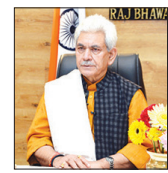


Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Lok Bhavan Jammu & Kashmir
@LokBhavanJandK



Teachers must recognize that education focused solely on marks and narrow academics, sidelining art, sports, and skills, is unfit for the future. We must prepare students for irreplaceable human capacities like creativity, critical thinking, moral decision-making, collaboration, and lifelong learning which no machine can replace

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NIA Attaches Property Under UAPA In Pulwama



JAHANGEER GANAIE

PULWAMA: The National Investigation Agency on Thursday attached an immovable property under UAPA in Rajpora area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

An official said that the NIA team attached the property belonging to Tanveer Ahmad Wani son of Ghulam Ahmad Wani under the provisions of section 33 (1) of the unlawful

activities (Prevention) Act, follows recent orders issued by the NIA Special Court in Jammu. Officials described the move as a significant step toward dismantling terror infrastructure and financial networks operating in the region.

Agency had said that the attached assets include several parcels of land and residential properties located in Lethpora. These properties were identified as proceeds of terrorism and belonged to the accused Fayaz Ahmed Magray, a resident of the same area. Magray was arrested in February 2019 in connection with the case and later chargesheeted under multiple sections of the UAPA and the Ranbir Penal Code. His trial is currently underway.

The case pertains to the deadly attack on a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) camp in Lethpora on the night of December 30, 2017. Three heavily armed terrorists stormed the camp, killing five CRPF personnel and injuring three others before being neutralised by security forces. Investigations revealed that Magray acted as an Over Ground Worker (OGW) for JeM in South Kashmir. He allegedly played a key role

THREE HEAVILY ARMED terrorists stormed the camp, killing five CRPF personnel and injuring three others before being neutralised by security forces.

activities (Prevention) The property comprises land measuring 3 Kanals and 4 Marlas, recorded under Khewat No. 98, Khata No. 527, and Survey No. 1678/858, at Abhama and Draklaran. Earlier, on Wednesday National Investigation Agency (NIA) attached multiple immovable properties belonging to a terror operative linked to the banned outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed in connection with the 2017 fidayeen attack on a CRPF camp in Jammu and Kash-

Four Held For Providing Logistic Support To Terrorists

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Four over-ground workers (OGWs), including a woman, were arrested in Jammu and Kashmir's summer capital for allegedly providing logistic support to terrorists, officials said on Thursday (April 23, 2026).

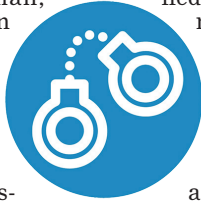
Police arrested the four OGWs from Hazratbal area of the city on Wednesday (April 22, 2026) night.

They identified the OGWs as Zahoor Ahmad Mir,

Bashir Ahmad Bhat, and Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, all residents of Hazratbal.

The woman was identified as Shazia Mohamad, a resident of Hazratbal as well, the officials said. They said a hand grenade, 15 AK-47 rounds, four mobile phones and some cash were recovered from their possession.

A case has been under against them under various sections of the UAPA and Arms Act, the officials added.



NEP Potent Tool To Meet National Needs, Accelerate Economic Growth: LG Sinha

Calls Upon Teachers, Students To Position India As World's Leading Knowledge Economy

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Terming National Education Policy (NEP) as a potent tool to meet national needs, boost societal capacity, and accelerate economic growth, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday called on students to blend science with values for progress.

"To bridge rural-urban and regional-social gaps, NEP is a powerful tool, societal asset, and reliable partner for meritorious students. India will emerge as a robust knowledge economy, nurturing generations with scientific temper, moral strength, cultural values, skills, and a spirit of service and sacrifice," the Lieutenant Governor said while inaugurating the New School Building of Swami Pranavand Vidyamandir in Panjgrain, Nagrota. The School is run by Bharat Sevashram Sangha, a renowned socio-cultural and



philanthropic organisation. Bharat Sevashram Sangha started pre-primary to Class 8 education here in 2014 under 'Har Ghar Shiksha'. Over half the students are from poor families; they have illuminated countless lives.

Addressing a gathering on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said that new higher

secondary building and skill infrastructure will ensure disadvantaged students get quality education.

"Once all the floors of building are complete, it will serve more than 1,500 students transform thousands of lives. With future residential facilities for 100 boys, local economy will get a boost, backward areas will be

transformed, and society will advance with new confidence," the Lieutenant Governor said.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor called upon students and teachers to contribute to nation-building and adapt classrooms to today's changing global landscape, positioning India as the world's leading knowledge economy.

"We must strengthen cultural awareness in students, as unity in diversity defines global society. Promote communication skills for clear expression, enabling the new generation to improve lives, uphold democratic values, and foster collaboration for a prosperous J&K," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that every student talented in art, craft, music, or entrepreneurship deserves equal respect and opportunity.

"Teachers must recognize that education focused solely on marks and narrow

LG Attends Foundation Day Of Sarv Shakti Chandi Mata Mandir

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday attended the foundation day of Sarv Shakti Chandi Mata Mandir at Dhammi, Nagrota.

The Lieutenant Governor paid obeisance at the holy temple and prayed for peace, prosperity and well-being of all.

The religious proceedings were marked by the lighting of the Akhand Jyot and the tradi-

tional reciting of Ved Path.

During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor also reviewed the ongoing construction works of Yatri Halls, being developed by the Temple Committee, to

facilitate the devotees travelling to the Shri Amarnath Ji and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine. He assured all the necessary support and assistance from the administration.

Shri Sanjay • P-06

India Extends Airspace Closure For Pak Aircraft

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: India has extended the ban on Pakistan planes from using its airspace till May 24.

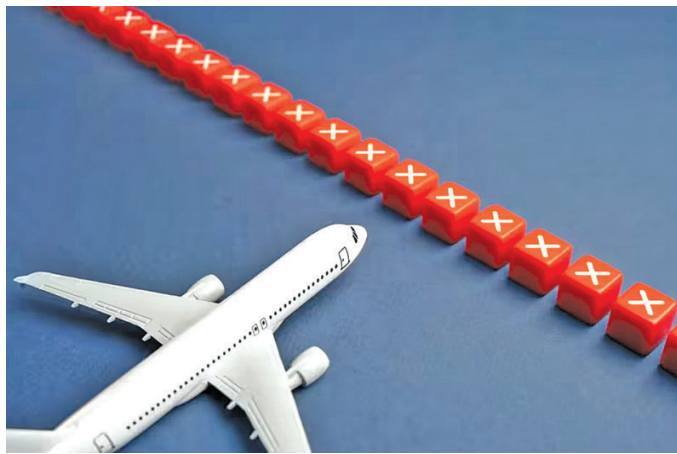
With the latest extension, the closure of the Indian airspace for Pakistan aircraft will now be in place for more than a year — a move that first came days after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025.

Since April last year, both countries have been extending the closure of their airspaces for each other's planes. On Tuesday, Pakistan extended the airspace closure till May 24.

A Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) on Wednesday said the Indian airspace will not be available for Pakistan-registered aircraft and aircraft operated/ owned or leased by Pakistan airlines/operators, including military flights.

The ban will be effective till 2359 hours (UTC) on May 23, which means 0530 hours (IST) on May 24.

Following the terror attack in



Pahalgam, Kashmir, on April 22, 2025, that killed 26 people, India and Pakistan closed their respective airspaces for each other's planes.

India's airspace ban has been in place since April 30 last year, while Pakistan has closed its airspace for Indian aircraft from April 24, 2025.

The ban, part of various

measures taken by the Indian government against Pakistan in the wake of the terror attack, was initially till May 24, 2025 and has been subsequently extended every month.

Travellers Face Higher Costs, Fewer Flight Options as Jet Fuel Prices Swing

Generally, a NOTAM is a notice containing

CS Reviews ₹3440.43 Cr Plan For Flood Restoration Works

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the comprehensive plan for utilization of funds earmarked for works related to the permanent restoration of damages caused by floods and associated calamities in 2025.

The meeting besides the ACS, PDD; ACS, Finance; ACS, PWD; Principal Secretary, DMRR&R was attended by Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner Secretary, YS&S; Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department.

The Deputy Commissioners also attended the meeting through video conferencing from their respective offices.

The Chief Secretary emphasised upon all Departments to accord necessary

administrative approval and technical sanction to ensure that works are tendered and completed without any delay.

He called for submission of work-wise completion details in due course and stressed that each project must be executed strictly as per the approved list and within the prescribed estimates. He

enjoined upon the Departments to expedite approvals so that tendering is completed promptly and execution of works is taken up by June this year.

The Chief Secretary stressed the importance of strict adherence to the guidelines issued by the Disaster Management Division, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for recovery and reconstruction. He observed that the Ministry is going to have its focus on the execution of these



Article 370 Abrogation Ended Uncertainty In J&K: Shah

Present Dispensation Hit Terror Hard, Responded Through Surgical Strikes

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Asserting that the abrogation of Article 370 led to complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said PM Modi led regime gave befitting reply to terrorists and their mentors by hitting them hard.

Addressing election rallies in rally in Balagarh, Hooghly district, West Bengal, Shah, said PM Modi led regime's decision to abrogate Article 370 ended uncertainty in J&K. "For 75 years, the Congress, Communists, Mamata Banerjee, Samajwadi Party, Bahujan Samajwadi Party and DMK kept Article 370 in place. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ended Article 370 and made J&K an integral part of India," he added.



"During the Manmohan Singh government and Mamata Banerjee's tenure, attacks were carried out in the country repeatedly. The present government responded through surgical strikes, air strikes and Operation Sindoor. Terrorism and Naxalism have been curbed. Once a BJP government is

formed, infiltrators will be identified and deported from across the country."

He added that steps taken in recent years have led to a decline in incidents linked to terrorism and Left-wing extremism.

Targeting the Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal, Shah alleged corruption in recruitment processes and misuse of public funds, and said those involved would face action if his party forms the government in the state.

He also spoke about border security and said illegal infiltration would be addressed through identification and deportation measures. Shah said sealing of borders and coordination among agencies would be ensured.

Outlining proposals for north Bengal, he

NC Govt Missing From Ground: LoP Sharma

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Jammu & Kashmir Assembly and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma on Thursday alleged that governance in the Union Territory has come to a standstill and ministers in the National Conference-led government remain absent from the ground amid mounting public issues.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function at Sonwar here, LoP Sharma, said the administration has become ineffective after the 2024 Assembly elections, while people continue to suffer due to shortages of electricity, drinking water, and poor road connectivity. He alleged that instead of addressing public grievances, those in power were busy with "marathons, cycling, skiing, and five-star dinners".

The BJP leader accused the administration of rampant corruption, claiming that common citizens are unable to get routine work done in government offices without paying bribes. "Send an ordinary person to a tehsildar or

MP Ruhullah Denies Reports Of Forming New Political Party



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Member of Parliament Agra Ruhullah Mehdi on Thursday denied reports that he is forming a new political party, saying he had no knowledge of any such move.

Speaking to reporters, MP Ruhullah, said he was unaware of any party being formed in his name. "Tell me as well which party carries my name. I also don't know who is forming it. If there is one, I will also submit an application," he said.

The remarks came amid

speculation over possible political realignments in Jammu and Kashmir.

On the reservation issue, he said the government response is awaited and he has been informed that the file had been sent to the Lieutenant Governor's office.

He said the government should clarify when the file would be brought back and what concrete steps would be taken. "The government should not stop at merely acknowledging the matter. It must clearly state when the file will return," he said—(KNO)

Secretary RDD reviews draft O&M, FSSM policies

Describes source segregation as cornerstone of effective waste management

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Thursday chaired a meeting to review the draft Operations and Maintenance (O&M) and Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (FSSM) policies, which are in the final stages prior to notification, under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G).

The meeting was attended by Director General Rural Sanitation Anoo Malhotra, Director Finance Umar Khan, Superintending Engineers REW (Jammu/Kashmir), Deputy Directors Rural Sanitation and other senior officers.

The Secretary directed that key features be refined and aligned before notification, particularly with regard to enforcement provisions and a clear appellate mechanism. He emphasized that the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) should act as the appellate authority,



with oversight at the Directorate level.

Reviewing alignment with the Solid Waste Management Rules, he reiterated that Panchayats will be empowered to levy user charges and impose penalties for non-compliance, especially for failure to ensure source segregation.

"Source segregation is the cornerstone of effective waste management and must be strictly enforced," he said, stressing segregation into dry, wet, sanitary and special waste streams.

The Secretary underscored the role of Deputy Commissioners, as heads of District Sanitation Committees, in strengthening the monitoring frame-

works, particularly for door-to-door collection systems and ensuring elimination of visible litter. He also called for preparation of district-specific waste management plans, detailing logistics such as vehicle deployment, manpower, collection frequency and ward-wise schedules.

On financial sustainability, he stressed the rationalisation and enforceability of user charges, noting limited willingness to pay in rural areas.

The meeting also discussed provisions related to the Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs), including incorporation of Extended BWG Responsibility in the policy framework.

Highlighting the need to sustain SBM-G gains, the Secretary called for a robust, community-driven O&M framework to maintain sanitation assets, particularly in over 5,900 ODF Plus villages across the UT.

The officials informed that 10 percent of PRI Capex allocation has been earmarked for O&M of sanitation and SLWM assets.

