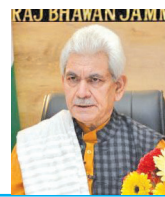


Good Morning Kashmir

16th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
@OfficeOfLGandK



From April 11, J&K Police had launched a relentless crackdown in Jammu Div. More than 45 FIRs were filed, 63 smugglers nabbed & massive drug hauls seized between 11th & 15th. Regular Checks are now covering schools, pharmacies, drug agencies & this drive will continue relentlessly.

Srinagar • Sunday 19, April 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 95 • Page: 08 • Price: ₹ 1/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

Kashmir's first Hajj batch departs amid tears, prayers



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Amid scenes of faith, emotion and hope, the first batch of Haj pilgrims from Kashmir Valley departed for Saudi Arabia on Saturday, marking the beginning of the sacred journey.

Hundreds of family members gathered since early morning at Haj House, Bemina, here to bid farewell to their loved ones. The premises witnessed touching moments as relatives embraced departing pilgrims, offered prayers and wiped away tears before the

journey began.

Children waved goodbye to elders, women stood in prayerful silence, while elderly pilgrims recited verses, holding prayer beads and travel documents close to their hearts.

The emotional send-off reflected the deep spiritual significance of Haj for Kashmiri families.

"It feels like Allah has invited us to His house. We waited many years for this moment," an elderly pilgrim said, before entering the Haj House.

Another family member said the tears were ● P-06

CM Omar sees off first Haj pilgrims batch from Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Saturday bid farewell to the first batch of Haj pilgrims from Srinagar International Airport, marking the formal commencement of Haj operations 2026 from Jammu & Kashmir.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister interacted with the pilgrims, extending ● P-06



Shabir Shah arrested in terror-related case, sent to NIA remand

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: A special court in Jammu Saturday remanded separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah to 10 days of NIA custody in connection with a terror case dating back to 1996.

Shah, who was arrested by the NIA's Srinagar branch on Friday, was produced before the Patiala House Court in Delhi, which granted a three-day transit remand. He was then taken to Jammu, where the NIA requested custodial interrogation.

The case involves a 1996 terrorist attack on police person-



nel during a funeral procession for a terrorist.

Shah, 72, had recently been released on bail after nearly seven years in prison in other cases—bail was granted by the Supreme Court on March 12 in a terror-funding case, and by a Delhi court on March 28 in a money laundering case.

Not all wars rage on borders, some battles brew unseen for years: LG Sinha

Says Rajouri sensitive, prone to cross-border drug smuggling

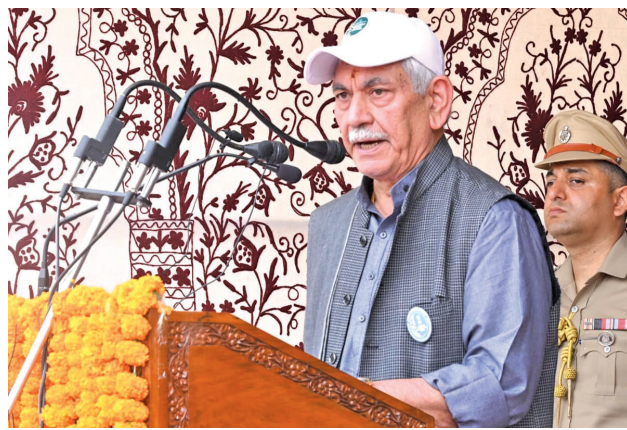
GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI: Stating that not all wars rage on borders and some battles brew unseen for years, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that countless Jammu Kashmir families have fought addiction within their walls and many have lost loved ones to it.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that border district Rajouri is sensitive and prone to cross-border drug smuggling.

"But we are determined to crush these challenges, dismantle the drug trade and liberate society from addiction. From April 11, J&K Police had launched a relentless crackdown in Jammu Division. More than 45 FIRs were filed, 63 smugglers nabbed and massive drug hauls seized between the 11th and 15th. Regular Checks are now covering schools, pharmacies, drug agencies and this drive will continue relentlessly," the Lieutenant Governor said while addressing a public rally in Rajouri under Drug-Free J&K campaign.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor emphasised that



not all wars rage on borders. He said some battles brew unseen and for years, countless Jammu Kashmir families have fought addiction within their walls and many have lost loved ones to it.

"On April 11, from the hallowed grounds of Jammu's MA Stadium, we sounded the clarion call to total war by launching a resolute 100-day crusade against drug addiction. I believe addiction is no mere personal failing but it's a gaping wound in our society's fabric. Our terrorist neighbour deploys it as an insidi-

ous weapon, nurturing terror through drug smuggling and eroding our nation's strength from within. We shall prevail in this battle by uniting as one and every citizen rising with unyielding resolve," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that cases registered before 11 April has witnessed a 3 times increase in last 7 days.

"In 100 days, we must completely break the back of drug networks. When the power of society and the might of the administration come together, neither smugglers ● P-06

LG inaugurates Dr Raj Kumar Thapa Memorial, Museum in Rajouri

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI: Lieutenant Governor Saturday Manoj Sinha dedicated a Memorial, Museum, and Library in Rajouri to honor the lasting legacy of martyr ADDC Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa.

Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa attained martyrdom in unprovoked shelling by Pakistan during Operation Sindoore.

The Lieutenant Governor paid tribute to Dr. Thapa, recalling his selfless service and steadfast dedication to public welfare. "This memorial will inspire generations to come," he said.

The event also featured a documentary on Dr. Thapa's life.

Family members of Dr Raj Kumar Thapa ● P-06

Arrangement for RS elections cost J&K exchequer Rs 73548



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Authorities spent Rs 73548 on conducting the Rajya Sabha elections in the Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory in October 2025.

According to official documents accessed, the J&K Election Department had transferred Rs 1 lakh for the exercise, out of which Rs 73548 was utilized to make necessary arrangements for polls to four vacant Rajya Sabha seats.

The documents reveal that Rs 21150 was spent on honorarium and refreshments for officers and officials deployed on election duty. The remaining Rs 52398 was utilized to cover other essential arrangements required for the electoral process.

The Rajya Sabha polls in Jammu & Kashmir were held on October 24, 2025 to fill seats that had remained vacant since 2021- the year when the last members from the Union Territory completed their tenures. The vacancies could not be filled earlier due to ● P-06

Govt takes over management of 58 valley schools linked with Jel

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday took over the management of 58 schools associated with the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) in the valley, officials said.

The schools were directly or indirectly affiliated with the JeI's Falah-e-Aam Trust (FAT), they said.

"The government took over the management of 58 FAT schools in different parts of the valley on Saturday," an official said.

The government, in August last year, had taken over management of 215 schools affiliated with the banned JeI across the ten valley districts.

District administration and police teams had visited the schools and taken over management.

The government had then said the managing commit-



tee of such schools would be taken over by the concerned district magistrate or deputy commissioner, who shall constitute a fresh managing committee in due course for respective schools after getting them duly verified.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs, on February

28, 2019, and again on February 27, 2024, declared the JeI a proscribed organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Intelligence agencies had identified a number of schools which were directly or indirectly affiliated with the JeI or its ● P-06

Smart City Bus Expansion Kashmir Transporters Call Valley-Wide Strike on Monday



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Kashmir's transport sector on Saturday announced a complete valley-wide chakka jam on Monday, April 20, escalating concerns over the government's expansion of Smart City bus services into district routes.

The protest, called by the All Jammu and Kashmir Transport Welfare Association, comes amid growing resentment among private transport operators who say the extension of Smart City buses beyond Srinagar city

limits is directly threatening the survival of thousands of families dependent on buses, sumos, taxis and mini-passenger vehicles.

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Transport Association Kashmir President Shabir Matta, said the private transport sector has been pushed into crisis due to policy decisions taken without proper consultation with stakeholders.

He alleged that the introduction of Smart City buses in routes covering Pulwama, Kangan, Sopore, Magam and other districts has ● P-06

'Women's Power Bill could not pass in Parliament, I apologize to all mothers, sisters': PM

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday slammed the opposition parties for defeat of the Constitution Amendment Bill in Lok Sabha to tweak women's reservation and apologised to the "mothers and sisters" in the country saying "Women's Power Bill could not pass in Parliament".

In Address to the Nation, PM Modi said crores of women across the country had their eyes on Parliament yesterday and noted that while nation's interest in paramount for BJP-led NDA, for some people self-interest becomes everything.

"Today I'm here to discuss an important issue, especially for the women of this country. Every citizen of this country is witnessing how women's progress has stalled... Despite our best efforts, we haven't succeeded. Amendments could not be made in the Nari Shakti Adhinyam. And I apologise to all the



mothers and sisters in the nation for this," he said.

"For us, the nation's interest is paramount. But when for some people party interest becomes everything, when party interest overshadows the nation's interest, then women's power, the nation's interest... has to bear the consequences. This is exactly what has happened this time too," he added.

He alleged that the "self-serving politics of parties like Congress,

DMK, TMC, and the Samajwadi Party" has come at the expense of the nation's women.

PM Modi said woman forgets everything, but never forgets her insult.

"Yesterday, crores of women across the country had their eyes on Parliament. It was deeply painful to see that when this proposal in the interest of women was defeated, parties like Congress, DMK, SP, and TMC were applauding. By taking away women's rights, they were thumping their desks. Those were not just thumps on the desk, they were blows to the dignity and self-respect of women," he said.

Opposition parties in Lok Sabha voted against the Constitution Amendment Bill on Friday.

The Lok Sabha took up Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-first Amendment) Bill, Delimitation Bill, and Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill together for passing. In the division that took place on the Constitution ● P-06

India summons Iran envoy over incident of firing at ships in Hormuz

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: India on Saturday summoned Iranian envoy Mohammad Fathali after two Indian vessels had to reverse course in the Strait of Hormuz following an incident of firing by Iran's Revolutionary Guards, authoritative sources said.

A strong protest was lodged with the ambassador over the incident, they said.

There is no official word yet on summoning Fathali to the external affairs ministry. Several commercial vessels tried to cross the Strait of Hormuz after Iran on Friday announced that it has opened the waterway for commercial traffic.

Tehran on Saturday said it has again closed the Strait of Hormuz, alleging that the US violated certain understanding reached between the two sides.

A vessel tracker reported that two Indian vessels had to reverse course in the Strait of Hormuz following reports of gunfire from Iran's Revolutionary Guard. The vessels include an Indian-flagged super tanker, carrying 2 million barrels of Iraqi oil, it said. ● P-06

J&K launches QR code-based identification system for tourism players in Pahalgam



AGENCIES

PAHALGAM: The authorities in Jammu and Kashmir have introduced a unique QR code-based identification system for all tourism service providers for the safety of tourists in Pahalgam, which was rocked by a deadly attack last year orchestrated by Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists.

as outside vendors, officials said.

The initiative is seen as a major step by the authorities to restore the confidence of those visiting the popular tourist resort in Anantnag district that was shaken by the brutal terror attack on April 22 last year.

The attack in the Baisaran meadow left 25 tourists and a local pony-ride operator dead.

"Each service provider has been properly vetted by police, registered by the authorities and has been provided a unique QR code that contains personal information ● P-06

.....100 Days Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyaan

Grand district level awareness programme held at GDC Shopian

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: As part of the ongoing 100 Days Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir campaign, a grand district level awareness programme on drug abuse was conducted Saturday at Government Degree College Shopian.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, attended the event as Chief Guest.

The ADDC in his address, emphasized the critical role of parents, teachers, and society in protecting youth from drug addiction.

He called for a coordinated and proactive approach at the grassroots level, focusing on awareness, guidance, and early intervention.

The programme was attended by Principal GDC Shopian, Prof Tariq Ahmad Mir, civil society members, representatives of traders associations, vendors, drivers, ASHA workers, students, and officials from various departments.

CEO, Municipal Council Shopian, Suhail Ahmad, delivered the welcome address and highlighted the broader social importance of the campaign.

He stated that the fight against drug abuse must evolve beyond a government initiative into a people's movement, requiring collective ownership and sus-



tained public participation.

He emphasized that meaningful success can only be achieved when all sections of society work together in a coordinated manner.

Dr. Ishrat Jabeen, Clinical Physiologist, spoke on the concept of substance abuse, outlining its causes and adverse health implications.

