

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
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Tragic road accident in Udhampur is heartbreaking. My deepest condolences to bereaved families. May God grant them strength. Praying for speedy recovery of injured. I have directed district admin, Police, SDRF & Health Dept to provide every possible assistance to those affected.

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Security Heightened Across Kashmir Ahead Of Pahalgam Attack Anniversary



JAHANGEER GANAIE

JAMMU: Ahead of the first anniversary of the April 22, 2025 terror attack in Pahalgam that left 26 people, mostly tourists dead, authorities have beefed security across Jammu and Kashmir. According to the details available, senior officers are holding preparatory meetings to finalise a comprehensive security plan, with a focus on religious shrines, tourist hubs and vital installations across the Union Territory. The attack, which took place at Baisaran meadow in Pahalgam, had left 25 tourists and a local pony handler dead, triggering a sharp decline in tourist arrivals. Authorities had subsequently shut nearly 50 tourist destinations as a precautionary measure, reopening several of them in phases following security audits. Officials said a QR code-based identification system has now been introduced for tourism service providers in Pahalgam to enhance visi-

tor safety and ensure better monitoring. Security agencies have been placed on high alert following inputs about suspected terrorist movement in districts along the International Border, including Kathua and Samba. Vigil has also been stepped up at major religious sites, including the Vaishno Devi shrine in the Trikuta hills. Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba, Anuj Kumar, reviewed security arrangements in border areas during a visit to the Ramgarh sector. He inspected checkpoints and border police posts, including Koulpur and Kamore, and directed personnel to maintain heightened vigilance. He also visited Border Security Force outposts along the International Border and stressed coordination among agencies. Officials said security forces have intensified anti-terror operations across Jammu and Kashmir over the past year. Around 46 terrorists have

21 Dead, 51 Injured As Bus Rolls Down Hill In Udhampur

Prez Murmu, PM Modi, HM Shah, Jitendra Singh, Others Express Grief

YOGESH

UDHAMPUR: At least 21 persons were killed and 51 others injured when a passenger bus rolled down a hill at Kagort village in the Ramnagar area of Udhampur district on Monday, officials said. Officials said that a bus (No. JK14D-2121) was on its way to Udhampur from a remote village when it met with an accident while negotiating a blind curve near Kagort village. Soon after the accident, locals, Army personnel, police, and other emergency responders rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation, officials said. They said that 21 people died, while 51 injured persons were evacuated to hospitals. A case has been registered under the relevant sections of



law and further investigation is underway, the official added. Shiv Kumar Sharma, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of the Udhampur-Reasi Range, said the driver of the ill-fated bus lost control on a sharp curve, rolled down nearly 60-70 feet, and also hit an auto-rickshaw on the road

below, injuring its occupants. "It appears the driver lost control at a sharp turn near Kagort village. The bus was travelling from Ramnagar to Udhampur," he said. President Droupadi Murmu in a post on X wrote: "I am deeply saddened to learn about

the deaths of several people in the bus accident that occurred in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir. I express my condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in this tragedy. I pray for the swift recovery of the injured." Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the loss of lives and announced an ex-gratia of 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to the next of kin of each deceased, and 50,000 for the injured. Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday expressed condolences to the families of those killed in the Udhampur bus accident. In a message posted on X, Shah said the road accident in Udhampur is extremely tragic. "I express my deepest condolences to the

Weather To Remain Dry Till April 23: MeT



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Day temperatures recorded an increase across Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, with the Meteorological Department predicting largely dry weather conditions till April 23, followed by intermittent rain spells later in the week. According to the MeT department's evening data accessed, most places in the Valley and Jammu division recorded temperatures above normal. Srinagar registered a maximum temperature of 23.5 degrees Celsius, nearly 2.7 degrees above normal, while the minimum settled at 9.4 degrees Celsius. Qazigund recorded a high of 24 degrees Celsius, 3.8 degrees above normal, and Pahalgam reported 20.4 degrees Celsius. Kupwara and Kokernag also saw above-normal day temperatures at 21.6 degrees Celsius and 22.8 degrees Celsius, respectively. Gulmarg, a popular tourist destination, recorded a maximum temperature of 13.2 degrees Celsius, which

LG, CM Express Grief Over Loss of Lives

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday condoled the loss of lives in the road accident in Udhampur dis-

trict and assured all possible assistance to the families of the deceased. They also directed authorities concerned to provide immediate relief and necessary support to those affected. At least 15 people were killed and 20 others injured when a passenger

Survivors Recall Cries Of Despair, Hail Army Help

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: A harrowing bus accident in Udhampur, Jammu, has left at least 21 dead and 29 injured, but survivors say the situation would have been far

worse without the rapid and courageous intervention of the Indian Army. The private passenger bus plunged nearly 100 meters down a steep hillside on Monday morning, crushing an auto-rickshaw before flipping upside down on the road below. Geographic Reference

Transport Strike Hits Kashmir Over Smart City Bus Expansion



AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Daily life and traffic movement in parts of Kashmir, including Srinagar, were disrupted on Monday as transporters observed a strike against the proposed expansion of Smart City bus services to district routes. The protest saw private transport operators, including bus, Sumo, and Tavera drivers, staying off the roads, while sit-ins were held at various bus stands across the Valley. The agitation reflects growing concern within the transport community over the

impact of the Smart City bus expansion on their livelihoods. Protesting operators said the extension of government-backed bus services to district routes could threaten the income of thousands of families dependent on private transport. They demanded that the government roll back the decision, citing uncertainty and potential loss of business for private operators. While public transport services were affected due to the strike, private vehicles continued to ply normally, limiting the overall disruption in the city.

US Ambassador Confirms India's Arrival In US For Bilateral Trade Talks

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor has said that an Indian trade delegation will be in the United States this week for Bilateral Trade Agreement negotiations and it is a great step to finalize the bilateral trade deal. He said in a post on X that the trade deal will be "win-win" for both nations. "The Indian trade delegation will be arriving in Washington this week. A great step to finalize our bilateral trade deal. A win-win for both nations!" he said. India and the United States are set to resume negotiations on the proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) in Washington DC. Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal, who shared India's trade data for March earlier this month, had said that the Indian delegation will visit the United States from April 20 to 22. The statement said that the



framework reaffirms the countries' commitment to the broader US-India Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) negotiations, launched by President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 13, 2025, which will include additional market access commitments and support more resilient supply chains. It also said that the Interim Agreement between the United States and India will represent a historic milestone in the partnership between two countries, demonstrating a common commitment to reciprocal and balanced trade based on mutual interests and concrete outcomes. The Commerce Secretary had said last month that India remains engaged with the US for a mutually beneficial trade agreement. "On February 7, 2026, the 25% additional ad-valorem tariffs imposed by the U.S. on certain Indian exports,

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CS Outlines Vision For Digitally Empowered J&K At 'Tech Saksham' Workshop

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Presiding over 'Tech Saksham', a landmark capacity-building workshop jointly convened by the the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and NICS of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) at the Convention Centre, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo set a resolute tone for the digital future of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasised that digital governance is no longer a mere supporting function, but the absolute backbone of transparent, efficient and responsive public service delivery mechanism. The workshop was also attended by Shantmanu, State Election Commissioner, J&K; Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary, Home Department; Dr. Piyush Singla, Secretary Informa-

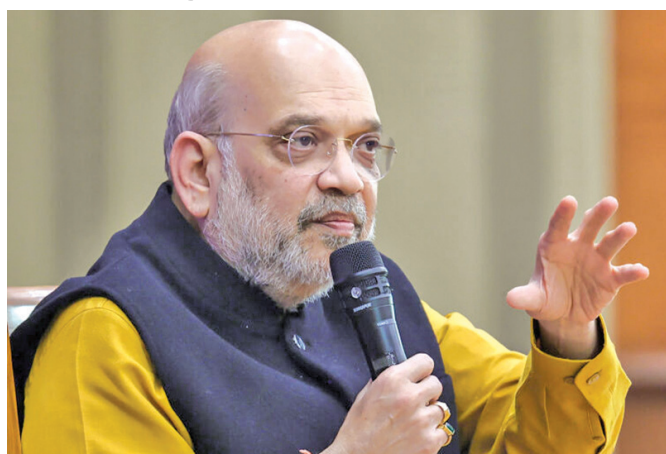
tion Technology Department; and Mahima Madan, Chief Executive Officer JaKeGA. Varindra Seth, Deputy Director General NIC, Alok Tiwari, MD NICS, Jaskaran Singh Modi, State Informatics Officer; and Sanjay Gupta, ASIO NIC, were also present. The Chief Secretary announced that the administration is firmly shifting towards a 'Whole-of-Government' approach. This strategic move is designed to break down departmental silos through interoperability and shared digital architecture, ensuring seamless and accelerated service delivery for all citizens. The Chief Secretary highlighted that for a region defined by its geographical diversity, digital platforms serve as essential bridge. He stressed that robust digital systems are



Govt Ruthlessly Demolishing Drug Cartels, Securing Convictions Against Offenders: Shah

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is ruthlessly demolishing drug cartels and praised the NCB for securing convictions against 73 offenders in the first quarter of 2026. Among the important convictions is one linked to a case involving the seizure of 2.75 kg of heroin at the Ahmedabad airport in 2021 and 4.23 kg of heroin at Fazilka (Punjab) along the India-Pakistan border in 2022. In these cases, two foreign traffickers were sentenced to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment, a home ministry statement said. Shah took to X to say: "To protect our youth from the scourge of drugs, the Modi govt is ruthlessly demolishing



drug cartels and is also ensuring their conviction." "Under this mission, the NCB has made a breakthrough of getting 73 drug offenders convicted in the first three months of 2026, with harshest punishments. We are determined to shut every

breathing space of drug rackets with entire might. Congratulations to NCB for this achievement," the home minister said. According to official data, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) secured convictions for 73 drug offenders in 35 cases in

Abdullahs, Muftis Have No Dev Agenda, Will Revive Terrorism: Chugh

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party national general secretary Tarun Chugh on Monday accused the National Conference (NC) president Dr Farooq Abdullah of peddling propaganda that the BJP is responsible for fear among Hindus. Chugh, who is also the party's in-charge of J&K and Ladakh, said, "Hindus in Jammu & Kashmir know the role of Abdullahs and Muftis when extreme brutalities were committed on them. They were mute spectators." "Abdullahs and Muftis turned a blind eye when lakhs of Hindus had to leave the valley in the face of extremist violence. Where were they then?" he asked. On the allegations by People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti that the Awami Ittehad Party

(AIP) is a "proxy" for the BJP, Chugh dismissed the charges as "baseless" and a "figment of her imagination". "The PDP and NC have no agenda for the welfare of J&K and no plan to work for the betterment of the people in the future. Let them go through our 'Sankalp Patra' (Manifesto) and then speak," he added. Asked about Farooq Abdullah's statement that NC will never accept the concept of BJP's 'Vishisht Bharat' and his allegation that the saffron party is instilling fear in voters, Tarun Chugh said, "The high voter turnout in the recent Lok Sabha Elections, the restoration of democracy at grassroots levels, a 75% decline in terrorist activities, and a significant decrease in stone-pelting and organised strikes post-2022 are examples of the peace and democracy



NSA Doval Holds High-Level Talks In Riyadh To Strengthen Bilateral Ties



IANAS

NEW DELHI: India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval paid an official visit to Riyadh on Sunday, engaging in a series of high-level meetings with senior Saudi leadership to strengthen bilateral relations, enhance energy cooperation, and discuss key regional developments. The visit underscores the growing strategic partnership between India and Saudi Arabia amid evolving geopolitical dynamics. In a statement, the Embassy of India in Riyadh highlighted that the discussions covered a broad spectrum of issues, including bilateral cooperation, regional security concerns, and matters of

mutual interest. During his visit, Doval met prominent Saudi leaders, including Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, and National Security Advisor Musaed Al-Aiban. The Indian Embassy also shared details of the visit on the social media platform X: "Hon'ble NSA Shri Ajit Doval paid an official visit to Riyadh on April 19. He was received at the Airport by Ambassador Dr Suhel Khan and Deputy Minister for Political Affairs @KSAmofaEN Ambassador Dr. Saud Al-Sati. Later, he had meetings with Energy Minister H.R.H. Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman,

GMC Anantnag emerges as major Cardiac Care hub

Cath Lab, other facilities renewed hope for patients of South Kashmir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag has rapidly emerged as a vital centre for advanced cardiac care, offering renewed hope to patients across South Kashmir and parts of the Chenab Valley.

