

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Lok Bhavan Jammu & Kashmir
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Kashmiri Pandit community endured genocide and was uprooted from their ancestral soil. They left behind all material possessions, carrying only light of culture, tradition, faith, education and language. More than two decades later, in 2011, Ramesh Hangloo transformed it into a beacon of hope and unity through Radio Sharda, connecting Kashmiri Pandits across the world to their roots: Lieutenant Governor

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'Duniya Ka Swarg' Chouhan Launches PMGSY-IV Batch-II, Announces 8,000 Crore Push For J&K

CM Thanks For The Package, Assures Swift Implementation Of PMGSY Works



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Calling Jammu and Kashmir as 'duniya ka swarg (paradise on earth)' Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development Shrivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday announced Rs 8,000 crore rural push for the Union Territory.

Chouhan, launched PMGSY-IV (Batch-II), announcing a wide-ranging rural transformation plan for the Union Territory.

Addressing the gathering at SKICC here, the Union Minister opened up his speech in a familiar tone saying: "Mama ka sabko namaskar aur pranam," setting an informal and personal connection with the audience.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah while addressing the launch event of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

(PMGSY)-IV, Batch-II at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), marking a significant step towards strengthening rural connectivity and infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme was formally launched by Union Minister for Rural Development, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shrivraj Singh Chouhan.

In presence of massive gathering at SKICC, Unions Minister Shrivraj Singh Chouhan handed over the PMGSY-IV (Batch II) package worth 3,566 crore to the Chief Minister.

The package will connect 363 habitations through 330 roads, covering approximately 1,600 Kms, significantly boosting last-mile connectivity and promoting inclusive development

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister •P-06

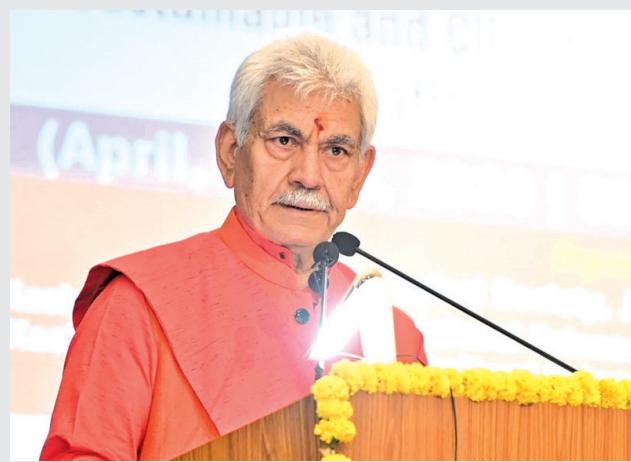
Farmers Custodians Of Tradition, Culture, Food Security: LG Sinha

Calls Upon Scientists, Innovators To Embrace Bold, Science-Led Transformation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Terming farmers as custodians of tradition, culture and food security, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that every farmer deserves real-time climate guidance and every field must be treated as a national asset.

"The moment has come to move beyond minor adjustments and embrace bold, science-led, farmer-focused transformation. Policies must champion climate-resilient crops. We must close the divide between laboratory and farmland and researchers should make the creation of climate-adapted varieties their highest priority," the Lieutenant Governor said Tuesday while attending the National Summit on "Sustainable & Climate Resilient Agroecosystems: Innovations and Policy Framework" at SKUAST Jammu. He urged the scientists, innovators and other stakeholders to come together to build climate resilience and transform



sustainable Agro-ecosystems.

He said that our farms are the bedrock of civilization, the backbone of economies, and the promise of tomorrow.

"Every policy, every intervention must respect that our fields and farmers have carried humanity through centuries of turmoil. Now the threat of climate change reaches far beyond the farmer's field and it imperils every life sustained by Agriculture and Allied Sector. The

urgency of this crisis leaves no room for delay," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India leads the fight and in 2024-25, agriculture production hit 357 million tonnes, up 25 million from 2023-24, with horticulture at 362 million tonnes, including high-value crop diversification

"Ahead of others, •P-06

Successive Generations Of KPs Endured Profound Hardships Beyond Genocide: LG
GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, Tuesday launched the book 'The Waves of Resilience, Story of Radio Sharda' edited by Shri Ramesh Hangloo, the founder of Radio Sharda. The book is a collection of articles written by common listeners, literateurs and renowned personalities from Kashmiri Pandit Community and highlights the impact of Radio Sharda on the socio-cultural activities of the community.

The Lieutenant Governor commended Shri Ramesh Hangloo and his team for preserving rich culture and values.

"Kashmiri Pandit community endured genocide and was uprooted from their ancestral soil. They left behind all material possessions, carrying only light of culture, tradition, faith, education, and language. More than two decades later, in 2011, Ramesh Hangloo transformed it into a beacon of hope and unity through Radio Sharda, •P-06

MeT Predicts Rain, Hailstorm, Gusty Winds Across J&K



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday forecast generally cloudy weather with spells of light rain and thundershowers across Jammu and Kashmir over the next two days, accompanied by gusty winds and possible hailstorms at isolated places.

According to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, many places are likely to witness intermittent rain and thundershowers on April 28-29, particularly during the afternoon and evening hours. Hailstorms are also expected at a few locations.

The weather is expected to improve slightly on April 30 with partly cloudy skies and brief spells of light rain at isolated places. From May 1-2, conditions are likely to remain largely dry, although brief showers cannot be ruled out.

However, another spell of generally cloudy weather with light rain and thundershowers is forecast between •P-06

J&K's Fruit Cultivation Area, Output See Sharp Rise: NITI Aayog

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The "Roadmap for Horticulture Development in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir @ 2047" released by NITI Aayog highlights significant growth in the sector, with the area under fruit cultivation expanding from 1.31 lakh hectares in 1980 to 3.44 lakh hectares in 2022, and production rising from 5.6 lakh tonnes to 27.22 lakh tonnes.

Jammu and Kashmir, known as the "Land of Fruits", benefits from favourable agro-climatic conditions that support a wide range of horticultural crops. The sector provides livelihoods to around 3.5 million people and contributes 6-7% to the UT's GDP, with an annual turnover of about 10,000 crore, according to the report accessed.

Apple remains the dominant crop, accounting for nearly 50% of the area and over 77% of production, with the highest yield among fruits. Among dry



fruits, walnuts lead, covering about 93% of the area and contributing around 12% to total production.

Jammu and Kashmir has been designated as an export zone for apple and walnut crops and is a leading producer of apples, cherries, walnuts, and almonds in India. The region is also known for high-quality honey, kala zeera, and saffron.

District-wise mapping of horticulture crops shows apples and walnuts as dominant, widely •P-06

LG Saxena Appoints DCs, SPs For 5 New Ladakh Districts

'Remaining Posts Of Subordinate Officials To Be Filled On Priority'

RAJA SYED RATHER

LEH: Just a day after the formation of five new districts in Ladakh, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Monday approved the appointment of Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Superintendents of Police (SPs) for all five newly created districts - Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zaskar, and Drass - to ensure immediate operationalisation of governance structures.

The Lieutenant Governor, exhorted the newly appointed officials to take charge without any delay and work with full vigour and dedication to fulfil the aspirations of the people.

Saxena said the remaining posts of subordinate officials will



also be filled on priority, apart from fulfilling logistical requirements, to ensure smooth and effective functioning. "A robust administrative framework is being put in place to support long-term governance and development goals," he said, adding that decentralised governance will significantly improve service

delivery, enhance administrative efficiency, and strengthen law and order at the grassroots level.

In Changthang district, headquartered at Nyoma, Nitish Rajoria (IAS) has been appointed as Deputy Commissioner, while SZ Abbas Jaffari (JKPS) has been posted as Superintendent of Police.

In Nubra district, •P-06

Union Minister Goyal Felicitates J&K Ranji Team

Hails GI Willow Bat As Global Identity Of Craftsmanship



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Dedicating World Intellectual Property Day to the intersection of sports, innovation and youth opportunity, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal on Tuesday announced a major policy push aimed at strengthening India's sports innovation ecosystem, while placing special emphasis on Jammu and Kashmir's emerging sporting and craftsmanship identity.

Addressing the event themed IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate! in New Delhi,

Goyal, announced that all intellectual property registrations related to sports, including trademarks, copyrights, patents, designs, traditional knowledge and geographical indications will be exempt from fees for three years with immediate effect.

He said the move is a "special drive" to accelerate innovation in the sports sector and directed that an official notification be issued without delay.

The minister also said the government will extend facilitation support under existing schemes to assist •P-06

SCO Meet: Rajnath Singh Cites Op Sindoor To Warn Against State-Sponsored Terrorism

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Operation Sindoor demonstrated India's firm resolve that "terror epicentres" are no longer immune to "justifiable punishment", Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday, in remarks widely seen as a warning to Pakistan over cross-border terrorism.

In an address at a conclave of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Bishkek, Singh also called on the influential grouping to not lose sight of "state-sponsored" cross-border terrorism and that there should not be any place for any "double standards" in combating the menace.

Delving into ongoing conflicts and geopolitical



upheavals, Singh said that the "real test of power" is not in using it against the poor and the weak, but to use it in the interest of those who are unable to defend themselves.

There is a need to focus on global consensus where "co-existence, co-habitation and compassion take precedence over chaos, competition and conflict", he said.

The defence minister emphasised that the SCO should not hesitate in seeking appropriate action against those who "abet, shelter and provide safe havens" to terrorists.

"We must not lose sight of state-sponsored cross-border terrorism which attacks the very sovereignty of a nation state. There is no place for any double standards and

SCO should not hesitate in seeking appropriate action against those who abet, shelter and provide safe havens to terrorists," he said.

Singh strongly pitched for a unified front to tackle the "evils" of terrorism, separatism and extremism.

"By tackling terrorism, separatism, and extremism without exception, we (can) transform regional security from a challenge into a cornerstone for peace and prosperity," he said in presence of defence ministers from China, Russia and other member states of the grouping.

The defence minister described terrorism as the "most serious threat" to the emerging world order and noted that counter-terror cooperation has been •P-06

Gurez, Wular To Get Eco-Tourism Boost: CCF Kashmir

SAJID RAINA

BANDIPORA: Gurez valley, Wular Lake and Chitternar in north Kashmir's Bandipora district will see expanded eco-tourism infrastructure as part of efforts to promote sustainable tourism, Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) Kashmir Irfan Rasool Wani said on Tuesday.

Wani, who visited the Forest Training School at Chitternar, said the Forest Department is focusing on developing eco-tourism sites across the district while ensuring conservation of forest resources and biodiversity.

"Bandipora has immense potential for eco-tourism given its rich forests and natural landscapes. Gurez is being actively promoted, and camping sites have already been established there," he said, adding that Haba Khatoon Park in Gurez is being developed and is expected to be inaugurated soon.

The CCF, said the department is creating facilities such as viewpoints and resting points •P-06

Hydel Power Generation Of J&K Sees A Steep 16% Decline

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: From 17,489 Million Units (MUs) in 2020-21 to just 14,660 MUs in 2025-26, Jammu and Kashmir in nearly past five years has recorded a decline in hydel power generation by over 16 percent—reflecting an average annual fall of nearly 3-5 percent.

The official figures available revealing the power generation of J&K in MUs from 2020-21 to January 2026 states that there has been a power generation fall by 16.18 percent.

The figures reveal that in the year 2020-21, J&K had generated a total of 17,489.83 MUs of power followed by 17,170.62 MUs in the year 2022-23.

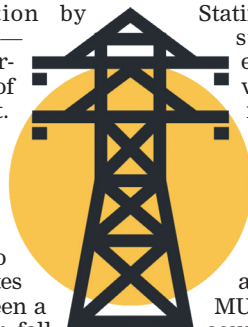
It also said that during the year 2023-24, Jammu and Kashmir was able to gener-

ate only 16,282.93 MUs of energy followed by 15,595.82 MUs in 2024-25.

The figures further states that in the year 2025-2026: upto January-2026, J&K had generated only 14,659.92 MUs of power.