She emphasized the need for awareness, early identification, and preventive interventions to reduce the growing risk of addiction, particularly among youth.

Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad, Psychologist, presented a detailed analysis of the psychological aspects of drug abuse.

He explained why indi-

viduals turn to drugs, discussed commonly abused substances and their classifications, and elaborated on the short term and long term effects on the human body and mind.

Through real life case examples and emotionally engaging narratives, he provided a stark insight into the consequences of addiction, reinforcing the urgency of timely intervention.

A short awareness film depicting the realities of drug abuse was screened during the programme, further sensitizing participants and strengthening the impact of the session.

Dy.SP Hqr Shopian, Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir, addressed the gathering from a law enforcement

perspective. He highlighted ongoing efforts by police to curb drug trafficking and take strict action against peddlers.

He stressed the importance of public cooperation in reporting drug related activities and reiterated that community vigilance is essential to dismantle the supply chain.

It was also highlighted that GDC Shopian has taken several concrete measures including constitution of monitoring cell, installation of CCTV cameras within the college premises, regular organization of awareness programmes, pledge ceremonies, and student engagement initiatives to ensure continuous vigilance against drug abuse.

100-Day Nasha Mukht J&K Campaign

Intensified Awareness Drive continues across Baramulla

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: As part of the ongoing 100 Days Intensified Campaign under Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, a series of impactful awareness and outreach activities were carried out across District Baramulla to reinforce the message of a drug-free society.

Continuing the district-wide efforts, multiple programmes were organized to engage different sections of the community and spread awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse.

In a significant initiative, the Psychiatry Depart-

ment of Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla conducted a day-long interactive session with individuals who have successfully recovered from substance abuse.

The session provided a platform for open dialogue, where participants shared their personal journeys, challenges, and the importance of timely intervention, counselling, and community support in overcoming addiction.

Simultaneously, a number of awareness programmes and rallies were conducted across various educational institutions

in collaboration with the Police Department where



students were sensitized about the dangers of drug abuse, legal implications, and the importance

of making informed life choices.

Adding further momentum to the campaign, Municipal Council Baramulla and Municipal Council Sopore, in collaboration with the Information Department Baramulla, conducted extensive Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities through mobile IEC vans.

These vans traversed key areas of the towns throughout the day, disseminating awareness messages through audio-visual content, and public announcements, ensuring maximum outreach among the general public.

Comm SMC, PCO Sgr assess preparedness for forthcoming Census 2027



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Commissioner, Faz Lul Haseeb, and Principal Census Officer (Urban) Srinagar, Saturday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess preparedness for the forthcoming Census 2027 at Municipal Central Office, Karan Nagar, Srinagar.

All district officers participated in the meeting, wherein a comprehensive review of preparedness was undertaken. The discussions primarily focused on strengthening inter-departmental coordination and ensuring timely deployment of employees for Census operations.

During the meeting, the Commissioner highlighted the significance

of the Census as a vital national exercise that provides critical demographic data essential for evidence-based policymaking, effective governance, and developmental planning. He urged all concerned departments to extend full cooperation and nominate competent, dedicated, and responsible officials to ensure the smooth and efficient conduct of the enumeration process.

The Census Charge Officers were specifically directed to ensure timely completion of all preparatory activities within their respective jurisdictions, including verification of staff deployment, coordination with line departments, and readiness for subsequent phases of Census operations.

GDC Qazigund organises Kabaddi under 100-day NMBA Campaign

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As a part of 100-day Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), the College Well-Being & Anti-Substance Abuse Cell of Government Degree College (GDC) Qazigund, organized a friendly Kabaddi match to raise awareness among the students to curb the menace of drug abuse.

The activity witnessed an enthusiastic and active participation of the sports persons of the college.



Anti-drug slogans were also displayed by the students to support the event.

A pledge was also administered to all the staff and students in this connection.

College Principal, Prof. Sudhir Singh, in his

address expressed concerns over the involvement of youth in drugs' network, as is being unleashed during the NMBA campaign. "Sports can play a surprisingly strong role in preventing substance use—especially among young people—because they shape daily habits, identity, and social circles in such ways that make risky behaviours less appealing or harder to sustain. Positive peer influence can reduce the like-

lihood of experimenting with harmful substances," he added. Those who were prominently present on the occasion include, Prof. Aufaq Zargar, Prof. Talib Ahmad, Prof. Irshad Ahmed and Prof. Rameez Ahmed.

Shopian admin launches Sticker Pasting, awareness drive against drug abuse

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: In continuation of the ongoing 100 Days Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyaan, District Administration Shopian Saturday launched a sticker pasting and awareness drive in Shopian aimed at sensitizing transporters and the general public about the dangers of drug abuse.

The initiative was formally inaugurated by the Additional District Development Commissioner Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, at Sumo Stand Gagren, where awareness stickers carrying anti drug messages were pasted on commercial vehicles to promote widespread public

awareness.

The drive driven by the Department of Social Welfare and Motor Vehicles, specifically targeting drivers and transport operators, recognizing their crucial role in community outreach and daily public interaction.

The initiative forms part of a series of ongoing efforts by the district administration to strengthen public awareness and ensure wider outreach of the campaign, with a focus on preventive measures and community participation to curb drug abuse.

Dy.SP Headquarters, Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir, District Social Welfare Officer Shopian, Ibrar Hussain, and other officials were also present on the occasion.

ADC Budgam reviews functioning of Sub-Registrar Office Khanshab

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam (Registrar), Mehraj ud din shah Saturday visited the Sub-Registrar Office, Khanshab to review the functioning of the Registration Department.

During the visit, a comprehensive review of revenue generation for the financial year 2025-26 was conducted. It was reported that an amount of ₹3.61 crore has been realized through the registration of 601 deeds.

The officer also assessed the existing infrastructure of the office and took stock of the progress achieved in the scanning and digitization of backlog registration



records. Emphasis was laid on expediting the digitization process to ensure efficiency and transparency in service delivery.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner expressed satisfaction over the overall functioning of the office and appreciated the efforts of the Sub-Registrar, Khanshab for ensuring smooth, transparent, and efficient registration services to the public.

DC Anantnag reviews Road Safety Measures, directs timely compensation to victims

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner (Chairman, District Road Safety Committee) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat, Saturday chaired a review meeting of the committee to assess the measures taken by various agencies to reduce road accidents besides status of compensation for victims in the district.

The meeting was attended by ADC, SE R&B (Member Secretary), CMO, ARTO, DySP Traffic, Executive Engineers of R&B divisions, EOs of MCs, representatives of NHAI, BEACON and other agencies involved in road safety planning and implementation.

At the outset, the SE R&B presented a detailed overview of the decisions taken by the committee in the previous meeting and the progress achieved so far. The chair was informed that in addition to responsive relief,

several preventive measures including identification and remedial action at accident prone "black spots", regular road maintenance and strengthening of vulnerable stretches, improvement and standardisation of road signage and reflectors and technical inspection of vehicles to ensure road worthiness, have been taken to minimise the occurrence of accidents across the district.

It was further informed that during the year 2025, 536 road accidents were recorded resulting in 42 casualties.

Presently, the district has 24 PM RAHAT designated hospitals to provide timely medical care and support to accident victims.

On the occasion, the Committee held detailed deliberations on key issues like analysis of IRAD data, identification of remaining black spots and measures for their rectification besides smooth implementa-

tion of PM Sadak Suraksha (Setu/Sehat) financial assistance scheme in the district.

The DC stressed the need to expedite the process of victim identification and the timely disbursement of claims under the relief schemes, so the affected families do not face undue delays in receiving compensation. He directed all concerned departments to streamline documentation and verification procedures to ensure efficiency and transparency.

Dr. Bilal directed to conduct a detailed analytical review of accident data which will be utilised to undertake specific engineering and enforcement actions. He issued further directions to make an in-depth analysis of all identified black spots and to propose permanent engineering solutions to prevent fatal accidents in the future.

EOs of MCs were asked to remove the encroach-

ments along roads and footpaths for ease and safety of commuters. Cleanliness and usability of footpaths besides regulating roadside parking were also emphasized.

Additionally, in view of the ongoing 100 day campaign under Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyaan, the MVD and Traffic authorities were instructed to intensify enforcement action against the drug peddlers and other violators.

At conclusion, the committee underscored that a coordinated and multi departmental approach alongwith constant vigil and improvement in road safety infrastructure and services are essential to bring down the number and severity of road accidents in the district.

DC directed the ARTO to ensure that compensation to all deceased victims is processed and disbursed in a time-bound manner.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT HAJIN

Subject: Engagement of candidates for the Posts of Sahayikas (AWHs).

This office has advertised Three posts of Sahayikas (AWHs) vide advertisement Notice No 01 of 2024 Dated 04-11-2024 under endorsement No: CDPO/Poshan/H/2024/401-414 Dated: 04-11-2024 and same was published through department of information vide DIP No #DIPK-7363/24 in Newspaper Kashmir Observer, Era of Kashmir & Street Times on 06-11-2024 and vide publicity was given through PRIs and same was also uploaded on website of DC Bandipora and applications were received accordingly. After proper scrutiny of application forms by the Block Level selection committee the tentative selection of candidates for each ward was made accordingly as per H.R policy for Sangnis (AWW) & Sahikayas (AWH) constituted by Government vide order No: 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 Dated: 30-11-2022 which is now being published for inviting of objections if any within 10 days from the date of publication, after expiry of cut date no objection shall be entertained. The list of all candidates who have submitted the application form is mentioned at Annexure "A". As per the HR Policy the Block Level Selection Committee has to select to select Destitute/ Needy Married women who fulfills Educational Qualification as AWH and accordingly provisional/Tentative selection list is as per Annexure "B" is shown below.

ANNEXURE "A"

S. No	Name of Candidate	Parentage / Husbands Name	Marital Status	DOB	Name of location for which she has applied	Marks obtained as per 10 th Class Marks Sheet	Percentage of Marks
01	Shazima Akhter	D/o Farzaman Gojar Matravi	Unmarried	15-03-2004	Tangbhatto Ajas E W.No.2	272/500	54.40%
02	Rubeena Akhter	D/o Abdul Rashir Mir Gojar	Unmarried	15-02-2001	Tangbhatto Ajas E W.No.2	262/500	52.40%
03	Arim Jan	D/o Mir Zaman Gojar Matravi	Unmarried	14-03-2004	Tangbhatto Ajas E W.No.2	216/500	43.20%
04	Arifa Parveen	W/o Ishfaq Ahmad Gojar Matravi	Married	12-12-2001	Tangbhatto Ajas E W.No.2	191/500	38.20%
05	Shameema Rashid	D/o Abdul Rashir Mir Gojar	Unmarried	18-09-1998	Tangbhatto Ajas E W.No.2	186/500	37.20%

ANNEXURE "B"

S. No	Name of Candidate	Parentage/ Husband's Name	DOB	Location for which selected provisionally	Marks obtained as per 10 th Class Marks Sheet	Percentage of Marks	Remarks
01	Arifa Parveen	W/o Ishfaq Ahmad Gojar Matravi	12-12-2001	Tangbhatto Ajas E W.No.2	191/500	38.20%	Married

No: CDPO/Hjn/Estt/2026-27/
Dated:

DIPK-518-26
DT: 18/04/2026

Child Development Project Officer,
Poshan Project Hajin Bandipora.
(Chairperson/Member Secretary BLSC)

CM reviews progress of work on LD Hospital Extension Block, stresses timely completion

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Saturday inspected the ongoing construction of the Extension Block at Government Lalla Ded Hospital and conducted a comprehensive review of the project's progress, execution strategy and infrastructure development.

The upcoming facility, being developed at the premier maternity care hospital, is designed as a dedicated Infertility and Gynaecological Oncology Centre and will significantly strengthen specialised maternal and neonatal healthcare services in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the visit, the Chief Minister assessed the pace and quality of construction, reviewed augmentation of critical facilities and emphasised adherence to timelines. He directed the concerned authorities to ensure expeditious completion of the project while maintaining the highest standards of quality.

He was accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, Principal and Dean Government Medical College Srinagar Dr. (Prof) Iffat Hassan, Administrator GMC Srinagar Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Medical Superintendent LD Hospital, and senior officers from PWD (R&B), J&KERA Kash-



mir, among others. The Chief Minister was briefed on the project, which is being executed under the World Bank-funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP) by the PWD (R&B) Department at an estimated cost of ₹118.22 crore. The facility is being constructed as a G+5+attic structure with a total built-up area of about 11,640 square metres and will house around 117 specialised beds (65 adults and 52 infants) for advanced care.