The recent establishment of a state-of-the-art Cath Lab at the institution marks a significant milestone in strengthening tertiary healthcare services in the region.

Commissioned in April 2025, the high-end Cath Lab established by Omar Abdullah led Government has transformed the cardiac care landscape in South Kashmir. In a short span of just nine months, the Department of Cardiology has successfully conducted over 3,000 procedures, including more than 1,000 critical life-saving interventions such as primary angioplasties and pacemaker implantations.

The Cath Lab has significantly strengthened timely and life-saving interventions like coronary angiography, angioplasty, pacemaker implantation, electrophysiological stud-

ies, and other advanced cardiac procedures. This facility has brought critical cardiac care closer to the people of South Kashmir and other adjoining districts, eliminating the need for patients to travel long distances for specialized treatment.

The facility, functioning under HoD, Dr. Syed Maqbool and other cardio specialists like Dr. Shamim Iqbal, Dr. Showkat Hussain Shah and Dr. Shahood is currently performing an average of 10-15 procedures and is catering not only to patients from South Kashmir but also from several districts of the Jammu division, including Banihal, Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, and Poonch.

Demonstrating high efficiency and preparedness, the cardiology also achieved a door-to-balloon time of just 15-20 minutes in eight primary angioplasty cases handled within a 12-hour window, an indicator of adherence to top clinical standards in emergency cardiac care.

Prior to the establishment of this facility, patients from South Kashmir, home to an



estimated population of 25 lakh, were compelled to travel nearly 70 kilometers to Srinagar for specialized cardiac treatment. This often led to critical delays during emergencies and adversely impacted patient out-

comes. The Cath Lab at GMC Anantnag has effectively bridged this crucial gap, significantly improving accessibility and timely intervention.

In a further boost to its grow-

ing reputation, the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) has granted accreditation for three DrNB (Doctorate of National Board) super-specialty seats in cardiology to GMC Anantnag.

This recognition, awarded to the Department of Cardiology on February 17, underscores the institution's advanced medical infrastructure and clinical capabilities.

Notably, GMC Anantnag has become the first among newly established medical colleges in the country to receive such accreditation, marking a historic achievement.

Recently, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo also dedicated 1.5 tesla MRI facility for the public use at the associated hospital of GMC Anantnag, describing the development as a landmark moment for both treatment and specialist care at the facility.

She described the MRI facility as a major milestone and a long-pending addition that will significantly improve diagnostic services at the hospital. "The facility will benefit patients across South Kashmir by providing timely and advanced diagnostic services locally, reducing the need for referrals to Srinagar hospitals," she said.

Apart from these advanced facilities like Cath Lab and MRI facility, other facilities like advanced mod-

ular OTs and free diet for patients have also been started by the present Government.

Moreover, a Sarai is also being established in the Associated Hospital of GMC Anantnag to provide support to attendants during their stay in hospitals.

A recent news report published in a local daily has presented a one-sided and incomplete picture of Cardiac facilities and services available at GMC Anantnag. The report fails to acknowledge the substantial progress made in upgrading healthcare infrastructure and expanding specialized services at the institution.

The Government reiterates that continuous efforts are underway to enhance medical facilities and ensure optimal patient care. Recruitment of necessary medical and paramedical staff is being carried out on a regular basis to further strengthen service delivery. The achievements of GMC Anantnag, particularly in the field of cardiology, reflect a committed approach towards improving public healthcare and addressing long-standing regional gaps.

Committee on Ease of Doing Business begins stakeholder talks in Jammu

Promises competitive, investor-friendly J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Committee on Ease of Doing Business and revision of the New Industrial Policy for Jammu and Kashmir held its first meeting with the stakeholders at Udyog Bhawan here Monday.

The Committee, chaired by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shaileendra Kumar, met the representatives and office bearers of various industrial and trade associations from the Jammu Division.

Committee members Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department and Amitava Chatterjee, Managing Director & CEO, J&K Bank, attended the meeting.

This was the committee's first stakeholder consultation on revising the J&K Industrial Policy and improving the Ease of Doing Business in the Union Territory. The next meeting will be held in Kashmir.

During the deliberations, industry representatives gave detailed feedback on a wide range of issues. Suggestions focused on regulatory simplification,



reducing the compliance burden, improving access to finance, upgrading infrastructure and building mechanisms to attract fresh investment while supporting the growth of existing units.

The stakeholders also proposed specific amendments for incorporation in the new Industrial Policy.

The Committee underlined the importance of continuous stakeholder engagement in policy for-

mulation and assured that all constructive suggestions would be examined. It stated that the forthcoming Industrial Policy will aim to create a competitive, transparent and investor-friendly ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was also attended by Director, Industries and Commerce Jammu, Dr Arun Manhas; Chairman, Federation of Industries Jammu, Virender Jai; Arun Gupta, President,

Chamber of Commerce & Industry Jammu, Arun Gupta; National Chairman, D2C Industry Association, M A Alim; Vice President, CII, Sidhant Choudhary; Chairman ICC, Rahul Sahai; President-ASSOCHAM Manik Batra; Chairman FICCI, Rakesh Bhat; President BBIA Lalit Mahajan; President, PHDCCI Rakesh Wazir; Chairman, FICCI FLO, Varsha Bansal besides officers from the Directorate of Industries and Commerce.

Nasha Mukht J&K Campaign gains momentum in Shopian

Departments, Institutions intensify outreach to promote drug free society

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: In continuation of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Campaign, a series of awareness programmes were conducted across district with active participation from different departments and educational institutions in Shopian.

Health and Wellness Center, GDC Shopian organized an awareness programme focusing on sensitizing students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promoting a culture of healthy and responsible living.

The programme began with an address by the Convenor, who highlighted the growing concern of substance abuse among youth and emphasized the importance of awareness, prevention, and collective responsibility.

An expert talk was delivered by Dr. Alamgeer from District Hospital Shopian, who elaborated on the medical and psychological impacts of drug addiction, early warning signs, and the need for timely intervention.



He also informed that District Hospital Shopian has a dedicated Addiction Treatment Facility providing professional support and treatment to affected individuals.

Similarly, the Department of Horticulture organized pledge ceremonies at fruit plant nurseries in Zainapora and Keegam,

where officials and staff reaffirmed their commitment towards building a drug free society and spreading awareness at the grassroots level.

An awareness programme was also held at HSS Kapran, where medical experts delivered informative sessions on drug addiction and its harmful

effects. The speakers highlighted the physical, psychological, and social consequences of substance abuse and urged students to stay vigilant and make informed life choices.

At HS Tekipora, an awareness programme featuring painting and slogan writing activities was held to sensitize students about the dangers of drug abuse.

The creative participation of students helped in effectively conveying strong anti-drug messages.

Similarly, Government Polytechnic College Shopian organized a pledge ceremony wherein students and staff collectively took an oath to stay away from drugs and contribute towards a healthier society.

These activities form part of the district's sustained efforts under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Campaign to engage communities, especially youth, through awareness, education, and collective responsibility.

At other places, similar awareness activities were held.

.....NMBA @100

Principal Secretary Culture calls for collective action to eliminate menace

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: As part of the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan (NMBA @100), the District Administration Ganderal Monday organized a padyatra cum mega awareness rally to sensitize the public, particularly the youth, about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the need for united efforts to eliminate the menace.

The rally commenced from the Mini Secretariat Lawns and culminated at Qamaria Park, witnessing enthusiastic participation from officers, students, and members of civil society.

The event was flagged-off by Principal Secretary, Culture, Brij Mohan, in the presence of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Ganderal, Sudhanshu Dhama; Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ganderal, Syed Faheem Bihagi, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, and other



district officers. Addressing the gathering, the Principal Secretary emphasized that drug abuse destroys families and stressed that the fight against drugs must begin at home.

Highlighting the crucial role of parents in prevention, he urged citizens to report cases of drug abuse or trafficking through the district administration's

helpline. He called for active public participation and reiterated the commitment to make Ganderal a drug-free district.

Students from various schools and colleges actively participated in the rally, raising slogans and carrying placards to spread awareness. The Department of Art and Culture also presented a skit depicting the adverse

impact of drug addiction and the importance of prevention and rehabilitation. A play depicting the harmful effects of drug abuse was also presented on the occasion.

On the occasion, the ADC administered a pledge to the participants, reaffirming their commitment to stay away from drugs and contribute towards a drug-free society.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN DIVISION.

GIST of E-NIT No.07/WSMP of 04-2026, dated 17/04/2026

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K Union Territory e-tenders (in SINGLE Cover System) are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt. for the following **Stage Contract Works** (For the year 2026-2027)

S.NO	Name of Work	Ceiling for the year 2026-27 (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Cost of T/DoC (In Rupees)	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
01	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE, REPAIRS, AND OTHER EMERGENCY WORKS AT ATHWAJAN/ PANTHACHOWK / SAMPORA/ ZAFRON COLONY/ YECHNAMBAL / BEFINA/ ZEWAN BALA/ ZEWAN PAYEEN / ZAWOORA / BALHAMA A & B / KHONMOH A, B & C / SANGRI / GUJER BASTI KHONMOH / CHECK-I-THUNE/ WSS POSHPATHRI FOR THE YEAR OF 2026-27 (STAGE CONTRACT).	Rs. 5.50 Lacs	2 % of Advertised Cost	Rs.350.00	AA, BEE, CEE & DEE	Under M&R
02	RECTIFICATION OF LEAKAGES / BURSTS OF VARIOUS DIA. OF PIPES FROM DIFFERENT PLANTS TO VARIOUS AREAS UNDER SUB DIVISION 3RD INCLUDING MAINTENANCE WORKS OF OFFICE INCLUDING PROVIDING OF STATIONERY ITEMS (STAGE CONTRACT 2026-27)	Rs. 6.50 Lacs	2 % of Advertised Cost	Rs.450.00	AA, BEE, CEE & DEE	Under M&R

The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (BOQ), terms and conditions of contract can be seen/downloaded from the departmental web site (jktenders.gov.in) as per the dates shown below: -

S. No.	Description	Date		
		DD	MM	YYYY
1	Publishing date of NIT	17	04	2026
2	Download start date	17	04	2026
3	Bid submission start date	17	04	2026
4	Bid submission end date	25	04	2026
5	Bid opening date	27	04	2026

No:WSMP/CC/466-74
Dated:- 17-04-2026

DIPK-566-26
DT: 20/04/2026

Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti WSMP Division Srinagar.

