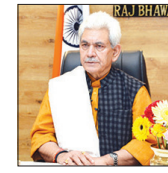


Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
@OfficeOfLGJandK



Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji, India advances with renewed resolve. Border areas are no longer the nation's edge but its first village and foremost opportunity. New commitment thrive and connection with mainstream has taken root.

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Hajj Flights To Begin Today, 4,704 Pilgrims To Depart Till May-5

'Devotees To Get SIM-Enabled Smartwatches; Hajj House Facilities Ready'



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Hajj flights from Kashmir with Srinagar embarkation are set to begin from today, with 4,704 pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir scheduled to depart in 28 flights till May 5.

Executive Officer of the Hajj Committee, Dr Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi, said that all arrangements have been finalized for the smooth departure of pilgrims for tomorrow.

As already reported by KNO, 3,990 pilgrims will depart through Srinagar embarkation, including 323 from Ladakh, while others will travel through Delhi and Mumbai.

Each pilgrim will be provided a SIM-enabled smart-

watch for tracking and coordination during the pilgrimage.

Earlier, officials had said stricter health screening guidelines were implemented this year, while self-cooking facilities have been discontinued and food arrangements will be provided instead.

Due to ongoing repair work at Srinagar airport, flights are operating with reduced passenger capacity, requiring refuelling halts in Delhi before proceeding to Madinah.

Accommodation facilities have also been arranged at Hajj House for pilgrims arriving from far-off districts, including Jammu and Ladakh, ahead of their departures—(KNO)

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji, India advances with renewed resolve.

Border areas are no longer the nation's edge but its first village and foremost opportunity

New commitment thrives and connection with mainstream has taken root

No map fully captures the true essence of our border villages, which reveal only lines

National security flows from soldiers at borders and border village residents who dwell there

Vibrant Villages Programme

Border Villages Frontline Of India's Progress: LG

Says Nation Defined By Its Remotest Village Where Our Identity Shines Before The World

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI: Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday described border villages as the nation's first line of defence, praising residents for their courage and sacrifice, and said they remain a top priority for Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi.

LG Sinha visited the border village of Sariah and launched a Common Service Centre, water conservation works under Jal Shakti Abhiyan 2.0, and playgrounds in Sariah, Pukharni, Bhawani, Chapardhara and Namban.

"Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, India advances with renewed resolve. Border areas are no longer the nation's edge but its first village and foremost opportunity. New commitment thrives and connection with mainstream has taken root," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at a public gathering during his visit to vibrant village Sariah in Rajouri, where he inaugurated the Common Service Centre and initiated



several development projects. These projects include Water Conservation Works under JSJB 2.0 and development of playgrounds in vibrant villages Sariah, Pukharni, Bhawani, Chapardhara and Namban. He also paid tributes to Brig. Mohammad Usman.

The Lieutenant Governor said that through the Border Area Development Programme under Vibrant Villages Programme, we are ensuring infrastructure and welfare schemes reach every border village.

"No map fully captures the

true essence of our border villages, which reveal only lines. Within those lines, I see a vibrant society and steadfast families advancing the nation's progress," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that national security flows from soldiers at the borders and border village residents who dwell there.

"A road reaching a border village builds not just passage but unshakeable confidence in our defense. Electricity lighting a border village home offers not mere illumination but fresh

hope. Employment for a border village youth transforms not only one life but the trajectory of an entire community.

My vision is clear that border village development is integral to national security, and every border village must rank among our nation's most prosperous," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that since assuming responsibility for Jammu Kashmir in August 2020, he had prioritized border villages' aspirations.

"In border villages where women rise each dawn dreaming of brighter futures for their children amid challenges, where farmers toiling in their soil through hardships, and where communities stand as sentinels without uniforms, we have ignited a new dawn of progress," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also called upon officers to achieve 100% saturation of HADP, Mission Youth, Mudra Yojana, and all welfare schemes, leaving no eligible citizen behind.

"Our commitment •P-06

IGP Reviews Security Arrangements Ahead Of Forthcoming Events



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone, V.K. Birdi-IPS, chaired a security review meeting at PCR Kashmir to evaluate and finalize security arrangements for the forthcoming events in the Kashmir Valley.

The meeting was attended by IG CRPF Srinagar Sector, IG CRPF KOS, Additional Commissioner SB Srinagar; DIsG of CRPF (North Srinagar & KOS); DIG Traffic Kashmir; DIG CKR; DIG SKR; DIG BSF Ops Ftr; DIG SSB Srinagar; DIG ITBP; all District SsPs of Kashmir Zone; Assistant Director SIB Srinagar; Colonel GS 15 Corps; SsPs of PCR Kashmir, Traffic Rural Kashmir, Railways Kashmir, Security Kashmir, SDRF 1st Bn Srinagar, CID CI Kashmir, APCR, Traffic City Srinagar and other senior officers.

The meeting primarily focused on review of security arrangements in anticipation of the forthcoming events. Deliberations emphasized the need to further strengthen the existing security framework, and optimize deployment of personnel at critical and •P-06

Tulip Garden Sees Over 50% Decline In Visitors This Year



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, Asia's largest and a major tourist attraction here, witnessed a sharp decline in footfall this year, with visitors dropping by more than 50 per cent, officials said on Friday.

The garden had recorded its highest ever footfall last year, with 8.55 lakh visitors, they said.

This year, however, only 3.90 lakh visitors—including about 1200 foreigners—visited the garden, the officials said.

"This year, 3.90 lakh visitors visited the Tulip garden. Among them were 1222 foreigners, and 2.89 lakh domes-

tic tourists," Assistant Floriculture Officer In-charge Tulip Garden, Imran Ahmad said, adding that about 1.6 lakh locals also visited the site.

The garden, a key tourist attraction during the spring season, was closed to the public on Thursday as the bloom came to an end.

Located on the banks of the famous Dal Lake here, the garden was thrown open to the public by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on March 16—a week ahead of schedule due to an early bloom triggered by rising temperatures.

It was added to the tourist spots of Kashmir in 2008 by then chief minister •P-06

J&K MPs, MLAs Meet Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

Delegation Seeks To Upgrade Sumbal-Gurez Stretch Into NH

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: A delegation of Members of Parliament and MLAs from Jammu and Kashmir on Friday met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Parliament House and raised key infrastructure and public concerns.

The delegation, included MPs Chowdry Mohammad Ramzan, Sajjad Ahmed Kichloo and Shami Oberoi, along with MLAs Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi and Qaisar Jamsheed Lone.

The delegation sought upgradation of the Sumbal-Gurez road into a strategic National Highway, stating that the move would improve connectivity and ensure better maintenance of the vital route.

They also demanded opening of the Drass-Gurez road for



traffic to ease travel hardships faced by residents of the remote region, especially during harsh weather conditions.

The lawmakers pressed for early execution of major infrastructure projects, including the Lolab-Bandipora tunnel, Kishtwar-Padder-Zanskar road and Badoab-Sonamarg road, stating that these are critical

for regional development, connectivity and tourism.

They also raised concerns over the location of the Army camp at Zachaldara in Handwara. They said the camp, set up during the early 1990s, is now surrounded by a dense civilian population, including schools, mosques and health facilities—(KNO)

SASCI Reforms Aims At Capital Growth And Fiscal Efficiency: CS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo convened a high-level meeting of the Finance Department, attended by the Administrative Secretaries, to review the progress of departmental work plans and the status of reforms under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI).

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary assessed expenditure trends and underscored the importance of timely and efficient utilization of allocated resources. He emphasized the need to prioritize capital expenditure (Capex) from the very beginning of the financial year, cautioning against the tendency of last-minute spending rushes that often compromise efficiency and outcomes.

Highlighting the impor-

tance of proactive planning, the Chief Secretary directed departments to ensure prompt uploading of works on the BEAMS portal to facilitate timely tendering and execution. He further stressed the need for equitable distribution of projects across districts, aligned with on-ground requirements to ensure balanced development across all regions.

Reiterating the strategic importance of SASCI reforms, the Chief Secretary urged Administrative Secretaries to accord them top priority, noting their potential to bring substantial economic benefits to the Union Territory through incentive-based funding amounting to hundreds of crores. He called for their strict implementation in both letter and spirit to ensure tangible outcomes. Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, •P-06

One Year On, Pahalgam Sheds Terror Shadow

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: On April 22, 2025, the world was shocked when a dastardly terrorist attack ripped through the quaint Baisaran meadow in J-K's Pahalgam, snuffing out 26 innocent lives, mostly tourists.

The brutal attack led to an exodus of tourists from Jammu and Kashmir, prompting the authorities to shut nearly 50 tourist spots before reopening some of those in a phased manner after a security audit.

Now, about a year down the line, the famed meadows of Pahalgam are once again buzzing with tourist activity, with none ruing their decision to visit the 'Mini Switzerland' in Anantnag district that is overcoming the shadow of last year's terror attack.

"It feels really good to be here. I never imagined such vast plains at this altitude.



We've been to Manali, Gangtok, and the Northeast, but we didn't expect such open grounds here. The security arrangements are excellent," Ashutosh Kosaria from Chhattisgarh told PTI Videos.

Coming from a state hounded by Left-Wing Extremism not so long ago, Kosaria understands the heavy presence of

security forces in Pahalgam.

"We're from Chhattisgarh. We have seen the Army in Bastar. It's the same here. We faced no problems at all," he said.

Last year's terror attack did not deter the Kosaria family.

"So many people live here. You can see the whole city from a temple above. It's hard

to believe that such things (terror attacks) can happen here," Kosaria said.

He also had a piece of advice for those willing to visit Pahalgam.

"I think this is a part of India that everyone should see. It's so beautiful. If you are planning a trip, keep at least 10-15 days to explore the region."

Tanushree Dutta from Kolkata was all praise for the security arrangements in Kashmir.

"The security is excellent. We visited Gulmarg, Sonmarg and Pahalgam. We were not deterred by last year's terror attack. What matters is we are here now, and the place is secure," she said.

"Maybe it was risky back then, but not now. The Army and police are everywhere—they helped us a lot. We also saw snowfall in Gulmarg, and I can't describe the feeling. There's nothing •P-06

Centre Notifies Women's Reservation Act For J&K, Other UTs

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Friday notified the implementation of the Women's Reservation Act 2023 which provides a 33 per cent quota for women in legislatures, Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territories (UTs).

In a notification issued for Jammu and Kashmir, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said, "In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Second Amendment) Act, 2023 (38 of 2023), the Central Government hereby appoints the 17th day of April, 2026 as the date on which the provisions of the said Act shall come into force."

The Ministry also issued another notification for Union Territories (UTs) implementing the Act.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Act, 2023 (39 of 2023), •P-06

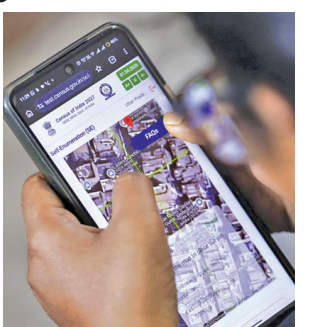
J&K Govt Directs Public To Provide Accurate Unambiguous Answers

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Ahead of the commencement of the census exercise in Jammu & Kashmir, the administration has issued a directive, urging the public to extend full cooperation by furnishing accurate information during the headcount exercise.

