during the harvest period has turned out to be beneficial. "During the main season, there was hardly any demand, and prices were very low. That is why most of us opted for cold storage. Now, we are selling gradually and earning better profits," he said.

Farmers said the availability of CA storage has helped them avoid distress sales and reduced their dependence on middlemen. "Earlier, we had no option but to sell immediately after harvest when markets were flooded. Now, we can wait and choose the right time," said another **•P-06**

■ Offices To Reopen In Sgr On May 4

Admin Orders

Annual Darbar Move

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The administration on Wednesday ordered the annual 'Darbar Move,' directing government offices to move from Jammu to Srinagar for the summer season.

An order issued by the General Administration Department, reads offices observing a five-day work schedule will close in Jammu on April 30, while those following a six-day week will shut on May 2. All departments will resume functioning in Srinagar from May 4.

It reads, the government has limited the staff strength for the move to 33 per cent of employees or a maximum of 10 officials per office. "Transport arrangements have been finalised, with the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation set to operate buses for employees on May 1 and May 3. Advance ticket booking will begin from April 20."

The order reads, to ensure smooth transit, each convoy will be backed by breakdown response systems, **•P-06**

J&K Assembly Set For 6Th Delimitation

If Parliament Clears Proposed Bills



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: If Parliament approves the proposed legislations on the delimitation of Lok Sabha and State Assembly constituencies, the Jammu & Kashmir's Assembly seats will undergo delimitation for the sixth time.

According to official documents accessed, Assembly seats in Jammu & Kashmir have previously been delimited in 1957, 1966, 1975, 1995 and 2022.

In 1951, Jammu & Kashmir witnessed the carving out of 100 seats, including 25 seats for areas of the state under

Pakistan's occupation. This arrangement underwent changes during the delimitation exercises carried out in 1957, 1966, 1975, and 1995.

The last delimitation exercise in the erstwhile state was completed in 1995, based on the 1981 census, after deliberations that lasted seven years.

Before 2019, the delimitation of Assembly seats in Jammu & Kashmir was governed by the Jammu & Kashmir Constitution and the Jammu & Kashmir Representation of Peoples Act, 1957, while the delimitation of parliamentary seats was governed by the **•P-06**

CS pushes for accelerated adoption of TReDS to boost MSME liquidity in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday chaired a meeting at the Civil Secretariat here to review the implementation and expansion of the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department; Managing Director, J&K Bank; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Secretary, Industries Department; Director Industries, Jammu; Chief General Manager, J&K Bank; Deputy General Manager, RBI, Jammu; representatives from Receivables Exchange of India Limited (RXIL – TReDS platform); and senior officers from various government departments.

Emphasizing the transformative potential of TReDS, the Chief Secretary highlighted its critical role



in improving cash flow for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) by facilitating timely realization of payments through invoice discounting. He stressed the need to fully leverage this digital platform to enhance credit accessibility and strengthen the MSME ecosystem across J&K.

The Chief Secretary called for exploring the possibility of participation from Government Departments, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), and large corporate buyers on the TReDS platform, noting that wider adoption would

significantly help address the persistent issue of delayed payments to MSMEs and improve their working capital cycle.

Underscoring the need for a coordinated approach, he directed the Industries & Commerce Department to take the lead in onboarding key government entities and departments onto the platform. He also emphasized conducting extensive awareness campaigns among MSMEs to educate them about the benefits and operational aspects of TReDS.

Setting clear targets, the Chief Secretary instructed

the department to ensure onboarding of at least 500 MSMEs from each region of the Union Territory within the next few months, to maximize the reach and impact of the platform.

He also appreciated the proactive role played by the Reserve Bank of India and other stakeholders in promoting invoice financing mechanisms for MSMEs in the region, and expressed confidence that sustained efforts in this direction would help in enhancing the financial resilience and growth prospects of the MSME sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

Two-Day Consultative Meeting on framing regulations of JKSSSA Commences in Sgr

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A two-day consultative meeting for the formulation of regulations of the Jammu and Kashmir School Standards and Safety Authority (JKSSSA) commenced here Wednesday at JKBOSE, Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by key stakeholders, subject experts, and representatives from NIEPA, New Delhi, the School Education Department, JKSCERT,

JKBOSE, who chaired the meeting, emphasized the importance of establishing a transparent, accountable and forward-looking regulatory architecture aligned with NEP 2020 and contemporary educational needs.

Prof Rasmita Das Swain from NIEPA, New Delhi highlighted the necessity of integrating best practices, stakeholder perspectives, and field realities into the bylaw framework.

Over the course of two days, the consultative



Higher Education Department, Universities of the UT and Administration.

The meeting aimed to deliberate upon and develop a comprehensive, robust and contextually relevant framework of regulations to guide the functioning of JKSSSA. The initiative is a significant step toward strengthening institutional mechanisms for ensuring quality standards, safety protocols and infrastructural parameters across schools in the Union Territory.

During the inaugural session, Gh. Hassan Sheikh, Chairperson,

meeting, reflecting a collaborative and participatory approach to policy formulation towards an inclusive and responsive framework to the evolving needs of the school education system, will focus on key thematic areas including governance structure, regulatory mandates, compliance mechanisms, quality assurance benchmarks and safety standards.

Interactive sessions, thematic presentations and group deliberations are expected to contribute to a well-rounded and implementable set of regulations.

IGNOU organises students' discussion forum on Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) Regional Centre Srinagar organised an online Students' Discussion Forum on the theme-Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam to create awareness among learners about women's empowerment and constitutional provisions for enhancing their political representation.

The programme was conducted in an interactive format featuring expert presentations followed by a question-and-answer session. The discussions were facilitated through multimedia presentations and real-time engagement to encourage participation and exchange of ideas.

The event witnessed participation from students, academic counsellors, coordinators, college principals from various government colleges in the Valley, and officers and staff of the Regional Centre.

Speaking on the occasion, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar, Dr. A. H. Rizvi, stated that the programme aimed at encouraging learners to actively contribute towards promoting inclusivity and awareness

on women's rights.

Dr. Amina Parveen, Head, Department of Education, University of Kashmir, and Dr. Shabnam Ara, Head, Department of Sociology, Amar Singh College Srinagar, highlighted the issue of underrepresentation of women in legislative bodies such as the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. They underlined the importance of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam in addressing gender gaps and enhancing women's participation in governance, while also discussing socio-cultural and structural challenges faced by women.

During the deliberations, participants emphasised the need to strengthen awareness among students regarding women's political rights and to utilise educational institutions as platforms for sensitisation on gender issues.

The importance of capacity-building initiatives to equip women for leadership roles and active participation in governance was also highlighted.

Participants resolved to promote equality, justice and empowerment of women and to undertake sustained efforts towards bridging gender gaps in political representation.

DLSA promotes legal literacy, empowers young minds to safeguard their rights

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, in collaboration with the School Education Department, organized a series of legal awareness programmes Wednesday at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Gulabagh, Srinagar.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of Haq Nawaz Zargar, Chairman, DLSA Srinagar (Principal District & Sessions Judge), and under the supervision of Tabassum Qadir, Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

The awareness sessions aimed to sensitize students on vital legal issues and to enhance their understanding of their rights and responsibilities.



Adv. Sabiya Kounsar, Pro Bono Lawyer, delivered an informative session on the NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for

Children) Scheme, 2024, highlighting its key provisions and benefits. She also spoke on Sexual Assault and Child Protection Laws, emphasizing the impor-

ance of legal safeguards available to children.

Further, Urba Rashid, Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel (LADC), conducted an engaging session on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act, educating students about workplace dignity, safety, and legal remedies.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members, reflecting a keen interest in legal awareness initiatives.

Such programmes are part of the continuous efforts of DLSA Srinagar to promote legal literacy and empower young minds with the knowledge necessary to safeguard their rights and make informed decisions.

Training Programme for Master Trainers Commences at IMPARD Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Training Programme for Master Trainers on Houselisting and Housing Census (Phase-I) under Census 2027 commenced Wednesday at the Jammu & Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (IMPARD), Main Campus, M.A. Road, Srinagar.

The programme is being organized in collaboration with the Directorate of Census Operations, J&K, and the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Government of India.

The four-day training programme, scheduled from April 15 to April 18, is witnessing the participation of around 34 Master Trainers drawn from various districts of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. These Master Trainers will play a pivotal role in cascading the training further by training field-level trainers at the district level, who will subsequently train enumerators and supervisors across different blocks, ensuring effective implementation of Census operations throughout the region.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Bilal Ahmad Bhat, Course Coordinator, highlighted the critical importance of the Census



as the largest and most comprehensive source of statistical data on the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of the population. He emphasized that the data generated through the Census serves as a foundational input for evidence-based policy making, planning, and governance.

Dr. Bhat further noted that Census data plays a vital role in fulfilling constitutional requirements such as delimitation of constituencies, reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), and equitable allocation of developmental resources.

Welcoming the participants, He expressed his appreciation for the commitment of the Master Trainers and underscored their responsibility in ensuring accuracy and reliability in data collection.

Arun Kumar, Joint Chief Principal Census Officer and National

Trainer, Directorate of Census Operations, J&K, in his address, stressed the crucial role of Master Trainers in maintaining the quality and credibility of Census data. He pointed out that the success of the Census largely depends on the efficiency and understanding of trainers at all levels. He urged the participants to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the detailed manuals, structured procedures, and comprehensive guidelines developed for Census operations, and to effectively address queries at the field level. He reiterated that the Census, being the world's largest enumeration exercise, holds immense significance not only for administrators and policymakers but also for researchers, academicians, and the general public.

Manmeet Singh Loomba, Deputy Chief Principal Census Officer and National Trainer, Directorate of Census Operations J&K,

highlighted a significant transformation in the upcoming Census exercise. He informed that, for the first time in the 150-year history of the Census, data collection will be conducted using digital technology through a specially designed mobile application. This technological advancement is expected to enhance the accuracy, efficiency, and timeliness of data collection. He further emphasized that the Census 2027 data will be instrumental in shaping future developmental strategies, particularly in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The programme marks a significant step towards capacity building and preparedness for the successful conduct of Census 2027. Through structured training and collaborative efforts, the initiative aims to ensure a robust, transparent, and technology-driven Census process across the region.

