

Good Morning Kashmir

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Delighted to release the wonderful book 'Healer In Exile-The Untold Story of Dr. Sushil Razdan' authored by his son Sachin Razdan. This book is a testament to selfless service in the face of personal loss & captures his life's journey devoted to others.

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Jmu To Sgr In Under 5 Hours

'All-Weather' Vande Bharat From May 2



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The long-awaited direct Vande Bharat train service between Jammu and Srinagar is set to be launched today, marking a major milestone in railway connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw will flag off the extended Srinagar-Katra Vande Bharat Express service from Jammu Tawi Railway Station today. The train, which previously operated from Srinagar up to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, will now run all the way to Jammu Tawi, bringing the country's most modern train directly to J&K's largest city and railway hub.

Following the flag-off, the Union Minister will subsequently inspect two of the most remarkable engineering structures on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), the Anji Bridge and the Chenab Bridge.

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off

the Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express on 6th June 2025, the train ran with 8 coaches. Since then, the train has consistently been running at full capacity, with an overwhelming response from passengers. The decision to augment the rake to 20 coaches is a direct response to that demand, more than doubling the train's seating capacity at a stroke, and significantly easing the pressure on reservations and waitlists, particularly during peak pilgrimage and tourist seasons.

For pilgrims who have watched seats sell out days in advance, for tourists planning a trip to the Valley, and for locals who rely on this service for everyday travel, the expanded rake means the train is now far less likely to turn them away. With the extension to Jammu Tawi happening simultaneously, the 20-coach Vande Bharat arrives at its largest catchment city with the capacity to match it, a train finally built to the scale of the **P-06**

Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyaan

LG Sinha Calls For Stringent Action Against Drug Smugglers, Peddlers

Reviews Security Scenario, Preparations For Forthcoming Pilgrimages

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the security scenario, progress on Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyaan and District wise preparations for the forthcoming pilgrimages.

The meeting was attended by Sh Atal Dullo, Chief Secretary, Sh Nalin Prabhat, DGP, Sh Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary Home Department, S.J.M.Gillani, Spl DG Coordination PHQ, Sh Nitish Kumar, ADGP, CID, Dr. Mandeep Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, M Raju, Commissioner/Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department, Sh Sarmad Hafeez Commissioner/Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sh Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner/Secretary School Education Department, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, IGP Jammu, DIGs, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs from



Jammu Division.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs apprised the Lieutenant Governor of the law and order and security scenario in their respective districts. They also gave details on the progress

of 100 days campaign of the 'Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan' and preparations regarding the conduct of different pilgrimages in their respective districts including Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, Shri Kausar Nag Yatra and **P-06**

"Healer In Exile"

LG Releases Book On Renowned Neurologist Dr Sushil Razdan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, Wednesday launched the book, "Healer in Exile: The Untold Story of Dr. Sushil Razdan" authored by his son Sachin Razdan.

Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor said that Dr. Sushil Razdan stands among India's leading neurologists and his contributions in the medical field remain unmatched.

"The story of Dr. Sushil Razdan's life conveys a significant lesson of committing yourself to the selfless service of others. It is a sacred duty to place the needs of the person before you above your own and see society not merely as a city or village, but as a community of responsibilities, where true fulfilment lies in dedicating one's **P-06**

Weather To Improve In J&K From Today



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: The weather across Jammu and Kashmir is expected to improve slightly today with partly cloudy skies and isolated spells of light rain, while another wet spell is likely between May 3 and 5, the Meteorological Department said on Wednesday.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience largely dry conditions on May 1 and 2, although brief, isolated showers cannot be ruled out in some areas.

However, the MeT department, has forecast a fresh spell of generally cloudy weather accompanied by light rain and thundershowers at scattered to many places between May 3 and 5.

From May 6 to 9, the region is expected to remain mostly dry, with chances of brief and isolated showers at a few locations.

Meanwhile, as per the latest weather data recorded on April 29, daytime temperatures **P-06**

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ISSUED A FIRM DIRECTIVE TO FORTIFY THE security grid through unwavering coordination among all security forces, ensuring a seamless and impenetrable shield against emerging threats

Govt Approves 18% Fare Hike For Public Transport Across J&K



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved an 18 percent hike in fares for various categories of commercial passenger vehicles across the Union Territory, issuing a fresh notification in this regard. TravelGuides & Travelogues

The Transport Department, in a notification issued from Civil Secretariat, has directed the Transport Commissioner, J&K to fix the revised maximum chargeable fares for different categories of vehicles, including stage carriage buses, taxis, maxi cabs and auto-rickshaws.

The notification states that the revised fare structure will be applicable over and above the rates notified earlier vide SRO-97 dated March 19, 2021, covering big buses, mini buses, contract carriage taxis such as Sumo, Bolero, Tempo Traveller, as well as medium and premium segment tourist vehicles including Scorpio, Xylo, Innova and Fortuner. Businessnews

It further specifies that auto-rickshaws and Tata Magic vehicles operating as stage carriages will also witness an 18 percent increase in fares under the revised structure. **P-06**

545 Village Revenue Records Missing In J&K; 258 Still Untraced

RAJA SYED RATHER

SRINAGAR: The issue of missing village revenue records (Massavis) in Jammu and Kashmir has drawn increased attention, with official figures showing 545 records missing across 20 districts. Of these, 258 remain untraced or unresolved, raising concerns about the integrity of land record systems.

District-wise data, shows Udhampur with the highest number at 154 missing Massavis; however, 139 have been restored, leaving 15 pending. Kishtwar follows with 58 missing, of which only 10 have been traced, while 48 remain unresolved.

Doda has reported 46 missing Massavis, none of which have been traced so far, leaving all 46 pending. Reasi recorded 40 missing, with only 2 restored and 38 still pending.



In the Jammu division, Rajouri reported 43 missing Massavis, with 28 traced and 15 pending. Kathua recorded 38 missing, all of which remain pending with no recoveries reported. Jammu district has 44 missing records, of which 24 have been restored, leaving 20 pending.

Samba reported 9 missing Massavis, with 7 traced and 2

pending, while Ramban has 12 missing records, none traced so far, leaving all 12 pending.

In the Kashmir division, Baramulla reported 21 missing Massavis, with 17 traced and 4 pending, while Kupwara recorded 12 missing, with 11 traced and just 1 pending.

Budgam has reported 25 missing records, of **P-06**

Wild Boar Menace Returns To Kashmir, Paddy Fields Ravaged

WARIS FAYAZ

SRINAGAR: Wild boars, largely unseen in Kashmir since the mid-1980s, have re-emerged across central and north Kashmir, damaging crops and raising concern among farmers and wildlife officials.

The animal, not native to the Valley has been sighted in Uri, Lachipora, Limber, Rafiaband, Zaingeer and parts of Bani-dipora, besides villages in Budgam. Farmers say the resurgence has intensified over the past few years, with a sharp spike in sightings this season.

For cultivators already hit by erratic weather, the boar has become a serious threat. Freshly sown paddy fields are being destroyed within days, pushing many into financial stress.

"We had just sown paddy

saplings with hard work. Within days, everything is destroyed. Every morning we see our fields ruined," Ali Mohammad, a farmer from Zaingeer Sopore, said.

Several farmers alleged that repeated complaints to authorities have not led to concrete action. Many have started guarding their fields at night, fearing total crop loss.

"Continued damage could force us to abandon cultivation this year," said a farmer.

Officials said advisories are being issued to farmers regularly to help them protect crops and reduce risks.

In-charge Wildlife officer, Intisar Suhail attributed the resurgence to long-term climate shifts. He said the species, introduced during the Maharaja's era around 80 to 90 years ago, had remained largely absent for decades.