The Planning, Development & Monitoring Department has issued a formal notification, urging the public to extend cooperation during Census 2027.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by Rule 8(ii) of the Census Rules, read with Circular No. 15 dated 12.03.2026 issued by the Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India, the Government of Jammu & Kashmir hereby directs the public to cooperate in furnishing accurate and unambiguous information in respect of all questions that may be put to them



for the smooth conduct of the Census 2027," reads the notification.

The notification has been issued almost one-and-a-half month before commencement of first phase of census in J&K. The Householding Operations (HLO), considered first phase of census-would be carried out from June 01 to June 30 in the UT.

The notification states that Census is the primary source of information at the lowest administrative unit on housing •P-06

SANJY-2026: Draw of Lots for Tent, Shop Allotment held in Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: To ensure fair and transparent allotment of tents and shops for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026 at various identified locations on Pahalgam Axis, a draw of lots was conducted Friday at Dak Bungalow, Khanabal.

The exercise was jointly carried out by a designated committee comprising ADC, CEO PDA, SDM Pahalgam, AD Tourism Pahalgam and DIO NIC through a randomisation software, ensuring its fairness and transparency.

Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, (Yatra Officer Pahalgam Axis), Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat oversaw the entire process in presence of ACR, applicants, service providers and their representatives.

The applicants had earlier submitted their applications for installing tents and pitching tents at various identified locations enroute the Holy Cave. The allocation of quotas to dif-



ferent applicant categories was made strictly in accordance with the guidelines laid down by Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) and Divisional Commissioner Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the initiative is part of the pre-Yatra logistical planning aimed at facilitating smooth arrangements for the annual pilgrimage, which witnesses a large

influx of devotees every year via the Pahalgam route. He asked for cooperation from all the stakeholders for successful conduct of SANJY-2026.

The applicants and service providers present on the occasion expressed satisfaction over the transparent and smooth conduct of the process and appreciated the authorities for providing a fair and equal opportunity to them.

PSA Shopian Conducts Historic Elections

Leadership Reaffirms Commitment to Educational Excellence

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: In an unprecedented and landmark development in the history of PSAJK, the Shopian district successfully conducted its elections, marking the formation of a well-organized and structured district chapter of the Association.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of schools, reflecting a strong commitment to democratic values and collective representation within the district.

The Election Commission was led by eminent environmental lawyer Advocate Nadeem Qadri, with Mr. Majid Butt serving as a member of the Commission. The process was further strengthened by the presence of observers, including Mr. Tahir wagey, District President Srinagar, Mr Tariq Balli State coordinator PSAJK and Dr. Baba Nazrul Islam, State President PSAJK.

The elections were also observed by representatives from the office of the



CEO Shopian, along with a representative from the Bar of Shopian, ensuring greater transparency and accountability in the education sector.

In a unanimous decision, Mr. Shabir Ahmad Malik was elected to lead the district and will represent Shopian in PSAJK along with executive members.

Speaking on the occasion, Baba Nazrul Islam, President PSAJK, welcomed the government's decision to once again the Fee Fixation Committee under the leadership of the upright Justice Halli. He noted that, on the very first day of assuming office, Justice Halli reinforced the mandatory constitution of parental committees for all

institutions across Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring greater transparency and accountability in the education sector.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shabir Ahmad Malik, the newly elected District Head, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all member schools for reposing their trust and confidence in his leadership. He assured the members of his commitment to serve the district with dedication and integrity.

It was reiterated that Mr. Malik will lead the association in strengthening educational standards, promoting a holistic education policy, and working towards achieving broader educational goals for the district.

Education Minister mourns demise of Tariq Ahmad Matta

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo has expressed deep grief and sorrow on the sad demise of Senior Lecturer of HSS Bomai, Tariq Ahmad Matta.

In her condolence message, the Education Minister said that the Late Tariq Ahmad was a dedicated educator, whose demise is a great loss to academic fraternity. "I am deeply saddened by the untimely

demise of Tariq Ahmad Matta, Senior Lecturer in Zoology at HSS Bomai. A dedicated educator, inspiring mentor, and passionate sportsman, his loss is a great blow to the academic fraternity", she said.

The Minister also extended her deep condolences to the bereaved family as well as his colleagues and students.

"My heartfelt condolences to his family, colleagues, and students. May Allah grant him Jannat-ul-Firdous", she added.

DLSA Budgam holds review meeting with LADCs



GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam, Friday convened a review meeting with all Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs) in the office chamber of the Secretary, DLSA Budgam.

The meeting was chaired by Tabassum Qadir Parray, Secretary, DLSA Budgam, with the objective of assessing the performance of the Legal Aid Defence Counsels and ensuring adherence to the prescribed standards of service delivery.

The meeting was attended by Lateef Ahmad Khan, Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel; Nazeer Ahmad Wagay, Deputy Legal Aid Defence Counsel; and Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsels.

During the meeting, the counsels shared their

experiences, highlighted challenges encountered in the field, and offered constructive suggestions to improve the delivery of legal aid services. Key issues discussed included ensuring quality legal representation, expediting the disposal of pending cases, and strengthening coordination among counsels to enhance access to justice. Clear directions were also issued regarding the effective use of the LSMS Portal, with a target to achieve zero pendency.

The Secretary, DLSA Budgam, emphasized the importance of providing efficient, accessible, and high-quality legal aid services, and reaffirmed the Authority's commitment to delivering free and effective legal assistance to underprivileged and marginalized sections of society.

DC B'pora interacts with Resource Persons under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan Campaign

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Friday chaired a review meeting with resource persons to assess the implementation of the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan under the ongoing 100-Day Mission Mode Campaign and to take feedback on IEC (Information, Education and Communication) awareness programmes.

During the meeting, the DC interacted with resource persons, who shared their field experiences, challenges, and suggestions. She specifically sought reasons for low participation in certain IEC activities.

The DC emphasised the need to reassess outreach strategies to ensure that awareness efforts are effectively reaching the intended target groups. She underscored the importance of establishing an emotional connect, noting that different age groups require tailored approaches. She also clarified the distinction between orientation and training, stating that structured de-addiction training will be provided to interested individuals.

On the occasion, ACD Bandipora stressed that awareness content should be delivered in simple language and preferably in the mother tongue to ensure clarity and better public engagement. It was also emphasised that programmes should prioritise impact and behavioural change over mere numerical coverage.

Resource persons from various departments shared valuable insights. The ATF



informed that multiple training sessions have been conducted on handling addiction cases, identifying early warning signs, and leveraging the role of religion in prevention. Teachers highlighted concerns such as increasing social isolation among youth and lack of adequate recreational spaces. Health department representatives pointed to behavioural indicators like withdrawal, changes in routine, and emphasised the need for early screening and regular parent-teacher interactions.

Reiterating the role of families in prevention, the DC stressed the importance of strong communication between parents and children. She urged parents to closely observe changes in behaviour, habits, and peer groups of their children, and not to ignore early warning signs. She further advised that simple practices such as regularly sharing meals and engaging in indoor activities with children can help families stay connected and better monitor the well-being and movements of adolescents.

Officials from Social Welfare and other departments noted that neglect of

children and lack of parental engagement are significant contributing factors. It was informed that awareness programmes are being conducted across schools and Panchayats, covering both substance and non-substance addictions, including excessive social media use.

Police and other stakeholders stressed the importance of community participation, religious engagement, and promotion of sports activities as preventive measures against substance abuse.

The DC directed that the single-point contact number under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan be widely shared for greater accessibility. She also called for systematic collection of data on addicts and recovered individuals to enable targeted interventions, reiterating that addicts must be treated as persons in need of care and rehabilitation, not as criminals.

The meeting concluded with directions to strengthen inter-departmental coordination, enhance ground-level mobilisation, and ensure meaningful and measurable outcomes under the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukht Abhiyan campaign.

Budgam witnesses continued momentum in Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan initiatives

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, a series of awareness and outreach activities were conducted across various locations in Budgam district to reinforce the message of a drug-free society.

Outreach workers and counsellors continued their activities in the identified hotspot area of Nasrullapora, engaging with the community and spreading awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse. The initiative focused on counseling, community interaction, and encouraging indi-

viduals to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

An awareness programme on drug abuse was also organized at SDH Chadoora, where staff and patients actively participated. The programme emphasized the ill effects of substance abuse and highlighted the importance of collective efforts in curbing the menace.

In another significant activity, a plantation drive was conducted at Arizal under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan at Hardapanzoo, involving Government Middle School Hardapanzoo. The drive was organized by Sukhnag Forest Range of Pir Panjal

Forest Division Budgam, promoting environmental responsibility alongside the message of a drug-free society.

Meanwhile, a pledge on drug abuse was administered at HSS Wagar, where students and staff participated with enthusiasm, reaffirming their commitment towards building a drug-free and healthy society.

The district administration reiterated its commitment to intensify the campaign through sustained awareness drives, community participation, and coordinated efforts of all stakeholders to achieve the goal of a drug-free Budgam.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FBI DIVISION TANGMARG

ADDENDUM

The condition No. 36 is hereby added to this office e-Nit No. 01 of 2026-27 issued vide endorsement No.- FBID/CC/139-52, Dated:- 07-04-2026. Which shall be read as "The contractor shall be resourceful and shall possess sufficient expertise and experience in executing civil works of same nature, of quantum of work equal or above than the advertised cost"

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid in the said e-NIT.

No:- FBID/357-70 Sd/-
 Dated:-17-04-2026. Executive Engineer,
 DIPP-472-26 F.B.I. Jal Shakti Division,
 DT: 17/04/2026 Tangmarg

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION GANDERBAL

Address: Mini Secretariat Ganderbal

No.: 614-18_Dated:- 17-04-2026

Subject:- Invitation of Various Tenders under Stage Contract.
 Reference:- This Office NIT No. 02(1-6) of 2026-27 issued under endorsement No. 399-404 Dated: 10-04-2026.

EXTENSION NOTICE

The Bid submission end date for the subject work floated for tenders vide this office NIT No. referred to above which were scheduled to be on 17-04-2026 upto 04:00 PM is hereby extended and the details were of are given as under:-

1	Date of issue of Tender	10-04-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	10-04-2026
3	Bid submission start date	11-04-2026 from 12.00 PM
4	Bid submission End date	20-04-2026 upto 04:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening	21-04-2026 at 11.00 AM in the office Of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal.

The other terms and conditions of the aforesaid NIT shall remain unaltered.

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer
 (R&B)Division Ganderbal

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER GANDERBAL

NOTICE

Whereas, an application for Re-registration/Transfer of Ownership has been received from Mr. ALI MOHD JOO, S/o of / MOHAMMAD ALTAF HUSSAIN JOO, Resident of: S-784 UPPER GROUND FLOOR FRONT SIDE ROSHAN APARTMENT JAMIA NAGAR JOGA BAI EXTN OKHLA SOUTH DELHI -110025 in Respect of LMV - MOTOR CAR Bearing Reg No. DL3CBS8217 Chassis No MA3EWE1500597022 Engine No. K10BN4556398. In favour of: BILAL AHMAD LONE S/o of: AB AZIZ LONE, Resident of: CHATTERGUL KANGAN GANDERBAL KASHMIR (Transferee). Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general public that the representation/objection, if any in connection with proposed Re-registration/Transfer will be received within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. No representation/objection shall be considered unless it is made in written and shall be submitted within the aforesaid period.