Stating the source and state wise generation data from various sources including thermal, hydro, nuclear and renewable energy for 2025-26 (upto January, 2026), the official figures reveal that a total of 14,659.92 MUs from renewable sources were generated by J&K including 375.01 MUs by the small hydro projects and 14,284.91 MUs from large hydro projects.

As already reported by KNO, Jammu and Kashmir has indicated that a power load requirement of up to 7 Gigawatts (GWs) •P-06



DC Budgam, SSP chair 46th NCORD Meeting

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The 46th District-Level NCORD (Narco Coordination) Committee meeting was held Tuesday at the DC Office Budgam under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan.

SSP Budgam, Hariprasad KK was also present during the meeting.

At the outset, the committee reviewed action taken on previous NCORD decisions. The meeting reviewed ongoing anti-drug measures and charted a strengthened roadmap for a drug-free Budgam.

The DC stressed that drug abuse is not merely a law enforcement issue but a grave social challenge impacting families and communities. He underscored that the administration will remain firm and uncompromising against peddlers, traffickers, and cultivators, while extending full support, treatment, and rehabilitation to victims of addiction.

On the occasion, the DC directed all line departments to intensify efforts against narcotics cultivation and peddling. He emphasised ensuring that roadsides, embankments, and other vulnerable areas remain free from cannabis and poppy cultivation through coordinated



The DC reiterated that 100% CCTV coverage and Computerised Billing Systems (CBS) must be ensured in all chemist shops, with regular inspections and strict action against violations.

The DC reiterated that 100% CCTV coverage and Computerised Billing Systems (CBS) must be ensured in all chemist shops, with regular inspections and strict action against violations. The Drug Inspector was directed to ensure availability of CCTV footage and billing records, while the Excise Department was asked to work in close coordination with Police, Revenue, and Agriculture departments for destruction of illicit crops and registration of FIRs.

To strengthen community participation, SDMs were directed to engage religious scholars and local stakeholders to promote anti-drug messaging and "Nasha-Mukt Panchayats." The Rural Development Department will organise special Gram Sabhas, while the District Social

Welfare Office will conduct mega IEC campaigns across villages, towns, and educational institutions.

On the healthcare front, the DC directed that the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at District Hospital Budgam remain fully functional round-the-clock and that the Drug De-Addiction Centre be strengthened for effective patient intake and rehabilitation.

He also instructed all Government Degree Colleges to install CCTV cameras within campuses to enhance preventive vigilance.

Reviewing the progress of the 100-day Intensive Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, the DC stressed the need to scale up ground-level impact. He called for intensified IEC campaigns, wider youth engagement, and measurable outcomes in terms of counselling,

treatment, and community mobilisation. "The campaign must translate into visible behavioural change and community ownership. Every stakeholder must contribute to making Budgam truly drug-free," he asserted.

Reiterating a zero-tolerance policy against drugs, the DC stated that the administration will continue decisive action against drug networks while ensuring a compassionate, rehabilitative approach for those affected.

During the meeting, SSP Budgam emphasised installation of CCTV cameras at identified hotspots including Nasrullapora, Chadoora, and Magam. He called for stronger inter-departmental coordination and focused counselling and rehabilitation of victims at the Drug De-Addiction Centre. He stressed that drug addicts should be treated as victims and supported in overcoming addiction through sustained care and guidance.

The meeting was attended by ADC Budgam, all SDMs, ACP, CMO, DIO, DSWO, Medical Superintendent DH Budgam, Principals of Government Degree Colleges, Executive Officers of Municipal Committees, Principals of Higher Secondary Schools, ZEOs, and other concerned officers.

NMBA@100 Ganderbal unrolls Mat against Drugs by convening Mass Yoga session

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: District Administration Ganderbal Tuesday organised a large-scale yoga session at the DC Office Lawns, bringing together students, government employees, and residents in a united stand against drug abuse.

The event was presided over by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ganderbal, Syed Faheem Bihagi, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Principal, Government College of Physical Education; Deputy Superintendent of Police Hqrs; and other officers and officials at the Mini-Secretariat Lawns, with parallel sessions held simultaneously across schools, colleges, and public spaces throughout the district.

The initiative is part of the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan (NMBA@100), a structured 100 day campaign being implemented under the vision of the Honorable Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir to make the Union Territory drug-free. Ganderbal's administration has drawn up a dedicated 100-day district calendar anchoring health awareness at the centre of this mission.



On the occasion, trained yoga instructors led the participants through a series of structured yoga sessions, guiding them step by step through postures and breathing exercises aimed at promoting physical fitness and mental calm.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC said that yoga activity has dual impact as it builds physical resilience while also strengthening mental well-being, both of which are recognised as key protective factors against substance dependency. He said the administration believes that nurturing healthy daily habits, particularly among young people, is among the most sustainable ways to keep communities drug-free.

"Today's yoga drive, however, is only one com-

ponent of a broader and coordinated district-wide effort.

On the enforcement front, authorities are carrying out sustained action against drug peddlers and supply networks operating across the district. Alongside this, the administration is running sports competitions, public awareness marches, and door-to-door outreach campaigns to engage communities directly," Bihagi said.

He added that schools and colleges are also at the heart of this effort, with targeted educational programmes designed to reach young people before substance abuse takes hold. Taken together, these measures are driving home a single, clear message "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life" into every household

across Ganderbal.

The administration has set a clear and time-bound target to declare Ganderbal a drug-free district within the 100-day campaign window. Officials have emphasised that achieving this goal calls for participation from every section of society viz. families, teachers, religious leaders, youth groups, and local institutions alike and that the momentum built so far is a strong foundation for the days ahead.

"Physical wellness and community solidarity are our strongest tools in this fight. When people are healthy, engaged, and connected, they are far less vulnerable to the trap of substance abuse. We invite every citizen of Ganderbal to be an active part of this mission," the ADC added.

DLSA Srinagar conducts Awareness Drives on ADR



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar through its para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) Tuesday organized Awareness Programmes at Legal Literacy Clubs, Legal Aid Clinics and Local Areas of Srinagar on the Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) and the upcoming National Lok Adalat to be held on 9th May 2026 under the guidance of Haq Nawaz Zargar, Chairman DLSA (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Srinagar and overall supervision of Secretary DLSA, Srinagar.

The programmes were aimed at spreading awareness about Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms and the significance of Lok Adalat as an effective means for resolving disputes in a

speedy, cost-effective, and amicable manner. The PLVs sensitised the participants about the benefits of settling cases through Lok Adalats, including reduced litigation costs, expeditious disposal of cases, and preservation of relationships.

During the sessions, the PLVs interacted with members of the public, distributed informational material, and addressed queries regarding legal rights and remedies available under the legal services framework. Emphasis was laid on encouraging people to opt for ADR mechanisms to avoid lengthy court procedures.

The initiative witnessed active participation from local residents, students, and members of the community, reflecting a growing interest in alternative modes of dispute resolution.

GCOE Srinagar holds Awareness Drive to combat Substance Abuse



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: College Well-being and Anti-Substance Cell of Government College of Education (GCOE), M.A. Road, Srinagar, organised an awareness programme at its auditorium in collaboration with the Nodal Principal, Kashmir Division Colleges, and the District Administration Srinagar.

The programme was held under the theme "From Awareness to Action: Combating Substance Abuse with Community and Police Support," with the objective of sensitising students and the wider community about the harmful effects of substance abuse and the need for collective action.

Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz, Nodal Principal, Kashmir Division Colleges, served as the patron of the event. Umar Shah, SP Headquarters Srinagar, and Syed Sleet Shah, DySP Headquarters Srinagar, were the key speakers.

Among others who addressed the gathering were Prof. Lateef Shah and Syed Bilquees Alsam Shah. The speakers underscored the vital role of community participation and coordinated efforts with law enforcement agencies in tackling the growing menace of substance abuse.

The event saw active participation from students, faculty members, and officials, reflecting a shared commitment towards building a drug-free society.

ACS Tourism visits Budgam; flags off 'Run for Nasha Mukht JK'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The district administration Budgam Tuesday organized a comprehensive programme under the 100 day Jammu and Kashmir Nasha Mukht Abhiyan at Sheikh-ul-Alam Degree College, Budgam, aimed at strengthening the public awareness and collective action against drug abuse.

The programme was graced by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Tourism, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma, who is also the district mentor for Budgam. The event commenced with the flag-off of the "Run for Nasha Mukht JK", symbolizing a united pledge towards a drug-free society. This was followed by a plantation drive, reinforcing the message of sustainable and healthy living.

A signature campaign witnessed enthusiastic participation of the students and stakeholders, highlighting community commitment to the cause.

In his keynote address, Dr. Verma lauded the district administration and participating institutions for their proactive role in implementing the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan.

The ACS stressed the



need for sustained awareness campaigns, community participation and institutional accountability in curbing the drug abuse. He directed all the departments to adopt a mission-mode approach, ensure regular outreach in educational institutions and strengthen the counselling and rehabilitation mechanisms. He further emphasized the importance of youth engagement through sports, culture and skill-based initiatives to channel their energies positively.

Dr. Verma also underscored the need for inter-departmental coordination, strict enforcement against drug peddling and enhanced vigilance at vulnerable points. He called for leveraging local leadership, including Panchayati Raj Institutions and civil society, to amplify the impact of the campaign.

Deputy Commissioner Budgam Athar Aamir Khan in his remarks, reiterated the district administration's commitment towards making Budgam a drug-free district through coordinated efforts. He highlighted that a multi-pronged strategy involving awareness, enforcement and rehabilitation is being actively pursued.

Senior Superintendent of Police Budgam Hariprasad KK and Principal Degree college Dr. Amin also spoke on the occasion. The programme concluded with the administration of a pledge against drug abuse by the chief guest, followed by a vote of thanks.

Others present were PO ICDS, CHO, district officers, students, NSS volunteers, NCC cadets and local citizens.

Central Kashmir Excise Range destroys Poppy cultivation at multiple locations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Central Kashmir Excise Range intensified its crackdown against the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops (Poppy) under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan.

During the drive, illegal poppy cultivation was destroyed at multiple locations viz. Khaspiora, Teh. Khansahib, Dooru Reshpora, Teh. Khansahib, Alamdar Colony Phase-II Teh. Chari Sharief and Koreg, Teh. Tulmulla Ganderbal, across the Srinagar-Budgam-Ganderbal Excise Range in collaboration with Police, Revenue and Agriculture Department.

The FIR was lodged under the relevant sections of NDPS Act at the concerned Police Stations. All legal formalities including seizure, sampling and destruction were reportedly completed on spot.

The enforcement action exemplifies the commitment of the Excise Department to curbing illegal activities and upholding the rule of law under the supervision of the Excise Commissioner and the Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive), Kashmir.

DJMC IUST holds academic outreach program at Amar Singh College

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As part of its ongoing Academic Outreach Initiative, the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication (DJMC), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), visited Amar Singh College here on Tuesday.

The programme aimed to generate awareness about the scope of media studies and saw enthusiastic participation from the media students of the college. It served as an engaging platform where faculty members, research scholars and students from DJMC interacted with the college students.



remarks, Dr. Rabia Noor, Head, DJMC IUST, gave an overview of the department and its course curriculum. "The beauty of our Master's programme is the specialisation that is offered in different areas of media. Students are taught basics of all the subjects in first two semesters, and then they are provided with an opportunity

to excel in one of them," she said.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal, Amar Singh College, Prof. Aijaz Ahmad Hakak, said, such interactions are a must for students to shape their career, as these are aware about the career opportunities they have. He also praised IUST for its vibrant academic activities.

Dr. Haifaa Mohammad, Assistant Professor, DJMC, held an interaction session with students and explained as to how pursuing a post-graduate degree can help them get better career opportunities and a competitive edge. She also conducted an interactive activity, called "Viral in 60 Seconds," where students came up with different creative media ideas.

Through a series of insightful discussions and interactive sessions, the faculty and technical staff shared first-hand experiences, practical knowledge and career guidance across key domains, such as journalism, photography, digital content creation and so on.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sheikh Javeed Bashir, Belt No. 3555/S, Rank: Sgct, hereby inform the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded in my service records as Sheikh Javid Bashir. That my correct and actual name is Sheikh Javeed Bashir. Henceforth, I shall be known and recognized by my correct name Sheikh Javeed Bashir for all official and legal purposes. If anybody has any objection in this regard, he/she may file the same before the concerned authority within the stipulated period from the date of publication of this notice.

