

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Lok Bhavan Jammu & Kashmir
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The Lieutenant Governor asked the NGOs, social workers and spiritual leaders to join the campaign in large number in cities and villages. "Social organizations, spiritual leaders, and educators are the frontline guardians of this mission. I firmly believe that through their leadership, hope can be rekindled and society renewed. The full strength of the government and the community stands beside them," the Lieutenant Governor said.

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NIA Attaches Plot Belonging To Terror Accused In Budgam



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Nowgam, Srinagar.

SRINAGAR: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday attached a parcel of land belonging to an accused currently in its custody in connection with a terror-related case registered in Jammu.

An official said, that the action was carried out by an NIA team headed by Deputy Superintendent of Police Panchkach Agarwal.

He said the attached property belongs to Tafazul Husain Parimoo, son of Abdul Rashid Parimoo, resident of Sheikh-ul-Alam Colony,

"The property comprises 11.5 marlas of land under Survey No. 25, situated at SK Bagh, Budgam," he said.

The official said the accused is presently under NIA custody in connection with a case registered under relevant sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Arms Act and Explosive Substances Act.

He said the attachment proceedings were conducted in the presence of Naib Tehsildar B.K. Pora and other officials. Further investigation in the case is underway—(KNO)

THE PROPERTY COMPRISES 11.5 marlas of land under Survey No. 25, situated at SK Bagh, Budgam,"

Australian High Commissioner Calls On CM Omar Abdullah

Discusses Cooperation In Agriculture, Allied Sectors



GMK NEWS NETWORK

tivity and sustainability.

NEW DELHI: The Australian High Commissioner to India, Phillip Green, Friday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and discussed avenues for enhanced cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors.

During the discussions, both the sides explored opportunities for collaboration in agriculture and allied areas, particularly horticulture and animal husbandry. Emphasis was laid on knowledge sharing, adoption of best practices, and capacity building to improve produc-

The interaction also touched upon prospects for institutional linkages and technical cooperation to support ongoing developmental initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir, within the broader framework of India-Australia engagement. The engagement remained forward-looking, with a shared intent to deepen cooperation through appropriate channels.

Orson Passi, Second Secretary, and Ms. Vandana Seth, Political Lead, from the Australian High Commission were also present during the meeting.

■ Nasha-Mukt Campaign

Drug Abuse Eroding Foundation Of Society From Within: LG Sinha

Says J&K Carried Heavy Silence Surrounding Menace Of Drug Abuse

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Urging communities, institutions, and individuals alike to unite in the fight against drug abuse, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday said that crisis is eroding the very foundations of society from within.

"We must build a historic movement, one that rises from homes, schools, mohallas, and communities; a movement that begins with open, honest dialogue in towns and villages. Mothers and sisters are the moral bedrock of our society and with their help we can win this battle," the Lieutenant Governor said while launching a 'Drug-Free J&K Campaign' in Reasi, urging communities, institutions, and individuals alike to unite in the fight against drug abuse, a crisis he warned is eroding the very foundations of



society from within.

The Lieutenant Governor appealed for a broad based people's movement while highlighting that for the past 12 days, a collective force has risen across the Union Territory against drugs and people are resolutely committed to the

objective to make this land free from narcotics.

Highlighting the achievement of the campaign in the past 12 days, the Lieutenant Governor said that in Jammu division, between 11 April and 22 April, large number of cases were registered. ● P-06

Collective force has risen across Union Territory against drugs

People are resolutely committed to objective to make this land free from narcotics

In Jammu, between 11-22 April, large number of cases were registered, several drug smugglers were arrested

Narcotics worth nearly Rs 3 crore were seized, about Rs 1 crore in movable, immovable properties attached

187 driving licences, 4 vehicle registrations cancelled

Properties of drug smugglers have been demolished, financial investigations initiated against drug peddlers

1,947 women committees established across districts in Jammu division

We must build a historic movement, one that rises from homes, schools, mohallas, and communities

LG Chairs J&K Higher Education Council Meeting

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Bhavan.

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Friday chaired a high-level meeting of Jammu Kashmir Higher Education Council, at Lok

The meeting was attended by Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairman, J&K Higher Education Council; Shri Shalendra Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department;

Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Shri Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, Administrative Secretary, Skill Development; Shri Ram Niwas Sharma. ● P-06

India, US Agree To Remain Engaged On Trade Pact: Govt

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: The government on Friday said the three-day trade talks between Indian and US officials concluded on April 23, with both sides agreeing to stay engaged to sustain the momentum ahead.

Both sides discussed several areas, such as market access, non-tariff measures, technical barriers to trade, customs and trade facilitation, investment promotion, economic security alignment and digital trade, the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement.

"The meetings were conducted in a constructive and positive spirit, with meaningful and forward-looking discussions enabling progress on key matters. Both sides agreed to remain engaged to maintain



this momentum as they move forward," it said.

India and the US issued a joint statement on February 7 finalising a framework for an interim trade agreement regarding reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade.

The framework reaffirmed the countries' commitment to

the broader India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement negotiations.

The Indian side has visited Washington, D.C. for an in-person round of meetings with their US counterparts to finalise the details of the interim agreement and take forward the negotiations under the broader BTA, it added.

Govt Begins Exercise Of Framing Rules For Private Universities Act

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has begun drafting rules for the implementation of The Jammu and Kashmir Private Universities Act, 2026.

Sources said that the Government has initiated the exercise of framing rules under the law.

Minister for Education Sakina Masood Ittoo said she has directed that the Rules be framed at the earliest.

"Our government is keen that more and more private universities should be established in Jammu & Kashmir, given that we have a limited number of public universities here," she said

The Jammu and Kashmir Private Universities Bill, 2026 was passed by the J&K Assembly during the recently concluded budget session. Both the treasury benches



and the opposition hailed the legislation as a landmark move in the higher education sector of J&K.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has also given his assent to the bill.

The law provides a framework for establishing private universities and regulating their functioning, management, and academic standards.

Under the law, the Government must constitute an Expert Committee headed by the Administrative Secretary of Higher Education to examine ● P-06

All-Weather Direct Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat To Be Launched On April 30

Specially Designed For Kashmir's Extreme Cold; 20-Coach Train To Cover Around 266 KM

UMAISAR GULL GANIE

SRINAGAR: The direct Jammu-Srinagar train service is set to commence with an inaugural run on April 30, with Indian Railways introducing a specially designed Vande Bharat train equipped to operate in extreme weather conditions.

Officials said that all necessary arrangements have been put in place for the inaugural journey, while the regular schedule and additional halts will be notified separately.

They said the train will run with a 20-coach Vande Bharat rake and cover a distance of around 266.66 kilometres during the inaugural run. The train will also



halt at Bijbehara, which will remain operational for the cross-run of the service.

In view of the challenging terrain and sub-zero temperatures in Jammu & Kashmir, the train has been fitted with advanced "winterisation" features to ensure uninterrupted operations.

For the first time, self-regulating heating cables have been installed to prevent freezing of water pipelines, while 1800W silicon heating pads have been fitted in water tanks. Additional heating systems have been integrated into bio-toilets and auxiliary tanks to maintain

sanitation functions during extreme cold.

Officials said warm air ducts connected to the air-conditioning system will supply heat to restrooms, while heaters and thermal insulation have been added to ensure proper functioning of vacuum-based toilet systems.

The train is also equipped with a water-draining mechanism to prevent freezing when stabled, and an embedded heating element in the driver's windshield to prevent fogging and ensure visibility during snowfall and fog.

Heating systems have also been installed in the air dryer mechanism to maintain efficient braking, while critical components near water tanks ● P-06

Raghav Chadha, Six AAP RS MPs Quit Party; Join BJP

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: In a massive jolt to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday, April 24, seven of its Rajya Sabha MPs, including Raghav Chadha, Sandeep Pathak and Ashok Mittal, quit the party and announced their decision to merge with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Addressing a press conference, Chadha, flanked by Pathak and Mittal, said that more than two-thirds of AAP's Rajya Sabha MPs have quit the party. "We, two-thirds of the Members of Parliament belonging to the Aam Aadmi Party in the Rajya Sabha, will exercise the provisions of the Constitution of India and merge with the BJP," he said.

Chadha added that MPs Harbhajan Singh and Swati Maliwal are also quitting the AAP. "They have already signed, and this morning we submitted all the required documentation, including signed letters and other formal paperwork, to the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha," he said.

Hitting out at the Arvind Kejriwal-led party, Chadha ● P-06

Fresh Custodian Land Scam Exposed In J&K, 3 FIRs Registered



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has exposed another major land scam involving Custodian land in Jammu district, officials said here on Friday.

In a statement, a spokesperson said the Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau again achieved a major success in extracting one of the major land scams in Jammu and Kashmir, wherein Custodian land in Asarwan, Mishriwala, Bhalwal and R.S. Pura area of Jammu district has been found usurped by the land mafia in connivance with Form Alf Holders and the

officers/officials of Custodian / Revenue department.

He said, inputs were received that Custodian land in thousands of Kanal situated at Asarwan, Mishriwala, Bhalwal and R.S. Pura Jammu, has been fraudulently grabbed by the land grabbers/gangsters in connivance with the Revenue officers/officials. The revenue records have been tampered and land has been sold to various persons.

"On the basis of the inputs received by ACB a verification was initiated and on the basis of the verification conducted earlier it was found that more than 1000 kanals of Custodian land was shown allotted to the ● P-06

CS Floriculture reviews NMBA implementation in Bandipora

Stresses on sustained 100-Day campaign strategy

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Commissioner Secretary Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, Zubair Ahmad, Friday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at DC office complex here to assess the implementation of anti-drug initiatives across the district.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib; Senior Superintendent of Police Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar; Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora; SDM Sumbal; and other senior officers of the district administration.

Speaking during the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary, who also serves as District Mentor for Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) for Bandipora district, stressed on the need to build public confidence to encourage voluntary reporting, called for complete eradication of poppy cultivation, and directed sustained engagement of youth through structured programmes.

He emphasised on grass-root outreach programmes with people driven response and hoped that with consistent enforcement and sustained public engagement and awareness we would be able to eradicate the drug menace and substance abuse from



Commissioner Secretary Floriculture, Parks and Gardens, Zubair Ahmad, Friday chaired a comprehensive review meeting at DC office complex here to assess the implementation of anti-drug initiatives across the district.

the society. Appreciating the district administration's efforts, the Commissioner Secretary described the action plan as comprehensive and well-articulated, and lauded the proactive role of the Deputy Commissioner. He also emphasised on the importance of addressing stigma associated with addiction and treatment, underlining that coordinated and collective efforts of all stakeholders would be key to achieving lasting impact.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner presented a detailed report outlining the district's strategy, progress achieved so far and the roadmap ahead. It was informed during the meeting that the Lieutenant Governor had earlier launched a 100-day campaign under the Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan, fol-

lowing which the District Administration Bandipora rolled out a district-level campaign backed by a structured action plan.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the administration's outcome-focused approach and emphasised that the initiative must continue beyond the stipulated period and become a permanent feature of the district's functioning. She noted that gaps in inter-departmental coordination had been identified in November and that concerted efforts had since been made to strengthen coordination, particularly with law enforcement.

She elaborated that the district strategy rests on sustained awareness campaigns, the Maa Se Guftagu series engaging frontline workers and self-help groups, outreach through Friday sermons

in coordination with religious leaders, proactive media engagement, and consistent enforcement measures. She also pointed out the emerging trend of women being involved both as peddlers and users, underscoring the need for targeted interventions. Progress reports from multiple departments were also presented during the meeting.

The Senior Superintendent of Police outlined the policing strategy, focusing on intelligence generation, drug seizures, reduction of hotspots, strict monitoring and eradication of poppy cultivation, and ensuring accountability at all levels.

The Chief Education Officer and the Youth Services and Sports Officer reported encouraging behavioural changes among youth, alongside increased participation in constructive and sports-related activities. The Chief Medical Officer presented the status of testing in identified hotspots, with positive outcomes reported.

On the occasion, a pledge against drug abuse was also administered by the Commissioner Secretary. Students of Government Girls Higher Secondary School Bandipora also presented an awareness song, reflecting active community participation in the campaign.