Regarding FSSM, he emphasized the importance of a structured system for safe collection, transportation, treatment and disposal of faecal sludge, noting that nearly 60 percent of rural households rely on on-site sanitation systems.

World Book Day-2026

Libraries Deptt organises events to rediscover magic of books

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A series of events were organized by the Department of Libraries & Research Thursday across Kashmir division to commemorate the World Book & Copyright Day-2026.

World Book and Copyright Day is celebrated on April 23 every year to promote the love for reading and writing; power of publishing, making reading accessible for all and the importance of protecting intellectual property through copyright laws. The Day also signifies the potential of books and literature in shaping minds, uniting people, and inspiring social transformation.

Proclaimed by UNESCO in 1995, the day commemorates the passing away of literary legends including William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes, and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, all of whom passed away on this day.

This year's theme for World Book and Copyright Day is - "Literacy through multilingualism and access to books for all".

To mark the day, today's main event was organized at SPS Central Library



complex with an Exhibition of Special Literary Collections including Manuscripts, Rare Books and Miniature Paintings.

The exhibition was opened to public by Mrs Rubina Kousar, Director General, Libraries & Research, J&K.

The main attractions of the exhibition, jointly organized by SPS Library Srinagar & the Oriental Research Library (ORL) Srinagar, were the historic manuscripts like Qarabai-Din, Sadh PandLuqman and Shahnama Firdous. Some of the rare books including Mahabharata & Ramayana, Rajtarangni by Kalhana, Tareekh-e-Rasheed, Gazetteer of India and Kashmir - a history of Kashmir were also displayed at the exhibition.

Speaking on the occasion, Director General Libraries & Research, J&K said the Oriental Research Library, Srinagar established in 1904, is a repository of around 6000 rare manuscripts in 17 languages encompassing varied fields. The library also has around 500 rare books and miniature paintings.

Mrs Rubina said the manuscript collection of ORL is a treasure-trove of religious, philosophical, historical, literary and scientific writings rich in classical languages like Persian, Sanskrit, Hindi, Urdu, Turki, Brij Bhasha and Arabic. These languages have left deep impression on Kashmiri language by conditioning its growth in terms of forms and scope, she said and added that the Sanskrit, language of court and culture in 9th and beginning of

10th century in Kashmir contributes number of religious, aesthetic and poetic articulations and are preserved in ORL Srinagar.

She said such exhibitions make our young generation aware about, the culture, traditions, heritage and history of Jammu and Kashmir. A large number of people from different walks of life visited the exhibition and evinced keen interest in the rare literary resources.

Book exhibitions and other activities including literary tours of libraries to re-discover the magic of books and re-inculcate reading habits among the youth were organised in District and Tehsil Libraries across Kashmir as part of World Book & Copyright Day-2026 events.

The Department of Libraries, has for the past few years, laid special emphasis on selection of reference books for students preparing for IAS/KAS/NEET/JEE and other competitive examinations to make productive use of the resources earmarked for the purchase of books resulting in huge boost to the footfall of youth in public libraries.

KVK Budgam organizes Input Distribution programme under Tribal Sub Plan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Budgam, under the leadership of Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai and in collaboration with the TSP-ICAR project 'Promotion of Natural Farming in Tribal farmers of Kashmir' successfully conducted a comprehensive training and input distribution programme to tribal farmers belonging to villages Tral and Sangerwani of district Pulwama.

The initiative was designed to empower tribal farmers by equipping them with high-quality inputs to boost productivity and ensure sustainable livelihoods through Natural Farming practices.

The programme was presided over by Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, who was the chief guest on the occasion besides Prof. Javed Ahmad Muglo, Professor & Head, ETC & KVK Pulwama and Scientists from both KVK's were also present.

In her address, Prof. Raihana highlighted SKUAST-Kashmir's continued efforts towards the upliftment of tribal farming communities. She emphasized the critical role of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in promoting climate-resilient agriculture and improving livelihood security. She added that KVK's are playing a pivotal role in transforming

the lives of tribal farmers by introducing innovative, sustainable practices and providing timely access to quality agricultural inputs. She stressed on the importance of adopting scientific practices for achieving sustainable agricultural growth and improving rural livelihoods.

Prof. Javed Ahmad Muglo, Head, ETC & KVK Pulwama in his address highlighted the objectives of the Tribal Sub Plan, emphasizing the commitment of ICAR and SKUAST-Kashmir towards improving the livelihoods of tribal farming communities through location-specific technologies, capacity building and input support. He urged farmers to adopt scientific farming practices and make the best use of the inputs provided. He also outlined the Kendra's mission to advance sustainable farming and enhance access to technology for marginalized communities.

During training sessions Dr. Shazia Ramzan (PI of project) and Dr. Shaheer Ahmad Ganie (Co-PI of project), KVK Budgam covered various topics like need and importance of Natural Farming, pillars and practices of Natural Farming and strategies for climate-smart agriculture.

A major highlight of the event was the distribution of inputs like drums, buckets, shoes, gloves etc., to participating tribal farmers for practising Natural Farming on their fields.

CEO KDA reviews Development Works across Key Tourist Spots

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Koker-nag Development Authority (KDA), Mohammad Rouf Rahman, conducted an extensive tour of various important tourist locations under KDA to review the on-ground progress of ongoing work.

Accompanied by staff and R&B engineers, the tour commenced at Mirza Swami Kaakh Temple Trust, Hangalgund, where the CEO, along with members of the Kashmiri Pandit community, inspected the premises. On the occasion, a newly constructed 4-seater toilet block was handed over to the Trust, addressing a long-pending requirement for pilgrims visiting the temple in large numbers.

Later, the CEO visited Vailoo Main Chowk and conducted a spot inspection

to resolve issues related to the location and construction of toilet blocks near the main road and Jamia Masjid. The matter was settled amicably on the spot.

The CEO also visited Daksum, where he reviewed the progress of the KDA cafeteria and the construction of concrete steps leading up to the hutment area of KDA, Tourism Department, and JKTDC. The visit was attended by local residents, shopkeepers, hoteliers, and officials from R&B and KDA.

During the tour, the CEO also visited Dandipora Park and directed KDA officials to ensure its proper upkeep and maintenance. He emphasized preparing the park to welcome tourists and visitors from across Jammu & Kashmir and beyond, with improved facilities and a clean aesthetic environment.

DC Srinagar assesses progress of major developmental project

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In order to review the status of proposed major developmental projects and ongoing infrastructure works in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Thursday chaired a comprehensive meeting of senior Officers here at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office complex.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Chief Engineer SSCI, Abdul Qayoom Kirmani, Superintending Engineer R&B, Tatheer Manzoor, Joint Commissioner, SMC, Suhail ul Islam, Collector Land Acquisition R&B, Syed Farooq, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE, KPDC, City Drainage, UEED & SMC Tehsildars South, Tehsil Dar Shalteng and other Officers.



At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner undertook a comprehensive assessment of the progress in planning and execution of utility shifting for both proposed and ongoing works, emphasizing the need to further expedite the process to accelerate overall project execution.

The DC was given project wise appraisal regarding the current status of estimate preparations and utility shifting for key development projects and ongoing infrastructure works including 4L Flyover from Parimpora to Dalgate Junction, Parim-

pora-Shalteng Flyover, Vehicle Under Pass (VUP) at Moominabad, Panthachowk flyover, FOB at Children's Hospital Bema, expansion of Boulevard road and Vehicle Under Pass (VUP) at Nowgan Railway Crossing.

The DC was apprised that the encouraging progress has been achieved in the preparation of estimates of proposed major infrastructural projects with several key projects at advanced stages of finalization.

On the occasion, the DC emphasized the importance of inter-departmental coordination in timely address-

ing issues related to land acquisition, clearances and utility relocation. He stressed the need to work diligently on designs, technical feasibility and cost estimates to ensure that DPRs are robust, accurate and ready for timely submission and approval.

The DC directed Officers and Engineers to work with due diligence and ensure that all projects incorporate land acquisition costs in their DPRs for seamless and uninterrupted execution of major infrastructure development projects across the district within set timelines.

MLA Sonawari lays foundation stones for key infrastructure projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Sonawari, Advocate Hilal Akbar Lone, on Thursday laid the foundation stones for several important developmental works in Ajas area of Bandipora district.

The projects include construction of a motorable bridge over Baji Khul at an estimated cost of Rs 48.89 lakh, construction of Tehsil Office Ajas at Rs 70.16 lakh, and construction of Niabat Office Ajas at Rs 15 lakh.

The proposed motorable bridge is aimed at improving connectivity to pres-

ently unconnected areas, thereby benefitting a large population. The construction of dedicated buildings for Tehsil and Niabat offices will address the existing constraint of functioning from rented accommodations and is expected to enhance administrative efficiency and public service delivery.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA reiterated his commitment towards strengthening infrastructure and ensuring better governance at the grassroots level. The MLA was accompanied by Executive Engineer R&B Sumbal, Tehsildar Ajas and Assistant Executive Engineer R&B Sumbal.

Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan DYSSO Srinagar organises series of activities to mark Earth Day



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In line with the ongoing 100 Days "Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan" the District Youth Services and Sports Office (DYSSO) Srinagar Thursday organised a series of activities across various educational institutions to mark Earth Day and Open Mic Day.

The programme was conducted, aiming to promote a healthy and drug-free lifestyle among the youth.

The initiative focuses on sensitising young minds about the harmful effects of substance abuse and encouraging them to adopt positive life choices.

Students from different institutions actively participated in pledge ceremonies, awareness programmes, open mic sessions, and talk shows.

The events highlighted the importance of a pol-

lution-free environment and a drug-free society, reinforcing the message "Choose Life, Not Drugs."

As part of the campaign, an open mic talk show was also organised at the iconic Zero Bridge, symbolising heritage and unity. The platform provided an opportunity for youth and the general public to express their views openly and discuss the adverse effects of drug abuse.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer Srinagar, Ghulam Hassan Lone, along with officials and field staff of the Youth Services and Sports Department, personally participated in the programme, encouraging youth engagement and boosting their morale.

The initiative witnessed enthusiastic participation and served as a meaningful step towards building a healthier, aware, and responsible generation.

GOVERNMENT OF UT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE SHEEP AND WOOL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER BANDIPORA
 (GOAT FARM ARINDARDORA)
 Email ID: sdo-bandipora@jk.gov.in

STORE SECTION
QUOTATION NOTICE

Sealed quotations are invited from interested person/parties for harvesting, drying, binding, stacking, collecting, loading/unloading, transportation etc including labour charges (Skilled/Unskilled) and fuel charges for Brush cutter/Harvester of Rabi Fodder crop for the year 2026-27 at Goat Farm Arindardpora Bandipora. The quotations should reach the office of undersigned by or before 30.04.2026 up to 2:00 PM and the rates should be per quintal of dry produce from harvesting, binding, drying, stacking, lifting, dumping, loading/unloading, transportation, storage etc including labour charges (Skilled/Unskilled) and fuel charges for brush cutter/Harvester. The quotations shall be opened on next working day by the committee constituted for the purpose. Incomplete quotations and those received after the due date and time shall not be entertained.

- The rates should be per quintal of dry produce from harvesting, binding, drying, stacking, lifting, dumping, loading/unloading, transportation, storage etc including labour charges (Skilled/Unskilled) and fuel charges for brush cutter/Harvester, must be inclusive of all taxes.
- Quotations shall be addressed to Sheep & Wool Development Officer Bandipora.
- The committee reserves the right to accept/ reject any quotation without assigning any reason thereof.
- The contractor has to complete all the work within the given time frame and as per the terms and conditions set by department
- In case the successful tenderer fails to execute the said assignment as per the agricultural procedures within stipulated time period, the department shall be at liberty to cancel the contract and to execute the job through other source. The extra cost thus involved shall be recovered from the defaulting contractor including penalty as deemed appropriate by the committee
- Payment to the successful contractor shall be released only after completion of contract as per term/conditions and time frame set by the department.
- The department reserves the right to withdraw the quotation notice at any time without assigning the reason.
- The taxes (GST/duties/levies and other charges in connection with the service provided shall be borne by the successful persons/parties/contractors to whom the contract shall be allotted.

NO.: SDO-GFA/Bpr/Store/2026-27/117-21
 Dated:- 23/04/2026

==sd/=
 Sheep and Wool Development Officer
 Bandipora

Public delegations, JCCI call on CM Omar Abdullah



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Several public and trade deputations Thursday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah here, presenting a wide spectrum of developmental and industry-related matters, while seeking continued policy support and facilitation.

A deputation led by President Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Arun Gupta, engaged with the Chief Minister on key issues concerning trade and commerce. The delegation highlighted matters impacting business activity and emphasized the need for a more conducive environment to further boost economic growth and streamline operations.

The industry delegation

also expressed gratitude to the Chief Minister for restoring the Darbar Move, noting that the session has significantly invigorated economic activity in the region, particularly across markets, rental properties, hotels and the transport sector.

Another deputation, the Pir Panjal Welfare and Development Trust, led by Vivek Verma, called on the Chief Minister. The delegation brought forth a range of developmental priorities, reflecting the aspirations of the region's residents.

The members underscored the immense tourism potential of Pir Panjal region and called for focused efforts to harness it sustainably. They also highlighted the importance

of strengthening health and education infrastructure, ensuring reliable drinking water supply, and expanding employment opportunities, particularly for youth in border areas. Issues pertaining to the construction of community and individual bunkers, as well as further strengthening of the administrative framework in these areas, were also brought to the fore.