Officials informed that the centre will feature state-of-the-art infrastructure including modular operation theatres, ICU, HDU, NICU, Labour, Delivery and Recovery (LDR) suites, IVF laboratories and advanced fetal intervention facilities, in line

with modern hospital standards followed at national and international levels. Highlighting the project's structural resilience, it was given that the building is being developed using advanced base isolation technology with 43 friction pendulum isolators, ensuring high seismic safety in Zone-V. The design and engineering components have been vetted by premier technical institutions to ensure quality and safety.

Reviewing the progress, the Chief Minister was informed that the foundation works and ground floor structural framework are fully in place. Installation of base isolators is at an advanced stage, while pre-engineered building (PEB) structural works are

underway across multiple zones. Procurement of major medical equipment, as well as mechanical and electrical systems, has also been initiated. The Chief Minister stressed the need for close coordination among all stakeholder departments, particularly the Health Department, to ensure uninterrupted fund flow, timely approvals and clearances, and smooth operationalisation of the facility upon completion.

Emphasising the importance of the project, he said that the new facility will mark a major milestone in upgrading healthcare infrastructure and providing specialised, accessible and high-quality care to women and newborns across Jammu and Kashmir.

Sakeena Itoo lays foundation stones for key development projects in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Saturday laid foundation stones for several key developmental projects in Kulgam district and also dedicated vital infrastructure to the public.

MLA, Kulgam, M.Y Tarigami, Mission Director ICDS, Director AYUSH, ADC Kulgam, senior officers of district administration, other sectoral officers and large number of locals were also present on the occasion.

In line with the Government's sustained push for inclusive and equitable development across Jammu & Kashmir, the Minister laid foundation stone for 'Viksit Village' at Yarikah-A, D.H Pora.

Speaking on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo said that under this flagship initiative, rural infrastructure will be improved, besides basic amenities will be significantly enhanced to transform this village into a self-reliant and sustainable place. "Government is prioritizing rural transformation through targeted investments in infrastructure, education, healthcare, and social welfare", she stated.

She added that this initiative reflects the Government's approach towards grassroots-focused development strategy.

Afterwards, the Minister also laid the foundation stone for the construction and upgradation of the Chiripora-Trengabal road under the Public Works (R&B) department at an approximate cost



of Rs. 2 crores.

Addressing the locals after foundation laying ceremony, the Minister said that this project is expected to significantly improve accessibility, reduce travel time and open new avenues for economic growth and service delivery in these areas.

Highlighting various achievements of Omar Abdullah led Government, Sakeena Itoo maintained that the Government is committed to equitable development of Jammu and Kashmir, with particular focus on rural and peripheral areas.

She outlined that the Government has accelerated rollout of rural road connectivity projects, expansion of educational infrastructure, strengthening healthcare facilities, and enhanced social security coverage to ensure that development benefits reach every section of society. She further underscored

that special focus is being laid on bridging developmental gaps in remote and underserved areas.

Later, the Minister also inaugurated a 100-bedded Girls' Hostel (KGBV - Type IV) at Kulgam, aimed at promoting access to education for girls from far-flung and disadvantaged areas.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the hostel represents a significant step towards empowering girl students by reducing dropout rates and encouraging higher enrolment in secondary and higher secondary education. She reiterated that the Government is committed to further expanding such facilities across Jammu and Kashmir to ensure equitable access to education for all.

The Minister also directed the concerned authorities to ensure the provision of modern amenities, quality services, and safe environment for girl students,

to ensure it becomes safe, secure, and quality residential accommodation.

Meanwhile, Sakeena Itoo also inaugurated Ayush Dispensary at Wovri Khull as well as building for Higher Secondary School at Khull D.H Pora.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister reaffirmed the Government's long-term vision, stating that sustained efforts are underway to build robust infrastructure, promote gender equity in education, and create livelihood opportunities, thereby ensuring comprehensive and inclusive growth across Jammu & Kashmir.

She emphasized that these initiatives are part of the government's broader vision to ensure equitable growth, improved public services, and enhanced quality of life for people in rural and underserved areas. She reiterated that the administration remains steadfast in its commitment to fast-tracking development works while ensuring transparency and accountability at every level.

Later, the Minister also visited Ardpura Khull, and witnessed the final match of Shaheed Wali Mohammad Itoo Memorial Cricket Tournament.

Interacting with the players on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo underscored the importance of sports in fostering discipline, teamwork, and a healthy lifestyle among young people. She assured participants continued government support for the promotion of sports infrastructure and youth engagement activities across the district.

Dy CM convenes public outreach programme in Nowshera

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NOWSHERA: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Saturday continued his extensive public outreach programme across Nowshera, holding a series of public interaction sessions and inspections to address the public issues and concerns and review the ongoing development works.

During the outreach programme, the Deputy Chief Minister visited Panchayat Chowki, Handan, Kalsian, Langer, Panchayat Bhawani, Janghar, Laroka, Killa Darhal and Lamberi, where he interacted with the local residents and met various public delegations.

At these locations, several delegations called on the Deputy Chief Minister, highlighting the local concerns and developmental needs. He assured them of timely and amicable resolution of their genuine issues.

The Deputy Chief Minister listened to their grievances and demands besides seeking feedback on implementation of development works in their respective



areas. He assured them that their issues would be taken up with the concerned authorities for a speedy redress.

The Deputy Chief Minister also reviewed the progress of the ongoing development works at Langer Dhanaka. He stressed strict adherence to the set quality standards and directed the officials to ensure timely completion of all the projects.

Earlier, he inspected the Bharat Gas Agency at Nowshera to assess service delivery and operational efficiency. He laid emphasis on ensuring uninterrupted and timely LPG supply while maintaining transparency and enhancing consumer satisfaction.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to grassroots engagement, the Deputy Chief Minister said that such outreach programmes are vital for strengthening the public trust and ensuring that development initiatives are aligned with the needs and aspirations of the people.

He further directed the concerned officers to remain proactive in addressing the public grievances, ensuring that all developmental works are executed efficiently and within stipulated timelines.

Senior officers accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister during the public outreach.

Javed Rana inaugurates CFC, inspects sports stadium at Mankote

GMK NEWS NETWORK

MENDHAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana Saturday inaugurated a Community Facilitation Centre (CFC) at Mankote and inspected the under-construction Sports Stadium during a public outreach visit to the area.

The CFC, constructed by the Rural Development Department at a cost of Rs. 17 lakh, is aimed at strengthening the grassroots governance and service delivery by bringing multiple public services and community activities under one roof.

"The present administration is making all endeavours to extend necessary services to the people at their door steps and setting up of CFCs in the remote areas is a part of these initiatives," Javed Rana said while addressing the locals after inaugurating the CFC.

The Minister also inspected the ongoing construction of the Sports Stadium at Mankote, being developed at an estimated cost of Rs. 58 lakh. He directed the executing



agencies to ensure timely completion with strict adherence to the set quality standards.

During the visit, several delegations and individuals called on the Minister and projected various development related issues.

A delegation of students from wGovernment Degree College Mendhar submitted a memorandum highlighting the concerns regarding the need for a girls' hostel and a multi-purpose hall.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the delegations and assured them that their genuine demands would be examined on priority for appropriate action.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to balanced and inclusive development, the Minister said that strengthening infrastructure and addressing the public grievances remain key priorities to ensure improved facilities and opportunities for the people of the region.

SEC reviews Revision of Panchayat Electoral Rolls in Udhampur, Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: State Election Commissioner, Jammu & Kashmir, Shantmanu Saturday conducted an extensive tour of Udhampur and Jammu districts to review the ongoing progress of the Revision of Panchayat Electoral Rolls-2026.

During the visit, the State Election Commissioner inspected special camps at Panchayat Ghar Tikri, Mand East and West and Panchayat Ghar Garnai in Udhampur district besides Panchayat Ghar Bhajhar Kotli, BDO offices Dansal and Nagrota in Jammu district.

The State Election Commissioner inspected the ongoing special camps and interacted with the Booth Level Officers, (BLOs), Panchayat Election Booth Officers (PEBOs) and members of the panchayats. He reviewed the status and progress of the revision exercise and sought feedback regarding the enrolment of newly eligible voters.

Shantmanu also assessed the submission of forms related to inclu-

sion, deletion, correction and transposition in the Panchayat electoral rolls. He directed the concerned officials to further intensify the outreach during the revision period to identify all the eligible voters, facilitate registrations and ensure that no deserving voter is left out.

Emphasizing the importance of the exercise, the State Election Commissioner stressed the need to ensure 100 percent inclusion of all eligible voters in the Panchayat electoral rolls, thereby strengthening transparency, accuracy and inclusiveness in the electoral process.

During the tour, the State Election Commissioner also visited and inspected the Special Migrant Camps at Zonal Office Relief (Migrant), Udhampur and Jagti Township Nagrota. He had feedback from the concerned authorities on the ongoing process.

The residents of Jagti Township also interacted with the State Election Commissioner and briefed him regarding the electoral roll process.

Satish Sharma visits Kathua; outlines roadmap for development, youth empowerment

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, Saturday visited Kathua and convened an exclusive interactive session with the public at Brahman Sabha, Kathua.

While addressing on the occasion, the Minister spoke on a wide range of public issues and shared the government's vision and roadmap for holistic development of Jammu

& Kashmir, with special focus on youth empowerment, infrastructure development and improved public services.

The Minister emphasized that sustained efforts are being made to strengthen the governance and accelerate development across all sectors in the region.

Highlighting key initiatives, he announced that new bus services will be started connecting various religious places to facilitate the pilgrims and promote tourism. He further informed that 10 new buses will be added in

every district to augment the public transport and improve connectivity.

Underscoring the government's focus on employment generation, the Minister stated that avenues are being created to provide employment opportunities to around 50,000 youth. He also highlighted that the present administration is working in a mission mode to make Jammu and Kashmir a hub of sports excellence

he added that two modern stadiums will be developed with facilities meeting the standards required for

hosting IPL matches.

The Minister stressed that the government has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against drug abuse and is waging a sustained war the dreaded menace. He called upon the youth and society at large to actively support the ongoing anti-drug campaign.

Speaking on education reforms, the Minister informed that the process related to CUET for college students of Jammu and Kashmir has been eased to ensure greater convenience and accessibility for the aspiring students.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE ZONAL EDUCATION OFFICER SHADIMARGH.

Ms. Tanzeela Akhter,
AAYA Primary School Banjaran
Zone Shadimargh.

Subject: Notice for Un-authorized Absence from duty.

Reference: Headmaster PS Banjaran's No. PSB/308/26 Dated: 28-03-2026.

Madam,

Whereas, you were engaged as AAYA in Govt Primary School Banjaran by this office vide order No. ZEO/S/Estt/2023/2025-28 Dated: 22-11-2023.

Whereas, as per the report of the Headmaster Primary School Banjaran submitted to this office vide above referred reference, you have remained un-authorizedly absent from your duties w.e.f 20-02-2026 thereby affecting the smooth functioning of the school and you have been time and again asked to resume your duties through several notices and telephonically, but you did not respond (ill date and remained continuously absent).

Now therefore, in view of the above, you are finally asked/informed through the medium of this notice to resume your duties within a period of 07-days from the date of publication of (his notice in print media, failing which it shall be deemed that you have no interest with the job and you shall be terminated without any further notice.

No: ZEO/S/Estt/26/4833
Dated: 06-04-2026.

DIPK-539-26
DT: 18/04/2026

Zonal Education Officer
Shadimargh

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Facing A Challenge Head-On

The Jammu and Kashmir government's decision to take over 58 more schools linked to the banned Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir and its associate Falah-e-Aam Trust brings into focus a delicate challenge—how to address security concerns without unsettling the education of thousands of students.

From the government's standpoint, the move follows legal backing under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 and is based on security and intelligence inputs. In that sense, the administration is acting within its mandate. But beyond the legal framework lies a more human concern: the continuity of schooling for children who depend on these institutions every day.