Vivek Bali demands increase in monthly relief assistance for KP community

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Vivek Bali, State President, Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP), has strongly demanded an immediate increase in the monthly relief assistance provided to the Kashmiri Pandit (KP) community, citing the growing financial hardships faced by displaced families.

In a statement issued today, Vivek Bali expressed deep concern over the economic challenges confronting the Kashmiri Pandit community, many of whom

continue to live in exile and depend heavily on government relief for their survival. He emphasized that the current relief amount is insufficient to meet the rising cost of living, including expenses related to food, healthcare, education, and housing.

"Despite the passage of several years, the pain and struggles of displaced Kashmiri Pandit families remain unaddressed. The existing financial assistance is no

longer adequate in today's economic scenario," said Vivek Bali. He urged the government to take immediate and compassionate action by revising and increasing the monthly relief package to ensure a dignified and sustainable livelihood for the affected families. He further stressed that the government must prioritize the welfare of the KP community and address their long-pending demands with



seriousness and urgency.

Vivek Bali also called for a comprehensive review of all relief and rehabilitation policies concerning the Kashmiri Pandits, including better employment opportunities for youth, improved living conditions in migrant camps, and expedited measures for safe and dignified return to the Valley.

Reaffirming his party's commitment, Vivek Bali stated that SBSP will continue to raise its voice for the rights and welfare of the Kashmiri Pandit community at every platform.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

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(NON-TEACHING SECTION)

Subject:- Updated Tentative Seniority List of Head Assistants as it stood on 01/12/2025.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, the Final Seniority List of 27 (Twenty-Seven) Head Assistants of Jammu and Kashmir School Education (Subordinate) Service, Kashmir Division, as it stood on 01-01-2024 was notified vide Notification issued vide No: DSEK/NTS/15/2024/Sr.List/HA/2521-544 Dated: 16-10-2024; and

Whereas, during the course of time 15 (Fifteen) Head Assistants have either been promoted as Section Officers or have proceeded on superannuation on different dates upto 01.12.2025 and are as such required to be excluded from the Seniority List of Head Assistants.

Whereas, since the issuance of last final seniority list of Head Assistants, as many as 43 (Forty-Three) Senior Assistants have been promoted as Head Assistants upto 01.12.2025 and are required to be incorporated in the Seniority list at appropriate places; and

Now therefore, the updated Tentative Seniority List of 55 (Fifty-Five) Head Assistants of Jammu and Kashmir School Education (Subordinate) Service, Kashmir Division, as it stood on 01-12-2025, forming Annexure to this notification, is hereby notified for wide circulation among all the members of the service and for inviting objections, if any. Objections/ claim, if any, along with documentary proof duly authenticated by the DDO/ CEO concerned in support of the claim, shall reach this Directorate within 14-days from the date of issuance of this seniority list. No objection/claim shall be entertained after the stipulated time.

The date of birth of the officials as reflected in the seniority list shall be subject to its authentication and verification from the Service Book/ D.O.B Certificate of the concerned employee, as envisaged under the rules.

No:-NTS/15/2024/1059-069
Dated:- 11/04/2026

DIPK-402-26
DT: 15/04/2026

Director
School Education Kashmir

CS reviews process for establishment of KVs, JNVs across districts of J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the availability of land and infrastructure for Central Government educational institutions, including Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) and Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs), that are either non-functional or presently operating from temporary premises across various districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Secretary, Revenue; Deputy Commissioners representing Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (JNV) and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS); Director School Education, Jammu/Kashmir; Regional Officer, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Jammu, besides other senior officers.

Divisional Commissioners

and Deputy Commissioners from the districts participated through video conferencing.

During the review, the Chief Secretary sought detailed district-wise and institution-wise inputs regarding the current infrastructural status of these schools. He specifically enquired about the identification and availability of suitable land for construction of permanent school buildings and the arrangements made for their temporary functioning till such infrastructure is developed.

Emphasizing timely action, the Chief Secretary directed the Revenue Department to expedite the transfer of identified land parcels to the School Education Department for further leasing to the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to facilitate early execution of works. He stressed prioritization of districts where no KV or JNV presently exists and called for immediate commencement of



academic activities in locations where temporary accommodation has already been identified.

Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department, Ram Niwas Sharma, apprised the meeting of the current status of each JNV and KV, highlighting specific require-

ments of land and infrastructure. He informed that out of 51 Kendriya Vidyalayas sanctioned for districts of J&K, 37 are already functional, while 14 are in the process of establishment. Of these, three schools including two at Ramban and Gool in district Ramban, and one at

Ramkot in Kathuadistrictare expected to become functional shortly.

Moreover, he informed that 21 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas have been sanctioned for the Union Territory, out of which 20 are already functional from their own buildings. He

added that the JNV for Srinagar district is proposed to be made functional in a building identified by the district administration, while permanent infrastructure will subsequently be developed at a suitable site to be identified for the institution.

He further informed that the remaining 11 KVs are also in advanced stages of establishment, with land identified and temporary accommodation finalized, and formal transfer processes underway. The locations include Vijaypur (Samba), Bani and Ramkot (Kathua), Panchari (Udhampur), Mughal Maidan and Nagseni (Kishtwar), Gool and Ramban (Ramban), Kakriyal and Katra (Reasi), Gulpur (Poonch), Drugmulla (Kupwara), and Ratnipora and Chandhara in Pulwama district.

The Deputy Commissioners briefed the meeting on the status of land identification and availability of buildings in their respective districts, stat-

ing that the process for transfer and allotment of land has been initiated after assessing feasibility and completing requisite formalities in coordination with the authorities of KVS and JNV.

Representatives of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti also shared updates on steps being taken to operationalize these institutions at the earliest. They expressed commitment to commencing academic activities preferably from the upcoming academic session.

Reiterating the government's commitment to strengthening educational infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary directed all stakeholders to work in close coordination to ensure early operationalization of these institutions, thereby providing students with access to quality education through well-equipped and fully functional schools.

Peak power need plunges 17% in J&K, Ladakh in February

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have recorded a negative variation of over 17 percent in power requirement in the month of February during peak hours.

According to the official documents showing the anticipated power supply position v/s actual power supply position (Provisional) of Northern Region during the month of February-2026 states that in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh it has anticipated power requirement of 2020 Million Units (MUs) and availability of 1661 MUs respectively.

The official figures accessed, reveal that there was a variation of 17.8 percent in power requirement. It also said that NRPC had anticipated power availability of 980 MUs against the 1660 MUs of actual availability.

Earlier this news agency reported that in the peak winters of 2025-2026, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were utilising nearly 1,000 Megawatts (MWs) of coal and gas energy amid dip in hydel power generation.

The official figures available in this regard revealed that in the month of January-2026, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were utilising 999.21 MWs of thermal energy including 870.14 MWs of coal and



129.7 MWs of gas energy from the allocated shares in joint and central sector utilities.

The figures reveal that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were allocated with a total of 3767.44 MWs of power from state, private and central share out of which 999.21 MWs were thermal energy and 2673.1 MWs were from the renewable energy.

It also said that out of the total allocated energy, the regions were utilising 95.13 MWs of nuclear and 1115.88 MWs of hydel energy.

Pertinently, as already reported, Jammu and Kashmir was importing more than 95 percent of its electricity in the month of December.

The officials earlier in the month had informed that Jammu and Kashmir is importing electricity ranging from 2900 MWs to 3100 MWs during the peak hours.

It also said that during the other hours, the region was importing electricity ranging from 2400 MWs to 2800 MWs—(KNO)

Wars lead to destruction, peace only way forward: Dr Farooq

Recalls militia era, urges neighbours to abandon hostility'

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: National Conference President and former J&K Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday said that wars only lead to destruction and urged neighbouring countries to understand that lasting peace is the only way forward.

Speaking at the unveiling ceremony of the renovated War Memorial at the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAKLI) regiment at Rangreth here, Dr Farooq, recalled his childhood memories following early conflicts in the region.

"When I was a child, after the attack, the militia was formed. The militia commander was Brigadier Balamoria. I remember that time," he said.

Dr Farooq said the militia later transformed into a full-fledged army unit and



performed successfully in every field. "It is a matter of pride for us that Jammu and Kashmir has such an army which protects us and does good work for us," he added.

Dr Farooq said he felt honoured to witness the memorial's legacy across generations. "The first memorial was built by my father. When the second memorial was built, I came. Today, it is Allah's blessing that my son is here as this memorial is being inaugurated," he said.

Praying for the success of the security forces, he said, "May Allah give success to this unit in every field and save us from wars. May Allah bring peace to the whole world."

Urging an end to hostilities, he said, "May Allah make our neighbours understand that nothing is achieved through conflict. Fighting brings destruction. It has been a long time, now let it go so we can live and prosper."—(KNO)

Run for Health, Walk for Change: Srinagar Youth Unites for Nasha Mukht J&K



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: It wasn't just about running or walking. It was about reclaiming lives. A powerful wave of unity and determination swept through the heart of Srinagar as the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports J&K, under the direct and compassionate supervision of the department's Director General Anuradha Gupta, organized a heartfelt Mega Unity March and a spirited Mini Marathon. The event was held in close collaboration with the District Administration Srinagar, as part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan.

The morning came alive at the historic Ghanta Ghar in Lal Chowk, where the flag-off ceremony was led by DYSSO Srinagar, Ghulam Hassan Lone,

alongside the Chief Education Officer Srinagar Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Bhat. But the real heroes of the day were the young participants over 1,159 determined girls and 718 motivated boys who poured into the streets with a single, loud message: we choose life over addiction.

Parents, teachers, and officials from the Youth Services and Sports Department walked shoulder to shoulder with the students, turning the rally into a true people's movement. The march concluded at Sher-i-Kashmir Park, where the air was filled not just with exhaustion, but with pride. Winners of the mini marathon were honored with medals, but every participant left with something greater: a renewed sense of purpose.

This initiative is a vital

part of the "100 Days Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan" launched by the J&K Administration. Before the actual start of the marathon, every attendee took a solemn anti-drug pledge a promise to themselves, their families, and their society.