The Chief Minister gave a patient and attentive hearing to all the deputations and individuals. He assured them that their genuine concerns would be addressed on priority, reaffirming the government's commitment to inclusive development and responsive governance across all regions.

Languages guardian of our history, identity, culture: Sakeena Itoo

Delivers Keynote Address on 'Relation of Urdu with Regional Languages' at JU

GMK NEWS NETWORK

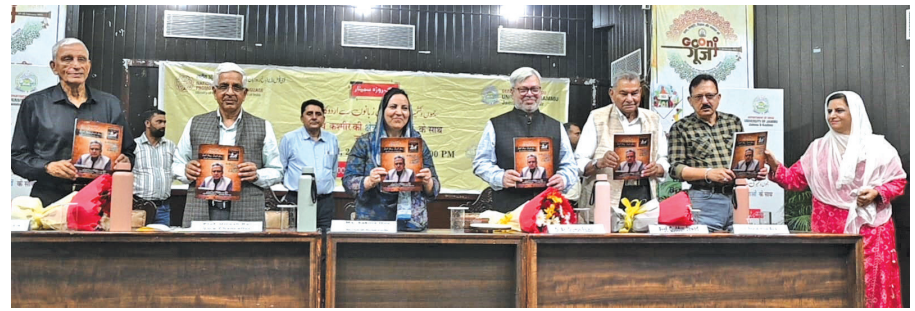
JAMMU: Minister for Education, Health and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo Thursday remarked that languages are not merely a means of expressing thoughts but they are the guardians of our history, identity and culture.

The Minister stated this while delivering the Keynote address during One-day Seminar on 'Relation of Urdu with Regional Languages' at University of Jammu here.

The seminar was organised by Department of Urdu, University of Jammu in collaboration with National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL).

In her address the Minister said that this seminar is not just a formal event, but a reflection of our identity, as languages are not merely a means of expressing thoughts, they are the guardians of our history, identity, and culture.

"Urdu is a language that has evolved through centuries and has absorbed the influences of various civilizations and cultures. Lucknow and Delhi are considered the birthplaces of Urdu but Jammu and Kashmir has equally nurtured this unique lan-



guage", she stated.

The Minister highlighted that the Urdu's bond with local languages like Kashmiri, Dogri, Gujri, Pahari, Bhadarwahi, Kishtwari, isn't just neighbourly, but a deep linguistic relationship.

"Urdu adopted words, idioms and tone from local languages and in return gave them a wider platform. J&K is a land where Urdu not only got official patronage, but Sufis, Rishis, Sanskrit and Persian scholars played a key role in taking it to the masses", she said.

Sakeena Itoo further said that Urdu acts as a bridge connecting different communities here and helps reach each other's hearts. "Urdu language is the silken thread that unites our colorful culture", she said.

Reaffirming the government's commitment, Sakeena Itoo stated that

sustained efforts are being made to promote and preserve regional languages, including Kashmiri, Dogri, Gujri, Pahari, and others. She stressed the importance of inclusive policies that encourage multilingual education and safeguard linguistic identities.

She also assured the NCPUL and Urdu Department of Jammu University that Government is firm in its resolve for promotion of Urdu language as well as regional languages.

The Minister also underscored the need for academic research and community participation in documenting and revitalizing indigenous languages. She called upon scholars, educators, and students to actively engage in initiatives that celebrate linguistic diversity.

On the occasion, the Minister also released a Urdu magazine.

Addressing the gath-

ing, Vice Chancellor Jammu University, Prof. Umesh Rai said that Urdu is a diverse language and is spoken in several parts of the country. He added that languages are a powerful tool to bind communities.

Prof. Rai highlighted that languages are connecting different cultures and traditions, and we need to promote languages for National integration.

Speaking on the occasion, Director NCPUL, Dr. Shams Equeel said that J&K is not only famous for its beautiful landscapes and valleys, but also for its culture and traditions. He highlighted that the strong bond of different languages is evident in Jammu and Kashmir with varied number of languages spoken in its different parts.

He also highlighted that NEP-2020 has also outlined the importance of regional languages.

Speaking on the sig-

nificance of this seminar, Dr. Shams said that this seminar is a good platform to deliberate on impact of Urdu on Regional Languages.

In his welcome address, HoD, Department of Urdu, University of Jammu, Prof. Shohab Inayat Malik lauded the Education Minister, Sakeena Itoo for bringing new dimensions and upgradation in Higher Education sector. He underlined that the Education Minister has realised the dream of Sher-i-Kashmir, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah by playing a major role in the introduction and passage of Private University Bill in recently concluded Budget Session of J&K Legislative Assembly.

He also spoke in length about the basic contours of this one day seminar. He also spoke about the importance of Urdu language and its connection with the cultural roots of our country, highlighting that Urdu is binding the Indian Civilization and culture together.

Noted writers and poet, Prof. Qudus Javed and Dr. Khalid Hussain also spoke on the occasion and spoke about the multilingual, multicultural and multi-religious aspects of our Country.

Rana inaugurates City Forest Park at Batote; boosting eco-tourism, green infra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana, Thursday inaugurated the City Forest Park at Batote, Ramban marking a significant step towards strengthening the green infrastructure and promoting eco-tourism in the region.

He was accompanied by Legislators Sajjad Shaheen and Arjun Singh Raju, Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu, Dr. V. Senthil Kumar, Conservator of Forests, Chenab Circle, Dr. A. D. Singh and other officers from the forest department.

Developed by the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department, the City Forest Park has been established over an area of 12 hectares at an estimated cost of ₹62 lakh.

The initiative is aimed at creating a vibrant rec-



reational green space for both the residents and the visitors, while simultaneously advancing ecological conservation and fostering environmental awareness.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister underscored the growing importance of urban forest spaces in improving the environmental quality and public well-being. He emphasized that such initiatives not only encourage the community participation in conservation efforts but also serve as catalyst for nature-based tourism.

Highlighting the broader environmental impact, he noted that projects like the City Forest Park con-

tribute meaningfully to climate resilience while offering accessible, healthy recreational avenues for the public.

The park has been thoughtfully designed with eco-friendly amenities to enhance the visitor experience while maintaining sustainability.

Key features included scenic viewpoints offering panoramic vistas of the surrounding landscape, a 50-metre walking trail for nature enthusiasts, a wooden bridge adding both functionality and aesthetic appeal and soil and moisture conservation measures such as Dry Rubble Stone Masonry (DRSM).

Satish Sharma reviews functioning of transport Deptt

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Thursday convened a review meeting regarding functioning of the Transport Department at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

The meeting was attended by all wRegional Transport Officers (RTOs) and Assistant Regional Transport Officers (ARTOs) of the division.

The Minister had a detailed review of the departmental functioning across key domains, emphasizing transparency, efficiency and strict enforcement of transport regulations.

Taking serious note of recent road accidents, the Minister stressed that vehicle fitness must be ensured without any compromise. He directed the officers to strictly enforce the fitness norms, with special atten-



tion to critical components such as tyres, mirrors, front glass and emergency exits in public transport vehicles.

Satish Sharma called for stringent action against the defaulting officers and warned that any negligence in enforcement would not be tolerated. He further directed the enforcement teams to curb the use of retreaded tyres and unauthorized vehicles plying without valid fitness certificates.

Highlighting road safety as a top priority, the Minister issued directions for zero tolerance against overloading and repeat offenders, strict check on school buses, including CCTV compliance and speed limiting devices besides re-evaluation of

hilly route permits to ensure passenger safety identification and mitigation of accident-prone black spots. He emphasized the need for coordinated efforts with the concerned agencies to reduce road accidents and ensure safer transport systems.

The Minister directed the department to intensify awareness campaigns under the road safety initiatives, including promotion of helmet use, seat belts and child safety measures. He also instructed the officers to organize special campaigns against drug abuse (Nasha Mukht Abhiyan) in collaboration with the stakeholders, including youth organizations and educational institutions.

J&K set to spread red carpet for International Film Festival this year

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a significant initiative to promote cinema, culture, and tourism, the Government of Jammu & Kashmir has initiated plans to host a prestigious international film festival through the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR).

The decision was taken during a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, which was attended by the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism; Commissioner Secretary, Information & Public Relations, and other senior officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary directed the Information Department to begin preparations for this maiden film festival in the Union Territory. He emphasized the need for a professionally managed event of national stature, drawing parallels with the International Film Festival of India held in Goa.

To ensure seamless execution, it was decided that a dedicated committee will be constituted at the earliest to oversee all arrangements related to the festival. The committee will be responsible for planning,

coordination, and overall supervision to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the event.

The Chief Secretary further instructed that a competent and experienced agency be identified and engaged for efficient management of the festival. He stressed the importance of exploring best practices by studying similar events organized across the country.

Underscoring the importance of adhering to timelines, he directed that the process be initiated promptly, with the issuance of the work order to the selected agency targeted before the end of May.

The Commissioner Secretary, Information, while addressing logistical and financial aspects, informed that the National Film Development Corporation of India has indicated reasonable financial requirements for organizing the event. She added that the Department has already undertaken the necessary groundwork and is well-prepared to ensure its success.

The proposed festival is envisaged to be held after the conclusion of the annual Amarnath Yatra, with final dates to be decided by the concerned department.

CJ flags off Multi Utility Vehicles for strengthening legal aid outreach across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a significant step towards strengthening access to justice and expanding outreach of legal services to the grassroots level, Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority in the august presence of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority and other Companion Judges of the High Court at Jammu Thursday flagged off a fleet of Multi Utility Vehicles for District Legal Services Authorities of the Jammu Province, at High Court Complex, Janipur, Jammu.

These vehicles have been procured under the guidance of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) with the objective of strengthening the delivery of legal aid and welfare services, particularly in far-flung, rural, remote and underserved areas of the Union Territory.

Chief Justice appreciated the initiative and observed that access to justice must



not remain confined to court-rooms alone, but should meaningfully reach every citizen, especially those belonging to vulnerable and marginalized sections of society. He emphasized that such initiatives are essential for taking justice to the doorsteps of the people.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, also appreciated the launch of the vehicles and stated that the same would greatly enhance the outreach and efficiency of District Legal Services Authorities. His Lordship further observed that this initiative marks another important step in making legal services more accessible to the common people.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar also expressed that similar Multi Utility Vehicles are planned to be launched

shortly for districts of Kashmir Province as well, so that the benefits of this initiative reach every region of the Union Territory in an equitable manner.

While interacting with media persons, Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, highlighted that the vehicles shall be utilized for conducting legal awareness programmes, facilitating outreach camps, extending assistance to beneficiaries under various legal aid schemes, supporting Para Legal Volunteers, and ensuring better coordination of legal services activities at the district level. She further stated that the initiative would significantly strengthen the institutional capacity of District Legal Services Authorities in serving the people more efficiently.

Dy CM calls for safety alignment of Ramnagar accident site

GMK NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Thursday called for safety alignment construction at Kaghohi Ramnagar accident site after detailed inspection of the spot.

Expressing deep sorrow over the loss of lives in the recent bus accident, the Deputy Chief Minister called for immediate road safety alignment and a comprehensive safety audit of concrete parapet and protection walls across the 13 kilometres long Udhampur-Ramnagar stretch.

"We have lost many innocent lives in the unfortunate accident, however, responsibility shall be fixed on it," he said.

The concerned Chief Engineer were instructed to prepare a plan after due consultation with the con-



sultancy and ensure that the measures are enforced to prevent such tragic mishaps in the future.

The Deputy Chief Minister who conducted an extensive tour of to assess progress of ongoing infrastructure works across Udhampur District stressed strict adherence to quality standards, timely completion, and accountability at all levels.

He inspected the under-construction PWD Dak Bungalow at Udhampur and emphasized timely completion of the renova-

tion works. He directed the officials to ensure that all the works are completed by May 2026.

As part of the day-long tour, the Deputy Chief Minister also inspected several key road and bridge projects across the district, including Majalta Bridge, Doder Nallah Gudar Bridge and the Dhana-Bunal road.

He directed the concerned to expedite the pace of work while maintaining the highest quality standards to ensure timely completion.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information to the general public that I intend to correct the credential in my Driving License bearing no. JK01-2025000633 from Mohammad Saleem Bhat & DOB 01/01/1994 to Mohd Saleem Bhat & DOB 20/03/1999 as per my school records. In this regard if anybody have any kind of objection he/she may file the same with RTO Srinagar within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained afterwards.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of the general public that I, Shafia Bano, intend to correct the mother's name of my ward, Mohammad Manaam Hajam, studying in Class 7th, Roll No. 3, at Firdous Educational Institute, Zukura Crossing, in the school records from SHAFIOA to SHAFIA BANO. If any person has any objection regarding the above-mentioned correction, he/she may file the same before the Principal, Firdous Educational Institute, Zukura Crossing, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Looting Exchequer On Childrens Name

Corruption may have been pushed onto the back foot, but it is far from defeated. What we are witnessing today is not its end, but its mutation.