CM tours Nowshera; inaugurates key road, upgraded 100-bedded hospital

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NOWSHERA: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday inaugurated the upgraded road from NH-144A Bridge to Nowshera town and the 100-bedded Sub-District Hospital during his extensive tour of the area. The visit of the Chief Minister, along with his Cabinet colleagues, marked a major push towards strengthening connectivity and healthcare infrastructure in the region.

The Chief Minister received a rousing welcome on his arrival, with people lining both sides of the road and showering flower petals, jostling to see the chief minister, reflecting overwhelming public enthusiasm and support.

The upgraded road project, executed by the PWD (R&B) Department at a cost of ₹7.99 crore, is expected to significantly improve connectivity, streamline traffic movement, and reduce travel time for commuters.

Later, the Chief Minister inaugurated the upgraded 100-

bedded Sub-District Hospital, developed at an estimated cost of ₹18.18 crore. The facility is equipped with modern healthcare infrastructure aimed at enhancing patient care and expanding access to quality medical services for the people of Nowshera and adjoining areas.

He was accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakeena Itoo, and Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani.

During his visit, the Chief Minister took a detailed tour of the hospital and inspected key sections, including X-ray, ECG and ultrasound rooms, examination rooms, and the blood storage unit. He interacted with doctors, staff, and patients, enquiring about the availability and quality of healthcare services.

Addressing a massive public gathering, the Chief Minister emphasized that public office is a responsibility to serve the people and improve their quality of life.

"Positions of power are not



meant for personal comfort but to bring relief to the people and make their lives easier. Our priority is to strengthen schools, hospitals, roads, and address unemployment and poverty," he said.

Amid an enthusiastic turnout, he highlighted key initiatives aimed at boosting connectivity, healthcare, and overall socio-economic growth in Rajouri and adjoining areas. Interacting warmly with the public, he assured that the voices and aspirations of the people of the Pir Panjal region

would continue to guide policy decisions and drive responsive governance on the ground.

He reiterated the government's commitment to regularizing daily wagers and ensuring justice for Anganwadi and ASHA workers through improved and increased wages and stipends. He also highlighted various welfare initiatives, including the provision of free gas cylinders to the poorest households, electricity support, and free bus travel for women.

Referring to broader political commitments, the Chief

Minister underscored the need to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, stating that it was a promise made to the people and must be fulfilled.

Highlighting recent developmental achievements, he noted that projects like the Nowshera road and hospital, which had remained pending for years, were completed due to the focused efforts of the present government.

The Chief Minister expressed gratitude to the people for their warm reception and overwhelming support. "The love

and affection shown by the people of Nowshera is deeply humbling. I assure you that we will continue to work tirelessly to address your concerns and build a prosperous Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Earlier, on his way to Nowshera, the Chief Minister inspected the ongoing works on the Sungal Tunnel project and reviewed progress at the site. He was briefed by officials on excavation, structural works, and associated road development.

He was informed by the

Project Sampark of the Border Roads Organisation that the total length of the tunnel is 2.79 km across the Kalidhar Range, with a reduction in travel time of 40-45 minutes, and that it is scheduled to be completed by June 30 this year.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary said that key infrastructure projects in the region have been realized under the leadership of the Chief Minister, reaffirming the government's commitment to balanced and equitable development across Jammu and Kashmir.

Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakeena Itoo, while addressing the gathering, announced the establishment of a Government Degree College at Serblock of Nowshera.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani and other leaders also addressed the gathering, highlighting the government's development agenda and commitment to public welfare.

Rana directs fast-tracking, streamlining of FRA compliance in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Monday directed the officials to expedite and streamline the compliance mechanism under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The directions were issued during a high-level review meeting held at the Civil Secretariat in Jammu to assess the progress on Act's implementation in the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by senior officials, including Commissioner Secretary Forests, Ecology & Environment, Sheetal Nanda; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Sarvesh Rai; Secretary Tribal Affairs Department, Prasanna Ramaswamy G; Director Tribal Affairs J&K, Mohd. Mumtaz Ali; Director Finance, Tribal Affairs Department, Iftikhar Chouhan and Nodal Officer, Tribal Research Institute, Dr. Abdul Khabir, among others.

Emphasising the need for a more efficient and transparent framework, the Minister instructed the officials to accelerate the



recognition of forest rights and ensure prompt operationalisation of Forest Rights Act (FRA) cells at the district level. He noted that these cells play a pivotal role in facilitating claim documentation, ensuring inter-departmental coordination and enabling timely uploading of records.

"The formation of FRA cells must be fast-tracked. The entire process should be time-bound, coordinated and people-centric, with clearly defined accountability at every stage to safeguard the interests of tribal communities," Rana said.

Highlighting the importance of inter-departmental synergy, the Minister called for seamless convergence between the revenue, forest and tribal affairs departments to eliminate procedural delays and administrative bottlenecks that hinder effective implementation.

It is pertinent to mention that Jammu and

Kashmir Government has designated the Tribal Affairs Department as the nodal agency for implementing the Act, replacing the Forest Department in this role. The legislation aims to address the long standing concerns of the forest-dwelling communities by recognising both individual and community rights over forest land and resources for Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.

Seeking greater transparency and accountability, Rana directed the officials to compile comprehensive data on rejected claims, along with detailed reasons for such rejections. This, he said, would help ensure that the genuine beneficiaries are not excluded and enable corrective measures wherever necessary.

The Minister further underscored the critical role of Gram Sabhas in the process, stressing the need for adequate and meaning-

ful representation of tribal communities in these grassroots institutions, which are responsible for verifying and recommending the claims under the Act.

Calling for intensified outreach, Rana instructed the officials to strengthen awareness campaigns so that eligible beneficiaries are fully informed about their rights and the procedures for filing claims. He emphasised the need for district-level awareness drives and training programmes to educate the communities about their entitlements under the Act.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to protect the rights and welfare of tribal populations, the Minister called for regular monitoring, periodic reviews and strict adherence to timelines to ensure effective and timely implementation of the Forest Rights Act across Jammu and Kashmir.

Satish Sharma visits GMC Udhampur, reviews treatment facilities for accident victims

GMK NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, and Information Technology, Satish Sharma, Monday visited the Government Medical College (GMC) Udhampur to review the medical facilities being provided to the road accident victims and assess the overall preparedness of the institution in handling such emergency cases.

During the visit, the Minister conducted a detailed inspection of various wards including emergency and trauma sections. He took stock of the treatment being provided to the injured. He interacted with the patients and their attendants, seeking feedback on the services being extended to them by the hospital.

Sharma reviewed the



availability of doctors, paramedical staff, critical care infrastructure, medicines and diagnostic facilities. He emphasized that timely and efficient medical intervention during such emergencies is crucial in saving the precious human lives. He directed the hospital authorities to further strengthen the emergency response mechanisms.

The Minister instructed

the hospital administration to ensure round-the-clock availability of specialist doctors, well-equipped ambulances, blood bank services and essential life-saving drugs.

Highlighting the need for an integrated approach, Sharma called for enhanced coordination among the health, transport and police departments to streamline acci-

dent response and patient referral systems. He also directed for regular monitoring of trauma care services and timely upgradation of medical equipment to meet the growing healthcare demands.

The Minister underscored the importance of maintaining high standards of hygiene, sanitation and patient care within the hospital premises. He also reviewed the ongoing and proposed infrastructure development works at GMC Udhampur and assured that necessary resources would be provided to further strengthen the healthcare facilities in the region.

Appreciating the dedication of doctors, nurses, and paramedical staff, Sharma lauded their efforts in managing the emergency cases, asking them to continue serving with commitment and compassion.

Chief Secretary visits Road Accident Victims at GMC Udhampur

Assures Best Possible Medical Care to the victims

GMK NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday visited the Government Medical College (GMC), Udhampur, to enquire about the condition of individuals injured in a tragic road accident that occurred at Kaghote, Ramnagar.

The Chief Secretary was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa; Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Prem Singh; along with other senior officials of the district administration.

During his visit, the Chief Secretary interacted with the injured and reviewed the medical care being provided. He directed



the hospital administration and medical staff to ensure that all victims receive the highest standard of treatment and adequate support facilities without any delay.

Describing the incident as deeply unfortunate and distressing, the Chief Secretary expressed profound concern over the loss and suffering caused by the accident. He assured that the government is closely monitoring the situation and extending all possible assistance to the affected

individuals and their families.

The Chief Secretary further informed that immediately upon receiving news of the accident, the district administration, in coordination with the Army and other concerned agencies, promptly launched a comprehensive rescue and evacuation operation to provide timely medical assistance to the victims.

Emphasizing the critical importance of road safety, he underscored the need for strict enforcement of traffic

regulations to prevent such incidents in the future. He called for stringent action against overloading and stressed the necessity of ensuring the fitness and roadworthiness of vehicles to safeguard human lives.

He reiterated that the administration remains committed to supporting the victims and taking all necessary measures to enhance road safety and prevent recurrence of such tragic incidents in J&K.

Dy CM Expresses Sorrow over Tragic Udhampur Accident

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Monday expressed profound sorrow and grief over the tragic loss of lives in the unfortunate bus accident at Jalo on the Ramnagar-Udhampur route.

Deeply saddened by the incident, the Deputy Chief Minister conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls. He

also extended his sympathies to those injured in the accident and wished them a speedy and full recovery.

He assured that the administration is extending all necessary medical care to the injured and that every possible support will be provided to the affected families during this difficult time.

The Deputy Chief Minister prayed for strength and courage for the grieving families to endure this irreparable loss.

Sakeena Itoo expresses grief over Udhampur Bus accident

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo has expressed deep sorrow and anguish over the tragic loss of lives in the unfortunate bus accident on the Ramnagar-Udhampur route.

The Health Minister conveyed her heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families and prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls. She also expressed solidarity with the injured passengers, wishing them a speedy and complete recovery.

Taking immediate cognizance of the incident, the Minister issued urgent directions to the Principals

of Government Medical College Jammu and Government Medical College Udhampur to ensure swift and coordinated medical response for all those injured.

She instructed the Principals of both medical facilities to keep emergency services on high alert and ensure prompt admission of all referred patients without delay.