Sheikh Javeed Bashir
Belt No. 3555/S | Rank: Sgct

OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR TANGMARG (EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS)

NOTICE FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

It is hereby notified that the applicant Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, S/o Gh Mohammad Bhat, R/o Sami Wani Chandil, has applied for the issuance of Birth Certificate of his son, namely Zaid Bin Zahoor. The applicant intends to register the Date of Birth of his son as per the hospital/school/other record, which is 06-04-2022. If anybody is having any objection/claim regarding the same, he/she may approach the office of the undersigned within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice, or else any such claim/objection shall not be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
Tangmarg

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER GANDERBAL NOTICE

Whereas, an application for Re-registration/Transfer of Ownership has been received from Mr. MONIRUZZAMAN MOLLA, Son of S MOLLA, Resident of: DAKSHIN PURBA PINARA NORTH TWENTY FOUR PARGANAS, WEST BENGAL 743425 in Respect of LMV MOTOR CAR Bearing Reg No. WB06L6934 Chassis No MAJAXMRKAFD17347 Engine No. FD17347 In favour of: SYED IMTIYAZ AHMAD SHAH Son of: NOOR MOHD SHAH Resident of: BABA WAYIL GANDERBAL JK 191201 (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 writing and shall be submitted within the aforesaid period.

No. JK/ARTOG/0045/MVD/GBL
Dated: 09.04.26
Authorized Signatory
Assistant Regional Transport Officer
Ganderbal

CORRECTION

I have changed my father's name from (Old name). AB. MAJID RATHER to (New name) ABDUL MAJID RATHER. In future my father', will be known as (New Name) ABDUL MAJID RATHER. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

Div Com, IGP Jammu review arrangements for Amarnath Yatra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Jammu Bhim Sen Tuti Tuesday reviewed the arrangements for Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2026 here at a high level meeting.

The meeting was attended by IG CRPF, IG BSE, IGP Traffic, Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs of Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Reasi and Ramban, Director Information, Director Tourism, Transport Commissioner, HODs and officers from Rural Sanitation, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, JKRTC, PWD, Jal Shakti, JPDCL, Fire and Emergency Services, NHAI, BSNL, Airtel, JIO, RTO Jammu, Deputy Controller Food Safety Jammu.

The Divisional Commissioner reviewed the action plan for setting up of registration counter in Jammu and RFID centres at

Lakhanpur, Bhagwati Nagar and other Lodgment centres from where the pilgrims can get their e-KYC done before departing for the Holy Pilgrimage from Bhagwati Nagar Yatra Camp.

It was informed that this year Token Centres for on-the-spot/Tatkal registration shall be set up at the Tawi River Front relieving the pilgrims from large queues and traffic issues near Railway Station.

The Divisional Commissioner directed for ensuring proper arrangements of Drinking water, Langar facility and Sanitation at the venue of Token Center.

Reviewing the arrangements for Base camp at Bhagwati Nagar, the Divisional Commissioner directed the stakeholder departments for timely starting and completion of all the works. It was informed that tenders have been floated for repair and renovation works at Bhagwati Nagar- the Base Camp from where the yatra convoy leaves under proper secu-



city and regulation for Pahalgam and Baltal Base camps.

The Divisional Commissioner directed for ensuring all the works are completed by June 10, 20226, including the facelift, Whitewash, establishment of stalls for Bus ticket booking, Langar setup, Cloak room facili-

ties along with proper arrangements for accommodation, washroom, power and lighting arrangements inside and outside the Bhagwati Nagar camp.

Directions were also issued for setting up of convenience store by the Cooperative Department inside the Bhagwati Nagar camp,

provision of prepaid sims and installation of German hangars for pilgrims.

Threadbare discussion was held on other aspects of the arrangements for smooth conduct of the holy pilgrimage from the Bhagwati Nagar. The Divisional Commissioner directed

the Fire and emergency Services for conducting a thorough audit of fire safety. PWD was directed to take up blacktopping of roads inside and around Bhagwati Nagar camp. PDD was asked for proper illumination along with provision of backup generator sets for uninterrupted power supply.

The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the arrangements to be ensured in Lodgment centres in districts falling on the Yatra route -Kathua, Samba, Udhampur and Ramban. The Deputy Commissioners were directed to review the provision of civic amenities and other facilities in the lodgment centres falling in their respective districts, including power, water, langar and CCTV cameras.

IGP Jammu reviewed the arrangements for deployment of security forces. He emphasized on proper illumination at each lodgment

centre and adherence to yatra cut off timings.

Transport department was asked to ensure enforcement measures to check overcharging by public transport operators, while ferrying the pilgrims in Jammu city.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the JKRTC to keep provision of busses for sightseeing and visit of pilgrims to the tourist destinations around Jammu city.

Director Food, Civil Supplies was asked to ensure availability of LPG and other commodities for Langars, while Deputy Controller Food Safety was instructed for proper checking of Langar sites.

The Divisional Commissioner further directed all the departments for appointing a nodal officer who shall be available in the Control Room that will be setup at Bhagwati Nagar Base camp for smooth operations of all the works.

Rana reviews flood relief, traffic management, EMRS functioning in Poonch

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the flood relief efforts, traffic management, soil conservation initiatives and key development measures in Poonch district.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner, Ashok Sharma and senior district officers from the concerned departments through video conferencing.

Reviewing the status of relief structures for the flood-affected families in Kalaban, Sarhuti and Sangiote, the Minister expressed concern over delays and directed the officials to speed up the process without further lapse.

Reiterating the government's commitment, Rana said that relief must reach



every affected household and no one should be left behind. The government is fully committed to provide relief to every affected family, he added.

Highlighting the need for long-term resilience, he stressed the sustainable rehabilitation measures, including soil conservation, slope stabilisation, drainage improvement and plantation drives. He directed that these initiatives be carried out in convergence mode with the Forest Department to

ensure optimal utilisation of resources.

Taking serious notice of traffic congestion caused by improper parking in Mendhar and other areas, the Minister instructed the administration to take immediate corrective steps. He emphasised the regulation of heavy vehicle movement, directing that proper timing schedules be enforced to avoid disruption to school buses and emergency services, including ambulances.

The Minister also direct-

ed the officials to involve elected representatives in the planning and implementation of development programmes. He stressed that public representatives play a vital role in reflecting grassroots concerns and should be kept informed and consulted at every stage.

Rana reviewed the functioning of the Eklavya Model Residential School, directing that all pending construction works be completed within stipulated timelines. He assessed key aspects such as manpower availability, water supply reliability and infrastructure upgrades, including improvements to the dining hall and hostel facilities for the boys and girls.

He instructed the officials to address all the pending issues on priority to enhance the overall living and learning environment for the students.

'In-depth investigations led to admin declaring Jamia Siraj-ul-Uloom as unlawful entity'

Div Com issued notice to management, allowed it full, fair opportunity to present its defence

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SHOPIAN: Decision of the administration to declare Darul Uloom, Jamia Siraj-ul-Uloom, Imam Sahib, Shopian as an "unlawful entity" under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) was taken after carrying out in depth investigations, sources said on Tuesday.

They said that District Police Shopian prepared a detailed dossier following which proceedings were initiated under Section 8 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) against the institution.

They said that during the course of proceedings, the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, issued a notice to the management, affording it a full & fair opportunity to present its defence. The management of Jamia Siraj



ul Uloom submitted its objections, which were examined along with the material evidence and inputs placed on record by the District Police. Upon due consideration, the Divisional Commissioner, vide order dated April 24, declared it as unlawful under Section 8 of UAPA.

The action, sources said, is based on substantial and credible evidence indicating the following: "Radicalisation and Recruitment Linkages: Multiple individuals associated with the seminary were found to have

been radicalised and subsequently joined terrorist organisations operating in the region. High Number of terrorist affiliations: As many as 17 former students of the institution had joined terrorist ranks and were later killed in separate encounters, indicating a consistent pattern of indoctrination and recruitment."

Sources said, "Security agencies have, over a period of time, generated adverse reports suggesting the institution's involvement in activities prejudicial to

the security and integrity of the State. Inputs further indicated the existence of a support environment that enabled and encouraged unlawful and anti-national activities."

They said, "Number of near relatives of killed terrorists are engaged at key positions in the Jamia Siraj ul uloom. In order to evade legal action, members of banned Jamaat-e-Islami were operating through proxies to evade the legal action and were running their agenda covertly."—(KNO)

Altaf Bukhari hails PMGSY-IV rollout in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Tuesday welcomed the Government of India's decision to launch new projects under PMGSY-IV (Batch-II) in Jammu & Kashmir: Geographic Reference

The announcement was made by Union Minister for Agriculture, Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, today at SKICC in Srinagar, marking a major push to improve rural infrastructure, housing, strengthen women's empowerment, and boost agriculture-driven growth in the Union Territory.

Reacting to the development, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said, "We wholeheartedly welcome the Centre's major push to accelerate rural development in Jammu & Kashmir."

He highlighted that Rs 3,566 crore has been approved for road connectivity projects, while Rs 4,568 crore has been sanctioned to support women through the Deen-

dayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission. World news

Calling it a "significant and commendable step," Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said such large-scale investments can transform rural life if implemented properly.

However, he stressed that the responsibility now lies with the Union Territory Govt to ensure that these projects are executed efficiently and completed on time.

Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari underlined the importance of road connectivity, saying that true development cannot be achieved without proper access to remote areas, which continue to face serious challenges due to poor infrastructure. "Road connectivity is critical for inclusive growth; development remains incomplete without it, especially as remote areas continue to face challenges due to inadequate access. Therefore, these projects are vital for the future development of the Union Territory," He said.

However, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari urged the Union Territory administration to include the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) under a compensation framework, noting that the scheme currently has no such provision at the central level. He emphasised that landowners whose land is used for road construction should be provided fair and adequate compensation.

He said, "Since this project has no compensation backing, it may face roadblocks in its implementation. Therefore, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir must allocate funds to ensure the incorporation of a compensation component in the PMGSY scheme, so that there are no roadblocks in the implementation of this project."

Meanwhile, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari strongly appealed to the Government of India to establish a Horticulture University in Kashmir, noting that horticulture remains one of the strongest pillars of the region's economy.

Rana reviews JPDCL functioning, calls for accelerated RDSS implementation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Tuesday reviewed the functioning of Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited in Poonch district, with a special focus on expediting implementation of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

The meeting was attended by the Managing Director JPDCL, Chief Engineer and other senior officials, who briefed the Minister on the current status of works and outlined the roadmap for accelerated implementation of RDSS in the district.

The Minister conducted a detailed review of the scheme's progress, examining key components such as the material supply chain, feeder-wise execution of works besides the availability and installation of critical infrastructure, including electric poles, conductors, LT AB cables and transformers.

Terming RDSS a trans-



formative initiative aimed at modernising and strengthening the power distribution sector, he stressed the need for improved efficiency, strict accountability and proactive planning. He directed the officials to identify bottlenecks promptly and ensure their timely resolution to maintain momentum.

Expressing concern over the slow pace of progress in parts of the district, the Minister instructed the officers to expedite ongoing works and remove all impediments. He reiterated the government's commitment towards ensuring reliable and equitable power supply, particularly in remote and underserved areas. Highlighting the impor-

tance of planned development, Rana cautioned against the haphazard installation of infrastructure. He emphasised that deployment of poles and related assets must follow proper technical planning, with priority given to rural and far-flung regions that have historically lagged in infrastructure.

Underscoring the need for accountability at all levels, the Minister also called for regular on-site inspections to ensure adherence to quality standards and timelines. He stressed the importance of maintaining geo-tagged photographic records of each project site to enhance transparency, monitoring and real-time tracking of progress.