No. JK/ART06/1358 Sd/-
 Dated: 22-02-2026 Assistant Regional Transport officer
Ganderbal

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER GANDERBAL

NOTICE

Whereas, an application for Re-registration/Transfer of Ownership has been received from Mr. RAJESH KUMAR SON of NARENDER PAL SINGH, Resident of: HNO. 2722 BLOCK-H SECTOR-49 SANIK COLONY FARIDABAD HR in Respect of LMV - MOTOR CAR, Bearing Reg No. HR51BK6976 Chassis No. MALA851DLFM318791H Engine No. D3FAFM384132 In favour of: IMTIYAZ AHMAD SHEIKH Son of: GHULAM QADIR SHEIKH, Resident of: KUJJAR GANDERBAL KASHMIR (Transferee). Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general public that the representation/objection, if any in connection with proposed Re-registration/Transfer will be received within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice to the address of undersigned. No representation/objection shall be considered unless it is made in written and shall be submitted within the aforesaid period.

No. JK/ART06/336 Sd/-
 Dated 19.02.2026 Assistant Regional Transport Officer
Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of general public that my name mentioned in Aadhaar card is MOHAMMAD SUZAIN SHEIKH which is wrong; however, my actual name is MOHAMMAD SHAZAIN SHEIKH Now I intend to rectify my name in my aadhaar card. In this regard, if anybody has any objection, they may file the same before the concerned authorities within a period of 7 days. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

NAME: MOHAMMAD SHAZAIN SHEIKH
 S/O ARIEF HUSSAIN SHEIKH
 R/O MATI PORA AKIN GAM ANANTNAG
 ADHAAR CARD NUMBER. 610956861833

Annual Urs of Hazrat Baba Hyder Reshi (RA) Commences in Anantnag

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: The annual Urs of the revered saint Hazrat Baba Hyder Reshi, popularly known as Reshmol Sahab (RA), commenced Friday with religious fervour at the Ziyarat Sharief in Anantnag.

As per long standing tradition, the Urs will be observed for a period of six days, attracting a large number of devotees from across the region. The first day marked the arrival of a number of devotees from different places who thronged the shrine to

make prayers and pay their obsequies.

In this regard, Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat, visited the revered place and took stock of the arrangements being made available to the devotees. He was accompanied by ACR, CEO and Secretary MCA besides other senior officials of administration and line departments.

On the occasion, the DC paid his obsequies and offered prayers for the prosperity and overall betterment of the district. He said the administration has streamlined all necessary

services, including power, water, and sanitation, during these auspicious days and shall facilitate smooth observance of the Urs.

Interacting with the congregation, the DC stated that the shrine has long stood as a symbol of reverence and deep devotion, defining the region's heritage and commitment to spiritual values. These occasions provide apt opportunities for people from different places to interact with each other and share ideas on piety and harmony, he remarked.

LG flags off Shobha Yatra to commemorate Bhagwan Parshuram Ji Jayanti

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday flagged off a grand Shobha Yatra from Chanakya Chowk Parade, Jammu, to commemorate Bhagwan Parshuram Ji Jayanti.

The procession was organized by the Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha, celebrating the life and teachings of Bhagwan Parshuram, the sixth incarnation of Lord Vishnu.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor paid obeisance to Bhagwan Parshuram and prayed for peace, progress, and prosperity for one and all.

Shri Ved Prakash Sharma, President Dogra Brahman Pratinidhi Sabha, and members of organising committee including Shri Parshotam Chander Sharma, Shri Chander Mohan Sharma,



Shri Soujanya Sharma, Shri Surinder Sharma, Shri B D Sharma, Er Rajesh and Shri Raman Sharma; heads of religious organizations,

prominent citizens and people from different walks of life attended the flag off ceremony.

Shri Yudhviri Sethi and

Ms Devyani Rana, Members of Legislative Assembly; senior officials and prominent citizens were also present.

Div Com reviews progress of 60 MLD Noorbagh STP, other Key Projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Friday conducted a comprehensive review of the progress on the 60 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Noorbagh, along with other major ongoing projects being executed by the Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED) in Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo; Chief Engineer, KPDCI; Superintending Engineer, UEED; Executive Engineer, R&B; representatives from NBCC; and other concerned officials.

At the outset, the Superintending Engineer, UEED, delivered a detailed presentation covering key aspects of the projects, including electricity supply, leakage issues, pending household connections, relocation of shops along the 90-foot road, and demolition of unsafe structures at Alamgirbazar.

He also shared details on the preparation of a Detailed



Project Report (DPR) for newly developed habitations in Zone-III of Greater Srinagar, incorporating advanced systems such as tertiary treatment and SCADA for the 60 MLD STP. The meeting also reviewed progress on other proposed STPs, including a 30 MLD facility aimed at mitigating pollution in Dal Lake, a 14 MLD STP at Alluchibagh, and a 6 MLD STP to address pollution in Doodganga.

During the review, the Divisional Commissioner

directed that all issues related to electricity supply and leakages at the Noorbagh STP be resolved by May 31 to ensure the facility becomes fully operational. He further emphasized expediting the connection of all pending households to the STP network.

Regarding the relocation of shops, officials informed that funds have already been released by UEED and the process is expected to be completed by August this year.

It was also noted that

UEED is in the process of preparing a fresh in-house DPR for newly developed habitations in Zone-III of Greater Srinagar, incorporating tertiary treatment, SCADA, and Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems (OCEMS).

With respect to the proposed 30 MLD STP, the chair was informed that all pending issues have been resolved, and both survey and design work have been completed, while site development is currently under progress.

Rana reviews public grievances in Mendhar, reaffirms commitment to responsive governance



GMK NEWS NETWORK

MENDHAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Friday held an extensive public outreach session in Mendhar to assess and address the grievances and demands of the local residents there.

The Minister interacted with multiple delegations and took stock of the public issues and concerns, assuring prompt action on the same.

During the interaction, the Minister patiently listened to the grievances and developmental demands raised by the delegations and individuals. He assured that all genuine issues would be addressed in a time-bound manner through coordinated efforts among the concerned departments.

A delegation from the Transporters' Union,

while meeting the Minister, conveyed their appreciation for the recently introduced traffic management plan devised by the Sub-Divisional Administration. They said that the initiative is expected to significantly ease traffic congestion in the area and improve mobility for commuters as well as traders.

Another delegation raised the issue of better road connectivity and other infrastructural requirements.

Reiterating his commitment to transparent and people-centric governance, the Minister underscored the importance of sustained public engagement and proactive outreach. He stated that such interactions are vital for identifying grassroots issues and ensuring their prompt resolution, ultimately contributing to the accelerated and inclusive development.

J&K shines in Mission Karmayogi; JKIMPARD gets special Award for Excellence

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir has secured the third rank nationally under Mission Karmayogi during SĀDHANA Saptah, marking a major milestone in institutionalising continuous learning and competency-driven governance among the civil servants.

The recognition reflects the Union Territory's structured implementation of reforms under the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB). With a focus on role-based capacity building, competency mapping and optimal use of the iGOT Karmayogi digital platform, J&K has shown measurable progress in strengthening its administrative capacity.

According to the official data, 2,01,962 officials from the UT have been onboarded on the platform, collectively achieving 4,13,722 course completions. Of these, 2,74,511 completions were in AI-focused courses. Further, 54,003 employees have completed more than one hour of learning while 37,309 officials have surpassed four hours, indicating deep engagement with the initiative.

The award was presented during the SĀDHANA



Saptah Facilitation Ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh presided over the function and felicitated the top-performing States, Union Territories and institutions. Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department, M. Raju, received the award on behalf of the government of Jammu & Kashmir.

In a notable achievement, the Jammu and Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development (JKIMPARD) was conferred a Special Award for becoming the first institution in the country to successfully complete the Capacity Building

Plans (CBPs) across all the departments. This sets a national benchmark in operationalizing Mission Karmayogi objectives at the State/UT level.

During SĀDHANA Saptah, the UT administration ensured active participation through a structured and closely monitored approach. The nodal officers were designated to oversee the engagement and ensure completion of the prescribed learning hours on the iGOT platform, strictly in line with the NPCSCB guidelines. The J&K Chief Secretary efficiently monitored the progress through regular reviews to ensure effective implementation of the ambitious programme.

Dr. Jitendra Singh has consistently emphasized the strengthening capac-

ity building and promoting good governance practices. This commitment was reinforced at the recent Regional Conference in Jammu on Holistic Development of Districts, which focused on integrated planning, enhanced capacity and improved governance outcomes at the grassroots level.

The recognition underscores the government's commitment towards building a competent, accountable and citizen-centric civil service, aligned with the vision of Mission Karmayogi Bharat. The Jammu & Kashmir government has reiterated its resolve to further strengthen the capacity-building mechanisms and sustain reform momentum for improved public service delivery.

CM unveils Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Club jersey, releases wildlife publication

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday unveiled the jersey of Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Club (SCC) at a function held here.

The event was attended by Minister for Youth Services & Sports Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani and members of the Club.

Earlier, the Chief Minister also launched a wildlife magazine titled 'Checklist of Mammals of Jammu

achievements, noting that it has participated in and won several tournaments. He added that the club is playing a positive role in engaging youth and steering them away from negative influences such as drug abuse by channelizing their energy into sports.

and Kashmir, India'. A delegation of wildlife ecologists led by Muzaffar Kichloo briefed him on their ongoing and upcoming projects.



Appreciating the club's contribution to promoting cricket, the Chief Minister said that the government is committed to extending all possible support to encourage sports activities and nurture young talent across Jammu and Kashmir.

On the occasion, SCC President Aman Cheema highlighted the club's

and conservation in preserving the region's rich biodiversity.

Satish Sharma emphasizes robust enforcement mechanism in Legal Metrology

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services & Sports and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Friday chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Legal Metrology Department to assess its functioning and strengthen enforcement mechanisms aimed at protecting the consumer interests.

The meeting was attended by Controller Legal Metrology and other senior officers of the department. They briefed the Minister on the current status of enforcement drives, manpower deployment, inspection mechanisms, and key challenges being faced in ensuring compliance across markets.

Emphasizing the critical role of the Legal Metrology Department in safeguarding the consumer rights, the Minister directed the



officials to intensify regular market inspections and ensure strict adherence to the prescribed standards. He stressed that enforcement must be visible, consistent and effective to deter violations and build consumer confidence.

Sharma laid special emphasis on inspection of petrol pumps, directing the department to undertake frequent and surprise checks to prevent any malpractice in measurement and delivery. He said that even minor discrepancies in fuel dispensing directly impact the consumers and must be dealt with firmly. He instructed that strict

penal action be taken against the erring outlets found violating norms.

The Minister further directed the officials to widen the scope of inspections to cover shops, retail outlets and other commercial establishments. He called for strict monitoring of the use of standardized weights and measures, proper stamping and verification of equipment and mandatory display of price lists and other consumer-related information to ensure transparency and accountability.

Highlighting the need for a proactive approach, Sharma asked the depart-

ment to strengthen its field presence and adopt a technology-driven monitoring system to ensure efficiency and accountability. He also stressed the importance of regular awareness campaigns to educate the consumers about their rights and encourage them to report violations.

Reiterating the government's unwavering commitment to consumer protection, the Minister called for a zero-tolerance policy against any form of malpractice, fraud or exploitation. He directed that enforcement action be taken promptly and without exception, ensuring that defaulters are dealt with strictly under the law.