Speaking to the gathering, DYSSO Srinagar didn't just deliver a speech; he shared a heartfelt appeal. He spoke of the urgent need to pull the younger generation away from the grip of substance abuse, and urged every student to become a torchbearer of change in their neighborhoods and schools.

The event wasn't a one-day affair. It was a beginning. A loud, clear, and hopeful beginning of a drug-free Jammu & Kashmir built by its youth and led by its mentors.

CM rededicates renovated War Memorial, attends 78th Raising Day of JAKLI- RC

Pays homage to fallen soldiers; honours legacy of JAK LI Regiment



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday rededicated the renovated War Memorial and attended the 78th Raising Day celebrations of the Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry (JAK LI) Regimental Centre at Srinagar.

The programme was held at the Regimental Centre, where the Chief Minister, as Chief Guest, unveiled the renovated War Memorial and participated in a wreath-laying ceremony to pay homage to the brave soldiers who

laid down their lives in the service of the nation.

The function was attended by several distinguished dignitaries, including former J&K Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, Colonel of the JAK LI Regiment Lt. Gen. Manish Erry, Chief of Staff 15 Corps Maj Gen Saurabh Sharma, GOC 31 Sub Area Maj Gen Abhijit Mitra, Commandant JAK LI Regimental Centre Srinagar Brig. Ved Beniwal and Officers of the Regiment.

The Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry Regiment, one of the most decorated

regiments of the Indian Army, has a rich legacy of valour and sacrifice. Originating from the J&K Militia raised during the 1947 conflict, the Regiment has played a pivotal role in major military operations, including the wars of 1965 and 1971, Operation Meghdoot in Siachen, and Operation Vijay during the Kargil conflict.

The Regimental Centre has also been recognised for its outstanding training standards and its contribution to shaping a new generation of disciplined and committed soldiers.

Satish Sharma reviews petroleum supply chain, stresses equitable distribution

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the supply and distribution of petroleum products, with emphasis on operations managed by the Indian Oil Corporation.

During the meeting held at Narwal office of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the Minister had a comprehensive review of the current availability of petroleum products, supply chain logistics and distribution mechanisms across various districts. He emphasized the need for maintaining uninterrupted supply and directed the officials to ensure close coordination with the oil companies for adequate stock level and timely replenishment.

Highlighting the importance of balanced distribution, Satish Sharma called for rationalisation of petroleum allocation to ensure equitable availability across all regions.



He stressed that no area should face scarcity and that supply must be aligned with actual demand patterns to avoid shortages or regional imbalances.

The Minister also made it clear that there will be zero tolerance for hoarding, cautioning that strict action will be taken against any malpractice that disrupts fair supply.

The Minister instructed the officials to establish a robust monitoring system and maintain regular oversight to address any emerging challenges promptly. Reiterating the government's commitment, he said that ensuring seam-

less availability of essential commodities remains a top priority to safeguard public convenience.

Following the meeting, the Minister visited the plant site where he inspected the bottling process and reviewed on-ground operations. He also directed the authorities to upgrade facilities for the labour workforce at the plant, emphasizing the need for improved working conditions and welfare measures.

Senior officials from the concerned departments and representatives of oil companies were present during the meeting.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Confronting The Drug Crisis

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has once again brought the focus back to a growing concern in Jammu and Kashmir—the spread of drugs, and the deeper forces that may be driving it. By describing the menace as part of a cross-border conspiracy, he has framed it not just as a social issue, but as a threat to the region’s future.

There’s no denying that drug abuse has quietly seeped into many parts of the Valley, leaving families distressed and communities worried. What was once seen as an isolated problem is now being talked about more openly, as its impact becomes harder to ignore. Linking it to larger networks may raise the stakes, but it also underlines the need for a more serious and coordinated response.

Strong warnings and firm words can send a message, but the real challenge lies in what follows. Cracking down on drug networks is important, but it cannot be the only approach. The problem is as much about demand as it is about supply. Unless young people are given better opportunities, awareness, and support, the cycle is unlikely to break. The idea of involving local communities, especially women, is a step in the right direction. In places where people still look out for one another, community vigilance can make a real difference. But such efforts need proper support and structure to truly work on the ground.

At the same time, the conversation must also include care and rehabilitation. Addiction is not just a crime—it’s often a cry for help. Expanding access to treatment and counseling will be key in helping those affected find a way back.

The message to the youth is clear, but it needs to go beyond warnings. Young people need hope, direction, and opportunities that can pull them away from harmful paths. Without that, enforcement alone will have its limits. The drug crisis in Jammu and Kashmir is not something that can be solved overnight. It needs patience, consistency, and a balanced approach—one that is tough on those who profit from it, but understanding towards those who fall into it. In the end, this is not just a fight against drugs, but a fight to protect the future of an entire generation.

Technology, Truth, And The Breakdown Of Dialogue

DR. REYAZ AHMAD

In an age of unprecedented digital sophistication, humanity faces a strange and painful paradox: we can reach anyone in seconds, yet we are losing the ability to truly talk to one another. We live in a time that would have looked miraculous to earlier generations. A person in Sharjah can speak instantly with someone in Delhi, London, or New York. A student can watch lectures from the world’s best universities on a mobile phone. News travels across continents before the ink of old newspapers would even have dried. Artificial intelligence can summarize documents, translate languages, generate images, and answer questions in moments. Never before has humanity possessed such powerful tools for producing, sharing, and consuming information.

And yet, something is going wrong. The great promise of the information age was that more information would produce more understanding. But the reality increasingly appears to be the opposite. We have more messages, more posts, more clips, more updates, more debates, more reactions, and more notifications than any civilization in history. Yet we also have more confusion, more suspicion, more anger, and more division. The problem is no longer a lack of information. The problem is that information is being turned into noise, and noise is slowly destroying conversation.

A healthy society does not survive on technology alone. It survives on trust. It survives on the ability of people to listen, to disagree without hatred, to examine facts without panic, and to remain in conversation even when opinions differ. Families need this. Classrooms need this. Communities need this. Democracies need this most of all. Once people lose the capacity for meaningful dialogue, public life becomes a battleground of slogans, suspicions, and emotional manipulation.

Consider a simple and familiar example. A message appears in a family WhatsApp group claiming that a certain community, politician, company, or institution has committed a shocking act. The message is dramatic, emotional, and urgent. It may be accompanied by an old video, a misleading image, or a half-truth presented as complete truth. Nobody pauses to verify. One person forwards it out of concern. Another forwards it out of anger. A third forwards it because “there may be some truth in it.” Within hours, dozens or hundreds have seen it. By then, the damage is already done. Even if the claim later turns out to be false, the emotion it created remains real. Distrust survives longer than correction.

This is how polluted information works. It does not always need to prove a lie. It only needs to plant doubt, trigger outrage, and weaken the habit of careful thinking.

The same pattern repeats at a larger



scale on social media platforms. Algorithms are not built to reward wisdom. They are built to reward attention. And nothing captures attention like fear, anger, mockery, scandal, and conflict. A calm explanation rarely spreads as fast as a provocative accusation. A thoughtful discussion rarely defeats a sensational clip. A balanced argument struggles to compete with a dramatic claim that confirms what people already want to believe.

This creates a dangerous environment in which the loudest voice often wins over the wisest one. The result is not merely individual misunderstanding. The result is social fragmentation. People begin to live inside separate information worlds. Each group develops its own heroes, villains, facts, and fears. People no longer argue about solutions to common problems; they begin to argue about reality itself. One side says a crisis is genuine. Another says it is invented. One side trusts an institution. Another sees it as corrupt by definition. One side brings data. Another replies with suspicion. When this happens repeatedly, the shared ground needed for public life begins to disappear.

That is why the problem is deeper than social media addiction. It is a civic problem, a moral problem, and a democratic problem.

Democracy is not only about voting. It is about conversation before voting. It is about citizens hearing competing views, weighing evidence, correcting errors, and reaching decisions without destroying one another. Elections alone do not save democracy. Dialogue does. Once dialogue collapses, democracy becomes weak even if its formal structures remain in place.

One can see this clearly in political life across the world. Public debate increasingly resembles a permanent shouting match. Every event is instantly turned into a weapon. Every mistake becomes a scandal. Every disagreement becomes proof of evil intent. Leaders

learn quickly that outrage travels faster than reason, so many begin performing anger instead of offering solutions. Citizens, in turn, are pushed toward emotional camps rather than thoughtful positions. Politics becomes less about governing and more about manipulating attention.

Education is not untouched by this trend. In classrooms too, the pressure of fast information is changing the habits of the mind. Many students today are exposed to endless content, but not enough reflection. They can access answers quickly, yet may struggle to sit with a difficult question patiently. They can watch many clips on a subject, yet not always distinguish expertise from confidence. The danger is not that technology makes students foolish. The danger is that it can make all of us impatient. And an impatient mind is easy to influence.

Here lies another painful irony: the very tools that should have deepened human understanding are often being used to bypass it. Communication has become faster, but not necessarily better. Expression has become easier, but not necessarily wiser. Connectivity has expanded, but community has weakened.

Artificial intelligence adds another layer to this challenge. AI can be a remarkable instrument for learning, creativity, accessibility, and productivity. But it also lowers the cost of manipulation. False images can be generated. Voices can be cloned. Videos can be fabricated. Articles can be mass-produced to overwhelm public attention. In such an environment, people may begin to distrust even authentic evidence. And when citizens stop believing what they see, hear, and read, the door opens to cynicism. Truth itself becomes exhausted.

That may be the greatest danger of all. A society can survive disagreement. It can survive ideological competition. It can survive fierce debate. But it cannot survive for long if people conclude that truth is impossible, that sincerity is

weakness, and that every message is only a weapon.

So what is the way forward? The answer is not to reject technology. That would be unrealistic and foolish. The answer is to recover human discipline within a technological age. We need not less communication, but better communication. Not less information, but cleaner information. Not less technology, but more responsibility in how it is designed, shared, and consumed. At the personal level, this means slowing down before forwarding, reacting, or condemning. It means asking basic but essential questions: Who created this? What is the source? What is missing? What emotion is this trying to trigger in me? Am I seeking truth, or merely confirming my bias?