MP Rashid granted one-week bail to visit ailing father

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Delhi High Court on Tuesday granted one-week bail to jailed Member of Parliament Er Abdul Rashid Sheikh to visit his ailing father in Srinagar. Geographic Reference

According to details available, the court observed that he has been in custody for more than 6 years. "After going through records, court is of the opinion that this is a fit case for grant of interim bail for one week," it noted.

He has been granted bail on the conditions that he will give Rs 1 lakh personal and surety bond of like amount, he will be accompanied by two police officials, he shall remain in



the residence or hospital where his father is located the address of which will be provided.

The court also noted that he shall not be allowed to move out, use one mobile number which shall be in switched on mode. "He shall not try to contact any witness or influence. There will not be any undue visitors except immediate family. The cost will be borne by the NIA," the court clarified.—(KNO)

Sakeena Itoo condoles demise of Mother of MLA Zainapora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the demise of the mother of MLA Zainapora, Showkat Hussain Ganie.

In her condolence message, the Minister conveyed heartfelt sympathies to Showkat Hussain Ganie and the bereaved family during this difficult time. She described the loss of a mother as an irreplaceable void and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

The Minister expressed solidarity with the MLA and his grieving family in this hour of sorrow.



"May Almighty grant Jannat-ul-Firdous to the departed soul and give courage to the family to endure this irreparable loss", the Minister said.

Div Com interacts with Trade Bodies; extends invitation for NMJK Pad Yatra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Tuesday held an interaction with members of various trade bodies of Srinagar and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to appreciate their active role against drug menace and extended invitation for

participation in the Nasha Mukti J&K Pad Yatra, a mass movement aimed at raising awareness against drug abuse and narcotics.

During the interaction, the Divisional Commissioner stressed on the collective efforts of traders, civil society groups, NGOs and youth organizations for their enthusiastic involvement in the Pad



Yatra, which will witness mass participation across the region.

He emphasized that such unified initiatives reflect the strong societal

responsibility to combat the growing menace of substance abuse.

Anshul Garg stressed that the fight against drugs requires sustained community engagement and coordination among all stakeholders.

He urged trade associations and NGOs to mobilize their members for overwhelming participation in

Pad Yatra on May 03 for spreading awareness about the harmful effects of narcotics, particularly among the youth.

On the occasion, participants shared their suggestions to further strengthen anti-drug campaigns, organizing awareness drives, and community outreach programs at the grassroots level.

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

Roads That Truly Change Lives

This isn't just about asphalt and statistics, it's about the person in a remote village who no longer has to carry an expectant mother on a makeshift stretcher for miles because the "road" was just a mud track. When we talk about Rs 3,566 crore for the PMGSY-IV, what we're really talking about is dignity and access. Here's a look at the human reality behind these project approvals. In the rugged terrain of Jammu and Kashmir, a road is a lifeline in the most literal sense. For a student in a far-flung valley, it's the difference between dropping out and finishing a degree. For a farmer, it's the difference between watching a harvest rot and getting a fair price at the market. **Winter Survival:** During heavy snowfall, isolation isn't just lonely; it's dangerous. These roads mean that even in the harshest months, help is never truly out of reach. **The Golden Hour:** In medical emergencies, every minute counts. Better connectivity ensures that the "Golden Hour" isn't wasted on a treacherous mountain path. The mention of over Rs 4,568 crore for women's self-help groups is perhaps the most transformative part of this update. **Financial Agency:** When a woman earns, she invests in her children's education and her family's health. **Community Strength:** Empowered women don't just change their own homes; they lift the entire village's economic spirit. The sentiment expressed, that approvals aren't enough, is a vital reality check. The "human" element of development relies entirely on the integrity of the execution. "A road on a map doesn't help a child get to school; a road under their feet does." For these projects to be a "turning point," the focus must stay on: **Honesty in Construction:** Ensuring the materials used can actually withstand the harsh Himalayan climate. **Speed of Action:** Remote communities have waited decades; every month of delay is a month of missed opportunity. **Local Involvement:** Using local labor and listening to village elders about where the roads are needed most. **Development is only "real" when it reaches the last doorstep.** By bridging the gap between the administrative offices in the city and the small kitchen fires in the mountains, these projects have the potential to turn J&K's geographic challenges into a story of resilience and growth. It's a bold promise, now, the work begins to make it a reality.

Looking Beyond The Bodies



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

As society's progress isn't measured solely by its buildings, technology, and economic development, but also by how it views its citizens, especially women. If a society limits women solely to their appearance, body, or traditional roles, then that society is seeing only a half-truth. Several questions remain as to why women's achievements, their knowledge, labor, struggle, and self-confidence are not given as much prominence as their external appearance. This question is not merely literary, but also one rooted in social consciousness. Today, as the world reaches new heights in science, technology, education, and leadership, women are proving their mettle in every field. Women who travel to space become an inspiration not only for themselves but for all of humanity. They send the message that even the sky is not the limit. In many countries around the world, including India, women scientists, astronauts, and researchers have accomplished feats that have paved the way for generations to come. But the sad truth is that their achievements are often discussed within limited circles, while superficial aspects of their personalities are given more importance. Mathematics was long considered a male-dominated field. Women's participation in science and mathematics was underestimated, even though historically, many women have made remarkable contributions to fields like mathematics, physics, astronomy, and medicine. Even today, thousands of women teachers in schools, colleges, and universities are imparting knowledge to the new generation. They not only teach the curriculum but also instill confidence, discipline, and rationality. Yet, society often overlooks their contributions, taking them for granted. Similarly, the mention of "women who sustain the family" is a very sensitive aspect of this work. Running the household, raising children, caring for the elderly, and sharing financial responsibilities—these are all tasks that society has long considered natural and yet remain under-discussed. The labor of a woman who manages the home is often considered invisible. If the same labor is performed within an institution or as a job, it is valued; but labor



performed within the home is normalized by calling it love and duty. This mindset needs to change. Women's role is central to strengthening the foundation of the family, and respectful recognition of this is the need of the hour. The most powerful aspect of the piece is that it doesn't merely complain, but rather holds a mirror to society. The final line—those who see women only as bodies are unfortunate—carries a profound meaning. The word "unfortunate" here conveys not only criticism but also pity. Such people lack the ability to understand women's true nature. They fail to see their compassion, intelligence, creativity, fighting spirit, and leadership abilities. In reality, they harm not women but their own thinking. Today, the world of social media and advertising poses numerous challenges to women's image. Women are often presented as objects of attraction. Their appearance, looks, and personal lives are discussed more than their abilities. Even successful women in public life are often judged more by their outward appearances than by their achievements. This trend is not limited to the entertainment industry, but is also evident in politics, sports, education, and the corporate world. Collective efforts are necessary to change this mindset. Education is the most powerful tool for this change. If both boys and girls are instilled with equality, respect, and sensitivity from childhood, future generations can build a more just society. Schools should include stories, examples, and lessons that highlight women's achievements. Children should be taught that a woman is not just a relationship, but an independent individual. Her identity is shaped by her dreams, hard work, and achievements. The role of the media is also crucial.

They send the message that even the sky is not the limit. In many countries around the world, including India, women scientists, astronauts, and researchers have accomplished feats that have paved the way for generations to come.

News, films, serials, and digital platforms influence society's perceptions. If the media portrays women only as traditional roles or limited to external attractiveness, society will adopt that same view. Conversely, if the stories of women scientists, teachers, entrepreneurs, farmers, athletes, and social activists are highlighted, society's consciousness will grow in a positive direction. Today, there is a need to provide more space for inspiring female characters. Attitudes toward women in the workplace

are also essential. Female employees and executives should be respected based on their potential, leadership, and efficiency, not viewed with prejudice based on their gender. Equal pay, a safe environment, and equal opportunities are not just policy issues but fundamental elements of social justice. Only when women can work without discrimination will society be able to reach its full potential. Change is also needed at the family level. Often, daughters are raised with limitations, while sons are raised with freedom. This difference breeds inequality from childhood. If families give daughters equal opportunities to dream, make decisions, and thrive, real change in society is possible. Sons should also be taught that respect, sharing, and compassion are the foundation of strong relationships. This work also teaches us that respecting women won't come merely through slogans. Wishing women well on Women's Day isn't enough if discrimination persists in everyday interactions. Respect means listening to women, acknowledging their hard work, respecting their decisions, and accepting them as independent individuals. This change must occur at all four levels: language, behavior, thinking, and systems. History bears witness that whenever women have been given opportunities, they have achieved extraordinary accomplishments. From politics to science, literature to sports, education to entrepreneurship—women have reached new heights in every field. Therefore, to say that women are inferior in any field is merely prejudice, not truth. Society must see women as a force for inspiration, leadership, and change. The power of this work lies in its profound message in simple words. This poem not only praises women, but also asks society questions: are we still satisfied with seeing women in half? Are we ready to acknowledge their achievements? Do we have the courage to see them as equals? These questions confront every person. The time has come for us to see women beyond their bodies—as thinkers, as fighters, as creators, as leaders, and as complete human beings. Only when society adopts this vision will true equality be possible. The sooner the limited mindset of women changes, the sooner society will progress. Because respecting women is not just a matter of women's rights, but a testament to the maturity of civilization. (The author is a PhD in Political Science. She regularly contributes to various publications)

On Progress, Patience, And The Shape Of Ambition

ER. SUHAIB BAKSHI

There is often a subtle complexity in understanding individuals who seem to move beyond familiar categories. Figures like Elon Musk are not easily explained in simple terms. They appear instead as a convergence of effort, analytical thinking, and long-range ambition. This article argues that Musk's significance does not lie in any single achievement, but in the way three distinct qualities come together in his work: endurance under pressure, a commitment to first-principles thinking, and a consistent willingness to operate at scale. Taken together, these qualities offer a more discerning understanding of both his impact and the complexities that accompany it. At its core, meaningful progress is shaped by clarity of thought and discipline in action. It requires not only the ability to build, but also the judgment to remove what is unnecessary. To create more than one consumes is not merely an ideal, but a responsibility that defines constructive leadership. In this sense, progress is guided less by opinion and more by fundamental understanding, where underlying perspectives are approached with openness, errors are corrected with humility, and decisions are shaped by a steady awareness of long-term consequences. David Goggins is often associated with a form of endurance that extends beyond physical effort and reflects a disciplined strength of mind. His approach underscores the capacity to move through discomfort, uncertainty, and repeated setbacks with composed determination. In a different context, this perspective offers a useful lens through which to understand Musk's leadership. The willingness to remain engaged during difficult phases, rather than withdraw from them, reflects a similar depth of commitment. It is not merely a continuation of effort, but a thoughtful acceptance of challenge as an inherent part of meaningful progress. The first of these is endurance. In many fields, sustained effort is necessary, but in high-risk environments it becomes decisive. Research from Harvard Business School and McKinsey & Company suggests that leaders working in uncertain conditions often succeed by maintaining direction through repeated setbacks rather than avoiding them. This pattern is clearly visible in the early years of SpaceX. Between 2006 and 2008, three consecutive launches of the Falcon 1 rocket failed. The company faced serious uncertainty. However, the work continued,



and the fourth launch succeeded. This allowed the company to move forward and secure important contracts. The episode reflects leadership that remains steady and committed during difficult phases. A similar situation emerged at Tesla, Inc. during the production of the Model 3. Musk described this period as "production hell," marked by delays and operational challenges. Analyses from MIT Sloan School of Management suggest that such periods test leadership in a practical way. Musk's approach involved direct involvement, continuous problem-solving, and sustained focus. This reflects a form of leadership that remains closely connected to the work itself. It is not distant, but engaged, especially during moments that require clarity and persistence. The second quality is intellectual clarity. Leadership is not only about action, but also about how problems are understood. The comparison to Richard Feynman is useful in this context. Feynman was known for explaining complex ideas in simple ways and for focusing on fundamental principles. Musk's approach often reflects this orientation. Instead of accepting existing systems as fixed, he looks at their basic structure. In space technology, this meant questioning why rockets should be used only once. By focusing on design and cost, SpaceX developed reusable rockets, making space missions more efficient and significantly reducing launch costs over time. In the automotive sector, Tesla worked on improving batteries and energy systems. According to the International Energy Agency, global electric car sales surpassed 14 million units in 2023, reflecting rapid growth in adoption, with Tesla playing a significant role in shaping market acceptance and innovation. Research from Stanford University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology supports the idea that such foundational thinking is important for meaningful innovation. This reflects leadership that emphasizes

