

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
@OfficeOfLGJandK



We will not forget. We will not forgive. This is our solemn vow. India stands unified against terrorism. We pledge unwavering commitment and resolute determination to eradicate terrorism from the soil of Jammu Kashmir.

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PM Has Written J&K's New Destiny: LG Sinha

Says His Vision Turned Dream Of A Prosperous Jammu Kashmir Into Reality



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Asserting that PM Modi's vision has turned the dream of a prosperous Jammu Kashmir into reality, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said that he Prime Minister has written Jammu and Kashmir's new destiny.

"Inauguration of Eveready's plant, along with the changed atmosphere in the Union Territory, reflects the sustained efforts of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, under whose leadership a new destiny has been written for Jammu Kashmir. His vision has turned the dream of a prosperous Jammu Kashmir into reality," the Lieutenant Governor said while inaugurating Eveready Industries India Limited's new industrial unit in Samba. The plant established with an investment of Rs.200 crore, will create local jobs, boost ancillary units, suppliers, and service providers, promote skill development, generate opportunities for women, and make a significant contribution to the economic development of Jammu Kashmir.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that across Samba, Kathua, Jammu and many parts of Kashmir, the industrial revolution we are witnessing today is a living symbol of new era for Jammu Kashmir. He said in the past 5 years, the scale of industrial development has moved beyond mere economic figures and become the most powerful medium of transformation across Union Territory. ■P-06

Nation Pays Tribute To Pahalgam Terror Attack Victims, Expresses Solidarity With Families

PM Modi Says Victims Will Never Be Forgotten, India Won't Bow To Terror,

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Leaders across the country on Wednesday paid homage to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack on its first anniversary and expressed solidarity with their families, with several blaming Pakistan for backing terrorism in Kashmir.

In a post on X, PM Modi, said the victims "will never be forgotten," describing the April 22, 2025 attack as a tragedy that continues to weigh on the nation's conscience and asserted that the country will not bow to any form of terror. "Remembering the innocent lives lost in the gruesome Pahalgam terror attack on this day last year. They will never be forgotten. My thoughts are also with the bereaved families as they cope with this loss," he said in a post on X.

"As a nation, we stand united in grief and resolve. India will never bow to any form of terror. The heinous designs of terrorists will never succeed," the Prime Minister added.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also paid tribute to the victims, describing it as a "cowardly" act that claimed innocent lives.

In a post on social media, he said: "Remembering and paying my heartfelt tributes to the innocent people who lost their lives in the cowardly



terror. The heinous designs of terrorists will never succeed," the Prime Minister added.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also paid tribute to the victims, describing it as a "cowardly" act that claimed innocent lives.

In a post on social media, he said: "Remembering and paying my heartfelt tributes to the innocent people who lost their lives in the cowardly

terror attack at Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir on 22 April 2025. We share the enduring pain of their loved ones and families. We will never forget those wounds inflicted on our nation."

Singh added that India has faced decades of cross-border terrorism, but its response has now become "firm, decisive and unwavering". He said the country's actions

have demonstrated that any attempt to harm citizens or disrupt national unity will be met with "strength and clarity".

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also paid tributes to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack, saying the nation continues to share the grief of the families who lost their loved ones in the incident.

In a post on X, HM Shah said, "On this day, ■P-06

No Shortage Of Fuel, LPG Or Fertilizers In J&K: Officers To CS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: As part of a periodic review a high-level meeting was Wednesday convened by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo to take stock of the availability and distribution of essential commodities across the districts of J&K in the aftermath of the recent West Asia crisis that had initially given rise to the apprehensions of impacting the supply chains.

The meeting was attended by senior officers including Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Commissioner Secretary, School Education; Secretary, IT and, Transport Departments; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; IG Traffic; and other concerned officials.

The Chief Secretary emphasized the need for continuous monitoring of the situation to ensure ease and convenience for the public. He directed Deputy Commissioners to saturate the e-KYC of all active beneficiaries under the Public Distribution System within the next two weeks, ensuring transparency and efficiency in service delivery.

The Chief Secretary further stressed the importance of closely monitoring the distribution and usage. ■P-06

'We Will Not Forget, We Will Not Forgive'

LG Pays Tribute To Civilians Martyred In Pahalgam Terror Attack

GMK NEWS NETWORK

Pahalgam Terror Attack on 22nd April 2025.

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday paid tribute to the civilians who were martyred in the

In a statement, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "Humble tributes to the innocent souls who lost their lives in the gruesome terror attack in Pahalgam on this day in 2025. Their memory endures indelibly in our hearts. My thoughts and prayers are

with their families.

We will not forget. We will not forgive. This is our solemn vow. India stands unified against terrorism. We pledge unwavering ■P-06

Centre, State Must Ensure No Repeat Of Pahalgam Attack: CM

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said negligence by the bus owner and driver was responsible for the recent road accident in Udhampur district and asserted that strict action would follow after completion of an ongoing inquiry.

The Chief Minister, who visited the injured from the Ramnagar area a few days ago, said the vehicle was being driven by a person who was not a regular driver.

"It is unfortunate that this accident occurred due to the negligence of the bus owner. The regular driver was on leave, and the vehicle was handed over to someone who had recently been driving a truck," CM Omar told reporters at GMC Udhampur.

He said records have shown that the bus had a history of violations.

"More than 15 challans had already been issued against the vehicle," he said, adding that this indicated a pattern of disregard for rules.

The Chief Minister said an inquiry has been ordered and an accident officer is currently investigating the incident. "Let the investigation be completed. Once the report is submitted, the recommendations will be implemented accordingly," he said.

Rejecting suggestions that poor road conditions led to the accident, the Chief Minister said available evidence pointed otherwise. "If the road condition had been bad, the vehicle would have moved slowly. The problem is not always the road but the mindset of drivers," he said.

He said issues ■P-06

Yasin Malik Had Links With Pakistan Leadership: NIA Tells Delhi HC

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has told the Delhi High Court that jailed separatist Yasin Malik was in touch with Pakistan's top leadership and used those links to push for the secession of Jammu and Kashmir from India.

According to the details available, in a rejoinder filed in its appeal seeking death penalty for Malik, the agency said his claims of having interacted with several former Indian Prime Ministers were irrelevant to the terror case and did not absolve him of criminal liability.

The submissions were noted by a division bench headed by Justice Navin Chawla after Special Public Prosecutor Akshai Malik informed the court that the rejoinder had been filed. The bench directed that a copy be supplied to Malik, who appeared



through video conferencing from jail, and posted the matter for hearing on July 21.

In its affidavit, the NIA said Malik's references to political leaders and public figures were aimed at generating sympathy and had no bearing on the charges against him.

It said naming prominent personalities or claiming engagement with governments could

not dilute the seriousness of the offences established during trial.

The agency also countered Malik's assertion that he had "working relationships" with successive governments led by former prime ministers, including V P Singh, Chandra Shekhar, P V Narasimha Rao, H D Deve Gowda, I K Gujral, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh, stating that such ■P-06

'2014 Floods Left Deep Silt Scars On Hygam Ramsar Site'

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: The Environmental Policy Group (EPG) has flagged severe siltation at the Hygam wetland in Baramulla's Sopore, stating that the 2014 floods left deep scars on the Ramsar site, calling for a comprehensive plan for its revival.

During a joint visit with legislators and officials, EPG convenor Faiz Bakhshi said that large-scale silt deposits have accumulated over the years, affecting the wetland's health. He said a time-bound desilting plan is needed, along with diversion of Bal Koul and Ningli Nallah to prevent further silt inflow.

Governing council member Er Ajaz Rasool said the group has been monitoring the wetland and noted improvement on the ground. He said illegal sand extraction reported earlier has been stopped after intervention by authorities and local representatives. He said reg-

ular monitoring is needed to prevent any recurrence.

Ajaz said conservation efforts must cover the entire catchment area and called for a coordinated mechanism among departments. He suggested selective excavation in heavily silted patches,

HE SAID A time-bound desilting plan is needed, along with diversion of Bal Koul and Ningli Nallah to prevent further silt inflow.

restoration of navigation channels, and better water management.

EPG member and activist Aijaz Dar said wetland protection is a shared responsibility. He said the lack of awareness has led to encroachments and degradation. Dar urged authorities to promote Hygam as an ecotourism. ■P-06

10 Lakh Tourists Visit Pahalgam Since Baisaran Terror Attack: Data

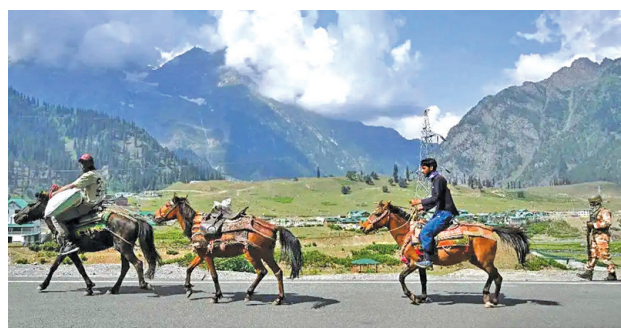
Tourists Urge Fellow Countrymen To Visit Kashmir Without Hesitation

UMAISAR GULL

PAHALGAM: Tourist arrivals in Pahalgam have witnessed a steady revival over the past year, following the return of normalcy after last year's terror attack.

Official data accessed indicates that nearly 10 lakh visitors have travelled to the scenic resort since April 2025.

According to figures from the J&K Tourism Department, a total of 9,93,596 tourists visited Pahalgam between April 2025 and April 2026. The tourist flow had sharply declined in the immediate aftermath of the 22 April attack, which claimed the lives of 25 tourists and a local youth, Adil Hussain Shah. In May 2025, only 15,302 tourists visited Pahalgam—the lowest monthly figure recorded during the period. However,



arrivals picked up steadily in the following months.

Month-wise footfall (April 2025 - April 2026): April 2025: 2,04,289; May 2025: 15,302; June 2025: 1,08,117; July 2025: 32,163; August 2025: 93,366; September 2025: 48,919; October 2025: 50,777; November 2025: 35,263; December 2025: 68,919; January 2026: 80,421; February 2026: 67,471; March 2026: 85,741; and April 2026 (till date): 1,02,848.

As per official figures, 9,638 foreign tourists also visited Pahalgam following last year's terror attack. These visitors were from countries including the UAE, Thailand, Singapore, and Malaysia.

A total of 40,60,909 tourists visited Pahalgam from 2023 to April 2026. Of these, 14,54,269 visited in 2023, 12,65,925 in 2024, 10,04,234 in 2025, and 3,36,481 in 2026 (up to 20 April). Regarding for-

eign tourist arrivals, 15,061 visited in 2023, 14,483 in 2024, 9,090 in 2025, and 4,486 till April 2026.

Sandeep Seyal, a tourist, said they were in Pahalgam remembering the dark day last year when 26 people lost their lives. "The grief still remains, but while carrying that pain in our hearts, we must move forward. I want to tell people across the country that the situation which existed here 15-20 years ago no longer prevails. The atmosphere here is normal and peaceful, and the government has done significant work. I urge everyone to visit and support us so that we can strengthen the bond of Kashmir with India and boost the local economy. Tourism is the backbone of the economy here."