"For the last 20 to **P-06**

Rajnath Meets Chinese FM; Talks Focus On LAC, West Asia

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met his Chinese counterpart Admiral Dong Jun in Bishkek to discuss maintaining peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and broader regional security concerns including the West Asia crisis.

The meeting, held on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' conclave on Tuesday, came as New Delhi and Beijing move to repair their frosty relations.

"It was a pleasure to interact with the Defence Minister of China Admiral Dong Jun during the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting in Bishkek," Singh said on social media.

The defence ministry said Singh and Dong shared views on the regional and global



security landscape, especially the developments in West Asia.

It is learnt that the two ministers also discussed the situation along the LAC and underlined the importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

In the last few months, both sides have initiated a series of measures to reset their ties that came under

severe strain following the deadly clashes between Indian and Chinese troops in Galwan Valley in June 2020.

Following a series of diplomatic and military talks, the two sides withdrew their troops from several friction points along the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

In October 2024, the two sides firmed up a disengagement pact for Dopsang

and Demchok, the last two friction points in eastern Ladakh.

Days after the agreement was finalised, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks in Kazan and took a number of decisions to improve the ties.

In August last year, PM Modi travelled to Chinese city of Tianjin to attend the annual SCO summit.

Modi and Xi held extensive talks on the sidelines of the SCO summit.

In the meeting, Modi said India is committed to take forward its ties with China based on mutual trust, respect and sensitivity.

Defence Minister Singh also met his Russian counterpart Andrei Belousov.

"Great interaction with Russian Defence Minister, Andrei Belousov during the SCO Defence **P-06**

Finance Dept Pushes Prepaid Meter Installation Govt Offices

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Finance Department Wednesday asked all government offices, PSUs, corporations, and universities to fast-track the installation of prepaid smart meters.

The department in a circular said that all the administrative departments shall expedite the installation of pre-paid smart meters in all office buildings and residential quarters owned by the Government, PSUs, Corporations, Local body, Institutions and Universities etc in coordination with Power Development Department and its DISCOMS.

It also said that for smooth and successful transition from conventional mode of electricity accounting or payment to pre-paid smart metering system, the departments are instructed to ensure installation of pre-paid smart meters in all Government offices and buildings under their administrative control on priority basis, as per the instructions already issued.

"All the outstanding **P-06**

100-Day Anti-Drug Drive

296 Peddlers Arrested, 281 Cases Registered In Kashmir

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir and Divisional Commissioner Kashmir on Tuesday co-chaired a high-level meeting at Police Control Room Kashmir to review the implementation and progress of the ongoing "Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan," a 100-day campaign aimed at combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking across the Union Territory.

The campaign, launched by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, has been described as a time-bound and outcome-oriented initiative with a zero-tolerance approach towards drug peddling and related offences. The meeting was attended by all range Deputy Inspectors General

of Police (DIGs) of Kashmir, Deputy Commissioners of all districts in the Kashmir Zone, Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs), Joint Director Prosecution ZPHQ and other senior officers.

At the outset, district SSPs briefed the chair about ongoing enforcement operations under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. They informed that sustained action has resulted in the arrest of more than 296 drug peddlers and registration of over 281 cases across the Valley. Officials said key drug trafficking hotspots have been identified for targeted interventions.

The SSPs further reported that approximately 460 awareness programmes have been conducted in educational institutions, **P-06**

Div Com meets Religious Leaders, invites for participation in Nasha Mukh J&K Padyatra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Continuing outreach efforts to engage stakeholders in the fight against drug abuse and to build a narcotics-free society, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Wednesday held a meeting with religious leaders from various faiths.

The meeting was attended by Imams, members of the Shia Community, Gurudwara Prabhak Committee, and representatives of the migrant Hindu community.

During the interaction, the Divisional Commissioner appreciated the proactive role of religious leaders in the Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan, noting their influence in spreading awareness through religious institutions and community engagement.

He emphasized that the



role of religious leaders is indispensable in combating the growing menace of narcotics. On the occasion, he extended a cordial invitation to all religious figures, across

sects and faiths, to participate in large numbers in the Nasha Mukh J&K Padyatra scheduled for May 3.

The participants shared valuable suggestions and

assured full cooperation and active participation in the upcoming padyatra, reinforcing their commitment to the collective fight against drug abuse.

Beerwah educational zone bids farewell to outgoing ZEPO Ab Rashid Magray

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The Zonal Education Office Beerwah on Wednesday accorded a warm and emotional farewell to its outgoing Zonal Education Planning Officer (ZEPO), Abdul Rashid Magray, who superannuated after rendering 35 years of dedicated and exemplary service to the department of education.

The farewell ceremony was attended by the ZEO Beerwah Ab Rasheed Malla Ex-ZEO Syed Murtaza Husain Naqvi heads of institutions, teachers from across the zone, prominent social activist cum columnist Muntazir Momin Wani, well-wishers and family members, who gathered in large numbers to acknowledge and celebrate his distinguished career.

During his career, Magray served in several institutions across north Kashmir's Tangmarg area, including Government Middle School Khanderpora, Government Higher Secondary School Kralweth, Government Higher Secondary School Khahipora and Government Model Higher Secondary Institute Hardushoora. Rising through the ranks from a dedicated classroom Math teacher to an accomplished



administrator, he assumed the role of Zonal Education Planning Officer (ZEPO) Beerwah in 2025, from where he retired.

Speakers on the occasion paid rich tributes to Magray's professionalism, integrity and unwavering commitment, noting that his contributions have left a lasting impact on both the education sector and the student community.

Colleagues described him as an approachable and dedicated teacher who led by example and upheld the highest standards of professionalism. "His guidance, humility and unwavering sincerity have been a constant source of inspiration for us. He leaves behind a legacy defined by integrity, hardwork and commitment to education sector," said Master Mohd Sultan Wani.

Addressing the gathering, Magray said his 35 years of journey in the education department was defined by continuous learning and collective effort.

"Working with teachers and students across different schools has been a fulfilling experience. Education at the grassroots level requires commitment, coordination and trust", he said.

He advised teachers to remain steadfast in their commitment to the profession and to focus on shaping students career through quality education, effective guidance and dedicated mentorship.

The Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) lauded his dedication and exemplary service as an administrator in the Beerwah zone, noting that his leadership, professionalism and commitment to strengthening the education system have left a lasting impact on institutions, teachers and students across the zone.

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of mementos and a warm send-off, coupled with prayers and best wishes for his prosperous and healthy post-retirement life.

Drug Control Authority conducts Inspections, Awareness Drive at DH Pora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Under the ongoing Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, the Drug Control Authority conducted a series of inspections and awareness activities at DH Pora, Kulgam.

During the inspections, all pharmaceutical establishments were checked. It was observed that CCTV cameras had been installed and computerized billing systems adopted, ensuring improved transparency and regulatory compliance.

An awareness programme was also conducted at DH Pora, where chemists were sensitized about the proper maintenance of scheduled drugs and the strict dispensation of such medicines only on the prescription of registered medical practitioners.

Later, officers of the Drug Control Authority participated in an anti-drug rally held in the main market of DH Pora, spreading awareness and reinforcing the message of a drug-free society.

NRSM Honours J&K Schools at Road Safety Education Excellence Awards

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The National Road Safety Education Excellence Awards 2025-26 marked the culmination of the National Road Safety Mission for Schools 2025-26. In Jammu & Kashmir, the initiative saw participation from 34 schools, with 7 award winners and 18 Olympiad winners recognised as part of the programme.

According to a statement, the National Road Safety Mission (NRSM), launched in 2024, is a nationwide, collaborative, non-government initiative led by Academia Axis Edtech, an education technology organisation; International Road Federation (IRF) India Chapter, the global road safety and transport body; and EduXa.ai, an education technology platform.