Six Booked Under PSA in Sopore Over Student Protest Violence

BILAL DAR

SRINAGAR: In a decisive move to maintain public order, Sopore Police Friday booked six individuals under the Public Safety Act (PSA) for their alleged involvement in law and order disturbances and acts of vandalism during a recent student protest in the town.

The accused have been identified as Umar Akbar Hajam of Seelu, Salman Ahmed Shala of Shalpora Sopore, Altaf Ahmed Sheikh of Panzipora Tarzoo, Mubashir Ahmed Gilkar of Naseerabad Sopore, Muzammil Mush-taq Changa of Arampora Sopore, and Majid Firdous Dar of Chinkipora Sopore.



Officials said that the detained individuals were actively involved in instigating unrest, damaging public property, and disrupting peace during the protest. Their actions were deemed a serious threat to public safety and order.

Following the issuance of detention warrants by the District Magistrate, all six have been detained under PSA and shifted to District Jail Bhadarwah.

Police sources further stated that more individuals linked to the incident

have been identified and are likely to face similar legal action, including detention under PSA.

Reiterating a zero-tolerance policy towards unlawful activities, Sopore Police warned that any attempt to exploit sensitive situations or disturb peace will be met with strict legal action.

The police have also appealed to the public, particularly the youth, to refrain from engaging in unlawful acts and urged parents and community leaders to guide them towards constructive activities.

Sopore Police appreciated the cooperation of citizens and reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining peace, security, and stability in the district.

Drug Controller J&K flags off Bike Rally to promote anti-drug campaign

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Drug Controller J&K Rajesh Kumar Friday flagged off a bike rally (Group ride) here from Church Lane-Residency Road to Sonmarg Kashmir. The rally has been organised by 'We Care Team led by President Kelvin Bhatti in collaboration with the Drug & Food Control Organization J&K as part of the 100 day Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan.

The primary objective of the rally is to raise awareness about the growing menace of drug abuse. A large number of volunteers are participating in the expedition with the aim to sensitize the public and promote a collective responsibility towards building a drug-free society.

Addressing the gathering, Rajesh Kumar emphasized that the fight against drug abuse is a "moral and social emergency." "The success of the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan depends on active public participation

and ownership. The role of parents, teachers and religious leaders is crucial and cannot be undermined, as they serve as the first line of defence against drug addiction" he noted. He urged participants to act as role models in spreading awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse among the masses and to share collective responsibility in combating this serious issue.

He also informed that the department has intensified its crackdown on the illegal trade of habit-forming drugs being pushed into the Union Territory through unregulated channels. "Surprise checks are being carried across J&K wherein all drug sale establishments are being inspected to ensure strict compliance," he informed.

He appealed the general public to report any incidents of unethical trade practices involving the sale or misuse of habit forming drugs to the department's helpline at 104 or via email at jk.drugscontroller@jk.gov.in.

DDMA B'la conducts Civil Defence Mock Drill to strengthen Emergency Preparedness

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Baramulla Friday conducted a comprehensive Civil Defence Mock Drill at Showkat Ali Stadium to strengthen disaster preparedness, improve inter-agency coordination, and enhance emergency response systems across the district.

The drill witnessed active participation from multiple agencies including Police, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), NCC cadets, CRPF, CISF, Home Guards, and civil administration officials, reflecting a coordinated and multi-disciplinary approach to disaster management.

The primary objective of the exercise was to streamline coordination among various departments, ensure effective response during emergencies, and prepare teams for real-life situations while minimising risks to life and property.

During the drill, key

aspects such as rescue operations, evacuation procedures, response time, and adherence to public safety protocols were thoroughly tested.

The exercise also simulated emergency scenarios, including blackout situations, aimed at enhancing preparedness among students, staff, and the general public.

Participants were trained in evacuation protocols, crisis communication, and coordinated response strategies, providing them with practical insights into managing emergency situations efficiently. The drill emphasized the importance of timely intervention and collective action in reducing risks during disasters.

The mock exercise recreated real-time emergency conditions, including search and rescue operations, evacuation drills, and emergency medical response. Students and staff actively participated in the programme, contributing to a realistic and impactful training experience.

DDMA Pulwama conducts Mock Drill Exercise at DPL Pulwama

GMK NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Pulwama, in collaboration with the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), CRPF Pulwama, and District Police Pulwama, Friday conducted a civil defence mock drill exercise at District Police Lines (DPL) Pulwama.

The exercise aimed to assess the level of preparedness, strengthen inter-departmental coordination, and ensure an effective and coordinated response mechanism during emergency situations.

The drill included simu-



lation of various emergency and critical scenarios requiring a multi-agency response through coordinated efforts of all departments, along with volunteers and members of the public.

Personnel from CRPF,

Jammu and Kashmir Police, Fire & Emergency Services, Health Department, SDRF, and Civil Defence units actively participated in the exercise. Key emergency protocols such as rescue operations, evacuation procedures,

first aid response, and fire control measures were rehearsed under real-time conditions.

The drill was conducted under the observation of the Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, who is also the CEO of the District Disaster Management Authority, along with senior officers of Police and Civil Administration.

On the occasion, the Additional Deputy Commissioner stated that the exercise formed part of routine mock drills conducted to strengthen preparedness, enhance coordination, and ensure prompt and effective response during emergency situations.

Stellantis India brings Jeep, Citroën dual-brand retail experience to Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Stellantis India Friday announced the opening of a new Stellantis Brand House (SBH) in Srinagar. Established in partnership with ARSH Automobiles Pvt. Ltd., the new SBH brings Jeep® and Citroën together under one integrated retail destination, offering end-to-end sales, service and genuine spares (3S) support.

At the inauguration, Shailesh Hazela, CEO and Managing Director, Stellantis India said, "Srinagar is an important, high-potential market with customers who are increasingly seeking comfort, safety, reliability, and capability—especially given the region's terrain and all-weather driving needs. With this new Stellantis Brand House in Srinagar, we are strengthening our commitment to Jammu & Kashmir and ensuring customers have seamless access to our offerings—whether they seek the comfort-first approach of Citroën or the adventure DNA of Jeep. We are delighted to partner with ARSH Automobiles, whose



strong local credibility and customer-first focus align with Stellantis' core philosophy of remaining Customer First."

Mohammad Anwar Khan Dealership Principal, ARSH Automobile added, "We are proud to bring the Stellantis Brand House to Srinagar, offering customers in the region access to two globally respected brands—Jeep® and Citroën—under one roof. Jammu & Kashmir is a market with growing aspiration and very specific mobility needs, and this integrated facility allows us to deliver both capability and comfort, backed by reliable service support. With Stellantis' strong brand vision and our deep understanding of the local market, we are confident

of building ARSH Automobiles in Srinagar as a world class destination for Jeep and Citroën customers offering trusted service, and an exceptional ownership experience."

Designed as a modern, experience-led retail space, the Srinagar Stellantis Brand House combines digital discovery with personalized in-person engagement. The facility enables customers to explore products, receive expert consultations and complete their purchase journey in a transparent and convenient environment—backed by robust after-sales support, for both the storied brands - Jeep® and Citroën.

The dealership will cater not only to Srinagar but also to customers across

nearby districts including Ganderbal, Budgam, Pulwama, Anantnag, Baramulla, Bandipora, Sopore and Kupwara, significantly enhancing accessibility to Stellantis brands in the region.

The dual-brand SBH model gives customers in Jammu & Kashmir a wider choice through a single, unified experience—bringing together the distinct strengths of Stellantis' iconic brands: Jeep®, with a legacy of over eight decades, embodies freedom, adventure and authentic SUV capability—ideally suited to Kashmir's varied terrain and driving conditions. Citroën, backed by more than 100 years of innovation, focuses on comfort-led, human-centric mobility, appealing to customers seeking dependable, feature-rich vehicles supported by strong service assurance.

With both brands available at one destination, customers in Srinagar and the wider region can access a wide portfolio—from rugged SUVs to comfort-oriented family cars—supported by dedicated sales and after-sales teams.(PR)

Kupwara admin conducts Mock drill at DPL to strengthen rescue management

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: District Administration Kupwara Friday conducted a comprehensive mock drill at District Police Lines (DPL) Kupwara to enhance preparedness and response capabilities during emergencies and unforeseen situations.

The exercise was organized to evaluate and strengthen rescue management mechanisms, ensuring swift and coordi-



nated action in the face of untoward incidents. Vari-

ous departments, including police, health services, fire

and emergency services, and disaster management teams, actively participated in the drill.

The mock drill simulated real-life emergency scenarios, enabling responders to assess operational readiness, inter-agency coordination, and the effectiveness of existing contingency plans. Teams demonstrated evacuation procedures, first aid response, firefighting techniques, and rapid deployment strategies.

POLICE TRANSPORT WORKSHOP SRINAGAR.

QUOTATION

Fresh Sealed quotations addressed to Sr. Superintendent of Police, Police Transport Workshop Srinagar, marked with "quotation for used Engine oil for the year 2025-2026" are invited from such dealers who are dealing with purchase of used Engine Oil which is being drained out from Auto Mobile vehicles at periodic engine oil changes. The firms located within Srinagar Municipal Council Limits and dealing in such trade can apply.

The terms and conditions are detailed below:-

- The successful quotationer has to keep empty barrel of 210 liters capacity at the workshop service station Police Transport Workshop premises, Police Control Room Complex Srinagar as container for used Engine Oil.
- Rates should be quoted per 210 litres of used Engine Oil without cost of container.
- Used Engine Oil in barrel is to be lifted from workshop premises within two days after supplier is informed by this office about the availability of used Engine Oil.
- The successful dealer will be allowed to lift the used Engine Oil barrel/barrels from the workshop premises only after deposition of approved cost with the Accounts Section under proper Govt. Receipt.
- No payment will be accepted in the shape of bank draft or cheque and the payment is to be made in cash.
- The quotations with mutilation or cuttings will not be accepted.
- The last date for reception of quotations is 02/05/2026 up to 1600 hrs.
- The quotations will be opened in the office chamber of undersigned on 04-05-2026 at 1100 hrs in presence of each tendered person or their authorized representatives who may like to be present. If it falls any holiday, the next working day will be the date for opening of these quotations.
- Undersigned shall reserve the right to accept or reject any quotation without assigning any reasons thereof.

No. PTWS/Accts/2026-1995-2000
Dated: 22-04-2026

DIPK-734-26
DT: 24/04/2026

(JAVID AHMAD SOFI / LINK DDO)
For Sr. Superintendent of Police,
PTWS-Srinagar.

Mandaviya inaugurates first ESIC Hospital in Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya Friday inaugurated a 30-bedded Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Hospital at Ompora, Budgam, strengthening healthcare access and social security infrastructure for workers and their families in Jammu & Kashmir.

The newly inaugurated hospital is the first ESIC hospital in Kashmir, marking a historic milestone in the expansion of worker welfare services in the region.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Mandaviya said, "A country that values the dignity of its workers is unstoppable on the path of progress." It is the workforce whose tireless effort that takes the nation forward, and the welfare of workers must therefore remain at the centre of governance, he added. "The Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is committed to ensuring dignity, security and healthcare for every worker in the country," he emphasised.



Dr. Mandaviya further said, "India's commitment to worker welfare has received global recognition. In 2025, the International Social Security Association honoured our country with the 'Excellence in Social Security' Award. Our social security coverage has risen from 19 per cent in 2015 to 64.3 per cent in 2025, as per data published by the International Labour Organisation."

Highlighting the transformative impact of the four Labour Codes that were brought into effect last year, the Union Minister said these reforms have modernised India's labour ecosystem and made it more worker-centric, transparent and future-ready. "The new Labour Codes

guarantee several long-awaited protections for workers, including annual health check-ups, mandatory appointment letters, and minimum wages. The provision for annual health checks through ESIC hospitals will allow early detection of diseases, ensure preventive healthcare for workers, and secure their future," he said.

The Minister noted that ESIC has evolved into one of the strongest pillars of worker welfare in the country since its inception in 1952. Today, the scheme provides healthcare and social security benefits to 3.84 crore insured persons and nearly 15 crore beneficiaries across India. He also noted that the convergence

of ESIC with Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana has further expanded access to cashless treatment for beneficiaries across empanelled hospitals.