Another tourist, Tanya from Delhi, said, ■P-06

2017 Fidayeen Attack NIA Attaches Multiple Properties Of JeM Operative In South Kashmir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday attached multiple properties of a Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) operative in connection with the 2017 fidayeen attack on a camp of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) that left five personnel dead and three seriously injured.

In a statement issued, a NIA spokesman said, "The attachment action, taken under Section 33 (1) of UA (P) Act, 1967, in pursuance of recent orders of the NIA Special Court at Jammu, comes as a major step towards dismantling the terror outfits operating in J&K."

"The immovable properties attached by NIA include several pieces of land and residential premises in Lethpora in Awantipora police station area of Pulwama district of J&K. These properties, deemed to be proceeds ■P-06

'Tourists Our Honour' Gulmarg Stakeholders Express Solidarity With Pahalgam Attack Victims

WARIS FAYAZ

GULMARG: Stakeholders in Gulmarg on Wednesday held a candlelight march in solidarity with victims of last year's Pahalgam tragedy, saying "tourists are our honour".

The march, was organised in Tangmarg area, where traders, locals and civil society members gathered to express grief and unity. Participants carried candles and observed silence to pay tribute to those who lost their lives in Pahalgam.

The Pahalgam terror attack last year had led to loss of lives and triggered widespread condemnation across Kashmir. It was seen as a setback to the region's long-standing image of hospitality and safety for

visitors.

"We regret and condemn whatever happened in Pahalgam last year. Tourists are our honour. We urge people to visit. We are available anytime and will be protective," said a hotelier.

An elderly participant said the people of Kashmir stand for peace. "We condemn the act. We are here in solidarity with the bereaved families. We are peace lovers," he said.

They said such incidents do not reflect the values of Kashmir, adding that the region has always welcomed tourists with warmth and respect.

"We pray for the safety of our country and Kashmir. We stand with those whose loved ones lost their lives"—(KNO)

World Veterinary Day at SKUAST-K Puts Spotlight on Defence Careers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) organised a guest lecture at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry (FVSc & AH), Shuhama, as part of the celebrations marking World Veterinary Day.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of 3rd to 5th professional years. The event was aimed at creating awareness about career opportunities in the Remount Veterinary Corps (RVC). The session focused on guiding aspiring veterinary graduates on various career opportunities.

Colonel Y S Sengar graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, congratulated the students on World Vet-



Major units of RVC

erinary Day and encouraged them to explore diverse career opportunities to serve the nation with dedication and professionalism.

The keynote lecture was delivered by Captain Mansi, an alumna of the same institution, shared her journey from the classrooms of FVSc & AH to donning the uniform, pro-

viding practical insights into exam preparation, relevant study resources and outlining preparation strategies for the Services Selection Board (SSB) interview, highlighting the importance of discipline, clarity of thought and consistent effort.

The lecture was followed by an interactive Q&A ses-

ion which proved to be highly enriching, with students expressing immense satisfaction and gratitude for the insights. Their keen interest was evident through thoughtful queries and an eagerness to explore career opportunities in the Remount Veterinary Corps. Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, Prof Riaz Ahmad Shah, underscored the wide spectrum of career opportunities available to veterinary graduates, ranging from clinical animal healthcare and research to areas such as conservation of animal genetic resources, industrial biotechnology, and opportunities within the global livestock sector.

The event was moderated by Dr Shahid Dar, Assistant Professor, Division of Veterinary Surgery & Radiology.

JKRC observes Earth Day with plantation drives in Delhi, Amritsar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: The Resident Commission, Jammu & Kashmir government, New Delhi, Wednesday observed Earth Day 2026 with plantation drives conducted across its premises in Delhi and Amritsar, aligning with this year's global theme "Our Power, Our Planet."

Marking the occasion, Additional Resident Commissioner, Resident Commission, J&K, led the officers and staff in planting the saplings at J&K House, 5 Prithviraj Road, New Delhi.

The green initiative was carried out simultaneously at J&K House, Chanakya-puri, New Delhi and J&K House, Amritsar, where the respective Manager-cum-Protocol Officers and staff undertook similar drives.

Addressing the staff, the Additional Resident Commissioner underscored the urgent need for environmental conservation. He urged all the employ-

ees to adopt plantation as a regular, sustained activity rather than a one-day observance. "Our collective action today determines the health of our planet tomorrow. Each sapling planted is a step towards a greener and healthier environment for the posterity," he said.

The Earth Day activities aimed to reinforce the Commission's commitment to ecological responsibility and encourage institutional participation in climate action.

The officials said that regular plantation and upkeep of green cover at J&K Houses would be monitored to ensure long-term impact.

Pertinently, the Earth Day, being observed globally on April 22, seeks to raise awareness and mobilise action for environmental protection. This year's theme, "Our Power, Our Planet," highlights the role of individual and collective power in driving sustainable change.

Willow Plantation Drive Launched to Revive Kashmir's Cricket Bat Industry

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: SPVLG Artisans Foundation organized a large-scale Kashmir willow plantation drive at Momen Danji, Arwani in Anantnag, with parallel activities carried out in Reshipora areas of Pulwama.



The initiative was conducted in collaboration with the Forest Department, Jammu and Kashmir, Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED) IUST, and witnessed the participation of Range Officer Manzoor Ahmad, forest officials, field staff, and local bat manufacturing unit holders.

Organized on the demand of bat manufacturers, the drive aimed to address the growing shortage of Kashmir willow—an essential raw material used in the production of the Valley's world-renowned cricket bats. Stakeholders highlighted

that the declining availability of mature willow trees has emerged as a serious concern, threatening the sustainability of the bat industry and the livelihoods dependent on it.

To tackle this challenge, the plantation featured a new fast-growing variety of willow saplings, which

are expected to reach usable maturity significantly faster than the traditional willow species found in Kashmir that typically take 10-15 years to be suitable for bat-making.

Besides ensuring future availability of raw material for the bat industry, the initiative is also expected to contribute to environmental conservation by increasing green cover and promoting ecological balance in the region.

The programme received appreciation from participants, who termed it a timely intervention for both economic sustainability and environmental protection.

DC Sgr presides over Mega Awareness-Cum-Registration Camp of PMSGMB-Y

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Wednesday presided over a mega Awareness-cum-Registration Camp on the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana here at Kashmir Haat (Numaish Gah) aimed at sensitizing citizens about the scheme benefits and facilitating on-the-spot registrations.

The programme was organized by Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC) to spread awareness about rooftop solar installations and encourage residents to avail benefits under the scheme.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from citizens, reflecting growing interest in sustainable energy solutions under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

The mega awareness camp was attended by Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer KPDC, Syed Ahmad Wani, Superintending Engineer KPDC, Mohammad Amin Shah Executive Engineers of all four divisions of KPDC including Syed Abrar, Tasaduq Nabi, Nissar Ahmad, other



KPDC Officers, scheme vendors and technical experts.

Speaking at the event, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the advantages of the scheme, noting that Rooftop Solar installations can significantly reduce electricity bills while contributing to environmental sustainability. He emphasized that the initiative provides subsidies to households, making clean energy solutions more affordable and accessible.

Highlighting the purpose of the event, Akshay Labroo said the programme was aimed at informing residents about the benefits of the PM

Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and facilitating on-the-spot registrations. He noted that the scheme is demand-driven and voluntary in nature, and urged people to enroll and take advantage of the opportunity to reduce energy costs while contributing to environmental conservation.

The DC emphasized further intensifying outreach efforts and organize similar awareness camps across the district to ensure wider coverage under the scheme so that maximum households are benefited with less electricity bills and promoting renewable energy to contribute to the environment.

During the event, the DC inspected awareness and registration stalls set up by KPDC and vendors and encouraged continued outreach efforts. He also felicitated beneficiaries who have already availed the benefits of the scheme and commended the efforts of District Administration, KPDC and Stakeholders involved in its implementation.

On the occasion, Officers from the concerned departments and technical experts were present at the venue to guide participants on eligibility criteria, subsidy provisions, installation procedures, and registration processes under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. Live demonstrations and interactive sessions were also conducted to address public queries and concerns.

During the camp, several beneficiaries shared their views on the advantages of installing rooftop solar panels under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in their homes.

Earlier, it was informed during the programme that over 5,000 rooftop solar panels have been installed in Srinagar District under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

JKEDI conducts Training Programmes under PMFME Scheme

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Wednesday inaugurated three-day/24 hours Training Programmes under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme at Shopian and Ganderbal District Centres.

The programmes saw the participation from candidates, officers from the Department of Horticulture and officials of JKEDI.

At Shopian, the PMFME programme was inaugurated at District Employment and Counselling Centre, Shopian where Zia U Din, Technical Officer, Department of Horticulture gave a detailed outlook of the



scheme. At Ganderbal, the programme was inaugurated at the Vikalp Centre, Government Degree College, Ganderbal. A total of 51 candidates have enrolled for the programmes.

These training programmes aim to enhance the entrepreneurial capabilities of aspiring and existing entrepreneurs in the micro food processing sector. Over the course of three days, participants

will receive comprehensive training on key aspects of capacity building, including business planning, financial management, market linkages, and awareness about the various schemes of the Government and access to credit facilities.

The initiative is designed to equip participants with the essential skills and knowledge required to establish and sustain micro food processing enterprises. By

fostering entrepreneurship and strengthening local enterprise ecosystems, the programme seeks to promote self-employment opportunities and contribute to local economic development.

JKEDI continues to play a pivotal role in nurturing entrepreneurship across Jammu and Kashmir through targeted training and capacity-building initiatives under various government schemes.

LADC team conducts inspection of Central Jail Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: In a coordinated initiative aimed at strengthening access to justice and ensuring timely relief to deserving inmates, the Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADC) of Shopian and Pulwama carried out a joint inspection of Central Jail Srinagar Wednesday.

The inspection was undertaken to identify cases eligible for early release in accordance with the categories defined under the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the forthcoming Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting.

The joint team was led by Secretary DLSA Shopian/Pulwama, Mudasar Farooq, and comprised Chief LADC Shopian, Rafiq Ahmad Ganie, Chief LADC Pulwama, Mehrujudin Wani, and Junior Assistant DLSA Pulwama,



Shakir Ahmad.

The team was facilitated by Senior Superintendent of Jail, Saba Shawl, who provided detailed insights into the inmate population and administrative framework of the jail. During the visit, the LADC teams conducted a thorough and systematic review of individual inmate cases.

The assessment focused on identifying prisoners

eligible for release under various SOP categories, including undertrials who have completed half of the maximum prescribed sentence, first-time offenders involved in minor offences, elderly or infirm inmates, and those granted bail but unable to furnish surety, among others as specified under UTRC guidelines.

The team also interacted with inmates across differ-

ent barracks to verify legal records, assess the status of cases, and ensure that no eligible individual is deprived of legal aid or relief due to lack of awareness or assistance.

Following the inspection, a consolidated list of eligible cases has been prepared and will be placed before the upcoming UTRC meeting for appropriate consideration and necessary orders.

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.