It has reached over 5,000 schools across 35 states and Union Territories, engaging more than 2.2 million students through structured road safety learning and school-level interventions.

The programme includes school zone safety audits, structured K-12 learning modules and a rating framework to assess and improve safety conditions around schools. The initiative has also been piloted across select states in collaboration with gov-



ernment stakeholders, focusing on audit-led interventions and school zone infrastructure.

The event was attended by Rajni Thakur, Project Director, NRSM. Manit Jain, Co-founder of Heritage Schools and I am a Teacher - a not-for-profit teacher training and capacity building organisation and Kapila, President Emeritus, IRF, were present as Guests of Honour.

The awards presented recognised over 1100 institutions and contributors implementing structured road safety programmes within school environments as part of a broader effort to integrate safe road behaviour into early education across Bharat.

Among the Olympiad winners, Delhi Public School, Udhampur; Jammu Sanskriti School, Kathua; SRM Welkin Hr. Sec. School, Sapore; Army Public School, Udhampur; Army

Public School, Dhar Road; Army Public School, Janglot; Army Public School, Kaluchak; Army Public School, Ratnuchak; and Army Public School, Samba were recognised among the top performers. Additionally, Delhi Public School, Udhampur and Army Public School, Kaluchak received special recognition under the National Road Safety Education Excellence Awards, while Jammu Sanskriti School, Jammu; Jammu Sanskriti School, Kathua; JK Police Public School, Bemina, Srinagar; and PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya, Nagrota were recognised across leadership and changemaker categories.

"We are moving road safety education from occasional awareness drives to structured, age-appropriate learning inside schools," said Manit Jain. "We are now working towards scaling this initiative to reach 20 million students by 2026, with a focus on building measurable learning outcomes within the school ecosystem."

"Road traffic injuries continue to be one of the gravest public safety challenges, especially for children and young adults. If we want safer roads, education must begin before unsafe habits are formed. The National Road Safety Mission for Schools aims to help build a generation that treats road safety as a civic responsibility," said K.K. Kapila, President Emeritus International Road Federation.

"The National Road Safety Mission is more than just a program; it is a movement built by the people, for the people. Our mission to create a culture of safety on our streets which would not be possible without the unwavering commitment of school leaders and parents. Together, we are not just teaching road rules—we are protecting the future of our communities," said Rajni Thakur.

Additionally, Parvesh Verma, Cabinet Minister in the Delhi Government, has also conveyed his support for the initiative and encouraged its implementation, noting its relevance in promoting road safety education at the school level—(KNO)

CCIK Pledges Support for Nasha Mukh Bharat Rally



GMK NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar: The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashmir (CCIK) has thrown its weight behind the upcoming Nasha Mukh Bharat rally, scheduled for May 3. Addressing a press conference, CCIK President Tariq Ahmad Ghani assured the Chamber's full cooperation in making the initiative a success.

"We recognize the fight against drug abuse as a collective responsibility, requiring concerted efforts

from all stakeholders," Ghani said. He announced that CCIK members will participate in large numbers in the rally, demonstrating their commitment to building a healthier society.

Ghani lauded the Lieutenant Governor's proactive approach in tackling substance abuse and reaffirmed CCIK's resolve to support the government's mission. The Chamber's participation underscores its dedication to promoting a drug-free society.

Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan Series of awareness programmes held in several panchayats of Rafiabad

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: As per the scheduled calendar, the 100-day milestone of the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan was successfully observed Wednesday across several Panchayats of Block Rafiabad, including Halqa Yarbugh, with a series of awareness programmes and padyatras.

The activities were led by Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Baramulla, Mudasar Husain, who spearheaded the padyatra and awareness camps. Officials, PRI members, youth, and locals participated in large numbers, reflecting strong community engagement.

Speaking on the occasion, the ACD highlighted the growing threat of substance abuse and emphasized the need for sustained awareness at the grassroots level. He stated that such initiatives, conducted as per the scheduled calendar, are crucial in educating people, especially the youth, about the harmful effects of drugs and in fostering a collective responsibility to eliminate the menace from society.

He further urged community members, particularly young people, to stay away from drugs and actively contribute towards building a healthy and progressive society. He also appreciated the efforts of all stakeholders in making the programmes successful.

The events concluded with participants taking a pledge to support the vision of a Nasha Mukh Bharat and ensure a safer future for coming generations.

Census preparedness gathers pace in Urban Srinagar



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Preparations for the forthcoming Census in Urban Srinagar have gained significant momentum, with the administration intensifying efforts to ensure the smooth and efficient conduct of the nationwide exercise.

The Principal Census Officer Urban Srinagar/Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Faz Lul Haseeb, directed to intensify preparedness and the arrangements being put in place for the successful implementation of the Census operations.

As part of the preparatory phase, training sessions for Field Trainers are currently underway. The program is designed to equip the trainers with the necessary knowledge, technical understanding, and operational guidelines required for effectively conducting the Census process at the

grassroots level.

Officials associated with the exercise informed that the training focuses on familiarizing the Field Trainers with census procedures, enumeration protocols, data collection methodologies, and the use of prescribed formats and digital tools to ensure accuracy, reliability, and uniformity in the data collection process. Authorities further stated that preparations are in full swing, with administrative and logistical arrangements being strengthened to facilitate the seamless execution of the Census across the urban areas of Srinagar.

The ongoing training programme is expected to play a crucial role in capacity building of field functionaries, ensuring that the census operations are carried out in a systematic, transparent, and efficient manner in line with the established guidelines.

SMC invites Bids for Shops, Office Spaces at Parimpora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has issued a Notice Inviting Offer for the allotment of built-up shops and office halls at the Habba Khatoon Commercial Complex, Parimpora, through an online e-auction on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Portal.

The auction will be conducted on an "as is where is" basis to facilitate the commercial utilization of municipal property. The premises fall under the provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1988.

As per the notified schedule, online training and help desk support for bidders commenced on April 28, 2026. The pre-qualification submission process will remain open from May 1 to May 8, followed by assessment from May 9 to May 15. The submission of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) is scheduled between May 16 and May 20, while the final online bidding will take place from May 22 to May 23, 2026.

Individuals, firms, and companies are eligible to participate in the e-auction, while minors are not permitted. The allotment shall be made for a maximum period of ten years, extendable subject to approval of the competent authority. A mandatory Earnest Money Deposit equivalent to 10% of the starting price of each unit is required to be submitted through Demand Draft or FDR pledged in favour of the FA/Chief Accounts Officer, SMC. The minimum bid increment has been fixed at ₹25,000.

The commercial units are available on the ground, first, and second floors, with sizes ranging from approximately 198 square feet to over 600 square feet. The starting prices range between ₹22.28 lakh and ₹49.78 lakh, depending on the size and location of the unit. The rent structure has been fixed at ₹34 per square foot per month for ground floor units, ₹30 per square foot for first floor units, and between ₹28 to ₹33 per square foot for second floor units. The rent will remain fixed for an initial period of three years and will

thereafter be revised by 10% for subsequent terms.

Successful bidders will be required to deposit 25% of the bid amount within seven days of issuance of the Letter of Intent, while the remaining 75% must be paid within 45 days. The allotted units are meant strictly for general commercial use, and subletting or change of allotment will not be permitted. Manufacturing and repair activities are also prohibited within the premises.

Commissioner SMC, Faz Lul Haseeb, while issuing directives regarding the process, emphasized that the entire auction process must be conducted in a transparent, fair, and technology-driven manner to ensure equal opportunity for all eligible participants. He directed the concerned officers to facilitate maximum public participation, provide necessary guidance to bidders, and ensure that the e-auction process is conducted smoothly without any inconvenience to the applicants.