As part of the event, Dr. Manuskh Mandaviya felicitated workers who had contributed towards building the hospital in Ompora, and also gave various social security benefits to Insured Persons from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Built at a cost of ₹165 crore, the hospital has been established with provision for expansion up to 100 beds and is expected to directly benefit more than 50,000 workers and their family members. The ESI Scheme was introduced in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on 16th October 1989, covering about 7,000 workers in Jammu, Kathua, and Srinagar. At present, the ESI Scheme is implemented across all districts of J&K UT serving approximately 1,83,119 insured persons and about 7,00,000 beneficiaries and is administered through the ESIC Regional Office at Jammu and the Jammu-Kashmir Employees' State Insurance Society (JKESIS).

Rana holds convention in Doda, assures swift redress of public grievances

GMK NEWS NETWORK

DODA: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Friday convened a convention during which the people apprised him the issues concerning their respective areas.

During the interactive session, the Minister engaged extensively with the general public, who raised a wide range of pressing issues and developmental concerns affecting different parts of the Chenab Valley.

The participants highlighted the grievances such as lack of compensation for the flood-affected families, drinking water shortage in Doda town, delay in regularisation and wage disbursement of daily wage workers, need for repair and desilting of irrigation khuls, delay in forest clearances for development works and slow pace of implementation of water supply schemes under the



Jal Jeevan Mission.

The participants stressed that timely intervention in these areas is essential for improving the quality of life in the district.

Responding to the concerns, Rana assured that the government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is committed towards addressing the genuine public issues with urgency and accountability. He said that all the matters raised during the convention would be taken

up for prompt and time-bound resolution in coordination with the concerned departments.

It is pertinent to mention that the Minister is currently on an extensive tour of the Chenab Valley and, as part of the outreach, will hold public meetings, interact directly with the citizens and chair the district-level review meetings to monitor the developmental works and ensure effective implementation of key government schemes.

The Minister further underscored the importance of responsive governance and said efforts are being made to bridge the developmental gaps across the regions and sub-regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

Calling upon the stakeholders to play a proactive role at the grassroots level, Rana urged them to maintain close contact with the public and act as a vital link between the government and the people.

Div Com reviews various Revenue Matters, Development Initiatives

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Friday chaired a meeting to review a range of revenue-related matters, including migrant properties, construction of houses for terror victims, digitization of land records, Digital Crop Survey, and development of urban revenue-generating assets.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, the Additional Commissioner Central, and the Officer on Special Duty to the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir.

While reviewing progress on the construction of houses for terror victims, the Divisional Commissioner directed Deputy Commissioners to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries possess the requisite



land, with a minimum of five marlas, to facilitate timely assistance.

Regarding the updation of Girdawari records of religious and heritage sites, he instructed the Deputy Commissioners to ensure that all structures of cultural and historical importance are properly documented and their

records duly updated and certified.

The Divisional Commissioner also assessed the status of migrant properties, including the quantum of land, district-wise progress in removal of encroachments, and the disposal of grievances submitted by migrants.

Reviewing progress

under the SVAMITA Scheme and Digital Crop Survey, he urged Deputy Commissioners to intensify efforts to achieve timely implementation and broader coverage.

Further, the Divisional Commissioner directed Deputy Commissioners to prepare Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) under the Urban Challenge Fund in consultation with Municipal Executive Officers to focus on the development of public utility and revenue-generating infrastructure in urban areas, including parking facilities, bus stands, and other convenience assets.

Also, he called for ensuring active participation of public representatives and citizens in the ongoing Pad Yatra organized under the Nasha Mukht Campaign, aimed at promoting a drug-free society.

Legislators, deputations call on CM Omar; highlight constituency issues



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Several legislators and deputations Friday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah here and apprised him of a range of issues concerning their respective constituencies, seeking timely intervention and resolution.

MLA Ramnagar Sunil Bharadwaj, MLA Habakadal Shamim Firdous, MLA Budhal Javid Iqbal, MLA Kokernag Zaffar Ali Khatana, MLA Thanamandi Muzaffar Iqbal Khan and former minister Yashpaul Kundal were among those who met the Chief Minister. During the interactions,

the representatives raised various development-related concerns, including augmentation of basic infrastructure, improvement in road connectivity, strengthening of healthcare and educational facilities, and addressing public service delivery issues in their areas.

They also highlighted constituency-specific demands and sought focused attention to ensure balanced and inclusive development.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the visiting legislators and deputations and assured them that all genuine concerns would be examined on priority.

Srinagar police deploy narcotic dog squad to crack down on drug trafficking

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Police in Srinagar have deployed the narcotic dog squad across multiple city locations to crack down on drug trafficking, a police official said on Friday.

During this special drive under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, trained sniffer dogs have been positioned at key checkpoints to detect concealed narcotics, identify and arrest drug peddlers, he said.

The official said deploy-

ing highly trained canines enhances on-the-spot detection capabilities and strengthens ground-level enforcement.

He said the proactive initiative is a vital component of the Srinagar police's strategy to dismantle narcotics supply networks and establish a strong deterrent against drug-related activities.

The police also continued awareness campaigns to educate the public and reinforce the collective resolve towards a drug-free society.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER GANDERBAL NOTICE

Whereas, an application for Re-registration / Transfer of Ownership has been received from Mr. GHULAM HASSAN MIR, S/O, GHULAM MOHAMMAD MIR, Resident of: H.NO 94-B G/F STREET, NO 15 NOOR NAGAR, JAMIA NAGAR, SOUTH DEHLI, N DELHI-110025 in Respect of LMV Motor CAR Bearing Reg No. DL8CAN 4618, Chassis No MAJAXXMRKAGRS54367, Engine No GR54367 in favor of: GHULAM HASSAN MIR SON OF GHULAM MOHAMMAD MIR Resident of: ALASTANG SHUHUMA GANDERBAL (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/ARTO/G/ 15
Dated: 24/4/2026

Authorized Signatory
Assistant Regional
Transport Officer, Ganderbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that Late Wahab Reshi, son of late Mohammad Ramzan, Resident of Pahloo, Braine, Nishat, the registered consumer of Electric Connection ID No. 0201020002243 now needs to be transferred to Showkat Ahmad Reshi, son of Wahab Reshi, Resident of Pahloo, Braine, Nishat being the legal heir. If any person has any objection regarding the said transfer, he/she may submit the same in writing to the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained and the transfer shall be treated as final.

Showkat Ahmad Reshi
Son of Wahab Reshi,
Resident of Pahloo, Braine, Nishat, Srinagar

Anganwadi Workers, Helpers backbone of grassroots child welfare: Sakeena Itoo

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo Friday said that Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Helpers are the backbone of grassroots child welfare and community development, adding that their role extends far beyond service delivery.

The Minister was speaking at the concluding ceremony of 8th Poshan Pakhwada celebrations held at Government Polytechnic College, Jammu.

Mission Director ICDS, Sajad Hussain Ganie; Secretary in Social Welfare department, Bashir Ahmad Khan; Director Social Welfare Jammu, Ranjeet Singh; Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar; Programme officers, CDPOs, Supervisors and large number of Anganwadi workers and Helpers were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister appreciated the dedication and tireless efforts of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers, describing them as the backbone of grassroots child welfare and nutrition services. She said



that their role extends far beyond service delivery, as they serve as the first point of contact for mothers, children and families in rural as well as urban areas.

"Anganwadi Workers are the real change-makers at the grassroots. Their commitment towards early childhood care, nutrition, pre-school education and child welfare is laying the foundation for a healthier and empowered future generation," the Minister stated.

She highlighted that ICDS sector is very big sector and more than 28,000 of our sisters work in this sector. "As far as the ICDS or social welfare sector is concerned, some other departments are connected to this sector like educa-

tion, health and others. Our Anganwadi workers and Helpers perform duties in these departments during awareness programmes or other events, apart from their parent department", she said.

The Minister stressed the need for collective efforts from all stakeholders, including families, communities, and government departments, to ensure that every child receives proper nutrition and every mother has access to essential healthcare and support. She underscored the importance of Poshan Pakhwada as a people-centric initiative focusing on combating malnutrition, improving health outcomes for women and children, and creat-

ing awareness about balanced nutrition and early childhood care.

Giving background of ICDS sector, Sakeena Itoo said that in the year 1996, the then Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah brought this project into Jammu and Kashmir and implemented it.

Sakeena Itoo stressed the importance of integrating hygiene awareness with child development initiatives and urged field functionaries to continue educating families about sanitation, nutrition and preventive healthcare. She noted that a clean environment plays a significant role in reducing disease burden and improving the quality of life for children and women.

Highlighting various achievements of the Government, the Minister said that the Government led by Omar Abdullah increased the Marriage Assistance from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 75,000, besides the qualification bar for availing the scheme has been removed.

The Minister also underlined the government's commitment towards strengthening the Anganwadi ecosystem by improving infrastructure, ensuring better service delivery and providing necessary support to frontline workers. She assured that the concerns and welfare of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers remain a priority for the government, adding that Chief Minister is very

keen about their welfare.

The Minister also announced that the department has already been asked to make a policy regarding appointment of dependents of Anganwadi workers and Helpers who die while in service.

In his welcome address, Mission Director ICDS spoke about the large scale of activities carried during the Poshan Pakhwada. He informed that around 7,32,000 events were held and uploaded on Jan Andolan portal by the department. He also expressed gratitude to Minister for increasing the Capex Budget of the department, adding that new Anganwadi centres will be made functional.

Earlier, the Social Welfare Minister also distributed appointment orders among newly recruited Anganwadi Workers and Helpers. She also distributed Vidyarambh certificates among children who completed pre-schooling at Anganwadi centres.

During the programme, Anganwadi Workers and Helpers also presented different cultural programmes highlighting importance of nutrition in children and mothers.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Workers' Welfare Key For National Progress

For years, the labour class remained neglected despite being the backbone of the country's growth. Whether in factories, construction sites, farms, or daily wage jobs, workers have always carried the burden of building the nation.

The government's focus on labour welfare, especially through the expansion of ESIC benefits, is a positive step. Increasing beneficiaries from 7 crore in 2014 to 14 crore today shows that more workers are being brought under the safety net of healthcare and social security. For poor and working-class families, medical expenses can be devastating. One serious illness can destroy years of savings and push an entire family into hardship.

That is why stronger healthcare support is not just welfare—it is protection for dignity and survival. Schemes that offer treatment support from Re 1 to Rs 1 crore can make a real difference in the lives of workers who otherwise cannot afford quality treatment.

The proposed nursing college at the ESIC Hospital is also a welcome move. It will improve healthcare services while creating education and job opportunities for young people. Skilled nursing staff are needed everywhere, and such institutions can serve both health and employment needs.

At the same time, the government's push for sports and its vision for hosting the 2036 Olympics reflects a larger goal of youth empowerment. Sports are not only about medals; they are about discipline, health, confidence, and national pride. Giving young people the right facilities can help shape a stronger future.

But the real test lies in implementation. Policies and promises must reach the ground. Workers should feel these benefits in their daily lives, not just hear about them in speeches. Hospitals must function efficiently, schemes must remain transparent, and sports opportunities must reach rural and remote areas as well.

India's future depends not only on big plans but on how it values its ordinary people. A nation becomes truly strong when its workers feel secure, its youth feel hopeful, and its development reaches every home. Labour welfare is not charity—it is the foundation of real progress.

Insurance Gap: Growth Without Protection

DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

India today ranks among the world's fastest-growing economies. High growth rates, the digital revolution, rising incomes, and a strengthening global position, all indicate that the country is progressing economically. But behind this rosy picture lies a reality that often goes unnoticed: the average Indian citizen still lacks access to the most basic means of financial security: insurance. Ironically, in a country rife with uncertainties, illness, accidents, natural disasters, job instability, insurance is still considered an "additional expense" rather than a "necessary safety net."