At the institutional level, schools and universities must teach not only digital access but digital judgment. Media literacy should no longer be optional. Students must learn how algorithms shape perception, how misinformation spreads, how images can deceive, and how emotional language can manipulate public opinion. At the societal level, platforms and policymakers must recognize that information systems are not neutral pipes. They shape culture. If a system consistently rewards outrage over truth, division over dialogue, and speed over accuracy, then the damage it causes is not accidental. It becomes structural.

Above all, we must defend the human art of conversation. Real conversation requires humility. It requires listening without immediately preparing an attack. It requires the courage to say, “I may be wrong.” It requires the patience to let truth emerge through inquiry rather than force. Without this moral discipline, no technology, however advanced, can save public life. We often say that the modern world is connected. But connection without understanding is only proximity without peace. A crowd can be connected and still be confused. A nation can be connected and still be divided. A family can be connected and still be unable to speak honestly to itself. The greatest question before us, then, is not whether our machines are becoming more intelligent. It is whether our societies are becoming less capable of wisdom.

Humanity has built extraordinary tools. The challenge now is to ensure that these tools do not hollow out the very qualities that make civilization possible: trust, dialogue, patience, truthfulness, and the ability to remain human in the middle of noise. Because when information ceases to serve understanding, it does not enlighten society. It destabilizes it. And when a civilization can no longer talk to itself, it begins, quietly but dangerously, to fall apart.

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Reels, Vlogs And Nonsense

Young Generation Getting Directionless In The Broadcast Of Nonsense

DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

If there's one thing spreading the fastest these days, it's "nonsense." The only difference is that this nonsense is no longer confined to tea shops or community centers, but is being broadcast to society as a whole, emblazoned on smartphone screens in the form of "reels" and "vlogs."

There was a time when young people woke up to their dreams, but today they wake up to notifications. Goals used to be set, but trends are now set. Hard work used to get applause, but now nonsense gets likes and shares. It's this shift that has slowly pushed the younger generation into a direction where there's a lot of noise, but no substance.

Reels and vlogs, originally intended as outlets for creativity and expression, have become a race where the ultimate goal is not quality but "viral." In this race, it's the noise surrounding the content, not the content itself, that matters. The more bizarre, the more sensational, the more popular it becomes. As a result, words like seriousness, sensitivity, and wisdom are gradually being marginalized.

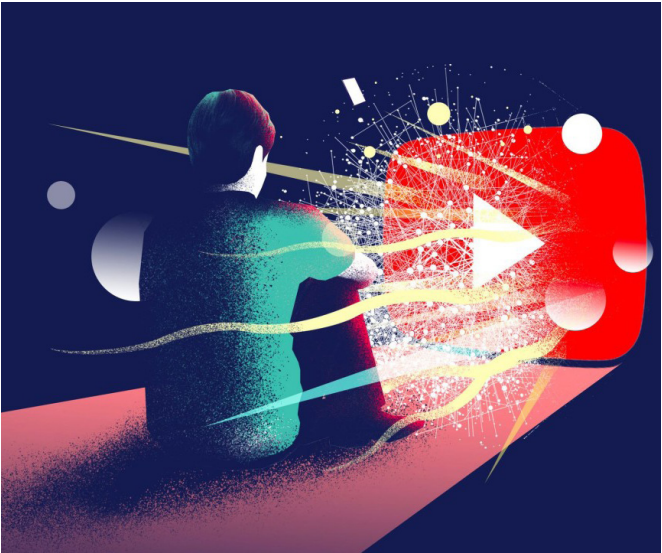
A large segment of today's

young generation is racing to become "content creators," but no one is thinking about what they're creating or why. The moment the camera is on, the acting begins, and the moment it's off, the emptiness of reality is revealed. This is a world where pretense has become the ultimate identity.

The most worrying aspect is that this nonsense has now become considered normal and acceptable. The more time one spends on screens, the more "up-to-date" one is considered. The truth is, this isn't updating, but rather a form of mental fatigue and disorientation.

Today's youth spend hours thinking about what to show in the next reel, but don't take the time to think about what they want to do in life. It's ironic that the generation with the most resources appears the most confused and scattered.

This problem isn't just a waste of time; it's also affecting our ability to think. The habit of constantly watching short videos has weakened our ability to concentrate. The tendency to think deeply, read, and understand is diminishing. Everything is needed quickly—fast entertainment, quick fame, and quick success.



In this era of vlogs and reels, another dangerous trend has emerged—copying. Originality has been replaced by copy-paste. Once a trend catches on, everyone starts replicating it. In this process, nothing new is created, nor is any meaningful message conveyed. It simply results in a pile of the same nonsense.

Its impact on society is clearly visible. Demonstration has replaced dialogue. People now believe more in spectacle than in living. It has become increasingly necessary to capture every event, whether per-

sonal or sensitive, on camera. This trend is not only eroding privacy but also weakening sensibilities.

It's safe to say we've entered a time where "bullshit" has become an industry. It's taking time, money, and—most importantly—the energy of the young generation. But what do we get in return? A few likes, a few followers, and a false sense of satisfaction that fades away in a matter of moments.

To overcome this situation, we must first acknowledge that there is a problem. As long as

we ignore it as mere "entertainment," there's no solution.

The younger generation needs to understand that it's not necessary to be a part of every trend. It's not necessary to make every Reel. And most importantly—it's not necessary to watch and share every nonsense.

We need a balance. Use technology, but don't become its slave. Create Reels, but they should have substance. Vlog, but they should have truth. If we use this medium in the right direction, it can become a powerful tool. But if it is allowed to become a medium of nonsense, it will only give this generation noise and emptiness.

Finally, it's important to remember that the future isn't built on likes and views, but on hard work, discipline, and the right direction. If the younger generation doesn't understand this difference in time, "Reels, Vlogs, and Nonsense" will become not just a trend, but a serious social crisis.

Today, the question isn't which video goes viral, but which ideas survive. Because ultimately, it's those ideas that guide society—not nonsense.

(Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

Good Morning Kashmir

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Nasha Mukht Bharat - A Collective Duty

AZHAR NASEER

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan is a national mission to reduce drug use and protect the future of young people. Hon'ble LG Manoj Sinha Sahib has given this mission strong direction in Jammu and Kashmir through focused campaigns and strict action. Drug abuse is not a small issue. It affects health, weakens families, and damages society. You see its impact in rising crime, poor education outcomes, and broken households. This demands clear action at every level.

You must understand how addiction starts. Many young people begin with curiosity, peer pressure, or stress. Some use substances to escape personal problems. This early stage is critical. If you act here, you can prevent long term damage. Schools and colleges play a key role. Teachers must talk openly about risks. Awareness sessions should be regular and practical. Students should learn real consequences, not just theory. Community programs must reach rural areas where awareness is often limited.

Data shows the scale of the problem. Surveys indicate millions of adolescents are exposed to substance use at an early age. This creates a cycle that continues into adulthood. You must break this cycle with early education and strong family support. Parents need to stay alert. Watch behavior changes. Notice signs like isolation, aggression, or loss of focus. Act quickly. Seek help without delay.

Government efforts under this campaign focus on prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. More de addiction centers are being estab-

Strict action against drug suppliers is necessary. Breaking supply chains reduces availability. This protects vulnerable groups. However, enforcement alone is not enough. It must work with awareness and rehabilitation. A balanced approach gives better results.

lished. Hospitals provide counselling and medical support. Trained professionals guide patients through recovery. This support system is essential. Addiction is not solved by punishment alone. It needs care, structure, and follow up. You must encourage affected individuals to seek help without fear or shame.

Nawa e Kalam has also stepped forward to support this mission. The organization promotes awareness at the grassroots level. It engages youth, schools, and local communities. This approach is effective because real change starts from the ground. Awareness drives, counselling sessions, and direct interaction create impact. You must support such efforts in your area.



A strong network is already working. Government bodies, police, civil administration, and non government organizations are involved. Volunteers visit villages and urban areas to spread awareness. They explain the dangers of drug use and guide people toward help centers. Over 8000 youth volunteers have taken part in such efforts across India. This shows that collective action works. You can also contribute. Even small efforts can influence lives.

Rehabilitation is a key part of this mission. Identifying addicted individuals is the first step. After that, proper treatment must follow. Rehabilitation centers provide medi-

cal care and counselling. They help patients rebuild confidence and return to normal life. You must treat recovering individuals with respect. Social support improves recovery rates. Isolation can push them back into addiction.

Technology also supports this mission. Government platforms provide information about treatment centers and support services. Geo location tools help identify affected areas. This allows quick response and better planning. You can use these tools to find help for someone in need. Access to correct information reduces delay and confusion.

Prevention remains the most effective strategy. You must focus on awareness and education. Schools should include life skills training. Students must learn how to handle stress, peer pressure, and failure. Sports and creative activities can keep youth engaged. Productive use of time reduces risk. Communities should organize events that promote healthy lifestyles.

Law enforcement also plays a role. Strict action against drug suppliers is necessary. Breaking supply chains reduces availability. This protects vulnerable groups. However, enforcement alone is not enough. It must work with awareness and rehabilitation. A balanced approach gives better results.

Your role matters. This campaign is not limited to the government. It needs support from every citizen. Parents, teachers, leaders, and youth must act together. You can start by spreading awareness in your circle. Talk openly about the issue. Guide someone who needs help. Support local initiatives. Stay informed and alert.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan aims to create a healthy and safe society. It focuses on building a future where young people grow without addiction. This goal is achievable with consistent effort. You must replace silence with action. You must replace ignorance with awareness.

A drug free India is possible. It requires discipline, unity, and commitment. Every step counts. Every effort matters. You have a role in this mission. Act now. Protect your community. Secure the future.