To assist participants, SMC has established a dedicated Help Desk at the

Corporate Office, Karan Nagar (Room No. 207/208, Block-C) to support bidders with registration and e-auction procedures during working hours. Assistance will be provided by Zahoor Ahmad (7006482906), Tahira Parveen (9006976308), Adil Shafi Rangrez (9796765830), Javed Ahmad Matta (7006966432), and Danish Nazir (7006009917).

For on-site facilitation and property inspection, Riyaz Ahmad Sofi has been designated as Property Guide and can be contacted at 9906589927.

Interested bidders are advised to visit the site prior to participation and complete all necessary formalities well in advance to avoid any last-minute technical or system-related issues. Detailed terms and conditions are available on the official website of Srinagar Municipal Corporation and the GeM Portal.

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation has reiterated that it reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason, and the decision of the Commissioner, SMC, shall be final and binding.

Nasha Mukh J&K Campaign Seminar on Drug Abuse held at GHSS Shangus

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: As part of the 100 Days intensified

Campaign on Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan, Government Higher Secondary School Dethu, Shangus on Tuesday organized a seminar on the theme "How to Safeguard our Society from Drugs" at the school premises.

The seminar witnessed enthusiastic participation from staff, students, civil society members and local residents. It focused on the drastic effects of drugs on individuals, families and society, underscoring the need for collective efforts by all stakeholders in safeguarding youth from this menace.

Tehsildar Shangus, Naseer Ahmad attended the event as Chief Guest while Principal of the institute and local civil society members were among speakers.

Addressing the gathering, the speakers high-

lighted the need for coordinated efforts by families, educational institutions, community leaders and law



enforcement agencies to disseminate mass awareness on harms associated with drug addiction and the ways to tackle it effectively. They also emphasized the importance of youth engagement, counselling, education and community vigilance in building a healthy and drug-free society.

At conclusion, the participants pledged support towards strengthening the ongoing anti-drug campaign and working collectively for a healthier future.

GOC Northern Command reviews operational preparedness in Ladakh



GMK NEWS NETWORK

LADAKH: The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-Chief) Northern Command Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma Wednesday visited forward areas along the remote borders of Ladakh to review the current operational preparedness.

The Army commander commended the initiatives aimed at boosting combat capability in the demanding high-altitude environment.

The GOC also interacted with personnel of the Indian Army and ITBP deployed in these challenging conditions, lauding their unwavering commitment, high levels of readiness, and exemplary professional standards.

Yasha Mudgal reviews progress on Centrally Sponsored Computerization of PACS

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal, Wednesday chaired a meeting to review progress on the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Computerization of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) under Phase-II across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

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

During the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary was informed that the Union Ministry of Cooperation, has approved 171 PACS for coverage under this phase in J&K. It was further highlighted that while 8 out of 20 districts have successfully completed the identification and approval process through their respective District Level Implementation and Monitoring Committees (DLIMCs), progress remains pending in the remaining districts.

Yasha Mudgal reiterated that PACS, being grass-roots-level cooperative institutions, play a pivotal role in providing credit and essential services to farm-

ers and rural populations. She emphasized that the computerization initiative, envisioned by the Government of India, aims to strengthen these societies through digital enablement, ensuring greater transparency and modernized service delivery.

Taking serious notice of the slow progress in the remaining districts, the Commissioner/Secretary issued a stern directive to all the Deputy Registrars of the lagging districts. She ordered the immediate expedition of the approval process and set a hard deadline of May 5, 2026, for completion of all DLIMC approvals, making it clear that timely completion of formalities is non-negotiable for the onboarding and digitization of these societies.

The Commissioner Secretary underscored that the success of this centrally sponsored initiative depends on accountability and proactive follow-up at the district level. She called for rigorous monitoring to ensure that the structural benefits of the scheme, primarily improved efficiency and transparency, reach the rural communities within the stipulated timelines.

The meeting concluded with directions for enhanced coordination among the field functionaries and strict adherence to all procedural requirements.

Police to intensify anti-drug crackdown, awareness drive in Kashmir: IGP

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone, Vidhi Kumar Birdi on Tuesday said police will intensify legal action against drug peddlers and smugglers over the next 100 days as part of the ongoing anti-drug campaign.

He said the campaign, launched recently under the administration's "Nasha Mukta" initiative, will adopt a multi-pronged approach with a focus on stricter enforcement, awareness and rehabilitation.

"In the next 100 days, we will increase checks and registration of FIRs against those involved in drug peddling and smuggling," Birdi said, adding that police will identify and destroy illegal cultivation of poppy and cannabis across the Valley.

He said investigations will be strengthened with a focus on financial tracking of accused persons, attachment of properties and disposal of seized narcotics. Police stations have also maintained records of repeat offenders and their methods to improve public awareness, he added.

Birdi said awareness programmes will be conducted

in schools and colleges to educate youth about the risks of drug abuse and ways to stay away from addiction. He added that efforts will also focus on rehabilitation of addicts and informing them about available treatment mechanisms.

The IGP said special attention will be given to areas around educational institutions, including shops and outlets suspected of selling contraband substances.

He said the campaign requires participation from society, including religious leaders, whose outreach can help spread awareness and discourage drug use.

"The solution to this problem lies in collective effort. Society, including religious institutions, has an important role in guiding people," he said.

Referring to a planned awareness rally, Birdi said a "mega rally" will be held on Sunday with participation from the public and officials to promote the anti-drug campaign.

He said joint meetings have been held with the civil administration to ensure wide participation and to strengthen the campaign across districts. (KNS)

Speaker LA reviews progress on new LA Complex, emphasizes timely completion



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, Wednesday convened a meeting with the senior officers to review progress on construction of the new Legislature Complex at Jammu.

Secretary, Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs, Achal Sethi; Engineer-in-Chief Purshotam Kumar, Chief Engineer R&B Jammu Rajesh Kumar; Secretary, JKLA, Manoj Kumar Pandita; Director Finance PWD HK Prashar, SE R&B, South Circle Jammu Arit Gupta, and other senior officers of concerned departments and

Assembly Secretariat were present in the meeting.

Threadbare discussion was held on the issues pertaining to early completion of the new Assembly Complex including provision for Central Hall, committee cum meeting rooms, seating capacity, library, media room etc.

A detailed presentation about various phases of project execution was presented by the Executive Engineer in charge of the project through a Power-Point Presentation.

The Speaker was apprised that Central Hall has been proposed as it is one of the basic requirements of the Legislative

Assembly. It was also informed that there is a provision for 5 committee cum meeting rooms with the seating capacity ranging from 50 to 100 chairs.

Regarding the space for the Library and Media room, it was apprised that there is sufficient space for both requirements.

The Speaker, after reviewing the progress of development works of Assembly Complex emphasized the timely completion of the project while maintaining high quality standards. He directed the executing agency to complete the project within the stipulated time frame.

Javid Dar inaugurates Rs 3.5 cr Fruit, Vegetable Processing Unit in Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a major boost to agricultural infrastructure in Jammu region, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, on Wednesday inaugurated a state-of-the-art Fruit and Vegetable Aggregation, Processing, Grading and Packing Unit at Marh, Jammu.

MLA Marh Surinder Kumar Bhagat, Managing Director JKHPMC, Mohammad Farooq Dar, Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta, Director Animal Husbandry Jammu, Sanjay Gupta, Director Horticulture Jammu, Gul Sayed and Director Sheep Husbandry Jammu, Dr Syed Moin-ul-Haq were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that establishment of the processing unit will play a transformative role in strengthening post-harvest management, boosting processing capacity and significantly reducing post-harvest losses. He said the facility will add 100 metric tonnes of storage capacity, ensuring value addition and creating better marketing opportunities for the farmers at both local and national level.

He highlighted that Marh, known as the vegetable hub of Jammu district, contributes significantly to veg-



etable supplies across the region, adding that several initiatives have already been taken to facilitate the farming community.