"Deploy dedicated teams of senior doctors, trauma specialists, surgeons and paramedical staff for continuous monitoring and treatment. Maintain round-the-clock availability of specialist care, including critical care and surgical interventions wherever required", Sakeena Itoo directed both Principals.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Manas Rajan Nayar would like to bring to your knowledge that I lost my wallet on way from SMHS hospital to Army camp at Iqbal Park on 19 Apr 2026 around 11 o' clock. The wallet contains my Personal document. Details are as follows: Aadhaar Card: 5071 2486 6824, PAN Card: ARAPN4044N, Driving Licence: KA 03 20140026273, Voted ID Card, Grocery card: GIA-02082526257300FOO, Credit Card: 01, Debit Card: 01. If anyone finds it, kindly return it on a humanitarian basis. I shall not be held responsible for any misuse of the documents.

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I, Mohd Sultan Dar, S/o Ab Samad Dar, R/o Check Delina, hereby inform the general public that I am the registered consumer of an electricity connection bearing Connection ID: 0212010004640. That I want to transfer the said electricity connection in favor of my son Bilal Ahmad Dar, S/o Mohd Sultan Dar, R/o Check Delina. Henceforth, Bilal Ahmad Dar shall be the lawful holder/user of the above-mentioned electricity connection, and all future rights, responsibilities, and liabilities related to the said connection shall rest with him. If any person has any objection regarding this transfer, they may contact the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No claims shall be entertained thereafter.

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Name: Nadeem Ah Ganie
S/o: Ab Hamid Ganie

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Promises Still A Mirage

When Omar Abdullah unveiled his election manifesto, it struck a chord with many people across Jammu and Kashmir. The promises were ambitious, and for a public long used to waiting, they brought a sense of hope that things might finally change. But nearly two years on, that hope is beginning to wear thin. For many, those promises now feel distant, something that sounded good at the time but hasn't quite translated into reality. It's a feeling people here know all too well, having seen similar assurances come and go over the decades. Of course, governing a place like Jammu and Kashmir is not easy. There are real challenges, administrative, economic, and security-related, that can slow down progress. But that doesn't change the fact that expectations were raised, and people are now looking for results. The issue is not just delay, but the lack of visible change in everyday life. Jobs, development, and basic improvements that people were counting on still seem out of reach for many. Over time, this gap between what was promised and what is being delivered starts to create frustration. That said, it's not too late to turn things around. People are not asking for miracles, they want honesty, clear communication, and steady progress. Even small but genuine steps can rebuild confidence if they are visible and consistent. In the end, what matters most is not what was promised during elections, but what is delivered after. If the government can begin to close that gap, the trust that once brought it to power can still be regained.

Good Morning Kashmir

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Hidden Risk In The Fitness Boom

Are Gym Workouts Triggering A Silent Heart Crisis?

DR. RIZWAN RUMI

Across cities, towns, and even smaller communities, gyms have become symbols of discipline, health, and personal transformation. Young men and women rise before dawn for treadmill sessions, weight training, and intense cardio routines. Social media glorifies six-packs, dramatic weight loss, and the mantra of "no pain, no gain." Yet beneath this expanding fitness culture lies an uncomfortable question: are some people pushing their bodies, and especially their hearts, too far?

Recent reports of individuals collapsing during workouts have raised public concern. While such incidents remain uncommon, they reveal a larger issue: many people are entering high-intensity training without understanding their cardiovascular health. Exercise is among the most powerful tools for preventing disease. But when pursued recklessly or without preparation, it can also expose hidden dangers.

Exercise Is Essential, But Intensity Requires Caution

Medical science is clear that regular physical activity reduces the risk of heart disease, diabetes, obesity, depression, and premature death. Moderate exercise remains one of the most effective investments in long-term health.

The concern is not exercise itself. The real danger arises when sudden, extreme exertion is undertaken by people with undiagnosed medical conditions, poor conditioning, dehydration, or chronic stress. In such cases, the gym does not create the problem—it reveals one already present.

Why Even Young People Are at Risk

One of the greatest misconceptions about heart health is that appearance equals wellness. A muscular frame or slim body does not necessarily indicate a healthy cardiovascular system.

Many younger individuals may unknowingly carry inherited or silent heart conditions such as abnormal rhythms, structural heart defects, or hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Others face modern lifestyle risks that often go unnoticed:

- High blood pressure
- Elevated cholesterol
- Diabetes or insulin resistance
- Smoking or vaping history
- Chronic stress



- Poor sleep patterns
- Sedentary daily routines
- Excessive caffeine or stimulant use

A person may spend ten hours sitting, sleep poorly, eat irregularly, and then attempt a punishing one-hour workout. The body does not always adapt instantly to such extremes.

The Pressure of Performance Culture

Today, fitness is increasingly tied to appearance and online validation. Many people no longer train for health—they train for display.

Social media rewards dramatic transformations, extreme lifting, rapid fat loss, and visible exhaustion as symbols of commitment. Beginners often imitate advanced athletes or influencers without understanding their own limitations.

This creates a dangerous mindset where pain is mistaken for progress and overexertion becomes a badge of honor. Health was meant to be a journey. It is now too often treated as a contest.

Steroids, Supplements, and Silent Damage

Another growing concern is the misuse of anabolic steroids, stimulant-heavy pre-workouts, fat burners, and unregulated supplements marketed for rapid results. These substances can elevate blood pressure, strain the heart, disturb rhythm, and worsen

hidden disease. Combined with dehydration or intense training, they may significantly increase risk. The pursuit of quick physiques can carry long-term consequences.

Warning Signs That Should Never Be Ignored

- Chest pain or tightness
- Unusual shortness of breath
- Dizziness or fainting
- Palpitations
- Severe fatigue during exercise
- Nausea or discomfort under strain

Ignoring these signals can be dangerous. Stopping activity and seeking medical advice may save a life. The answer is not fear—it is intelligent training. Before beginning intense exercise, especially after age 30, after a long sedentary period, or with a family history of heart disease, basic screening is wise:

- Blood pressure check
- Blood sugar testing
- Cholesterol profile
- ECG when advised
- Stress testing for higher-risk individuals
- Medical consultation if symptoms exist

- Safe training should also include:
 - Proper warm-up and cool-down

- Gradual progression
- Hydration
- Rest and recovery days
- Sound technique
- Quality sleep
- Listening to the body rather than the ego

A commonly used guide for maximum heart rate is: HRmax = 220 - age. Many people benefit from training in a moderate zone of 60-80% of this estimate, though individual guidance is always preferable. Kashmir, like many regions, is witnessing a welcome rise in health awareness and gym culture. This is a positive shift. But enthusiasm must be matched with education. Gyms need qualified trainers, emergency preparedness, CPR awareness, and a culture that values sustainability over spectacle. Public awareness campaigns should remind people that health is not measured by mirror muscles alone, but by endurance, balance, and a strong heart.

The modern gym can be a place of healing—or a place of unnecessary risk. The difference lies in mindset. Fitness should never mean punishing the body for appearances. It should mean strengthening life itself. Muscles may impress others. A healthy heart sustains everything.

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Digital Collaboration: An Indian And Global Perspective



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

In the rapidly evolving digital age, collaboration and communication have undergone a dramatic transformation. The widespread adoption of digital technologies has revolutionised the way individuals, businesses, educational institutions, and governments interact. From video conferencing to cloud-based project management tools, digital collaboration and communication have bridged geographical divides and created a global village. However, the trajectory and challenges of this digital transformation differ between regions, especially between India and other parts of the world.

Globally, digital collaboration tools like Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Slack, Trello, and Google Workspace have become indispensable. Multinational corporations manage teams across time zones, educational institutions offer virtual learning environments, and governments use digital platforms for public service delivery. During the COVID-19 pandemic, digital communication became a lifeline, enabling businesses to function and individuals to stay connected.

Developed nations, with their robust infrastructure, high internet penetration, and advanced digital literacy, quickly adapted to these tools. Remote work, e-governance, and virtual education systems were seamlessly integrated

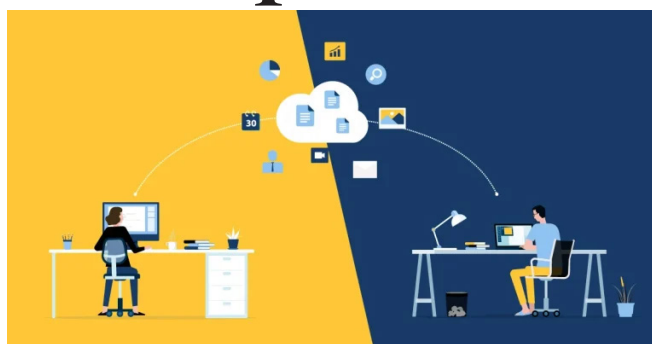
into daily routines. Innovations in artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and 5G technologies continue to expand the scope of global digital collaboration.

India's journey in digital collaboration has been remarkable, particularly in the last decade. Government initiatives like Digital India, BharatNet, and Startup India have laid the groundwork for a digitally connected society. The rise of platforms like JioMeet, Koo, and DigiLocker are examples of India's ambition to build indigenous alternatives to global digital giants. In the education sector, platforms like SWAYAM and DIKSHA have enabled millions of students to continue learning, even in remote regions. Similarly, the rise of gig economy platforms (e.g., UrbanClap, Zomato, and Upwork) has demonstrated how digital collaboration fosters employment and economic opportunities.

However, challenges persist. Digital illiteracy, uneven internet penetration, language barriers, and infrastructure gaps—especially in rural areas—continue to hinder seamless digital communication. Cybersecurity threats and data privacy concerns also pose significant hurdles.

The Government of India has recognized the strategic importance of digital collaboration in driving growth, inclusion, and governance. Several bold and structured steps have been taken: Digital India Mission (2015): This flagship initiative aims to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. It focuses on digital infrastructure, digital services, and digital literacy for all citizens.

BharatNet Project: Aiming to



provide high-speed broadband to over 250,000 Gram Panchayats (village councils), this project is the backbone for rural digital connectivity and collaboration.

PMGDISHA (Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan): A nationwide campaign to make at least one person per household digitally literate in rural areas, empowering citizens to participate in the digital economy.

National Policy on Software Products (2019): Encourages the creation of a vibrant Indian software product industry, including digital communication tools that are Made-in-India and Made-for-India.

UMANG App (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance): Integrates over 1,200 government services on one digital platform, allowing citizens to collaborate and communicate with the government seamlessly.

E-office and E-governance Platforms: Ministries and departments are increasingly adopting paperless workflows, enabling inter-departmental digital collaboration and transparency.

7.5G and AI Initiatives: The government is promoting 5G adoption and AI integration to

ensure India remains competitive in next-generation digital collaboration and communication technologies.

These steps underscore India's strong and serious realization of the importance of digital transformation, not just as a tool for convenience, but as a means to empower its people and reshape its economy.

Comparative Insights: Access and Infrastructure: While developed countries enjoy near-universal high-speed internet access, India still grapples with rural-urban divides in connectivity.

Language and Localization: India's multilingual diversity requires platforms to support vernacular content—unlike many global platforms that primarily use English.

Digital Culture: In Western countries, digital collaboration has been ingrained for years. In India, the shift is more recent and often met with a learning curve, especially among older or less-educated demographics.

Policy and Regulation: Countries like the EU have stringent data protection laws (e.g., GDPR), whereas India is still in the process

of refining its data governance framework.