understanding before action. It encourages a deeper engagement with problems rather than surface-level solutions. The third quality is scale. Leadership is also defined by the scope of its vision. The reference to Napoleon Bonaparte helps explain this idea. Napoleon is remembered for working on a large scale and for operating within broad structural contexts. In this sense, scale is not about magnitude alone, but about the ability to think beyond immediate boundaries while remaining attentive to structure and coherence. In a different field, Musk's work also reflects a similar sense of scale. His goals include promoting sustainable energy, advancing space exploration, and supporting long-term technological development. These are not limited objectives. They require coordination, planning, and sustained effort. Reports from the International Energy Agency show the global shift toward electric vehicles and renewable energy. Similarly, SpaceX has conducted hundreds of orbital launches, with its reusable Falcon 9 rocket becoming one of the most frequently launched rockets in history, contributing to a measurable reduction in launch costs. Think tanks such as the Brookings Institution and the Council on Foreign Relations highlight that modern challenges require thinking at scale. Issues such as energy and technology cannot be addressed in isolation. They require broader and more coordinated approaches. Musk's work aligns with this understanding. It is directed not only at solving immediate problems, but also at contributing to wider, long-term changes. When these three qualities are considered together, a clearer understanding emerges. Endurance allows continued engagement during difficulty. Intellectual clarity helps in understanding problems deeply. Scale allows efforts to move beyond immediate outcomes toward broader impact. At the same time, it is important to recognize that such an approach involves challenges. Research from London Business School and work by scholars such as Randall S. Peterson indicate that modern leadership operates under conditions of pressure, uncertainty, and constant change, requiring continuous adaptation and decision-making. While such intensity can drive progress, it can also create organisational strain within teams and organisations. Close involvement can create pressure, rapid decision-making can affect stability, and large ambitions often require sustained effort and may not always progress smoothly. These aspects are not separate from lead-

ership; they are part of it. The same qualities that enable progress can also create difficulty. Understanding this allows for a more balanced perspective. Equally, the process of building is inseparable from patience and thoughtful risk. Not every failure carries the same weight, and not every certainty deserves confidence. What matters is the willingness to begin, to adapt, and to move forward with measured conviction. In a world where knowledge is increasingly accessible, the responsibility to learn, contribute, and act with purpose becomes more widely shared. It is through this balance of effort, reflection, and responsibility that meaningful and enduring outcomes take shape. This leads to a broader reflection. Leadership in today's world is evolving. Reports from World Economic Forum suggest that modern leadership requires resilience, thoughtful understanding, and the ability to operate across complex systems. Simple or one-dimensional approaches are often not sufficient. Musk's approach can be seen within this shift. It shows how persistence, clarity, and long-term thinking can come together in practice. At the same time, it reminds us that such an approach requires balance and careful judgment. It is important to approach this discussion with fairness. Recognizing strengths does not mean ignoring limitations. Large-scale work often involves uncertainty, delays, and learning over time. A measured perspective allows both progress and difficulty to be understood together. In conclusion, Elon Musk's work can be understood as a combination of endurance, intellectual clarity, and scale. The references to David Goggins, Richard Feynman, and Napoleon Bonaparte serve as ways of understanding these qualities, rather than direct comparisons. What stands out is not only what has been achieved, but how challenges are approached. There is a willingness to continue through difficulty, to understand problems deeply, and to think beyond immediate limits. In a time when many challenges require patience, clarity, and long-term thinking, such an approach becomes increasingly relevant. It reflects not a fixed model, but a developing way of engaging with complexity. It is in this combination that his significance can be understood, not as a finished account, but as an ongoing process shaped by effort, thought, and ambition. Author writes on leadership, ambition, and the evolving intersections of technology, intellect, and human potential. He can be mailed at bakshisuhaib094@gmail.com

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Beyond Addiction: The Power Of An Educated Mind

AZHAR NASEER

Addiction is a silent destroyer. It steals peace from the mind, health from the body, and happiness from life. It does not discriminate between rich and poor, young and old. When a person becomes addicted to drugs, alcohol, or any harmful substance, he enters a dark tunnel with no clear exit. What begins as a moment of weakness slowly turns into a life of misery. Addiction not only ruins the individual but also shatters families, weakens the economy, and damages the fabric of society.

The effects of addiction are devastating. It destroys physical health, leading to serious diseases and even early death. It disturbs mental peace, causing stress, anxiety, and depression. Addicted people lose their ability to think clearly, make good decisions, or control their actions. They often become victims of accidents, violence, and crime. Families suffer emotionally and financially. Money that could have been used for food, education, or a better home is wasted on harmful substances. Children of addicted parents live in fear and uncertainty. They lose the love, guidance, and support every child deserves. In short, addiction brings only sorrow, shame, and destruction.

In contrast, education is the foundation of a bright and successful life. It is a powerful tool that builds character, opens minds, and creates opportunities. Education gives us knowledge, and knowledge gives us confidence. It teaches us the difference between right and wrong. It helps us dream, plan, and achieve. An educated person is more aware of his rights and responsibilities. He can make better choices for himself, his family, and his society. Education turns ordinary people into leaders, teachers, scientists, doctors, engineers, and responsible citizens.

Education also plays a vital role in economic growth. A skilled and educated workforce brings prosperity to nations. Countries that invest in education enjoy better healthcare, lower crime rates, strong institutions, and higher living standards. When people are educated, they are more



productive and innovative. They start businesses, create jobs, and contribute to the development of their communities. Education is the key that unlocks doors to a better future.

Moreover, education builds strong values and discipline. It teaches respect, honesty, tolerance, and hard work. These values protect us from destructive habits like addiction. When children are educated in a positive environment, they learn to handle problems without escaping into drugs or alcohol. They learn to face challenges with courage and solve them with wisdom.

The role of families, schools, and society is crucial in guiding people toward the path of education and away from addiction. Parents must spend time with their children and understand their problems. Schools should provide not only academic knowledge but also moral and practical education. Teachers should act as mentors and role models. Communities should create safe, healthy, and

supportive spaces for learning and growth. Media should promote positive role models and raise awareness about the dangers of addiction.

Governments also have a responsibility to invest in education and provide equal opportunities for all. Every child, regardless of gender, race, or background, deserves access to quality education. Scholarships, free books, modern classrooms, and skill training programs can change lives. At the same time, strict laws and effective rehabilitation programs are needed to help those trapped in addiction and bring them back to a normal life.

We must remember that our choices today shape our tomorrow. If we choose addiction, we choose a path of pain and regret. But if we choose education, we choose a path of hope and success. It is never too late to change. Many people who were once lost in addiction have turned their lives around through determination, support, and education. Their stories prove that a better future is possible

for everyone.

Young people are the future of any nation. They must be encouraged to dream big and work hard. They should be taught that true success is not found in drugs or alcohol, but in knowledge, skills, and good character. Sports, books, art, and volunteering are positive activities that build confidence and keep the mind and body healthy. These activities can fill life with purpose and joy.

In the end, the message is clear: addiction leads to destruction, while education leads to progress. One path takes you down, the other raises you up. One steals your future; the other builds it. The choice is ours, and the time to choose is now. Let us say no to addiction and yes to education. Let us build a society where knowledge is valued, where youth are empowered, and where every person has the chance to succeed.

A nation cannot progress unless its people are educated and healthy. A family cannot be happy unless

The role of families, schools, and society is crucial in guiding people toward the path of education and away from addiction. Parents must spend time with their children and understand their problems. Schools should provide not only academic knowledge but also moral and practical education.

its members are safe from harmful habits. A person cannot live with dignity unless he or she has self-respect and purpose. Therefore, let us work together, students, parents, teachers, leaders, and citizens, to promote education and eliminate addiction.

Choose education, choose health, choose respect, choose success. Reject addiction, reject laziness, reject destruction. Let us build a better future for ourselves and for generations to come. The real wealth is not money or luxury; it is knowledge, character, and a clean conscience. Let education be our light and our strength. Let it guide us to a peaceful, prosperous, and powerful tomorrow.

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How 'One Nation, One Curriculum' Debate Defines Modern India

DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

History is not for those who stop. One country, one curriculum... The opposition to loot in the name of education must continue." This sentence aptly captures the biggest debate currently underway in the Indian education system. The idea of "one country, one curriculum" proposed under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has become a subject of heated debate across the country. As of April 2026, states like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal are opposing it, considering it an attack on their constitutional autonomy, while the central government is calling it a historic step towards establishing quality, equality, and uniformity in education. This begs the question: is this initiative truly a revolution in education reform?

The National Education Policy 2020 outlined a comprehensive overhaul of the Indian education system. Replacing the 34-year-old 1986 policy, it introduced a new structure—5+3+3+4—that makes education from elementary to secondary levels more flexible and inclusive. It defines basic education for children ages 3 to 8, primary for ages 8 to 11, upper primary for ages 11 to 14, and secondary education for ages 14 to 18. It prioritizes education in the mother tongue, multilingualism, vocational training, and digital literacy.

The fundamental foundation of "One Nation, One Curriculum" is the National Curriculum Framework (NCF), which aims to establish a minimum educational standard across the country. However, it provides up to 30 percent flexibility to allow states to make modifications to suit their cultural and regional needs. However, opposing states believe this flexibility is merely symbolic and is an attempt to impose a centralized curriculum.

According to the Constitution, education is a subject on the Concurrent List, meaning both the central and state governments have a role in it. States allege that the central government is exerting pressure by withholding funds under vari-



ous schemes, such as the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan. Tamil Nadu is a prime example, where thousands of crores of rupees have been withheld. The state government has protested this, calling it an attack on its policy independence.

A major aspect of this controversy concerns linguistic and cultural identity. Many states in South India view Hindi as an "imposed language," while the central government maintains that the three-language formula does not mandate any one language. Nevertheless, there are concerns that a uniform curriculum will lead to the neglect of regional languages and literature. For example, the rich cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu or the literary contributions of Bengal may be limited by a standardized curriculum.

The central government argues that this policy will reduce inequalities in education. Currently, India's education system exhibits significant disparities—while private schools offer high-quality education, government schools suffer from poor results due to a lack of resources. The "One Nation, One Curriculum" initiative aims to ensure uniform quality, ensuring equal opportunities for every child in the country.

Additionally, the policy empha-

sizes skill-based education. Subjects like coding, artificial intelligence, and data science are proposed to be integrated from the elementary level, keeping in mind future needs. This initiative is considered crucial to India's global competitiveness.

However, critics also call it "loot in the name of education." They say it will increase the privatization of education and boost the coaching industry. Cities like Kota already have a large coaching market, and a uniform examination system (like CUET) could further strengthen it. Meanwhile, the central government believes that a unified entrance exam will increase transparency and reduce corruption.

Historically, education reforms in India have always been associated with controversy. From Macaulay's education policy during the British era to the Kothari Commission, every change has sparked debate. But it is also true that progress is impossible without reform.

International examples also make it clear that both uniformity and decentralization have their advantages and disadvantages. Countries like Finland have achieved excellent results by adopting a uniform education system, while countries like the United States have perpetu-

ated inequality due to a decentralized system. India must adopt a balanced model that suits its diversity and population.

At the political level, this issue is no longer limited to education. It has become a question of power balance between the central government and the states. While some states are adopting it and moving forward, others are challenging it to protect their rights.

Looking ahead, India faces significant challenges. A robust and modern education system is essential to compete in the digital age. If the conflict between the state and the central government continues, students will be the biggest losers. Dialogue, cooperation, and balance are essential for improving education.

Ultimately, it's important to understand that "one nation, one curriculum" is not just a policy, but a vision—an effort to provide a common educational foundation for the entire country. However, its implementation must be democratic and consensus-based.

In a diverse country like India, any education model can only succeed if it balances local needs and national goals. The central government must increase dialogue with

the states and understand their concerns, while the states must also adopt an open approach to change.