"The Rs 3.5 crore project will provide farmers with modern post-harvest infrastructure, helping minimise crop damage and ensuring improved returns through better grading, packing and storage facilities," the Minister said.

Reiterating the government's commitment towards farmers' welfare, Javid Ahmad Dar said the Jammu and Kashmir government is ensuring the availability of high-quality seeds and fertilizers to maximize farm productivity. He added that exotic varieties of vegetable seeds and fruit plants are being made available through departmental channels.

The Minister further informed that Centres of Excellence have been established across all districts to provide quality seedlings and technical support to the farmers. He assured that the demands and concerns raised by MLA Marh Surinder Kumar Bhagat

would be addressed on priority, adding that several initiatives have already been taken to facilitate the farming community.

He directed the field functionaries and departmental officers to work tirelessly for resolving farmers' issues and to intensify awareness campaigns regarding welfare schemes being implemented by the Jammu and Kashmir Government and the Government of India.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Marh Surinder Kumar Bhagat appreciated the department for establishing the processing unit in his constituency and termed it a landmark step for strengthening the agricultural economy of the area.

Earlier, Managing Director JKHPMC briefed the gathering about the significance of the project, stating that the unit will play a pivotal role in enhancing the farmers' income, promoting agriculture and horticulture produce and increasing shelf life of perishable products by two to three times through advanced pre-cooling and storage facilities.

Indian Drug Kingpin Salim Dola Arrested in Istanbul, Deported to India

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Salim Ismailbhai Dola, an alleged Indian narcotics kingpin with links to international drug trafficking networks, has been arrested in Istanbul and deported to India in a coordinated operation involving Turkish authorities and Indian agencies.

Dola, a Mumbai resident, was an absconding accused in multiple narcotics cases registered by central agencies in India. He had fled the country in 2020, initially relocating to Dubai before moving to Turkey in 2024. His deportation on April 28, 2026, is being seen as a significant breakthrough in India's efforts to dismantle transnational drug syndicates.

According to officials, Dola was closely associated with Iqbal Mirchi, a known aide of underworld figure Dawood Ibrahim. He was also a prime accused in a major 2018 fentanyl seizure case in Mumbai involving narcotics worth approximately 1000 crore rupees, reportedly intended for trafficking to Mexico.



Despite being arrested multiple times in the past, Dola had managed to secure bail or acquittal in several cases. After fleeing India, he is believed to have continued operating his drug network from abroad, allegedly using close family members to manage operations.

A Red Corner Notice had been issued against him by Interpol at the request of Indian authorities. Following this, Indian agencies coordinated with their Turkish counterparts, sharing intelligence and pursuing extradition through diplomatic channels.

Dola had reportedly entered Turkey via Istanbul in early 2024 and was

attempting to obtain Turkish citizenship through an investment programme. However, the issuance of the Interpol notice and subsequent information sharing by India led Turkish authorities to halt the process and detain him, eventually leading to his deportation.

Officials highlighted that the case reflects continued cooperation between India and Turkey on counterterrorism and transnational crime, despite broader geopolitical complexities. Turkish authorities have previously assisted in deporting individuals linked to extremist and criminal networks, including Indian nationals.

Secy RDD directs DCs to prepare District Sanitation Plans for waste collection

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Rural Development (RDD) & Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Wednesday chaired a high-level review meeting under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen and directed all Deputy Commissioners to prepare comprehensive District Sanitation Plans within one week for universal door-to-door waste collection across rural Jammu & Kashmir.

The Secretary said the District Sanitation Plans must begin with Panchayat-wise mapping of existing rural sanitation infrastructure created by the Department, including Segregation Sheds, Plastic Waste Management Units (PWMUs), compost pits, soakage facilities, waste collection points, transport vehicles and other sanitation assets, so that these are effectively integrated into the waste collection chain.

He instructed districts to design Panchayat-wise collection routes, assess manpower needs and establish linkages between household waste collection and scientific processing/disposal facilities. He added that cluster-wise review meetings would be held after submission of district plans.

The Secretary stressed that several sanitation assets in the past had been created at unsuitable locations and



therefore future planning must ensure optimum utility, accessibility and long-term sustainability.

He further directed strict implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules-2026, making four-stream segregation at source mandatory—wet waste, dry waste, sanitary waste and special care waste. Domestic hazardous waste such as medicines, paints and thermometers, he said, must also be separately handled.

To ensure sustainability, Mohammad Aijaz Asad said that dedicated funds have now been earmarked as a dedicated allocation for door-to-door collection, segregation and operation & maintenance of sanitation assets. However, he emphasised that user charges must be regularly collected so that the system remains financially viable.

He observed that waste management should not become a "leaking bucket" dependent only on repeated government funding, adding that long-term success depends on community ownership, cost recovery and

efficient local management.

Emphasising citizen participation, he said strong IEC campaigns are essential and identified tourist destinations, markets, hospitals, schools, urban-rural fringe zones and legacy waste sites as special focus areas.

District administrations were also directed to maintain zero tolerance against roadside dumping, animal dung accumulation along village roads, choked drains and open burning of waste.

The Secretary asked districts to verify sanitation coverage data, especially where limited coverage has been reported and directed Assistant Commissioners Panchayats to reconcile figures with Deputy Commissioners before finalisation of plans.

Earlier, Director General Rural Sanitation Anoo Malhotra gave a detailed presentation on progress achieved and the roadmap under SBM-G Phase-II, highlighting expansion of source segregation and participation of Gram Panchayats, SHGs and NGOs.

J&K govt deliberates on Multi-Channel Messaging API Solution

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a significant step towards strengthening the digital governance and enhancing citizen service delivery, the Information Technology Department Wednesday convened a comprehensive meeting under the chairmanship of Secretary, Information Technology, to deliberate upon the adoption of a Multi-Channel Messaging API Solution for seamless delivery of government e-services to the citizens.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Piyush Singla Secretary, Information Technology Department and was attended by senior officers and officials of the Department, including the CEO, JaKeGA, Director Finance,

Additional Secretary IT, Head SeMT, Consultant SeMT, and representatives of empannelled System Integrators (SI's) under the National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India.

The deliberations focused on leveraging a conversational multi-channel communication platform to improve the accessibility, efficiency and responsiveness of government services. During the meeting, technical presentations and Proof of Concept (PoC) demonstrations were reviewed, highlighting multiple citizen-centric use cases such as grievance redressal, service delivery notifications, application

status tracking, dissemination of government schemes and public information and interactive citizen support services.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary IT emphasized that the initiative is aimed at bringing the government services closer to the citizens by utilizing widely adopted digital communication platforms, thereby ensuring ease of access, real-time interaction, and an improved user experience. He further observed that integration of Multi-Channel Messaging API Solution based services has the potential to significantly strengthen inclusive governance, particularly in remote and underserved areas of the Union Territory.

The empanelled agencies also presented their technical capabilities for deployment of secure, scalable and efficient solutions in compliance with the guidelines and standards prescribed by the MeitY Government of India.

The Information Technology Department is presently evaluating the PoCs and technical proposals submitted by the participating agencies and shall finalize the implementation strategy accordingly.

This initiative marks another significant milestone in the Government of Jammu & Kashmir's vision of harnessing technology-driven governance to deliver accessible, efficient and people-centric public services.

Kashmir Man Trafficked to Cambodia After Fake Job Promise, EOW Files Case

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: A Srinagar resident has alleged that he was duped by an unauthorized consultancy operating from Pattan and later forced into fraudulent online activities in Cambodia after being promised a high-paying overseas job.

The case has been registered by the Crime Branch Kashmir through its Economic Offences Wing (EOW) in Srinagar following a formal complaint detailing the alleged fraud.