India is poised to be a major player in the digital collaboration space. With its young population, booming IT industry, and government support, the future is promising. To truly compete on a global level, India must:

- Strengthen digital infrastructure across all regions.
- Promote multilingual, user-friendly tools.

Increase digital literacy through grassroots initiatives. Enforce stronger cybersecurity and data protection regulations.

Globally, as digital collaboration becomes more immersive—with the integration of metaverse technologies, virtual reality, and AI—the focus will shift to ethical use, inclusion, and sustainability.

Digital collaboration and communication have become central to how we work, learn, and interact. While global platforms lead in innovation, India is rapidly catching up with homegrown solutions and adaptive strategies. The Government of India's proactive policies and technological investments are a clear sign of its commitment to building a robust digital ecosystem. The goal, both in India and worldwide, is to create an equitable digital environment that bridges divides and empowers all. The future of digital collaboration lies in inclusivity, adaptability, and cross-cultural understanding, and both India and the global community have pivotal roles to play in shaping that future.

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IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

Modi, Muri, And The Roadside Connection



DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

Few images capture the soul of eastern India as vividly as a paper cone filled with jhal muri, that humble yet electrifying mixture of puffed rice, mustard oil, green chilies, onions, peanuts, and a medley of spices that awaken not just the palate but the senses, the memory, and the imagination, and when such an everyday delicacy intersects with the spectacle of political power, when a Prime Minister pauses amid the choreography of security convoys and public engagements to partake of this roadside snack, it creates a moment that transcends the ordinary and becomes symbolic of a deeper connection between governance and grassroots culture, between authority and authenticity, between the polished corridors of power and the dust-laden roads where real life unfolds in its raw, unfiltered vitality. Jhal muri, in this context, is not merely food, it is a cultural text, a narrative compressed into a handful of ingredients, each telling a story of migration, economy, taste, and tradition, and its sudden elevation into the national spotlight through the simple act of a Prime Minister enjoying it by the roadside.

Food is never just food. It is memory, identity, and culture wrapped into flavor. In India, where diversity is celebrated through language, dress, and ritual, food becomes one of the most powerful markers of belonging. Among the many culinary treasures of Bengal, Jhal Muri stands out as a humble yet iconic street snack. It is spicy, pungent, and communal, embodying Bengal's love for bold flavors and shared experiences. At the same time, food traditions like Jhal Muri often intersect with politics, as leaders highlight regional cuisines to connect with people and emphasize cultural heritage. The name itself explains the dish: jhal means spicy, and muri means puffed rice. Jhal Muri is prepared by mixing puffed rice with chopped onions, tomatoes, cucumber, boiled potatoes, roasted peanuts, green chilies, and a generous drizzle of mustard oil.

A squeeze of lemon adds tang, while chanachur (a spiced snack mix) provides crunch. Vendors prepare it fresh in paper cones or banana leaves, ensuring crispness and immediacy. This phenomenon is not unique to India. Globally, politicians often use food as a symbol of cultural pride. In India, however, the diversity of cuisines makes this practice especially powerful. From Gujarat's dhokla to Punjab's paratha and Bengal's Jhal Muri, each dish represents a region's identity, and acknowledging them reinforces the idea of unity in diversity.

Unlike elaborate meals, Jhal Muri requires no cooking, only mixing. This simplicity reflects Bengal's food philosophy: maximum flavor from minimal effort, relying on fresh ingredients and the sharp bite of mustard oil. It is a snack for the masses, affordable and accessible, yet deeply tied to regional identity. Jhal Muri, the spicy puffed rice snack of Bengal, is far more than a quick bite sold in paper cones on Kolkata's bustling streets. It is a cultural emblem, a reminder of Bengal's love for bold flavors, mustard oil, and community. In India, food often carries meanings beyond taste, it becomes a marker of identity, heritage, and even politics. Jhal Muri, humble yet iconic, illustrates how everyday cuisine can embody the spirit of a region while also participating in the larger narrative of India's cultural diversity. It reflects a powerful democratization of taste, an acknowledgment that the flavors that define a nation are not curated in elite kitchens but are born in the hands of street vendors who blend ingredients with instinct, speed, and an inherited understanding of balance that no culinary school can replicate.

This image—of a leader standing or sitting casually, perhaps surrounded by curious onlookers, security personnel maintaining a respectful distance, cameras capturing every gesture, while a vendor deftly mixes muri with chopped onions, coriander, green chilies, a squeeze of lime, a dash of mustard oil, and a secret masala, becomes an emblem of accessibility. It is a performative yet meaningful



gesture that collapses the distance between ruler and ruled, suggesting that leadership is not only about policy and rhetoric but also about participation in the shared cultural practices that define the everyday lives of citizens, and in a country as vast and diverse as India, where culinary traditions vary dramatically across regions, such moments acquire an additional layer of significance because they signal recognition of regional identities within the larger national narrative.

Jhal muri is deeply associated with Bengal and eastern India, especially the bustling streets of Kolkata where vendors, often called "muriwalas," roam with tin containers strapped around their waists or set up small stalls near railway stations, markets, and parks, calling out to passersby with rhythmic cries, and the preparation itself is a performance, a quick choreography of mixing, tossing, and serving, accompanied by the metallic clink of spoons against containers and the rustle of paper cones made from old newspapers, and when a Prime Minister engages with this practice, even briefly, it elevates the visibility of these micro-economies that sustain thousands of livelihoods, drawing attention, intentionally or otherwise, to the informal sector that remains the backbone of urban and semi-urban India.

Here entrepreneurship is often born out of necessity and sustained through resilience, and such a gesture can be read in multiple ways, depending on the observer's perspective, as a genuine moment of cultural appreciation, as a calculated act of political symbolism designed to resonate with the masses, or as a blend of both, reflecting the complex interplay between authenticity and per-



formance that characterizes much of modern political communication, especially in an age dominated by visual media where a single photograph or short video clip can travel across platforms. Such pictures generate discussions, memes, admiration, and critique in equal measure, and yet, beyond the immediate reactions, there remains something undeniably

compelling about the image itself, because it taps into a collective nostalgia, a shared familiarity with the taste of jhal muri.

Jhal Muri has been for many Indians is associated with childhood memories, evening walks, train journeys, or casual conversations with friends, and in that sense, the Prime Minister's roadside snack becomes a bridge between personal memory and public narrative, inviting citizens to see a reflection of their own experiences in the actions of their leader, however fleeting that reflection may be, and this interplay between food and politics is not new, as throughout history, leaders have used culinary gestures to convey messages of solidarity, simplicity, and cultural alignment, whether it is sharing a meal with farmers, visiting local eateries, or endorsing traditional foods. What makes the jhal muri moment particularly striking is its informality, its rootedness in the street rather than the staged environment of a curated event, even if the presence of cameras inevitably introduces an element of staging, because the street itself is unpredictable, alive with movement, noise, and spontaneity, and to step into that space, even momentarily, is to acknowledge its significance as a site of social interaction and cultural production.

In such taking of jhal muri in a serious election campaign of a hugely popular Prime Minister class boundaries blur and the rhythms of daily life unfold without the constraints of formal protocol, and in this sense, the act of eating jhal muri on the road can be interpreted as a symbolic immersion into the everyday, a gesture that suggests an awareness of the textures and tastes that define ordinary existence, even if such immersion is tem-

porary and mediated. Yet one must also consider the broader implications of such moments, asking whether they translate into tangible support for the communities they highlight, whether the visibility accorded to street vendors leads to improved policies, better infrastructure, or enhanced recognition of their contributions to the urban economy, or whether the

moment remains largely symbolic, a fleeting spectacle that captures attention but does not necessarily alter structural realities. This tension between symbolism and substance is central to understanding the significance of the Prime Minister's jhal muri moment, because while symbolism has the power to inspire, to create a sense of connection, and to shape narratives, it must ultimately be accompanied by substantive action if it is to have lasting impact. Even as one critically examines these dimensions, it is important not to dismiss the emotional resonance of the image, because food, perhaps more than any other cultural element, has the ability to evoke a sense of belonging, to transcend linguistic and regional differences, and to create moments of shared experience, and in a country as complex as India, where diversity is both a strength and a challenge, such moments of shared experience can play a role, however small, in fostering a sense of unity.

Such acts remind people that despite differences, there are common threads that bind them together, and jhal muri, with its simple ingredients and explosive flavor, becomes one such thread, a culinary metaphor for the nation itself, where diverse elements come together to create something vibrant, dynamic, and uniquely Indian. Perhaps that is why the image of a Prime Minister enjoying jhal muri on the road resonates so deeply, because it encapsulates a narrative that is both aspirational and grounded.

It suggests that leadership can be both elevated and accessible, that power can coexist with simplicity, and that the essence of a nation is not only found in its grand monuments or official ceremonies but also in the

In Kolkata, Jhal Muri is inseparable from the city's street food culture. It is sold at railway stations, bus stops, and tea stalls, often enjoyed alongside a steaming cup of chai in an earthen bhar. For students, office workers, and travelers, it is a quick bite that sustains conversation and community. Culturally, Jhal Muri represents inclusivity. It is inexpensive, so anyone, regardless of class, can enjoy it. It is also social, often shared among friends during evening chats or picnics. Beyond Bengal, Jhal Muri has spread to Bangladesh, Odisha, Bihar, and Assam, showing its cross-cultural appeal. Each region adapts it slightly, but the essence remains the same: puffed rice transformed into a flavorful symbol of everyday life.

Food in India is never neutral. It is tied to identity, pride, and politics. Leaders often highlight traditional foods to connect with people, emphasizing cultural heritage and regional diversity. By referencing local cuisines, they signal respect for traditions and attempt to unify diverse communities under a shared national identity. For example, when leaders mention dishes like Jhal Muri, they are not simply talking about food, they are acknowledging Bengal's cultural contribution to India. Such gestures resonate with people because food is deeply personal. It reminds them of home, childhood, and community. In this way, food becomes a political tool, used to build rapport and emphasize inclusivity.

In the larger Indian mosaic, Jhal Muri symbolizes Bengal's contribution to national identity. Just as bhel puri represents Mumbai's street food culture, Jhal Muri represents Kolkata's. Together, these snacks illustrate India's regional diversity and shared love for flavorful, communal eating. Food festivals across India often feature Jhal Muri as a representative dish of Bengal. Abroad, members of the Bengali diaspora recreate it to keep cultural ties alive. In this way, Jhal Muri transcends geography, becoming a global symbol of Bengal's identity. The intersection of food and politics is not always formal. Sometimes, it is about everyday life. When leaders eat local foods in public, it sends a message of relatability. When they highlight traditional snacks, it reinforces cultural pride. Jhal Muri, being a street food, is particularly symbolic because it represents the common person's experience. In Bengal, Jhal Muri is tied to trains, tea stalls, and conversations. It is part of the rhythm of daily life.

By acknowledging such foods, leaders connect with people's lived realities. Food thus becomes a bridge between politics and culture, between leadership and everyday citizens. In India, where diversity is celebrated, food becomes a powerful symbol of identity and unity. Jhal Muri represents Bengal's bold culinary style while contributing to India's larger cultural mosaic. It reminds us that food is not only about taste—it is about memory, community, and pride. Whether enjoyed on a Kolkata street corner or recreated abroad, Jhal Muri continues to embody the spirit of Bengal and the enduring power of food in shaping culture and politics.