TENDER NOTICE

E-NIT No: 16/EEP/RNB/of 2026-2027/741-51 Dated: 22/04/2026

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

| S. No. | Name of Work | Adv. Cost (Rs. Lacs.) | Cost of T/D (Rs.) | Earnest Money (In %age) of ADV.cost | Time of Completion in working Days | Class of Contract | Major Head of Accounts | Administrative Accord Approval No: | Call No: |
|--------|---|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| 1 | Middle School Drussu BT (sno.1423) | 2.37 | 200/ | 2% of ADV.cost | 15 working days | DEE | Samagra Shiksha | 423 -Chirag of 2026 dt.13.02.2026. | 1st call |
| 2 | Boys Primary School Deeri BT (sno.1422) | 2.37 | 200/ | 2% of ADV.cost | 15 working days | DEE | Samagra Shiksha | 423 -Chirag of 2026 dt.13.02.2026. | 1st call |

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

| | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 22-04-2026 |
| 2. | Bid downloading Start Date | 22-04-2026 from 10:00 A.M |
| 3. | Bid submission Start Date | 22-04-2026 from 10:00 A.M |
| 4. | Bid Submission End Date | 04-05-2026 upto 0 4:00 P.M |
| 5. | Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) | 05-05-2026 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div.Pulwama |
| 6. | Submission of Performance Security (PS) | Within three (03) days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest successful bidder has to provide 5% of allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and EMD of 2% shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance security. |

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan /Receipt as per Annexure -C (Debited to M.H.0059 PWD) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama (The Date of Treasury Challan and EMD should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids.
- EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of the Executive Engineer R&B Div. Pulwama
- The Contractors are advised to visit the site and to be aware of the conditions for launching at site of work before quoting the rates.
- The contractor shall also be responsible for any theft/ damage to any of the component at site and the cost of damage/ theft if any shall be deducted from the work done or CDR of the Contractor till completion of work and handing over.
- The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama within three (03) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP

Head Draftsman: DIPK-679-26 DT: 22/04/2026 | Technical Officer: Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama

LG visits GMC Jammu; Inquires health of citizens injured in Udhampur road accident



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday visited Government Medical College in Jammu to inquire about the health of citizens who were critically injured in an unfortunate road accident in Ramnagar, Udhampur on

April 20. The team of doctors briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the health condition of the injured and the specialized treatment protocols being followed. Hospital authorities informed the Lieutenant Governor that Shri Hans Raj and Shri Lakhwind-

er Singh are under the constant supervision of senior healthcare professionals and receiving the highest standard of clinical attention. The Lieutenant Governor directed the Hospital Administration to ensure the best possible medical care for their speedy recovery.

CM Omar visits GMC Udhampur to see injured persons of bus accident

GMK NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday visited Government Medical College Udhampur to enquire about the health of those injured in the tragic road accident that occurred earlier this week. He interacted with the injured and their families, directing officials to ensure the best possible medical care with round-the-clock monitoring. The Chief Minister, accompanied by Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakina Itoo and Minister for Transport Satish Sharma, conducted a detailed inspection of the hospital facilities. Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa, Commissioner Transport J&K Vishesh Paul Mahajan, DIG Udhampur-Reasi range and SSP, National Highway, Principal GMC Udhampur, Regional Transport Officer Jammu, Medical Superintendent GMC Udhampur and other concerned were also present. along with senior officers from the civil administration, police, and medical



fraternity, were also present during the visit. While taking round of the hospital, the Chief Minister inspected the Trauma Centre, ICU, Orthopaedic and Surgery wards, and other sections of the hospital. He met each injured patient individually, enquiring about their condition, treatment protocols, availability of medicines, nature of injuries, and expected discharge timelines. The attending medical

team briefed the Chief Minister on the line of treatment being administered, including surgeries and other medical interventions, as well as the recovery progress of the patients. Assuring full support to the affected families, the Chief Minister emphasized the need for stringent measures to prevent such accidents in the future. He later chaired a review meeting to assess both the treatment being provided

to the injured and the overall functioning of GMC Udhampur. The meeting was informed about the preliminary causes of the accident and the status of the ongoing investigation. Expressing concern over road safety, the Chief Minister directed the Transport Department to ensure adequate frequency of buses on various routes and strictly curb overloading. "Don't show any laxity on these issues," he asserted.

On the occasion, officials apprised the Chief Minister about the relief being extended under the Road Accident Victim Fund, which includes financial assistance of ₹1 lakh in case of death, ₹75,000 for permanent disability, ₹50,000 for grievous injuries, and ₹10,000 for minor injuries. The Chief Minister further instructed all concerned departments to extend maximum support to the victims and their families through various welfare schemes of key sectors, including health, education, and social welfare, ensuring a comprehensive support system during their recovery and rehabilitation. Soon after the tragedy, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah announced immediate relief from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for the victims with an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased, ₹1 lakh to those seriously injured, and ₹25,000 to those who sustained minor injuries in the accident.

Rana calls for comprehensive strategy to address water scarcity in Kandi areas

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Wednesday emphasised the need for a comprehensive and result-oriented strategy to tackle the growing water scarcity in Kandi areas, stating that the challenge requires coordinated and long-term interventions.



The Minister made these remarks while interacting with the public delegations at Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust (GDCT), where the people from various parts of Jammu highlighted their concerns, with water supply emerging as the key issue. Stressing sustainable solutions, the Minister underscored the importance of creating water harvesting tanks across Kandi belts to capture rainwater that otherwise goes unused. He said such infrastructure can serve as dependable local water sources during the dry spells and reduce dependence on distant supply lines. He also called for intensified awareness drives to sensitise the communities about water conservation and the limited nature of groundwater reserves in these areas. Rana stressed the need for effective dovetailing of efforts among the Jal

Shakti, Rural Development, Forest and other line departments to ensure efficient water conservation and management. He highlighted that behavioural change among communities is as vital as infrastructure, urging judicious use of water in domestic consumption, agriculture and livestock rearing to prevent further depletion of already stressed sources. The Minister directed the field officers to strengthen ground-level monitoring to detect and plug leakages in the water supply network, noting that such losses deprive end users of their rightful share. He instructed the officers to conduct regular inspections of pipelines, storage tanks and distribution points to ensure optimal utilisation of available resources. To ensure equitable distribution in water-stressed areas like Bathindi, the Minister directed the officials to implement alternate-day water supply and

held field officers accountable for the quality and regularity of monitoring reports. Earlier, a delegation from Bathindi raised the issue of irregular water supply and demanded drilling of a borewell in Sagri Mohalla. Another delegation from Chowadhi highlighted water scarcity and the poor condition of roads. Delegations from Samba, Akhnoor and other areas of Jammu division also presented their grievances and sought early redressal. The officers informed the Minister that work on six borewells in Bathindi and adjoining areas is underway and nearing completion, which is expected to significantly ease water scarcity and ensure a reliable supply. Rana reiterated that coordinated planning, community participation and efficient resource management form the three pillars of a lasting solution

to water scarcity in Kandi areas. Later, the Minister held a detailed interaction with the officers and trustees regarding establishment of a Tribal Museum at GDCT. The proposed museum is envisioned as a dedicated space to preserve and showcase the rich cultural heritage, traditions and history of the tribal communities of Jammu & Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer I&FC, Jammu, Manoj Gupta, Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu, Dr V S Senthil Kumar, Director Tribal Affairs Department, Mohd Mumtaz Ali, Chief Engineer PHE, Mohd Hanief, Director Tribal Research Institute Dr Abdul Khair and other officers. Trustees of GDCT including Patron in Chief Abdul Hamid Choudhary, Chairman Arshad Ali Choudhary Showkat Choudhary and General Secretary Er. M. Sadiq Azad also attended the meeting.

Govt focused to transform J&K into hub of quality education: Sakeena Itoo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo Wednesday laid e-foundation stone for Classroom Block for Innovative Learning under Design Your Own Degree (DYOD) and Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP) frameworks at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) Awantipora. Vice Chancellor, IUST, Prof. Shakeel Ahmad Ramshoo, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof Ayaz Hassan Moon; Registrar IUST, HoDs of various departments, senior faculty members and other concerned officers were also present on the occasion. Addressing the officers virtually, the Education Minister said that this unique initiative marks a major stride in strengthening higher education infrastructure and promoting flexible, multidisciplinary learning and skill-oriented education



in this prestigious University. She added that this initiative reflects the government's focused commitment to transform Jammu and Kashmir into a hub of quality education and innovation. She noted that the proposed infrastructure will play a pivotal role in fostering experiential learning, critical thinking, and research-driven academic engagement among students. "The foundation of this innovative classroom facility signifies our resolve to align higher education with global standards and empower students with choice-based, future-ready learning opportunities," she

said. The Minister highlighted that the project is being developed under the progressive Design Your Own Degree (DYOD) and Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP) frameworks, which are central to building a knowledge-driven and skill oriented society. She added that this foundation marks another milestone in the Omar Abdullah led Government's sustained efforts to modernize higher education institutions and create an enabling environment for holistic student development. On the occasion, Vice Chancellor Shakil Ahmad Romshoo underscored the

university's commitment to academic innovation and institutional growth. He stated that the upcoming facility will significantly enhance IUST's capacity to deliver high-quality, outcome-based education and provide students with a dynamic and engaging learning environment. Pertinently, the Classroom Block will be constructed at an estimated cost of over ₹16 crore and will feature modern lecture halls, digital learning environments, collaborative spaces, and advanced academic infrastructure tailored to support the evolving needs of DYOD and FYUGP programmes.

Sakeena Itoo reviews implementation of key academic, student welfare initiatives of DSEJ

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo, Wednesday chaired a meeting at Directorate of School Education Jammu (DSEJ) to review performance of the department as well as assess implementation of key initiatives related to academic planning and student welfare. Director School Education Jammu, Naseem Javid Choudhary; senior officers of the DSEJ and other concerned officers were also present on the occasion. During the meeting, the Education Minister held comprehensive assessment of all the ongoing



initiatives of DSEJ and also reviewed the finalisation of BPL students for availing free coaching in registered and reputed coaching centres for competitive exams. Sakeena Itoo endorsed the recommendation of 445 BPL students for availing free coaching facilities for the Academic Session 2026-27 in registered

coaching centres, highlighting the Omar Abdullah led Government's commitment to inclusive and equitable education. She highlighted that the initiative aims to bridge the opportunity gap and empower deserving students to compete effectively in various competitive examinations, ensuring equitable

access to quality education, particularly for students from economically weaker sections. The Minister on the occasion also launched the Uniform Academic Calendar for the Academic Session 2026-27, aimed at streamlining academic activities, ensuring institutional consistency, and improving the quality of education delivery. She issued directions for effective policy implementation, adherence to academic calendar and timely service delivery, emphasizing coordinated efforts to strengthen the education system and ensure that benefits reach deserving students.

CM discusses key developmental issues with public representatives

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Several public representatives Wednesday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah here and discussed a range of developmental and governance-related matters. Among those who called on the Chief Minister were Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Sajad Ahmad Kichloo, MLA Inderwal Payare Lal Sharma and former Minister Abdul Ghani Kohli. During the interactions, the visit-

ing public representatives apprised the Chief Minister of various issues and demands concerning their respective constituencies and areas of responsibility. Chief Executive Councillor of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Kargil, Dr. Mohd. Jaffer Akhooon also called on the Chief Minister and discussed issues concerning Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Discussions largely focused on strengthening infrastructure,

improving public service delivery, and addressing region-specific concerns. The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all the delegations and assured them that their genuine demands would be examined on priority. He reiterated the government's commitment to inclusive development and responsive governance, emphasizing that the concerns of people from all regions are being addressed in a systematic and time-bound manner.

.....Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan

IMHANS-K holds interactive session with recovered patients of drug addiction

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: An interactive session with recovered and recovering patients of substance abuse was held Wednesday at Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS-K) as part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan.