According to the complaint, the individual was offered employment abroad as a computer operator with a lucrative monthly salary. Trusting the assurances, he transferred a substantial amount of money to the operator's bank account

and also spent additional funds on travel and related purchases.

The complainant stated that upon reaching Cambodia, he was received by unknown persons and, instead of being provided the promised job, was allegedly pressured to engage in fraudulent online activities. He refused to participate and later realized that he had been deceived and his money dishonestly taken under false pretences.

Investigators said preliminary examination of the complaint indicates the commission of offences punishable under Section 318(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which relates to cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Srinagar Gears For Census

Beyond the usual pace of the city, there's a massive, quiet effort unfolding, the groundwork for the upcoming Census. It's not just a formal headcount; it's the city's way of taking a deep breath and looking at itself in the mirror to figure out what it needs for the future. Leading the charge is Faz Lul Haseeb, the Commissioner of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation and the city's Principal Census Officer. He's been clear with his team: this isn't just another administrative task. The administration is treating this with high priority because the data gathered will dictate where new schools are built, where hospitals are placed, and how resources are funneled into neighborhoods for years to come. The real heavy lifting happens at the grassroots level. Currently, the city is focused on intensive training for Field Trainers. These are the people who will guide the army of enumerators through the city's winding alleys and growing suburbs. Moving away from stacks of paper to more efficient, digital-first data entry. Accuracy & Ethics: Ensuring every person is counted correctly and their information is handled with care. Public Interaction: Training staff to engage with residents in a way that builds trust and cooperation. It's easy to see a Census as just "government paperwork," but for a growing urban center like Srinagar, it's the blueprint for development. Better Infrastructure: Reliable data tells planners exactly where traffic is heaviest and where the power grid needs reinforcing. Public Services: It helps decide the allocation of water, waste management, and housing projects. Informed Governance: When the city knows exactly who lives where and what their needs are, policies stop being guesses and start being solutions. The proactive steps being taken by the administration, from logistical coordination to high-tech training, are a great sign. However, the true success of the Census will ultimately rest on a partnership between the officials and the people of Srinagar. When the knock comes at the door, it's an opportunity for every resident to help shape the future of their city.

Passing The Blame: Owning Responsibility Against Drugs

DR AFTAB JAN

The ongoing drive under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan in Jammu and Kashmir, led with visible resolve by Manoj Sinha, has pushed the issue of drugs from silence into public discussion.

Yet the most uncomfortable truth still stands in front of us. This crisis is not only imposed from outside, it is also sustained from within, and unless this reality is accepted with honesty, no campaign, no policy, and no enforcement effort can fully succeed, because drugs do not grow in empty spaces, they grow in societies that allow them to grow.

They spread in environments where silence is stronger than action, where profit is valued over principles, and where responsibility is constantly shifted instead of being owned, and today the biggest danger is not only the presence of drugs, but the mindset that treats this issue as someone else's duty, because when a society begins to think that way, it slowly disconnects from its own problems and expects solutions from outside forces that can never fully understand or control what is happening inside homes and communities.

The statement that this fight cannot be won by law alone is not a limitation of the system, it is a direct reflection of reality, because law enforcement can arrest traffickers, seize contraband, and break visible networks, but it cannot monitor every home, every friendship, every conversation, and every moment where a young person is exposed to temptation.

Addiction does not begin in police records, it begins in curiosity, stress, loneliness, peer pressure, and emotional weakness and these are areas where only families, teachers, and communities have influence.

This is why even the strongest laws struggle when society remains passive, and why even limited enforcement becomes effective when society becomes active, because when people report, when they guide, when they intervene early, the space for drugs begins to shrink, and when they remain silent, that space expands.

Islam provides a clear and structured response to such situations, it does not allow confusion or neutrality, it gives a direct principle that when you see wrong, stop it with your hand, if you cannot then speak against it, and if even that is not possible then at least hate it in your heart, and this last level is described as the weakest form of faith.

Yet today even this minimum response is fading, people witness wrong, they recognize it, but they choose not to act, they justify their silence by saying it is the duty of police, administration, or some authority.

And this mindset has created a culture where responsibility is passed from one person to another until it disappears completely, and in that vacuum, wrong finds space to grow stronger, because evil does not require support to survive, it only requires the absence of resistance, and when good people choose comfort over courage, silence over action, and safety over responsibility, they unknowingly strengthen the very prob-



lem they complain about.

One of the most painful realities that must be faced is that this problem is not only external, some among us are directly or indirectly involved in it, some cultivate poppy for quick money, some facilitate supply chains, some ignore illegal activity because it benefits them, and then the same society speaks about awareness and reform.

This contradiction weakens the entire movement, because a society cannot fight what it secretly supports, when land that should produce food and growth is used to produce addiction and destruction, it reflects a deeper moral crisis, because this is not just about breaking law, it is about breaking trust with one's own community.

It is about choosing personal gain over collective safety, and this choice has consequences that go far beyond individual profit, it destroys families, it damages youth, and it weakens the entire social structure.

This double standard must end if real change is to happen, because awareness without self-accountability becomes meaningless, when the same individuals who demand strict action are involved in activities that contribute to the problem, their message loses credibility, and without credibility, influence disappears.

This is why the first step in this fight must be self-correction, every individual must ask a direct question, am I contributing to this problem in any way, directly or indirectly, am I silent where I should speak, am I ignoring what I should report, am I prioritizing comfort over responsibility, because until these questions are answered honestly, external efforts will remain limited.

Another serious weakness lies in the behavior of those who lead awareness efforts, because many times individuals speak strongly against drugs while continuing habits like cigarette smoking, and this creates confusion in the minds of the youth.

Because a young mind does not separate substances based on categories, it observes patterns, it sees behavior, and when it sees that certain forms of substance use are accepted among educated and respected individuals, it lowers the barrier for experimentation, nicotine itself is an addictive substance, it works on the brain's reward system, it releases dopamine, it builds dependence, and it reduces self-control over time. Many individuals who fall into stron-

ger addictions often start with such habits, which means that ignoring tobacco use in anti-drug campaigns leaves the first door open, and when the first door remains open, closing the later doors becomes difficult, this is why those who speak against drugs must first discipline themselves, because credibility is not built by words, it is built by actions, and when actions and words do not align, the message loses its strength before it even reaches the listener.

Drug addiction itself is not a simple habit that can be stopped by advice or fear, it is a complex biological and psychological process that traps the individual, it hijacks the brain's reward system, it creates artificial pleasure through dopamine spikes, and then it forces the brain to depend on the substance for normal functioning.

Over time natural sources of happiness lose their effect, the individual feels empty without the substance, decision making becomes weak, self-control breaks, and the person enters a cycle where he is aware of the damage but unable to stop.

And this is why punishment alone cannot solve the problem, because without addressing the underlying causes and providing proper support, the behavior returns, and the cycle continues.

Families hold a central role in prevention and early intervention, yet many fail at the earliest stage because they ignore warning signs or choose to hide them due to fear of social judgment, sudden behavioral changes, withdrawal from normal activities, irregular sleep patterns, and unexplained financial needs are all signals that require attention.

But instead of acting early, many families delay, hoping the issue will resolve on its own, and this delay often turns a manageable situation into a serious crisis, so the first responsibility of families is to replace fear with awareness and silence with communication, because a child who feels understood is more likely to seek help, while a child who feels judged withdraws further into the problem.

Communities must also transform from passive observers into active protectors, because drug networks do not operate in isolation, they depend on local silence, they survive because people choose not to report, and they expand because there is no resistance, but when communities become alert, when they share information responsibly,

when they support enforcement efforts instead of avoiding involvement, the space for these networks begins to shrink, and this requires a cultural shift where reporting wrong is seen as responsibility, not interference, because protecting society is a collective duty, not an individual risk.