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DC Kulgam reviews LPG stock position

Stresses smooth home delivery, 100% e-KYC completion

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Monday chaired a meeting with gas

supply dealers and agency representatives to review the availability and supply of LPG cylinders in the district. During the meeting, the

Deputy Commissioner took stock of the existing LPG stock position and the distribution mechanism to ensure adequate availability for consumers across

the district. The DC also reviewed the home delivery system of LPG cylinders and directed the concerned dealers and agencies to ensure smooth

and timely delivery to consumers so that no inconvenience is caused to the public. Emphasizing transparency and proper beneficiary veri-

fication, Shahzad Alam further instructed the agencies to ensure 100 percent completion of e-KYC of all LPG consumers at the earliest. He also directed the con-

cerned to maintain sufficient stock and strictly adhere to the prescribed norms to ensure uninterrupted LPG supply across the district.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Security Heightened

been killed since the Pahalgam attack, including those linked to the incident. In the Jammu region, operations in Kishtwar, Udhampur and Kathua districts have yielded significant results despite difficult terrain and weather conditions.

In a major operation on February 22, security forces eliminated a group of Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorists, including commander Saifullah, in the Chatroo forests of Kishtwar district.

Earlier, on February 4, forces killed two terrorists in the Basantgarh area of Udhampur district after targeting a cave hideout. Another commander, Usman alias Abu Maviya, was killed in Kathua's Billawar area on January 23.

According to the Army's White Knight Corps, seven terrorists involved in attacks on civilians and security personnel have been neutralised in Kishtwar district in 2025 and 2026.

Officials said sustained operations, including winter deployments in higher reaches, have restricted terrorists movement.

However, concerns remain over infiltration attempts along the International Border, with forces maintaining surveillance and conducting search operations based on inputs—(KNO)

21 Dead, 51 Injured

families of those who lost their lives in this accident. The local administration is fully engaged with utmost promptness in relief and rescue operations. I pray for the speedy recovery of the injured" he said.

Earlier, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said he spoke to Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, Minga Sherpa following the accident, informing that arrangements are being made to airlift the seriously injured victims.

Just now spoke to DC Udhampur, Minga Sherpa after learning about a tragic road accident, less than an hour ago, at village Kanote, involving a public transport bus on way from Ramnagar to Udhampur.

"The rescue operation has been immediately undertaken. Heavy casualties are expected. All possible assistance is being provided. The injured will be shifted for medical aid. Arrangements being made to airlift the seriously injured," the minister said in a post on X.

Singh said he is in constant touch with the local administration as well as the BJP local workers team involved in the rescue operation.

Former Chief Minister and PDP President Mehbooba Mufti also expressed grief over the incident.

"Deeply saddened by the tragic Udhampur-Ramnagar bus accident.

Condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the swift recovery of those injured," she said in a post on X.

Expressing grief over the incident, J&K Congress chief Tariq Hameed Karra urged authorities to immediately provide all possible relief, proper medical care, and necessary support to the affected families in this hour of immense pain—(KNO)

LG, CM Express Grief

bus rolled down a hill in the district this morning.

In a post on X, the Lt Governor said, "Tragic road accident in Udhampur is heartbreaking. My deepest condolences to bereaved families. May God grant them strength. Praying for a speedy recovery of the injured."

Sinha said he directed the district administration, police, the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and health department to provide every possible assistance to those affected.

The chief minister extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

In a post on X, Abdullah said, "The government stands firmly with the victims and their families in this hour of grief, and that all necessary assistance is being extended."

Former chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti also expressed grief over the incident.

"Deeply saddened by the tragic Udhampur-Ramnagar bus accident. Condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the swift recovery of those injured," she said in a post on X.

Survivors Recall Cries Of

The incident occurred around 10 a.m.

near Kagort village in the Ramnagar area, when the driver lost control while navigating a sharp, blind curve. An Army convoy passing by immediately halted and launched an intense rescue operation. Survivors described scenes of sheer panic—twisted metal, shattered glass, entangled bodies, and piercing screams—with hope fading by the minute until soldiers arrived.

Neetu, who was en route to her maternal home in Udhampur, recalled from her hospital bed, "Army personnel reached us first, like saviors in the midst of chaos. They pulled us from the wreckage. I had a miraculous escape, this feels like a second life." She sustained injuries to her back, legs, and face, and said she has lost all her belongings but is grateful simply to be alive.

An Army soldier leading the convoy stated that they acted immediately after spotting the bus rolling down the slope. "We secured the area and launched the rescue with great difficulty, saving many precious lives," he said. Local villagers and police teams, led by Deputy Inspector General Shiv Kumar Sharma, soon joined the effort, working together to pry open the mangled bus and extract the injured on priority.

Among the survivors was 19-year-old Thappa, a student who suffered head injuries. His uncle, Rajesh, expressed gratitude to the Army and police for their prompt response. Nearly a dozen students were on board heading to college.

The bus's violent descent included striking an auto-rickshaw below before crashing with immense force, crushing its top portion entirely. A hydraulic crane was later brought in to right the overturned vehicle, allowing rescuers to reach remaining trapped passengers and clear debris. While initial reports suggest the driver failed to negotiate the sharp turn, an official investigation is now underway.

Weather To Remain

was around 2.6 degrees above the seasonal average.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 34.7 degrees Celsius, 1.6 degrees above normal, while Katra registered 33 degrees Celsius, nearly 4.8 degrees above the average. Batote and Bhaderwah also recorded temperatures above normal.

The MeT department said there was no significant rainfall recorded across most stations during the day, although some places received light precipitation over the past 24 hours. Pahalgam recorded the highest rainfall of 9.2 mm during this period.

An official said the weather is expected to remain "generally dry" from April 20 to 23, with a possibility of brief spells of light rain at isolated places.

From April 24 to 25, the weather is likely to turn partly to generally cloudy, with one or two spells of light rain or thundershowers at scattered to many places. Gusty winds are also expected at a few locations, particularly during the late afternoon and evening hours.

On April 26, brief spells of light rain or thundershowers are likely at a few places, while April 27 and 28 are expected to remain largely dry.

Another spell of light rain and thundershowers, accompanied by gusty winds, is forecast at isolated places on April 29 and 30, mainly during the late afternoon.

The MeT department has advised farmers to continue agricultural operations till April 23 in view of the largely dry weather conditions.

It also said that day temperatures are expected to rise by 2 to 4 degrees Celsius at many places across the Union Territory over the next few days—(KNO)

Transport Strike Hits

The situation remained largely peaceful, with protests confined to designated locations and no reports of major law and order issues. [KNT]

US Ambassador Confirms

citing India's imports of Russian oil, were removed," he had said.

He had also said that pursuant to the US Supreme Court judgement of February 20, 2026, invalidating reciprocal tariffs, the reciprocal tariffs are no longer in force.

"The US Government has issued Executive Orders imposing 10% tariffs pursuant to Section 122 of the Trade Act, 1974 on certain products from all countries. India remains engaged with the US side

for a mutually beneficial trade agreement," he had said.

Sources had said the US is trying to recreate a tariff architecture globally and once that is created, will be better to sign the trade deal.

They added that trade agreement would be signed when a new architecture of tariffs globally is implemented by the US.

Commerce Ministry officials had said in March that India and the United States remain engaged for a mutually beneficial trade agreement, and there is no hold off in bilateral engagement.

CS Outlines Vision For

instrumental in significantly reducing administrative barriers, compressing service timelines, curbing corruption and ultimately sustaining the bond of trust between citizens and the administration.

He favoured that digital platforms must feature user-friendly interfaces and local language support to ensure no citizen is left behind in this revolution. He further noted that structured, well-governed data will serve as the bedrock for deploying Artificial Intelligence in public administration, turning raw information into actionable intelligence for better governance.

The Chief Secretary made it clear that strict adherence to cybersecurity protocols and the development of comprehensive crisis management plans across all departments are non-negotiable imperatives. He called for continuous capacity building of government personnel and urged robust collaboration between government departments, NCSI/ NIC and premier academic institutions to accelerate the digital roadmap.

The Chief Secretary's address highlighted two major milestones in the shape of MeitY sanctioned Centre of Excellence in AI, which will be hosted at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Jammu through a Special Purpose Vehicle to drive region-specific research and innovation. Additionally he made out that the Government is actively contemplating to establish two dedicated IT Parks at both Jammu and Srinagar. These parks are envisioned as vital catalysts for nurturing the local start-up ecosystem and driving large-scale employment generation for the youth.

Addressing the gathering, State Election Commissioner J&K, highlighted the all-pervasive role of information technology across all sectors of governance.

Offering a thought-provoking analogy on Artificial Intelligence, Shantmanu cautioned that while AI should be embraced as a tool, it must also be studied with the rigorous vigilance reserved for a potential adversary. He stressed the need to thoroughly understand AI to harness its full potential while proactively mitigating the risks of its misuse. Drawing on his recent observations of election management frameworks in other states, he further underscored the transformative impact of IT tools in enhancing transparency for voters, candidates and the electoral machinery.

The workshop comprised specialised knowledge-sharing sessions on vital frontier technologies, starting with a crucial deep-dive into Cyber Security led by National Cyber Security Expert Amit Dubey, followed by an exploration of Cloud capabilities by Rajendran Dandapani, Director and President, Zoho Corporation. The technical agenda culminated in a dedicated session on Artificial Intelligence by Alok Tiwari. Vote of thanks was presented by Jaskaran Singh Modi, State Informatics Officer NIC J&K at the culmination of the session.

Govt Ruthlessly

the first three months of this year. Of the convicts, four were awarded the maximum sentence of 20 years, while 54 received sentences of 10 years or more.

The statement said a total fine of Rs 1.22 crore was also imposed on the convicts.

The statement also mentioned a conviction secured in the 2023 pseudoephedrine-diversion case (a controlled substance under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act) involving a company named Alps Life Sciences Private Limited located in Sonipat, Haryana.

In this case, three accused, including the firm's director, were sentenced to seven years of rigorous imprisonment and slapped a fine of Rs 1.5 lakh each.

The company was also convicted and fined Rs 1.5 lakh. The permission granted to the company for manufacturing

pseudoephedrine has also been withdrawn by the NCB, the statement said.

The federal anti-narcotics agency has also appealed to other central and state enforcement agencies to identify key undertrial cases involving drug kingpins and ensure effective prosecution, according to the statement. (Agencies)

Abdullahs, Muftis Have

restored by the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi."

He added, "Our party is committed to peace and progress in the region. It is not expected that the NC would support Bharat being Vishwaguru, and we cannot see any nationalistic view from the NC and their leaders. While the BJP speaks of nationalism, harmony, and national integration, the growing popularity and foothold of the BJP across the country exemplify how people have wholeheartedly accepted the BJP and its policies, and it is growing day by day."