There is no denying that recent anti-corruption efforts, particularly under the Lieutenant Governor's administration, have injected a sense of fear among erring officials. Raids, suspensions, and arrests have sent a clear message: the era of unchecked loot is under scrutiny. For the first time in years, the average citizen feels that the corrupt are no longer completely untouchable. But that is only half the story. Behind this visible crackdown, a more insidious and sophisticated form of corruption continues to flourish—quietly, cleverly, and with calculated impunity. The rot has now seeped into the very systems designed to ensure transparency. The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal, envisioned as a reform tool to eliminate middlemen and streamline procurement, is being shamelessly manipulated by those entrusted with its operation.

This is not petty corruption. This is organized exploitation. Officials and employees, particularly in large government enterprises, are allegedly using the names of relatives and even their own children to float dummy suppliers on GeM. Through these backdoor arrangements, they are awarding contracts to themselves, inflating prices, and siphoning off public money, all under the guise of digital transparency. It is corruption wearing a clean shirt.

Such practices are not just illegal—they are a betrayal of public trust at the highest level. What makes this even more disturbing is the audacity. These are not acts of desperation; they are deliberate, calculated schemes carried out by individuals who believe they can outsmart the system. They rely on weak oversight, internal collusion, and the assumption that digital platforms are immune to scrutiny.

They are wrong. If the administration is serious about eradicating corruption, it must now shift focus from visible crackdowns to systemic cleansing. The misuse of GeM portals demands immediate forensic audits, independent monitoring, and strict verification of vendors. Every suspicious transaction must be traced, and every shell supplier exposed.

Accountability cannot stop at junior officials. The chain must be followed to its very top. Those who have turned public institutions into private profit centres must be named, shamed, and prosecuted without mercy.

The larger danger is not just financial loss, it is institutional decay. When corruption embeds itself within reform mechanisms, it destroys faith in governance itself. People begin to believe that no system, however well-designed, can withstand the greed of those in power.

That cynicism is dangerous. This is a decisive moment. Either the government tightens the noose and uproots this new-age corruption, or it risks allowing the disease to spread deeper, more hidden, more sophisticated, and far more damaging.

Fear alone is not enough. What is needed now is relentless, intelligent, and uncompromising action. Because corruption has not retreated, it has simply learned to adapt.

Nasha Mukht J&K: A Defining Moment In Fight Against Drug Abuse

MOHD AMIN MIR

In recent years, Jammu & Kashmir has faced a silent yet deeply corrosive crisis, drug abuse. What once seemed like an isolated concern has grown into a widespread social challenge, affecting families, institutions, and the moral fabric of society. Against this troubling backdrop, the "Nasha Mukht" (Drug-Free) programme initiated by the Lieutenant Governor's administration marks a historic and decisive intervention.

This initiative is not merely a government campaign; it is a societal movement. With rallies being organized across districts, villages, schools, and towns, a powerful message is echoing through the valleys and plains, that Jammu & Kashmir refuses to surrender its future to the menace of drugs. Supported by strict legal frameworks enacted by the Government of India and reinforced by administrative will at the Union Territory level, the programme represents a rare convergence of law, awareness, and public participation.

Today, there is a visible shift in public sentiment. Ordinary citizens—parents, teachers, religious leaders, and youth, are expressing relief and appreciation for the seriousness with which the issue is being addressed. The combined efforts of the LG administration and the central government have instilled a renewed sense of hope: that this battle, though difficult, is winnable.

Drug addiction is not just a personal failing; it is a systemic crisis. In Jammu & Kashmir, the problem has evolved over time due to a combination of factors—geographical vulnerability, unemployment, psychological stress, and exposure to cross-border trafficking networks.

Young people, in particular, have been the most affected. What begins as experimentation often spirals into dependency, destroying careers, relationships, and lives. Families suffer silently, bearing emotional and financial burdens. Educational institutions struggle to maintain discipline and focus among students. Healthcare systems are strained by the increasing need for rehabilitation services.

More alarmingly, drug abuse has links to organized crime. Drug peddling networks exploit vulnerable youth, turning them into carriers and consumers. This creates a vicious cycle that threatens both social stability and law enforcement. It is in this context that the Nasha Mukht programme must be understood—not as a routine administrative exercise, but as a strategic response to a multifaceted crisis.

The Nasha Mukht initiative reflects a clear and comprehensive vision: prevention, enforcement, rehabilitation, and awareness.

The Lieutenant Governor's administration has adopted a multi-pronged strategy that goes beyond symbolic gestures. The programme seeks to address both the supply and demand sides of drug abuse. While strict laws and enforcement mechanisms aim to dismantle drug networks, awareness campaigns focus on reducing demand by educating people about the dangers of addiction.

What makes this initiative particularly noteworthy is its inclusiveness. It recognizes that government action alone is not sufficient; society must be an active participant. Schools, colleges, religious institutions, civil society organizations, and local communities are all being mobilized. One of the most visible aspects of the Nasha Mukht programme is the widespread organization of rallies and awareness drives. From urban centers to remote



villages, people are coming together to raise their voices against drug abuse.

Students march with placards carrying powerful messages. Teachers conduct seminars and discussions. Religious leaders speak from pulpits about the moral and spiritual consequences of addiction. Community leaders organize meetings to educate parents and youth.

These rallies serve multiple purposes. They create awareness, break the stigma associated with addiction, and foster a sense of collective responsibility. When people see their neighbors, friends, and community members participating, the message gains credibility and strength.

Importantly, these campaigns also empower individuals. They encourage people to speak out, seek help, and support others. In a society where addiction was often hidden due to shame, this openness is a significant step forward.

While awareness is crucial, it must be backed by strong enforcement. Recognizing this, the Government of India has implemented stringent laws against drug trafficking and peddling. These laws send a clear message: those who profit from the misery of others will face severe consequences. Law enforcement agencies have been empowered to take decisive action against drug networks, seize illegal substances, and dismantle supply chains.

In Jammu & Kashmir, the LG administration has ensured that these laws are implemented effectively. Regular crackdowns, arrests of peddlers, and confiscation of properties linked to drug trade have become more frequent. This firm approach has been widely appreciated by the public. For too long, drug peddlers operated with relative impunity, exploiting loopholes and weak enforcement. The current crackdown has disrupted these networks and instilled fear among those involved in illegal activities.

An essential component of the Nasha Mukht programme is rehabilitation. Addiction is a disease, and those affected need compassion, treatment, and support. The administration has taken steps to strengthen de-addiction centers, improve medical facilities, and provide counseling services. Efforts are being made to ensure that individuals struggling with addiction can access professional help without stigma.

Rehabilitation is not just about detoxification; it is about reintegration. Former addicts need opportunities to rebuild their lives, education, employment, and social acceptance. The programme emphasizes this holistic approach, recognizing that recovery is a long and complex process.

Families are also being supported, as they play a crucial role in the recovery journey. Counseling sessions and awareness programmes help them understand addiction and provide better care for their loved ones.

No government initiative can succeed without public support. The Nasha Mukht programme has managed to galvanize community participation in an unprecedented manner. Parents are becoming more vigilant. Teachers are taking proactive roles in identifying at-risk students. Religious leaders are using their influence to spread awareness. Youth groups are organizing campaigns and volunteering in rehabilitation efforts.

This collective action creates a powerful social environment where drug abuse is not tolerated. It also ensures sustainability, as the movement becomes self-driven rather than dependent solely on government intervention.

One of the most significant achievements of the programme is the change in public perception. Earlier, drug addiction was often viewed as a taboo subject, leading to silence and inaction. Today, people are more open to discussing the issue. There is greater awareness about the causes and consequences of addiction. Society is gradually shifting from blame to understanding, from stigma to support. At the same time, there is a growing intolerance towards drug peddlers. Communities are more willing to cooperate with law enforcement agencies and report suspicious activities. This shift in mindset is crucial for long-term success.

Youth are at the center of both the problem and the solution. Recognizing this, the Nasha Mukht programme actively involves young people in its initiatives. Students participate in rallies, debates, and awareness campaigns. Educational institutions are integrating anti-drug messages into their curricula. Youth clubs and organizations are taking leadership roles in community outreach.

By empowering youth, the programme transforms them from potential victims into active change-makers. This not only strengthens the movement but also ensures that its impact will be felt for generations to come.

The success of the Nasha Mukht programme is largely due to the strong commitment of the LG administration. Leadership from the top has ensured that the initiative receives the attention, resources, and coordination it requires. District administrations, police departments, health services, and educational institutions are working in synergy. Regular monitoring and evaluation help identify gaps and improve implementation.

This level of coordination is essential for tackling a complex issue like drug abuse. It

demonstrates that when there is political will and administrative efficiency, meaningful change is possible. It is important to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of both the Government of India and the LG administration of Jammu & Kashmir. The central government's role in enacting strict laws and providing policy support has been crucial. Without a strong legal framework, enforcement would lack effectiveness.

Similarly, the LG administration's proactive approach has translated these policies into action on the ground. From organizing rallies to strengthening enforcement and rehabilitation, the administration has shown a clear commitment to addressing the issue. This collaboration between the central and local authorities serves as a model for other regions facing similar challenges.

While the progress is encouraging, the fight against drug abuse is far from over. Several challenges remain. Drug networks are adaptive and resilient. They constantly find new methods to evade law enforcement. Continuous vigilance and innovation are required to stay ahead.

Rehabilitation facilities need further expansion and improvement. The demand for treatment is increasing, and resources must keep pace.

Social stigma, though reduced, still exists. More efforts are needed to encourage people to seek help without fear or shame.

Economic factors such as unemployment also contribute to vulnerability. Addressing these underlying issues is essential for long-term success.

To sustain and build upon the achievements of the Nasha Mukht programme, a long-term strategy is needed. Education must play a central role. Schools and colleges should integrate life skills and awareness programmes into their curricula. Technology can be leveraged for monitoring and awareness. Digital platforms can help spread information and connect individuals with support services.

Public-private partnerships can enhance rehabilitation efforts. NGOs and private institutions can complement government initiatives.

Most importantly, the spirit of community participation must be maintained. The movement should continue to grow as a collective effort.

The Nasha Mukht programme represents a turning point in Jammu & Kashmir's fight against drug abuse. It is a testament to what can be achieved when government action is combined with public participation. The rallies, awareness campaigns, strict laws, and rehabilitation efforts have created a powerful momentum. People are no longer passive observers; they are active participants in shaping a drug-free future. The appreciation expressed by common citizens reflects a deep sense of relief and optimism. There is a growing belief that the tide can be turned, that the youth can be protected, and that society can reclaim its strength.

The journey ahead will require persistence, vigilance, and unity. But with the continued commitment of the LG administration, the support of the central government, and the active involvement of the people, the vision of a Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir is not just an aspiration—it is an achievable reality. This all is possible under the dynamic leadership of honourable prime minister of India Narendra Modi ji. JAI HIND

Author writes on governance, society, and public policy in Jammu & Kashmir.

LOSING IDENTITY BEHIND FILTERS

Social Media And The Self-Image Crisis

DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Listen, girls, this isn't a sentimental appeal, but an essential truth. The worry that you might lose yourself in this race to look beautiful is no longer personal; it's becoming a social crisis. Today, the mirror resides not on the wall of our room, but on our mobile screens. And this mirror doesn't reflect reality, but rather what it wants to show. In this virtual world, beauty is no longer natural, but a project—edited, filtered, and measured by likes and views.

It would be wrong to assume that social media is merely a medium of entertainment. It has now become a psychological construct, gradually shaping our thoughts, our preferences, our self-confidence, and our identity. For young women in particular, it creates such pressure that they unconsciously begin to mold themselves into someone else's mold. Looking at someone else's "perfect" photo every day and finding flaws in their own face, wondering after each story how many people saw it, how many praised it—all this is turning into a dangerous habit.

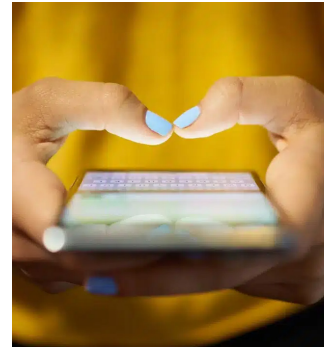
This hunger for validation is subtle. At first, it seems normal—a little compliment, a few nice

comments, a few likes. But gradually, it becomes a need. When compliments aren't received, it leads to anxiety, self-doubt, and a faltering self-esteem. This is the moment when a girl, who could have been strong and self-reliant from within, becomes dependent on external reactions. This dependence leads to mental exhaustion and depression, but ironically, it's all hidden behind a smiling face.

What you see on social media isn't the whole truth. Everyone here only shows the best parts of their lives. No one posts pictures of their loneliness, no one shares their fears or failures. So when you see someone always happy, in love, or successful, it's important to understand that that's not the whole story. It's just a chosen frame, with the rest of the truth deliberately cut out.

The biggest danger is that this virtual comparison makes you underestimate yourself. You think you're not as beautiful, not as happy, not as successful. The truth is, you're complete in your own right. Your simplicity, your thinking, your nature—all of these make you unique. But when you try to be like someone else, you weaken your own identity.

In today's world, "trend" has become the new religion. Whatever's trending is considered right.



But not every trend is meant for you. Sometimes, these trends take a toll on your health, your self-esteem, and your peace of mind. Strange beauty standards, unnatural lifestyles, and a habit of showing off—all of these slowly lead you in a direction where you drift away from your true self.