For students and parents, schools are not political entities—they are places of learning, routine, and hope. Any sudden administrative change can create anxiety, especially when exams, admissions, and daily classes are involved. This makes the government's assurance of uninterrupted academic activity not just important, but essential.

The earlier takeover of a large number of such schools showed that while control can be transferred quickly, maintaining stability on the ground takes effort. Teachers need clarity, students need reassurance, and parents need confidence that their children's education will not suffer.

This is where communication becomes key. While security considerations may limit what can be shared publicly, a lack of clear information can lead to confusion and mistrust. Keeping communities informed—at least about how academic functioning will be protected—can go a long way in easing concerns.

The next step will be equally crucial. New management committees must not only meet official criteria but also be capable, credible, and responsive to local needs. Their role will determine whether these schools continue to function smoothly or struggle through the transition.

In the end, the real measure of this decision will be simple: do classrooms continue to run as usual, and do students remain unaffected? If the answer is yes, the transition will have served its purpose. Because whatever the larger considerations may be, education must remain steady, reliable, and above all, undisturbed.

Business Of Seats And Dreams



JUNAID QURESHI

Chana masala wrapped in an old newspaper at the riverside slopes near bund-road in Srinagar and the desultoriness of this afternoon. Aimlessly wandering into the past had become a recurring animation, while I imagined the Jhelum coming to a standstill and carefully trying to listen to all that I whispered to myself.

This is the story of two Martyrs. My father and me. He is Shaheed, while I am Shahid. He was a Mujahid, who died at the hands of the Indian Security forces while fighting for what he believed in. I am a witness, who saw how one man's death became another man's bread.

Science had been my favourite stream and becoming a doctor my dream. Although, I managed to secure percentages of above 95 in 10th and 12th standard, I had failed to qualify for a medical seat in the Common Entrance Test (CET). Perhaps, I was not capable enough to be a doctor. Maybe being lucky among thousands of students applying for just 150 odd seats, was not my destiny. The protective discrimination of scheduled casts, scheduled tribes, other backward classes and the sports quota, which in essence protected vote-banks, failed to protect my dreams.

My quota was to be found somewhere else. The quota of the orphans of the freedom struggle. While the sacred land has one Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, in Kashmir we had two main custodians of one holy movement. With of course some branch offices.

The promised quota made me knock the doors of one of these custodians of the freedom struggle. Those who had given my widowed mother a copy of the Holy Quran, assuming that it would suffice and cater to the worldly needs of her and her orphaned children.

The name of my father got me an entry into the palace of one such custodian. He praised him and complimented me for my steadfastness while going through my mark sheets. He explained to me that I was too late for this year's admissions, but promised me that he will secure my admission the next year.

I believed him. In the wake of his assurance, I started working as a salesman in a local dry fruit shop at Polo View while eagerly waiting for the year to pass. A year, which seemingly had longer days than any of the years before. The next spring, I went back. I was given a form to fill in and instructed to submit it along with all the other required documents at the High Commission of Pakistan in Delhi. The signed recommen-



dated letter from the custodian of the freedom movement attached to the form would serve as the seal of merit.

A few months after returning from Delhi and much closer to the dates of admission, I decided to inquire about the time of my departure to the Land of the Pure. I was told that due to some miscommunication at the High Commission, my admission could not be realized. The miscommunication could not be repaired either, as other 'deserving' students had already been selected.

I was told to come back next year. Disenchanted, I started to make my way out of the gates of this fairy-tale compound with its palace into the reality of the world outside. The world, where I belonged. Just before stepping outside, an aide of the custodian of the freedom struggle turned up behind me and put his arm around my shoulder.

We stepped out. Into the real world, where he presented a very worldly proposition. "You will never become a doctor this way. I can arrange a Visa for you and my friend in Pakistan will meet you and arrange your admission. Don't worry". This man seemed to be part of some divine intervention before the angel of death could suck the soul out of my dreams. "What will I have to do?", I asked. "1 Lakh Rupees and I will arrange everything", he whispered. I stared at his face. He nodded his head and repeated, "I will arrange everything". My selfish dreams bargained with my widowed mother and I convinced her to sell off the scarce jewelry she had, in order to defray my expensive journey to success.

After paying the agent of the custodian of the freedom movement and collecting my visa at the High Commission in Delhi, I reached Lahore via Amritsar through Wagah Border and contacted Basit. The agent of the custodian of the freedom movement. The next day, Basit and I went to the University of Lahore to fill in the forms of admission and clear all other formalities. It was apparent that Basit was a known face here. During the formalities, we were told that everything was fine except a so-called 'Equivalence

Letter' which would ensure my admission. Basit assured me that getting such a letter would not take long and that he will arrange for it. He left me at cheap hotel on College Road in Lahore. I had to wait for his call.

I decided to call Basit after a few days and he again promised me that it would not take long. He assured me that I should not worry. I asked him what exactly an 'Equivalence Letter' meant and offered my help in attaining one. Without explaining, he said: "I told you not to worry. I will arrange everything". A few more days passed without a call from Basit. I decided to call him again. To my utter shock, his phone was switched off. I checked the number and called again and again, but his phone remained switched off. I kept calling Basit and then reality started to sink in. My visa would expire in 2 weeks, I was running out of money and the only person I knew here, had betrayed me. In utter frustration, I started looking for Basit in the city of Lahore.

I inquired about Medical colleges in Lahore and started visiting them. My helplessness asked shopkeepers in which colleges Kashmiri students could be found. I started visiting the places where Kashmiris ate. I looked everywhere for him but Basit seemed to have disappeared off the face of the earth.

In my search to find Basit, I reached a small canteen type restaurant close to the Allama Iqbal Medical College, where I found some Kashmiri boys having a cup of tea and samosas while they were talking in Kashmiri. I approached them and without any pleasantries or introducing myself, asked, "Do you know a man called Basit who arranges admission here?"

They looked at me. I started to turn around and search further, when one of the boys said in Kashmiri, "What happened, brother?"

It made me sit down. They listened patiently and after I had finished, their faces showed a blend of cynicism and sympathy. Perhaps even bordering arrogance and a bit sarcasm on either my stupidity or naiveté.

The boys told me that I had been

fooled by the custodian of the freedom movement, the man in Srinagar and Basit. They explained that it doesn't work the way I thought it did. "The first form you filled in and submitted to the High Commission in Delhi, reaches back to the Separatist Camp in Kashmir after the necessary formalities and they have to select the candidates whom they desire to give admission out of their quota. The Separatists have a total number of at least 60 medical seats each year". "These seats are meant for the children of the Martyrs, but you will not find any of them here. The seats are mostly distributed among the family members of the separatists. Some are given to the party workers and their family members. Others are given to the children of acquaintances, doctors, engineers, political allies and even bureaucrats. The remaining ones are sold for anything between 5 to 8 Lakhs".

I kept listening and believing them in disbelief. "What is an Equivalence letter?", I asked. "You will only receive such a letter after the Ministry of Higher Education has evaluated and certified your degrees. They will only certify it if you can produce a NOC from India and an endorsement letter from a gazetted officer here in Pakistan. But the main thing, is a recommendation letter from the Separatists, which states that you are at least sympathetic to the movement if not totally anti-Indian. Every Kashmiri who studies in Pakistan has to have such a recommendation letter. Without it, no Kashmiri will get any kind admission".

"But a recommendation letter will only ensure your admission. You still will have to pay the fees, hostel charges and all other expenses yourself. What really will translate into a free education is one of those 60 seats. That will ensure that you will not have to pay any fees or hostel charges. It will be absolutely free. On top of that, the government of Pakistan will give you 10,000 Pakistani Rupees every month to cover your expenses". "That is what all of us have", they said. With a dry throat I asked, "And what do your parents do?"

Aadil was the son of a Chief Engineer in Srinagar. Faizan's father was a doctor. Khalid's father was a well-known businessman and Irfan was a relative of the wife of a Separatist leader. Wives, who had their own separate quota of seats in Pakistan. Just like people like me.

The chana's where almost finished. I brought the wrapped newspaper close to my mouth. Emptying it in my mouth unveiled an advertisement at the bottom of this wrapped, cone-like piece of old newspaper which read, "MBBS in Pakistan".

I looked at it and crumbled the paper and threw it in the Jhelum. Let it flow to damn Pakistan.

Author is the Director of European Foundation for South Asian Studies (EFSAS). He can be reached at: j.qureshi@efsas.org

Why Women's Reservation Will Transform Indian Democracy



SHOBHA KARANDLAJE

While taking my first oath as a Minister of State, I looked around the packed room and made a count. The number of women present in that space could be counted on a single hand. This visual left a mark, not as a personal achievement, but as a clear indication of the long distance that women are yet to traverse in the public sphere.

I belong to a small village near Puttur in coastal Karnataka, a traditionally rich region, where women have always shown their resilience and strength. I know what it meant to channel that strength into public life, to walk a path that few had walked before and how not every woman gets the same chance with that same fire.

The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam has already been passed. The Parliament spoke in September 2023; the Constitution was amended but now comes the difficult part: keeping that word.

Democracy That Represents Its People

India is home to 670 million women but for many long years, our lawmakers have represented merely 15% of that population. A democracy which continuously excludes half of its citizens from the process of decision-making cannot be considered as true democracy; it



remains a work in progress.

The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam is an important step towards completing this endeavour, but a law on paper holds little value unless it is effectively executed. The census needs to be conducted. Following that, delimitation must occur, and one third of the seats in both Parliament and every state assembly should be occupied by women in due course.

When women are included at the table where laws are made, the focal point of legislation changes. Panchayati Raj institutions where 33% reservation for women was implemented decades ago show a measurable shift in priorities. More budgets were allocated to water, health, education and child nutrition. There was less tolerance for corruption and more accountability to communities. It is not mere a coincidence. It is representation in action.

I have heard the argument that women should rise "on their own merit." I respect the sentiment, but I reject the premise. Merit does not exist in a vacuum. It flourishes where opportunity exists.

For generations, structural barriers- social, economic and cultural- have kept brilliant women out of politics. The selection process for candidates has always favoured those who have well established networks and contacts, inherited political capital and freedom from domestic responsibilities. Women, on the other hand, have had none of these advantages in their favour.

Reservation does not lower the bar. It removes the wall. Women were initially dismissed when they entered Panchayats in large numbers. Eventually, in study after study, they were rated as more effective, more accessible, and more honest than their male counterparts by their own communities. When given a fair chance, women do not just participate. They lead.

My extensive experience in the government has taught me that who is in the room determines what is discussed. Women legislators push for maternal health funding when it would otherwise be cut. They flag the gendered impact of policies that might fall hardest on women in practice. They bring constituency concerns that male colleagues, through no fault of their own, simply do not encounter.

33% reservation in Parliament and state assemblies means that for the first time, these voices will not be exceptional. They will be structural. Permanent. Impossible to ignore.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has long held that India cannot realise its full potential without the full and equal participation of its women. This is not rhetoric, but a conviction that has driven policy after policy, from Beti Bachao Beti Padhao to the record inclusion of women in Jan Dhan, Ujjwala and PM

Awas Yojana. He has consistently spoken about Nari Shakti not as a slogan but as the foundation of a Viksit Bharat. The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam is the fullest expression of that vision, bringing women's empowerment from welfare into the very structure of governance.

This is a moment that belongs to all of us, not to any one party, but to Parliament as an institution. I appeal to all as a woman who has served this nation at every level of government, and I believe we all share the same desire to see India's democracy stronger and more complete. What we owe to the women of India now is urgency, in conducting the census, completing delimitation, and ensuring not a single day is lost needlessly.

I understand the concerns around implementation, rotation of reserved seats, proxy candidates, sunset clauses. These are legitimate debates but we need to ensure that this gets immediate attention. The principle is sound. The need is urgent. Let us not allow the perfect to be the enemy of the transformative.

History was made in September 2023. But history is only as meaningful as what follows it. A country that chooses to be just does its silent, lasting work of living by the laws it passes. For every young girl in any community who aspires to serve her country, for the leader who has never had a platform, and for the voice that has never been given a microphone, now is the time to act. Implement this law. Make the room bigger. India is watching.

(The author is the Union Minister of State for MSME and Labour & Employment)

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The Hunger We Choose To Ignore



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

The world faces a paradox: massive amounts of food are being wasted, while millions struggle with hunger. This is not just an irony, but a reflection of the profound flaws in our current food system. While production continues to rise, there are significant disparities in distribution, storage, and consumption, preventing food from reaching those in need. This is why food waste and hunger coexist globally.