The Minister also reviewed the department's future action plan and stressed the need for better coordination with district administrations and other enforcement agencies to ensure uniform implementation of Legal Metrology laws across all regions.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION, SRINAGAR
(Erstwhile Mechanical Hospital & Central Heating Division Srinagar)

Contact No: 0194-2496089, Email Id: exen-mechospsgr@jk.gov.in,

CORRIGENDUM - I

Sub:- Supply and installation of Fire Extinguishers of various types and capacities for Civil secretariat , Building, Srinagar
Ref:- This office NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2026-27/01/e-tendering, Dated: -13.04.2026

The intending bidders shall kindly note the following changes in the tender document:-

1.Clause 07 (Work Experience) of the tender document shall be read as:-

1. The Bidder shall submit a documentary proof of having successfully executed the following nature of work

a. Supply/Supply and Installation of Fire extinguishers.

OR

b. SITC of Fire Fighting system

OR

c. SITC of Fire Alarm and detection system

amounting to at least 80% of the estimated cost in single contract or 50% of estimated cost in two contracts each or 40% of the estimated cost in three contracts each in last seven years in any Govt./ Semi Govt./Autonomous Institution along with satisfactory performance certificate issued by a competent authority not below the rank of Executive Engineer shall be considered.

Note :-1.Both OEM/authorized dealer /bidder cannot quote for the same tender, in such case bid of only OEM shall be considered.

Instead of

The Bidder shall submit a documentary proof of having successfully executed the similar nature of work (work of similar nature means Supply/Supply and Installation of Fire extinguishers) amounting to at least 80% of the estimated cost in single contract or 50% of estimated cost in two contracts each or 40% of the estimated cost in three contracts each in last seven years in any Govt./ Semi Govt./ Autonomous Institution along with satisfactory performance certificate issued by a competent authority not below the rank of Executive Engineer shall be considered.

Note :- 1.Both OEM/authorized dealer /bidder cannot quote for the same tender, in such case bid of only OEM shall be considered.

2. Authorization and quoted make shall be from same OEM.

All other Terms and Conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.

No: M&HDS/TS/322-25
Date: -16.04.2026

DIPK-482-26
DT: 17/04/2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
M&HD, Srinagar

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

Hearing People Is Good

It's always encouraging to see people from different walks of life getting a chance to speak directly to those in power. The recent meetings between the Chief Minister and legislators, professional groups, and individuals reflect a government that is willing to listen. But listening, by itself, is only half the job, the real challenge is turning those conversations into action. When leaders like Abdul Majid Wani and former legislator Chaman Lal bring up development issues from Ramban, they are speaking on behalf of the people who deal with those problems every day. In the same way, architects raising concerns about building rules or university teachers discussing academic issues are highlighting practical difficulties that affect larger systems, not just individuals. The Chief Minister has assured everyone that genuine concerns will be addressed in a time-bound manner. That's a positive sign. But people today are looking beyond assurances, they want to see results. Promises carry weight only when they are followed by visible change on the ground. These meetings also show how varied public concerns are. Governance is not just about big projects or announcements; it's also about fixing everyday issues, making policies clearer, and ensuring institutions function smoothly. Every delegation that walks in represents a different piece of that larger puzzle. At the same time, such interactions can become meaningful only if there is proper follow-up. People need to know that their concerns won't just be noted and forgotten. Clear timelines, regular updates, and accountability can make a real difference in building trust. For most people, what matters is simple: not just being heard, but being helped. A meeting may offer hope, but real confidence comes when problems are actually solved. In the end, good governance isn't about how many people you meet—it's about how many problems you fix.

Women's Reservation: Constitutional Need Or What?



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

The question of women's reservation in Parliament is deeply intertwined with the development and inclusive nature of Indian democracy. Since independence, it has been expected that all sections of society should receive equal and equitable representation in democratic institutions, but the reality is that women's participation has remained limited for a long time. Against this backdrop, the 106th Constitutional Amendment Act, passed in 2023, known as the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, emerged as a historic initiative. This Act provides for the reservation of one-third of the total seats in the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and the Delhi Legislative Assembly for women, including proportionate sub-reservations for women from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This provision was made by adding new Articles 330A, 332A, and 334A to the Indian Constitution, which not only define the scope of reservation but also determine its duration and implementation process. However, the most significant and controversial feature of this Act is that its implementation is linked to the next census and the subsequent delimitation process. This provision has given rise to a significant debate as to whether linking women's reservations to delimitation is a true constitutional requirement or a deliberate political strategy. The answer to this question is not simple, as it involves a combination of constitutional interpretation, political interests, and administrative feasibility. From a constitutional perspective, Parliament has the power to make special provisions for women under Article 15(3). Furthermore, Articles 82 and 170 provide for delimitation of seats in the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies based on the census. Article 334A, added to the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, specifies that seats reserved for women will be rotated after each delimitation. This arrangement appears logical at first glance, as it ensures that the benefits of reservation reach different regions equally and are not limited to a single region. Yet, the question remains whether it was necessary to necessarily link this



entire process to delimitation. If we look at the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, implemented at the local body level, reservation for women was implemented immediately, even though the delimitation process occurred later. This suggests that delimitation is not a mandatory condition for implementing women's reservation, but rather was added for administrative convenience. Women's representation in the current Lok Sabha is around 15 percent, while in state assemblies it is even lower. If 33 percent reservation were implemented immediately, a large number of seats held by current male MPs would be affected. This problem can be mitigated by increasing the number of seats through delimitation, as new seats can be reserved for women without directly displacing existing MPs. Furthermore, the delimitation process itself is a politically sensitive issue, as it impacts the balance of representation between different states. Several states in South India have expressed concern that, despite their success in population control, their number of seats may be relatively reduced after delimitation, while northern states may gain more. In this context, linking women's reservations to delimitation appears to be part of a broader political equation, attempting to balance the interests of different regions and classes. Another important issue is that the Act does not provide a separate sub-

reservation for women from the Other Backward Classes. This is considered a significant shortcoming from a social justice perspective, as it may limit the benefits of reservation primarily to women from relatively privileged classes. Furthermore, this provision does not apply to the Rajya Sabha and Legislative Councils, limiting the opportunity to increase women's representation in the upper houses. Another practical aspect of this entire system is that the actual benefits of women's reservation are being delayed due to delays in the census and delimitation process. Under current circumstances, it is expected that this reservation will only become effective after the 2029 general elections or later. This means that the women for whom this Act became a source of hope will still have to wait for their rights. This situation makes the question even more relevant whether such a delay is truly necessary or could have been avoided. Nevertheless, the positive aspects of this Act cannot be ignored. This is the first time that such a large number of reservations have been made for women at the level of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies. This will not only increase women's political participation but will also ensure that their perspectives and experiences are considered in the policy-making process. The positive results of women's reservations have already been seen at the Panchayat level, where women have not only dem-

onstrated administrative capabilities but have also made significant contributions in the areas of education, health, and social welfare. Ultimately, it can be said that linking women's reservations to delimitation is a complex decision, combining constitutional provisions, administrative requirements, and political strategies. It would be inappropriate to call it a purely constitutional obligation, as alternative solutions were possible. However, calling it solely a political strategy would be a one-sided approach, as it also has some practical and logical basis. The reality is that this decision is a combined result of both elements. It is essential for Indian democracy to embrace the values of equality and justice not only in theory but also in practice. Women's reservation is an important step in this direction, but its effectiveness will depend on how promptly and fairly it is implemented. If it is unnecessarily delayed, it could deviate from its original purpose. Therefore, it is timely to develop a clear and time-bound roadmap for the implementation of this Act, so that women can enjoy their rights without delay and Indian democracy can become truly inclusive and representative.

Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker. She can be mailed at priyankasaurabh9416@gmail.com

Nasha Mukht J&K - When Policy Meets Public Participation

VINOD DIXIT

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha deserves a big applause for launching the 100-day Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir campaign, emphasizing strict action against those involved in drug smuggling. He warned that individuals harming the future of youth won't be spared, announcing measures like cancellation of passports and Aadhaar cards, and attachment of properties of offenders. This sends a strong message that the administration is committed to tackling the drug menace. The Nasha Mukht campaign aims to create awareness about substance abuse dangers and promote a drug-free lifestyle, especially among youth. Jammu and Kashmir faces a significant issue, with over 13 lakh adults using addictive substances. Opioids are the most prevalent category, followed by alcohol, cannabis, and sedatives. Intravenous heroin use is rising, with risks of Hepatitis B, C, and HIV transmission. Nearly 95-98% of treatment-seeking patients are opioid-dependent, particularly heroin. The government has launched initiatives like Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, focusing on awareness, prevention, and rehabilitation. Over 1.68 lakh minors struggle with substance abuse, with 95,000 using opioids. The campaign involves public participation, awareness drives, and community engagement. Schools, colleges, and local organizations are coming forward to join the movement. As part of the



campaign, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, SF Hamid, flagged off a padyatra spreading awareness against drug abuse, with locals, students, and officials participating. The administration is working to engage the community and promote a drug-free Baramulla. Similar initiatives are happening across the region, with people taking pledges to stay drug-free and supporting those struggling with addiction. The key strategies include awareness and sensitization, youth engagement, community participation, and rehabilitation support. The impact is already visible, with increased

awareness about substance abuse dangers and growing community participation in anti-drug initiatives. Drugs affect the brain's communication system, disturbing nerve cell function. Heroin and marijuana mimic natural chemical messengers, overstimulating the brain's reward circuit. Addiction can develop at any age, but early users are at higher risk. Teenagers are more prone due to brain development. Governments, families, schools, and communities must work together to counter drug trafficking and abuse. Sinha emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir is at a

critical juncture, with attempts to push youth into addiction. The campaign provides support for those struggling, aiming to make Jammu and Kashmir healthier and happier. The campaign's success depends on collective efforts. As Sinha said, it doesn't belong to any one individual—it's about the future of Jammu and Kashmir youth. With continued awareness, support, and strict action, the region can overcome the drug menace. The administration is leaving no stone unturned to ensure the campaign's success. From organizing rallies

and seminars to providing rehabilitation support, every effort is being made to create a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are responding positively, with many coming forward to join the movement. It's a collective effort, and with continued support, the region can overcome the drug menace. The Nasha Mukht campaign is a step in the right direction, and with sustained efforts, Jammu and Kashmir can become a healthier and happier place.

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Life Of Youth In Reel And Real



DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

Life of youth in the contemporary age unfolds within a complex interplay between “reel” and “real,” and this dynamic acquires distinctive shades when observed in the context of Kashmir as well as the wider global landscape. The youth of today, whether in the valleys of Kashmir or the bustling metropolises across continents, are simultaneously participants in a shared digital culture and inheritors of unique socio-political, cultural, and historical realities that shape their lived experiences. The “reel” life driven by social media, digital storytelling, and visual performance has created a universal language among youth, transcending borders, while the “real” life continues to be deeply rooted in local conditions, opportunities, and challenges.

In Kashmir, this duality becomes particularly intense because the youth navigate not only the pressures of globalized digital expectations but also the complexities of a region marked by political tension, economic uncertainty, and a strong cultural identity. Globally, youth experience the pull of curated digital lives that promise success, beauty, and recognition, yet in Kashmir, this pull is juxtaposed with a reality where aspirations often encounter structural limitations, thereby deepening the contrast between reel and real. Social media platforms present Kashmiri youth with glimpses of a world filled with freedom of movement, diverse opportunities, and expressions of individuality that may feel distant from their immediate environment, creating both inspiration and frustration. The reel world suggests a life of boundless possibilities, while the real world in Kashmir may impose constraints that require resilience, patience, and adaptability.