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Women's Reservation

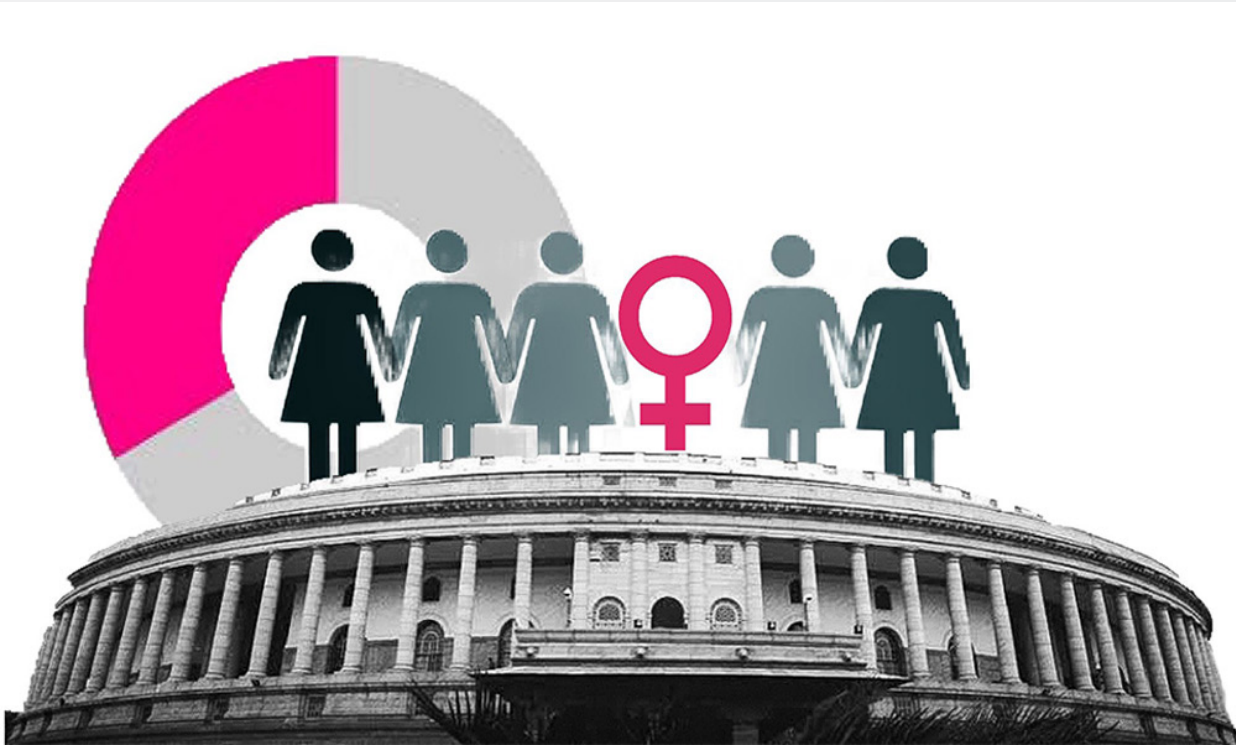
The Foundation Of New India And The Pinnacle Of Possibilities

LALIT GARGG

The emergence of a renewed consciousness in India's political and social landscape around the Nari Shakti Vandan Act is not merely indicative of a legislative reform; it signals the dawn of a wild social transformation and the prologue to a reimagined nation-building process. India today appears to be decisively acknowledging that the active and meaningful participation of women is indispensable to its developmental trajectory. The long-pending issue of women's reservation has never been confined to parliamentary debates alone; it has been deeply rooted in the collective social consciousness that has consistently demanded equality, dignity, and opportunity.

The provision of reserving 33% of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies marks a historic milestone. Prime Minister Narendra Modi aptly described this initiative as one of the most significant steps of the century. While the original plan was to implement the Act following a fresh census, delays in conducting it led the government to pragmatically decide on using the 2011 Census as the basis. Opposition parties have raised objections, arguing procedural concerns; however, giving weight to such objections could have postponed the implementation until after the 2029 general elections, considering the time required for delimitation processes based on updated census data. This urgency has prompted the convening of a special parliamentary session, which, occurring amid assembly elections, has further intensified political friction.

The history of women's participation in Indian democracy has been marked by paradoxes. On one hand, the nation witnessed powerful leadership under figures like Indira Gandhi; on the other, women's representation in legislative bodies remained disproportionately low for decades. Even today, women constitute only around 15% of the Lok Sabha, highlighting a significant gap in political representation. In this context, the Women's Reservation Act emerges as a structured and systematic effort to bridge this disparity. The debate around census and delimitation underscores the inherent complexities of Indian democracy. The government's decision to rely on the 2011 Census reflects a practical and time-sensitive approach. While opposition concerns merit consideration, they



have yet to be substantiated with compelling evidence strong enough to outweigh the urgency of implementation.

It is a well-established reality that major political decisions are often viewed through the prism of political advantage, and this Act is no exception. Allegations that the government seeks electoral gains through this initiative form part of democratic discourse. However, the more pertinent question is not the intent behind the decision, but its impact. If increased representation leads to greater inclusion of women's perspectives in policy making, the benefits will extend to society as a whole. In recent years, the role of women in Indian politics has undergone a remarkable transformation. Women are no longer merely voters; they have emerged as a decisive electoral force. In the 2019 general elections, female voter turnout nearly matched that of men, and in several states, even surpassed it. This shift signifies not just numerical parity but a deeper Awareness and empowerment. Women today are more conscious of their rights and increasingly capable of influencing political outcomes.

Government initiatives have played a crucial role in this transformation. Schemes such as Ujjwala Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, Swachh Bharat Mission, and maternity benefit programs have directly improved women's lives. Their impact extends beyond economic and physical

dimensions to social and psychological empowerment, fostering confidence and enabling women to participate more actively in public life. The ideas of B. R. Ambedkar remains profoundly relevant in this discourse. Through the Indian Constitution, he laid the foundation of equality and justice, advocating strongly for women's rights. His belief that the progress of a society is measured by the status of its women finds resonance in the current movement toward reservation, which seeks not merely to protect but to empower.

However, it is important to recognise that women's reservation is not a panacea. It is a necessary step, but not a sufficient one. While increased political representation will amplify women's voices, achieving true equality requires sustained efforts across social, economic, and educational domains. India's female labour force participation rate remains around 25%, significantly below the global average. Although progress in education is evident, women's participation in higher education and technical fields still needs considerable enhancement. Challenges in implementation also persist. Concerns have been raised that women representatives may become nominal figures, with real decision-making controlled by male family members—a phenomenon observed in some Panchayat systems. However, over time, many

women have overcome such constraints, asserting their autonomy and leadership. Strengthening political training and leadership development programmes is crucial to ensure that women emerge not just as representatives but as effective policymakers.

Equally important is the transformation within political parties. Without meaningful inclusion of women in party structures, reservation alone cannot ensure genuine empowerment. Political organisations must proactively create opportunities, encourage female candidacy, and cultivate an environment conducive to women's leadership. The vision of a New India aspiring to become a developed nation places women's power at its core. Today, Indian women are making their mark across diverse fields—science, technology, sports, education, governance, and entrepreneurship. The achievements of ISRO's women scientists, Olympic medallists, and grassroots women-led self-help groups stand as powerful testimonies to their potential.

This Act sends a clear and compelling message: no model of development can be complete without the equal participation of half the population. While political disagreements and practical challenges may arise during its implementation, the fundamental spirit of the legislation remains unassailable. It must be viewed not as a political manoeuvre

The debate around census and delimitation underscores the inherent complexities of Indian democracy. The government's decision to rely on the 2011 Census reflects a practical and time-sensitive approach. While opposition concerns merit consideration, they have yet to be substantiated with compelling evidence strong enough to outweigh the urgency of implementation.

vre but as a transformative social opportunity. If the government, opposition, and society collectively embrace this vision, the Women's Reservation Act can become a defining milestone—not only for women but for the nation as a whole. It charts a path toward a stronger, more inclusive, and progressive India, reaffirming the belief that the rise of women is inseparable from the rise of the nation.

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Visually impaired Zainab Bilal scores 95 percent in CBSE class 10 exams

Gives credit to consistency; thanks parents, teachers of DPS Srinagar

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Defying all odds with courage and consistency, a visually impaired girl from Srinagar has scripted an inspiring success story by securing 95 per cent marks in the recently declared CBSE class 10 examinations, proving that determination knows no barriers.

Zainab Bilal, a completely visually impaired student from Badshah Nagar, Natipora in Srinagar, scored 475 out of 500,

emerging as a beacon of hope and inspiration for students, especially those facing physical challenges.

Speaking at her residence, Zainab said she had expected a decent result but was overwhelmed by her performance.

“My expectation was that the result would be good, but Alhamdulillah, my marks are very good. To be honest, I did not think much about scoring this high as CBSE papers are quite difficult,” she said.

Expressing gratitude, she credited her parents, teachers and school administration for their unwavering support throughout her academic journey.

“My parents have been my biggest supporters. My mother, father and even my grandfather stood by me at every step. I would also like to thank all my teachers at Delhi Public School, Srinagar, especially for creating an inclusive environment,” she said.

Zainab also made a special mention of the school’s Learning

Resource Centre (LRC), saying it provided her not only academic assistance but also emotional and mental support. “The LRC supported me emotionally and mentally, which played a big role in my success,” she added.

Looking ahead, Zainab said she aspires to build a career in the field of Information Technology.

“I haven’t thought much in detail, but I would like to pursue something related to computers, probably a Bachelor’s in Computer Applications.

I have always been interested in IT since childhood,” she said.

Sharing her message for fellow students, Zainab emphasised the importance of consistency over sheer hard work. “In life, there will be many challenges, but we should never give up. It is not just about working hard, but working consistently. Even if we study for one or two hours daily, consistency is the key to achieving good results,” she said.

She also had a heartfelt mes-

sage for parents of specially-abled children, urging them to never underestimate or give up on their children.

“Parents should never think their child cannot achieve something. They must continue to support and believe in them. And children should never think they are less capable—when I can do it, everyone can do it,” she said.

Zainab further revealed that interacting with prominent personalities in the past had boosted her confidence and

motivated her to aim higher.

“I got opportunities to interview Omar Abdullah and Aamir Khan, which gave me immense motivation. It made me realise that I have a voice and I can use it to bring meaningful change,” she said.