The BJP leader condemned Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for praising China's manufacturing capabilities during his US visit, calling him a "desh drohi (traitor) who lets down his own country on foreign soil". "Rahul Gandhi's actions are always against India and anti-national. It is expected that he will do such things. He should note that the country has progressed with the Make In India initiative and we have become the world's largest manufacturing hub. Today, the country is a leading manufacturer and exporter of mobile phones, toys, and other essential goods. We are now leaders in defence manufacturing and exports. In every sector, we are leading and our country will be the world's third-largest economy by 2047 under the vision of Viksit Bharat."

NSA Doval Holds High

Foreign Minister H.H. Prince Faisal bin Farhan and National Security Advisor Dr. Musaed Al-Aiban. During the meetings they discussed bilateral relations, regional situation and other issues of mutual interests."

The visit comes amid a series of active diplomatic engagements by India on global security issues. Just days earlier, on April 17, Doval held extensive talks with Rustem Umerov, Secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defence Council.

The meeting highlighted continued strategic dialogue between New Delhi and Kyiv during the ongoing conflict in Eastern Europe.

According to Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, the discussions with Ukraine focused on bilateral relations and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. India reiterated its consistent position advocating a peaceful resolution through dialogue and diplomacy.

Together, these engagements reflect India's proactive diplomatic approach in addressing both regional and global security challenges while strengthening ties with key international partners.

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NIT Srinagar bags patent for innovative eco-friendly road engineering system

Dir, Registrar highlight impact; eco-friendly system set to transform roads

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major advancement in sustainable infrastructure engineering, the National Institute of Technology Srinagar has been granted a patent by the Patent Office, Government of India, for a novel material system titled "Zinc-Coordinated Porphyrin-Integrated Geocomposite Systems for Sustainable Pavement Engineering."



The patent has been awarded to a research team led by Dr. Vivek (Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering) and Dr. Ravi Kumar (Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry), along with collaborators including PhD scholar Dr. Waseem Arif, Mr. Attullah Kaleem, Ms. Kizafa Aftab, and Mr. Manzoor Hussain.

The innovation marks a significant step forward in the development of high-performance, eco-friendly road construction technologies.

The patented technology introduces a new class of functional geocomposite materials by integrating zinc-coordinated porphyrin structures into pavement systems.

It is specifically designed to enhance both mechanical strength and environmental performance of road infrastructure, particularly under challenging climatic conditions such as those found in cold regions like Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the team, the developed material system demonstrates improved resistance to rutting and fatigue cracking, two of the most common causes of pavement failure.

By modifying the internal structure of pavement layers at the molecular and composite levels, the innovation enables improved load distribution, enhanced durability, and longer road service life.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, extended congratulations to Dr. Vivek, Dr. Ravi Kumar, and the research team.

He said the grant of this patent reflects the institute's strong focus on high-impact research and innovation. This breakthrough demonstrates how advanced material science can address real-world infrastructure challenges

while promoting sustainability, Prof. Kanaujia said. Institute's Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rehman, termed the development a landmark achievement. "This accomplishment highlights the dedication and interdisciplinary collaboration of our researchers. It also reinforces our commitment to fostering innovation and intellectual property development," he added.

"This patented system has strong potential for application in modern pavement engineering, especially in regions requiring durable and climate-resilient infrastructure. It is a step toward translating academic research into practical solutions," she added.

HOD Civil Engineering Department Prof. J. A. Bhat and HOD Chemistry Prof. Kowsar Majid congratulated Dr. Vivek, Dr. Ravi Kumar, and the team for securing the patent. They termed it as proud moment for the Institute.

Baramulla ramps up preparations for Census 2027

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Baramulla, Nisar Ahmad Monday chaired a review meeting of charge officers at the DC office meeting hall here to assess the preparedness for the upcoming Census 2027 exercise in the district.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the roles and responsibilities at the charge level to ensure smooth and timely execution of the census operations.

Emphasis was laid on the creation of House Listing Blocks (HLBs) and accurate mapping of villages to facilitate systematic enumeration. The officers were directed to ensure that all necessary groundwork is completed well in



advance to avoid any last-minute challenges.

During the meeting, the CPO stressed on the charge officers to finalize the list of supervisors and enumerators, ensuring that the selected personnel possess a basic understanding of technology to effectively handle digital tools and applications associated with the census process.

To strengthen capacity building, the CPO highlighted the need for organizing training sessions in batches for enumerators and supervisors which will focus on familiarizing field staff with census procedures, digital platforms, and data collection methodologies.

Underscoring the importance of public participation, the CPO called for a robust Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign at the grassroots level and hold Special Gram Sabhas across all the 402 panchayats and municipal wards to raise awareness about the significance of the census and to encourage active public participation.

The CPO reiterated the importance of coordinated efforts, timely execution, and community involvement in making Census 2027 a success, urging all stakeholders to work with commitment and diligence towards achieving the objectives of this vital national exercise.

The meeting was attended by the District Coordinator for census Baramulla and all the appointed charge officers.

Shantmanu reviews revision of Panchayat Electoral Rolls in R S Pura, Miran Sahib

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: State Election Commissioner, Jammu & Kashmir, Shantmanu, on Monday conducted an extensive tour of Miran Sahib block and R S Pura block of Jammu district to review the progress on special camps being organised for Revision of Panchayat Electoral Rolls-2026.

The Election Commissioner visited and inspected special camps at Panchayat Ghar Darsapur, Panchayat Ghar Badyal Brahmana (Lower), Panchayat Ghar Rathana, Panchayat Ghar Malikpur, Panchayat Ghar Kotli Mian Fateh and Government Middle School Nihalpur Simble (Upper).

During the inspection, he interacted with the Panchayat Secretaries, BLOs, PEBOs to assess the pace of the special revision camps set up for updation of Electoral Roll 2026. He reviewed the status of registration forms and progress on enrolment of newly eligible voters.

KPDCL announces power shutdown in Kashmir parts

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL Monday informed that the Shutdown of 33 KV Wanganpora-S.H Pora line will be observed due to which power supply to Jamalata, Nawa Bazar, Zaina Kadal, Zal Dagar, Nowhatta, Nawa Kadal, MR Gunj, Kaka Sarai, Maidan Pora, SMHS Hospital & adjoining areas will be affected from 03 PM to 5 PM on 21 April 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Shamsipora Tap line will be observed due to which power supply to Shamsipora & adjoining areas will be affected from 9 AM to 4 PM on 23 & 27 April 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 KV Wanpoh-Qaimoh line will be observed due to which power supply to Qaimoh, Rampora, Mathal Hama, Rahpora, Redwani, Kujar, Nowbal & adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 21 April 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Wanpoh-Qazigund line will be observed due to which power supply to Qazigund town, Y.K Pora, Manzmooh, Nassu, Baitengo, Razloo, Chowgam, Khar-

gund, Lamer & adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 23 April 2026.

Further, shutdown of 33 KV Tra-II line will be observed due to which power supply to Batagund, Lurgam, Nanar, Taki, Lam, Jawharpora, Aripal, Khangund and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 23, 27 & 29 April 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Wanganpora-BAMK line will be observed due to which power supply to Shanglipora, Danimar, Sangam & adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 21 April 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 KV Wanganpora-Khaniyar line will be observed due to which power supply to Miskeen Bagh, Rozabal, Maqdoom Sahib, Hazari Bagh, Jogi Lanker, JLN Hospital, Kondabal, Hasnabad & adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 21 April 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 KV Baramulla-1st line will be observed due to which power supply to Main Baramulla, Kanibagh, Microwave & adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 25 April 2026.

DC Kulgam reviews Projects under NABARD Sector

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam Monday chaired a review meeting of NABARD funded RIDF Projects in the district.

The meeting was attended by JD Planning, ACR, ACD, SE R&B, DDM NABARD, District Sectoral Officers and Executive Engineers of R&B, Jal Shakti, IFC and KPDCL.

Giving out the details, AGM, NABARD, Rouf Zargar informed that NABARD has sanctioned 115 projects worth Rs 362.66 Cr since inception out of which 25 are ongoing projects with total outlay of Rs 113.56 Cr, under different sectors.

The DC took the detailed physical and financial review of individual projects directing the executing departments to expedite the works and clear all the bottlenecks in the projects.

He took stock of new projects formulated by the departments which could be considered under RIDF under various sectors in view of the operational guidelines of NABARD including the funding modalities, and sectoral priorities of the scheme.

The DC laid emphasis on the Executive Engineers to complete the projects under timelines and expedite submission of project completion reports for completed projects.

DC Kupwara reviews finalization of data under 3rd phase of Agri Census

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, who also serves as the Chairman of the District Level Coordination Committee, Monday convened a meeting of concerned officers to review and finalize the data compilation process under the third phase of the Agriculture Census in the district.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of the progress achieved so far was undertaken. He stressed that reliable data is essential for effective planning, resource allocation, and implementation of farmer welfare schemes. Officers from different

departments, including Agriculture, Revenue, and allied sectors, briefed the chair on the status of data collection, verification, and digitization.

The Deputy Commissioner called upon all stakeholders to work with dedication and a sense of responsibility to ensure that the Agriculture Census data for the district is finalized in a comprehensive and error-free manner.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue Kupwara, District Statistics & Evaluation Officer, besides, officers from Agriculture, Revenue, Statistics, and allied sectors, participated in the meeting.

DC Budgam Chairs Mega Public Darbar at Parnewa

BUDGAM, APRIL 20: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, today Athar Aamir Khan chaired a Mega Public Darbar at Parnewa Budgam, reaffirming the administration's commitment towards responsive and people-centric governance.



The Public Darbar witnessed an overwhelming response, with large participation from Parnewa and adjoining Halqas including Kremshore, Dreygam, Bugroo, Palpora, Havoora, Wager, and Shuru. The event provided a direct and effective platform for the public to engage with the administration and raise their concerns regarding developmental and civic issues.

DC patiently heard grievances and demands from various delegations and individuals. The interaction continued for several hours, ensuring that every representation was given due attention.

During the Darbar, the residents submitted memorandums highlighting several pressing issues crucial for the socio-economic development of the area. Prominent among

the demands raised were ensuring availability of clean drinking water and improving the reliability of electricity supply, widening and desilting of irrigation canals to enhance agricultural productivity, installation of street lights in major habitations for improved safety and convenience, upgradation of school infrastructure to facilitate better educational outcomes, strengthening healthcare services at local health institutions, development of public parks and recreational spaces for youth and elderly citizens.

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EXTENSION NOTICE

In continuation to this office notice inviting sealed tenders issued vide No. DCD/25/Tender/664 dated 12-04-2026 for the supply of newspapers and magazines for the academic session 2026-27, it is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that the last date for submission of tenders has been extended.

Interested registered and reputed suppliers/authorized vendors who have not yet submitted their tenders may now do so along with all requisite documents, in the office of the undersigned within 04 (four) days from the date of publishing of this extension notice. All other terms and conditions as laid down in the original notice shall remain unchanged. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
 Principal
 (GDC Dooru)

DIPK-590-26
 DT: 20/04/2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DEPARTMENT
CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU/SRINAGAR

Subject: Acceptance of B.Tech degree in Civil Engineering in service records and inclusion of name in the seniority list of Degree holders of Junior Engineers.