This divergence can lead to a heightened sense of longing among youth, as they strive to reconcile what they see online with what they experience offline. However, it would be reductive to view Kashmiri youth solely through the lens of limitation, for they have demonstrated remarkable creativity and adaptability in using digital platforms to express their identity, share their stories, and connect with the global community. Through reels, photography, music, and storytelling, they bring the beauty of their land, the richness of their culture, and the nuances of their experiences to a worldwide audience, thereby transforming the reel space into a site of cultural assertion and dialogue. At the same time, the real life of Kashmiri youth involves navigating education, employment, and social relationships within a context that demands both caution and courage. The pressure to succeed is not merely personal but often collective, as families place high expectations on young individuals to secure stable futures amidst uncertainty.

This adds another layer to the reel-real dichotomy, as youth may feel compelled to project confidence and success online even when they are grappling with challenges in reality. On a global scale, youth in urban centers, developed nations, and rapidly growing economies face a different yet related set of issues, where the abundance of opportunities coexists with intense competition and the constant demand for self-presentation. The reel culture thrives on visibility, and visibility often becomes equated with value, leading young individuals worldwide to curate their lives meticulously in pursuit of recognition. In contrast, real life demands sustained effort that may not yield immediate or visible results, creating a psychological gap that affects self-esteem and mental health. The influence of reel culture on relationships is also evident both in Kashmir and across the world, where ideals of romance and friendship are shaped by visual narratives that emphasize perfection and excitement, often overlooking the deeper, more complex aspects of human connection. In Kashmir, where traditional values and community structures continue to play



a significant role, youth may find themselves negotiating between inherited norms and contemporary influences, leading to a unique blend of continuity and change.

Globally, the shift towards individualism has altered relationship dynamics, yet the impact of reel culture in setting unrealistic expectations remains a common thread. Education and career aspirations further illustrate the interplay between reel and real, as youth everywhere are drawn towards professions that promise visibility and quick success, influenced by digital narratives that celebrate influencers, entrepreneurs, and content creators. In Kashmir, this aspiration intersects with the practical need for stability, prompting many young individuals to pursue conventional careers while simultaneously engaging in digital creativity. This dual pursuit reflects a pragmatic approach to balancing dreams with reality, highlighting the agency of youth in navigating their circumstances.

The reel world, while often criticized for its superficiality, also serves as a platform for learning, networking, and innovation, enabling youth from regions like Kashmir to access knowledge and opportunities that were previously out of reach. Online education, skill development, and global collaborations have expanded horizons, allowing young individuals to transcend geographical limitations. Yet, the risk of overdependence on digital validation persists, as the metrics of likes, views, and followers can distort the perception of success and self-worth. Mental health emerges as a critical concern in both contexts, as youth grapple with the pressures of maintaining an online persona while managing real-life challenges. In Kashmir, the additional stress of living in a conflict-sensitive environment can amplify feelings of anxiety and uncertainty, making the contrast between reel and real even more pronounced. Globally, the fast-paced nature of digital engagement contributes to issues such as burnout, loneliness, and a fragmented sense of identity.

The solution does not lie in rejecting the reel world but in cultivating a conscious and balanced engagement with it. Youth must develop the ability to critically assess digital content, recognizing its constructed nature while drawing inspiration without succumbing to comparison. In Kashmir, this balance can empower youth to use digital platforms as tools for storytelling, advocacy, and cultural preservation, transforming the reel space into a meaningful extension of real life. Globally, a similar approach can help youth harness the benefits of technology while maintaining a grounded sense of self. The role of society, educators, and families is crucial in guiding this process, encouraging open dialogue, emotional resilience, and a redefinition of success that prioritizes well-being and authenticity over mere visibility. Real life, with its imperfections and gradual progress, offers a depth of experience that cannot be replicated in reels, while reel life provides opportunities for expression and connection that enrich the human experience.

The challenge for youth in Kashmir and around the world is to integrate these dimensions in a way that enhances rather than diminishes their sense of purpose. By embracing authenticity, valuing real relationships, and engaging with digital plat-

forms responsibly, youth can bridge the gap between reel and real, creating a life that is both expressive and meaningful. Ultimately, the story of youth is not confined to screens or circumstances; it is a narrative of resilience, creativity, and transformation that unfolds uniquely in every context, yet resonates universally across the world.

Life of youth has always been a subject of fascination, concern, celebration, and debate across generations, yet in the contemporary world it has acquired an entirely new dimension shaped by the rapid expansion of digital media, especially the culture of “reel” life that

Social media platforms present Kashmiri youth with glimpses of a world filled with freedom of movement, diverse opportunities, and expressions of individuality that may feel distant from their immediate environment, creating both inspiration and frustration.

exists alongside and often overshadows “real” life. Youth today stand at a unique crossroads where aspiration meets illusion, opportunity meets distraction, and authenticity struggles against curated identities. The term “reel” does not merely signify short videos or social media performances; it symbolizes a constructed reality—edited, filtered, dramatized, and optimized for attention—while “real” life remains grounded in effort, patience, relationships, and the slow unfolding of personal

growth.

The tension between these two realms defines much of the psychological, emotional, and social experience of modern youth. In earlier times, youth derived inspiration from immediate surroundings—family, community, literature, and lived experiences—but today inspiration is often algorithmically delivered through screens, presenting idealized versions of success, beauty, love, and happiness that may not align with reality. This creates a subtle yet powerful pressure to perform rather than to live, to appear rather than to become. Social media platforms have democratized expression, allowing young individuals to showcase talent, voice opinions, and build communities across geographical boundaries, which is undeniably empowering, yet the same platforms foster comparison, insecurity, and a relentless pursuit of validation through likes, shares, and comments.

The “reel” life thrives on instant gratification; a few seconds of content can bring viral fame, creating the illusion that success is quick, effortless, and glamorous, whereas the “real” life operates on a completely different timeline, demanding persistence, discipline, and resilience. This disparity often leads to frustration among youth who find their real efforts yielding slow results while others appear to achieve overnight success. The psychological consequences of this imbalance are profound, including anxiety, self-doubt, and a distorted sense of self-worth. The curated perfection seen in reels rarely reflects the struggles, failures, and hard work behind achievements, leading young viewers to measure their incomplete realities against someone else’s edited highlights. In the realm of relationships, the influence of reel culture is equally significant, as ideals of romance, friendship, and lifestyle are shaped by scripted narratives and aesthetic presentations that may not translate into real-life dynamics. Youth may begin to expect constant excitement, visual appeal, and dramatic gestures in relationships, overlooking the quieter, deeper aspects of connection such as understanding, compromise, and emotional support. Consequently, real relationships may seem dull or inadequate when compared to their reel counterparts, leading to dissatisfaction and instability.

Education and career aspirations are also affected by this dichotomy, as many young individuals are drawn towards professions that promise visibility and quick recognition rather than those aligned with their skills and long-term goals. While content creation and digital entrepreneurship are legitimate and valuable pursuits, the problem arises when they are chosen solely for the illusion of glamour without understanding the effort and consistency required. The reel world often hides the labor behind the lens—the planning, editing, rejection, and competition—thereby presenting an incomplete picture of reality. However, it would be unfair to dismiss reel culture entirely as detrimental, for it also offers opportunities for creativity, innovation, and social change. Youth have used digital platforms to raise awareness about important issues, showcase marginalized voices, and create movements that influence public discourse. The challenge lies not in rejecting the reel world but in navigating it with awareness and balance.

Real life, unlike reels, is not designed for constant engagement

or aesthetic perfection; it includes moments of boredom, struggle, confusion, and growth that cannot be captured in a few seconds of content. These moments, though less glamorous, are essential for building character and understanding oneself. The real journey of youth involves discovering identity, developing skills, forming meaningful relationships, and contributing to society, processes that require time and cannot be accelerated by digital validation. The danger arises when youth begin to substitute real experiences with virtual ones, preferring to record moments rather than live them, or evaluating their worth based on online responses rather than inner satisfaction. The constant need to document and share can distance individuals from the authenticity of the present moment, turning life into a performance rather than an experience. Furthermore, the economic aspect of reel culture cannot be ignored, as monetization opportunities create both aspiration and exploitation. Influencer culture promises financial independence and fame, yet only a small percentage achieve sustainable success, leaving many others disillusioned. This reinforces the importance of grounding ambitions in reality while using digital platforms as tools rather than destinations.

The role of family, education systems, and society becomes crucial in guiding youth to differentiate between appearance and reality, encouraging critical thinking, self-awareness, and emotional intelligence. Instead of condemning digital engagement, there should be an emphasis on digital literacy—understanding how content is created, how algorithms work, and how to consume media responsibly. Youth must learn to appreciate the value of real experiences—face-to-face conversations, nature, physical activities, and reflective solitude—which contribute to holistic well-being. Mental health, in particular, is deeply affected by the reel-real divide, as constant exposure to idealized lives can create a sense of inadequacy and isolation. Open conversations about these challenges are essential to help youth navigate their emotions and build resilience. It is equally important for young individuals to redefine success on their own terms rather than adopting externally imposed standards. Real success is often quiet, gradual, and deeply personal, involving growth, learning, and fulfillment that may not always be visible or shareable. The integration of reel and real life can be constructive if approached mindfully, where digital platforms are used to enhance real experiences rather than replace them. For instance, sharing knowledge, documenting genuine journeys, and building supportive communities can bridge the gap between these two worlds.

Authenticity becomes the key factor in this integration, as audiences increasingly value real stories over perfect illusions. Youth who embrace their imperfections and share their genuine selves contribute to a healthier digital environment while also strengthening their own sense of identity. The responsibility, however, does not rest solely on individuals; content creators, platforms, and policymakers must also promote ethical practices, transparency, and well-being. As technology continues to evolve, the line between reel and real may become even more blurred with advancements such as virtual reality and artificial intelligence, making it imperative for youth to develop a strong internal compass that guides their choices and perceptions.

Ultimately, the life of youth is not meant to be confined to screens or defined by fleeting trends; it is a dynamic journey of exploration, creativity, struggle, and transformation. Reel life may offer moments of excitement and recognition, but real life provides depth, meaning, and lasting fulfillment. The challenge for today’s youth is not to choose one over the other but to maintain a conscious balance, recognizing the value and limitations of each. By cultivating self-awareness, embracing authenticity, and prioritizing real experiences, youth can navigate the complexities of the modern world with confidence and clarity, transforming both their reel and real lives into expressions of genuine growth and purpose.