The event, co-hosted by the Directorate of Social Welfare, was attended by around 23 patients of substance abuse who have recovered from the same. Welcoming the participants, Medical Superintendent, IMHANS-K, Dr Ajaz Baba lauded them for their courage and resolve in combating the affliction of drug addiction. HOD, Psychia-

try, Prof (Dr) Arshad Hussain highlighted the role of such interactions in reducing isolation and fostering hope among those struggling with addiction and drug dependence. Nodal Officer, Drug De-addiction and Rehabilitation, Prof (Dr) Yasir Hassan termed the recovered patients of Substance Abuse as 'fellow combatants' in the fight

against drug addiction. Several patients shared their stories of struggle and success. One of the recovered patient related how after giving up drugs his relationship with his family had undergone a sea change and how he had got his business back on track and gained back his lost respect. He termed his successful recovery as "a journey back

from darkness to light." Another patient said that though the struggle wasn't easy he had got his life back and was "happily married now and living a meaningful life." Some patients complained that societal attitudes towards former substance users are not very encouraging and they have to struggle with suspicion and distrust.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of the general public that I intend to correct my Name in my passport bearing no **B1602236** which was wrongly mentioned as Maheena Anis whileas my correct name is **Mahina Rasool** as per my Aadhar Card bearing no. 938917327583. In this regard if anybody have any objection he/she may file the same with Passport Officer Srinagar within 7 days. No Objection will be entertained afterwards.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Words Must Turn Into Action

It was this day last year when the pall of gloom descended upon the whole country after the tragic attack in Baisaran, but the pain it left behind still lingers. What was once a place of calm and beauty became a reminder of how quickly peace can be shattered. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's message, that Jammu and Kashmir stands united against terror and violence, and that the government is committed to preventing such tragedies, reflects what people across the region feel. His words of solidarity with the grieving families matter. But moments like these also call for more than statements, they call for real, visible action. For the families who lost their loved ones, time hasn't healed much. Their loss is personal and permanent. Standing with them must go beyond words, ensuring they receive continued support and that justice is delivered without delay. This anniversary is also a reminder that security cannot stand still. Threats evolve, and so must the response. Better coordination, stronger intelligence, and deeper community involvement are essential if such incidents are to be prevented in the future. At the same time, society has its own role to play. Terror aims to divide and instill fear, but it loses when people choose unity over hatred and resilience over despair. As prayers are offered for those who lost their lives in what was rightly called a cowardly attack, the real tribute lies in making sure such a tragedy never happens again. "Never again" should not just be a line repeated each year, it should be a promise backed by action. Tragedies can be stopped through the United efforts and cohesion between the government, agencies and the masses.

Tulip Bloom Reinforces Tourism Momentum In Kashmir

MOHAMMAD HANIEF

The Tulip Season in Kashmir has concluded on a vibrant and successful note, leaving behind a wave of optimism for the Valley's tourism sector. The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden in Srinagar, which remained the centerpiece of the annual Tulip Festival, witnessed an overwhelming response from visitors, reaffirming its position as the symbolic beginning of Kashmir's tourism calendar every year.

Set against the majestic Zabarwan hills and overlooking the serene Dal Lake, the garden transformed into a breathtaking expanse of colour during the festival. Lakhs of tourists from across the country and beyond thronged the site, drawn by the beauty of blooming tulips and the promise of spring in the Valley. With the festival concluded on April 16, this year stakeholders across sectors are now reflecting on a season that not only met but, in many ways, exceeded expectations.

The Tulip Festival has long been recognized as a key driver of early-season tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. Following the relatively quiet winter months, the bloom of tulips marks the revival of economic activity, attracting visitors at a time when tourism traditionally begins to pick up. This early momentum plays a crucial role in setting the pace for the rest of the year, providing a strong foundation for the peak summer season.

This year's festival saw high levels of engagement across the tourism ecosystem. Hotels, guesthouses, and houseboats in Srinagar reported robust occupancy throughout the season, reflecting sustained demand from visitors. The hospitality sector, which often faces seasonal fluctuations, benefited significantly from the early influx, with many operators noting improved bookings compared to previous years.

Transport services also experienced a notable surge in activity. Taxi operators, tour guides, and shikara owners on Dal Lake reported increased demand, indicating the wide-ranging impact of the festival. The steady flow of tourists ensured that economic benefits were distributed across multiple sectors, supporting livelihoods and strengthening local businesses.

Local markets, particularly those dealing in traditional handicrafts, witnessed a considerable boost. Tourists visiting the tulip garden often extended their trips to nearby markets, purchasing items such as Pashmina shawls, carpets, papier-mâché artefacts, and other locally crafted products. For artisans and small traders, the festival provided a valuable opportunity to connect



directly with customers, enhancing both income and visibility.

Beyond its economic significance, the Tulip Season 2026 stood out for its emphasis on inclusivity and social outreach. In a noteworthy initiative, authorities and healthcare institutions collaborated to facilitate visits for pediatric patients and individuals undergoing medical treatment. These efforts ensured that the beauty of the tulip garden could be experienced by those who might otherwise remain confined to hospital environments.

Children receiving treatment in hospitals across Srinagar were brought to the garden under carefully supervised arrangements. Special transportation, medical assistance, and support staff were deployed to ensure their safety and comfort during the visits. For many of these young patients, the outing provided a rare opportunity to step outside clinical settings and engage with nature.

The impact of such visits extended beyond recreation. Exposure to the open environment, vibrant colours, and fresh air contributed positively to the emotional and psychological well-being of the children. Healthcare professionals have long emphasized the therapeutic value of nature, and the initiative served as a practical demonstration of how such experiences can support recovery and improve mental health.

In addition to pediatric patients, efforts were made to accommodate individuals with disabilities and those facing mobility challenges. Improved infrastructure, including wheelchair-accessible pathways and on-site assistance, ensured that the garden remained accessible to a broader segment of society. These measures reflect a growing commitment to inclusive tourism, where public spaces are designed to be enjoyed by all.

The integration of such initiatives has added a new dimension to the Tulip Festival, transforming it from a purely aesthetic attraction into a socially responsive event. It highlights the potential of tourism to contribute not only to economic growth but also to community well-being and social inclusion.

The tulip garden itself continued to captivate visitors with its expansive layout and meticulous planning. Featuring over a million tulip bulbs in a diverse array of colours and patterns, the garden offered a visually stunning experience. Continuous improvements in landscaping, maintenance, and visitor facilities ensured that the site maintained its status as a world-class attraction.

Cultural programmes organized during the festival further enriched the visitor experience. Traditional Kashmiri music, dance performances, and local cuisine provided an opportunity for tourists to engage with the region's rich cultural heritage. These elements helped create a holistic experience, combining natural beauty with cultural immersion.

The influence of digital media was particularly evident during this year's festival. Social media platforms were flooded with images and videos of the blooming tulips, capturing the attention of audiences far beyond the Valley. Visitors, travel bloggers, and influencers played a key role in promoting the festival, contributing to its growing popularity and reach.

Authorities have attributed the success of the Tulip Season to improved infrastructure and effective coordination. Enhanced road connectivity, better traffic management, and efficient public services made it easier for tourists to access the garden. Cleanliness and security measures were also prioritized,

ensuring a safe and pleasant environment for visitors.

Environmental sustainability remained a central focus throughout the festival. Measures such as waste management systems, eco-friendly practices, and awareness campaigns were implemented to minimize the environmental impact of large crowds. Visitors were encouraged to maintain cleanliness and respect the natural surroundings, reinforcing the importance of responsible tourism.

Despite the overall success, certain challenges persist. Managing large crowds and maintaining infrastructure require continuous effort, particularly as visitor numbers continue to grow. Experts have emphasized the need for sustainable tourism strategies that balance development with environmental conservation.

There is also a growing recognition of the need to diversify tourism experiences beyond the tulip garden. Encouraging visitors to explore other destinations such as Gulmarg, Pahalgam, and Sonamarg can help distribute tourist inflow more evenly and reduce pressure on a single site. Such an approach would also enhance the overall appeal of Kashmir as a multi-dimensional destination.

As the Tulip Season concludes, it leaves behind a strong sense of optimism and momentum. The festival has once again demonstrated its ability to revive tourism, support local livelihoods, and showcase the natural beauty of Kashmir to the world.

More importantly, the inclusion of initiatives for pediatric and other patients has highlighted a progressive vision for tourism—one that prioritizes inclusivity and well-being alongside economic growth. These efforts have set a precedent for future events, emphasizing that tourism can play a meaningful role in enhancing quality of life.

For the people of Kashmir, the tulip bloom continues to symbolize renewal, resilience, and hope. Each spring, it marks not just the arrival of a new season but the beginning of new opportunities for the Valley's tourism sector.

With the successful conclusion of the Tulip Season 2026, the stage is now set for a vibrant year ahead. The strong start provided by the festival has reinforced confidence among stakeholders and created a positive outlook for the months to come. As visitors carry memories of the colourful landscape back with them, the Valley stands ready to welcome many more, continuing its journey toward sustained growth and renewed prosperity.

(The author is a senior analyst and can be mailed at m.hanief@gmail.com, Twitter / X: @haniefnh)

Women's Reservation Bill: Promise, Provisions, And Path Ahead

DR. VINOD DIXIT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has rightly quoted that "A developed India does not mean only good infrastructure but participation of women in policy making... When they become active participants in policy making and decision making, the journey towards a Viksit Bharat is strengthened." The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023, commonly called the Women's Reservation Bill or Nari Shakti Bill, is the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act that reserves one-third, or 33%, of all seats for women in the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and the Delhi Legislative Assembly. Within this 33% quota, one-third of the seats are further reserved for women belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The reserved seats will be rotated after each delimitation exercise, and the law will remain in force for 15 years from the date it takes effect, with Parliament having the power to extend it further. The Act was passed by Parliament in September 2023 and received Presidential assent on 28th September 2023, making it the first bill passed in the new Parliament building. However, the Act has not yet been implemented because it is linked to

two conditions: a fresh census must be conducted first, and then a delimitation exercise must be carried out based on that census data. Only after both steps are complete will the 33% reservation come into force, which effectively pushes implementation to the 2029 or possibly 2034 General Elections.

To fast-track this, the government introduced the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam Amendment Bill, 2026 in April 2026. The amendment proposed to delink the reservation from the census and delimitation process so that the 33% quota could be implemented by the 2029 elections. It also suggested expanding the Lok Sabha to 850 seats, of which about 273 would be reserved for women, and extending the same formula to State Assemblies and Union Territories. The proposal, moved as the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill 2026, was put to vote in the Lok Sabha on 17th April 2026 but was rejected, receiving only 278 'AYES' out of 489 votes.

The Bill has drawn both support and criticism. It is seen as a historic step toward women-led development and a key part of the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, ensuring greater representation of women in decision-making from Panchayats to Parliament. At the same time, leaders from southern states have raised concerns

that delimitation based on new population figures could reduce their proportional representation, effectively penalizing states that have controlled population growth. The Act also does not provide a separate sub-quota for OBC women within the 33% reservation. As of April 2026, the original 2023 Act remains law but is not yet operational, while the 2026 amendment to expedite it has failed in the Lok Sabha. A special Parliament session was convened on 16th April 2026 to discuss the implementation roadmap.