The state of insurance coverage in India is far from satisfactory. Both insurance density and penetration are below the global average. Rural India, which represents the bulk of the country's population, has extremely limited access to insurance. Despite some expansion of life insurance, the situation with health, crop, and property insurance remains worrisome. The question arises: why is insurance coverage not expanding in tandem with the pace of development?

The first and foremost reason for this is a lack of awareness. A large portion of the country still doesn't understand what insurance is and how it can provide security in their lives. In rural areas, insurance is often viewed as a fraud or a scam. Misinformation provided by agents, unclear policy terms, and hassles during claims create distrust among people. As a result, people choose to avoid insurance.

Another major reason is financial priorities. When a family's income is limited and meeting daily needs is challenging, insurance isn't a priority. For the average Indian, food, education, health, and housing come first; insurance comes second. This thinking isn't wrong, but it's also true that a minor accident or illness can devastate an entire family's financial situation, and this is where insurance is most needed.

The third reason is the complexity of insurance products. The products offered by insurance companies are often beyond the understanding of the average person. Lengthy terms, technical jargon, and unclear benefits, all of this combine to make insurance a "complicated" and "convoluted" product. It's difficult for the average person to understand which policy is right for



them. Agents often exploit this complexity, selling customers policies that don't meet their needs.

Additionally, the claims settlement process is a major reason for people to shy away from insurance. It's common to hear that companies reject claims citing technical reasons or prolong the process so much that customers are frustrated and give up. Such experiences spread rapidly through society, creating the impression that insurance is merely a means of collecting money, not a source of assistance in times of crisis.

The weakness of the distribution system is also a significant factor. Insurance remains largely dependent on an agent-based model, which has limited reach. Agents are scarce in rural and remote areas, and even where they exist, their priority is earning commissions, not providing sound advice to customers. The advent of digital platforms has certainly improved the situation, but due to a lack of digital literacy, its benefits are not reaching every segment.

Social and cultural factors are no less important. In Indian society, future uncertainties are often considered "God's will." Risk management thinking is still not widespread. People believe that if bad times come, they will somehow manage them, but this thinking often proves to be counterproductive.

However, in recent years, the government has launched several initiatives to promote insurance. Schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Ayushman Bharat

have attempted to bring the poor and low-income groups into the insurance market. These schemes have proven that people are willing to adopt insurance if it is affordable, simple, and accessible. However, the reach of these schemes remains limited, and more efforts are needed to bring about widespread change.

The recently passed Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025, is considered an important step in this direction. In particular, the concept of a Managing Attorney General (MGA) could open up new possibilities in the insurance sector. MGAs can work at the local level to make insurance products more relevant and accessible. This will strengthen the distribution system, spur product innovation, and make the claims settlement process more transparent. If implemented correctly, it could bring about a positive change in the insurance sector.

But policy reforms alone are not enough. The real challenge lies in implementing these reforms. This requires first establishing insurance as a "right," not a "product." Just as education and health are considered fundamental needs, insurance must also be recognized as an essential part of social security.

Awareness campaigns can play a crucial role in this direction. Promoting financial literacy in schools and colleges, providing information about insurance in simple language through the media, and conducting awareness programs at the local level are essential. Additionally, insurance products must be made simple and transparent, allowing the common person to make informed decisions without any confusion.

A large portion of the country still doesn't understand what insurance is and how it can provide security in their lives. In rural areas, insurance is often viewed as a fraud or a scam. Misinformation provided by agents, unclear policy terms, and hassles during claims create distrust among people.

Regulatory bodies also have increased responsibilities. They must ensure that insurance companies prioritize customer interests, simplify and ensure timely claims settlement processes, and take strict action against any misuse. The use of digital technology can be helpful in this regard, but it is equally important to ensure data security and privacy.

Ultimately, it's important to understand that insurance isn't just a financial product, but a social security system. It's the trust that empowers individuals to remain steadfast in the face of uncertainty. Until this trust is strengthened, the scope of insurance will remain limited.

For India, "Insurance for all, protection for all" is not just a slogan, but a necessity. If the country is to become a developed nation by 2047, every citizen must be financially secure. And this is only possible if insurance is made an essential part of the life of the average Indian. Otherwise, this race for development will remain incomplete, with glitter but no protection.

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

Change Calls Us Here

SHOBHA SHUKLA

Change calls us here to gather, strategise and shift power," so says the theme of Women Deliver Conference 2026, which is purported to be the world's largest global gathering on gender equality and the rights and health of girls, women, and gender diverse peoples this year.

Since its inception in 2007, it is for the first time that the Women Deliver Conference will be held in the Oceania or Pacific region on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples of the Kulin Nation, in Narm (Melbourne) the capital city of the state of Victoria in Australia.

"Change" is calling over 6500 participants (including advocates, policymakers, and feminist leaders) from 185 countries to Women Deliver Conference 2026 amidst rising global conflicts, climate crisis, spread of disinformation and the global backlash by conservative groups against human rights, targeting the human rights of women, girls, indigenous First Nations peoples, and peoples with diverse gender identities. The conference aims to focus on regional leadership and intersectional feminist approaches to driving change.

Power belongs to the people

For Louisa Wall, Oceania Pacific Mobilisation Advisor, Women Deliver Conference 2026, this regional hosting model marks a profound shift in global representation, signalling the fundamental principle that power belongs to the people, and not to distant institutions. It is a recognition that Pacific women, indigenous and First Nations women, must be central to shaping and guiding solutions that are centred on self-determination, and lived experiences and are accountable to those affected.

Louisa Wall is a First Nations tribal representative, former Member of Parliament of Aotearoa New Zealand, a human rights advocate, and former athlete with over two decades



of experience advancing social justice, gender equality, and LGBTQIA+ rights across Aotearoa and the Pacific.

She insists that women's leadership must be central to addressing regional and global challenges.

"Our region is on the forefront of climate change- cyclones, rising seas, and the erosion of lands and livelihoods. Pacific women also face high rates of gender-based violence and historically low political representation. Women Deliver Conference 2026 will elevate these regional feminist priorities of climate and gender justice."

It is interesting to note that Australia ranks 13 (out of 148 countries) in the global gender gap index. 44% of its Cabinet members are women. Mary-Ann Thomas, Minister for Health, Women, and Ambulance Services for the state of Victoria, shares that Victoria's Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan that was launched in 2023 has implemented gender responsive budgeting by guiding investment in workforce and education initiatives - that enable girls and women to thrive - with the goal to deliver a safe and equal society where everyone has the opportunity to realise their full potential.

Victoria is also the first state in Australia to address period poverty by ensuring that access to pads and tampons is freely available for women and girls and gender diverse people in its schools and higher educa-

tion institutes, public libraries, hospitals and railway stations.

In all states of Australia, abortion care is destigmatised and it is part of the mainstream health services with easy access to both medical and surgical abortion services. All jurisdictions have laws prohibiting anti-abortion protesters from using verbal abuse, threats, and impeding entry outside abortion clinics. Also, no parental consent is required from a minor seeking abortion services.

Victoria is also the first state in Australia to pass the State-wide Treaty Act 2025, enabling a formal Treaty with First Peoples. The agreement establishes a permanent First Peoples' Representative Body known as Gellung Warl and sets the framework for future local treaties with Traditional Owners.

We are living in difficult times

Julia Gillard, former Prime Minister of Australia (and first female PM of Australia) and the Women Deliver Ambassador, rightly laments that we are living in a world that is beset with wars and conflicts, challenged by climate change, with many nations - including those in the Pacific region - facing the brunt of climate change much more than others.

There is also a thriving global economy, which is largely stagnant in terms of growth. Australia's former PM Julia firmly believes that: "The current economic model is resulting in very unequal outcomes - there is growing poverty, while some

continue to amass unimaginable amounts of wealth. And all of that is on top of a historic pattern of wrongs and exploitation, which means many nations bear the burden of being disproportionately exploited to enrich other nations at their cost."

Another challenge Julia mentions is an 'anti-rights' and 'anti-gender' brand of politics, that is being used in many parts of the world to seek popular appeal. Also attitudes to gender equality in many countries are going backwards, particularly amongst young men. So the challenges to women's rights are being fought in many ways around the world.

We want justice

According to Dr Maliha Khan, CEO of Women Deliver, the present system that was created after the two World Wars was supposed to bring peace to the world, and bring prosperity to countries that were newly emerging from colonialism. However, that has not happened.

Maliha insists that it is high time to reimagine a new system and to remember that the states are under international obligations to meet the rights that every person has in their own personhood - be they girls, women, or gender diverse peoples.

"We want to redefine accountability. We want to have a better resourced and more locally driven, nationally centred movement, and an ecosystem that really centres around those who are most marginalised, and

those who can actually bring about the change the most within this system. It is about restructuring our resources and responsibilities so that we can deliver - not just development - but justice, because these are the rights of each individual," said Maliha.

The way forward

Julia is happy to note how Women Deliver has grown and changed from its initial inception in 2007 - from a conference centred around the vital issue of maternal mortality to the current epic scale, which is about every woman and every girl to have the ability to control their own bodies, and to be the architects of their own lives.

"To realise that broad vision, our response must be collective, coordinated, and grounded in protecting rights. We need to come together, to think through the challenges that we face, and come up with new strategies to campaign afresh to mobilise community support and find new ways of making an impact - a new narrative that can unlock waves of public support (globally and locally), for gender equality, which will build a better world for everyone," said Julia.

Louisa insists that power belongs to the people, and not to distant institutions. For Louisa, women's leadership must not be an afterthought. It must be central to solutions at every level.

She is hopeful that "Women Deliver Conference 2026 provides a historic opportunity to move power where it belongs - into the hands of communities, women, and indigenous peoples. It is a time to shift from global conversations that often remain abstract, to locally lead solutions that reflect live realities, cultural wisdom, and resilience."

We have to collaborate and support one another to demand justice, and to deliver meaningful change for women, girls, and communities across the globe.

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

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Rethinking The Rural: Tradition, Technology, And Transition



DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

Indian villages, once perceived as static and tradition-bound spaces, are undergoing a profound transformation in the twenty-first century. The idea of the Indian village as an isolated, agrarian, and self-sufficient unit is steadily giving way to a more dynamic, interconnected, and evolving reality shaped by economic reforms, technological penetration, social mobility, and global influences. While the soul of India has long been said to reside in its villages, that soul is no longer anchored in immobility; rather, it is negotiating change, adapting to new aspirations, and redefining its identity in a rapidly shifting socio-economic landscape. The changing trends in Indian villages reveal a complex interplay between continuity and change, where age-old traditions coexist with modern innovations, and where the rural is no longer sharply distinct from the urban but increasingly part of a continuum.

One of the most significant transformations in Indian villages is the shift in the economic structure. Traditionally dependent on agriculture, rural economies are now diversifying into non-farm activities. The uncertainties of monsoon, shrinking landholdings, and fluctuating crop prices have compelled villagers to seek alternative livelihoods. Small-scale industries, rural entrepreneurship, handicrafts, agro-processing units, and service sectors such as transportation, retail, and digital services are becoming increasingly prominent. Migration, both seasonal and permanent, has also played a crucial role in reshaping rural economies. Remittances sent by migrant workers contribute significantly to rural household incomes, altering consumption patterns and improving living standards. At the same time, reverse migration during crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighted the resilience and adaptability of rural communities.

Technological penetration has been a game changer in rural India. The spread of mobile phones, internet connectivity, and digital platforms has bridged the information gap between urban and rural areas. Farmers today access weather forecasts, market prices, and agricultural advice through mobile applications. Digital payments and banking services have increased financial inclusion, enabling villagers to participate in formal economic systems. Government initiatives aimed at digitization have facilitated direct benefit transfers, reducing leakages and enhancing transparency. The emergence of e-commerce platforms has also enabled rural artisans and producers to reach wider markets, thereby enhancing their income opportunities. Technology has not only improved economic prospects but also transformed communication, education, and governance in villages.

Education is another domain witnessing substantial change. While earlier generations in villages often had limited access to formal education, there is now a growing awareness of its importance as a pathway to social mobility. Government schemes, mid-day meal programs, and increased investment in rural schools have contributed to higher enrollment rates. Moreover, aspirations have shifted from basic literacy to higher education and professional careers. Many rural students now aim for careers in engineering, medicine, management, and civil services. The rise of online education platforms has further democratized access to knowledge, allowing rural students to compete with their urban counterparts. However, challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, teacher shortages, and digital divide still persist, indicating that the journey toward educational equity is ongoing.