Author is International Dickens Medal Winner. He can be mailed at profdratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com

JKAACL offers musical tribute to Padma Shri Padma Sachdev

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) Friday offered a musical tribute to Padma Shri Padma Sachdev on her birth anniversary. The programme, held at K.L. Saigal Hall, commenced with floral tributes to the legendary poetess by the dignitaries, followed by a series of soulful musical presentations and reflections celebrating her life and immense contribution

to literature, particularly to Dogri language. Principal Secretary Department of Culture Brij Mohan Sharma, who was the chief guest at the event, paid homage to Padma Sachdev and highlighted her invaluable contribution to Indian literature. "Padma Sachdev's writings continue to inspire the generations and remain a cornerstone of the cultural and literary heritage of Jammu and Kashmir," he added. Earlier, Secretary JKAACL

Harvinder Kour underscored the importance of remembering and celebrating literary icons like Padma Sachdev, whose works have enriched the regional languages and culture. She reaffirmed the Academy's commitment towards preserving and promoting the rich cultural legacy of the region. The musical tribute featured songs and poetry of Padma Sachdev by noted artists Deepali Watal, Vivek Mohan, Kusha Sharma, Chin-

mei Sharma, Ram Lal and Rakesh Kumar (vocalists). The accompanying musicians included Amit Anand (Tabla), Sunil Sharma (Synth), Rakesh Jasotra (Flute), Ashish Gill (Dholak) and Anand Kumar (Harmonium). The musical compositions presented at the programme were composed by Brij Mohan, a top-graded composer, adding depth and authenticity to the tribute. On the occasion, Sahitya Akademi Awardees from

Jammu and Kashmir for the year 2025 were also felicitated. Pritpal Singh Betab was felicitated for his poetry collection "Safar Jaari Hai" while Khajur Singh Thakur was honoured for his poetry collection "Thakur Satsayie." Pertinently, Pritpal Singh Betab represents contemporary Urdu poetry in J&K. His collection of ghazals and nazms titled, Pesh Kyma, bagged the Best Book Award from J&K Cultural Academy. Some other outstand-

ing awards received by Betab included Subhadra Kumari Chowhan Janam Shatabadi Samman, J&K Saadique Memorial Award, Mohammad Din Bandy Award, Jammu Kashmir Rattan Award by Gemini Academy Haryana and Muhsin-e-Urdu Award by Anjuman-e-Taraqqi-e-Urdu Hind. A distinguished retired teacher, veteran poet and folk artist from Kathua, Thakur Khajoor Singh is widely recognized for his lifelong work

to promote and preserve Dogra culture and the Dogri language. From the Duggar region, he has sustained traditional literary and folk practices through his writings and performances. His acclaimed Dogri work "SatSai" won him the Sahitya Akademi Award. He also received the President's Award for his service as an educator and his role in cultural preservation. As a teacher, poet and artist, he remains a prominent cultural figure in Jammu and Kashmir.

DC Anantnag inspects Revenue Record Digitisation Section

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat Friday inspected the Digitisation Section at Dak Bungalow Khanabal and took first hand stock of the status of digitisation of the revenue record. He was accompanied by ADC, ACR and other concerned officials. On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed assessment of progress on digitisation and enquired from Patwaris and other deputed

staff about the pace and quality of the work being carried out. He physically checked the Jamabandi records and working of the Mutation Module on PM Gati Shakti Portal, including flow of online information through various login IDs viz maker, verifier/checker and approver. He emphasised the need of transparency and consistency in the digitisation process to ensure reliability of land records. Dr. Bilal noted that all backlog mutations be uploaded and approved within the stipulated

timeframe and directed the concerned officials to strictly adhere to the set timelines. He underscored that updation of records while maintaining quality and accuracy is essential for efficient public service delivery and to avoid inconvenience to the general public. On technical progress, the DC was informed that against a district target of 90686 back log mutations, 15847 have been initiated by makers, 13619 verified by checkers, and 13440 mutations have been approved so far. Responding to the issues

raised by the digitisation staff, the DC instructed that high speed internet, logistics and necessary facilities be immediately provided to them so that the tasks are accomplished without any interruptions. Concluding the inspection, the DC reiterated that the digitisation of Jamabandis is a crucial reform aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability in the revenue system, and called upon all concerned to work with dedication and coordination to achieve the desired targets within set timelines.

Students lead Anti-Drug Message through Slogan Writing in G'bal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Slogan Writing Activities were held across schools in District Ganderbal as part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) @ 100 Days campaign, drawing enthusiastic participation from students. The activities were conducted in line with directions from the School Education Depart-

ment and District Administration. Students from various institutions took part with great interest, expressing their views on the harmful effects of drug abuse through impactful slogans. The slogans highlighted the importance of a drug-free society, healthy lifestyles, and responsible citizenship. Teachers and Heads of Institutions supervised the events and

encouraged students to contribute meaningfully to the campaign. The strong participation reflected rising awareness among young people and a shared commitment within the school community to address the issue of drug abuse. The initiative aims to sensitize students and support the broader goal of building a Drug-Free Ganderbal and a healthier society.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Border Villages Frontline

has transformed lives, and I affirm with confidence that change is tangible in Jammu Kashmir's border villages where roads now weave networks, healthcare is thriving, digital connectivity is transforming the education sector and residents now feel integrated to India's rapid growth," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor said true development means equal opportunity, dignity, and instilled confidence and the Vibrant Villages Programme embodies this, advancing employment, education, infrastructure, and digital empowerment holistically.

"It is our moral duty to secure every citizen's brighter future. Sariah's border village residents have guarded our borders alongside soldiers; we owe them comprehensive progress, leaving none behind.

Border village residents have endured much for this nation; now, they must stand at prosperity's core. A developed India demands a strong rural heartland, incomplete without its first villages. I call upon Sariah's residents to unite in realizing the Vibrant Village resolve. All officials will ensure 100% saturation of every central scheme and welfare program," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor visited the exhibition on Gyan Bharatam and inspected the stalls installed by various departments and stakeholders. He launched the Vibrant Village Anthem and handed over sanction letters and appointment letters to various beneficiaries under Mission Yuva, HADP, PM Mudra, PMAY-G and other different schemes. The Lieutenant Governor also distributed TV Sets with DTH, and felicitated TB Cured Warrior, Nasha Mukht Abhiyaan volunteers, and citizens from diverse backgrounds for their valuable contribution to society.

Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP J&K; Shri Shaheen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department; Shri Ashwani Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Ms R. Alice Vaz, Commissioner Secretary to Government, Planning and Information; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Shri Amitava Chatterjee, MD & CEO, J&K Bank; Shri Abhishek Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri; senior officials of army, police and civil administration, political leaders, prominent citizens and people in large number were present.

IGP Reviews Security

sensitive locations. IGP Kashmir directed officers to intensify surveillance on anti-national elements and to enhance area domination in their respective jurisdictions. He stressed the necessity of strengthening security arrangements around vulnerable installations including prominent tourist destinations, to ensure a safe and secure environment for visitors. He further emphasized strict surveillance along inter-district boundaries to prevent any suspicious movement.

Special directions were issued regarding effective traffic management in Srinagar city, with instructions to implement a comprehensive traffic plan aimed at easing congestion, ensuring smooth vehicular movement, and minimizing inconvenience to the public. IGP Kashmir also reviewed preparedness related to Hajj arrangements, directing officers to ensure adequate security, facilitation,

and coordination at all designated points to guarantee the safe and orderly movement of pilgrims.

V.K Birdi instructed district heads to maintain strict vigilance over social media platforms to curb the spread of misinformation that could adversely impact public safety and order. IGP Kashmir also called for intensified cordon and search operations, particularly in sensitive areas across the Valley and along National Highways.

The meeting concluded with a firm resolve to maintain the highest standards of preparedness, coordination, and responsiveness to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of all forthcoming events—(KNO)

Tulip Garden Sees Over

Ghulam Nabi Azad to attract tourists to the valley in the lean spring season. More than 70 varieties of tulips were on display as the floriculture department increased bulb density to enhance the garden's visual appeal.

The garden had closed last year in April — two days after the Pahalgam attack, which forced most tourists to abandon their tour or cancel their bookings.

According to officials, the garden recorded 4.45 lakh visitors in 2024, 3.75 lakh in 2023, 3.62 lakh in 2022, and 2.25 lakh in 2021.

The garden remained closed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 lockdown. In earlier years, it recorded 2.59 lakh visitors in 2019, 1.9 lakh in 2018, 1.50 lakh in 2017, and 1.75 lakh in 2016, the officials added. (PTI)

SASCI Reforms Aims At

Shailendra Kumar, emphasized accountability and adherence to timelines, urging all departments to finalize and upload their action plans on the BEAMS portal by April 21, 2026. He noted that while 100 percent budget allocation has been made, further financial releases including the second installment of Capex funds will be contingent upon fulfillment of key reform conditions and demonstrable progress.

The meeting also highlighted key reforms mandated under SASCI guidelines, including the adoption of end-to-end digital tendering and contract management systems under Component II. Departments such as Power Development Department (PDD), Jal Shakti, Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD), and Youth Services & Sports (YSS) were directed to onboard the PWD-OMAS platform at the earliest to enhance transparency, monitoring, and accountability.

Progress in critical sectoral reforms was also reviewed, including mining sector reforms, operationalization of the Right of Way (RoW) Rules 2024, rollout of AgriStack in the Agriculture Department, and livestock sector reforms. It was emphasized that significant advancements in these areas are crucial for unlocking subsequent funding tranches.

To streamline financial management, all departments were directed to establish separate Single Nodal Agency (SNA) accounts for efficient release and monitoring of SASCI funds.

A detailed presentation outlined the proposed financial outlay under SASCI for the financial year 2026-27, totaling 4023.5 Cr. This includes 1406 Cr under Part I and Part II untied components,

along with a substantial 2617.5 Cr available under incentive-based components linked to capital expenditure performance and reform milestones across sectors such as public finance IT infrastructure, mining, AgriStack, livestock, financial management efficiency, and compressed biogas initiatives.

The meeting also reviewed allocations under the Public Health Infrastructure component, with 330 Cr earmarked to improve key health indicators, including reduction in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), attainment of NQAS certification, and reduction in TB mortality.

Reviewing past financial performance, it was noted that 946 Cr had been expended during the April-September period of the previous financial year. The Chief Secretary emphasized that expenditure must reach at least 1040 Cr in the current year to qualify for incentive-based funding under Part III of the scheme, which focuses on capital expenditure growth.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to fiscal discipline and reform-driven growth, the Chief Secretary called upon all departments to maintain momentum, ensure transparency, and deliver measurable outcomes aligned with the objectives of the SASCI framework.

One Year On, Pahalgam

to worry about," she said. Pradeep Malik from Panipat in Haryana echoed similar sentiments.

"The security is tight everywhere. The logistics are very good. It seems there is no impact of last year's terror attack. In fact, the security is tighter now," Malik said.

"I think everyone should visit Kashmir once. It doesn't feel like we're in our own country. There are check-posts everywhere, with a heavy presence of Army personnel. Earlier, we were apprehensive about visiting Kashmir, but not anymore. There's no fear," Malik said.

Amaan Imran from Rajasthan said the Pahalgam incident did not make much of a difference when he decided to visit the Valley.

"The place itself is beautiful. The security arrangements are excellent. There are Army posts at short distances. There's nothing to be scared of," Imran said.

Tourists have started returning to the Valley after an improvement in the security situation, reopening of many tourist sites, inauguration of the Vande Bharat train from Katra to Srinagar and successful completion of the Amarnath Yatra last year.

Centre Notifies

the Central Government hereby appoints the 17th day of April, 2026 as the date on which the provisions of the said Act shall come into force," it said.

The move comes as Parliament debates amendments to the Act, which was passed in 2023.

In September 2023, Parliament passed the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam', commonly known as the Women's Reservation Act, in a significant step towards enhancing women's representation in legislative bodies.

The act provided for the reservation of one-third of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.

Under the 2023 law, the reservation would not become enforceable before 2034, as it was tied to the completion

of the delimitation exercise post 2027 Census.

The three bills currently being debated in the Lok Sabha were introduced by the government to implement the women's quota in 2029.

J&K Govt Directs Public To

conditions, household amenities, assets, demography, literacy, religion, economic activity, migration, and fertility.

"Census data are extensively used for planning, policy formulation, effective public administration, and delimitation/reservation of constituencies of Parliament, Assembly, Panchayats, and other local bodies," it states.