The situation in India provides a striking example of this global landscape. Despite the country's abundant food production, hunger and malnutrition persist. While some improvement has been recorded in recent years, this improvement is too limited to be considered satisfactory. A large number of people still lack adequate nutrition, and the incidence of child malnutrition is a cause for concern. This situation clearly demonstrates that the problem lies not in a lack of production, but in the inefficiency of resource management and distribution.

The problem of food waste is not only economic, but also social and environmental. When food is wasted, the water, energy, and labor used in its production are also wasted. Furthermore, the gases emitted from rotting food harm the environment. Thus, food waste also contributes to climate change. It is a vicious cycle that involves both resource wastage and environmental damage.

The roots of this problem extend from production to consumption. Large quantities of crops are lost at



the farm level, often due to a lack of proper storage facilities, transportation delays, and natural disasters. Fruits and vegetables, which are perishable, are particularly hard hit. Farmers lack adequate cold storage facilities, forcing them to either sell their produce early or let it spoil. This not only causes economic losses for farmers but also impacts food supplies.

Supply chain weaknesses exacerbate this problem. There are numerous stages between production and consumption, with potential for loss at each stage. Inadequate transportation, storage, and distribution systems result in large quantities of food being lost before reaching markets. Oversupply in markets also leads to food being discarded because there

are no proper storage or transportation systems.

The situation is no less worrying at the consumer level. Food wastage is common in homes, hotels, and events. People often buy more food than they need and then fail to use it all. Excessive vigilance regarding expiration dates also often leads to unnecessary waste. This problem is even more pronounced at weddings and other social events, where, in the name of prestige, far more food is prepared than necessary, a large portion of which ultimately ends up in the trash.

Policy and institutional deficiencies also play a significant role in this entire scenario. Most government policies focus on increasing production, while waste management receives relatively little attention.

Investment in cold chain and storage infrastructure is inadequate, and the existing schemes have limited impact. Furthermore, no strict regulations or punitive provisions have been widely implemented to reduce food waste. This situation demonstrates the need to approach the problem holistically.

To address this challenge, a comprehensive and coordinated effort is required. First, infrastructure improvements are essential. Cold storage and modern warehousing facilities must be expanded to ensure the safe storage of perishable goods. Special attention is needed in rural areas, where such facilities are most lacking. Additionally, transportation and logistics systems must be strengthened to ensure timely and safe delivery of food to markets.

The use of technology can also play a crucial role in this direction. Digital platforms and data-driven systems can better predict demand and supply, preventing unnecessary production and wastage. Furthermore, modern technologies can be used to convert food waste into energy or compost, thereby reducing environmental impact.

Policy reforms are also crucial. The government should enact laws and policies that encourage the reduction of food waste and curb unnecessary waste. Mandatory provisions can be made for hotels, restaurants, and large events to distribute leftover food to those in need. Furthermore, farmers must be protected against crop losses to ensure they remain financially secure.

Community and educational initiatives can also play an important role in this direction. There is a need to raise awareness among people so that they understand the importance of food and avoid wasting it. This topic can be included in the curriculum in schools and colleges, thus making the new generation more responsible. Furthermore, initiatives to distribute surplus food to those in need through social organizations and voluntary organizations should be encouraged.

Ultimately, solving this problem cannot be achieved through the efforts of a single party. It requires collaboration between the government, the private sector, farmers, and ordinary citizens. Only by adopting a holistic and circular approach can we reduce food waste and address hunger.

It's clear that food waste isn't just a waste of resources, but a systemic failure that calls into question our priorities and policies. If we take this challenge seriously and make a coordinated effort, we can not only reduce hunger but also move towards a more just and sustainable society.

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

Why Land Records Will Remain Broken Without A Human Reset

MOHD AMIN MIR

For years now, digitisation has been pitched as the ultimate solution for solving India's land administration issues by scanning all of the obsolete record books, putting them into a digital database and then magically restoring legal title and eliminating corruption, disputants will have nothing more to argue about. However, an in-depth analysis of the land records in Jammu & Kashmir shows that without the facts behind digitisation we are left with only a complicated mess of confusion.

This fundamental issue that the original land area of a village, based on its first settlement, bears little or no relationship to the current total area of that village, as found in our current digitised record system, is not just a typographical error but, at its worst, or at best, an embarrassing footnote in the history of how we record land title in India. This is a foundational crisis. This demonstrates that we have placed a shiny new high-tech digital construct on top of the aged sandy soil, and that sandy soil is going to be around longer than we like to admit.

Chain and compass-based settlement records created under British Rule or the Dogra regime are considered Holy Scriptures. All current alteration comparatives are produced against these settlement records. But there was a significant number of assumptions made when creating those initial surveys - uneven ground, primitive tools and simply omitting specific lands.

We mistakenly believed that because a document is old, it held up to be true, and we spent crores of Rupees converting historic rounding errors to permanent digital records as fact. The ultimate result is what has become our Kafkaesque reality. In one case, as opposed to the "digital" reality of a farmer's Jamabandi being 5 kanals, the collective physical area of the village's digital record may equate to less than what actually exists on Earth.

The mutation process is a silent cause of geometric chaos and has led to a disregard for the owner of a property after a sale or inheritance and instead has been used as a mechanism to create geo-metric



chaos during the subdivision of subdivisions. When a landowner divides 10 kanals of land into five heirs, each heir will receive fractional titles. These fractional titles have been incorrectly defined for decades or generations, leading to many acres of land disappearing due to rounding errors that have accumulated over time.

In addition to rounding errors, many mutations are created without a physical measurement of the land that is mentioned in the Fujaira Register. The Patwari has updated the landowner's name but has not verified the size of the land as recorded by the Patwari (Fujaira Register) with what size the land is physically. Over time, the size of the land as recorded in the Fujaira Register and the size of the land as measured physically have created a disconnect or discrepancy between these two measurements. Digitising has only served to further amplify the reasons for this disconnect; it

has made the categories of disconnect and discrepancy more visible and embarrassing.

Encroachment remains one of the most sensitive political issues, and Shamilat (common land) and other forms of unclassified land (such as forest and state land), as well as private holdings, have been slowly disappearing from the records but the number of private holdings has increased. This typifies informal regularisation, political patronage or sheer inaction/indifference.

The overall result is a statistical mirage, as the total recorded area of the village may have remained unchanged, but the content of that area has been gradually 'stolen'. When the digital record is not able to record Shamilat land, for example, because it does not exist anymore or the physical presence of land that can be described as private but was a nullah prior to encroachment, the entire system is fundamentally flawed. The only way to correct this

is via a physical resurvey and political will to deal with encroachers; no amount of software upgrade can accomplish this.

While GPS, drones, and satellite images are important, they do not solve the underlying issues - which are institutional in nature. For example, the Revenue, Forest and Irrigation Departments all maintain separate and often opposing records. For example, a single plot of land may be recorded as agricultural within the Jamabandi, but as a forest on the map of the Forest Department. The digitisation of these records has led to the entrenchment of these silos even further.

Additionally, there is a limit to what can be done without a human being present on the ground. For example, Patwaris and Girdawars are often overworked, poorly trained, and resistant to change. If there is no major effort to increase capacity and firm audits, the use of digital tools will simply mean that

incorrect information is now produced at a faster rate.

To clarify, an immovable condition should no longer be assigned as an established truth as it is a point in history that will remain a point of record; therefore every village should be resurveyed legally on a one-time basis with use of technology throughout the country, and the physical area as determined via resurvey will represent the new legal baseline for each village. All prior records shall be considered presumptive evidence and not conclusive proof of boundary location.

The resurvey shall be implemented with a period for public review and verification during which time residents of the respective village may contest the boundaries of their village. Finalization of the results of the resurvey shall result in a digitally maintained record of the resurveyed village that is permanent and will not be changed without facility as to reconciliation and resurvey mapping.

Failure to do anything about this mismatch will just continue to make it bigger. Every time we have a new mutation, every time we digitize some documents and every time we do not correct our intrusion into someone else's property, we add yet another layer of falsehood to the records. This will result in Courts continually being overwhelmed with boundary disputes, development projects endlessly being challenged over compensation issues and a complete destruction of the already tenuous trust that exists between the public and Land Governance.

For decades, we've gloriously celebrated the digitization of documents moving from being paper based to being digital, but we have never asked the hard question as to whether the paper was right to begin with.

The answer, in village after village, is that it was not. Until we get the courage to face that truth and do something about it, the ghost in the digital machine will continue to follow every farmer, planner and judge relying on land that has never matched, to the land under them, as per the records.

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Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyaan

Adopt outcome driven approach: Saurabh Bhagat tells officials

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: To evaluate the progress and impact of the ongoing 100 day intensive campaign under Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyaan, Commissioner Secretary Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Saurabh Bhagat, who is also the District Mentor for Anantnag, Saturday virtually held a comprehensive meeting with the concerned officers of the district.

The meeting mainly focused on outcome-driven initiatives and was attended by Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat, SP, Sunny Gupta, SDMs, ACD, CMO, College Principals, DSWO and other officials.

Expressing satisfaction on progress of the district, the Commissioner Secretary emphasized that the campaign must focus on the tangible outcomes through a multi pronged and holistic approach. He called for proper identification, treatment and rehabilitation of the victims on scientific lines while strictly maintaining their privacy. He directed the CMO to analyze drug use pattern, specifically class and intake route of drugs, to ensure targeted interventions are made by the authorities. He further stressed the need for a robust follow-up system to prevent relapse in recovered victims.

The Commissioner Secretary issued directions that



teachers and other officials be trained as professional counselors to mentor the vulnerable students and specifically reach out to school dropouts. He further called for tough action on cannabis cultivation belts and intensified surveillance in tourist areas and hotels to break the supply chain. To create a strong deterrent, law enforcement agencies must impart wide publicity to the legal actions such as seizures, arrests and property attachments through print and social media, he remarked.

During the session, the Commissioner Secretary noted that the success stories of recovered victims and testimonials

of their parents, on voluntary basis, be shared through social media and other platforms, to inspire hope and change within the community.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner provided a comprehensive briefing on the district's multi-pronged approach, which included district, department and Panchayat-level action plans. He highlighted the success of awareness rallies, sports activities and the active involvement of influencers and religious leaders who are using their platforms to denounce drug abuse.

The district has also prioritized the sensitization of tuition centers and the monitoring of courier services to prevent the illicit transport of substances while maintaining a close vigil on hotspots via CCTV surveillance and regular raids. Besides, identification, treatment and rehabilitation of victims through DDAC and ATF also featured in DCs briefing.

SP updated on enforcement efforts including seizures, convictions and the attachment of properties belonging to drug suppliers and peddlers.

Concluding the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary asked the DC to explore the establishment of a larger and augmented Drug De-addiction Centre (DDAC) to cater to the treatment and rehabilitation of possibly higher number of identified victims in future.

'No RFID, No Darshan' Rule enforced

RFID-Based Smart Yatra Management introduced for Machail Mata Yatra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR: The District Administration Kishtwar, under the supervision of the Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and with execution led by the Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, has announced comprehensive, technology-driven arrangements for the upcoming Shri Machail Mata Yatra, which commenced on the auspicious occasion of Vaisakhi on April 14.

The yatra marks the ceremonial return of the revered deity from the winter abode at the house of Pehalwan Singh to the main shrine.

Addressing the media today, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kishtwar, Pawan Kotwal extended greetings to devotees and outlined a series of new measures designed to ensure a safe, smooth and efficiently managed pilgrimage.

In a significant shift from previous years, the administration has made the entire registration process fully online and introduced a mandatory Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) system for all pilgrims.

The earlier hybrid system has been discontinued, and devotees must now register through the official portal before undertaking the journey. During registration, pilgrims are required to upload their photograph, mobile number, and address, after which a unique travel ID is generated. RFID cards will be issued at designated centers upon verification, and the administration has made it clear that the rule of "No RFID, No Darshan" will be strictly enforced throughout the yatra.

To enhance safety and oversight, a 24/7 control room has been established at the SDM Office in Gulabgarh, equipped with advanced surveillance

systems. Sensitive and high-traffic locations along the route, including Chashoti, Hummori, intermediate stretches and the Darshani Gate are being continuously monitored.