The biggest benefit of the Women's Reservation Bill is that it directly corrects historic under-representation. Since Independence, women have never held more than 15% of Lok Sabha seats despite being nearly 50% of the population. Reserving 33% of seats guaran-



tees a critical mass of women in Parliament and State Assemblies, moving beyond tokenism to real decision-making power. Research from India's Panchayats shows why this matters: after 33% reservation was introduced in local bodies in 1993, women now hold over 44% of panchayat seats. Studies found that women-led panchayats invest more in drinking water, health, education, and sanitation — issues that disproportionately affect women and children but were often deprioritized earlier. The same shift in priorities is expected at the state and national level once more women become legislators.

Finally, the Bill has symbolic and aspirational value. When girls see women as MPs, MLAs, Ministers, and Speakers, it changes what they believe is possible. It normalizes wom-

en's authority and erodes stereotypes that politics is "not for women." The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam links this to Viksit Bharat 2047, framing women-led development as central to India becoming a developed nation. In short, the benefit isn't just more women in office — it's different policies, broader leadership, deeper democracy, and a signal to every girl that the highest levels of power are open to her too. The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam is more than a law about seat quotas — it is a commitment to complete India's democracy.

By guaranteeing women a decisive voice in Parliament and Assemblies, the Bill seeks to turn constitutional equality into lived reality and ensure that policies reflect the priorities of the entire population. While debates over timing, delimitation, and social equity continue, the core intent remains clear: a developed India by 2047 cannot be built without women leading it. True Nari Shakti will be realized not just when seats are reserved, but when women's leadership becomes ordinary, their decisions shape the nation, and the next generation sees power as everyone's right.

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Cultural Attack On Festivals

Tradition, Market And Changing Identity

DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

The place of festivals in India's cultural fabric is not limited to mere joy and celebration; rather, they are deeply intertwined with society's historical memory, economic structure, relationship with nature, and human sensibilities. Here, festivals touch every aspect of life—farming, seasonal changes, family ties, collectivity, and faith. But today, the question is being seriously raised: are our traditional festivals drifting away from their original spirit? Are they facing a kind of 'cultural attack', gradually altering their true identity?

While the term "cultural invasion" may seem offensive, it is not meant to be an accusation directed at any one class or group. It refers to the slow, subtle, and often unseen process by which traditions, outside their original social and cultural context, begin to take on new meanings. This change can sometimes be natural, and sometimes the result of deliberate economic and ideological influences.

Indian festivals are primarily rooted in agriculture and nature. Much of India's society has been agriculturally dependent for centuries, and therefore, it has a deep connection with crops, seasons, and the land. The joy of harvest, the beginning of new sowing, and the arrival of rain—all of these were expressed through festivals. The farmer was central to these celebrations, as he was the producer of food and maintained the lifeline of society. Such festivals were less ostentatious and more participatory. People would gather together to sing and play music, share feasts, and express gratitude to nature.

But as society became increasingly urbanized, industrialized, and market forces strengthened, the nature of festivals began to change. Festivals were now viewed not only from a cultural or social perspective, but also as economic opportunities. The market linked festivals to consumption—where shopping, decoration, and display became central. Ideas like "offers," "discounts," and "auspicious shopping" became associated with festivals, which impacted their original form.

This change isn't just external, but also in mindset. Previously, festivals were about gathering, sharing, and expressing gratitude to nature. Now,



in many places, they have become a competition—who spent how much, who bought what, whose celebration was more grand. In this process, the spirit of festivals has been lost.

When discussing the "cultural invasion" of festivals, another important aspect emerges—the marginalization of folk traditions. Every region in India has had its own unique traditions, rooted in local lifestyles, languages, and resources. However, today, under the influence of media and the market, a kind of cultural homogenization is being observed. Certain festivals and their specific practices have become standardized across the country, leading to the gradual disappearance of local variations.

For example, many folk festivals that were once associated with agriculture and rural life have now been transformed into urban and religious interpretations. Their original spirit—connected to labor, nature, and collectivity—is now being overshadowed by mythology and market-driven symbols. This is diminishing the role of the segments of society that were truly the heart of these festivals—farmers and laborers.

It's also important to clarify that it's

unfair to view every change negatively. Culture is inherently changeable. New elements are added to it over time, and this is proof of its vitality. However, problems arise when this change becomes unbalanced—when it begins to undermine the very foundations of society.

The biggest question in today's context is whether we understand the true meaning of our festivals. Do we recognize that they are not merely religious rituals but also reflections of social and economic life? If festivals forget the role of the farmer, if the respect for labor is ignored, this signals a serious cultural imbalance.

It is impossible, nor is it necessary, to completely separate festivals from the market. The market is a part of society and plays its role. However, it is essential that the market does not overpower the spirit of festivals. Maintaining a balance between consumption and ostentation is essential to ensure that the true spirit of festivals remains alive.

Social awareness can play a crucial role in this direction. If people themselves understand the true meaning of festivals, they will strive to celebrate them with the same spirit. Reviving local traditions, promoting

community events, and strengthening our connection with nature—these are some steps that can mitigate this cultural imbalance.

Education and the media also play an important role in this. If they accurately present the depth and social context of festivals, they can increase awareness in society. Furthermore, policymakers should consider how to preserve and promote folk culture and rural traditions.

Ultimately, combating the "cultural attack" can't be accomplished on a single day or in a single effort. It's an ongoing process, in which every segment of society must play its part. We must view our festivals not just as traditions, but also as a responsibility—a responsibility that keeps us connected to our roots.

The true power of festivals lies not in their grandeur, but in their simplicity and meaningfulness. If we can understand and incorporate this into our lives, no "cultural attack" will be able to weaken our cultural identity. Instead, we will be able to enrich our traditions by balancing them with the new times.

The need today is to redefine our festivals—to see them not as a means of consumption, but as a celebra-

While the term "cultural invasion" may seem offensive, it is not meant to be an accusation directed at any one class or group. It refers to the slow, subtle, and often unseen process by which traditions, outside their original social and cultural context, begin to take on new meanings. This change can sometimes be natural, and sometimes the result of deliberate economic and ideological influences.

tion of social connection, respect for nature, and the dignity of labor. Only then will we truly preserve our cultural heritage and pass on its true spirit to future generations.

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

Artificial Intelligence: Innovation's Triumph Or Humanity's Test?

LALIT GARGG

If we examine the history of human civilization, it becomes evident that every new technology arrives with a duality—bringing both possibilities and perils. Our present era is no exception. The rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence has undoubtedly made life easier, faster, and more efficient; yet, it has simultaneously emerged as a serious challenge to human values, ethics, and social balance. Thinkers, philosophers, and spiritual leaders across the world have repeatedly expressed concerns about this emerging reality.

Recently, the apprehensions voiced by Pope Leo XIV have brought this issue to the center of global discourse. He clearly warned that if this technology is used beyond ethical boundaries, it could foster division, fear, violence, and conflict across the world. This is not merely an emotional reaction of a religious figure, but a reflection of a deeper worry—a concern that resonates within the collective conscience of humanity. Technology, in itself, is neither moral nor immoral; it is the manner of its use that defines its direction.

In the present time, Artificial Intelligence is no longer confined to constructive and beneficial applications. It is increasingly being used to generate misinformation, create fabricated images and voices, and manipulate public opinion. Its misuse in electoral processes has the potential to weaken the very foundations of democracy. When a voter cannot distinguish between truth and manufactured illusion, their ability to make informed decisions is compromised. This erosion of clarity ultimately undermines trust in democratic institutions.

On social media platforms, numerous instances have emerged where individuals are falsely depicted alongside prominent leaders like Narendra Modi, despite no such interaction ever taking place. This is not merely



an individual deception—it is a systemic assault on the very structure of social trust. When the line between truth and falsehood becomes blurred, society inevitably descends into suspicion, instability, and distrust.

Another alarming dimension of Artificial Intelligence is its growing use in cybercrime. Criminals can now mimic a person's voice with remarkable accuracy, deceiving their acquaintances into transferring money under false pretenses. Impersonating family members or officials has become dangerously easy. Such incidents have wiped out the lifetime savings of many individuals within moments. This is not just financial loss—it is a profound viola-

tion of trust and a blow to the sense of security. In the financial sector, too, the misuse of AI poses significant risks. Automated cyberattacks can exploit vulnerabilities in banking systems. If such attacks occur on a large scale, the consequences would extend far beyond individual losses, potentially destabilizing national and global economies. The danger intensifies when regulatory institutions fail to keep pace with the complexity and speed of these evolving technologies.

From an environmental perspective as well, Artificial Intelligence is not entirely benign. The establishment of massive data centers, excessive energy consumption, and the

extraction of minerals place additional pressure on nature. The rising demand for resources like cobalt and lithium contributes not only to environmental degradation but also to human exploitation.

Thus, AI is not merely a social or ethical challenge—it is an ecological one as well. Amid all these concerns, it is important to recognize that Artificial Intelligence cannot be rejected. It has become an integral part of modern life, and its contributions in fields such as healthcare, education, disaster management, and industrial productivity are invaluable. The issue lies not in the technology itself, but in the manner of its application. If aligned with human values,

ethics, and social responsibility, it can indeed become a powerful force for good.

To achieve this, it is essential to establish clear and robust regulatory frameworks governing its development and use. Governments and institutions must ensure that AI operates in a transparent, secure, and accountable manner. Companies must develop mechanisms capable of detecting and controlling misleading content. Equally important is public awareness. No society can confront this challenge without digital literacy. People must learn to question what they see and hear, understanding that not everything presented to them reflects reality. The habit of verification is no longer optional—it is essential.

At the ethical level, it is crucial that the data used to train AI systems is unbiased and of high quality. A biased foundation inevitably produces biased outcomes, reinforcing inequality and discrimination. Therefore, principles such as fairness, transparency, privacy, and accountability must form the core of AI development. From a cultural perspective, it is equally important to ensure that technological progress remains in harmony with our traditions and values. The digitization and preservation of cultural heritage can be a positive step, but it must be carried out with respect and sensitivity.

In conclusion, Artificial Intelligence is a powerful instrument that has the potential to redefine human existence. However, if divorced from ethical considerations, it can become a force of destruction with equal intensity. The need of the hour is to strengthen our moral foundations alongside technological advancement. The balance between scientific progress and human sensitivity is the only path that can lead us toward a secure, stable, and prosperous future.

The author can be mailed at lalitgarg11@gmail.com

PM Has Written J&K's

"Establishing this esteemed company's plant is a landmark moment for the entire Jammu and Kashmir. It signals readiness to embrace opportunity, serve the nation and light the way to the future. It also reflects strong confidence in the immense potential of Jammu and Kashmir," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Addressing a gathering after inauguration ceremony, the Lieutenant Governor shared significant figures to highlight industrial transformation of Jammu Kashmir after New Industrial Policy was launched in 2021. He said in financial year 2025 26 alone, Jammu Kashmir attracted investment of Rs. 5,824 crore—more than 13 times the average investment recorded before 2021. In FY 2022 23 investment was Rs. 2,153 crore, in FY 2023 24 Rs. 3,389 crore, and in FY 2024 25 Rs. 4,145 crore. In addition, half the preliminary work has already been completed on 312 units worth Rs. 7,864 crore, with production expected to begin in FY 2026 27. Jammu Kashmir has also seen, for the first time, the establishment of several units with investments exceeding Rs. 500 crore, including Chiripal Polyfilms (Rs. 1,215 crore), Kandhari Beverages (Rs. 830 crore), and Aegios (Rs. 666 crore). Three more units are expected to start production in FY 2026 27.