The Department has also invoked different provisions of the Census Act, 1948. The law makes it legally binding for every person to answer census questions truthfully "to the best of his knowledge and belief."

It, however, exempts citizens from disclosing the names of female household members if prohibited by custom.

The law also requires dwellers to give census officers reasonable access to premises and allow the affixing of house numbers or marks.

It has also invoked provisions that lay down penalties for misconduct during census operations. These specify fines and imprisonment for refusing duties, obstructing officers, giving false information, or neglecting responsibilities.

The law further states that individual census records are confidential and cannot be used as evidence in civil or criminal proceedings, except for prosecution under the Census Act itself—(KNO)

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NDA floor leaders to raise Opposition's resistance to women's reservation

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Following the fall of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, which did not secure the necessary two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha, floor leaders of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) met for a crucial meeting in Parliament on Friday.

It was decided in the meeting that the constituents will raise the issue of the Opposition's resistance to women's empowerment, said sources.

The message will be delivered to people across the country through protests, press conferences, and social media to make people aware of the development.

The government had called for a three-day special session of Parliament to introduce and discuss the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026; the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026; and the Delimitation Bill, 2026.

Introduced in Lok Sabha on Thursday and discussed for two days, these proposed an increase in the



size of the House of the People, sought to enable delimitation based on the 2011 Census, and enable reservation for women to be based on this delimitation. The Union Territories (UTs) Laws Bill was to give effect to similar provisions in cases of Puducherry, Delhi, and Jammu and Kashmir.

The Opposition opposed linking delimitation with the implementation of women's reservation.

With 528 members present and voting, the Constitution (131st Amend-

ment) Bill, 2026, received 298 votes in favour and 230 against on Friday, where the government fell short by about 54 mandates.

Following the result, Parliamentary Minister Kiren Rijju requested Speaker Om Birla to not put the other two bills to vote since the three bills were intrinsically inter-related.

Sensing the mood of the Opposition, the 2023 Women's Reservation Act, providing 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Leg-

islative Assemblies, was notified late on Thursday by the Union Law Ministry.

While the Bill was passed in September 2023, it was to be operationalised, being linked to a fresh delimitation exercise. The government introduced the new legislation to amend relevant provisions and pave the way for its rollout ahead of the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

The last Census was held in 2011, with the next scheduled for 2021, but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

DC B'pora launches 'Maa se Guftagu' at Arin under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: District Administration Bandipora Friday launched "Maa se Guftagu", a weekly community outreach initiative under the 100-Day Mission Mode Campaign under the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, with its first edition held at Arin.

The programme, to be conducted across ICDS blocks throughout the campaign period at the rate of one event per week, places mothers and women at the heart of the fight against drug abuse.

The inaugural edition witnessed significant participation from women, students, ASHA workers, and field functionaries despite inclement weather. The event was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, who appreciated the enthusiasm of participants and lauded the "spirit of motherhood in the fight against drugs."

True to the spirit of the initiative, women participants took centre stage, holding placards bearing emotionally resonant slogans such as "Mamata ki taqat, nashe ki shikast", "Maa ka pyaar, nasha ka inkaar", and "Maa ki dua, nashe ki dawa", reinforcing



ing the role of mothers as the first and most powerful line of defence against drug abuse.

An ASHA worker present at the programme spoke about the responsibilities of motherhood, urging parents to closely observe their children's behaviour and not dismiss early signs of change as insignificant.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner noted that while addiction is widely visible, communities often look away instead of intervening. "An addict is not a

criminal, they are a person in need of care and support. The real criminal is the one who knows and still chooses silence," she said.

The DC also highlighted a social paradox, that while families celebrate the birth of a child, they sometimes fail to maintain adequate engagement during adolescence, leaving children vulnerable to negative influences.

In a direct gesture of accessibility, the DC shared her personal contact number with the audience, urging participants to reach out for assistance

or to report information related to drug networks. "Collective effort is the need of the hour. Together, we must support recovery and prevent addiction," she affirmed.

The DC further observed that women are affected by the drug menace both as victims and, in some instances, as participants in illicit activities, and called upon them to channel their strength towards eradicating the problem.

PO ICDS Bandipora, Yaar Ali Khan, emphasised that parental experience, vigilance, and early intervention are as critical as formal education in safeguarding children. He urged families to foster trust with their children and remain alert to early warning signs.

A student, Madiha, described the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan as a shared vision requiring collective commitment, and pointed out that cigarette smoking often serves as an entry point to substance abuse.

The "Maa se Guftagu" series will continue on a weekly basis across ICDS blocks in Bandipora district as part of the sustained community mobilisation drive under the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan.

IAF aircraft incident renders Pune runway temporarily unavailable, crew safe

IAN S

NEW DELHI/PUNE: The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Friday said that the runway at Pune airport has been temporarily rendered unavailable following an incident involving one of its aircraft, while confirming that the aircrew are safe and there has been no damage to civil property.

In a post on social media platform X, the IAF said the incident had affected runway operations, leading to a temporary disruption in flight movements at the airport.

"Pune runway is temporarily unavailable due to an incident involving an IAF aircraft. The aircrew are safe, and there is no damage to civil property. Efforts are underway to operationalise the runway and resume normal operations at the earliest," the IAF said.

Details of the incident were not immediately available. However, standard safety protocols were initiated following the incident to ensure there was no risk to personnel or infrastructure.

Airport authorities are coordinating with the IAF to restore runway operations at the earliest.

Flight operations are expected to be affected until normalcy is restored, with airlines likely to adjust schedules accordingly.

Pune airport, which serves both civil and military operations, is among the key aviation hubs in Maharashtra. Any disruption

in runway availability typically affects multiple arrivals and departures during peak hours.

Further information on the incident is awaited.

In a separate development on Thursday, a SpiceJet aircraft collided with a stationary Akasa Air plane at Delhi airport, resulting in minor damage to both aircraft, though no injuries were reported.

The incident occurred around 2.15 p.m. when the SpiceJet aircraft, arriving from Leh, was taxiing towards its designated bay and came into contact with the Akasa Air plane, which was preparing for departure to Hyderabad.

Initial reports indicated that the right winglet of the SpiceJet aircraft was damaged, while the left horizontal stabiliser of the Akasa Air aircraft was struck in the collision.

An Akasa Air spokesperson said that its aircraft operating flight QP 1406 from Delhi to Hyderabad returned to the bay following the incident.

"Preliminary information indicates that Akasa's aircraft was stationary when another airline's aircraft made contact with it," the spokesperson said.

The airline said all passengers and crew were safely disembarked and that alternate arrangements were being made to operate the flight.

It added that the relevant authorities have been informed and the matter is under investigation, reiterating that safety remains its top priority.

Shopian admin strengthens grassroots vigilance under Nasha Mukht Abhiyan



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta convened a meeting Friday at Shopian, to review and strengthen the implementation of the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, with a particular focus on enhancing grassroots level vigilance and awareness.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the critical role of Lambardars and Chowkidars as the "eyes and ears" of the administration in rural areas.

They were directed to actively monitor and report drug related activities and contribute to the prevention of substance abuse at the village level.

Key directions issued during the meeting included identification of potential drug hotspots, thereby generating awareness and other enforcement measures. Participants were instructed to assist law enforcement agencies by generating local awareness on the substance and drug abuse.

Lambardars and Chowkidars were also directed to ensure strict surveillance around edu-

cational institutions to prevent the sale of tobacco products within restricted zones.

Emphasis was laid on active participation in Gram Sabhas to pass anti drug resolutions and mobilize community support.

Further, Lambardars and Chowkidars were encouraged to lead awareness initiatives, including organizing anti drug pledges, displaying helpline numbers, and disseminating information in prominent locations.

Collaboration with local leaders, teachers, and religious figures was highlighted as essential for spreading awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

The DC also stressed the importance of promoting healthy alternatives for youth through sports and skill development activities.

Early identification of drug users and facilitating their access to de-addiction, rehabilitation and counseling services were underscored as key measures.

Ensuring confidentiality of victims was highlighted to maintain trust within the community.

CM meets delegations, assures time-bound redressal of public issues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Several legislators, delegations and individuals Friday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, raising several issues concerning them for redressal. Former minister and legislator Abdul Majid

Wani, and former legislator Chaman Lal from Ramban, highlighted key concerns pertaining to their respective areas.

A delegation from the Indian Institute of Architects, J&K Chapter, led by its Chairman Vikas Dubey, apprised the Chief Minis-

ter of issues arising from recent amendments to the Unified Building Bye-Laws.

Meanwhile, a delegation led by President, Jammu University Teachers Association (JUTA), Prof. Ravinder Singh, presented matters concerning the teaching fraternity.

Moreover, several individuals met the Chief Minister to seek resolution of their grievances.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all the delegations and individuals, assuring that all genuine issues would be addressed on priority.

Govt fails to provide sacks for chickpea procurement in Hubballi, farmers left in lurch

IAN S

HUBBALLI (KARNATAKA): Farmers in Karnataka's Hubballi are facing severe hardship due to the lack of gunny bags for the procurement of chickpeas at support price centres, triggering widespread anger among growers who say administrative lapses are delaying purchases and exposing their produce to damage.

Despite sustained protests and struggles by farmers,

the government had only recently begun procurement of groundnuts at the support price in the district. However, a similar mechanism for chickpeas has run into logistical issues, with procurement centres running short of empty sacks required to store the produce.

As a result, heaps of chickpeas can be seen lying in the open outside procurement centres. In several cases, farmers have been forced to bring old burlap sacks from their

homes to pack the produce themselves and leave it at the centres, highlighting the gravity of the situation.

According to official data, as many as 23,393 farmers have registered across 36 Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society centres for chickpea procurement. However, only 6,400 farmers have been able to sell their produce so far, with about 1,14,078 quintals procured till March 24. Farmers allege that nearly 60 per cent of the produce remains lying

outside procurement centres due to delays and lack of storage arrangements.

Farmer leader Heman Gowda criticised the authorities for their "irresponsible approach", stating that farmers who toiled under difficult conditions to grow chickpeas are now being forced to wait endlessly for procurement. Another farmer, Shivananda, said the absence of gunny bags has brought the entire process to a standstill, leaving growers distressed.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
IRRIGATION DIVISION OMPORA BUDGAM.
 Email ID: mehrajudrat.8531@jk.gov.in
 e-NIT.No. 01 of 4 /2026

For and on behalf of the LT. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders on percentage basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors Registered with Union Territory of J&K Govt.