NOTICE INVITING OBJECTIONS

WHEREAS, the Department has received the case of the below named Junior Engineer (Civil), a Diploma Holder, from the Chief Engineer, PMGSY (JKRDA), Kashmir, vide letter No. CE/PMGSY/K/Estab/5646-48 dated 18.10.2025, for acceptance of his Degree and for inclusion of his name in the relevant seniority list of Degree Holder Junior Engineers (Civil), with the following details:-

Name with designation	Date of appointment	Date of enrollment	Mode of degree	Name of University	Date of passing degree	Permission status
Hilal Ahmad Malik Junior Engineer	25.05.2016	25.08.2022	Regular	BGSBU Rajouri	06.06.2025	Yes, vide Govt. order No. 359-PW(R&B) of 2022 dated 06.10.2022, Govt. order No. 326-PW(R&B) of 2023 dated 10.08.2023 and Govt. Order No. 208-PW(R&B) of 2024 dated 25.07.2024

AND WHEREAS, the case was examined in the department, and the Degree/marks certificates of the above mentioned official were forwarded to the concerned University vide letter dated 07.01.2026 for verification/authentication of the genuineness of the Degree acquired by the said Junior Engineer. In response, the concerned University/Institution vide their communication No. BGSBU/CoE/2026/210 dated 19.01.2026 has furnished the verification of the degree certificate of the official;

AND WHEREAS, the above-named Junior Engineer has also produced undertakings in the shape of an Affidavit duly attested by a Public Notary District Court Kulgam, affirming therein:-

"that the deponent has completed the bachelors degree in Civil Engineering (B.Tech Civil) regular mode during the year 2022-25 under Roll No. 70-C/L-2022 from Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University Rajouri. That the deponent has not received any kind of Scholarship for the said degree and the certificates/documents are genuine and nothing is kept hidden in the affidavit".

AND WHEREAS, upon further examination of the case, it has been observed that the official's Degree may be accepted from the date of his having passed the said Degree, and that his name may be included at the appropriate place in the relevant seniority list of Degree Holder Junior Engineers (Civil), as and when the same is notified afresh. Further, his name shall be excluded from the relevant seniority list of Junior Engineers (Diploma Holders) (Civil).

NOW, THEREFORE, before acceptance of the Degree acquired by the above named Junior Engineer and also inclusion of his name at appropriate place in the relevant seniority list of Degree holders Junior Engineers (Civil), objections are invited from the members of the cadre who are likely to be affected due to decision of the department which should reach in the Administrative Department through concerned Chief Engineer via eOffice or by e-mail to jkpwd-rb@jk.gov.in within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance/ publication of the notice. No claim(s), whatsoever, shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated time period.

No. PWD-NGAZOCIV/361/2025-05 (C.No. 7709977)
 Dated: 16.04.2026

DIPK-571-26
 DT: 20/04/2026
 (Hamid Hameed)
 Under Secretary to the Government

Tilak Ton Scripts Memorable Turnaround For Mumbai Indians

AGENCIES

AHMEDABAD: Tilak Varma played a knock for the ages as his maiden IPL century turned the corner for Mumbai Indians with the five-time champions crushing Gujarat Titans by 99 runs here on Monday.

Spurred by skipper Hardik Pandya's 'hard talk' asking him to get a move-on during the strategic break after he scratched his way to 19 off 22 balls, Tilak changed gears in a flash to amass 82 off the next 23 deliveries and end on an unbeaten 101 off 45 balls.

Mumbai Indians' 199 for 5 was good enough as Jasprit Bumrah broke his wicket-less streak for five matches with a first-ball dismissal of Sai Sudharsan and GT never recovered from there to get all out for 100 in 15.5 overs.

The introduction of left-arm seamer Ashwani Kumar proved to be decisive as he snared 4 for 24 to run through the middle-order along with Mitchell Santner (2/16 in 3 overs).

The defeat also exposed the chinks in GT armoury, especially their fragile middle-order where they have carried two 'non performing assets' in Rahul Tewatia and M Shahrukh Khan for the longest time.

Between them, they played 24 balls and scored only 25 runs and it is baffling to see head coach Ashish Nehra placing so much faith in the mediocre duo.

The win, after four straight defeats, took Mumbai Indians to seventh place in the points table, but more importantly, it



improved their net run rate significantly (+0.067).

MI looked a different outfit till the 14th over when the second strategic time out was taken. Post that, Tilak did the unthinkable to give the total respectability, which looked improbable after the powerplay thanks to an intimidating first spell by Kagiso Rabada.

At the strategic time-out post 14th over, TV cameras caught skipper Pandya animatedly telling something to 'Tilak, who had looked unconvincing till that point of time and was occasionally booed by the Motera crowd.

But after that break, one saw the Tilak that one has always known as he threw the kitchen sink at GT's fastest bowlers. Prasadh Krishna went for 19, and new pace sensation Ashok Sharma was toyed with for 26 runs.

Before Monday's innings, Tilak's poor form was one of the talking points as he managed only 43 in the previous five outings. In all, he hit eight fours and seven sixes on the day, with a few over covers and some hit down the ground.

Pandya (15 off 16 balls) did push Tilak but hardly did anything of note himself in their 81-run stand off only 38 balls. The last six overs yielded 96 runs, largely due to the ever inconsistent Prasadh Krishna (1/54 in 4 overs), who gave away 41 in his final two overs.

This was after Rabada (3/33 in 4 overs) got the ball to seam at a quick clip as he blew the top-order away inside powerplay to ensure that it would be another day of below par total for the five-time cham-

pions who had been looking completely out of sorts until then.

Rabada, rated as one of the legends of his generation alongside Pat Cummins, Bumrah and Josh Hazlewood, bowled the 'Test match length', faster, fuller and attacked the stumps to get three wickets.

Danish Malewar (2) understood the gulf between domestic and world class bowling as he couldn't get his bat down on time and Rabada rapped him on the pads plumb in front. Quinton de Kock (13 off 11 balls) played a rasping square cut when Rabada gave him width but a short ball saw him balloon a pull shot, which the bowler collected gleefully.

The best dismissal certainly was the one where he set up out-of-form India T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav

(15 off 10 balls). Surya had clipped Rabada for a six into the cow corner and straight drove him for a boundary.

Rabada came back with a banger—a 152 kmph delivery pitched up on fourth stump line that cut back sharply. There was no visible footwork and the bat was away from the body as it breached through the defence to peg the stump back.

Naman Dhir, who scored a fifty in the last game, resurrected the innings. He used Ashok Sharma's pace to get a couple of boundaries and kept pushing the scoreboard although he never dominated the attack.

It was only post the strategic break that Tilak suddenly changed gears and played the most memorable knock of his IPL career. It was the fastest hundred for Mumbai Indians in the history of the tournament.

IPL 2026: 'We gave away too many runs,' says Gill after Gujarat Titans' 'heavy defeat' to MI

IAN S

AHMEDABAD: Skipper Shubman Gill admitted that the Gujarat Titans (GT) conceded too many runs in the middle overs as they slumped to a heavy 99-run defeat against the Mumbai Indians (MI) in Match 30 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Monday.

"Honestly, I think we gave away too many runs in the middle overs. On a wicket like that, I think 160-170 was a par score," Gill

said after the match.

Chasing a big target, the Gujarat Titans never really got going. Jasprit Bumrah struck on the very first ball, while Hardik Pandya removed Jos Buttler early to put MI firmly in control. Despite a brief fightback, GT kept losing wickets at regular intervals.

"I think there are a lot of lessons for us from this game. A small hiccup, but now we've got a couple of games on the road, so hopefully we will come back on the winning side again," Gill said.

ers with three wickets.

"I think the wicket was a little bit on the slower side. I don't think we hit the right areas. The length ball wasn't coming on as well, some balls were coming, some weren't, and some were keeping low," he said.

"I think we could have hit that length in the middle overs a bit more consistently, which we were not able to," he added.

Gill also felt the pitch remained largely the same across both innings. "I think it was pretty similar. If at all, it could have gotten



to adapt to the conditions.

Mumbai Indians had posted a commanding 199/5, riding on a sensational unbeaten 101 off just 45 balls from Tilak Varma, who also equalled the franchise record for the fastest century. Naman Dhir provided solid support with a 45-run knock, while Kagiso Rabada was the pick of the GT bow-

lers dominated the chase, with Ashwani Kumar starting with a superb four-wicket haul, while Mitchell Santner and Allah Ghazanfar chipped in with two wickets each to bundle out GT well short of the target.

Reflecting on what could have been done differently, Gill said his bowlers failed

a little bit better because I think there was a bit more dew when we were batting," he concluded.

Meanwhile, with this loss, the Gujarat Titans have moved down to sixth position in the points table with three wins in six matches. They will next face Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on April 24.

ISL 2025-26: Clinical Punjab FC cruise past Inter Kashi



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NEW DELHI: Samir Zeljkovic, Effiong Nsungusi Jr, and Bede Osuji scored a goal each as Punjab FC produced a clinical performance to defeat Inter Kashi 3-0 in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2025-26 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on Monday.

Zeljkovic scored in the 37th minute, Nsungusi Jr struck in the 51st minute, and Bede Osuji scored in the 72nd minute for the Shers to secure three important points and move to 14 points from eight matches, consolidating seventh place. Inter Kashi, meanwhile, remain eighth with 11 points from nine matches. Zeljkovic was named the Player of the Match.

Punjab started on the front foot and looked sharp in the early exchanges, with Bede Osuji at the heart of their attacking play. Twice within the opening 10 minutes, Osuji's clever backheel flicks released Dani Ramirez inside the box, but Inter Kashi goalkeeper Luis Tarrés reacted well on both occasions to deny the Spaniard.

The hosts continued to dominate possession, with Manglenhang Kipgen dictating play from midfield, while Effiong Nsungusi Jr and Osuji caused constant problems for Inter Kashi's defence. Despite Punjab's control, Inter Kashi threatened sporadically, with

Tomba Singh and Narender Gahlot both going close from set-piece situations. The breakthrough finally arrived in the 37th minute following a well-worked move. Pramveer Singh won possession near the halfway line and initiated an attack down the left, finding Osuji, who quickly combined with Nsungusi Jr inside the box. After a brief tussle, Nsungusi regained control and squared the ball to Samir Zeljkovic, who calmly slotted home with his right foot to give Punjab a deserved lead.

Inter Kashi attempted to respond before the break, with Alfred Planas and Sergio Llamas combining well, but Arshdeep Singh remained composed in goal to ensure Punjab carried their advantage into half-time.

Punjab doubled their lead shortly after the restart in the 51st minute, capitalising on a costly midfield error. Dani Ramirez seized possession and surged into the box from the left, evading multiple defenders before cutting the ball back to Nsungusi Jr, who finished clinically from close range to make it 2-0.

The hosts maintained their intensity and control, pressing high and restricting Inter Kashi to limited opportunities. Pramveer and Bijoy V. were particularly impressive defensively, cutting out passing lanes and halting any potential counter-attacks.

INOX SRINAGAR MOVIES SCHEDULE TUESDAY, 21st APRIL

LEE CRONIN'S **THE MUMMY (A)**
 ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
 11:30 AM, 07:00 PM

BICOTI 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 - 02:30 PM, 05:00 PM