The social fabric of Indian villages is also undergoing transformation. Traditional hierarchies based on caste and gender are being questioned and

gradually redefined. While caste continues to influence social interactions and opportunities, its rigid boundaries are loosening in many regions due to education, urban exposure, and legal frameworks promoting equality. Inter-caste interactions, increased mobility, and changing occupational patterns are contributing to a gradual erosion of caste-based segregation. Similarly, the role of women in rural society is evolving. Women are increasingly participating in economic activities, self-help groups, and local governance institutions. Microfinance initiatives and women's cooperatives have empowered rural women, enhancing their decision-making capacities and financial independence. Although patriarchal norms remain deeply rooted in many areas, the trajectory of change points toward greater gender inclusivity.

Infrastructure development has

strengthened grassroots democracy, enabling villagers to participate in decision-making processes. Increased literacy and awareness have made rural populations more politically conscious and assertive. Issues such as development, employment, education, and social justice are gaining prominence in rural political discourse. Women's reservation in local governance has further enhanced their participation in political processes, contributing to more inclusive decision-making. Environmental concerns are emerging as a critical aspect of rural transformation. Climate change, water scarcity, and land degradation pose significant challenges to rural livelihoods, particularly agriculture.

Villages are increasingly adopting sustainable practices such as organic farming, water conserva-

The villages of Kashmir, long celebrated for their serene landscapes and deeply rooted traditions, are undergoing a quiet yet profound transformation. Nestled amid mountains, rivers, and orchards, rural Kashmir once epitomized a self-contained world of subsistence agriculture, artisanal crafts, and closely knit communities. Today, however, these villages are no longer insulated from the forces of change.

Economic shifts, technological penetration, political developments, environmental pressures, and evolving aspirations are collectively reshaping the contours of village life in the region. Traditionally, agriculture formed the backbone of Kashmiri village economies. Rice cultivation, saffron farming, apple orchards, and walnut production sustained generations. In areas like Pulwama, saffron fields once defined both livelihood

tion, enabling easier access to markets, healthcare facilities, and educational institutions. Electrification and the expansion of renewable energy sources have enhanced living standards and facilitated economic activities. Housing patterns are also changing, with traditional wooden homes increasingly replaced by modern concrete structures. Tourism has emerged as a significant driver of change in certain Kashmiri villages. Areas around Gulmarg, Pahalgam, and other scenic locations are witnessing increased tourist inflow. This has created new livelihood opportunities in the form of homestays, guiding services, handicraft sales, and transportation.

Healthcare access in Kashmiri villages has improved, though disparities remain. Primary health centers, mobile medical units, and vaccination campaigns have enhanced basic healthcare services. Telemedicine is emerging as a valuable tool, especially in remote areas where access to specialized medical care is limited.

The political and security context of Kashmir has historically influenced village life, and its evolving dynamics continue to shape rural transformation. Periods of instability have impacted economic activities, education, and mobility. Environmental changes are becoming increasingly evident in Kashmiri villages. Glacial retreat, changing precipitation patterns, and deforestation are affecting water availability and agricultural productivity. Traditional knowledge systems related to weather and farming are being challenged by these shifts. Culturally, Kashmiri villages continue to preserve a rich heritage of music, cuisine, language, and festivals. However, exposure to global media and urban lifestyles is influencing cultural expressions.

Younger generations are increasingly blending traditional practices with modern trends, creating a hybrid cultural identity. Migration is another significant trend shaping rural Kashmir. Many young people move to urban centers or other parts of India in search of education and employment. This migration brings remittances that support rural households but also leads to demographic changes and the gradual aging of village populations. At the same time, some migrants return with new skills, ideas, and aspirations, contributing to local development and innovation.

In essence, the villages of Kashmir are in a state of transition, navigating a complex path between tradition and modernity. The changes are neither uniform nor linear; they vary across regions and communities, reflecting diverse experiences and challenges. While development initiatives, technological advancements, and changing aspirations are driving progress, issues such as environmental sustainability, cultural preservation, and equitable growth remain critical. The evolving story of Kashmiri villages is one of resilience and adaptation. Amidst the backdrop of breathtaking natural beauty and a complex socio-political landscape, these villages are redefining themselves. They are no longer mere relics of a pastoral past but active participants in a changing world, striving to balance their rich heritage with the demands of a modern future.

Thus Indian villages including those of Kashmir are no longer static entities frozen in time but vibrant spaces undergoing continuous transformation. The changing trends in rural India reflect a complex interplay of economic diversification, technological advancement, social change, and cultural adaptation. While significant progress has been made in improving living standards and expanding opportunities, challenges remain in ensuring inclusive and sustainable development. The future of Indian villages lies in balancing tradition with modernity, preserving cultural heritage while embracing innovation, and ensuring that the benefits of development reach all sections of society. As India continues its journey of growth and transformation, its villages will play a crucial role in shaping its social, economic, and cultural landscape, embodying both the continuity of its past and the promise of its future.

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significantly altered the physical landscape of villages. Improved road connectivity, electrification, sanitation facilities, and access to clean drinking water have enhanced the quality of life in rural areas. Government programs aimed at rural housing and sanitation have led to visible improvements in living conditions. The availability of electricity has not only facilitated domestic comfort but also enabled economic activities such as small-scale industries and digital services. Transportation networks have reduced the isolation of villages, enabling easier access to markets, healthcare, and educational institutions. These developments have contributed to narrowing the rural-urban divide, although disparities still exist across regions. Healthcare in rural India has seen both progress and challenges. Increased awareness, vaccination drives, and primary healthcare centers have improved basic health indicators.

However, the quality and accessibility of healthcare services remain uneven. Many villages still depend on nearby towns or cities for advanced medical treatment. The integration of telemedicine and mobile health units offers promising solutions, allowing rural populations to access medical advice and services remotely. Public health campaigns focusing on sanitation, nutrition, and disease prevention have also played a role in improving rural health outcomes.

Cultural life in Indian villages is experiencing both preservation and transformation. Traditional festivals, folk arts, and community practices continue to be integral to rural identity. At the same time, exposure to media, cinema, and global culture is influencing lifestyles, aspirations, and value systems. Satellite television, smartphones, and social media have brought the world into the village, reshaping perceptions and aspirations. Young villagers are increasingly influenced by urban fashion, music, and consumer culture, leading to a blending of traditional and modern elements. This cultural hybridization reflects the dynamic nature of rural society, where change does not necessarily imply the loss of identity but rather its adaptation.

Political awareness and participation in rural India have also evolved. Panchayati Raj institutions have

and renewable energy solutions. Awareness of environmental issues is growing, although the balance between development and sustainability remains a complex challenge. Community-based initiatives and government programs aimed at environmental conservation are playing a crucial role in addressing these concerns.

However, the quality and accessibility of healthcare services remain uneven. Many villages still depend on nearby towns or cities for advanced medical treatment. The integration of telemedicine and mobile health units offers promising solutions, allowing rural populations to access medical advice and services remotely.

Despite these positive changes, rural India continues to face significant challenges. Poverty, unemployment, inadequate infrastructure, and social inequalities persist in many regions. The benefits of development are not evenly distributed, leading to disparities between different states, districts, and communities. Migration, while offering economic opportunities, also creates social disruptions and challenges related to urban integration. The digital divide, although narrowing, still excludes certain sections of the rural population from accessing the full benefits of technological advancements.

and identity, while Shopian became synonymous with apple production. However, the agricultural sector is now undergoing diversification and commercialization.

Farmers are adopting high-density plantation techniques, improved irrigation systems, and modern fertilizers to enhance productivity. There is also a gradual shift toward horticulture and floriculture, driven by better market linkages and export opportunities. Yet, climate change, erratic snowfall, and declining soil fertility pose significant challenges, compelling villagers to rethink traditional agricultural practices.

One of the most visible changes in Kashmiri villages is the increasing penetration of technology. The spread of smartphones and internet connectivity, even in remote areas, has altered communication patterns and access to information. Young villagers are now connected to global networks, accessing educational content, job opportunities, and social media platforms. Digital platforms have enabled artisans to showcase traditional crafts such as pashmina weaving and papier-mâché to wider markets, thus preserving heritage while ensuring economic viability.

Government initiatives aimed at digital governance have also streamlined access to welfare schemes, banking services, and documentation processes, reducing bureaucratic hurdles. Education has emerged as a powerful catalyst for change in rural Kashmir. There is a growing emphasis on formal education, with increasing enrollment in schools and colleges. Villages that once had limited access to educational institutions are now witnessing the establishment of new schools and improved infrastructure. Many students aspire to pursue higher education in cities like Srinagar or even outside the region.

The social structure of Kashmiri villages is also evolving. While traditional norms and community bonds remain strong, there is a noticeable shift in attitudes, particularly among the younger generation. Gender roles are gradually changing, with more women participating in education, entrepreneurship, and public life.

Infrastructure development has played a crucial role in transforming village life in Kashmir. Improved road connectivity has reduced isola-

...Nasha Mukta Abhiyan

Civil Society, Officials, Youth Come Together for Drug-Free Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A one-day awareness programme on Nasha Mukta Abhiyan was successfully organized by the Ahsan Foundation J&K in collaboration with the Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department, District Srinagar, under the flagship Jammu & Kashmir Climate Investment Programme (JKCIP).

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 150 youth, including both male and female participants from various areas, reflecting strong community engagement against the growing menace of drug abuse.

Dr. Malik Sajad, Sub Divisional Officer, Department of Agriculture, Srinagar, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. In his address, he emphasized the urgent need for collective efforts to eradicate drug addiction and encouraged young people to adopt healthy and productive lifestyles.

Dr. Sameena Jan, Zonal Medical Officer, Batamalo, attended as Guest of Honour and highlighted the severe health consequences



of substance abuse, stressing the importance of awareness and early prevention.

Mr. Sajad Hussain, Chairman of the National Institute of Medical Sciences, Lawaypora, welcomed the dignitaries and participants, appreciating the initiative taken for social betterment. Mr. Mehraj Faraz, Chief Patron of Nida-i-Kashmir, spoke on the growing concern of drug abuse

in society and called for unified action.

Civil society members, including Molvi Hatam Ali and Haji Abdul Khaliq Ahanger, also addressed the gathering, sharing valuable insights and emphasizing moral and social responsibility in combating the menace.

Among other notable attendees were Ms. Gulnaz Shah (AEO, Qamarwari Block, Department

of Agriculture), Ms. Farhat Nazir (Circle Officer, Lawaypora, Department of Agriculture), and Mr. Mohammed Saleem (Administrator, National Institute of Medical Sciences, Lawaypora).

Mr. Rahi Riyaz Ahmed, Chairman of Ahsan Foundation J&K and Divisional Warden, Civil Defence Srinagar, briefed the participants about the objectives of the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan and

highlighted the role of community participation in achieving a drug-free society.

The programme concluded with a rally from the National Institute of Medical Sciences to Main Chowk, Lawaypora, Srinagar, aimed at spreading awareness among the general public about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of a drug-free society.

Javid Dar attends North Zone Agriculture Ministers' Conference in Lucknow

GMK NEWS NETWORK

LUCKNOW: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar Friday attended the North Zone Agriculture Ministers' Conference held in Lucknow.

The conference was chaired by Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shivraj Singh Chouhan and was attended by Agriculture Ministers from various North Zone states.

During the conference, the Javid Dar presented the remarkable progress and transformation achieved in the agriculture and horticulture sectors of Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted key initiatives undertaken by the government to boost productivity, enhance farmer income

and promote sustainable agricultural practices across the Union Territory.

Javid Dar emphasized the need for strengthening market linkages to ensure better price realization for farmers. He also underlined the importance of adopting sustainable and climate-resilient farming practices to secure long-term growth in the sector.

The Minister further shared policy suggestions aimed at farmer empowerment, including improved access to modern technology, infrastructure development and enhanced support mechanisms for growers and farming communities.