S. No	Name of work	Estt. Cost of work amount in lacs	Performance security @	Time of completion	Class of contract	Cost of tender document	Head of account
1	Restoration of offtake point and supply channel of Humhama canal by way of construction of pick up weir and supply channel at Kokerauger (Balance Part)	5.64	11280/-	20 Days	CEE/DEE	500	UT Capex (DMRRR)
2	Restoration/Construction of offtakes of various Zamindari Khuls Viz. Naibdur Khul, Sona Khul etc at Hashroo by way of crate protection works, laying RCC Spun Pipes and Re-sectioning at spots.	12.70	25400/-	30 Days	BEE/CEE/DEE	800	UT Capex (DMRRR)

No of works Advertised: 02 (Two)
 Position of Funds (Budgetary provision).
 Position of Technical Sanction Accorded.
 Position of Administrative Approval Accorded.
 Formal allotments of the works shall be issued only after when the authorization is issued by the District Development Commissioner Budgam and work shall be taken up accordingly
 The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria specifications, Bill of quantities, set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen /downloaded from departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in

1.	Publishing date	13-04-2026 (11 AM)
2.	Download date start	13-04-2026 (11 AM)
3.	Bid submission date starts	13-04-2026 (11 AM)
4.	Bid submission date ends	24-04-2026 upto (4 PM)
5.	Bid Opening date	25-04-2026 at (11 AM)

The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website.
General terms and conditions:-
 1. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website jktenders.gov.in from 13-04-2026 to 24-04-2026 upto 4 PM. The Bids will be opened on 25-04-2026 at 11.00 Am . Online documents can be seen and downloaded from the website.
 i) The complete bidding process will be online.
 ii) Technical bids of bidder shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Ompora Budgam.
 2. Bid document contains qualifying criteria for bidder, specification, conditions and other details.
 3. Any item /items not included in the rate list but found necessary during the execution of work shall be paid as per the rates of J&K SSR 2022.
 4. Any omission /Typographic error shall be read as per the J&K SSR 2022, and as per the corrigendum / errata issued to J&K SSR 2022 in vogue.
 5. The rates should be strictly quoted as per the unit advertised in the rate list.
 6. The contractors shall inspect & examine the site, and shall satisfy himself about the location of the site, its approaches and nature of the ground and sub soil before uploading the bids/submission of tender.
 7. If the contractor fails to complete the work within the stipulated time period, the penalty of RS.0.01% of the allotted cost of work shall be imposed upon the Contractor recurring on daily basis. In addition to penalty prescribed in agreement form 25/26 double.
 8. During the execution of work, department reserves the right to vary the quantity provided in the contract.
 9. Tender drawings furnished with the tender document shall not be deemed as working drawings. These may vary from the actual working drawing.
 10. The contractors shall carry out the various mandatory tests as per specification (e.g the crushing strength of concrete i.e. cube tests, gradation test for aggregate, slump test etc) as directed by Engineer In-charge. all testing charges/expenses etc. shall be borne by the contractor.
 11. The concrete mix shall be designed as per revised BIS (IS: 10262 of 2009) and concreting shall be strictly done as per the mix design by the contractor.
 27. No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders and are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid any technical snags in last hours. 36) All other terms and conditions will remain same as laid down in PWD Form 25-double.

No:-253-55
 Date:- 11-04-2026

DIPK-495-26
 DT: 17/04/2026

Executive Engineer
 Irrigation Division
 Ompora Budgam.

IPL 2026: Gill's masterclass trumps Green's lone hand as GT hand KKR fifth loss

IAN S

AHMEDABAD: Skipper Shubman Gill continued with his good knack of making a truckload of runs at Narendra Modi Stadium – this time by smashing a serene 86 to guide Gujarat Titans (GT) to a comfortable five-wicket victory over a struggling Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) on Friday.

While Gill's 50-ball masterclass, laced with eight fours and four sixes coming at a strike-rate of 172, ensured GT's dominance for the majority of the chase, it also condemned KKR to their fifth defeat in this season, leaving them rooted to the bottom of the table.

Though KKR fought hard and took the game deep, Rahul Tewatia and Shahrukh Khan kept their head calm to complete the chase after a few nervy moments with two balls to spare and make it a hat-trick of victories for GT, the IPL 2022 winners, as they are now at fourth spot on the points table.

Three-time champions KKR would be left ruing the lack of support from their batting group, minus Finn Allen to Cameron Green, who finally came good by hitting a superb 79 off 55 balls. But the collapses meant they made 180 in their 20 overs, after being certain to reach 200 at one point.

Despite Green's fine knock, laced with seven



fours and four sixes, KKR lost their last six wickets for just 33 runs in the final phase of the innings. Kagiso Rabada was the pick of the bowlers for GT, returning figures of 3-33, while Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna played vital roles in stifling the KKR batters, though Ashok Sharma and Rashid Khan were expensive.

Pushed into bowling first after KKR elected to bat, Siraj struck in the very first over as skipper Ajinkya Rahane skewed an outswinger to mid-on and fell for a golden duck. Rabada then doubled the misery in the second over by having Angkrish Raghuvanshi nicked behind to the keeper. When Tim Seifert (12) slapped a short delivery from Siraj straight to point, KKR were reeling at 32/3 in four overs.

KKR's recovery was initially sparked by Rovman Powell, who hit a cameo of 27 off 20 balls, including two massive sixes, shifting the pressure back onto the GT bowlers. His 55-run stand with Green, who timed the ball really well, steadied the ship before Ashok Sharma deceived him with a 107kph slower ball.

Green, who was struggling on 27 off 29 balls at one stage, suddenly found his groove in the 12th over by launching Rashid for a six and a four. He took a particular liking to the spinners, scoring 33 off just 18 balls against them. His 60-run partnership off 23 balls with Anukul Roy saw KKR gallop from 87/4 to 139/4 in the space of three overs.

However, the dismissal of Roy (9) by Prasidh Krishna in the 15th over triggered a sensational

slide. Rinku Singh's poor run continued as he fell to Rabada, while Ramandeep Singh (17) holed out after a brief flurry of boundaries.

In a bizarre final stretch, Green, who had reached 75 off 44 balls, became a virtual spectator at the non-striker's end as wickets tumbled, with the seam-bowling all-rounder facing only two of them during that sequence. Green managed only four runs off his final 11 deliveries before being caught behind off the last ball of the innings off Rashid to end a weird innings for KKR.

Chasing 181, Gill was in sublime touch from the outset, unleashing a trademark exhibition of high-elbow drives, short-arm jabs, and delectable flicks. He found an able ally in B Sai Sudharsan (22), who

smacked Anukul Roy for two majestic sixes, as GT raced to 50 in just 4.2 overs.

Though Sunil Narine broke the 71-run opening stand by dismissing Sudharsan, who top-edged to short fine leg, Jos Buttler joined in to keep the momentum going with a brisk 25 off 15 balls, before holing out to the deep on a googly from Varun Chakaravathy, who got his first wicket of IPL 2026.

Despite Washington Sundar falling to Chakaravathy, Gill reached his half-century off 27 deliveries and continued to hit a flurry of boundaries. He looked destined for making a hundred before a moment of brilliance by Cameron Green at deep backward point ended his stay. Gill's dismissal triggered a slight wobble as KKR's bowlers took the game into the final over.

With five runs needed off the final over, Ramandeep Singh removed Glenn Phillips (19) on the first ball to spark a glimmer of hope for KKR. But Tewatia and impact sub Shahrukh remained calm to seal the win for GT.

Brief scores: Kolkata Knight Riders 180 all out in 20 overs (Cameron Green 79, Rovman Powell 27; Kagiso Rabada 3-29, Mohammed Siraj 2-23) lost to Gujarat Titans 181/5 in 19.4 overs (Shubman Gill 86, Jos Buttler 25; Varun Chakaravathy 2-34, Ramandeep Singh 1-5) by five wickets

1st T20I: Harmanpreet shines, but late collapse leads to India making 157/7 against South Africa



IAN S

DURBAN: Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur excelled by hitting 47 and sharing a solid 71-run partnership with Jemimah Rodrigues, but a late batting collapse meant India managed to post only 157/7 in their 20 overs against South Africa at the Kingsmead Stadium on Friday.

Sent into batting first on a very dry pitch, India got off to a flier thanks to Shafali Verma's 20-ball 34, but the Proteas clawed back in the back end (including conceding 17 runs off the last two overs) through Ayabonga Khaka, who finished with stellar figures of 3-16 and found good support from Tumi Sekhukhune and Nonkululeko Mlaba.

Shafali was in her element from the onset, smashing Sune Luus for a

six and a four in the opening over before taking the attack to Ayabonga and Tumi. But the momentum shifted when Tumi induced a mistimed heave from Shafali in the fifth over and was caught at deep midwicket. Smriti Mandhana (13) followed shortly after, driving Ayabonga straight to cover, leaving India at 48/2 at the end of the Powerplay.

The experienced pair of Harmanpreet and Rodrigues (36 off 29 balls) then steadied the ship through their steady stand. While they initially focused on strike rotation, the duo broke shackles in the 12th over by taking 15 runs off Nadine de Klerk.

Jemimah, despite being shaky, looked elegant with her inside-out drives, while Harmanpreet used her power well to clear the ropes. But the dismissal of Rodrigues in the 15th

over, caught brilliantly by a diving Sune off Tumi, triggered a slide for India.

With Ayabonga changing her pace well, Richa Ghosh and Arundhati Reddy fell cheaply, while debutant Kashvee Gautam's brief cameo ended with her being cleaned up by Nonkululeko.

A chaotic run-out on the penultimate ball involving Shreyanka Patil further dented the visitors, as they lost four wickets for just 33 runs in the final five overs. Harmanpreet also struggled to time the ball towards the latter part of her stay at the crease, as India's quest to reach 170 ended in them falling short of getting to 160 by three runs.

Brief scores: India 157/7 in 20 overs (Harmanpreet Kaur 47 not out, Jemimah Rodrigues 36; Ayabonga Khaka 3-16, Tumi Sekhukhune 2-27) against South Africa

ISL 2025-26: Adison strike helps Mohammedan Sporting hold Odisha 1-1; earn first point of season



IAN S

BHUBANESWAR: Mohammedan Sporting Club secured their first point of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2025-26 with a hard-fought 1-1 draw against Odisha FC at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar on Friday. Suhair VP gave the hosts the lead just before half-time, but Adison Singh's close-range finish early in the second half ensured the points were shared.

Mohammedan remain at the bottom of the table with one point from eight matches, while Odisha FC moved to 12th with six points from seven outings. Lalpathanga Khawlhing was adjudged the Player of the Match.

The opening exchanges were cautious, with both sides looking to find rhythm in midfield. Odisha enjoyed spells of possession, while Mohammedan looked to threaten on the break, but clear-cut chances were few in the first quarter of the game.

Mohammedan began to grow into the contest around the 20-minute mark. Centre-back Hira Mondal and midfielder Mahitosh Roy both attempted efforts from distance, while Lalremsanga Fanai came agonisingly close, firing into the side netting with the goal at his mercy following a well-worked move involv-

ing Adison Singh.

Odisha responded with a series of promising attacks of their own. Left-back Subham Bhatlacharya came close after a scramble inside the box, while Isak Vanlalruatfela and Lalrinfela Khiangte both threatened with runs in behind. The Juggernauts' defensive pairing of Carlos Delgado and Thoiba Singh also impressed, contributing both at the back and in build-up play.

The breakthrough finally arrived five minutes before the breakthrough through a swift counter-attacking move. Isak initiated the move from deep before linking up with midfielder Lalrinfela, whose perfectly weighted through ball released Suhair VP down the left. The forward surged into the box and unleashed a powerful left-footed strike past Padam Chettri to give Odisha a 1-0 lead. Mohammedan nearly responded immediately, with Adison Singh forcing a save from Amrinder Singh just before the interval, as Odisha carried a slender advantage into half-time.

The visitors came out with renewed intent in the second half and created early opportunities. Lalremsanga and Mahitosh both saw efforts go wide, with the latter missing a gilt-edged chance after a loose clearance from the Odisha goalkeeper.

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DHURANDHAR THE REVENGE (A)
HINDI - 02:55 PM, 05:00 PM

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HINDI ATMOS - 12:00 PM, 03:15 PM, 06:30 PM
HINDI - 10:30 AM, 01:45 PM

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