Youth engagement is another critical factor, because idle time and lack of direction increase vulnerability. A young mind without purpose becomes an easy target for experimentation, while a young mind engaged in structured activities develops discipline and resilience, sports, fitness, and skill based programs are not just extracurricular options, they are protective systems that reduce stress, improve mental health, and build a sense of achievement.

But these efforts must be continuous, because occasional events create temporary excitement, while consistent engagement creates long term change, and this is where institutions must play a sustained role.

Educational institutions must move beyond formal lectures and create real understanding, students already know that drugs are harmful, repeating this fact has limited impact, what they need is practical knowledge about how addiction starts, how peer pressure works, how to refuse offers, and how to manage stress in healthy ways, and this requires interactive learning, open discussions, and real life examples.

And at the same time teachers must act as role models, because their behavior influences more than their words, and when students see consistency between what is taught and what is practiced, the message becomes strong.

The 100 day campaign must not become a comfort zone where society feels that the system is handling the issue, it must become a trigger that creates permanent awareness and responsibility, because if action is limited to a specific time frame.

The problem will return once that period ends, and this is why every day must carry the same urgency, every locality must remain alert, every family must stay aware, and every individual must act when needed, because change is not created by temporary movements, it is created by consistent behavior.

The truth is clear and direct, no outside force will come and fix this problem, no system can fully protect a society that refuses to protect itself, and no campaign can succeed if people continue to prioritize personal gain over collective safety, because this land, these homes, and these children belong to us, and if we allow destruction for the sake of money or convenience, then we become part of the very crisis we claim to fight.

The real change will begin only when society stops pretending and starts accepting its role, when individuals correct themselves before correcting others, when silence is replaced with action, and when responsibility is owned instead of being shifted, because only then will this movement move beyond slogans and become a true transformation that protects future generations and restores the strength of society.

The author can be mailed at jaanafaab5@gmail.com

The 'Market For Lemons' In Higher Education



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

The rapid expansion of higher education in India has brought opportunities as well as serious challenges.

While the number of universities, colleges, and private educational institutions has grown rapidly, questions about quality, transparency, and credibility are constantly being raised. At this time, economist George Akerloff's "Market for Lemons" theory appears highly relevant. According to this theory, when consumers lack accurate information about a product's actual quality, low-quality products dominate the market, and quality products are relegated. In higher education, students are consumers, and institutions are service providers. When students lack accurate information about the actual state of institutions, the quality of faculty, employment prospects, research work, and infrastructure, they are forced to enroll in weak institutions.

The expansion of higher education in India has been driven primarily by policy initiatives. The new education policy emphasized increasing enrollment in higher education, encouraging distance

learning, promoting online learning, and attracting private investment. This increased access to education and provided opportunities for more students, but the quality of institutions has not improved at the same pace. Many private institutions attract students with attractive advertisements, grand campuses, and lofty claims, while in reality, they lack qualified faculty, a research environment, and employment-oriented education. Government data is also often delayed or available in complex forms beyond the understanding of the general public. As a result, students and parents are unable to make informed decisions. This situation gives rise to a low-quality education market.

To address this problem, the Government of India launched the National Institutional Ranking System. Its purpose is to evaluate the country's higher education institutions based on specific criteria. It considers aspects such as teaching, resources, research, graduate outcomes, inclusion, and reputation. For the first time, this system provided students with a platform to assess the relative standing of various institutions. This fostered healthy competition among institutions, and many colleges and universities began improving faculty recruitment, research publications, employment support centers, and infrastructure.

The most significant achievement of this ranking system has been its ability to provide indicators of quality in the higher edu-



cation sector. Students no longer rely solely on advertisements or promotional materials, but can make informed decisions based on information such as an institution's status, research performance, exam results, and inclusion. This has somewhat alleviated the problem of information gaps. It has also proven to be an important policy tool for the government, enabling comparative studies of the status of various institutions.

Nevertheless, this system is not a complete solution. Its biggest limitation is that it relies heavily on data provided by the institutions themselves. If an institution provides incorrect or exaggerated information, the credibility of the rankings is compromised. Second, the increased emphasis on research leaves colleges that focus primarily on teaching behind. Third, it becomes difficult for

rural or newly established institutions to compete with larger, older urban institutions. Fourth, rankings are released once a year, while students require real-time information more frequently. Fifth, compared to the country's vast higher education infrastructure, only a limited number of institutions are highlighted, leaving many institutions outside of transparent evaluation.

Globally, universities in various countries have adopted models for ranking that also consider factors such as alumni satisfaction, international recognition, employer perceptions, research impact, and global collaboration. India can learn from these experiences by making its system more comprehensive and multifaceted.

To protect students' interests, some concrete reforms are necessary. First, the data provided by

institutions should be verified by independent agencies to eliminate the tendency to provide inaccurate information. Second, greater importance should be given to teaching quality, student-teacher ratio, employment availability, and profitability over fees. Third, instead of simply assigning rankings, a group-based ranking system should be adopted, so that even small and emerging institutions can receive respectable recognition. Fourth, a centralized digital platform should be developed where up-to-date information about each institution is available. Fifth, state and regional rankings should also be developed to provide local students with better options in their surrounding areas. Sixth, feedback from students and parents should also be included in the evaluation process.

Ultimately, higher education isn't just a matter of increasing the number of institutions, but rather a question of quality, trust, and equal opportunity. A lack of transparency will leave students trapped in substandard institutions, jeopardizing their futures. The national ranking system has certainly made a positive beginning, but making it more independent, credible, and student-centric is the need of the hour. Only when accurate information, effective regulation, and quality institutions come together will India be able to move strongly toward becoming a truly knowledge-based, developed nation.

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

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

Punctuality Paradox: Duty, Delay, And Psyche



DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

The phrase "Escape from Duty" captures a subtle yet pervasive malaise that has long been observed in different layers of Indian society. It does not refer merely to negligence or laziness in a simplistic sense, but to a complex psychological, cultural, and institutional pattern where responsibility is often deflected, diluted, or deferred. This "Indian Syndrome," as it may be called, is rooted in historical experiences, social hierarchies, bureaucratic structures, and even philosophical orientations that have shaped attitudes toward duty, accountability, and public life.

To understand this syndrome is not to indict a people, but to diagnose a recurring pattern that continues to affect governance, civic engagement, and national progress. At the heart of the issue lies a paradox. Indian civilization has historically placed enormous emphasis on duty. The concept of "dharma" in ancient texts signifies not only moral righteousness but also the obligation one has toward society, family, and the cosmos. From the Bhagavad Gita's exhortation to perform one's duty without attachment to results, to the intricate codes of conduct in classical literature, duty has been exalted as a central virtue. Yet, in contemporary practice, this philosophical ideal often seems inverted. Instead of a disciplined commitment to responsibility, there is frequently an inclination to avoid it, reinterpret it, or shift it onto others. The big question is if Kashmir too is entrapped in this syndrome.

One of the roots of this contradiction lies in the long history of hierarchical social structures. For centuries, responsibilities were often rigidly divided along lines of caste, occupation, and social rank. Such a system conditioned individuals to think of duty as something predetermined and limited, rather than as a universal civic responsibility. When modern democratic institutions emerged, requiring citizens to act beyond inherited roles, the transition was not entirely smooth. Many continued to perceive public duties as someone else's domain, either the government's or a particular group's, rather than their own.

The colonial experience further deepened this tendency. Under colonial rule, governance was an external imposition, and the average citizen had little stake in administrative processes. Compliance, evasion, and passive resistance became common strategies for survival.