Live surveillance feeds are accessible to senior officials, including the Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar and the Senior Superintendent of Police Kishtwar, enabling real-time supervision and rapid response to any situation.

The administration has also deployed high-tech systems for crowd and traffic management, including AI-enabled video surveillance to monitor crowd density and public address systems for instant communication with pilgrims.

Vehicle movement from Gulabgarh to key yatra points is being strictly regulated and drivers have been instructed to adhere to all safety guidelines, particularly regarding passenger limits.

A dedicated communication network has been established to ensure uninterrupted connectivity along the route, independent of third-party telecom providers and compliant with Department of Telecommunications norms.

In addition, real-time weather alerts are being issued to help pilgrims plan their yatra safely and avoid potential risks.

Pilgrims have been instructed to wear their RFID cards visibly at all times during the journey and to return them at designated exit points, especially at Gulabgarh, after completing darshan.

The ADC emphasized that these initiatives represent a major step forward in ensuring pilgrim safety, improving operational efficiency and enabling real-time monitoring throughout the yatra.

The shrine has remained open to devotees since April 14 and pilgrims are encouraged to take part in the sacred journey and seek blessings under the enhanced management system.

Javid Dar attends review meeting with Union RDD Mini Shivraj Singh Chouhan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, Saturday participated in an online review meeting convened by Union Minister for Rural Development Department, Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The meeting was held with Ministers in charge of Rural Development from States and Union Territories to review the status of implementation of MGN-REGA and seek suggestions for The Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) which is being rolled out for implementation shortly.

During the deliberations, Javid Dar raised key issues concerning Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the need for enhancement of MGN-REGA wage rates in hilly regions from Rs 272 to Rs 311, keeping in view the unique geographical and economic conditions of the area.

He also emphasized that the revision should be in line with the Minimum Wages framework and sought adequate financial support from the Government of India for clearing the pending material liabilities as the system is transitioning towards implementation of new framework under VB G RAM G Mission.

Special Lok-Adalat for Labour Disputes, Land Acquisition cases held in Pulwama

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: A Special Lok-Adalat for Labour Disputes and Land Acquisition cases was organized in District Court Complex and other sub-ordinate courts of District Pulwama Saturday under the Chairmanship of Malik Shabir Ahmad, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. District & Sessions Judge), Pulwama and under the supervision of Mudasar Farooq, Secretary DLSA Pulwama.

By the concerted efforts of all presiding officers of all the courts, cooperation rendered by the learned advocates, a total number of 21 cases were taken up by one bench in the district out of which 16 cases were settled in the said Lok-Adalat. An amount of Rs1050 was awarded as settlement amount.

..... FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Kashmir's first Hajj

mixed with happiness, calling the pilgrimage a blessing for the entire family.

Officials said three flights carrying a total of 431 pilgrims departed from Srinagar on the first day, including 230 men and 201 women.

Executive Officer of the Haj Committee, Dr Shujaat Ahmad Qureshi told KNO that all arrangements, including transport, baggage handling, medical screening and documentation, had been put in place to ensure smooth departures.

"We have made all necessary arrangements for the comfort and convenience of pilgrims. The process remained smooth since morning," he said.

Later, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah formally saw off the first batch of pilgrims at Srinagar International Airport. He interacted with the devotees, extended greetings and wished them a safe, peaceful and spiritually fulfilling journey.

CM Abdullah prayed for successful completion of Haj and sought blessings for peace, harmony and prosperity in Jammu & Kashmir.

Officials said 28 flights will operate between April 18 and May 5 to facilitate the pilgrimage this year. A total of 4,704 pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir are scheduled to perform Haj in 2026—(KNO)

CM Omar sees

warm greetings and wishing them a safe, peaceful and spiritually fulfilling journey. He expressed hope that the sacred pilgrimage would reinforce the values of compassion, unity and brotherhood.

Speaking to the pilgrims, the Chief Minister prayed for the successful completion of Haj and sought divine blessings for lasting peace, harmony and prosperity in Jammu & Kashmir, as well as the well-being of its people.

As part of the first phase of operations, three flights carrying 431 pilgrims were scheduled to depart today from Srinagar International Airport. In total, 28 flights will operate between April 18 and May 5, 2026, to facilitate the pilgrimage.

This year, 4,706 pilgrims from Jammu & Kashmir will perform Haj.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Director Airport Srinagar, senior civil and police officials, members of the J&K Haj Committee, Airport Authority officials, and representatives of concerned departments were present on the occasion.

Not all wars

nor criminals will be spared," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted that prevention anchors Drug-Free J&K campaign and he considers that prevention

is mightier than any cure in such cases.

"We must reach our children before drugs do, igniting awareness and self-respect in every school, college, playground, and community hub," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also called upon J&K Police and other enforcement agencies to ensure exemplary punishment for drug smugglers.

"Make sure no culprit escapes. We should unleash exemplary crackdowns on traffickers poisoning our youth. Those ruining generations won't slip away," the Lieutenant Governor said further adding that administration has crafted an SoP to obliterate drug smugglers networks and ensuring swift justice.

The Lieutenant Governor said that from detection and counseling to detox, rehab, and aftercare, our pledge is total rehabilitation. He asked the officials to audit weekly activities including list of rehabbed lives, list of arrested smugglers while ensuring that fake centers are shuttered.

"We will restore people's dignity, reconnect them to our shared society, and unleash their potential to build Rajouri's brighter future. This mission demands more than government efforts. I call upon every social organization and NGOs to join us in this noble endeavor," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor administered the Anti-Drug pledge and also launched Rajouri Premier League and Rajouri Football Club under the Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan.

Artists through Musical opera spread awareness on the devastating impacts of substance abuse.

LG inaugurates

and senior officials of security forces, police and civil administration were also present.

Arrangement for RS

the non-availability of an electorate (MLAs).

In the Rajya Sabha polls, the National Conference won three seats and the Bharatiya Janata Party one seat, despite being short of numbers.

As many as eight MLAs, who had pledged support to the ruling NC-led alliance, cross-voted or cancelled their votes to help the BJP win a seat.

It is rumoured in political circles that the BJP also managed to secure support from legislator(s) belonging to a party considered its arch-rival—(KNO)

Govt takes over

Falah-e-Aam Trust.

The government had said the validity of the managing committees of these schools had expired, and also their panels have been "reported adversely" by the intelligence

agencies.

It had said the decision to take over management of such institutions was taken in order to safeguard the academic future of the students enrolled in these schools.

Kashmir Transporters

created unequal competition, particularly for small and mid-scale transporters already burdened by loan liabilities, fuel prices, maintenance costs and declining passenger volume.

He said many operators had hoped the government would regulate route allocations in a balanced manner, but instead, public buses were introduced on routes where private operators had traditionally depended for income.

Matta further said the transporters are not opposing development or modern public transport systems, but are demanding a policy framework that protects those already working in the sector.

Repeated assurances from authorities regarding permit rationalisation, fleet regulation and operational coordination were never implemented, leading to frustration among unions," he said.

The association said Monday's shutdown is only the first step and warned that if authorities fail to respond, transport bodies from north, south, and central Kashmir will jointly decide the next phase of agitation. "That could include indefinite strikes, route blockades, coordinated demonstrations and legal action," he said.

Transport leaders appealed to the public for understanding, saying their protest is aimed at highlighting "policy failures" rather than creating inconvenience.

With the strike expected to affect buses, minibuses, taxis and other passenger services, commuters across the Valley may face serious travel disruption on Monday. Students, office-goers, patients and daily wage workers are likely to be the most affected, particularly in areas with limited alternative transport—(KNO)

'Women's Power Bill

Amendment Bill following the debate on the three bills, 298 members voted in favour and 230 against.

With Constitution Amendment Bill defeated, the government later said it did not want to pursue the two other linked bills.

The bills aimed to take the strength of Lok Sabha from 543 to 816 with 33 per cent reservation for women. The delimitation was to be carried out based on the 2011 census. The government said there will be proportionate increase in seats for all states.

Opposition parties said that they are strongly in favour of women's reservation but were against the Delimitation Bill. They called upon the government to implement the women's reservation in the existing strength of Lok Sabha. (ANI)

India summons Iran

Earlier this week, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar underlined India's strong commitment to "safe and unimpeded" transit passage of maritime shipping, even as he emphasised that attacks on merchant shipping are "completely unacceptable".

The EAM said this in his remarks while participating in 'AZEC Plus' online meeting convened by Japan to discuss supply chain disruptions in the energy markets.

J&K launches QR

and other details about that person," an official said.

When tourists scan the code with their mobile phones, they can check complete information about the person concerned, the officials said.

The initiative acts as a proper and registered identification system that would curb fraud and ensure that no unauthorised individuals are working or claiming to be associated with tourism, they said.

"The system helps identify tourism providers and ensure that visitors are dealing with an authorised service provider. Before trusting an individual, the tourists can scan the QR code and check the details about that person.

"This will help them verify the credentials of the service provider, thereby building their trust and also improving the security environment," an official said.

The QR codes contain the service provider's name, parentage, detailed address, mobile number, Aadhaar number, registration number, operational route, and whether he or she is police-verified, the officials said.

The tourism stakeholders have welcomed the initiative, calling it a good step for the authenticity of the service providers and the safety of tourists.

They said the initiative will help in gaining the trust of the visitors. "The overall security has been strengthened after last year's attack. As far as service providers are concerned, we have been given QR codes after document verification; our Aadhaar numbers are linked as well," Ghulam Hassan, a service provider, said.

"All our details, addresses, etc., are there, which are linked to the local police station. Security forces check our QR codes periodically to ensure only genuine, registered, and properly verified service providers are operating," Hassan said. Another service provider, who

did not wish to be named, said all service providers working in Pahalgam, including pony-ride operators, photographers, vendors, and others, have been issued a unique QR code containing their personal information after proper verification.

"Tourists will feel safer as they will have complete information about the service provider. This is a good initiative that will strengthen the security and safety of tourists," he said.

According to the officials, vendors from outside J-K, who come here to earn their livelihood, have also been properly verified and vetted by police to ensure that no security lapses occur.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER GANDEBAL NOTICE

Whereas, an application for Re-Registration Received In Respect of LMV Motor Car Bearing Registration No. DL8CAG0532 Chassis No. MA3EWE1S00678202 Engine No. K10BN7319741 in favour of SAJAD AHMAD GOJAR SONTRA SON OF JALEEL AHMAD GOJAR SONTRA, Resident of KUNMULLA, AKHAL, KANGAN, GANDEBAL (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 seven days from the date of publication of this notice to the address of the undersigned. No representation/objection shall be considered unless it is made in writing and shall be submitted within the aforesaid period.

No. JK/ARTOG Sd/- Assistant Regional Transport Officer Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, Qazi Noor Ahmad S/o Qazi Muneer Ud Din R/o Rawalpura, Srinagar and Mehraj Din Dar S/o Mohammad Maqbool Dar R/o Fateh Kadal, Srinagar, hereby inform the general public that an electricity connection bearing Consumer ID No. 0202030001902 and Installation No. 5524-R1, installed at a residential house situated at Shaheed Gunj, Srinagar, is presently registered in the name of Gulam Mohammad Lone (Deceased).

That the said electricity connection is required to be transferred in our names (deponents). Notice is hereby given that if any person(s) has any objection, claim, or interest regarding the transfer of the above-mentioned electricity connection from the name of the deceased title holder to our names, they may file their objection(s) along with relevant proof before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Failing which, it shall be presumed that there is no objection from any quarter, and the process for transfer of the said electricity connection shall be completed in our favour.

Qazi Noor Ahmad Mehraj Din Dar

Parliament Special Session Ends; Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha Adjourned Sine Die

IANAS

NEW DELHI: The proceedings in the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha were adjourned sine die soon after the session began on Saturday, marking an end to the Parliament's Special Session.

A day earlier, the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, was defeated in the Lok Sabha.

The Bill, which aimed to provide 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament, failed to secure the required two-thirds majority, triggering a sharp political confrontation between the ruling NDA and the Opposition INDIA bloc.

The proposed legislation, which also sought to

expand the strength of the House, could not secure the constitutionally mandated two-thirds majority despite a day-long debate. The Bill received 278 votes in favour and 211 against, falling short of the required threshold for passage.