"The number of startups has risen from just 69 in 2020 to 1,305 in FY 2025 26—a growth of over 1,800%. Combined with all industrial units and PMEGP supported units, millions of young people have gained better employment opportunities," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also paid homage to all the civilians who were martyred in the Pahalgam terrorist attack on 22nd April last year. He said we have not forgotten those who had dared to cast a covetous eye on our mothers' and sisters' Sindoor.

"I also recall the brave soldiers of Operation Sindoor, who had avenged every single tear. Today, the inauguration of this new industrial unit in Jammu Kashmir is a clear and powerful declaration that India will neither halt nor pause, but will march forward on the path of development with renewed vigour and self confidence," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said through today's inauguration, we have also sent a message to the whole world that while our neighbouring country continues to run factories of terrorism, India is building factories of progress and success.

"Today we have told the world that while our neighbour's factories churn out terrorists, India's factories are engaged in nation building. We are also conveying that the economic potential, industrial energy and inclusive development of Jammu Kashmir are advancing with a new sense of pride," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Shri Mohit Burman, Non-Executive Director, Eveready Industries India Limited said that the state-of-the-art greenfield facility will generate around 500 direct and indirect employment opportunities at full scale in the region. He said the company also aims to contribute to 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' vision.

Eveready's new manufacturing plant boasts a robust annual peak production capacity of approximately 360 million alkaline batteries with an annual installed capacity of 456 million. Marking a significant scale-up in the industry's production capabilities, Eveready's Jammu facility will give an impetus to India's domestic manufacturing while catering to the country's growing demand for high-performance power solutions.

Shri Arjun Lamba, Non-Executive Director; Eveready Industries India Limited; Shri Anirban Banerjee, Chief Executive Officer; Shri Bibek Agarwala, Executive Director and CFO; Shri Sandeep Banerjee, Chief Human Resource Officer; Shri Arun Sahay, Head Operations and other members of Eveready Industries India Limited were present.

Shri Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department; Ms Ayushi Sudan Deputy Commissioner Samba; Shri Arun Kumar Manhas, Director, Industries & Commerce, Jammu; senior officials and representatives of trade and industrial organisations also attended the inaugural ceremony.

Nation Pays Tribute

"We solemnly remember the innocent lives we lost in the horrific Pahalgam terror attack last year. The grief and pain of losing our people still remain in the hearts of every Indian."

"Terrorism is the greatest enemy of humanity, against which we must stand united to fight and defeat. India will continue its zero-tolerance policy against terrorism and those who harbour it," he said.

President Droupadi Murmu also expressed her deepest condolences to the families of the victims on the first anniversary of the Pahalgam terror attack, asserting that such acts of violence would not weaken India's commitment to peace.

President Murmu, in a post on X,

said, "I pay heartfelt tribute to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack. The tragic loss of innocent lives in that heinous act remains etched in our collective memory. I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families. The entire nation stands with them. Such acts of terror cannot deter our unwavering commitment to peace and unity. We remain resolute in our determination to defeat terrorism everywhere in all its forms."

Vice-President CP Radhakrishnan reaffirmed the country's resolve to fight terrorism in all its forms, marking one year since the deadly incident that claimed 26 lives.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi while paying his respects to the victims said that the country will never forgive those responsible for this dastardly act, and the grief of the martyrs' families is the grief of us all.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge in his message said that the nation remains united, resilient, and determined against terrorism as India marked the first anniversary of the tragedy that claimed the lives of 26 tourists.

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra called it a "cowardly" act and asserted that India will "neither forget nor forgive the criminals".

In a post on X, Priyanka Gandhi expressed grief over the killing of innocent and unarmed civilians in the attack, describing it as a "crime against humanity" and reaffirming the country's collective stand against terrorism.

"Heartfelt tribute and salutations to all the brave Indians martyred in the cowardly terrorist attack in Pahalgam. In this attack, our unarmed and innocent people were brutally killed, which was a crime against humanity. India will neither forget it nor forgive the criminals who did so. The whole of India has always stood united against violence and terrorism and will continue to do so. Jai Hind!" Wayanad MP wrote in her post.

Pertinently, on April 22 last year, terrorists killed 26 people, mostly tourists, in Pahalgam in south Kashmir, triggering nationwide outrage.

In response, India launched a military operation on May 7, targeting and destroying multiple terror infrastructure sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) under 'Operation Sindoor.'—(KNO)

LG Pays Tribute To

commitment and resolute determination to eradicate terrorism from the soil of Jammu Kashmir".

No Shortage Of Fuel,

of fertilizers to prevent hoarding or disproportionate consumption by any individual or entity. He directed that mechanisms be put in place to ensure equitable access for all farmers and stakeholders. He also underscored the need to implement an Aadhaar-enabled distribution system for fertilizers to ensure transparency and fair allocation.

Reviewing the supply position, the it was informed that both Kashmir and Jammu divisions currently have adequate stocks of petroleum products and LPG. The Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar while apprising about Jammu Division, revealed that the diesel availability stands at about 11 days and petrol around 4 days, with additional supplies in transit improving the overall position. LPG stocks in Jammu are sufficient for 8-10 days, while kerosene reserves remain comfortable, he added.

Similarly for Kashmir Division, the Divisional Commissioner, Anshul Garg divulged that the petrol and diesel stocks provide coverage of around 17-19 days, extendable up to 20-22 days with supplies in transit, while LPG stocks are sufficient for about 15 days.

The meeting also took detailed note of district-wise price trends of LPG and petroleum products, along with enforcement actions taken against violators. It was informed that strict action has been initiated against those indulging in hoarding or attempting to create artificial scarcity in the market, with a clear directive to maintain market discipline and protect consumer interests.

Availability of fuel and LPG to commercial and industrial establishments was also reviewed. The meeting was apprised that adequate arrangements are in place to ensure uninterrupted supply to key sectors. Special emphasis was laid on ensuring availability of food, cooking fuel and other essentials to critical residential institutions such as hospitals, hostels and other care facilities across all districts.

Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Ashish Chandra Verma, apprised the meeting that fertilizer stocks across J&K remain stable, though continuous monitoring is essential. He advised that consumers should be encouraged to use fertilizers judiciously to maintain balanced availability.

Highlighting enforcement measures, it was informed that extensive

inspections are being carried out across districts to curb violations. Necessary action, including issuance of show-cause notices and suspension of licenses, is being taken against erring entities to ensure compliance with regulations.

Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA, Saurabh Bhagat, informed that the department has issued CTG guidelines in the UT and is actively monitoring the prices of around 40 essential commodities across markets to prevent overpricing and ensure affordability.

The meeting also reviewed grievance redressal mechanisms. It was informed that distress calls and public grievances received from different districts were given prompt attention and addressed within a defined timeframe, ensuring that no inconvenience was caused to the public.

Reiterating the government's commitment to ensuring uninterrupted supply and price stability, the Chief Secretary directed the Divisional and respective district administrations to remain vigilant, strengthen coordination, and take timely measures to address any emerging challenges. The Divisional Commissioners assured that the situation is under constant review and that adequate arrangements are in place to meet public requirements without disruption.

Centre, State Must Ensure

such as overspeeding, overloading and wrong-side driving continue to contribute to accidents. "While the government will fulfil its responsibility, bus owners and drivers must also understand their duty. There should be strict action against violations," he added.

On tourism, CM Omar said the government is working to maintain stability and improve conditions in Jammu and Kashmir. He acknowledged that last year's Pahalgam attack had an impact on tourist inflow but expressed optimism about recovery.

"As the season picks up, we are hopeful that visitors will continue to come, whether for pilgrimage like Mata Vaishno Devi and Amarnath or for tourism," he said.

Referring to the first anniversary of the Pahalgam attack, CM Omar described the day as painful and said the government remains committed to preventing such incidents in future.

"We remember those who lost their lives. They had come for holidays but were targeted. We are still in grief, but we are committed to ensuring such incidents do not happen again," he said, calling for coordinated efforts by the government and security agencies.

On whether there has been any change in Pakistan after 'Operation Sindoor,' the Chief Minister said such assessments depend on intelligence inputs but asserted that India would not allow a repeat of such incidents.

Commenting on the ongoing tensions involving Iran, he said the conflict should end as it was impacting global supply chains and pushing up oil prices.

"This conflict is affecting every country. We hope it ends soon," he said—(KNO)

Yasin Malik Had Links

claims were inconsequential to the case.

According to the NIA, its probe had revealed a larger conspiracy involving separatist leaders and banned outfits such as Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Taiba to wage war against the Government of India and raise funds through illegal channels, including hawala, for terror activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

It alleged that Malik, who headed a faction of the JKLF, played a role in promoting separatist ideology, maintaining links with militant groups and supporting unlawful activities.

Malik was arrested in April 2019 and later chargesheeted under various provisions of the IPC and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. He pleaded guilty before the trial court and was convicted on all counts.

The NIA said Malik was currently serving life imprisonment along with a fine and argued that parts of his response consisted of personal narratives and political commentary that were not relevant to adjudication of the case.

It also said issues settled during trial could not be reopened at this stage.

While sentencing Malik to life imprisonment, the special NIA court had held that the case did not fall in the "rarest of rare" category warranting death penalty and rejected his claim of following non-violence. The High Court will examine the agency's plea for enhancement of sentence on the next date of hearing—(KNO)

'2014 Floods Left Deep

destination and to review the condition of other degraded water bodies in Kashmir.

The visiting team included MLA Wagoora-Kreeri, Irfan Hafiz Lone, and MLA Pattan, Javed Riyaz Bedar, along with officials from the wildlife,

forest, and irrigation departments. The legislators were briefed about ongoing and proposed conservation measures.

MLA Lone termed wetlands integral to Kashmir's identity and said sustained efforts will be made to restore Hygam. He said plans are being worked out to divert Ningli Nallah and Bal Koul to reduce siltation while ensuring that local livelihoods are protected.

"People will be taken on board in conservation efforts," he said and assured support for eco-friendly beautification works through constituency funds. The MLA added that eco-tourism initiatives will also be pushed to revive the wetland.

Earlier, as reported by KNO, Kashmir's wetlands attracted over 15 lakh feathered visitors, with the Ramsar-designated Hygam wetland in Sopore hosting the lion's share of more than 4 lakh birds.

Regional Wildlife Warden Kashmir, Tawheed Ahmed Deva, said they are taking sustained measures to conserve these habitats and ensure they continue to support biodiversity—(KNO)

10 Lakh Tourists Visit

"I am feeling very good here. There is a lot of pollution in Delhi, so we came here to enjoy the pleasant weather." She said that last year, on this day, the Baisaran attack took place. "It feels emotional to be here on its anniversary. The incident was very unfortunate and tragic. However, the situation now feels normal and safe. People should not be afraid and should visit Kashmir to experience its beauty and support tourism."—(KNO)

NIA Attaches

of terrorism, belonged to accused Fayaz Ahmed Magray. Fayaz, who hailed from Lethpora, was arrested in connection with the case RC.10/2018/NIA/DLI in February 2019. NIA had charged him under various sections of RPC and UA (P) Act in August 2019, and the trial against him is continuing," the statement added.