The conference served as a significant platform for deliberations on region-specific challenges and collaborative strategies to further strengthen the agriculture sector across North India.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Drug Abuse Eroding

and several drug smugglers were arrested. He said narcotics valued at nearly Rs. 3 crore have been seized and about Rs. One crore worth of movable and immovable properties were attached.

"Properties of drug smugglers have been demolished. 187 driving licenses and four vehicle registrations have also been cancelled. Financial investigations have been initiated against 48 drug peddlers. Drug and chemist shops have been inspected, and 15 drug store licenses have been cancelled. Drug users have been referred to de addiction and rehabilitation centres and Counselling has also been extended to drug users," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also observed that 1,947 women committees have been established across districts in the Jammu division since the beginning of the campaign on 11th April and with the support of mothers and sisters, this cancer in society will be cured.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said that over two dozen drug traffickers have already been identified and they will be tracked down and held accountable. He said in the Jammu division, thousands of peddlers remain under surveillance, and each one will be relentlessly pursued until they are apprehended and brought into custody.

"Security checks have been stepped up around schools, colleges, and other vulnerable areas. I want to make it absolutely clear that those who engage in the grave crime of poisoning the future of our youth through drug trafficking will face the harshest consequences under the law," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also drew attention of police and all enforcement agencies to the fact that drug traffickers and terrorists operate hand in hand and they should be treated as allies in crime.

"Our response should be decisive, thorough, and unyielding. Every route drug smuggler exploit should be watched, every financial chain should be dismantled, and every asset stripped away until their networks are completely destroyed," the Lieutenant Governor observed.

The Lieutenant Governor said that for over a decade, Jammu Kashmir has carried the heavy silence surrounding the menace of drug abuse and this historic people's movement was launched to shatter that silence.

"With collective strength we must raise society's voice against the scourge of narcotics. Drugs are a wound in the heart of our society. To heal this wound, we require a people's movement that mobilises the full strength of society to eradicate drugs at their roots. The 'Nasha Mukta J&K' campaign also serves to remind us that among the strongest pillars of society are the rule of law, constitutional values, the ethic of duty, and a spirit of Jan Bhagidari," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the NGOs, social workers and spiritual leaders to join the campaign in large number in cities and villages.

"Social organizations, spiritual leaders, and educators are the frontline guardians of this mission. I firmly believe that through their leadership, hope can be rekindled and society renewed. The full strength of the government and the community stands beside them," the Lieutenant Governor said.

LG Chairs J&K

Commissioner Secretary; Higher Education Department; Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; Prof. Nilofer Khan, VC Kashmir University; Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, VC, IUST; Shri Pragati Kumar, VC SMVDU; Prof. BN Tripathi, VC SKUAST Jammu; Prof. A. Ravinder Nath, VC Central University of Kashmir; Prof. Sanjeev Jain, VC Central University of Jammu; Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, VC BGSBU; Prof. Mohammad Mobin, VC Cluster University Srinagar; Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director IIT Jammu; Prof. Kavi Arya from IIT Bombay; Ms. Shobha Bagai, Director, Cluster Innovation Centre Delhi University and other members.

The Council, under the leadership of the Lieutenant Governor, deliberated on comprehensive strategies aimed at driving the holistic transformation of the education sector across the Union Territory.

The key agendas included implementation of the 'Design Your Degree' (DYD) program and the adoption of its official manual across universities, integration of IT and Artificial Intelligence into the curriculum, strategies to promote entrepreneurship, knowledge-based skills and develop human capital for Viksit Bharat.

The Lieutenant Governor directed for the effective, on-ground implementation of 'Design Your Degree', skill development, Artificial intelligence and other innovative programmes and initiatives across higher educational institutions. He also called for seamless synergy between Central and Union Territory educational institutions to drive a holistic transformation of the education sector.

"We must establish benchmarks aligned with both national and international standards, ensuring that Jammu Kashmir's education sector stands as a model of excellence in the country," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairman, JKHEC emphasized that the core mission must remain the realization of human potential, ensuring that higher education directly fosters societal service and enhances student productivity.

The Council also deliberated on setting up a regular mechanism to ensure cooperation and collaboration between various institutions of Jammu & Kashmir for engendering of Joint Degree Programmes and a common technology-based platform for sharing of practices, ideas and programmes of various institutions; increasing the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), special initiatives such as 'The Riverine College' and the AI Competition, JKHEC budget utilization for 2025-26 and budget allocations for 2026-27.

Vice Chancellors and members of the Council shared their insights on the way forward for the DYD program and further interventions in higher education with the implementation of NEP 2020.

Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, Director of Colleges, J&K; Dr Seema Naz, Nodal Principal, Government College of Education; Dr Ravinder Kumar Tickoo, Principal, GCW Parade Jammu also attended the meeting.

Cloudy Weather,

data released by the department showed that most parts of Kashmir recorded above-normal day temperatures. Srinagar recorded a maximum of 28.1°C, 6.1 degrees above normal, and a minimum of 13.0°C. Qazigund registered a high of 27.2°C, while Pahalgam settled at 25.0°C and Kupwara at 25.4°C.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 18.6°C, while Kokernag saw 26.6°C. Night temperatures also remained above normal, with Gulmarg recording a minimum of 8.0°C and Pahalgam 6.8°C.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum of 39.3°C, nearly five degrees above normal, while the minimum settled at 22.8°C. Katra recorded 36.0°C, Banihal 29.0°C, and Batote 29.2°C.

The MeT department said hot and dry weather is likely to persist in Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Reasi and Udhampur districts over the next four days, with heatwave conditions expected at isolated places on April 24.

The department has advised farmers to suspend farm operations on April 24 and 25 due to the possibility of gusty winds and thunder-showers.

It also urged people to avoid heat exposure during peak hours and to stay hydrated by consuming adequate fluids—(KNO)

Govt Begins Exercise Of

applications submitted by sponsoring bodies seeking to establish private universities.

The law further stipulates that a sponsoring body can set up a private university only if it has been registered for at least three years, has education as its primary objective, possesses

sound finances, maintains clean credentials, and holds lawful possession of adequate land and facilities—(KNO)

All-Weather Direct

have been shielded with stainless steel covers to prevent damage.

The Vande Bharat train will operate at a speed of up to 160 kmph and is equipped with modern passenger amenities, including fully air-conditioned coaches, automatic doors, LED lighting, CCTV surveillance and an energy-efficient regenerative braking system.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal said, "The operation of this specialised Vande Bharat in the Jammu & Kashmir region fulfils a long-standing demand of both passengers and local residents."

"Our objective is not merely to provide faster travel, but also to ensure all-weather connectivity—even amidst the biting cold of the Valley. This train will serve as a strong and reliable bridge connecting devotees travelling to Vaishno Devi with the Kashmir Valley, while simultaneously boosting tourism in the region," Singhal added—(KNO)

Raghav Chadha,

said, "The AAP, which I nurtured with my blood and sweat and gave 15 years of my youth to, has completely strayed from its principles, values and core morals. Now this party does not work in the interest of the nation but for its personal benefits."

"For the past few years, I could feel that I am the right man in the wrong party. Today, I announce my decision to move away from AAP and work more closely with the public," he added.

Swati Maliwal also announced her decision to quit AAP, alleged that the party under Kejriwal had strayed from its founding principles and shielded individuals involved in misconduct.

In a post on social media on X (formerly Twitter), Maliwal said she had chosen the path of national and public service in 2006. She said, "From the RTI movement and the Anna movement to the formation of the Aam Aadmi Party and my eight years of dedicated service at the Delhi Commission for Women, I contributed with absolute honesty and devotion at every stage."

"With great sorrow today, I must say that the principles, values and resolve for honest politics with which we began this journey have been abandoned by Arvind Kejriwal ji and, at his behest, the entire Aam Aadmi Party," she added.

Recalling the incident which had taken place at Kejriwal's official residence, Maliwal further alleged that she was subjected to "severe physical assault and gross misconduct" on his instructions and claimed that attempts were made to shield the accused.

She also accused the party leadership of allowing "rampant corruption", promoting "criminal elements" and failing to address issues related to harassment and violence against women.

The announcement follows weeks of visible tensions between Chadha and the party leadership. Earlier this month, AAP removed Chadha from the post of deputy leader in the Rajya Sabha and reportedly requested that he not be allotted speaking time in the House. Ashok Mittal was subsequently appointed as the new deputy leader in his place.

Fresh Custodian Land Scam

displaced persons on the basis of fake orders, who were otherwise not entitled for the allotment of additional land through fraudulent means by the land grabbers / Form Alaf holders in connivance with the officers / officials of Revenue department and others."

"Accordingly, 24 case FIRs were registered by the ACB in which the investigation is still in progress. Again, during the course of verification it has been found that displaced persons of Pakistan (PAK / POK Refugees)

were already allotted land in their favour but even then kith and kin of these families although not entitled being Form Alaf holders in connivance with the concerned Patwaris / Girdawars / Naib Tehsildars / Tehsildars of Revenue Department got mutations of additional land at R.S. Pura and Domana area of District Jammu attested in their favour either without any Govt. / Provisional Rehabilitation Office (PRO) order or on fake Govt. / PRO order," said the spokesperson.

He said, during verification it has also been found that no such orders of allotment of land were issued by the office of the PRO. These persons after getting mutation of lands in their favour alienated the said land directly or through their attorney holders / conduits to various persons by resorting to fraudulent means, thereby causing a huge loss to the Govt. Exchequer.

"Owing to the establishment of, prima facie, nexus of the criminal elements/land grabbers/ Form Alaf holders and the Revenue officers/officials in alienation of about 20 kanals 09 Marlas of Custodian land through fraudulent means, ACB has now registered another 03 formal case FIRs in P/S ACB Central J&K for in-depth investigation under the provisions of J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, criminal conspiracy, cheating, forgery and fraud against the accused persons namely (1) Waryam Singh S/O Sh. Shalo Ram R/O Village Kotli Bhagwan Singh (Kuttu Chack) Tehsil R.S. Pura District Jammu then Patwari, (2) Balak Ram S/O Late Sh. Buti Ram R/O Village Tootray Tehsil R.S. Pura, Jammu then Naib Tehsildar, (3) Mohan Singh S/O Sh. Bhagwan Singh R/O Nanak Nagar Jammu, (4) Prem Singh S/O Sh. Churu Ram R/O Baggan Tehsil Bilawar, Kathua, then Patwari, (5) Bharat Bushan Mehra S/O Harbans Lal R/O Mamka, R.S. Pura, Jammu, (6) Rahul Kai S/O Late Sh. Deep Raj R/O H. NO. 39, New Company Bagh Canal Road, Jammu, then Patwari, (7) Saqib Saleem S/O Sh. Saleem Ahmed R/O 54 Majheer Thana Mandi Rajouri then Tahsildar, (8) Sat Pal S/O Sh. Nanak Chand R/O Gadi Garh, Jammu and others."

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West has declared war on Russia: Sergey Lavrov

IAN S

MOSCOW: With the help of Ukraine, Western countries have declared war on Russia, stated Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Friday.

Lavrov made these comments during a meeting with representatives of Russian non-governmental organisations.

"Open war has been declared against us. The Kyiv regime is being used as a 'spearhead'. But everyone knows that this 'spearhead' is helpless without the material support of Western weapons, intelligence data, satellite systems, assistance in training military personnel, and much more," Lavrov noted.

Lavrov also said that someone from the Belgian General Staff publicly declared that they are preparing for war with Russia,



and Ukraine is helping them buy time.

During his remarks at the reception marking Orthodox Easter on April 22, he stated that Satanism is currently "flourishing" in the West and Ukraine, and that European countries support Kyiv's "legalised sacrilege".

"For over 10 years, the persecution of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church

from Europe. And they are now doing everything they can to ensure that Ukraine becomes the trigger for this global threat," he noted on April 18 at the Antalya Diplomatic Forum.

On Thursday, the European Union finalised a €90 billion loan to Ukraine. Of this, €30 billion will be channelled to macroeconomic support for Ukraine, and €60 billion will be invested in defence industrial capacities, including the procurement of defence products.