She credited her mentors for ensuring inclusivity and equal opportunities. “They never made us feel limited because of our disability. Instead, they created an environment where we could grow and express ourselves confidently,” she added—(KNO)

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Craftsmen True

in making such niche crafts.

The Chief Minister himself tried his hands at warping of yarn, an arduous exercise that goes into handweaving of pashmina. He was specifically impressed by the prototypes on display designed by the School of Designs and CDI.

The Chief Minister later visited the main Exhibition Gallery where 30 display-cum-sale counters offering authentic handmade products have been set up. During his interaction with various Shilp Guru, National and J&K Awardees, he expressed deep appreciation for the initiative and the remarkable craftsmanship on display.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said the initiative marks a significant step in promoting Brand J&K and enhancing the visibility of the handicrafts sector. He emphasized that artisans are the custodians of the region’s cultural identity and said the programme aims to provide them direct market access, ensure fair value for their work, and strengthen the authenticity of traditional products.

Chief Minister emphasised upon holding of such events with greater frequency and duration, so that the ‘golden hands’ and rich cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir are provided an ideal platform to reach out to a larger target audience. He directed the Handicrafts and Handloom Department to institutionalize the ‘Know Your Artisan’ initiative as a regular feature and to extend the present edition to maximize the outreach and impact.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has urged people to visit Kashmir Haat to experience the world-class art and craft created by the “magical hands” of Kashmiri artisans.

He emphasized that such visits not only allow people to witness the rich cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir firsthand, but also directly support local artisans by encouraging the purchase of authentic handmade products.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, who also holds the Industries & Commerce portfolio, reaffirmed the department’s commitment to continue organizing such initiatives across multiple locations, ensuring wider visibility, enhanced market access, greater footprint of visitors and buyers and sustained socio-economic upliftment of the artisan and weaver community.

The event is expected to witness overwhelming response from visitors, tourists and stakeholders, marking yet another significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to position Jammu & Kashmir as a global hub for high-quality handicrafts and handloom products.

Pak Orchestrating Drug

number, who were gathered with resolve to eradicate drug addiction at its roots, transform the society, and secure our youth’s future, he said.

I firmly believe when society stands united behind a cause, the law becomes a thousand times stronger. We must build a society where the dealer fears law, and the one who breaks free from drugs feels proud of themselves, their family, their society, and their government,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said history proves that organized societies drive change and women’s power plays a crucial role.

“This fight belongs to mothers and sisters, elders, youth, teachers, panchayats, athletes, and elected representatives alike. It is not the job of just one department. Defeating addiction is our collective responsibility,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon every Panchayat and Ward to form women’s vigilance committees.

“Women are the frontline of this war. You know where the household money goes. If anyone in the family showing symptom of addiction, don’t hide it. Don’t call him a criminal. Call him a patient. But that patient needs society’s help, not just four walls,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor directly addressed the youth and observed that drugs are not cool but they are slavery to drugs and drug dealers.

“Channel your energy into sports fields, art, and in study. In schools and colleges, we will make drugs a symbol of cowardice, not cool. Treatment, identification, and rehabilitation will be our

priority,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that each drug de-addiction centre must be genuine and equipped with all necessary resources. “Strict monitoring of these centres is essential. If any centre is found operating illegally or causing harm to society and the youth, it must be shut down within 24 hours without any hesitation, irrespective of how influential the individual running it. No one should be spared. Action is already underway against all such centres”, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed police officials to break drug supply chains, list all Ramban drug traffickers at police stations and dismantle drug networks.

“The time for silence for society is over. Our divisional and district administration have prepared a comprehensive multi-pronged strategy covering every ward and panchayat. This fight is ours, all of us. If we fail today, future generations won’t forgive us.

Let us make a pledge today that no drug dealer will find shelter in our village or our street. Every addict will be guided toward healing. Every young person’s energy will be channelled toward purpose,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor administered the Anti-Drug Pledge and flagged off a bike rally. A series of awareness programmes inspired citizens to take an active role in the crusade against narcotics.

Lok Bhavan J&K

to the iconic personalities of Himachal Pradesh, the Lieutenant Governor said that the state’s history brims with richness and diversity and spirituality and rituals anchor Himachal Pradesh’s social fabric.

“Himachal Pradesh’s sacred earth, cradle of sages’ austerities, abounds in ancient heritage and temples. Pilgrims worldwide revere its every stone as infused with divine energy. The state’s history, indigenous culture, arts, and architecture stand pristine and many masterpieces are untouched across millennia.

Centuries of traditions have gifted Himachal Pradesh unparalleled folk arts, dances, and songs,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that India stands as a rare treasure trove of pluralism with diverse languages, cuisines, customs, and art forms. He urged the people to embrace and share this vibrant mosaic, sustained by endless community celebrations.

“The ‘Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat’ initiative aptly recognizes cultural exchange as a dynamic catalyst for prosperity.

When local festivities transcend borders, they captivate citizens and spawn livelihoods. Interstate collaboration equips small communities with platforms and resources to scale their events, amplifying both reach and pride. A village’s art, admired nationwide, yields not just income but enduring honor,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also released the activity calendar of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages.

Mutton Prices Spike

lists and report overcharging. Officials have also warned that strict action, including sealing of shops, could be taken against those found violating the rules.

For now, however, the gap between official claims and what people are actually paying continues to fuel anger, turning what many call a “seasonal issue” into a recurring public concern.

30K Posts Referred,

year to further strengthen connectivity in the region.

Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani and MLA Peer-zada Farooq Ahmad Shah also addressed the gathering and reaffirmed the government’s commitment to infrastructure development and youth empowerment across Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier in the day, the Deputy Chief Minister, accompanied by MLA Tanvir Sadiq, paid obeisance at Gurdwara Dam-dama Sahib in HMT, Srinagar and appreciated the shrine’s significance as an important spiritual center for devotees.

CS Sets Outcome-Driven

captured on the ‘Nasha Mukt J&K’

portal of the Information Department.

He asked the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) to handhold the districts in uploading and maintaining real-time data. He stressed that measurable outcomes such as number of people reached, victims counselled, treated or rehabilitated, and action taken against drug peddlers must be systematically recorded and showcased.

The Chief Secretary further directed key departments including Health, Social Welfare and Home to intensify their efforts during this period and work towards achieving quantifiable targets. He also called for a comprehensive review of all Drug De-Addiction Centres to assess availability of facilities and ensure adherence to prescribed norms and standards.

Principal Secretary, Home, Chandraker Bharti, emphasized strengthening enforcement alongside Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities. He highlighted the need to popularize the Tele-MANAS helpline among affected individuals and proposed its integration with the emergency response number 112 for centralized monitoring. He also encouraged citizens to report drug-related activities, assuring that their identities would be kept confidential.

He further stressed adherence to directions issued during UT-level NCORD meetings and asked districts to regularly review their implementation during the campaign. He informed that all such directions would be shared with District Mentors and field functionaries for effective execution.

Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sarmad Hafeez, presented a detailed overview of the three-month campaign, which commenced with a ‘Padh Yatra’ led by the Lieutenant Governor. He informed that the campaign aims to reach every district through extensive awareness and mobilization programmes. Departments have been directed to prepare specific action plans with a focus on participation of students and youth, NCC/NSS volunteers, NYKs, Scouts and Guides, PRIs and elected representatives, he added.

He further informed that a key component of the campaign involves intensified action by law enforcement agencies against drug trafficking networks in a mission mode. Elaborating on the guidelines, he stated that districts will identify and refer drug abuse victims to Drug De-Addiction Centres and Addiction Treatment Facilities in coordination with the Health Department, while also engaging influencers, sportspersons and youth icons for awareness generation.

The campaign will focus on youth mobilization, hotspot interventions, and activities at schools, colleges, Panchayats and urban wards. Wide publicity will be ensured through print, electronic and social media in coordination with the Information Department.

He also informed that each district will nominate a nodal officer for coordination, monitoring and reporting. A robust daily reporting mechanism will be established with uploading of reports, photographs and videos on the ‘Nasha Mukt J&K’ portal to ensure comprehensive coverage of all Panchayats and wards without exception.

CA Cold Storage

grower from Shopian. “This has given us control over pricing and improved our bargaining power.”

Growers added that cold storage units were fully packed during the harvesting season last year, reflecting a shift in strategy among orchardists who preferred to wait for better market conditions rather than selling in bulk at low rates.

“Cold storage has become a lifeline for us,” said an orchard owner from Pulwama. “It allows us to send produce to markets as per demand. If we release apples in bulk, prices crash, but when supply is regulated, we get handsome returns.”

Experts believe that CA storage plays a crucial role in stabilising the market by preventing oversupply and ensuring a steady flow of produce over several months. This system not only safeguards fruit quality but also helps maintain price stability.

The improved returns from stored apples are also benefiting the broader horticulture economy, enabling growers to reinvest in better inputs such as high-quality pesticides, packaging, and modern farming techniques.

However, growers stressed the need for expanding cold storage infrastructure, particularly in remote fruit-growing areas, so that small and marginal farmers can also benefit.

“If more units are established closer to villages, it will reduce transportation costs and post-harvest losses,” said a grower. “Cold storage is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity for sustainable apple farming.”

With a significant portion of apples still in storage and demand expected to improve further in the coming weeks, growers remain optimistic that prices will strengthen, reinforcing the role of cold storage as a game changer for Kashmir’s fruit industry—(KNO)

Admin Orders

including cranes, standby buses and mobile workshops. Police will provide escorts and facilitate movement along key stretches of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.

“The Health Department has been directed to establish medical aid facilities at multiple locations along the route, including Jhajjar Kotli, Udhampur, Ramban and Banihal, to handle any emergencies.”

“Employees have been advised not to occupy government accommodation in Srinagar without proper allotment. However, they may retain their Jammu quarters for family members as per existing rules,” it reads further.

“A uniform special travelling allowance of Rs 25,000 has been sanctioned for employees undertaking the move within the stipulated period. The government has also permitted advance drawal of April salary on April 29,” reads the order.

The order also states that leave during the move period will be granted only in exceptional cases. Jammu-based employees opting out of the move may avail up to three days of special casual leave.