It's also true that social media has opened up new avenues for expression. But when this expression turns into comparison and competition, it loses its positivity. When every post becomes a performance, every photo a message saying "I'm happy," it's no longer natural life, but an act. And constantly acting is exhausting.

The most important thing in this entire scenario is to connect with yourself. Understanding that your true worth isn't determined by likes and comments. Your identity

is bigger than any trend or filter. Your simplicity, your honesty, and your self-respect—that's your true strength. You don't have to prove yourself every day. It's also not necessary to flaunt every joy and hide every sorrow.

Real life is much bigger than that six-inch screen. There are relationships that flow without filters. There are emotions that come out without editing. There is struggle that teaches, and there is solace that brings satisfaction even without any likes. But when we start spending more time in that virtual world than in the real one, our balance gradually begins to deteriorate.

It's time to pause and reflect. To ask whether we're truly living, or just pretending we're living. Is our happiness genuine, or just manufactured for a post? These aren't easy questions, but they're essential to face.

You have to decide what kind of life you want—one that appears perfect to others, or one that brings you peace from within. Because in the end, what matters is how you feel about yourself, not how the world sees you.

Simplicity isn't a weakness, it's a strength. In today's age of pretentiousness, staying simple, being yourself, is the ultimate courage. A simple kurti, a tiny bindi, and a gen-

uine smile—these can be more beautiful than any expensive makeup or trend, if combined with confidence and self-acceptance.

Learn to love yourself. This isn't a cliché, but a psychological necessity. When you accept yourself, you no longer need anyone else's approval. You can be happy to see others' happiness without thinking less of yourself. You can also accept your failures with ease, knowing that your worth isn't determined solely by your successes.

And sometimes, it's important to step away from the noise. Sitting alone for a night, spending time with your thoughts, listening to a good song—all of this connects you with yourself. It reminds you that you're not just a profile, but a sensitive, deep-rooted human being.

So, the next time you open social media, remember that it's just a part of your life, not your whole life. It's a platform, but your real story is written outside of it. There, where you can be yourself, without fear, without comparison.

Being authentic is more important than looking beautiful. And authenticity is what is true, what is true. So, don't stray from yourself. Because the greatest beauty in the world is staying true to yourself.

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■ Beyond Commitments

Financing The Fight Against AMR In Low-Income Nations

SHOBHA SHUKLA

High level ministerial delegations from over 100 countries (mostly from the Global South) are expected to converge in Nigeria this June to attend the 5th High Level Ministerial Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) that will be held on the African soil for the first time in history, with the Nigerian government hosting it.

The past meetings were held in Netherlands (twice) followed by Oman and Saudi Arabia - all high-income countries. AMR is a critical crisis impacting health and food security in low- and middle-income countries. It is for the first time that this upcoming meet is being held in a low- and middle-income country (Nigeria) - which gives hope for spurring more relevant actions to prevent AMR.

AMR or drug resistance is among the top 10 global health threats and threatens our livestock, food systems, economies and our environment. It is a problem driven by misuse and overuse of antimicrobial medicines - including antibiotics, antivirals, antiparasitics and antifungals - and results in critical medicines losing their effectiveness to treat infections. As a result of drug resistance, medicines become ineffective, and infections become increasingly difficult or impossible to treat.

Misuse and overuse of medicines is not only rampant in human health, but also in animal health and livestock, food and agriculture, and is also polluting our environment. That is why global lead agencies on human health (World Health Organization - WHO), environment (United Nations Environment Programme - UNEP), food (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - FAO) and animal health (World Organisation for Animal Health - WOAH) united to form Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR to address the challenge with One Health approach. All Quadri-



partite agencies are supporting this upcoming global ministerial meeting on AMR.

Translate political commitments into country-level delivery

"The 5th High Level Ministerial Meeting on AMR is a key moment to carry forward the momentum from UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AMR 2024, as well as to translate the political commitments made there into country-level delivery. This upcoming meeting also builds upon the Jeddah commitments made at the 4th High Level Ministerial Meeting on AMR hosted by Saudi Arabia in 2024", said Dr Jean Pierre Nyemazi, Director of Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR.

"In Jeddah, we agreed on Troika mechanism to keep continuity from one meeting to another. So, past discussions held at 4th High Level Ministerial Meeting on AMR in Jeddah in 2024 are informing the organising of 5th Meeting in Nigeria in 2026", he added. The Troika of Jeddah was designed to maintain momentum between ministerial meetings.

Agrees Dr Ayoade Alakija, Ministerial Global Envoy on AMR, Government of Nigeria, that the Troika mechanism is ensuring continuity and accountability and is helping

institutionalise governance of AMR mechanisms across countries, regions and globally.

Dr Nyemazi and Dr Alakija were addressing an exclusive Global Media Briefing organised by Global AMR Media Alliance (GAMA), Nigeria AMR Media Alliance (NAMA) and other national and sub-national GAMA chapters ahead of the 5th High Level Ministerial Meeting on AMR.

Multisectoral implementation of multisectoral AMR action plans

"The task for this upcoming 5th High Level Ministerial Meeting on AMR in Nigeria would be to enable the acceleration of implementation of multi-sectoral national action plans on AMR, enabled by effective governance at all levels, sustainable investment at all levels, and walking the talk on the theme of One Health for advancing global AMR commitments through local actions", said Dr Nyemazi.

Reducing AMR deaths through One Health Approach

One of the targets of the Political Declaration adopted at the UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AMR in 2024 was to reduce AMR deaths by 10% by 2030 (compared to 4.9 million AMR associated deaths recorded in 2019). The focus is changing from

human health to One Health approach.

"AMR is not just about human health and protecting just our medicines. It is also about prevention and protecting our animals, plants and our environment. We need to ensure that not only humans are not harmed due to AMR but also our animals, agriculture and food systems and our environment are kept safe so that we all can live in harmony together," said Dr Alakija.

Agrees Dr Nyemazi that when we talk about AMR prevention, it is about preventing AMR across all the sectors - food and agriculture, livestock, environment - and not just in human health sector.

Keeping this One Health approach in mind, the Nigerian government has invited not just ministers of health, but also ministers of agriculture, environment and finance of all other countries to participate in the 5th High Level Ministerial Meeting on AMR to collectively address the problem of AMR in all sectors (such as livestock, food and agriculture and environment) and of course human health sector.

Investing in AMR control makes economic sense

If we invest USD 1 on AMR, return on investment is USD 11, says Dr Alakija. "This upcoming 5th High Level Meeting in Nigeria would focus more on solutions to address the challenge AMR is posing. We also need to ensure that AMR response is fully financed, including prevention, surveillance, water, sanitation and hygiene. It is strategic investments that our countries and our communities need, so it is important to involve Ministries of Finance as well", she added. She hopes that the upcoming meeting will also play a historic role in sustainable financing for AMR response, just like the Abuja Declaration of 2001 where African countries committed to invest 15% of their annual budgets on health."

We need an integrated response to tackle AMR

It is important for all sectors to work in concert with one another.

"AMR has typically been seen often from the lens of high-income countries. We need to address AMR recognising the gaps and contexts in especially low- and middle-income countries - and ways to bridge the gaps in prevention of infectious diseases as well as gaps in stopping misuse and overuse of medicines in food and agriculture sector, animal health sector and environment along with human health sector. AMR commitments, like the UN General Assembly High Level Meeting's Political Declaration 2024, needs to be translated into not just actions but local actions which are critical," said Dr Alakija.

For her the larger objective is to advance and to sustain global efforts to curb AMR in Nigeria, Africa and globally, and rightly so.

Both Dr Nyemazi and Dr Alakija agree that media is a strategic partner in AMR response to inform, connect and hold governments accountable. Evidence-based reporting ensures that AMR is visible as a development, equity and sustainability issue, it shapes public understanding, support, behaviour change, and sustains pressure for measurable progress. Media is critical not only for accountability but also for awareness, and keeping the communities we serve involved as partners in the efforts to control AMR.

We need an equitable AMR response

All of us are at risk of AMR. But in the absence of strong public systems, those in low- and middle-income countries - and especially those who are underserved - are at a much-heightened risk of AMR. We have to do better in protecting the medicines that save us. We also have to do better in saving lives from preventable infections as well as ensuring right and timely diagnosis and right treatment, care and support for everyone, leaving no one behind.

Author is a feminist, health and development justice advocate. She can be mailed at ramakantbobby@gmail.com

How Enlightenment Rationalism Influenced Europe And Beyond

NAVEED QAZI

The Enlightenment was Europe's most decisive intellectual upheaval, a rationalist revolution that redefined liberty, rights, and the social contract. Due to this movement, Europe became the crucible of rationalist ideas, yet their implications spread globally, inspiring revolutions, reforms, and cultural transformations far beyond its borders.

The Enlightenment's rationalist foundations challenged Europe's ancient regime. Locke's insistence that government must rest upon the consent of the governed, articulated in Two Treatises of Government, undermined divine-right monarchy and became the intellectual bedrock of constitutionalism. Rousseau's Social Contract declared that sovereignty resides in the general will, a radical assertion that electrified revolutionary France. Voltaire's relentless critique of clerical tyranny and superstition sharpened Europe's appetite for secular governance. These ideas, as Jonathan Israel argued in Radical Enlightenment, were not abstract musings but instruments of social change, reshaping Europe's political landscape.

Italian Enlightenment thinkers contributed uniquely to Europe's rationalist ferment. Beccaria's On Crimes and Punishments denounced torture and capital punishment, insisting that justice must be humane and proportionate. Pietro Verri's economic writings emphasised rational taxation and efficient administration, while Alessandro Verri explored law and morality. Their intellectual circle, the Accademia dei Pugni in Milan, embodied the Enlightenment's commitment to public happiness as a rational goal of governance. Franco Venturi, in Italy and the Enlightenment, observed that Italian thinkers were less radical in metaphysics than their French counterparts but equally determined to reform institutions through reason. Their contributions ensured that Europe's Enlightenment was not monolithic but richly diverse.

Culturally, Enlightenment rationalism transformed Europe's intellectual climate. Denis Diderot and Jean le Rond d'Alembert's Encyclopedie sought to sys-

tematise human knowledge, reflecting the belief that reason could illuminate all domains of life. In Germany, Gotthold Lessing's Nathan the Wise championed religious tolerance, while Immanuel Kant's Critique of Pure Reason redefined philosophy by insisting that human understanding structures experience. Kant's later essay What is Enlightenment? declared that enlightenment is humanity's emergence from self-imposed immaturity, a call to intellectual autonomy that resonated across Europe's universities and salons. These cultural shifts encouraged scepticism of tradition and emboldened individuals to question authority, laying the foundations of modern secularism.

Society itself was reshaped by rationalist ideals. Montesquieu's The Spirit of the Laws articulated the principle of separation of powers, influencing constitutional design in Europe and America. Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations revolutionised economic thought by arguing that free markets, guided by the invisible hand, promote prosperity more effectively than mercantilist controls. Smith's moral philosophy, explored in The Theory of Moral Sentiments, linked economic liberty with social virtue, embedding rationalism into civil society. Scottish thinkers such as Francis Hutcheson and Thomas Reid advanced moral philosophy that emphasised common sense and benevolence, reinforcing the Enlightenment's social ethic. These ideas collectively undermined feudal structures and promoted civic equality across Europe.

Economically, rationalism dismantled mercantilist orthodoxy and encouraged liberalisation. Smith's advocacy of free trade resonated with Pietro Verri's reforms in Milan, while physiocrats in France, such as François Quesnay, argued that agriculture was the foundation of wealth and that economic policy must follow natural laws. Rationalist economics promoted efficiency, productivity, and innovation, laying the intellectual groundwork for industrialisation. Joel Mokyr, in The Enlightened Economy, argued that the Enlightenment's emphasis on rational inquiry and empirical evidence directly facilitated technological progress and economic growth in eighteenth-century



Europe. Rationalism thus became the intellectual engine of Europe's economic transformation.

The Enlightenment also generated political revolutions within Europe. In France, Rousseau's general will and Voltaire's critique of tyranny inspired the Revolution of 1789, which sought to remake society upon rational principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity. Beccaria's ideas influenced revolutionary penal codes, while Montesquieu's separation of powers shaped constitutional debates. In Britain, Locke's natural rights informed parliamentary reforms and debates on representation. Across Europe, rationalist philosophy translated into political reality, demonstrating the Enlightenment's capacity to reorder governance.

Yet the Enlightenment's reach extended beyond Europe. In America, Jefferson and Franklin drew upon Locke and Montesquieu to craft the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. In Latin America, leaders such as Simon Bolivar absorbed Enlightenment ideals of liberty and self-determination, fuelling independence struggles against colonial rule. Bolivar's writings reveal a deep engagement with Rousseau and Montesquieu, as he sought to design republican institutions for liberated nations. In India, reformers such as Raja Ram Mohan Roy blended Enlightenment rationalism with indigenous traditions to challenge social practices and advocate for reform.

In Japan, Meiji reformers engaged with Western rationalist thought to modernise institutions. In Africa, twentieth-century leaders such as Kwame Nkrumah invoked liberty and self-determination in ways that echoed Enlightenment rationalism. Europe's intellectual revolution thus became a global heritage, adapted to diverse contexts.