European Council President Antonio Costa wrote on X that "Europe stands firm, united and unwavering in its support to Ukraine", while announcing the loan.

He also mentioned that the council adopted the 20th package of sanctions against Russia, reducing its ability to wage war.

Anti-Narcotics drive intensified across Bandipora

Two Drug Peddlers arrested, over 680 Grams of Charas seized

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: In a significant stride against the menace of drug trafficking, police teams in Bandipora district arrested two individuals on Thursday and recovered a substantial quantity of charas-like substance from their possession during routine Naka checking operations.

During Naka checking near Tengpora Nesbal crossing, a pedestrian identified as Ishaq Ahmad Bhat S/o Gh. Rasool Bhat of Safapora, Barkati Mohalla, who was proceeding from Naninara towards Sumbal, was stopped for routine checking. Upon search, a charas-like substance weighing approximately 570 grams, concealed in a blue-coloured polythene bag, was recovered from his possession. Accordingly, Case FIR No. 80/2026 U/S 8/20 NDPS Act stands registered at the concerned Police Station.

In a separate simultaneous operation near Gundi Dachina crossing, another

pedestrian identified as Manzoor Ahmad Khan S/o Gh. Mohd. Khan of Chatibandi, proceeding from Nadihal towards Gund Dachina, was similarly apprehended. A solid charas-like substance weighing 110 grams was recovered from his possession, leading to registration of Case FIR No. 24/2026 U/S 8/20 NDPS Act at the concerned Police Station.

The Administration has reiterated its unwavering commitment to eradicating the menace of drugs from the district. These arrests are part of the intensified crackdown being carried out under the 100-Day Mission Mode Campaign of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, and citizens should expect this heightened pace of anti-narcotics action to continue and intensify in the days ahead.

People are urged to actively support these efforts by reporting suspicious activity to the nearest police station or through available helpline numbers.

JP Nadda rejects Kharge's fertiliser shortage claim, says stocks adequate and supply stable

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Union Minister J.P. Nadda on Friday dismissed Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's remarks on fertiliser shortage as "politically motivated", asserting that there is no crisis and that farmers are being misled.

Taking to X, the Union Minister wrote, "The Leader of Opposition (Rajya Sabha) Mallikarjun Kharge's statement on fertiliser shortage is a politically motivated attempt to mislead farmers and manufacture panic where none exists".

"It is unfortunate that the Congress continues to treat our 'annadatas' as a vote bank, peddling misinformation instead of standing with them in good faith. The facts speak for themselves. The Modi government has always stood firmly with our farmers. The availability of fertilisers has consistently outpaced requirement across the country," Nadda said.

He said Indian farmers continue to receive fertilisers at highly subsidised rates despite global price

pressures. "While a bag of urea costs over Rs 4,000 internationally, our farmers receive it for just Rs 266.5. Similarly, since the Covid period, a bag of DAP is available to farmers at Rs 1,350, while global prices are over Rs 4,000," he said.

Nadda said it was "hard to believe" that Kharge could be so "misinformed", adding that such statements could also reflect the influence of those around him.

He further stated that fertiliser stock positions are stronger compared to last year, claiming that DAP stocks are higher by over 50 per cent, NPK stocks have increased by around 30 per cent, and urea availability remains stable.

The Union minister said he has personally spoken to Chief Ministers and Agriculture Ministers of major states to ensure smooth availability and added that the Centre is in constant coordination with state authorities to act against hoarding, diversion, black marketing, and attempts to create panic.

As HM Shah stressed, it is indeed 'late realisation' by Rahul to criticise Trinamool rule in Bengal

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday described Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's recent criticism of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) government in West Bengal as a "late realisation", reacting to the Congress leader's remarks on the party's role in the BJP's rise in the state.

"It has been realised very late," HM Shah told IANS in Kolkata, responding to Rahul Gandhi's video message on social media platform X.

In the 106-second video clip posted on Thursday, Gandhi criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) policies and governance and urged voters in West Bengal to support the Congress.

"If Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had run a clean government and had not polarised Bengal, then the BJP would not have got a chance," he said.

The political context of Congress-Trinamool relations in West Bengal has evolved significantly over the years. It was the Congress that supported the Trinamool Congress in its rise to power in 2011. However, relations

between the two parties have since fluctuated amid shifting alliances and electoral strategies.

In 2024, the Congress removed state committee President Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, known for his vocal criticism of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

He stepped down as Pradesh Congress chief

Leader of Opposition. He was among the leaders in West Bengal who pushed for an alliance with the Left Front, once a principal rival, to challenge the Trinamool Congress.

The Congress and the Left Front contested the 2016 and 2021 Assembly elections together but failed to dislodge the Tri-

ple Front in the 2011 West Bengal Assembly elections, ending the Left Front's uninterrupted 34-year rule.

However, the Congress and Trinamool later parted ways in 2013, after which the Congress aligned with the Left Front in the state.

In the 2021 Assembly elections, both the Congress and the Left failed to secure any seats, marking a significant decline in their electoral presence.

Following setbacks in both the Assembly elections and the 2024 Lok Sabha polls -- where the Congress won only one seat in Malda out of 42 in West Bengal -- the party underwent leadership changes in the state unit. Subhanakar Sarkar, considered a relatively moderate face, replaced Chowdhury.

His tenure saw the Congress distancing itself from renewed alliance efforts with the Communist Party of India (Marxist), leading to a multi-cornered contest in the state. This fragmentation of opposition votes altered the electoral dynamics, indirectly impacting the balance between the BJP and the Trinamool Congress.



after losing the Baharampur Lok Sabha constituency, which he had represented five consecutive times between 1999 and 2019.

Chowdhury had also served as the Congress leader in the 17th Lok Sabha, though the party did not have the numbers required for him to be recognised as the official

namool Congress, which retained power with a stronger mandate.

Historically, the Trinamool Congress had earlier withdrawn from the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in 2006 after electoral setbacks. In 2009, it allied with the Congress for the Lok Sabha elections after the Left Front with-

Shopian admin holds mock drill to enhance disaster preparedness

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: In a concerted effort to strengthen disaster preparedness and emergency response systems, the District Administration Shopian, under the aegis of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), successfully conducted a comprehensive Civil Defence Air Raid Mock Drill.

The mock drill commenced at Government Degree College Shopian, designated as the primary site for the simulated air raid scenario.

The operation witnessed coordinated participation of Civil Defence personnel, SDRF, Jammu & Kashmir Police, Fire & Emergency Services, Health Department, and trained volunteers.

Key components of the exercise included activation of early warning systems through sirens and public address mechanisms, evacuation drills, emergency first aid response, and coordinated movement of rescue teams



and vehicles.

The rescue and search phase was executed through a structured multi-team mechanism involving specialized units.

The AST Party conducted sweeps for detection of potential threats, while search teams assessed the area for hazardous materi-

als. The cordon and control team secured the site, and the instruments party carried out debris clearance and victim rescue operations.

The tagging team, assisted by medical personnel, conducted triage of victims based on severity, while the lifting and stretcher teams ensured safe evacuation

and transportation of the injured. A final assessment team also carried out a comprehensive survey of the affected area and documented the response.

The operation was conducted under the supervision of Incident Commander, Lateef Ahmad (ASI SDRF), with overall guidance and coordination by DySP, Tanveer Ahmad, (Nodal Officer SDRF).

The District Administration reiterated that such exercises are part of routine preparedness initiatives aimed at strengthening coordinated response mechanisms and enhancing community resilience in the face of emergencies.

Among others present were Additional District Development Commissioner Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, Principal GDC Shopian, Prof. Tariq Hussain Mir, DySP Headquarter, Intiyaz Ahmad Mir, DYSSO Shopian, Sunail Kumar, Tehsildar Shopian, Anjum Bashir Khan, BDOs, and other district officers.

DC Baramulla chairs Meeting on Census Preparations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, S.F. Hamid, who is also the Chairman of the District Census Committee, Friday chaired a meeting of officers associated with the upcoming Census exercise scheduled to commence from May 17.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of

the preparedness for the Census was undertaken, with a special focus on the training being imparted to the manpower deployed for the exercise. The Deputy Commissioner expressed satisfaction over the quality and progress of the training programmes being conducted across the district.

Emphasising the importance of meticulous plan-

ning and execution, S.F. Hamid directed all concerned officers to ensure that every aspect of training and other preparatory measures is completed strictly within the stipulated timelines. He stressed that the success of the Census exercise depends on coordinated efforts, accuracy, and adherence to guidelines.

The meeting was attend-

ed by senior officers and officials involved in the Census operations, who apprised the chair about the ongoing preparations and logistics arrangements.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated the administration's commitment to conduct the Census exercise in a smooth, efficient, and transparent manner.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR U.T
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JS (PHE) RURAL WATER SUPPLY DIVISION, GANDERBAL/SGR.
 H.Q: CHEKI-DUDERHAMA GANDERBAL.
 e-mail: phe-rwsgbl@jk.gov.in | Phone: 0194 - 2416292

NOTICE INVITING E - TENDERS:
GIST OF SHORT TERM E-NIT No: 03 / JS-PHE/RWSD/ Civil of 2026-27

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir U.T, Short Term e - tenders are invited (in TWO - Cover System) on "Percentage basis" from Registered / Approved / Valid Civil Contractors / Agencies (of specified class as shown against each (in Table I) for the following work(s):

Table (I) Detailed Scope of work(s)

S. No	Name of work (s)	Estt. /Advt. Cost of work(s) (₹ in Lacs)	Amount of earnest money/EMD (@ 3% (In ₹))	Cost of tender doc. (In ₹)	Time for completion	Class of contractor	Major Head of account	Tender Call
1	Construction of 30000 gallons capacity SSF Plant with PST and 15000 gallons capacity RCC Service Reservoir at Pony Yard for Shri Amamath ji Yatra	44.89	134700.00	1800.00	180 Days	AAV & BEE	(SANJY 2026-27)	2 nd
2	Loading, unloading and stacking of materials received by Divisional Store Jal Shakti (PHE) R.W.S. Division Ganderbal for the financial year 2026-27	9.00	27000.00	700.00	360 days	CEE & DEE	M&R	1 st
3	Carriage of chemicals i.e. Ferric Alum, Bleaching powder & other items from Divisional store at Ganderbal upto various filtration plants/sites of various WSS's under the jurisdiction of R.W.S. Sub-Division Ganderbal for the year 2026-27	7.00	21000.00	500.00	360 days	CEE & DEE	M&R	1 st
4	Carriage of chemicals i.e. Ferric Alum, Bleaching powder & other items from Divisional store at Ganderbal upto various filtration plants / sites of various WSS's under the jurisdiction of R.W.S. Sub-Division Srinagar for the year 2026-27.	5.00	15000.00	300.00	360 days	CEE & DEE	M&R	1 st
5	Carriage of chemicals i.e. Ferric Alum, Bleaching powder & other items from Divisional store at Ganderbal upto various filtration plants / sites of various WSS's under the jurisdiction of R.W.S. Sub-Division Kangan for the year 2026-27.	5.00	15000.00	300.00	360 days	CEE & DEE	M&R	1 st
6	Improvement of drinking water supply in Syed Pora Bala Phase-Ist from H/O Ali Mohammad Reshi to H/O Mohammad Shaban and Improvements of drinking water supply in Syed Pora Bala Phase-IInd from H/O Rahim Reshi to H/O Hassan Reshi under CDF (incl. Providing / procurement of pipe material).	1.74	5250.00	200.00	30 days	DEE	CDF Grants	1 st
7	Improvement of drinking water supply upto H/O Ghulam Mohammad Beigh for WSS Mullaq under CDF Grants (incl. Providing / procurement of pipe material)	0.436	1310.00	100.00	20 Days	DEE	CDF Grants	2 nd

Position of Funds: - Demanded
 Position of AA: - Accorded
 Position of Technical Sanction (s): - Sanctioned/Under Process
 The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Book of quantities (B.O.Q.) and Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in>
 From 23.04.2026 (10.00 AM) UPTO 29.04.2026 (upto 03:00 P.M.)
 As per schedule of dates given below

TABLE (II)

01	Date of publishing of Tender Notice	23.04.2026
02	Period of downloading of bidding documents	23.04.2026 from 10.00 AM 29.04.2026 upto 03:00 PM
03	Bid Submission Start Date	23.04.2026 from 10.00 PM
04	Bid submission End Date	29.04.2026 upto 03.00 PM
05	Date and time of opening of Bids (Online)	30.04.2026 at 11:30 AM

Bids must be accompanied by bid security viz: Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and Document fee in shape of TR/e-challan/e-transfer/screen shot (mentioning therein the NIT No., S.No. of work and Advertised Cost as per the e-NIT) & cost of Tender Document under M.H 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer JS-PHE RWS Division Ganderbal / Sgr (H.Q. Cheki Duderhama Ganderbal) I (as specified in the table (I) (above) & all other requisite documents mentioned in the Uploaded SBD of the work(s). Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) RWS Division Ganderbal/Sgr (Hq. Cheki Duderhama Ganderbal) on 30.04.2026 at 11:30 AM. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue:

No. - JS-PHE/ RWSD/ Corrs. / 806 - 830
 Dated: - 22.04.2026
 DIPK-732-26
 DT: 24/04/2026

Sd/-
 (Er. Fayaz Ahmad Bhat)
 Executive Engineer JS-PHE
 RWSD Ganderbal/Sgr

IPL 2026: 'I visualise these situations,' says Jadeja on his fighting knock vs LSG

IAN S

JAIPUR: Rajasthan Royals all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja credited his mental preparation and ability to visualise pressure scenarios for his match-winning performance in RR's 40-run victory over Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 clash at the Ekana Stadium in Lucknow on Wednesday.