Departments have been instructed to complete all preparatory arrangements, including detachment of attached staff, by April 27.

Office timings in Srinagar will be from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm for the Civil Secretariat and 10:00 am to 4:30 pm for other offices—(KNO)

J&K Assembly Set For 6Th

Constitution of India.

The situation changed in 2019 with the abrogation of Article 370, when the Centre made legal provisions in the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act to carry out delimitation exercise.

In 2020, the Union Government constituted a three-member commission headed by Justice (Retd.) Ranjana Desai to increase seats as well as redraw the boundaries of Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies. The exercise was completed in 2022, with the commission unveiling its final award—(KNO)

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DC Pulwama inaugurates plantation drive, takes anti-drug pledge

AKHTER ABASS

PULWAMA: District Administration Pulwama, in collaboration with Mashaal Welfare Foundation (J&K), organised a special awareness campaign at Chak Badri Nath area as part of the ongoing Nasha Mukt Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyaan. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents and school children. Geographic Reference

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom, attended the event as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, he emphasized the importance of collective responsibility in eliminating drug abuse from society and building a healthier, safer future for the youth.

At the foothills of the Yaron forests, participants took a pledge to make their communities drug-free and to spread awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse.

On the occasion, the DC



also inaugurated a plantation drive, highlighting the link between environmental protection and social well-being. He stated that conserving forests and maintaining ecological balance are essential, but equally important is the need to keep society

free from social evils like drug addiction. He recalled the 100-day Nasha Mukt campaign Started in UT by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and stressed the need for sustained awareness and community participation to achieve its objectives

Dr Qayoom urged students and the general public to play an active role in this mission and to extend full cooperation to the administration. He also appreciated the role of civil society organisations in supporting such initiatives.

ADC Handwara reviews arrangements for Mega Padyatra under NMBA



GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi Wednesday chaired a review meeting to finalize arrangements for the upcoming mega rally/Padyatra being organized under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) scheduled on 17 April 2026.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held regarding various logistical and administrative arrangements to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the rally. Emphasis was laid on coordinated efforts among all concerned departments for effective execution of the programme.

The ADC directed the officers to ensure adequate arrangements for transportation, security, medical facilities, drinking water, and sanitation. He also stressed the importance of widespread aware-

ness and active participation of students, youth, civil society members, and the general public to make the rally impactful.

The ADC reiterated the commitment of the administration to eradicate drug abuse and urged all stakeholders to work collectively to make the mega rally a grand success and to spread a strong message against substance abuse across the sub-division Handwara.

The meeting was attended by Principal GDC Handwara, Tehsildar Handwara, Block Development officer Nutnussa, Dy SP HQ Handwara, DSP Traffic Kupwara, Principals of BHSS Handwara and GHSS Handwara, Medical Superintendent Associated District Hospital, GMC Handwara; Block Medical officer Handwara, Zonal Education officer Handwara, Zonal Physical officers of Handwara, Langate and Mawer and representative of Municipal Committee Handwara.

Nasha Mukt Campaign marked by sports based awareness activities in Shopian



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Under the ongoing '100 Days Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Campaign 2026', the Department of Youth Services & Sports (DYSS), District Shopian, Wednesday organized a series of sports based awareness activities across the district to engage youth and reinforce the message of a drug free society.

The activities were conducted at multiple educational institutions including GHSS Shopian, HSS Sedow, HS Pahnoo, and Gunj Baksh Hanfia Public High School Arhama, witnessing active participation from students.

As part of the campaign, sports tournaments on the theme of "Say No to Drugs" were organized, including cricket, football, and kabaddi competitions.

These activities aimed to channelize the energy of youth into positive and constructive pursuits

while simultaneously spreading awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse.

Students actively participated in the events, which also featured interactive sessions, discussions, and motivational inputs highlighting the physical, mental, and social consequences of drug addiction.

Emphasis was laid on adopting a healthy lifestyle, discipline, and the role of youth in building a drug-free society.

The programme also focused on sensitizing students about resisting negative influences and making informed life choices.

Trainers and officials encouraged participants to take responsibility as ambassadors of change within their communities.

A total of 167 students, including 98 boys and 69 girls, participated enthusiastically in the activities, reflecting strong engagement and awareness among the youth.

CS Dulloo releases two books on Health, Climate Science

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Wednesday released two scholarly works titled "Heal Wounds" and "The Science of Cloud Bursts" at a function held here.

Authored by Prof. Manoj Nazir, Dr. Jyotsana Maurya, Riddhima Kaul, and Dr. Poonam Mehrotra, the publications underscore a unique blend of traditional knowledge and modern scientific research. The books are expected to serve as valuable resources for researchers, acade-

micians, and the general public.

"Heal Wounds" explores the therapeutic potential of Rudraksha, examining its traditional significance alongside possible health benefits. "The Science of Cloud Bursts" presents a comprehensive scientific analysis of cloudburst phenomena, including their causes, impacts, and possible mitigation strategies.

The authors, collectively, have made significant contributions in their respective fields, with several books and research publications to their credit.

DPS Srinagar Students Dominate Top Ranks in CBSE Board Exams

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Delhi Public School, Srinagar is proud to announce a historic performance in the recently declared CBSE Class 10 Board Examinations. Continuing its legacy of academic brilliance, the school has achieved a phenomenal sweep of the top three positions in the region, alongside a 100% pass percentage that underscores the collective dedication of our students and faculty.

Our students have demonstrated extraordinary academic rigor, with multiple students tying for the top three positions in the school. Ayesha Masarat and Sheikh Imaad Ashraf lead the institution with an outstanding score of 98% (Rank 1). They are followed closely by Anika, Mir Noumaan Shakeel, and Deher Zehra Maqbool, who secured a stellar 97.8% (Rank 2), while Ahmad Bin Imran and Noor Ul Haya rounded off the top tier with a brilliant 97.6% (Rank 3). These scores reflect the high standards of scholarship maintained at the school and the rigorous preparation undertaken by the students.

In a deeply moving



testament to the school's commitment to inclusive education, two of our students have delivered phenomenal results, proving that determination knows no bounds. Zainab Bilal achieved a remarkable 95%, and Farees Rafiq secured a stellar 92.6%. These accomplishments transcend mere academic scores; they represent a profound triumph of perseverance, fortitude, and an unwavering belief in one's own potential.

Beyond the exceptional scores of the top rankers, the overall performance of the entire batch has been equally commendable. A significant majority of the students have secured high distinctions and first-division marks, reflecting the consistent academic excellence upheld across all sections of the class. This collective triumph is

a testament to the school's mission of nurturing every individual's potential, ensuring that every student is empowered to achieve their personal best and contribute to the institution's proud academic tradition.

Principal Ms. Shafaq Afshan remarked, "This year's results are a profound reflection of the resilience and intellectual spirit of our students. These top ranks testify to our rigorous academic standards and the pursuit of excellence that defines our institution. This achievement would not have been possible without the tireless dedication of our faculty. Our staff has worked with unparalleled passion, providing the personalized mentorship and academic guidance necessary for such a historic outcome. We con-

gratulate all our students, parents, and especially our hardworking teachers on this milestone."

Echoing the sentiment, Chairman Mr. Vijay Dhar stated, "Our vision has always been to create an institution where academic excellence is the primary cornerstone. Seeing our students secure these top positions is a moment of immense pride for the entire DPS community. I must also recognize the monumental efforts of our teaching and support staff; their commitment to fostering an environment of high achievement and their relentless pursuit of excellence are the fundamental reasons behind this success. I extend my heartiest congratulations to the students and credit our staff for their unwavering dedication to our mission."

Thousands throng Devika Baisakhi Mela on day 2

Scintillating cultural performances mesmerize audience at Holy Ghat

GMK NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: A vibrant cultural celebration marked the second day of the historic Devika Baisakhi Mela being held on the sacred banks of the Devika rivulet in Udhampur town.

A mega cultural programme, organised by Department of Information and Public Relations District Centre, enthralled the audience with scintillating performances showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the region. S

Students of KC Gurukul Public school presented a theme based Nukkad Natak on Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan.

A large number of people from all walks of life gathered to witness the cultural bonanza. The audience was treated to captivating Dogri music and folk dances performed by local artists and enthusiastic students. The performances received thun-



derous applause and were highly appreciated by one and all.

Thousands of visitors and devotees from within and outside the district thronged the Devika Ghat to take a holy dip in the sacred river, continuing the age-old spiritual tra-

dition associated with the Baisakhi festival.

Adding to the festive spirit, temporary stalls offering sweets, toys and accessories witnessed heavy footfall, making the mela a lively and joyful experience for visitors of all ages.

Mass Padyatra flagged off in B'la under Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukt Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, SF Hamid Wednesday flagged off a padyatra aimed at spreading awareness against drug abuse.

The padyatra witnessed enthusiastic participation from locals, students, officials, and officers, who marched from the DC Office to Dak Bungalow Baramulla carrying placards and banners displaying powerful anti-drug slogans and messages.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner administered a pledge to all participants at the DC Office premises, reaffirming the collective commitment to eradicate drug abuse from society.

The initiative reflects the administration's continued efforts to engage the community and promote a drug-free Baramulla through mass awareness and public participation.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR (UT)

DISTRICT INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION & TRAININGS, PAMPORE (PULWAMA)

No. DIET/P/2026/441

Dated: 15 04-2026

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION (NIQ)

Subject: Hiring of Transportation and Engagement of Labour for Shifting of DIET Office to New Building.

Sealed quotations are hereby invited from reputed and registered service providers/transporters for hiring of vehicles and engagement of labour for shifting of office stock/material, records, furniture, and other items from the existing DIET office to the newly constructed DIET building at Pampore (Pulwama). Bill of Quantities (BOQ)/Ratc format:

S. No.	Description of work	Unit	Rate	Remarks
1	Hiring of vehicle (Medium/Heavy) for transportation of office material	Per trip		Inclusive of fuel & Driver
2	Labour Charges for loading/unloading	Per Labour/Day		—
3	Shifting and arrangement of records/furniture	Lump sum		Complete work
4.	Any other incidental charges (if any)	Lump Sum		Specify

Note:

- Rates must be quoted clearly in figures and words.
- All taxes and charges should be included in the quoted rates.