If we look at this issue beyond politics, it becomes clear that the purpose of education is not merely to impart knowledge, but to create capable and informed citizens. And

States allege that the central government is exerting pressure by withholding funds under various schemes, such as the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan. Tamil Nadu is a prime example, where thousands of crores of rupees have been withheld.

this goal will only be achieved if we move forward together.

The need of the hour is to prioritize dialogue, not conflict. If India succeeds in striking this balance, the coming decade will truly be one of an education revolution. Otherwise, inequality and conflict will continue to plague our future.

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

Chouhan Launches

extended a warm welcome to the Union Minister and expressed gratitude for the approval of the projects, describing him as a true friend and well-wisher of Jammu and Kashmir.

He emphasized that while the projects have been sanctioned by the Union Government, the Jammu and Kashmir administration will ensure swift, efficient, and high-quality execution of these works within stipulated timelines.

"I assure that work on this package will commence shortly and express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister for his continued support towards strengthening rural connectivity in J&K," he said.

Reaffirming the Government's commitment, he said that the benefits of flagship schemes will be delivered to genuine beneficiaries on the ground in a time-bound manner.

Highlighting the transformative impact of road connectivity, the Chief Minister observed that roads are the lifeline of the people, significantly improving access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and employment. He noted that many residents in rural areas previously had to travel long distances due to lack of proper connectivity.

Reiterating the Government's focus on rural development, he assured that no effort will be spared to connect every remaining village and habitation across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister also highlighted key welfare measures for the farming community, including crop insurance schemes aimed at mitigating losses caused by natural calamities.

He further underlined the role of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) in empowering women through Self Help Groups (SHGs), describing it as a vital pillar of inclusive growth.

Expressing optimism, the Chief Minister said he envisions "Lakhpati Didis" progressing to "Crorepati Didis" through sustained support, capacity building, and expanded economic opportunities under NRLM initiatives.

Reiterating the broader vision, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized the Government's commitment to building a "prosperous and developed Jammu and Kashmir (Viksit Jammu Kashmir)" in alignment with the national goal of "Viksit Bharat," ensuring inclusive growth and prosperity for all.

In his address, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that he has come to Kashmir with message of peace and development and recalled his several visits to J&K in recent past. He said that he chose Srinagar for this important event to hand over first sanction letter of PMGSY-IV (Batch-II) package amounting to Rs 3566 crore to J&K and with this package, his ministry has released Rs 7790 crore of funds in one year. On the occasion, the Union Minister also released mother sanction of Rs 4568 crore under the National Rural Livelihood Mission scheme for whole of India including Rs 40.90 crore for J&K. The Union Minister who is also the Minister of Agriculture, Government of India, announced that Clean Plant Programme shall be introduced shortly to provide disease free and indigenously produced nursery plants for farmers in J&K. He also called upon farmers to adopt multi-crop integrated farming for which his ministry shall provide all the necessary support.

The event was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary; Minister for Rural Development, Javid Ahmad Dar; Members of Parliament Choudhary Mohammad Ramzan, Ghulam Ali Khatana, Gurwinder Singh Oberoi, and Sat Sharma; Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar Sharma, several Members of the Legislative Assembly; Union Secretary to the Government of India, Rural Development Department, Rohit Kansal; Additional Chief Secretary, R&B, Anil Kumar Singh; Secretary, RDD, Mohammad Aijaz; senior officers of Government of India, officers of Rural Development and R&B Departments J&K, and other officials.

Farmers Custodians

India launched nationwide soil testing, distributing 25 crore Soil Health Cards. Farmer credit limits rose from Rs. 3 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh. Rs.100 crore funds high-productivity seeds under a national mission. Pulses procurement at MSP jumped 7,350% and oilseeds 1,500% since 2013-14. However, climate impacts are intensifying and last year witnessed extreme weather across states," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon scientists and innovators for 7 commitments for climate-resilient agriculture-farmer-led research partnership, expansion of climate-responsive insurance, green credit, localised climate advisories for all, safeguard traditional seeds, policy integration and transparent evaluation. He also emphasized precision and regenerative farming, water management, diversification, and tech integration. The Lieutenant Governor said that innovations must reflect real-world needs, not remain trapped in seminar rhetoric and governments must scale protection to shield livelihoods from escalating risks. He also asked the banks to prioritize sustainable agricultural financing, conserve heritage varieties as anchors of resilience, align every initiative for seamless, coordinated execution and assess each program openly, adapt swiftly, and refine continuously.

The Lieutenant Governor said that scientists and policymakers must recognize that small and marginal farmers contrib-

ute least to climate change yet endure its harshest blows. Calling for protection, the Lieutenant Governor said that farmers are not merely producers of grain but they are custodians of tradition, culture, food security, and the promise of a sustainable future.

"Every farmer deserves real-time climate guidance. Every field must be treated as a national asset, safeguarded with care. Our responsibility in agriculture is clear that we need to preserve it for generations. This is our solemn resolve," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Shri Satish Sharma, Minister for Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Science & Technology; Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu; Dr.Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General, Meteorology, India Meteorological Department (IMD); Prof. A.K. Dhawan, President, Indian Ecological Society; Dr. S. K. Gupta, Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu; Dr. Syed Sheraz Mahdi, Organizing Secretary, scientists, academicians, policymakers, experts, and students in large number also attended the inaugural session.

Successive Generations

connecting Kashmiri Pandits across the world to their roots," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that Radio Sharda has preserved songs, stories, and traditions and gave platforms to poets, scholars, and artists, ensuring their voices inspire new generations.

"Radio Sharda and various government initiatives are pathways for youth from the community. Now it is their responsibility to protect and expand rich cultural heritage, breathe new life into traditions, language, music, and rituals. Youth must ensure that Kashmiri Pandit's cultural legacy thrives, evolves, and endures meaningfully for generations to come," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that successive generations of Kashmiri Pandits endured profound hardships beyond the genocide, a wound time cannot fully heal. He said initiatives like Radio Sharda provided a vital lifeline, reinforcing community bonds.

The Lieutenant Governor also felicitated eminent citizens of the community from diverse fields for their contribution to the society.

MeT Predicts Rain,

May 3 and 5 at scattered to many places. From May 6-9, the region is expected to remain mostly dry, with chances of brief showers at isolated locations.

The MeT department has issued an advisory asking farmers to suspend agricultural operations on April 28-29 in view of expected rainfall, gusty winds and possible hailstorms.

Meanwhile, daytime temperatures across the Valley remained below normal. Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 21.2°C, which is 1.9 degrees below normal, while the minimum settled at 12.6°C, 3.1 degrees above normal.

Qazigund registered a high of 20.0°C, while Pahalgam recorded 18.2°C. Kupwara saw a maximum of 21.0°C and Kokernag 20.2°C. Gulmarg, the coldest among the recorded stations, registered a maximum of 15.0°C.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 32.6°C, 3.1 degrees below normal, and a minimum of 25.1°C. Banihal and Batote recorded 21.6°C and 20.1°C, respectively, while Katra registered 30.0°C.

Light rainfall was recorded at several stations during the day, including Pahalgam (7.2 mm), Kupwara (2.0 mm), and Kukernag (1.8 mm), while Srinagar recorded 0.1 mm.

The department said the weather conditions may lead to temporary disruptions and advised people to remain cautious during the afternoon and evening hours—(KNO)

J&K's Fruit Cultivation

spread clusters, while pear, cherry, and mango are more localised and specialised.

A comparative assessment highlights the UT's strong national position in apples, walnuts, and almonds, with a major share in area and production and top rankings in yield, making these key strengths of the sector.

Per capita consumption of fresh and dry fruits has increased notably between 2011-12 and 2023-24, especially in rural areas. Apple consumption grew faster in rural regions, while dry fruits saw steady demand due to wider availability and usage.

Marketing infrastructure has also improved, with 5 terminal mandis and 14 satellite mandis operational across districts, along with 5 Apni Mandis enhancing market access for local growers.

The report notes that horticulture in Jammu and Kashmir holds significant importance, contributing around 76% of India's apple production and nearly 96% of the country's walnut output. It is also the producer of GI-tagged Kashmiri saffron, underscoring its national prominence—(KNO)

LG Saxena Appoints

headquartered at Diskit, Mukul Beniwal (IAS) has been appointed as Deputy Commissioner, while Stanzin Losal (JKPS) has been posted as SSP.

In Zanskar district, headquartered at Padum, Imkar Rajendra Gundage (IAS) has been appointed as Deputy Commissioner, while Rigzen Sandup (JKPS) has been posted as SSP.

In Sham district, headquartered at Khalbte, Kunzes Angmo (JKAS) has been appointed as Deputy Commissioner, while Aijaz Malik (JKPS) has been posted as SSP.

In Drass district, headquartered at Drass-Ranbirpura, Imteez Kacho (JKAS) has been appointed as Deputy Commissioner, while Ishtyaq Ahmad (JKPS) has been posted as Superintendent of Police.

The existing district administrations of Leh and Kargil will continue to function with their current officials while coordinating closely with the newly created districts during the transition phase—(KNO)

Union Minister Goyal

innovators, students, artisans and stakeholders in securing IP rights and easing their entry into the IP ecosystem.

Rajnath Singh Cites

a "foundational principle" of the SCO. "On April 22, we remembered the victims of the heinous terrorist attack in Pahalgam. The carnage in Pahalgam shook the entire humanity," he said.

"During Operation Sindoor, we demonstrated our firm resolve that terrorism epicentres are no longer immune to justifiable punishment," he added.

Singh also recalled the declaration unveiled at last year's SCO summit in Chinese city of Tianjin saying it brought out firm and collective stance against terrorism.

"It was a testimony to our zero-tolerance outlook towards terrorism and its perpetrators, which was endorsed by this esteemed forum. But the real test of our collective credibility remains in consistency," he said.

"We must not forget that terrorism has no nationality and no theology. No grievance, real or supposed, can become an excuse for terrorism and humanitarian loss," he said.

The defence minister highlighted the significant role being played by the SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure and referred to the joint statement of the Heads of State on 'Countering Radicalisation leading to Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism' that was issued during India's chairmanship of the grouping.

He further stated that in view of the present global uncertainties, the SCO holds a "pivotal role".

"Do we need a new world order or a world which is more orderly? We need an order where every citizen of this world is treated with dignity and respect. We need an order where differences do not become disputes and disputes don't precede disasters," he said.

"The real crisis today is not of a non-existent order but a tendency to question the established rule-based world order. We must focus on a global consensus where co-existence, co-habitation and compassion take precedence over chaos, competition and conflict," he said.

Singh noted that it is the responsibility of SCO to ensure regional as well as global peace and stability.

"We should continue to follow the path of dialogue and diplomacy and not of unrelenting force. We should not allow it to become an era of violence and war, but an era of peace and prosperity," he said.

"Let me recall the message of Mahatma Gandhi that an eye for an eye makes everyone blind and before every action, we must remember how that action can make a difference to the life of a poor and needy," he said.

"As people responsible for defence and security, we have the responsibility to uphold this spirit of brotherhood and harmony. The real test of power is not in using it against the poor and the weak, but to use it in the interest of those who are unable to defend themselves," he stated.

Singh highlighted India's belief that SCO possesses the requisite strength and resolve to significantly contribute towards peace and stability.

The ancient Indian philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' embodies this sense of togetherness, overcoming all differences of race and religion, he said.

The defence minister also reiterated India's commitment to contribute constructively to the implementation of the SCO's mandate, advocating that greater cooperation and mutual trust among member states based on equality, mutual respect and deeper understanding can make this organisation a beacon of hope and peace.

During the meeting, Singh along with his counterparts from other member countries, discussed ways to deal with the challenge of terrorism and radicalisation.

The SCO members emphasised the symbolic significance of 2026, which marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of the organisation and how its role is becoming more important than ever due to growing unpredictability and uncertainty, according to the defence ministry.

Singh landed in the capital city of Kyrgyzstan on Monday.

The SCO, comprising India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran and Belarus, is an influential economic and security bloc that has emerged as one of the largest transregional international organisations.