Subsequently, the Centre decided not to move forward with two related Bills on delimitation, saying that the three Bills could be viewed in isolation.

Meanwhile, the floor leaders of the Opposition met at Congress National President and Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge's chamber in the Parliament Complex.

The defeat of the Bill has triggered a sharp political



cal confrontation, with the NDA accusing the INDIA bloc of deliberately block-

ing a historic reform aimed at increasing women's representation in legislative bodies.

The Opposition, on its part, is objecting to the Women's Reservation Bill being tethered to the expansion of Parliament based on the 2011 Census and the exercise of delimitation.

Earlier on Friday, the floor leaders of the ruling NDA met for a crucial meeting in Parliament following the defeat of the Bill.

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 NDA is set to launch a nationwide protest campaign on Saturday against the INDIA bloc over the issue.

Party leaders said protests will be organised at district headquarters across the country, led by the BJP's women's wing, the BJP Mahila Morcha.

The campaign is intended to highlight what the NDA describes as an "anti-women agenda" of the Opposition, while mobilising public opinion around the issue. The BJP is also expected to raise the matter prominently in the upcoming elections, particularly in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu.

Cabinet Okays Continuation Of PMGSY-III Till March 2028 With Revised Rs 83,977 Crore Outlay

IANAS

NEW DELHI: The Cabinet on Saturday approved the extension of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) beyond March 2025 up to March 2028. The revised outlay of the scheme will be Rs 83,977 crore.

The scheme involves consolidation of through routes and major rural links, connecting habitations to Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), higher secondary schools and hospitals.

The extension of the timeline of PMGSY-III will enable the full realisation of its intended socio-economic benefits by ensuring completion of targeted upgradation of rural roads.

"It will significantly boost the rural economy and trade by enhancing market access for agricultural and non-farm products, reducing transportation time and costs, and thereby improving rural incomes," said an official statement.

Improved connectivity will facilitate better access to education and health-care institutions, ensuring timely delivery of essential services, particularly in

remote and underserved areas, it added.

The Cabinet also approved the extension of timeline, till March 2028, for completion of roads and bridges in plain areas and roads in hilly areas; extension of timeline till March 2029 for completion of bridges in hilly areas; and works sanctioned before 31.03.2025 but unawarded till now may be taken up for tender/award.

The Cabinet okayed Long Span Bridges (LSBs) (total 161 with an estimated cost of Rs 961 crore) pending for sanction but lying on the alignment of already sanctioned roads may be sanctioned and tendered/awarded, along with revision of outlay to Rs 83,977 crore from original outlay of Rs 80,250 crore.

The official statement said that the continued implementation will also generate substantial employment opportunities, both directly through construction activities and indirectly by promoting rural enterprises and services.

"Overall, the extension will contribute to inclusive and sustainable development by bridging the rural-urban divide and advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047," it added.

Cabinet Approves 2 Pc Dearness Allowance Hike For Central Government Employees



IANAS

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Saturday approved a 2 per cent increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) for central government employees effective from January 1, 2026, providing an increase in their take-home pay.

The Cabinet okayed to release an additional instalment of DA to central government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners, representing an increase of 2 per cent over the existing rate of 58 per cent of the basic pay/pension, to compensate against price rise.

"The combined impact on account of an increase in both Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief would be Rs 6,791.24 crore per annum. This will benefit about 50.46 lakh Central Government employees and 68.27 lakh pensioners," said an official statement.

This increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission.

The decision offers a boost to salaries even as broader demands on pay restructuring gather

momentum under the proposed 8th Pay Commission.

Meanwhile, in a memorandum submitted to the government, the National Council-Joint Consultative Machinery (NC-JCM) has pitched for a significantly higher fitment factor of 3.83.

If accepted, the proposal could sharply raise the minimum basic pay from Rs 18,000 to around Rs 69,000, marking a substantial revision in the overall pay structure.

The NC-JCM has proposed a steep uplift for minimum pay of central government employees in its common memorandum to the 8th Pay Commission, one month's wages as gratuity and other benefits.

Fitment factor is a multiplier that is used to revise salaries, based on factors such as cost of living and inflation and is then applied to existing basic pay to calculate new pay in a pay commission.

NC-JCM also proposed a 6 per cent annual increment, two increments on promotion, subject to a minimum benefit of Rs 10,000, etc. The changes adopted by the new Pay Commission would affect over 50 lakh central employees and nearly 65 lakh pensioners.

Women's Quota Bill Defeat A Blow To Country Inflicted By Congress, Not Govt Failure: Rijiju

IANAS

NEW DELHI: Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday asserted that the defeat of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, should not be interpreted as a setback for the Centre or the BJP, but rather as a "huge blow" inflicted on the nation by Congress and other Opposition parties.

He made the remarks during a press conference held a day after the Bill was voted down in the Lok Sabha. The proposed legislation, which sought to provide 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament, failed to secure the constitutionally required two-thirds majority, setting off a sharp political confrontation between the ruling NDA and the Opposition INDIA bloc.

The Bill, which also proposed an increase in the strength of the House, fell short despite an extensive day-long debate. It garnered 278 votes in favour and 211 against, missing the threshold needed for passage.

Following the setback, the Centre chose not to proceed with two associated delimitation Bills, maintaining that each of the three proposals could be treated separately.

Expressing disappointment over the outcome, Rijiju said, "The way Congress did not allow it to be passed with the two-thirds majority, we are all saddened. We are not sad for the government or our party, but because this is a loss for the country's women. The important step of giving power to women to make decisions in the Lok Sabha and Assemblies has failed, and that is why we are saddened."

He further added, "This is not a failure of our government or our party, but a huge blow to the country by the Congress and other Opposition parties. They will now have to bear the wrath of women. Congress has now been stained with the dark stigma of being anti-women."

Taking aim at the Opposition's reaction, the Minister said, "Celebrating after deciding not to give women their rights and reservation is unfortunate and a clear display of an anti-women mindset. They have completely exposed their image. Excuses won't work -- different excuses won't work. The straightforward truth is that Con-



gress and its allies have brought down the Bill that was meant to give rights to women."

He also remarked that celebrating such an outcome was inappropriate, stating that this was not the moment for any political party to rejoice after, in his words, denying women their due representation, describing it as a "sinful act".

Rijiju also announced the conclusion of the Budget Session, describing it as "historic" and "very productive". He highlighted what he termed as significant achievements, including progress towards eliminating Left-wing extremism.

He said the government's commitment under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to eradicate Left-wing extremism was close to being realised. "The Home Minister explained this is a very big achievement for the country," he said.

Elaborating further, Rijiju stated, "The three major challenges for our country have been: separatism and extremism in Kashmir, militancy in the Northeast, and Left-Wing extremism in Central India. Among these, the situation in Kashmir has largely become normal. Left-Wing Extremism is now on the verge of being completely eliminated. In the Northeast as well, except for some internal ethnic problems in Manipur, peace has been established in almost the entire Northeast. These are very big achievements for the country."

Despite these achievements, he acknowledged that the inability to pass the Women's Reservation Bill remained a significant disappointment. "Yesterday in Parliament, I

also said that the work Modi ji has done to give respect and upliftment to women, no one could even imagine it. But we will continue to do this work with even more strength. I thank the Prime Minister that we made every effort and used all our strength to ensure that women get their rights," he said.

He added that the government followed democratic procedures and could not compel Opposition members to support the Bill.

"Now, if the Congress and its allies are not ready to agree, we cannot force them to vote by marking them and physically pressuring them. Their mindset itself is anti-women. We cannot physically force them to vote. So we followed the democratic process and held the vote," Rijiju said.

The Minister also claimed that he made repeated efforts to engage Opposition leaders, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, but alleged a lack of participation from their side.

"They just write letters; they don't come to meetings. All other parties came to the meetings. The Home Minister, myself, the Law Minister... how many times have we held meetings? We held meetings with everyone. The Congress party does not come forward. Then they say that discussions are not being held. They don't come forward. They write letters three times, then say that we are not holding discussions," he said.

Reiterating his criticism, Rijiju said, "This anti-women mindset of the Congress party has been exposed before the country. It is a matter of regret. The Congress will have to face the anger of women. But our efforts will continue. We will keep trying."

Centre Announces Maritime Insurance Pool Worth 12,980 Crore To Protect Indian Vessels

IANAS

NEW DELHI: Amid the West Asia crisis and geo-political tensions, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Saturday approved the proposal for creation of a domestic insurance pool with a sovereign guarantee of Rs 12,980 crore, to facilitate continuous maritime insurance coverages for Indian flagged or controlled vessels or vessels destined to or starting from India.

The pool, called 'Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool' (BMI pool), ensures that Indian trade continues to have access to affordable insurance for vessels carrying cargo from any international origin to Indian ports and vice-versa, even when transiting volatile maritime corridors.

The pool would cover all maritime risks like Hull and Machinery, Cargo, P&I (protection and indemnity) and War risk.

The policies will be issued by insurers that are pool members, using the combined underwriting capacity of the pool, which would be around Rs 950 crore.

The pool will further help to manage liability insurance



locally, tailored to Indian Shipping conditions and regulatory requirements, develop specialised Marine underwriting, claims management and legal expertise within the country, said the official statement.

Moreover, a governing body constituted for this pool would oversee the formation and functioning of the pool.

According to the government, with increased global volatility and geopolitical instability, maritime trade has been impacted with increased risk of losses for cargo and vessels resulting in increased insurance costs and

uncertainty in continuous availability of insurance.

There is high dependence of Indian vessels on International Group of Protection and Indemnity (IGP&I) Club for P&I insurance covering third-party liabilities like Oil pollution liability, Wreck removal, Cargo damage, Crew injury and repatriation, Collision liabilities and so on.

There was a need for a domestic maritime risk covering pool to maintain sovereignty and continuity of trade in face of withdrawal of coverage due to sanctions or due to geopolitical tensions, said the government.

Indian states can accelerate investment flow from East Asian nations: Report

IANAS

NEW DELHI: As the world economic order changes rapidly amid the West Asia crisis, central government and state governments in India should work jointly for giving a strong push to economic linkages between India and ASEAN countries, as well as East Asian nations, according to a new report in Modern Diplomacy.

The report highlights that several Asian countries, such as Japan, Singapore, and South Korea, which already have a strong presence in India, are also exploring opportunities in states whose potential has been untapped so far.

Recently, Vietnam's VinGroup pledged an investment of nearly \$8.5 billion (Rs 71,000 crore) in Maharashtra. The investment will focus on sustainable urban development, industrial and tourism growth, renewable energy, and electric mobility.

State Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis expressed confidence that the partnership would catalyse green energy, modern infrastructure, and dynamic transport systems across the state. He also added that a world-class, eco-friendly smart residential township on 2,700 acres will be developed, which houses a population of nearly 200,000 people.

In 2024-2025, Maharashtra accounted for 39 per cent of India's total FDI flows.

Also, Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has established a new Japan-India Economic Affairs Division to help Japanese

companies invest in India, as part of its strategy to bolster bilateral economic ties.

Through the establishment of the Japan-India Economic Affairs Division, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan will further make public-private efforts to promote companies' expansion of business and investment from Japan to India and to deepen cooperation in the area of economic security with India.

Given India's high rate of economic growth, the importance of economic cooperation in Japan-India relations is growing day by day, according to the Indian government.

According to the Modern Diplomacy report, while Japan has invested over \$40 billion (\$43 billion) in India ever since 2000, "both sides realise that it is well below the actual potential".

As per estimates, 1,400 Japanese companies operate across India. Japan already has a significant presence in several states, including Haryana, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Gujarat.

Moreover, Gujarat this month signed an agreement with Taiwan-linked Allegiance International Company Ltd. to develop an Indo-Taiwan Industrial Park in the Sanand-Dholera economic corridor in the state.

According to the report, India should continue to focus on further bolstering economic ties with ASEAN nations as well as South Korea and Japan, and state governments have an important role to play in this regard.

...PIB Fact-Check Unit No New RBI Norms On Allowing Exchange Of Discontinued Currency

IANAS

NEW DELHI: The fact-checking unit of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) has dismissed reports circulating online, which claimed that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced new guidelines permitting the exchange of discontinued currency.

The fact-checking unit dismissed these claims as fake, clarifying that the RBI has made no such announcement.