Pertinently, the CRPF camp, located in Lethpora, was attacked on the night of 30th December 2017 by three unknown terrorists, armed with sophisticated weapons, explosives and ammunition. The trio had forced their way into the camp and attacked the personnel there before getting killed in retaliatory action

"The NIA Investigations had revealed Fayaz to be an active Over Ground Worker (OGW) of the proscribed JeM terror organisation in South Kashmir. He was found to have participated in the meetings with the terrorists who had planned and executed the deadly attack on the CRPF centre. Along with two other men, identified as Noor Mohammad Tantray and Mudasar Ahmad Khan, Jaish operatives he had also conducted a reece of the target camp, besides arranging weapons for Mudasar and subsequently helping him escape Lethpora. Noor Mohammad was killed in an encounter with security forces before the CRPF camp attack while Mudasar was killed in another encounter later," the statement said.



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Javed Rana pushes for time bound completion of Chenab House

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Tuesday conducted a comprehensive inspection of the under-construction Arsarua Chenab Doda House at Transport Nagar, Narwal, stressing the need for timely completion and strict adherence to quality standards.

He was accompanied by the senior officials from the Jal Shakti, Forest departments besides officers from the Jammu Development Authority.

The inspection focused on evaluating the construction progress and identifying the measures to accelerate execution.

The Minister also reviewed the local water supply scenario, highlighting the need to augment the infrastructure in view of future demand.

The concerned officials informed him that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) worth ₹3.22 crore has been prepared for construction of a tube well to cater to Chenab House and adjoining areas. The project



is aimed at ensuring a reliable and sustainable water supply while addressing existing shortages.

Javed Ahmed Rana asked the concerned departments to expedite approvals and initiate work on the tube well at the earliest, ensuring quality and timely execution.

Reviewing the Chenab House project, the officials briefed the Minister on current progress, timelines and proposed facilities.

Spread over approximately five kanals, the proposed G+2 structure is being developed as a

dedicated accommodation facility for the people from Chenab region, including Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar districts, who frequently travel to Jammu for education, healthcare and other essential needs.

The facility is expected to benefit the students, patients and their attendants, many of whom currently face difficulties in securing affordable and safe accommodation in the city.

Emphasizing its importance, the Minister said the project would significantly reduce the logistical

and financial burdens on people from the Chenab Valley. He directed the executing agencies to maintain strict monitoring, ensure accountability at all levels and provide all necessary amenities to make the facility fully functional and user-friendly.

Once completed, Chenab House is expected to ease the hardships faced by residents of the Chenab region and strengthen support infrastructure for the people from remote and hilly areas, contributing to more inclusive regional development.

Lavender Plantation Drive Marks Earth Day 2026 in Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Marking Earth Day 2026 with a strong message of ecological stewardship, a lavender plantation drive was held Wednesday at Bilaliya Educational Institutions in Khimber, Srinagar.

The initiative witnessed the participation of noted cultural figure Baba Nazrul Islam, who joined the drive launched by Naseer Ahmad Wani, Director of School Education, Kashmir.

The event was hosted by Manzoor Waganoo, the institution's host, and saw the presence of renowned psychiatrist Prof. Mustaq Margob and prominent environmental activist Raja Muzaffar Bhat. Both dignitaries lauded the initiative, underscoring the urgent need for envi-



ronmental responsibility and collective action to combat climate change.

Led by the private education sector, the plantation drive was widely hailed as a significant step toward promoting environmental awareness

and sustainability within the educational ecosystem of Jammu & Kashmir. Speaking on the occasion, Director Naseer Ahmad Wani emphasized the role of schools as nurseries for eco-conscious citizens, while Baba Nazrul Islam

called upon students to become ambassadors of green living.

The event concluded with a pledge by staff and students to nurture the planted saplings and integrate ecological values into daily life.

.....Census 2027

3-Day Training Programme for Enumerators, Supervisors commences in B'la

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: As part of the ongoing preparations for Census 2027, a three-day training programme for the first batch of Enumerators and Supervisors commenced Wednesday at the DC Office Meeting Hall, Baramulla.

The training programme was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi, Chief Planning Officer, Nisar Ahmad, District Coordinating officer for Census, H.C.

Chouhan, Nodal Officer for Census 2027, Baramulla, Rohini Pokhrel and all the enumerators and supervisors as part of the first batch of training.

The training programme is aimed at equipping the field functionaries with the necessary skills and knowledge required for the smooth and efficient conduct of the upcoming census exercise.

On the first day, the Master Trainers imparted extensive training to the participants, focusing on key aspects such as enu-



roles and responsibilities of Enumerators and Supervisors, along with practical demonstrations to enhance their understanding of field operations.

The participants were also sensitized about the importance of accurate data collection, confidentiality, and timely submission of information.

The training is being conducted in a structured manner, with interactive sessions and hands-on exercises to address queries and strengthen the overall preparedness of the field staff.

Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan Wall painting, awareness activities held across Shopian

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: In continuation of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, awareness and wall painting activities were extensively conducted across various schools in District Shopian.

Students actively par-

ticipated in painting walls and creating impactful visuals carrying strong anti drug messages such as "Say No to Drugs" and "Choose Life, Not Drugs."

The initiative provided a creative platform for students to express their views on the harmful effects of drug abuse while reinforcing awareness through art.

The activities witnessed enthusiastic participation and effectively engaged youth in spreading the message of a drug free



society. Meanwhile, at GDC Shopian, NSS units organized a dedicated wall painting programme under the theme "Drug-Free Messages."

Students and volunteers showcased their artistic skills through vibrant and meaningful artwork high-

lighting the dangers of substance abuse and the importance of prevention.

In addition, an awareness camp was organized at MC Shopian where participants were sensitized about the ill effects of drug abuse and the importance of community participation in addressing the issue.

The programme focused on spreading awareness among the general public and encouraging collective responsibility towards achieving a drug free Shopian.

DC Anantnag chairs meeting of Single Window Committee of Mining Leases



GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat Wednesday chaired a meeting of the District Level Single Window Committee at his office chambers, to review and facilitate the execution of mining leases in the district.

The meeting was attended by ADC, SE Hydraulics, ACR, Wildlife Warden South Kashmir, DFOs Anantnag and Lidder Divisions, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Horticulture Officer, District Soil Conservation Officer, District Mineral Officer, Executive Engineers of Irrigation/Flood Control, PHE, PWD and KPDC, Assistant Directors of Fisheries and Tourism, and District Officer Pollution Control Committee, among others.

During the meeting, elaborate deliberations were held on issuance of no objection certificates post obtaining clearances from all stakeholder departments and on issues related to the execution of mining leases

with respect to 34 major mineral blocks identified in the district. Various procedural and departmental aspects were discussed to ensure timely and smooth processing of cases.

The ADC briefed the chair that NOCs from all concerned departments have been received while certain queries have been raised by the Forest Department and some cases have been flagged by the Irrigation and R&B Departments.

The DC stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination and timely disposal of cases to facilitate transparent and efficient execution of mining leases. He directed the concerned officers to strictly adhere to the prescribed rules and guidelines and ensure that all necessary formalities are completed within set timelines.

The DC further instructed that the process should be carried out in a transparent and accountable manner, while ensuring environmental safeguards and regulatory compliance.

Centre mulls crackdown on prediction market apps

IANIS

NEW DELHI: IT Secretary S. Krishnan said on Wednesday that prediction market apps have come under the scanner of the government, as the country announced to bring into force a comprehensive set of rules to regulate the fast-growing online gaming sector from May 1.

Platforms such as Kalshi, Polymarket are being used for betting on election outcomes, IPL and many other events.

Krishnan pointed out that even though apps such as Kalshi, Polymarket are banned under the

Online Gaming Act, users continue to access them via virtual private networks or VPNs.

"Access through VPNs is a slightly tricky issue and we are seeing how we can intervene," S. Krishnan told reporters.

The IT Secretary said that VPNs have several legitimate uses as well, therefore how to distinguish between legit and illegitimate is an ongoing exercise. "It's a bit of a whack-a-mole situation," he remarked.

He also underscored that if foreign platforms are offering services in India and it is brought to the ministry's notice, action can be taken

as the Online Gaming Act has extra territorial jurisdiction. Such platforms can be blocked under Section 69A of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000.

Meanwhile, the new framework, notified under the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming (PROG) Act, 2025, reflects the Centre's dual objective of protecting users -- especially children and vulnerable groups -- from financial and psychological harm, while positioning the country as a global hub for gaming and digital creativity.

Framed by the Ministry

of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Rules, 2026 lay down the operational architecture for implementing the parent law, which was enacted by the Parliament in August 2025. The rules were finalised after extensive inter-ministerial consultations and legal vetting, signalling the government's intent to bring clarity and regulatory certainty to an industry that has seen rapid growth alongside rising concerns over addictive and predatory money-based gaming platforms.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
FLOOD CONTROL DIVISION KAKAPORA
 PHONE NO:- 01933265052

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Short Term e-NIT NO.01 OF 2026-27

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (in single Cover System) on percentage (%) basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with the J & K Government for the following Stage Contract Works (2026-2027) to be opened by the Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Kakapora.

| S.No. | Name of work | Adv. Cost (In Lakhs) | Earnest Money (in Rs) | Cost of Tender Doc. In Rs. | Class of Contract | Head of Account |
|-------|--|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Restoration and Maintenance of vulnerable / critical spots on Aripal Nallah and their allied tributaries under jurisdiction of Flood control Sub Division Awantipora for the year 2026-27. Flood Zonal Committee Kakapora. (Flood Control Sub. Division Awantipora). (Fresh of e-NIT No 32 of 2025-2026 (Sr No 06) | 1.50 | 3000/- | 200/- | DEE | 2711-M&R |
| 2 | Restoration and Maintenance of vulnerable critical spots on Watalara Nallah and their allied tributaries under jurisdiction of Flood control Sub Division Awantipora for the year 2026-27. Flood Zonal Committee Kakapora. Flood Control Sub. Division Awantipora (Fresh of e-NIT No 32 of 2025-2026 (Sr No 07) | 1.50 | 3000/- | 200/- | DEE | 2711-M&R |
| 3 | Restoration, Maintenance and Removal of encroachment on Wankran Nallah including their tributaries and gates for the year 2026-27 Flood Zonal Committee Kakapora Flood Control Sub. Division Pulwama (Fresh of e-NIT No 32 of 2025-2026 (Sr No 08) | 1.50 | 3000/- | 200/- | DEE | 2711-M&R |

No of works Advertized:- (03) NO's
 Position of Funds:- Budgetary provision of 2026-27 (2711- M&R).
 Position of AAA:- S.E.Hydl. Circle Pulwama HQ: Shopian' order No. SE/HYD/SPN/DB/11 of 03/2026-27 dated 14-03-2026
 Technical Sanction:- Sanctioned

1. The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, Set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the Departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below.

| Sl No | Date of issue/uploading of Tender Notice | 20-04-2026 (18.00 PM) |
|-------|---|-----------------------|
| 01 | Date of start of downloading. | 20-04-2026 (18.00 PM) |
| 02 | Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial. | 20-04-2026 (18.00 PM) |
| 03 | Bid submission end date. | 27-04-2026 (13.00 PM) |
| 04 | Date & Time of opening of Bids (online). | 27-04-2026 (14.00 PM) |

Special Conditions:-

- The successful (i.e. 1st lowest) contractor shall report to the office of Executive Engineer Flood Control Division Kakapora immediately after opening the tenders & complete the process of allotment within two days positively, otherwise the details of the same contractor will be provided to District Magistrate (Convener Flood Zonal Committee Kakapora) for taking the action against the contractor.
- The Successful contractor (allottee) shall remain in state of preparedness & shall be available for execution of work all times in case of rain/ flood season or as & when asked by the officers in charge & no excuse & lackadaisical approach what so ever be entertained & action against the same will initiated immediately including criminal proceeding as the life and property of the general public is involved.
- The successful contractor shall furnish the details of machinery/ man power, contact details of all concerned incl. himself, so that the same are contacted well in advance in case of floods/ rains. The same details will also be provided to District Administration/ Police authorities.
- The successful contractor has to submit an affidavit in advance duly attested by 1st class Judicial Magistrate stating that he along with his men and machinery will be available all the times as & when the flood alert is sounded or as & when asked by the officer in charge, with the condition that in case he fails, action against him will be liable including criminal proceeding.
- The total cost of work is including Department supply & same shall be deducted at the time of billing.
- RTQ means rate to be quoted.