It was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Pakistan became its permanent member along with India in 2017. Iran joined the grouping in 2023 and Belarus in 2024.

Gurez, Wular To Get

at Wular Lake to encourage tourists travelling towards Bandipora and Gurez to stop and experience the area.

He said eco-parks developed at various locations, including Chandaji, have led to an increase in tourist footfall since their inauguration last year, and more such sites are being identified for sustainable tourism development.

Addressing trainees of Foresters Batch 107 at the Chitternar training school, Wani stressed the need for balancing tourism promotion with forest conservation. He said forests remain critical for ecological stability, water conservation, soil protection and biodiversity.

"Forest conservation and development must be carried out with a scientific approach. Focused management of smaller forest compartments can yield better results with available resources," he said.

The officer called for stronger afforestation measures, disease-free planning and regeneration of forests to maintain ecological balance.

Highlighting public participation, Wani said involvement of local communities and awareness among younger generations are key to long-term forest protection. The Forest Training School at Chitternar, he said, is being developed as an eco-tourism and learning centre. "The department plans to construct an eco-tourism hut there with a museum-like facility to educate students about forests, biodiversity and environmental conservation," he added.

Wani urged the trainees to work with discipline and responsibility, describing them as "guardians of Kashmir's green wealth". He called for sustained efforts to protect forest resources while promoting eco-friendly tourism in the region—(KNO)

Hydel Power Generation

by the coming five years need to be considered in the winter season—signalling major infrastructure upgrades to avoid seasonal blackouts.

The officials have conservatively trimmed the load requirement to 5 GW by the financial year 2029-30.

As per the documents, the statutory body Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) in a joint meeting has said that "J&K indicated that a load of 6-7GW needs to be considered in the winter season by 2029-30."

"However, on conservative side load is considered to the tune of 5 GW," it reads.

Stating the details of Northern Region states load considered in Power System Simulator for Engineering (PSSE) for 2029-2030, the committee has projected 4211 Megawatts (MWs) of Emergency Power Supply (EPS) load in J&K by 2029-2030 timeframe.

Pertinently, the news agency has reported that Jammu and Kashmir was importing more than 95 percent of its electricity in the month of December.

The officials earlier in the month had informed that Jammu and Kashmir is importing electricity ranging from 2900 MWs to 3100 MWs during the peak hours.

It also said that during the other hours, the region is importing electricity ranging from 2400 MWs to 2800 MWs.

Earlier KNO had reported that Jammu and Kashmir is likely to face a four percent Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) increase in electricity requirement and six percent increase in peak electricity demand for the period of 2025-26 to 2035-36—(KNO)

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Yasha Mudgal reviews preparations for Zonal Cooperative Workshop at Sgr

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal, Tuesday chaired a high-level preparatory meeting to review the arrangements for the upcoming Zonal Review Workshop to be held at Srinagar from June 24 to 26, 2026.

The meeting was attended by the Special Secretary, Cooperative; FA/CAO Cooperative Department; Joint Registrar (Audit), Kashmir and other senior departmental officers.

During the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary was informed that the workshop, being organized by the Union Ministry for Cooperation, will witness participation from the senior officers of the Union Ministry as well as the Secretaries and Registrars of Cooperative Departments from various States and Union Territories. A detailed overview of the event framework,



covering agenda, thematic sessions, resource persons and expected outcomes, was presented. Besides, the current status of preparations, including proposed venues, timelines and identified nodal officers for different functional areas was also presented.

Reviewing the arrangements, Yasha Mudgal stressed the need for comprehensive planning and coordinated management of all aspects of the event, covering arrival, stay, conference proceedings and departure of delegates.

She emphasized that all the arrangements must be executed in a seamless and professional manner.

The Commissioner Secretary further reviewed the protocol and liaison mechanisms, underscoring the vital importance of maintaining effective communication with the Union Ministry and participating States/UTs. She directed that robust facilitation measures be ensured to handle all protocol-related engagements without any lapses.

While taking stock of

transport, accommodation and hospitality arrangements, the Commissioner Secretary called for meticulous advance planning and efficient coordination to ensure maximum convenience of delegates. She emphasized the need for maintaining appropriate standards and ensuring consistent logistical support throughout the three-day event.

She also reviewed the conference management and venue readiness, directing that all necessary infrastructure and support systems be finalized timely in strict accordance with the established norms.

Highlighting the importance of inter-departmental synergy, Yasha Mudgal stressed the need for close coordination among all the concerned departments and agencies. She called for continuous monitoring and the development of contingency plans to ensure smooth and successful conduct of the workshop.

Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan

B'la buzzes with Sporting Spirit as DYSS ignites Youth Power

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Baramulla continues to energize the sporting landscape of the district through a series of Inter-School Zonal Level Competitions held under the dual banner of the Annual Sports Calendar 2026 and the ongoing Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan (100 Days Campaign).

In Zone Kunzer, an Inter-School Zonal Level Badminton Competition for Boys Under-14 and Under-17 categories was successfully conducted at the Playfield, HSS Kunzer. The event witnessed spirited participation from 32 teams representing various government and private institutions, reflecting the growing enthusiasm for sports among youth.

Meanwhile, Zone Wagoor organized an Inter-School Zonal Level Volleyball Tournament for Under-14 boys at HS Watergam, drawing participation from 180 students across multiple institutions.



Similarly, Zone Nehalpora conducted Inter-School Volleyball Tournaments for Under-14 and Under-17 girls at BMS Waripora, with 70 students actively participating.

Zone Chandanwari also marked its presence by successfully organizing an Inter-School Zonal Level Volleyball Tournament for Under-17 boys under the

and girls in Under-14 and Under-17 categories were kick-started under the NMBA initiative, aimed at building a drug-free society. On the opening day, more than 100 participants enthusiastically took part in the competitions.

Adding to the sporting fervor, Zone Baramulla organized an Inter-School Badminton Competition for Under-14 boys at the prestigious Bipin Rawat Stadium. The competition saw 26 teams competing in the doubles category and 23 teams in singles, with students from diverse educational institutions participating with zeal and determination.

Speaking on the sidelines of these events, DYSSO Baramulla, Sheikh Shafiq Iqbal stated that these competitions are being conducted as part of the Annual Sports Calendar 2026, alongside the dedicated schedule issued under the Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan, aimed at engaging youth in constructive activities and steering them away from substance abuse.

Unity March Rally against Drug Abuse held in Srinagar under NMBA



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Department of Physical Education and College Well-Being And Anti-Substance Cell (CWASC) of Government College of Education (IASE), M.A. Road, Srinagar, in collaboration with the Nodal Principal, Kashmir Division Colleges, and the District Administration Srinagar, organized a Unity March Rally under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) to spread awareness against substance abuse and promote a sense of collective social responsibility among students and the general public.

On the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz highlighted the objectives of the rally, stressing the crucial role of youth in building a drug-free society. She said

such initiatives are aimed at sensitizing students about the ill effects of substance abuse and strengthening community participation in prevention efforts.

The rally commenced from Government College of Education, M.A. Road, Srinagar, and passed through Maulana Azad Road, Polo View, and the GPO, footbridge Raj Bagh and culminating back at the college premises.

The event witnessed wide participation from students, faculty members, and officials, reflecting strong support for the nationwide campaign against drug abuse.

Among those present on the occasion were Prof. Lateef Shah, Prof. Alaf Shah Syed, Prof. Shawana Manzoor, Arshad Saaleh, Daljeet Kour, Dr. Qazi Inam, and others.

Satish Sharma calls for climate-resilient agroecosystems, stresses innovation

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Information Technology, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Tuesday called for urgent, innovation-driven measures to build climate-resilient agroecosystems in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the national conference on Sustainable and Climate Resilient Agroecosystems at SKUAST-Jammu, the Minister said the region's unique Himalayan ecology and agrarian economy place it at the frontline of climate change. He said that erratic weather patterns, shifting cultivation cycles and extreme climate events are already impacting the farmers, horticulturists and pastoral communities.

"Jammu and Kashmir is a living laboratory of climate change. Our response must be immediate, locally relevant and science-based," he said.

Highlighting that nearly 60-70 percent of the population depends on agriculture and allied sectors, Satish Sharma stressed that long-term economic growth hinges on building resilient farming systems. He said Kashmir's apple economy is facing stress from rising temperatures and shorter chilling periods and urged faster research into climate-resilient varieties. For Jammu, he highlighted declining groundwater and erratic monsoons affecting the key crops and called for greater adoption of precision irrigation and stronger agro-advisory outreach.

The Minister also drew attention to the challenges



faced by Gujjar and Bakarwal communities due to disrupted grazing patterns, urging for integrated support that blends the traditional knowledge with modern science. He further stressed the need for watershed management and soil conservation.

Emphasizing the role of technology, Satish Sharma advocated real-time weather advisories, AI-driven farming solutions, and robust cold-chain infrastructure. "Technology must connect research directly with the farmer," he said.

He also appreciated the ongoing afforestation efforts and called for scaling up ecological initiatives across both the rural and urban areas.

Urging stronger collaboration between the institutions and policymakers, the Minister called for actionable recommendations under programmes like the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme.

Encouraging youth participation, he said young researchers and entrepreneurs will play a decisive role in shaping a sustainable future. "The future of our agriculture lies in the hands of our youth," he added.

Rana meets public delegations, assures time-bound action on development issues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Tuesday met multiple public delegations at the Civil Secretariat, listening closely to their concerns related to development and community welfare.

During the meeting,

representatives from various areas raised pressing issues, particularly emphasizing the need to upgrade road infrastructure, improve water availability and strengthen essential public services.

The delegations highlighted that rural and underserved regions require focused attention, citing their unique challenges they face in

accessing basic facilities.

The Minister gave a patient and attentive hearing to all submissions, acknowledging the proactive role played by the delegations in voicing the concerns of their communities.

He assured them that all genuine demands would be carefully examined and addressed in a phased, time-bound manner.

Reaffirming the government's commitment, Rana reiterated that the administration led by Omar Abdullah remains focused on responsive governance, prioritizing timely resolution of public issues and ensuring balanced, sustainable development across regions and sub-regions in Jammu and Kashmir.

Gujarat local poll: BJP gains complete control of 15 municipal corporations

IANS

GANDHINAGAR: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has recorded a sweeping victory across Gujarat in the local self-government elections, retaining control of all 15 municipal corporations and securing an overwhelming majority across municipalities and panchayats, according to results declared on Tuesday.

Polling was held for 15 municipal corporations, 84 municipalities, 34 district panchayats and 260 taluka panchayats. Even before counting began, the BJP had won 732 of the 10,005 seats unopposed.

Final results showed the party winning 78 municipalities, while the Congress secured six.

At the district level, the BJP formed governments

in 33 of 34 district panchayats, and at the taluka level it won 253 of 260 bodies, with the remaining going to Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

The only district panchayat not won by the BJP was Narmada, where AAP secured 15 of 22 seats against the BJP's seven.

AAP also registered a milestone in Amreli district by winning the Bagasara taluka panchayat, marking its first control of a panchayat body.

In municipal corporations, the BJP retained all 15 bodies with large margins. In Surat, it won 115 of 120 seats, while AAP's tally fell from 27 in 2021 to 4, and Congress secured 1.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In my service Book my name has been mentioned as Farooq Ahamad Shah and father's name as Kh. Abdul Majed Shah. While as my correct name is Farooq Ahmad and father's correct name is Kh. Abdul Majeed Shah, Now I want to apply for the correction of the same in my Service Book. If anybody is having any objection in this regard he/she may contact Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Chadoora, SE R&B Circle Budgam, Chief Engineer Central Kashmir Rajbagh Srinagar and Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary Public Works R&B Deptt.) within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After seven days no objection shall be entertained.