"I had a magic wand in my pocket. As soon as I put my hand in it, I felt something. Why did you move ahead in such a team? I have played in such a situation for so many years. My batting has never been in such a situation in my entire career. I have played in such a situation very rarely. I have got used to this thing," Jadeja said in a video released by Rajasthan Royals on Friday.

In a low-scoring encounter, Jadeja's unbeaten 43 off 29 balls lifted Rajasthan Royals to 159/6, with a crucial late flourish alongside Shubham Dubey. His late assault, including a 20-run final over, proved decisive on a tricky surface.

Reflecting on his mindset, Jadeja emphasised the importance of mental rehearsal. "This thing keeps running in my mind. This situation can also come in a T20 game. If the wicket fell 3-4, then I would



have to go and handle the batting. I visualise this and see myself in the same situation. I get a lot of help in this. I keep thinking about that situation. I get a lot of benefit from it," he said.

Defending 159, which is the lowest total successfully defended this season, RR's bowlers produced a clinical effort to bundle out LSG for just 119 in 18 overs. Jofra Archer starred with 3-20, while Nandre Burger and Brijesh Sharma picked up two wickets each as LSG slumped to their fourth straight loss despite Mitchell Marsh's fighting 55.

Jadeja noted that the pitch conditions played a significant role in shaping his approach with both bat

and ball. "Wicket was not that easy. Personally, I felt that it was not a typical T20 wicket. There were some fast bowlers on the wicket. There was a seam. There was a swing, too. It was not that easy to hit a shot in the T20 format in today's wicket."

Jadeja, who also took one crucial wicket, explained his bowling strategy, where he mixed his pace effectively to trouble the LSG batters.

"When I came to bowl, I felt that I could use the pace of the ball. My plan succeeded. When I was batting, I felt that the ball was not coming well on the bat. It was getting stuck. There

was a little grip," he said.

"I thought that I would not bowl fast. I will bowl and mix. There was a lefty and a righty playing in front of me. It is not easy to bowl against them. But I backed my strength. I thought that batsmen would also think that it is not that easy to hit a big shot. I kept that in mind and executed the same plan," he added.

Meanwhile, with this win, the Rajasthan Royals are placed at number 2 in the points table with five wins in seven matches. They will next face Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) at their home ground, Sawai Mansingh Stadium, on Saturday.

Satish Sharma Meets Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya in Srinagar

Pushes for Strengthening Sports Ecosystem in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma Friday held a detailed meeting with Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, on the sidelines of the upcoming Chintan Shivir being hosted in Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, the Minister warmly welcomed the visiting dignitaries and extended his appreciation for their presence in Jammu and Kashmir for the important deliberations aimed at strengthening the sports landscape across the country.

During the meeting, Satish Sharma discussed in detail a comprehensive roadmap for giving a



significant fillip to sports development in Jammu and Kashmir, with particular emphasis on expanding outreach to border and far-flung areas. He underscored that youth residing in remote and underserved regions possess immense untapped potential, which can be channelized effectively through targeted interventions and improved access to sports infrastructure.

The Minister highlight-

have access to quality training and facilities.

Satish Sharma also sought liberal financial assistance from the Government of India for upgrading existing sports infrastructure and establishing modern, state-of-the-art facilities across Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized the importance of developing multipurpose indoor stadiums, playfields, and high-performance training centres equipped with advanced coaching support and sports science facilities.

The discussions further focused on enhancing collaboration between the Union Ministry and the Jammu and Kashmir Government in organizing national-level sporting events in Jammu and Kashmir, which would not only provide exposure to local talent but also position the region as a prominent sporting destination.

YSS J&K's Friendly Night Match: Youth Score Against Drugs Under Floodlights

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: It wasn't just a football match. It was a statement. Under the floodlights of Parade Ground Jammu, the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports J&K organised a friendly football night match as part of the UT administration's 100-day intensive campaign across the Union Territory to make Jammu & Kashmir "Nasha Mukta" (drug-free).

The idea was simple: give

The event was kicked off by Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, alongside Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Rakesh Minhas. The dignitaries were received by Director General YSS, Anuradha Gupta. Others who were present in the event included Vinakshi Koul, Joint Director YSS Jammu, Megha Boagia, Deputy Director (Planning/Activity) and Sunil Kotwal Accounts Officer of the Department.



young people a stage where winning means more than just a scoreboard.

Two local clubs Warrior Club and Spartan Club faced off in what turned out to be a competitive, clean game. Warrior Club edged past Spartan Club with a 2-0 finish, but on a night like this, the result felt secondary to the reason everyone had gathered.

Director General YSS, delivered an impressive welcome address, setting a reflective tone for the evening.

Before sharing his insightful speech, Divisional Commissioner led a pledge ceremony. "This campaign is not just about awareness. It's about action. Games like these reclaim young lives," he said, as players stood listening under the lights.

David Williamson is conducting a special goalkeeping camp for Indian women's hockey team



IAN S

BENGALURU: Hockey India on Friday announced that a special goalkeeping camp for the Indian women's hockey team is currently being held from April 22 to May 2 at the SAI, Bengaluru.

The camp is conducted by David Williamson and overseen by the team's chief coach, Sjoerd Marjine. Savita, Bansari Solanki, Bichu Devi Kharibam, and Madhuri Kindo are part of this special camp, which aims to further strengthen India's goalkeeping unit ahead of a crucial international calendar.

The camp is supported by Anandana, the Coca-Cola India Foundation, as they continue to contribute toward the development of women's hockey in India. They also supported the recently con-

cluded 16th Hockey India Sub Junior Women's National Championship 2026.

David Williamson is a highly experienced hockey coach from Northern Ireland who has been part of the US women's national team coaching staff for a significant period. He also served as an assistant coach for Odisha Warriors in the Women's Hockey India League (HIL) in 2025, bringing extensive international experience in goalkeeping development.

Sjoerd Marjine, Chief Coach of the Indian women's hockey team, stated, "The goalkeepers did really well during the recent Argentina tour, showing strong performances against quality opposition. With crucial tournaments coming up from June onwards, this is a great time to have a focused training camp like this."

Formula 1 returns to Turkiye's Istanbul Park from 2027 as part of a new five-year agreement

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Formula 1 on Friday announced that the Turkish Grand Prix will return to the FIA Formula One World Championship from 2027, with Istanbul Park confirmed on the calendar through the 2031 season following a new agreement with Turkiye's Ministry of Youth and Sports.

The Turkish Automobile Sports Federation (TOSFED) will be Formula 1's delivery partner for future events. The Turkish Grand Prix was last staged in 2020 and 2021 when




Sir Lewis Hamilton secured his seventh Drivers' Championship in 2020 - equalling Michael Schumacher's all-time record.

Istanbul Park first joined the Formula 1 calendar in 2005 and quickly earned a reputation as one of the championship's most technically demanding tracks. The 5.33-kilometre layout features dramatic elevation changes that challenge both driver skill and car performance. The multi-apex turn 8 is an incredible test of driver precision and commitment, challenging their ability to maintain speed and balance through its long, sweeping left-hander.

The most recent winner at Istanbul Park was Valtteri Bottas in 2021 with Mercedes,

who, alongside Sir Lewis Hamilton, is one of only two current drivers to have won the Turkish Grand Prix.

Turkiye has hosted nine Grands Prix and is a venue loved by teams, drivers, and fans alike, with the circuit producing competitive racing throughout the field. Brazilian driver Felipe Massa holds the record for the most victories at Istanbul Park, taking three consecutive wins between 2006 and 2008 while driving for Ferrari, and other drivers, including Kimi Raikkonen, Sebastian Vettel, and Jenson Button, have also triumphed at the circuit.



سنگرد اور تحال

مہمطفہ حسین انصاری

مولانا

۲۱ مارچ ۱۹۳۵ء - ۱۲ اپریل ۲۰۰۶ء

مولانا مصطفیٰ حسین انصاری کی تربیت پندرہ سالہ ہاشمی زندگی، علم و فکر کی ایک مسلسل جدوجہد سے عمارت تھی۔ ایسی جدوجہد جو ان کے بیان اور قلم دونوں میں یکساں طور پر جھلکتی تھی۔ انہوں نے اپنی خدا اور روحانی بصیرت سے منبر و محراب کو دو تار بننا اور اپنے شہ و مبلغ اسلوب تحریر کے ذریعے اعلیٰ کشمیری علمی روایت کو نئی توانائی عطا کی۔ ان کی چھوٹی مہم تھی کہ آج بھی دل و دماغ کو جلا بخشی ہے اور آئندہ نسلوں کے لیے سرچشمہ بن جائے۔

ایک صاحبِ علم و نظر عالم کی حیثیت سے، مولانا ہمیشہ فکر سلیم اور عقلی بصیرت پر زور دیتے رہے۔ وہ جہالت کے اندھیروں کو دور کرنے اور معاشرے میں مثبت تبدیلی لانے کے لیے شعور و تدبیر کو ناز کرتے تھے۔ ان کی بڑی بصیرت نے انہیں شہرہ آفاق کوئٹہ کی پبلسٹیوں کو بہتر طور پر سمجھنے میں مدد دی۔ اپنے عہد کے ان افراد کے برعکس جو محض جذباتی اپیل پر اکتفا کرتے تھے، مولانا ہمیشہ دلیل، حکمت اور توازن کی راہ اختیار کی۔

آج اگرچہ وہ ہمارے درمیان موجود نہیں، مگر ان کی یاد ان کا علم اور ان کا انداز فکر زندہ ہے۔ اہل علم اور سچ کے ستارے انہیں ہمیشہ عقیدت اور محبت سے یاد کرتے رہیں گے۔

ان کے ۷۰ ویں یومِ وفات کے موقع پر ایک مجلس ترحیم منعقد کی جا رہی ہے۔

مقام: آستان عالیہ بامزار | بروز اتوار، ۲۶ اپریل ۲۰۲۶ء
مجلس نمازِ نظرین کے ساتھ ہی شروع ہوگی۔ تمام سوئمن سے شرکت کی مودبانہ گزارش ہے

ذاکرین کرام - ذاکر سید سمیع اللہ جلالی | ذاکر محمد عباس پنڈت | ذاکر سید روح اللہ کاظمی | ذاکر سید مشتاق موسوی
موقعہ حسنہ - مولانا سہرورد عباس انصاری

Movie Watchlist

Saturday 25th April



Dhurandhar: The Revenge (A)
Hindi - 11:05 AM, 06:15 PM



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



LEE CRONIN'S THE MUMMY (A)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
07:05 PM



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



MICHAEL (U/A 13+)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
01:45 PM, 04:25 PM