All other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form).
 No.-FCDK/ Camp/1906-1919
 Dated:-20-04-2026.
DIPK-668-26
DT: 22/04/2026

(Er.Farooq Ahmad Ganie)
 Executive Engineer
 Flood Control Division
 Kakapora

IPL 2026: Disappointed as a team, group, have to look for answers inside, says Pant

IAN S

LUCKNOW: Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) skipper Rishabh Pant admitted the batting unit has been falling short, adding that the need of the hour is to find solutions within the group after suffering a 40-run loss to Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 in Lucknow on Wednesday.

LSG squandered the advantage received from incisive spells of Mohammed Shami, Mohsin Khan, and Prince Yadav as their batters fell in a heap to suffer their fourth consecutive defeat of IPL 2026.

Chasing 160, a listless LSG folded for 119 in 18 overs - the slide triggered when skipper Rishabh Pant miscued to fall for a duck, as despite Mitchell Marsh hitting 55, it wasn't enough for the hosts to suffer another defeat at home.

"I think it is difficult to explain. Like, it's definitely our batting is letting us down, but at the same time, we are disappointed as a team, as a group, but at the same time, you've got

to keep finding ways. You have to look for answers inside, not outside, but that's how it is as of now," Pant said after the match ended.

He conceded the batting group could have shown more application, including himself. "See, definitely we could have taken some time while batting, and at the same time, you know, not making any excuse out there, like including myself in that. We could have taken it a little deeper because I think the bowlers did a fantastic job, especially after the last game. As a batting group, we need to put our hand up and try to finish that job for the bowlers also," he added.

Pant, however, remained optimistic about the side's prospects of bouncing back in the competition. "There is still a lot we want to look at the positive side. We all know it's disappointing for us as a team, but we have to keep our head high and look for answers inside, and we surely know that we have enough firepower in our bowling and batting, and we can still



turn it around. That's what I believe in."

Meanwhile, Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag lauded his bowlers for adapting to conditions and deliver-

ing under pressure despite a modest total. "Very pleased. Firstly, I feel we were really short with the bat. The way the wicket was playing when me and Hetty were batting, I think

we've got to be better.

"I thought, honestly, even with the situation we had, we were close to getting 180, and that would have been a really good score because I knew it

was going to be slowing down later, but the bowlers... No, it's because of the wickets that we won," he said.

He also credited the group's adaptability in RR, moving to second place in the points table. "At the start of the tournament, the message of the group was that we will be a team that assesses and adapts, and I feel in the last two games, the wickets we got, they adapted really well, and they batted according to the wicket and not just how they wanted to bat.

"It's nothing to do with the middle order not scoring or whatever it is. If they get a flat wicket, they go guns blazing. If they get another wicket like this, they can take some time, and then we move on from there. They're complementing each other."

Parag also praised his seamers' discipline in the Powerplay. "I'm blessed. I mean, for two bowlers to bowl 3-3 overs in the power play at this stage of the game, or how T20 cricket is evolving, it's just commendable. The wicket was helping

a little more to the seamers in the first innings, but then in the second innings, we knew it would swing, but the lengths they bowled, the lines they bowled, and the way we feel it, impressive."

Reflecting on his own form, Parag acknowledged the support from teammates and promised that a big knock from his bat will come soon. "Everyone has been very supportive. I've been going through a phase as well. Right before the IPL, I had gone through something, and then even now I'm going through something, and everyone understands that.

"Everyone respects that, and I thank them for that. I feel the way I'm batting, and innings are not too far away, but as I've been saying, if I go in tomorrow and I play another game, it's going to be what the team needs.

"It's not me not scoring runs and taking my time getting 40 or 30. That's not going to happen. I go out there, assess conditions. If they want me to go to 200 from ball one, I do that," he concluded.

IPL 2026: Jadeja's late-hitting, Archer's 3-20 help RR defend 159, beat listless LSG by 40 runs

IAN S

LUCKNOW: Ravindra Jadeja's unbeaten 43 off 29 balls, along with a terrific haul of 3-20 by Jofra Archer, helped Rajasthan Royals successfully defend a modest total to defeat Lucknow Super Giants by 40 runs in their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 encounter at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow on Wednesday.

In a low-scoring encounter, Jadeja top-scored to take RR to a respectable 159/6 in their 20 overs. His unbeaten 49-run stand with impact player Shubham Dubey, who made 19 not out off 11 balls, gave RR bowlers a fighting chance in the match, after LSG's pace trio Mohammed Shami, Mohsin Khan, and Prince Yadav took two scalps each.

Defending 159, the lowest score defended in

this season, RR's bowlers were right on the money from the word go, and backed by some superb fielding, they consigned LSG to their fourth consecutive loss of the competition.

Archer found support in Nandre Burger and Brijesh Sharma, who picked two scalps each, while Ravindra Jadeja and Ravi Bishnoi had one wicket each as LSG were bowled out for just 119 in 18 overs, as RR have now moved to second place in the points table.

Opting to bowl first, LSG didn't have the best of starts as Yashasvi Jaiswal and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi hit six boundaries between themselves in the first three overs. But RR's explosive start was derailed in the third over when Shami struck twice in two balls.

He bowled a sharp bouncer to remove Jaiswal, who tried to hook, and an airborne Rishabh Pant

leapt to grab the catch with an outstretched right hand. One brought two for Shami as he got one to nip away and take Dhruv Jurel's outside edge, as Pant dived to his right to dismiss him for a duck.

The pressure intensified as Mohsin nailed his lengths and became the first bowler in IPL history to bowl a maiden over to teenage sensation Sooryavanshi, as he eventually forced him into mistiming a loft to cover, while having Shimron Hetmyer to give a leading edge to mid-off.

Prince then ensured there was no middle-order recovery as he dismissed Riyan Parag, who holed out to long-on, and later removed Donovan Ferreira by having him caught at third man to leave RR reeling at 110/6.

RR were staring at a sub-par total before Jadeja took charge. Bidding his time initially, Jadeja exploded in the final over by picking

20 runs off Mayank Yadav (0-56), bowling in his first game of the season. Supported by Dubey, Jadeja ensured RR had a great finish to their innings, something which felt improbable at the 15-over mark.

LSG's chase of 160 began chaotically - on the final ball of the opening over, Ayush Badoni was run out for a duck following a massive mix-up. Captain Rishabh Pant's inconsistent run continued when he fell for a three-ball duck in the second over, top-edging off Burger to the keeper Dhruv Jurel.

With head coach Justin Langer going to the dressing room from the dugout, the nightmare deepened for LSG when Archer returned to remove Aiden Markram for a duck with a steep bouncer, leaving them reeling at 16/3. By the end of the Powerplay, despite a six from Marsh, LSG were gasping at 31/3.

3rd WT20I: Harmanpreet, Shafali slam fifties, power India to 192/4 against SA

IAN S

JOHANNESBURG: Explosive half-centuries from Shafali Verma and captain Harmanpreet Kaur propelled India to a mammoth 192/4, their highest-ever women's T20I total against South Africa, in the third T20I at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on Wednesday.

In a clinical display of power-hitting, India's batting unit finally found its rhythm to post a daunting target in what is a must-win clash for them to keep the series alive. Shafali laid the foundation with a brisk 64 off 46 balls, laced with eight fours and two sixes, while Harmanpreet provided the late-innings fireworks with a blistering 66 off 38 deliveries, studded with seven fours and three sixes.

India's intent was clear from the first ball. Smriti Mandhana (37 off 25 balls) got the scoreboard ticking immediately with two



boundaries off Ayanda Hlubi. Shafali Verma joined the act in the second over, carving Annerie Dercksen for consecutive boundaries.

The pair utilised the fielding restrictions effectively, with Mandhana launching Tumi Sekhukhune for a massive six over backward square leg in the sixth over. By the end of the Powerplay, India had raced to 51/0, establishing a perfect platform for a big total.

The introduction of left-

arm spinner Nonkululeko Maba (2-31) briefly stalled India's momentum. In a dramatic ninth over, Nonkululeko struck twice in two balls - Smriti holed out to deep mid-wicket, while Jemimah Rodrigues top-edged a sweep to short fine leg and fell for a golden duck.

At 68/2, the onus fell on Harmanpreet and Shafali to steady the ship. Harmanpreet survived an early scare when she was dropped at backward point, a mistake that would prove costly for the Proteas. After


India crossed the 100-run mark in the 12th over, Shafali brought up her 16th T20I fifty in style in the 13th over with a thumping drive off Nonkululeko.

The duo shifted gears in the 14th over by looting 16 runs off Tumi Sekhukhune. But their stand eventually ended at 73 runs when Nadine de Klerk dismissed Shafali, who pulled a short delivery straight to deep square leg. However, the dismissal brought Richa Ghosh (18 not out off 10 balls) to the crease, who immediately ramped up the scoring with a towering six over mid-wicket.

Harmanpreet, meanwhile, reached her 16th T20I fifty in the 18th over off 33 balls with a straight drive for four off Nadine. The final over from Tumi was particularly expensive, yielding 16 runs, as Harmanpreet smoked two massive sixes - one over deep mid-wicket and another over deep square leg.

OBITUARY

‘Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji’un’



With profound grief and a heavey heart, we inform the sad demise of
ALTAFA AHMAD LATOO
 s/o Late Abdul Qayoom Latoo

Original Residence: Dari Bal Naid Kadal
 Present Address: House no. 21, Alamdar Colony B, Rangpora, Ellahiibagh (near Masjid Umar).

Fateh Khwani will be observed on:
Friday, 24th April 2026 at 2:30 PM
 At their ancestral Graveyard, Malkha, behind Masjid Gazali

Bereaved Family.

INOX SRINAGAR

Movies Watchlist

THURSDAY 23rd APRIL



THE DHURANDHAR (A)
HINDI - 01:55 PM, 05:00 PM



BHOOTH BANGLA (U/A 16+)
HINDI ATMOS - 12:00 PM, 03:15 PM, 06:30 PM
HINDI - 10:30 AM, 01:45 PM



THE MUMMY (A)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
11:00 AM



Michael (U/A 13+)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
06:20 PM