The implications of Enlightenment rationalism were profound. Its emphasis on liberty and rights remains central to democratic societies, while its economic theories underpin global capitalism. Its cultural legacy endures in secularism, scientific inquiry, and the valorisation of individual autonomy. Feminist thinkers such as Mary Wollstonecraft extended Enlightenment principles to gender equality, while abolitionist movements drew upon rationalist ideals to challenge slavery. Romanticism emerged partly as a reaction against rationalism, emphasising emotion and imagination, yet even Romanticism was indebted to the Enlightenment's insistence on individual expression. The Enlightenment seeded diverse emancipatory movements, ensuring its relevance across centuries.

Religion was reshaped by rationalist critique. Spinoza's Theological-Political Treatise argued for freedom of thought and challenged orthodoxy, influencing debates across Europe. Lessing's advocacy of tolerance and Voltaire's attacks on clerical tyranny reinforced secular gover-

nance. Yet many Enlightenment thinkers sought to reconcile faith with reason, producing deism as a rational religion. This nuanced engagement reshaped Europe's religious culture, encouraging diversity and reducing persecution. Rationalism thus promoted pluralism without erasing belief.

Yet Enlightenment rationalism was not without critique. Some contemporaries feared that its emphasis on reason risked eroding tradition and community. Edmund Burke, in Reflections on the Revolution in France, warned that abstract rationalism could destabilise society by ignoring historical continuity and inherited wisdom. Later critics such as Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno, in Dialectic of Enlightenment, argued that reason, when reduced to instrumental calculation, could become oppressive, leading to technocracy and domination. Romantic thinkers such as Johann Gottfried Herder and Friedrich Schiller insisted that rationalism neglected emotion, culture, and individuality, thereby impoverishing human experience. These critiques remind us that the Enlightenment's legacy was contested, and that rationalism, while liberating, carried risks of abstraction and alienation.

In conclusion, Enlightenment rationalism was Europe's most transformative intellectual movement, reshaping culture, society, and economics, and inspiring revolutions and reforms across continents. Its implications were immense, embedding liberty, rights, and rational governance into the fabric of modern civilisation. While subsequent movements critiqued or adapted its principles, the Enlightenment remains the wellspring of modern democratic, economic, and cultural life. Europe was the crucible of this rationalist revolution, but its ideas travelled globally, inspiring reformers from America to Asia and Africa. Its insistence that human beings can shape their destiny through reason continues to resonate, reminding us that liberty and justice are not gifts of tradition but achievements of thought.

Naveed Qazi is an author of fifteen books. For feedback, he can be mailed at naveedqazi@live.com.

Staff shortage hits CHC Pattan, patients face hardship

MOHAMMAD LATEEF

SRINAGAR: Community Health Centre (CHC) Pattan in Baramulla district is facing a shortage of medical staff and basic facilities, affecting patient care, locals said.

Several specialist posts, including consultant surgery, anaesthesia and paediatrics, have remained vacant for a prolonged period. Locals said that after transfers of some doctors, no replacements have been posted, worsening the situation.

The shortage also extends to paramedical staff. Posts of pharmacists, head pharmacists, supervisor, X-ray technicians and a basic health worker are lying vacant, they said.

In addition, medical officer posts at Palhalan and Gund Khawaja Qasim have remained unfilled following transfers, leaving nearby areas underserved.

Officials said the hospital has seven surgeons, including doctors from the gynaecology department, but only one anaesthesiologist. This has impacted the number of surgeries being conducted at the facility.

Residents said that despite the requirement, no additional anaesthesia specialists have been deputed to the hospital.

CHC Pattan, located along the Srinagar-Baramulla highway, caters to a large population and also handles accident cases from the highway stretch.

A dialysis unit has been installed at the hospital but is not operational due to the absence of a water supply system and a dialysis technician, locals said.

Residents have urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Health Minister Sakeena Itoo to intervene and address the issues at the earliest. (KNS)

KU marks World Book & Copyright Day, launches AI-powered chatbot

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Allama Iqbal Library (AIL), University of Kashmir (KU), organised an event to celebrate World Book and Copyright Day at the Main Campus on Thursday.

Held on the theme 'The power of reading: Enriching minds, elevating institutions and empowering societies,' the event focused on encouraging reading habits and strengthening engagement with library resources among students and scholars. It also aimed at deliberating on the ethical use of artificial intelligence and con-

cerns related to plagiarism in the evolving academic landscape.

On the occasion, the University launched the AIL Chatbot, a digital assistant designed to support users with queries related to library services, availability of resources, and facilities. The chatbot also offers chat and call features to improve access and user support. A live demonstration of the tool was conducted during the event.

Vice-Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her address, said, "Reading remains central to academic life, even as digital tools reshape how knowledge is accessed. Initiatives

like these help strengthen both traditional and technology-driven learning practices."

She further added that the integration of digital solutions such as the chatbot can enhance user experience and make library services more accessible and efficient.

Dean Academic Affairs, KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, in his remarks, emphasised the continued relevance of libraries as academic spaces and noted the importance of adapting to changing learning environments.

Earlier, Librarian, AIL, KU, Dr. Fayaz Ahmad Lone, in his welcome address,

highlighted the efforts being made to modernise library services and promote reading culture within the University.

The AIL newsletter was also released on the occasion. Students who recorded the highest reading engagement at the library and the top 10 users of AIL e-resources were felicitated on the occasion. They expressed satisfaction with the range of offline and online resources, services, and facilities available at the library.

The proceedings of the event were conducted by Uzma Qadri, while Ishaq Lone proposed the vote of thanks, Assistant Librarians at AIL KU.

Existing seats won't be touched, LS expansion key to women's quota: Union Minister Rathore

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The government of India (GOI) is committed to women's reservation without diluting rights of existing MPs, Union Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore said on Thursday, advocating for an expansion of Lok Sabha seats through delimitation instead of redistribution.

Addressing media in Srinagar, Minister for youth affairs and sports Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore said democracy requires public awareness and asserted that the existing 543 seats should not be touched.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made it clear that we don't want to take away seats from anyone.

Instead of redistributing, seats should be increased and then given to women," the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports said.

Referring to the women's reservation bill passed in 2023, he stated its conditional linkage to census and delimitation. The minister questioned the delay, pointing out that discussions on the matter have been ongoing since 1996.

"How long will women wait? The election is coming on April 29, and you are saying you will give it in 2034. A whole generation will pass away," Rathore said.

He added that delimitation and census are parallel processes, and the 2023 bill had received unanimous support from all parties. (KNS)

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

NIA Attaches Property

in facilitating the attack by participating in planning meetings, conducting reconnaissance of the target, arranging logistics, and assisting one of the attackers in evading capture. — (KNO Inputs)

NEP Potent Tool

academics, sidelining art, sports, and skills, is unfit for the future. We must prepare students for irreplaceable human capacities like creativity, critical thinking, moral decision-making, collaboration, and lifelong learning which no machine can replace," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the world is changing rapidly and unlike the stable careers in the past, professional workforce requires continuous learning, skilling and upskilling.

"We are at a threshold where AI and automation is transforming industries, offices, hospitals, and schools and our human resource need to be a step ahead," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) and emphasised that the policy is a potent tool to meet national needs, boost societal capacity, and accelerate economic growth.

He said a student's view of the external world depends on self-perception, shaped by experiences.

"True education balances both, equipping students with knowledge and skills for outer world, plus self-awareness and emotional resilience for inner world. This holistic approach is every school's core duty.

Every student must blend science and values for progress. NEP measures guarantee Viksit Bharat; for the first time in decades, our talented children, teens, and youth are policy priorities," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The initiative of Bharat Sevashram Sangha is supported by Indian Oil, Hindustan Petroleum and other donors.

Srimat Swami Biswatmanandaji Maharaj General Secretary, Bharat Sevashram Sangha; Srimat Swami Ambarishanandaji Maharaj, Joint Secretary, and senior sanyasins of Bharat Sevashram Sangha; and senior officials were present.

Shri Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament; Ms Devyani Rana, Member of Legislative Assembly from Nagrota; Dr Nirmal Singh, former Deputy Chief Minister; Ms Rashmi Govil, Director HR, Indian Oil Corporation Limited; Shri Vilas Zode, Executive Director-HR, Hindustan Petroleum; Shri Chander Mohan Gupta, former Mayor JMC and other prominent citizens also attended the inaugural ceremony.

LG Attends Foundation

Gandotra, President, Sarv Shakti Chandi Mata Mandir, and temple committee members including Dr DS Jamwal, Shri Vikas Singh Jamwal, Shri Praveen Singh, Shri Balwan Singh were present.

Ms Devyani Rana, Member of Legislative Assembly from Nagrota; Dr Nirmal Singh, former Deputy Chief Minister; Ms. Purnima Sharma, former Deputy Mayor, JMC, senior officials and devotees in large number also attended the foundation day ceremony.

Intermittent Rain

although brief light rain may occur at isolated places during the afternoon.

On April 28, generally cloudy conditions are expected, with light rain or thunder at a few places. Similar conditions are likely to continue on April 29 and 30, with brief spells of light rain at isolated locations, mainly during late

afternoon hours.

For May 1 and 2, the MeT has forecast generally cloudy skies with brief spells of light rain or thundershowers at a few places towards late afternoon.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Centre issued an advisory for farmers, asking them to suspend farm operations on April 24 and 25 in view of the expected weather conditions.

The department has also cautioned about possible gusty winds during afternoon and evening hours on some days—(KNO)

India Extends Airspace

information that is essential for personnel involved in flight operations.

Indian airlines are now taking longer routes to various international destinations due to the Pakistan airspace closure.

CS Reviews `3440.43

works therefore demands highest priority on our part as well. He directed all departments to ensure that project proposals are aligned with the PDNA findings and that there is no duplication of funding across different schemes, particularly between R&R and SASCI components.

The Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shaileendra Kumar, underscored the need to fix strict timelines for each stage of implementation to ensure timely completion of all projects. He assured that the UT share would be made available without any hindrance to facilitate smooth execution of these works.

He advised the departments that necessary department-wise allocations would be made on BEAMStofacilitate timely uploading of works taken up under these additional components, over and above the budgetary allocations. He further stressed that this would help in ensuring their early execution and completion.

During the meeting, a detailed presentation was made by Principal Secretary, DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti outlining the component-wise allocation of 3440.43 Cr, structured across multiple funding streams to address both immediate relief and long-term resilience.

Highlighting the need for capacity building, the Principal Secretary further revealed that the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) has been requested to conduct training programmes for officers and officials of line departments and districts. These programmes aim to strengthen institutional capacity for effective project formulation, implementation, and monitoring.

The Principal Secretary apprised that the largest share of 1579.09 Cr has been approved under the Recovery & Reconstruction (R&R) component of the UT Disaster Response Fund (UTDRF) as Central Financial Assistance based on the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). This includes 1421.118 Cr as Central share and 157.909 Cr as UT share.

Moreover it was divulged that the funds are aimed at permanent restoration of critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, irrigation systems, and public assets, with a focus on adopting a "build back better" approach to enhance disaster resilience. The Central share is to be released in three installments of 30%, 40%, and 30%, subject to utilization conditions.

In addition, 330.34 Cr has been approved by the High-Level Committee (HLC) under SDRF/NDRF norms to cater to immediate and residual impacts of disasters including floods, flash floods, landslides, and cloudbursts. This component is intended to meet urgent restoration and relief requirements in accordance with prescribed norms and sector-specific needs.

The meeting further reviewed the strategy to spend 1431 Cr Special Additional Central Assistance under SASCI component, which provides supplementary support for critical gaps and resilience-oriented interventions not fully covered under other funding mechanisms.

It was emphasized that this funding window would be utilized judiciously for priority sectors requiring additional financial backing, while ensuring no overlap with R&R allocations. The component constitutes funding for raising critical infrastructure in R&B Sector worth 860 Cr, Jal Shakti (315 Cr), PDD (173 Cr), Agriculture Production Department (51Cr) and Youth Services & Sports Department (32 Cr).

The CAPEX Budget 2025-26 was also highlighted as an important component of the overall outlay, with dedicated provisions for flood mitigation and restoration works.

These include strengthening of flood control infrastructure, construction of protective works such as embankments and drainage systems, and integration of disaster resilience into capital development planning.

The Chief Secretary underscored the urgency of expediting restoration works, particularly in critical sectors, to ensure timely recovery and enhanced resilience against future disasters. He called for close inter-departmental coordination, robust monitoring mechanisms, and outcome-oriented implementation of all projects under the 3440.43 Cr plan.

Article 370 Abrogation

referred to plans for health and education infrastructure, including institutions such as an AIIMS, IIT and IIM, along with a cancer hospital and road connectivity projects.

Shah said support measures for farmers, women and youth would be implemented, including financial assistance schemes and employment-related initiatives.

Shah said issues related to Gorkha communities would be addressed and cases registered against them would be reviewed if his party comes to power in the state.

He said the Centre had held meetings to resolve matters related to Darjeeling but claimed the state government did not participate.

He added that efforts would continue to address political and administrative concerns in the region—(KNO)

NC Govt Missing

BDO office, no work gets done without money. The transfer industry is functioning openly," he alleged.

Targeting Omar Abdullah, Sharma said the Chief Minister is holding several departments but has failed to review their functioning. "He has around 17 departments, but no review meeting has been held so far," he said.

The LoP further questioned the NC government over what he termed unfulfilled election promises, including free LPG cylinders, free electricity, and one lakh jobs for youth.