Farooq Ahmad S/o Kh. Abdul Majeed Shah
R/o: Tral-i-bala District: Pulwama Pin: 192123
Ph: 9906463500

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
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S. No	Name of Work	Ceiling Amount (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	8
1.	Stage contract for making necessary arrangements for Padh Yatra under Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan 2026.	30.00 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 25.42 + (18% GST Amount 4.58)	1100/-	60000/-	10 Days	AA, BEE Class & MSME's Only

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27-04-2026
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 27-04-2026 (01:30PM) To 02-05-2026 (03:00PM)
3	Bid Submission Start Date	From 27-04-2026 (01:30PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 02-05-2026 (03:00PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	02-05-2026 (04:00PM)

In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt(Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender Inviting Authority) (NIT NO & Item No/Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD as tabulated above in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (Tender receiving Authority). (The Date of EMD (CDR/FDR/BG) should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and validity of EMD at the time of opening of bids shall be a period of 45 Days beyond bid validity of 120 days.) All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

Note: a. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of Tender Document Cost or Rs 500/- whichever is lower.
b. MSME's are required to pay only 50% of the amount of EMD/ Bid Security or Rs 5000/- whichever is lower
c. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of Contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period(DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
d. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.
e. The rates quoted in the BoQ are exclusive of GST. GST @18 Percent shall be added to the contract value by the allotting authority at the time of issuance of allotment.
f. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag
g. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid
h. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
i. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
j. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.
k. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
l. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
m. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
n. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.
o. Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

Note:-
10. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
11. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.
12. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
13. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
14. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
15. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

(R Mohamad Waseem)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag

DIPK-831-26
DT: 28/04/2026

PM Modi inaugurates six modern indoor cricket academies developed by BCCI in North-East

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday inaugurated six modern indoor cricket academies across North-East India. This initiative aims to improve the game's infrastructure and harness the region's sporting potential.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) developed these facilities, which were unveiled virtually during a state event in Gangtok. The academies are located in Rangpo (Sikkim), Doimukh (Arunachal Pradesh), Imphal (Manipur), Madankurkhang (Meghalaya), Aizawl (Mizoram), and Dimapur (Nagaland). They create a high-performance cricket network throughout the North-East.

The inauguration ceremony included Jay Shah and BCCI office-bearers, while regional administrators joined online. Shah conceived the project during his time as BCCI Secretary, and the foundation stone was laid in May 2024.

These academies are designed as high-performance centres. They include indoor practice pitches, high-tech gyms, temperature-controlled swimming pools, as well as dedicated training and administrative spaces. The facilities allow for year-round training and reduce the need for players to travel outside the region, particularly during the lengthy monsoon season.



BCCI president Mithun Manhas stated, "We are grateful to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for inaugurating these facilities. This initiative shows a clear intention to develop cricket infrastructure in every region and build a stronger, more inclusive foundation for the game. It is also a key step in ensuring that aspiring cricketers from the North-East have access to the same quality of facilities as other players in the country."

Secretary Devajit Saikia called the development a landmark event for the region. "This is a momentous occasion and a significant day for the entire North-East. I thank Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for attending and opening the facilities. I also thank ICC Chair Mr. Jay Shah for his vision and for starting this important project back in 2022."

"This is a major boost for cricketers in the region. They will benefit greatly as training and preparation can continue throughout the year, giving players the consistency they need

to improve their game. I am confident this will lead to more players from the North-East reaching the highest levels of the sport," he added.

Vice President Rajeev Shukla noted the long-term impact: "These academies provide structure and opportunity to a region with great potential. With a high-performance environment now established in the North-East, we expect steady growth in the coming years. The focus will be on creating competitive exposure and pathways that enable this talent to succeed at the highest level."

Joint Secretary Prabhtej Bhatia stressed the importance of grassroots development: "This is about creating a long-term system. By investing in infrastructure and access at the grassroots level, we are laying the foundation for future generations of cricketers from the North-East. The ecosystem around these facilities will also support coaching, fitness, and overall player development."

IPL 2026: Unbeaten PBKS asked to bat against Rajasthan Royals in New Chandigarh

IAN S

NEW CHANDIGARH: Rajasthan Royals won the toss and elected to field against Punjab Kings in the 40th match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium in New Chandigarh, on Tuesday.

Shimron Hetmyer and Ravi Bishnoi have been replaced by Dasun Shanaka and Yash Punja in the eleven for Rajasthan. For Punjab, Suryansh Shedge and Lockie Ferguson come in for Shashank Singh and Xavier Bartlett.

Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag said, "We are going to bowl first. Looks like a pretty good wicket. But there was a bit of cloud cover and a bit of a shower as well. A little bit of moisture at the start. We are trying to strike that to



Dasun Shanaka comes in. Ravi Bishnoi goes out, Yash Punja comes in. It is very hard to practice that, but everyone's played a lot of cricket, and you have to really keep your nerve in a pressure situation and test your character."

Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer said, "We would have loved to bowl first as well. I asked one of my team members. The wicket was covered for the last few days because of the weather. All of us are proactive, irrespective of whether we are bowling first or second. We have one forced change. Suryansh comes in place of Shashank. Also, Lockie comes in place of Xavier. All the individuals have goals to achieve. We know what we have to do to achieve those goals. It's important to keep the momentum. On behalf of the whole team, I want to express my condolences to Azmat and his family for the loss. We are with him

during this hard time."

Playing XIs: Rajasthan Royals: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Dhruv Jurel (wk), Riyan Parag (c), Donovan Ferreira, Ravindra Jadeja, Dasun Shanaka, Jofra Archer, Nandre Burger, Brijesh Sharma, Yash Punja

Impact substitutes: Shimron Hetmyer, Shubham Dubey, Tushar Deshpande, Ravi Bishnoi, Ravi Singh

Punjab Kings: Priyansh Arya, Prabhshimran Singh (wk), Cooper Connolly, Shreyas Iyer (c), Suryansh Shedge, Nehal Wadhwa, Marcus Stoinis, Marco Jansen, Lockie Ferguson, Arshdeep Singh, Yuzvendra Chahal

Impact substitutes: Musheer Ahmed Khan, Vishnu Vinod, Vyshak Vijaykumar, Xavier Bartlett, Harpreet Brar

FIFA World Cup 2026: Algeria's Luca Zidane doubtful after jaw fracture

IAN S

ALGIERS: African nation Algeria has been dealt a major blow ahead of the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2026 as its star goalkeeper, Luca Zidane, has fractured his jaw and chin and is doubtful for the multi-national tournament in which Algeria is making an entry after 12 years.

The incident happened during Sunday's Spanish second division league clash between Zidane's club, Granada and Almeria. After the injury, Zidane had to be replaced after suffering a concussion following a collision with opposing striker Thalys.

"Medical tests carried out have revealed that the goalkeeper has also suffered a fracture to his jaw and chin," the club said in a statement released on Tuesday. "The player, in consultation with the club's medical staff, will decide in



the coming hours on the course of treatment to be followed for his injury," the statement added.

Luca is the son of French football legend Zinedine Zidane. The

27-year-old is expected to miss the rest of the season due to injury, with doubts raised on his FIFA World Cup selection. Luca represented his father's

team, France, at the youth level but was selected last year to play for Algeria, the country of his paternal grandparents.

Luca got good opportunities in Algeria as he started in four of Algeria's five games in the Africa Cup of Nations last year and played all 90 minutes of last month's goalless draw against Uruguay in an international friendly

Algeria has qualified for the FIFA World Cup five times (1982, 1986, 2010, 2014, 2026), with their best performance being a Round-of-16 appearance in 2014. They are known for historic upsets, notably beating West Germany in 1982, and became the first African team to win two matches in one tournament in 1986.

They are placed in Group J alongside FIFA World Cup 2022 champions Argentina, Jordan, and Austria. They will open their campaign against Argentina on June 16.

Indian TT team builds up for centenary World Championships with SAI-backed overseas camp

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The Sports Authority of India (SAI) put in place a comprehensive support worth over ₹90 lakh to ensure the Indian table tennis team put their best foot forward at the milestone centenary ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships (WTTC), which gets underway in London on Tuesday and ends on May 10 at the OVO Arena in Wembley.

A 19-member Indian contingent, comprising 10 players, three coaches, three support staff, and three sparring partners, are representing the country at the prestigious global event, with leading names such as Manika Batra, Gnanasekaran Sathiyar, Manav Thakkar, and Harmeet Desai spearheading the challenge across men's and women's competitions.

The Indian men's team is drawn alongside Slovakia,

Tunisia, and Guatemala, while the women's team will take on Ukraine, Uganda, and Rwanda in the group stages. The group stage matches are scheduled between April 28 and May 1. The Indian teams will be looking to go further this time around; both the men's and women's teams advanced to the knockout stages but exited in the Round of 32 in the 2024 edition of the competition in Busan.

Table Tennis will not feature in the Commonwealth Games 2026, but the WTTC London will provide a good litmus test ahead of the Asian Games 2026 in Japan, and also determine India's preparation and bench strength as the games set to return at the centenary Commonwealth Games 2030 in Bharat.

In the lead-up to the 2026 World Team Table Tennis Championships, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) sanctioned a series

of preparatory camps to fine-tune the team's performance. A national coaching camp was held at the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports Centre in Bengaluru from April 13 to 19 at a cost of ₹13.26 lakh, followed by an overseas training stint in Sheffield from April 21 to 26, backed with ₹20.92 lakh. This phased preparation, combining domestic conditioning with international exposure, was done with the aim of sharpening match readiness and adapting Massimo Constantini's players to the European playing conditions.

SAI also released a total fund of approximately ₹60.1 lakh to the Table Tennis Federation of India to ensure the team's participation, including airfare, boarding and lodging, out-of-pocket allowances and entry fees, for our athletes and officials in the event.

IPL 2026: When and where to watch MI vs SRH, know all details

IAN S

MUMBAI: Five-time champions Mumbai Indians (MI) will take on 2016 winners Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the 41st match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at the iconic Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday.

MI are struggling to get their momentum in the ongoing season as they are currently placed at ninth on the table with just two wins from seven matches. They are coming to the contest after suffering their biggest defeat in IPL history, which came at the hands of Chennai Super Kings (CSK), who beat the Hardik Pandya-led side by 103 runs on April 23. However, after a break of six days, they would be eager to make a strong comeback.

SRH, on the other side has turned their fortunes after a poor start where they lost three out of four opening games as they registered four consecutive victories in the next matches. SRH sit third in the standings with five wins from eight matches. They are coming to the contest after a five-wicket win against the Rajasthan Royals (RR), and they would look to continue the momentum and strengthen their position in the top four.

When: Wednesday, April 29, 7:30 PM IST

Where: Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai

Where to watch: The MI vs RR match will be broadcast on Star Sports channels, with JioHotstar live-streaming the game.

Squads
Sunrisers Hyderabad: Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head, Ishan Kishan(c), Heinrich Klaassen, Salil

Arora(wk), Aniket Verma, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Shivang Kumar, Harsh Dubey, Sakib Hussain, Eshan Malinga, Dilshan Madushanka, Smaran Ravichandran, Praful Hinge, Liam Livingstone, Harshal Patel, Jaydev Unadkat, Kamindu Mendis, Zeeshan Ansari, Shivam Mavi, Gerald Coetzee, Krains Fuletra, Onkar Tarmale, Amit Kumar

Mumbai Indians: Quinton de Kock(wk), Danish Malewar, Naman Dhir, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya(c), Sherfane Rutherford, Keshav Maharaj, Krish Bhagat, Jasprit Bumrah, AM Ghazanfar, Ashwani Kumar, Raj Bawa, Corbin Bosch, Mayank Rawat, Raghu Sharma, Rohit Sharma, Deepak Chahar, Trent Boult, Shardul Thakur, Will Jacks, Mayank Markande, Ryan Rickelton, Robin Minz, Mohammed Salahuddin Izhar

Movies Schedule

Wednesday, 29th April

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DHURANDHAR

BHOOTH BANGLA
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LEE CRONIN'S THE MUMMY

Dhurandhar: The Revenge (A)
Hindi – 12:45 PM, 06:05 PM

BHOOTH BANGLA (U/A16+)
Hindi Atmos – 11:15 AM, 02:30 PM, 05:45 PM

Lee Cronin's The Mummy (A)
English with English Subtitles – 11:00 AM

Michael (U/A 13+)
English with English Subtitles | 02:00 PM, 05:00 PM

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