"Some news reports claim that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued new guidelines to exchange discontinued currency notes. This claim is Fake. The RBI has made NO such announcement," said the PIB unit in a post on X.

"The official RBI website is the only authentic source for updates on financial regulations and currency-related announcements. For accurate and verified information, users are advised to visit the official website of the Reserve Bank of India," the post added.

It further stated that one should never forward unverified messages.

"Stay vigilant and share only information from trusted, official sources. If you encounter any suspicious

message, photo, or video related to the Central Government, report it to the Press Information Bureau for verification via WhatsApp or email," the X post mentioned.

In October last year, the unit had also clarified that reports suggesting the RBI had issued new guidelines to exchange old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes are fake. These currencies were discontinued during the demonetisation exercise in November 2016, and no new exchange rules have been announced since then.

Earlier, the fact-checking unit debunked a viral video that falsely shows Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman endorsing a high-return investment scheme, warning citizens against falling for such misinformation.

It clarified that neither the Government of India nor Finance Minister is promoting or endorsing any such scheme, and urged people to remain cautious of misleading content circulating online.

Last month, PIB flagged a fake message circulating on social media that claims State Bank of India's (SBI) YONO app accounts will be blocked if users do not update their Aadhaar details immediately.

Gill Is Technically So Good That You Will Never See Him Fall Short Of Runs: Piyush Chawla

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Former India spinner Piyush Chawla credited Shubman Gill's composed knock for tilting Gujarat Titans' clash against the Kolkata Knight Riders decisively, while also pointing out the AJinkya Rahane-led team's failure to capitalise at the death as the turning point in the game.

Gill's fluent 86 powered GT to a five-wicket win at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Friday. He anchored the 181-run chase with authority and control, helping his side clinch their third consecutive victory.

"We all know what Shubman Gill is capable of. When he is on song, he is such a pleasing batter to watch. In this knock of 86, Gill played only cricketing shots. He made sure he put the KKR bowling attack on the back foot just by playing those normal cricketing shots. He played on the merit of the ball, hardly taking any risks. He just made sure that everything pitched in his area went out of



the park. That is the beauty of his batting. He is technically so good that you will never see him fall short of runs," Chawla told JioStar.

Gill's innings ensured GT stayed ahead for most of the chase, even as KKR managed to drag the contest into the final over before Rahul Tewatia and

Shahrukh Khan calmly finished the job. Chawla, however, felt KKR had let the match slip earlier despite a strong platform set by Cameron Green, who top-

scored with 79.

"KKR looked like they were going to cross the 200-run mark easily after scoring 139 at the end of 14 overs, thanks to Cameron Green's brilliant batting. After losing three wickets in the Powerplay, the way they came back in the middle overs was magnificent to watch. Since the beginning of IPL 2026, we have been talking about the middle phase being a problem for KKR.

"But in Ahmedabad, they turned things around and batted beautifully. However, when it came to making the bowlers pay in the death overs, KKR batters did not apply themselves at all and kept throwing their wickets. It is not that their batters got out to magical deliveries from GT bowlers. It was poor shot selection," Chawla stated.

KKR eventually finished on 180 after losing six wickets for just 33 runs in the final phase, a collapse that allowed Gujarat Titans' bowlers to pull things back and keep the target within reach.

First Batch Of Indian Shooters Head To Cairo For Next World Cup



IAN S

NEW DELHI: A first batch of 58 Indian shooters and support staff headed to Cairo on Saturday to take part in the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun, scheduled in the Egyptian capital from April 19 to 27. The Cairo Junior World Cup will kickstart the ISSF junior circuit, which has three events lined up for Shotgun shooters and two for Rifle and Pistol shooters, this calendar year.

India has fielded a total of 71 shooters for the 18 medal events, including 36 shooters in the 15 Olympic events in Cairo. The three additional events include the traditional junior men's and women's 50m rifle prone competitions as well as the men's 25m pistol event, which is touted to be part of the 2032 Olympics.

In all, 284 athletes from 25 countries will compete in Cairo, with India fielding the largest contingent. Hosts Egypt will field a 29-member squad, whereas Russia, competing under the Individual Neutral Athletes

(AIN) banner, has also entered a large 43-member squad.

Other top shooting nations that have entered sizeable squads are France (24), Great Britain (16), and Italy (13).

With Junior World Championships slated for June in Suhl, Germany, this will be a good opportunity for Indian juniors to stake their claim for that blue riband event.

A few days back, India concluded their ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol campaign in Granada, Spain, with a tally of one gold medal.

Sonam Uttam Maskar was the last Indian contestant as she finished a fighting fifth in the women's 10m air rifle final. Sonam shot 188.5 to bow out after the 18th shot of the 24-shot final, 0.8 behind her nearest rivals at that stage, among them world number one and eventual gold medalist Wang Zifei of China, who finished with 252.9 points. Women's 3P world champion Jeanette Hegg Duestad of Norway won silver with 252.4, while former air rifle world champion Han Jiayu of China won bronze with 231.5.

IPL 2026

We Have To Turn Up Really Well As RCB Are Playing Really Well, Says Kuldeep



IAN S

BENGALURU: Delhi Capitals left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav acknowledged the challenge of facing an in-form defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru and said his team must raise its game in Saturday's IPL 2026 clash at the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Axar Patel-led DC arrive after a week's break from the competition with an aim to end their two-game losing streak. "We had a couple of days off and then obviously from 15th, we had one session in CoE and a couple of sessions here in Bangalore. So, lovely to have a couple of good sessions of training here.

"If you look at our team, we have quality in our side and work collectively, that's the most important thing. Playing against RCB because they are playing really well and we have to turn up really well," said

Kuldeep in a pre-game chat with the broadcasters.

On DC's campaign so far, Kuldeep said, "Look, we started really well. We looked like a complete team in the first two games. Obviously, in the third game against Gujarat also, we were very good.

"Unfortunately, we lost the game by one run. But, in the last game also I believe we got a very good start with the bat. But obviously, losing four wickets in four overs, that actually changed the momentum for us."

Asked on what mindset does he take into Saturday's game, Kuldeep said, "It's very important to understand the situation when you bowl and especially playing here, a day game.

"Even in a night game also, you have seen the spinners get a bit of help from the wicket. If I get a couple of wickets in the middle overs, that'll be very good for the team and that's my role."

CSK Must Play MS Dhoni, It Will Give Them An Extra Edge Against SRH: Aditya Tare

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Former Mumbai cricketer Aditya Tare stressed the importance of MS Dhoni in Chennai Super Kings' setup ahead of their key fixture against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Saturday, stating that the former CSK captain's experience in a relatively young side, especially in high-pressure encounters, will be crucial.

"Chennai Super Kings need MS Dhoni more than ever. If he is fit to play, he has to play against Sunrisers Hyderabad in any capacity. I would personally want him to keep wickets for the full 20 overs because he is excellent behind the stumps. No disrespect to Sanju's wicket-keeping, but you need that experience," Tare told JioStar.

With Chennai preparing for a crucial outing, Tare believes Dhoni's leadership and on-field inputs could prove decisive in tight situations, particularly for a side blending youth with experience.

"There is a lot of youth in CSK's line-up and their two debutants - Kartik Sharma and Prashant Veer need that guidance of someone as experienced as Mahi bhai. The team has shown a lot of faith in those two players, but if you have MSD, you have to make him play. His presence will help Kartik and Prashant handle the pressure better. Mahi bhai has always been a great support to Ruturaj and to the bowlers. We have seen him constantly talking to the bowlers and guiding them and that is something which will give an extra edge to Chennai against SRH," he added.

Reflecting on Gujarat Titans' chase against the Kolkata Knight



Riders, Tare highlighted Gill's composure and control through the innings.

He heaped praise on the GT skipper for anchoring the innings in their successful chase on Friday.

"Gujarat Titans chased down 180 runs with ease. Yes, the game went to the last over, but Shubman Gill had already done the damage with the bat. He looked in complete

command and his shot selection was excellent. He ran singles and doubles well and played proper cricketing strokes. GT's Batting Coach Matthew Hayden would be proud of him. Gill controlled the middle overs against KKR and Gujarat's win showed how KKR felt after the game. They simply had no answers to the way Gill batted," Tare noted.

IPL 2026

RCB Atmosphere Relaxed But Intensity High With Kohli Around, Says Iyer

IAN S

BENGALURU: Royal Challengers Bengaluru batting all-rounder Venkatesh Iyer said the side's dressing room remains relaxed yet intense due to the presence of Virat Kohli and players clear about their roles as they look to extend their good run in IPL 2026 against Delhi Capitals at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

"The atmosphere is quite relaxed. At the same time, no dressing room can not be intense where Virat Kohli is there. So obviously the intensity is right up there and everyone is very clear about how they have to approach all games. So far so good," Iyer said in a pre-game chat with the broadcasters.

On role clarity, Iyer said he's doing a lot of hard work under the watch of batting coach Dinesh Karthik. "Already there's so much going on, but if there is clarity of your role and you don't see beyond that, I think it helps to go out there and

express yourself. I've been working quite hard with DK in the nets. Just waiting for my opportunity.

"But the team's doing really well. Everyone, whatever roles they're given, they are doing it 100 percent. I think it's just about waiting for my opportunity and whenever it arises, obviously with the impact player rule, I can go into bat anytime. So just putting in the hard yards at training and let's see what happens."

Looking ahead to the contest against DC, Iyer noted, "Obviously, DC are a very good side, good batting. The weather, it's quite warm here. So we'll have to adapt quickly. They've got a good formidable batting line-up. "But our bowling is very good and we have our plans set. It's just about going out there and executing it. We've come to a point where, yes we think what the position is going to do, but we back our strengths and see where it takes us," he concluded.

IPL 2026: When And Where To Watch PBKS Vs LSG Clash, Know All Details

IAN S

CHANDIGARH, APRIL 18: Punjab Kings will host Lucknow Super Giants in the 29th match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at the PCA New Cricket Stadium.

PBKS is the only team that hasn't lost this season. They have won four of their five games, and their game against the Kolkata Knight Riders was called off. Shreyas Iyer leads PBKS, and they have been especially good at chasing down runs, as shown by their impressive net run rate of 1.067.

Their batting unit has always come through under pressure, which has helped them win nine of their last eleven matches while chasing since the 2025 season. This trend continued in their recent win over the Mumbai Indians.

The Lucknow Super Giants will need to put in a lot of work to stop their rise, as they are full of confidence and in good form. Lucknow, on the other hand, is having a hard time right now. They are in seventh place on the points table and have lost two games in a row. In the IPL, the Lucknow Super Giants and Punjab Kings have had a fair rivalry, with both teams winning three of the six games they have played against each other.

Live on: The PBKS vs LSG match will be broadcast on Star Sports channels, with JioHotstar



live-streaming the game.

Punjab Kings: Shreyas Iyer (Captain), Priyansh Arya, Prabhsimran Singh (wicketkeeper), Nehal Wadhwa, Shashank Singh, Marcus Stoinis, Azmatullah Omarzai, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Arshdeep Singh, Yuzvendra Chahal, Harpreet Brar, Suryansh Shedge, Vishnu Vinod (wicketkeeper), Xavier Bartlett, Yash Thakur, Mitchell Owen, Harnoor Singh, Musheer Khan, Pyla Avinash, Marco Jansen, Lockie Ferguson, Cooper Connolly, Ben Dwarshuis, Pravin Dubey, Vishal

Nishad.

Lucknow Super Giants: Rishabh Pant (C), Aiden Markram, Himmat Singh, Matthew Breetzke, Mukul Choudhary, Akshat Raghuvanshi, Josh Inglis, Nicholas Pooran, Mitchell Marsh, Abdul Samad, Shahbaz Ahmad, Arshin Kulkarni, George Linde (replacement for Wanindu Hasaranga), Ayush Badoni, Mohammad Shami, Avesh Khan, M. Siddharth, Digvesh Singh, Akash Singh, Prince Yadav, Arjun Tendulkar, Anrich Nortje, Naman Tiwari, Mayank Yadav, Mohsin Khan.

Movies SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, 19 APRIL

LEE CRONINS THE MUMMY (A)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
12:00 PM, 07:20 PM

BHOOTH BANGLA (U/A16+)
HINDI ATMOS - 12:00 PM, 03:15 PM, 06:30 PM
HINDI - 10:30 AM, 01:45 PM

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

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