He also reacted to the recent security-related incident involving former chief minister Farooq Abdullah, demanding a thorough probe into the matter. He questioned whether any prior information regarding the threat was shared with police authorities and said the incident should be investigated from all angles. "The person involved has no criminal background. This needs proper investigation," he said.

The BJP leader further claimed there was no security threat to the Abdullah family and remarked that they already enjoy heavy security cover.

Expressing surprise over Omar Abdullah's renewed demand for restoration of statehood, Sharma said it was unusual that the demand was

being raised after assuming office as Chief Minister. "I am surprised that Omar Abdullah became Chief Minister first and then started demanding statehood," he said—(KNO)

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER GANDERBAL NOTICE

Whereas, an application for Re-registration/ Transfer of Ownership has been received from Mr. GH MOHAMMAD WANI Son of MOHAMMAD RAMZAN WANI, Resident of: NEAR HANUMAN MANDIR VILLAGE TIKAWALI KHERI KALAN FARIDABAD HR 121002 in Respect of LMV MOTOR CAR Bearing Reg No. HR51BT0718 Chassis No MEEHSRAWJ4022139, Engine No. K9KF830E061049 In favour of: GHULAM MOHAMMAD WANI Son of: MOHAMMAD RAMZAN WANI Resident of: YANGOORA, LAR, GANDERBAL - JK 191131 (Transferee). Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general public that the representation/objection, if any in connection with proposed Re-registration/Transfer will be received within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice to the address of undersigned. No representation/objection shall be considered unless it is made in written and shall be submitted within the aforesaid period.

No. JK/ARTOG/

Sd/
Assistant Regional Transport officer
Ganderbal

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER GANDERBAL NOTICE

Whereas an application for Re-Registration / Transfer of ownership has been received from Mr. Intiyaz Ahmad Shah (Transferor) resident of D-2/3 First Floor Block-S, Joga Bai Extension, Jamia, Srinagar South Delhi-110025, un respect of LMV Motor Car Bearing Registration No DL5CL-0208 Chassis No. MA3EUA61S00599269, ENGINE NO: F8DN5382271 in favour of Bashir Ahmad Bhat, son of Ali Mohd Bhat, resident of BSNL Towar, Saloora, Ganderbal, J&K -191131 (Transferee). Now, Therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that the representation/objection, if any in connection with proposed Re registration / Transfer will be received within seven days from the date of publication of this notice to the address of the undersigned. No representation/objection shall be considered unless it is made in writing and shall be submitted within the aforesaid period.

No. JK/ARTOG

Sd/
Assistant Regional Transport Officer
Ganderbal

'Need to see a psychiatrist', 'intellectually bankrupt': NDA leaders after ECI notice to Kharge

SIANS

NEW DELHI: National Democratic Alliance (NDA) leaders on Thursday welcomed the Election Commission of India's (ECI) decision after it issued a show-cause notice to Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge over his "terrorist" remark. The NDA leaders said that Kharge needs to see a "psychiatrist" and is "intellectually bankrupt".



the Congress party should immediately have Kharge treated by a psychiatrist." Shiv Sena leader Shaina NC said, "Mallikarjun Kharge is intellectually bankrupt."

The ECI issued the notice to Kharge for violating the provisions of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) following his remark made during a press conference, purportedly aimed at Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Speaking to IANS, she called Congress as "Urban Naxal Party".

Calling the remark as "unfortunate", BJP MP Praveen Khandelwal told IANS, "I feel that Mallikarjun Kharge has lost his mental balance, and

"To call the Prime Minister a 'terrorist' is the lowest of low. He has been elected by 140 crore Indians. I think it is your moral authority to under-

stand that in a democratic process you keep the party at a particular level. Targeting somebody like this only shows your regressive mindset," she said.

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak alleged that the ideology of the Congress "is completely anti-society".

"It is the Congress' habit to accuse the Constitutional establishments in India like the Election Commission and others. Saying

such a thing for the Prime Minister is not something new for them. The people of the country are watching," he told reporters.

Echoing similar view, Union Minister Manukh Mandaviya said that making such "inappropriate" remarks reflects the "bankruptcy and mindset" of the Congress.

JD-U national spokesperson Rajeev Ranjan also welcomed the decision of the ECI.

"The way (Kharge) has insulted the Constitution by calling the Prime Minister a 'terrorist', he should definitely reply to the ECI notice. Also, the Congress should look within itself about the kind of culture it wants to create," he said.

LJP-Ram Vilas MP Shambhavi Choudhary added that the remarks made by the Congress President "reflects a very low level in politics".

CEC Gyanesh Kumar hails Bengal, Tamil Nadu voters for record turnout

SIANS

NEW DELHI: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar on Thursday hailed voters of West Bengal and Tamil Nadu for registering record turnout in the Assembly elections.

"Highest ever percentage of polling in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu since Independence - ECI salutes each voter of West Bengal and Tamil Nadu," said CEC Gyanesh Kumar in a message, even as the final turnout figures were being collated by officials in both states.

For the first phase of voting in 152 Assembly constituencies in West Bengal, the ECI confirmed 89.93 per cent polling till 5 p.m. - breaching the 2021 elections figure of 82 per cent. Till 5 p.m. in Tamil Nadu, the voting percentage stood at 82.24 per cent, better than 74 per cent recorded in the 2021 elections.

The 16 districts in West Bengal where polling was held in the first phase on



Thursday are Cooch Behar, Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, North Dinajpur, South Dinajpur, and Malda in North Bengal, and Murshidabad, East Midnapore, West Midnapore, Jhargram, Purulia, Bankura, West Burdwan, and Birbhum in South Bengal.

The second phase of polls in West Bengal for the remaining 142 Assembly constituencies will be held on April 29. The results of the polls will be declared on May 4.

Barring some stray events of tension and clashes, the polling process was the most peaceful and violence-free after the 2011 Assembly polls in West Bengal.

In West Bengal, the polling percentage recorded till 5 p.m. on Thursday was 89.93, the record percentage in the last 15 years since 2011, the year which marked the end of the previous 34-year Left Front government and the beginning of the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress government in the state.

In the six-phase 2011 West Bengal Assembly polls, the average polling percentage was the highest in the last 15 years at 84.33 per cent. In the last seven-phase Lok Sabha election in 2024 in West Bengal, the average polling percentage was 79.8.

However, all those polling records were broken this time. An insider from the CEO's office said that once the final polling percentage on Thursday is available, the figure will likely cross 90 per cent.

HM Amit Shah takes 'setting sun' swipe at Trinamool as Bengal sees heavy voting in Phase 1

SIANS

NEW DELHI: The high-stakes electoral contest for the West Bengal Assembly, marked by a fierce rivalry between the ruling Trinamool Congress and the main opposition BJP, is also witnessing a sharp war of words as both sides seek to outmanoeuvre each other.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah, on a whirlwind campaign trail on Thursday, drew a "setting sun" analogy for the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress government to highlight its alleged failings on multiple fronts, primarily citing inefficiency and ineptitude.

Bengal battleground has witnessed an intense exchange of words, with both parties frequently trading barbs.

Taking to X, the Union Home Minister shared a video clip of a setting sun and wrote: "The sun of the TMC's corruption and hooliganism has set."

On Wednesday, HM Shah's "Kolkata turned into a slum" remark drew sharp reactions from Trinamool Congress members, who in turn labelled BJP leaders as "outsiders", further fuelling the political rhetoric.

HM Shah's swipe at the Trinamool Congress dispensation came hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's jibe at a public rally earlier in the day, where he quipped that a "jhalumuri break" (during his previous poll campaign) had given a thunderous shock to some people in the state -- a remark seen as aimed at the ruling party.

Meanwhile, West Bengal witnessed brisk polling in the first phase, prompting poll watchers and analysts to assess the possible outcome of the high voter turnout.

In the run-up to the two-phase elections, the

turnout is expected to cross the 90 per cent mark -- potentially a record in the state's electoral history. The 2021 Assembly elec-

tions had recorded around 82 per cent polling, which was considered high voter participation at the time.

The state, under Trinamool Congress rule for the past 15 years, is voting in two phases this time.

In the first phase that concluded on Thursday, 152 Assembly constituencies across 16 districts went to polls. The second phase, covering 142 Assembly constituencies, will be held on April 29.

The 16 districts where polling was held in the first phase include Cooch Behar, Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, North Dinajpur, South Dinajpur, and Malda in north Bengal, and Murshidabad, East Midnapore, West Midnapore, Jhargram, Purulia, Bankura, West Burdwan, and Birbhum in the southern region of the state.

Five people killed in flash floods: Afghanistan

SIANS

TEHRAN: At least five people have died and hundreds of homes destroyed after flash floods struck West Afghanistan provinces of Ghor and Badghis, local media in the country reported on Thursday citing information from various authorities.



Five people, including a woman in the Badghis province, were killed in the floods. Three of the victims belonged to the same family, Pajhwok news agency quoted Baridad Saber, head of the Disaster Preparedness Department in Badghis, as saying.

As many as 30 homes were destroyed and agricultural land was damaged due to the floods. The numbers are preliminary, and the number of casualties and losses could rise, stated Saber.

Meanwhile, the districts of Aab Kamari, Bala Murghab, Muqur, Qadis and Ghormach in Badghis province also recorded heavy rain accompanied by hail.

The Governor's media office in Ghor province revealed that 100 homes, dozens of jeribs of farm-

land, and a number of fruit-bearing and non-fruit-bearing trees were destroyed in the village of Jeh in Murghab district on Wednesday.

It mentioned that the lives of local residents were disrupted severely by the floods, and they are now in urgent need of assistance.

The Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation (MoTCA) has forecast heavy rainfall in the region in the coming days.

Thunderstorms and flash floods are expected in Nuristan, Kunar, Nangarhar, Laghman, Kapisa, Panjsher, Parwan, Baghlan, Samangan, Badakhshan, Kunduz, Takhar, Balkh, Sar-i-Pul, Faryab,

Ghor, Badghis, Daikundi, Bamyán, Ghazni, Maidan Wardak, Logar and Paktia provinces.

At least 148 people were killed and 216 injured in Afghanistan in the early weeks of April following heavy rains, flash floods, landslides, earthquakes and lightning that have struck several parts of the country, Afghanistan's Khaama Press reported on April 10, citing updates released by the Afghan disaster authorities.

More than 9,000 homes have been damaged, and 15,500 acres of agricultural land have been destroyed in Afghanistan in these earlier floods caused by heavy rains between March 26 and April 6.

Bharat Coking Coal announces PI relief, cash discounts for power sector for Q1 FY27

SIANS

NEW DELHI: State-owned Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCL) on Thursday announced a scheme offering relaxation in Performance Incentive (PI) and cash discounts to power sector consumers for the first quarter of FY27 (April-June).

The scheme will be applicable to all eligible power sector consumers under Fuel Supply Agreements (FSA), including those covered under the Flexi-Linkage scheme, the company said.

Under the plan, incentives will be linked to actual coal offtake through rail, road and RCR modes, based on the proportion of lifting against the quarterly quantity (QQ).

For coal offtake below 120 per cent of QQ, PI will be applicable only on raw coal as per existing FSA provisions, with no cash discount offered. Washed power coal will not be considered for PI calculations.

For offtake between 120 per cent and 140 per cent of QQ, PI will not be applicable on quantities exceeding 90 per cent of QQ. In addition, a cash discount of 5 per cent will be provided

on coal lifted beyond 100 per cent of QQ.

For offtake exceeding 140 per cent of QQ, PI will similarly not apply beyond 90 per cent of QQ, while a higher cash discount of 10 per cent will be offered on quantities lifted beyond 100 per cent of QQ.

The discounts will be applicable only on raw coking coal and washed power coal, subject to quality confirmation, and will be issued through credit notes for adjustment against future supplies.

The company has advised consumers to maximise benefits under the scheme by planning higher coal lifting, particularly through rail mode, while ensuring adequate offtake through other channels. The initiative aims to incentivise higher coal offtake, improve logistics efficiency and provide cost relief to the power sector, thereby supporting stable power generation, the PSU said.

In January, the Coal India arm made its Dalal Street debut, listing at Rs 45.21 on the BSE and Rs 45 on the NSE against the issue price of Rs 23, nearly doubling investors' money on listing.

Mega awareness event held at Kakapora under Nasha Mukta Abhiyan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: As part of the ongoing 100-day campaign under the Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, District Administration Pulwama Thursday organised a mega awareness event at Government Boys Higher Secondary School Kakapora.



The event aimed at creating awareness about the menace of drug abuse, particularly among youth and students.

The event was attended by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom and witnessed enthusiastic participation of students, youth and members of civil society.

Speakers on the occasion highlighted various aspects related to drug abuse, describing it as a societal challenge that adversely affects individuals, families and the community at large. They stressed the need for collective efforts to curb the menace and promote a healthy, drug-free society.

The programme also featured a series of cultural performances including Rouf, martial arts dem-

onstrations and student speeches centred around the theme of drug de-addiction and awareness.

Addressing the gathering, the DC said that the 100-day campaign has been launched in the district with a comprehensive three-pronged strategy focusing on Information, Education and Communication (IEC), treatment, rehabilitation and prevention, and enforcement. He added that the

campaign is being implemented through a coordinated, multi-sectoral and community-driven approach.

Highlighting the role of civil society, local community and religious leaders in the successful implementation of the Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, he urged them to actively participate and take collective responsibility in spreading awareness and discouraging drug

abuse at all levels.