Terms & Conditions:

- 1) The work shall be completed within the time frame specified by this office.
- 2) The bidder shall ensure safe handling of official records/material.
- 3) Payment shall be made after successful completion of work and verification/inspection by the concerned committee and subject to availability of funds.
- 4) The rates should be reasonable and in line with prevailing market rates.
- 5) Necessary bills/vouchers must be provided for payment.
- 6) The undersigned reserves the right to accept/reject any quotation without assigning any reason.
- 7) **For any query, please contact 7006571394/9906672113.**

Submission Details:

- Last date for submission: Within 03 days from publication.
- Sealed envelope superscribed as:
- Quotation for Transportation and Labour Charges for Shifting of DIET Office"
- Addressed to:
Principal, DIET Pampore (Pulwama)

DIPK-412-26

DT: 15/04/2026

Principal,
DIET (Pulwama)

'It was fantastic': Patidar hails RCB bowlers after emphatic win over LSG

IAN S

BENGALURU: Skipper Rajat Patidar lauded his bowling unit and fielding effort after Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) secured a convincing five-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in Match 23 of the Indian Premier League 2026 at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday.

RCB produced a clinical all-round performance, first restricting LSG to 146 and then chasing down the target comfortably in 15.1 overs to climb to the top of the points table.

Reflecting on the bowling performance, Patidar was full of praise for his attack.

"It was fantastic on the bowling. I think the good thing was that we won the toss. And the way the fast bowlers hit the deck was nice to watch. Even I don't know what he's going to bowl next, but I would say he's a very courageous bowler on Krunal Pandya. And at the same time, Suyash's stump-to-stump bowling was tremendous to watch," He said in the post-match presentation.

RCB's new-ball pair



of Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Josh Hazlewood once again set the tone with disciplined spells, and Patidar highlighted the value of having experienced bowlers in a T20 setup.

"Of course, for a captain, if you have specialist bowlers in T20 leagues, it makes the job easier because you don't have to tell them what to do next. The experience and ideas are helping all the other bowlers as well."

He also credited the team's improved fielding standards, which have been a focus area throughout the tournament.

"The team has been working on fielding inten-

sity since the start of the IPL. That was followed by Phil Salt, and he usually takes those one-handed and flying catches. It was a great catch for him."

Despite RCB's strong start to the season and their return to the top of the table, Patidar remained grounded about their title prospects.

"No, it's a long way to go on the title hopes. Right now, we are just looking one game at a time."

With this win, RCB are back at the top of the points table with 8 points in five games. They will now face the Delhi Capitals (DC) at the same venue on Saturday.

IPL 2026: 'I'm still not 100%,' says Kohli after guiding RCB to victory against LSG

IAN S

BENGALURU: Virat Kohli admitted he is still short of full fitness despite playing a key role in Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) comfortable five-wicket win over Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in Match 23 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday.

Chasing 147, Kohli top-scored with a fluent 49 as RCB completed the chase in just 15.1 overs to return to the top of the points table. The former captain, however, revealed that he has been dealing with both a knee concern and illness in recent days.

"Much better than the last game. I'm still not 100%. My knee was a bit sore in the last game. Even health-wise, I've been under the weather for four or five days now. So, just getting back up to my best. I started off well today, so I was happy with my intensity. Again, would have liked to carry on and finish the game off. Sometimes you have to take the conditions into account as well. The pitch slowed down considerably and I just wanted to keep going in the same manner. But yeah, in the end, should have probably finished that one off as well," He said to the broad-



casters after the match.

Earlier in the evening, RCB's bowlers set up the win by restricting LSG to 146. Rasikh Salam Dar starred with four wickets, while Bhuvneshwar Kumar picked up three, as the hosts kept the visitors in check throughout the innings.

Kohli also highlighted the nature of the surface, explaining how conditions influenced RCB's aggressive approach in the power play.

"Yeah, it was slower than normal. If you saw, there was not enough grass on it. The last 3-4 days have been very, very hot. It's been very dry as well. So, we thought it was going to be a dry, slow wicket rather than one of those bare ones that are tacky when we play in Chinnaswamy. So, it was different, and hence

the idea was to push the game away from the opposition and take the game away from them in the first five-six overs. And for those reasons, the power-play batting was important and hence I say that I was happy with my approach today. I was able to put the team in front early on."

Reflecting on the evolving nature of T20 cricket, Kohli stressed the importance of adapting to situations.

"Well, it depends on the situation and the condition as well for me. Not all games are going to be 230, 240. We understand the game's moving forward pretty nicely, that the demands of the modern game are pretty different, but you always have to keep an eye out on the situation and when people play under pressure," He said.

'Excited to enter the real world': Jamie Murray bids farewell to professional tennis

IAN S

LONDON: Former doubles World No. 1 Jamie Murray has officially brought the curtain down on his professional tennis career, confirming his retirement through a heartfelt message on social media on Wednesday.

"My tennis journey comes to an end after 36 years. I feel very fortunate and privileged for all the amazing experiences this great sport has given me," Murray wrote on Instagram.

The former World No. 1 in the PIF ATP Doubles Rankings enjoyed a distinguished career spanning



two decades at the highest level. He claimed 34 tour-level doubles titles, including multiple major honours, and made history as the first British player to reach the top of the doubles rankings.

Murray also paid tribute to those closest to him, including his brother Andy

Murray, who was a constant presence throughout his journey. "Thanks Mum, Dad, Andy, Ale, Alan, Louis, and Thomas for all your incredible support, efforts, and sacrifices," he wrote.

The 40-year-old played his final professional match at the US Open in 2025, where he partnered with Ivan Dodig. His career began with a breakthrough ATP title in San Jose in 2007 alongside Eric Butorac, and from that point forward, he established himself as one of the most consistent doubles players on tour, winning at least one title in 16 of 18 seasons between 2007 and 2024.

'Refereeing was a disgrace': Laporta slams officials after Barcelona Champions League exit

IAN S

BARCELONA: FC Barcelona president Joan Laporta launches a scathing attack on referee Clement Turpin following his side's UEFA Champions League quarterfinal elimination against Atletico Madrid.

Despite securing a 2-1 win on the night, Barcelona exits the competition with a 3-2 aggregate defeat, with Laporta attributing part of the loss to what he describes as poor officiating during Tuesday's clash at the Metropolitano Stadium.

"I congratulate Atletico Madrid on reaching the semifinals, but that does

not excuse the fact that yesterday's refereeing, along with VAR, was a disgrace, it's intolerable," Laporta told the press at the Conde de Godo tennis tournament in Barcelona on Wednesday, as quoted by Xinhua.

Laporta expressed frustration over several key decisions, pointing out that Atletico committed 15 fouls without receiving a single booking, while Barcelona was reduced to 10 men for the second time in the tie. Eric Garcia was sent off for a challenge on Alexander Sorloth, with the



referee ruling him as the last defender.

The Barcelona president also revisits incidents from the first leg, where

Pau Cubarsi was dismissed before half-time following a foul on Giuliano Simeone.

"In the first leg, we were denied a clear penalty, and one of our players was sent off when it should have been a yellow card. Giuliano didn't have the ball under control. The referee got it right initially, but VAR intervened and changed the decision," Laporta said.

Laporta further criticised the red card shown to Garcia, arguing that Jules Kounde could have covered the situation, mean-

ing Garcia was not the last man. He also questions an offside decision that ruled out a goal by Ferran Torres, as well as a potential penalty claim involving Dani Olmo. Another contentious moment sees Fermin Lopez require medical treatment after being struck by the studs of goalkeeper Juan Musso while attempting a header.

"Ferran's goal was a goal. The penalty on Olmo was a penalty. The incident on Fermin, judge it as you wish, but it's unacceptable to see a young player suffer like that while being stitched up on the pitch," Laporta concluded.



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OUR SCHOOL TOPPERS
2025-26

CLASS X

CBSE EXAMINATION

1



AYESHA MASARAT
1st Position
98%

1



SHEIKH IMAAD ASHRAF
1st Position
98%

2



ANIKA
2nd Position
97.8%

2



MIR NOUMAAN SHAKEEL
2nd Position
97.8%

2



DEHER ZEHRA MAQBOOL
2nd Position
97.8%

3



AHMAD BIN IMRAN
3rd Position
97.6%

3



NOOR UL HAYA
3rd Position
97.6%

Inspiring Achievers

1



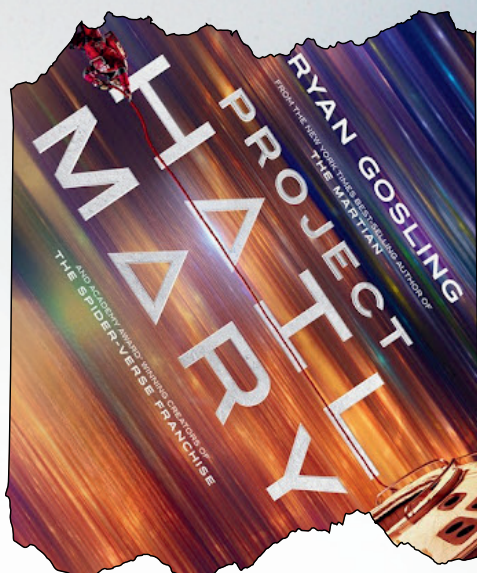
ZAINAB BILAL
95%

2



FAREES RAFIQ
92.6%

**INOX
SRINAGAR**

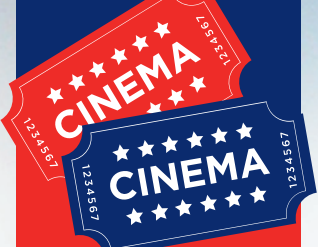


PROJECT HAIL MARY (U/A)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
03:25 PM



DACOIT (U/A)
HINDI - 11:00 AM

NOW



CINEMA

SHOWING

Thursday, 16 April



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



VAAZHA-II-BIOPIC OF BILLION BROS (U/A)
MALAYALAM WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
06:35 PM