While appreciating the participation of youth, civil society and senior citizens of Kakapora in government initiatives, he said that the people of Kakapora are expected to set an example for other areas in leading the campaign.

The DC further said that a detailed action plan has been devised with activities scheduled across all educational institutions, as well as in Panchayats and Municipalities across the district. He added that the Sports Department has also framed a plan to engage youth in constructive sports activities to promote a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

On the occasion, Dr. Qayoom also highlighted that while strict enforcement measures are being taken against drug peddlers, equal emphasis is being laid on treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims with compassion and dignity.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner also advised the students to stay away from drugs and focus on education, sports and other constructive activities for

their overall development.

He urged them to act as ambassadors of change by spreading awareness among their peers and within their communities about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of leading a healthy, drug-free life.

Furthermore, during the event, the Deputy Commissioner led the participants in taking the Nasha Mukta pledge as a collective resolve to work towards a drug-free society.

Among others, the event was attended by Chief Medical Officer, Pulwama; District Social Welfare Officer, Pulwama; District Education Planning Officer, Pulwama; Principal, Government Boys Higher Secondary School Kakapora, besides other officers.

Meanwhile, similar awareness programmes were also organised at Gutroo Tral, Konibal Pampore and Dalipora, Pulwama, where resource persons from various line departments sensitised participants about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of collective action in eradicating the menace.

Stellantis Debuts Dual-Brand 'House' in Srinagar; Jeep & Citroën Under One Roof

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major boost to the automotive landscape of the Kashmir Valley, Stellantis India today inaugurated its first Stellantis Brand House (SBH) in Srinagar. Established in collaboration with ARSH Automobiles Pvt. Ltd., the facility marks the official entry of Jeep® and Citroën into this high-potential market through a unique dual-brand retail format.



The integrated facility is designed to meet the region's specific mobility needs, offering full 3S support Sales, Service, and Spare parts for both brands under a single roof.

The "Brand House" concept allows Stellantis to showcase two distinct automotive philosophies. Jeep, with its 80-year legacy of rugged SUV capability, is positioned as the ideal choice for the Valley's challenging terrains and all-weather conditions. In contrast, Citroën focuses on its "Advanced Comfort" DNA, targeting families looking for premium ride quality and modern design.

Shailesh Hazela, CEO & MD of Stellantis India, highlighted the strategic importance of the launch: "Srinagar is a key market where customers increasingly seek reliability and capability. We are ensuring seamless access to our global portfolio, whether they desire the adventure DNA of Jeep or the comfort-first approach of Citroën."

The 12,000 sq. ft. facility is set to serve as a central hub not just for Srinagar, but for neighboring districts including Ganderbal, Budgam, Pulwama, Anant-

nag, and Baramulla.

Mohammad Anwar Khan, Dealership Principal at ARSH Automobiles, noted that the partnership aims to fulfill the growing aspirations of local buyers. "This facility allows us to deliver world-class service and an exceptional ownership experience backed by a deep understanding of the local market," he said.

The launch reflects Stellantis' aggressive expansion strategy in Northern India, focusing on premium, value-led markets to drive long-term growth.

IPL 2026: Samson's unbeaten ton powers CSK to 207/6 against MI

IANS

MUMBAI: Opener Sanju Samson hammered a brilliant unbeaten century, his second of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, as Chennai Super Kings (CSK) posted 207/6 in 20 overs against Mumbai Indians (MI) at the iconic Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Thursday.

After being asked to bat first, CSK got off to a strong start. Samson and captain Ruturaj Gaikwad attacked from the beginning, scoring 26 runs in the first two overs, including 19 runs off Hardik Pandya's second over.

Mumbai got their first breakthrough in the third over when Gaikwad was dismissed for 22 off 14 balls. Despite losing a wicket, Samson kept the momentum going and again took on Pandya, collecting 19 runs in the fourth over bowled by the Mumbai Indians skipper as CSK crossed the 50-run mark quickly.

Sarfraz Khan played a few attacking shots but was bowled by Mitchell Santner for 14 off 8 balls in the last over of the Powerplay. CSK ended the first six overs at 73/2.



After the fielding restrictions were lifted, the Mumbai Indians struck again as AM Ghazanfar bowled Shivam Dube with a clever carrom ball. Dewald Brevis then struck some runs, hitting two sixes and a four before getting out for 21 off 11 balls to Ashwani Kumar.

At the other end, Samson continued to bat with confidence and reached his fifty in just 26 balls. He held the innings together even as

wickets kept falling.

Young batter Kartik tried to accelerate in the middle overs with a couple of sixes but struggled later and was dismissed by Jasprit Bumrah for 18 off 19 balls. Jamie Overton provided a late boost with a quick 15 off 7 balls.

In the final overs, Samson dominated the bowling and brought up his century in style, reaching the milestone in 54 balls with a six. He remained

unbeaten on 101, hitting 10 fours and 6 sixes, helping CSK cross the 200-run mark.

For the Mumbai Indians, Ghazanfar was the pick of the bowlers with 2/25, while Ashwani Kumar also picked up two wickets.

Brief scores:
Chennai Super Kings 207/6 in 20 overs (Sanju Samson 101*, Ruturaj Gaikwad 22; AM Ghazanfar 2-25, Ashwani Kumar 2-37) against Mumbai Indians

ISL 2025-26: Hernández's late header seals dramatic win for Kerala Blasters against Odisha FC

IANS

KOCHI: A goal each by Victor Bertomeu and substitute Matias Hernández sealed all three points for hosts Kerala Blasters FC as they secured a 2-1 win against Odisha FC in Indian Super League (ISL) 2025-26 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Kochi on Thursday.

Bertomeu struck in the 12th minute, and Hernández contributed a stoppage-time winner to seal victory for Kerala Blasters.

The win sees Kerala Blasters move up to ninth in the standings with 11 points from as many matches, while Odisha FC remain 13th with six points from eight games. Bertomeu was named Player of the Match for his influential performance.

Kerala Blasters began on the front foot, with Kevin Yoke proving a constant threat down the left flank. His early runs caused problems for Odisha's defence, and it was his influence that led to the opening goal in the 12th minute. After a driving run and a blocked effort by Hitesh Sharma that ricocheted into the box, Bertomeu reacted quickest, controlling the ball neatly before slotting home from close range to give the hosts the lead.

The Tuskers continued



to press, with Bertomeu testing Amrinder Singh again moments later, while Arsh Anwer Shaikh remained alert at the other end to deny Rahim Ali during Odisha's first meaningful attack.

Despite Kerala's early dominance, Odisha gradually grew into the game, enjoying more possession and probing for openings. Their persistence paid off in the 27th minute when Rahim Ali finished a well-worked move, combining neatly with Hitesh before firing a composed effort into the bottom corner to bring the visitors level.

The remainder of the first half saw both sides

exchange chances, with Francisco Feuillasser and Nihal Sudheesh going close for Kerala, while Odisha continued to threaten on the counter through Rahim Ali. However, neither side could find the breakthrough before the interval.

Odisha started the second half with renewed intensity, forcing a series of early corners and testing Arsh Shaikh, who produced a string of important saves to keep the scores level. Kerala's defence, led by Aibabha Dohling and Vibin Mohanan, also stood firm under sustained pressure.

As the game progressed, both teams traded spells of control, but clear-cut chances

remained limited. Yoke continued to orchestrate Kerala's attacks from midfield, while Odisha looked dangerous through quick transitions, with Lalithanga Khawlhing and Isak Vanlalruatfela involved in several forward moves.

The contest appeared to be heading towards a draw until late drama unfolded in stoppage time. In the 90+3rd minute, Kerala Blasters capitalised on a corner, as substitute Ebinadas Y delivered a precise cross into the box. Substitute Matias Hernández timed his run perfectly and rose to head the ball into the net, sealing a crucial late winner for the hosts.

IPL 2026: Seeing negative comments about Mayank Yadav is horrifying, says Ian Bishop

IANS

NEW DELHI: Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) pacer Mayank Yadav's expensive return to action in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 after a year-long injury layoff drew sharp criticism online. But former West Indies fast bowler Ian Bishop has come out strongly in his defence, calling the negative comments for Yadav 'horrifying'.

Yadav, 23, played his first professional match in 353 days against the Rajasthan Royals at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee



Ekana Cricket Stadium on Wednesday. Yadav had missed most of the last two IPL seasons due to recurring back problems. He had missed the first half of IPL 2025 and managed only two games before another back injury, which needed surgery in New Zealand, side-

lined him for nearly a year. "To see negative comments about Mayank Yadav today is horrifying. The kid nearly lost his career & livelihood at 21yrs. Just to see him play again is huge boost. The fact that he clocked 150kph again is a miracle. At 23yrs just pray for him that he stays fit. The control will come," Bishop wrote on his 'X' account on Thursday.

Yadav bowled with pace, including crossing the 150kph mark, but conceded 20 runs in the final over of the innings, with veteran left-arm spin bowling all-

rounder Ravindra Jadeja hitting him for boundaries. The right-arm pacer finished with figures of 0-56 from four overs, the most expensive among his LSG bowling colleagues in the match.

Jadeja tearing into Yadav meant he finished unbeaten on 43 off 29 balls, as RR ended up at 159/6. RR, the inaugural IPL champions, then dished out a disciplined bowling performance to bowl out LSG for 119 in 18 overs to win by 40 runs. LSG will next face three-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders in Lucknow on Sunday evening.

Football: Real Madrid suffer injury blow as Guler, Militao ruled out for season

IANS

MADRID: Spanish football giant Real Madrid suffered a major setback ahead of the business end of the season, with midfielder Arda Guler and defender Eder Militao ruled out of the remainder of the domestic campaign due to muscle injuries.

Militao picked up his injury during Real Madrid's 2-1 win over Deportivo Alaves earlier this week, while Guler sustained his problem in training on Thursday ahead of their upcoming clash against Real Betis. According to a report by Xinhua, both players are unlikely to



return before the end of the season due to the nature of their injuries.

In an official statement, the club confirmed that Guler has suffered a

muscle injury in the biceps femoris of his right leg. "After the tests carried out today on our player Arda Guler by the Real Madrid Medical Services, he has been diagnosed with a muscle injury in the biceps femoris of his right leg," the statement read.

Shortly after, Real Madrid issued a separate update on Militao, stating that the Brazilian centre-back has sustained a similar injury, but in his left leg. "Following tests carried out today on our player Eder Militao by the Real Madrid Medical Services, he has been diagnosed with a muscle injury in the biceps femoris of his

left leg," the club said. While the club has not provided a specific timeline for their recovery, such injuries typically require several weeks of rehabilitation, effectively ruling out both players for the remainder of the La Liga season.

Despite the setback, there is some positive news for their respective national teams. Guler is expected to recover in time to represent Turkey at the upcoming FIFA World Cup, which will commence on June 11 and be played in the USA, Mexico, and Canada, while Militao is also likely to be fit enough to join Brazil for the global tournament.

IPL 2026: 'I am comfortable everywhere,' says Naman Dhir on batting role for MI

IANS

MUMBAI: Mumbai Indians (MI) batter Naman Dhir said he is ready to bat in any position for the team, stressing his flexibility ahead of their high-profile clash against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Thursday.

"I am comfortable everywhere, I do not have any problem with that. But yes, if you get more time in a game to settle in, then obviously why not," Dhir said while speaking to broadcasters before the match.

The youngster revealed that he was asked to prepare for a top-order role at short notice due to Rohit Sharma dealing with a minor hamstring niggle. "Unfortunately, Rohit Sharma bhai had a niggle in his hamstring. After that, one day before the match, I was told, Mahela Jayawardene told me that I might bat at number three," he said.

The young batter grabbed the opportunity with both hands as he smashed 45 runs off just 32 balls against the Gujarat Titans (GT) in their last match.

Dhir added that the shift was not new to him as he bats in the top order in domestic cricket. "Actually, I bat in the top order for my domestic team as well, so it was nothing new for



me. I just faced the new ball in the nets, so I felt I was ready," he explained.

Looking ahead to the clash, Dhir expects a charged-up atmosphere given the rivalry between the two teams. "There are some very big players playing for both teams, like MS Dhoni bhai is here. Both teams are five-time champions, so I guess that is why it is such a rivalry. The special moment is that the atmosphere today will be very good; it will be electrifying. There will be tremendous support for both teams, so we are looking forward to winning this game," he said.

He also highlighted the

importance of momentum in the Indian Premier League (IPL), especially after Mumbai's recent 99-run win over GT. "That last match gave us a big boost because they were a very good team. They were playing at their home ground. We had never won there before, so defeating them there by that margin was a very good boost for us," he said.

"There are a lot of positive conversations happening. And if you look at slow starts, it has been a trend with the Mumbai Indians, so we are not too worried. We have just come here to play good cricket, and we will do that today," he added.

INOX SRINAGAR

Movie Watchlist

Friday 24th April

BHOOTH BANGLA (U/A16+)
HINDI ATMOS
03:15 PM, 06:30 PM

GINNY WEDSS SUNNY 2 (U/A16+)
Hindi
03:30 PM

MICHAEL (U/A 13+)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
04:25 PM

Dhurandhar: The Revenge (A)
Hindi
06:15 PM

LEE CRONINS THE MUMMY (A)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
07:05 PM