Responsibility toward the state was not internalized because the state itself was alien. After independence, although political sovereignty was achieved, the psychological distance between the citizen and the state did not entirely disappear. The bureaucratic apparatus inherited from colonial times remained largely intact, often emphasizing control and procedure over accountability and service. This created an environment where officials could evade responsibility behind layers of rules, and citizens, in turn, developed a habit of circumventing systems rather than engaging with them constructively.

Chronic lateness to office or school is often dismissed as a harmless habit, but calling it "zero punctuality sense" points to something deeper than occasional delay. It reflects a pattern where time is treated as elastic, and commitments as negotiable, and the inconvenience caused to others as secondary. While this tendency is visible in many parts of the world, in the Indian context it often takes on a cultural texture that deserves closer examination rather than casual condemnation.

At one level, the causes are practical. Urban India, especially cities like Kolkata, Delhi, or Mumbai or even in Kashmir operates under conditions that make punctuality genuinely difficult. Traffic congestion, unreliable public trans-

port, sudden weather disruptions, and infrastructural bottlenecks all contribute to delays that are sometimes beyond individual control. A person may leave home with the intention of being on time and still arrive late due to factors they cannot predict. Over time, repeated exposure to such unpredictability can weaken the psychological commitment to punctuality itself. If being on time seems unattainable, people gradually stop striving for it.

However, practical constraints alone do not explain the normalization of lateness. There is also a cultural dimension in how time is perceived. In many Indian social settings, time is not treated as a rigid, quantitative resource but as a flexible, qualitative experience. Relationships often take precedence over schedules. A conversation with a guest, a family obligation, or an unexpected social interaction can easily override a strict timetable. This elasticity of time, while enriching social life, can spill over into professional and academic spaces where punctuality is essential.

Bureaucracy plays a significant role in perpetuating the syndrome. The Indian administrative system is often criticized for its complexity, opacity, and procedural rigid-

The colonial experience further deepened this tendency. Under colonial rule, governance was an external imposition, and the average citizen had little stake in administrative processes. Compliance, evasion, and passive resistance became common strategies for survival.

ity. While rules are necessary to ensure fairness and order, an excessive focus on procedure can lead to a situation where the process becomes more important than the outcome. In such a system, responsibility is easily diffused. Files move from one desk to another, decisions are delayed, and accountability becomes difficult to pinpoint. The fear of making mistakes, combined with a lack of incentives for initiative, encourages officials to adopt a defensive approach: it is safer to do nothing than to risk doing something wrong.

This culture of avoidance is not limited to the public sector. In private organizations, too, there can be a tendency to prioritize personal security over collective goals. Employees may avoid taking ownership of tasks, preferring instead to follow instructions narrowly and

shift blame when things go wrong. Leadership, in some cases, fails to foster a sense of shared responsibility, focusing instead on short-term gains or hierarchical control. The result is a work culture where innovation and accountability are stifled.

Red-tapism is a malady that like canker eats into the vitals of the society. Cultural factors also play a



role. In many social contexts, there is a strong emphasis on personal relationships, familial obligations, and social harmony. While these are valuable aspects of Indian life, they can sometimes conflict with broader civic responsibilities. For instance, the tendency to prioritize personal connections over formal rules can lead to practices such as favoritism or nepotism. Similarly, the desire to avoid confrontation may result in a reluctance to hold others accountable or to challenge wrongdoing. Another dimension of the syndrome is the normalization of small-scale irresponsibility. Everyday actions—such as littering in public spaces, ignoring traffic rules, or evading taxes, may seem trivial individually, but collectively they reflect and reinforce a broader attitude toward duty.

It is important, however, not to view the "Indian Syndrome" as an unchanging or universal condition. There are numerous examples across the country where individuals and communities demonstrate remarkable commitment to duty and responsibility. From grassroots initiatives in rural development to innovative solutions in urban governance, from dedicated public servants to socially conscious entrepreneurs,

there is a vibrant countercurrent that challenges the narrative of escape. Education must also play a transformative role. Beyond academic knowledge, there is a need to cultivate values such as integrity, empathy, and civic responsibility. Experiential learning, community engagement, and critical inquiry can help students develop a sense of agency and accountability. When young people see themselves as active participants in society, rather than passive recipients of instructions, the foundation for responsible behavior is strengthened. Cultural change, though more gradual, is equally important. Public campaigns, media narratives, and social movements can help reshape norms and expectations. Celebrating examples of

responsibility and integrity, rather than merely criticizing failures, can create positive role models. Encouraging open dialogue and constructive criticism can also help overcome the reluctance to confront issues directly.

Leadership, both political and social, has a crucial role to play. Leaders who demonstrate accountability, transparency, and a commitment to public service can set the tone for others to follow. Conversely, when leaders evade responsibility or prioritize personal interests, it reinforces the very syn-

drome that needs to be addressed. The credibility of leadership is therefore central to any effort at change. Ultimately, the challenge of overcoming the "Escape from or Dereliction of Duty" syndrome is not merely administrative or structural; it is deeply moral and psychological. It involves redefining the relationship between the individual and the collective, between rights and responsibilities, between personal interests and the common good. It requires a shift from a mindset of avoidance to one of engagement, from passive compliance to active participation.

In a rapidly changing world, where India is increasingly asserting itself on the global stage, the stakes are high. Economic growth, technological advancement, and geopolitical influence all depend, in part, on the ability of individuals and institutions to function responsibly and effectively. The cost of inaction is not only inefficiency or stagnation, but also a loss of trust, both within society and in the eyes of the world. The idea of duty, deeply embedded in

common denominator. In such environments, the person who is punctual may even feel disadvantaged, waiting unnecessarily while others arrive at their convenience. Another factor is the lack of early conditioning.

In many educational settings, punctuality is enforced superficially, through attendance registers or occasional reprimands, but not internalized as a value. Students may comply out of fear rather than understanding. Once external pressure is removed, the habit often disappears. True punctuality requires an internal sense of respect for time, for others, and for one's own commitments, something that cannot be imposed mechanically.

There is also a psychological aspect tied to procrastination and time estimation. Many people underestimate how long tasks will take, or overestimate their ability to "manage somehow." This leads to last-minute rushing, which increases the likelihood of delay. Over time, a pattern develops where lateness becomes habitual rather than accidental. In some cases, there is even a subtle assertion of status, arriving late to signal importance or busyness, a practice that quietly erodes collective discipline. Technology, paradoxically, has both improved and worsened punctuality. On one hand, digital clocks, reminders, and navigation apps make it easier than ever to plan accurately. On the other hand, constant connectivity creates distractions that eat into time. A quick check of messages or social media can turn into a significant delay, especially when there is no strong internal discipline to regulate it.

Addressing this issue requires more than scolding or strict rules. It calls for a shift in mindset supported by practical measures. Institutions must lead by example, starting meetings on time, rewarding punctuality, and holding people accountable in a fair and consistent manner. When systems function predictably, individuals are more likely to align their behavior. At the personal level, small changes can make a significant difference. Planning to arrive ten to fifteen minutes early rather than "just on time" creates a buffer against unforeseen delays. Preparing in advance, laying out clothes, organizing materials, or checking routes—reduces last-minute chaos. Being honest about one's own habits, rather than blaming external factors, is also crucial. Punctuality begins with self-awareness.

Education can play a transformative role if it moves beyond enforcement to explanation. When students understand why punctuality matters—not just for discipline but for respect and efficiency, they are more likely to internalize it. Activities that involve teamwork and shared deadlines can help reinforce this understanding in a practical way.

Culturally, there needs to be a subtle rebalancing. The warmth and flexibility of Indian social life need not be sacrificed, but they must be complemented by a respect for time in professional and public contexts. Being punctual is not a rejection of cultural identity; it is an adaptation to the demands of a modern, interconnected world. In the end, punctuality is less about the clock and more about attitude. It reflects how seriously one takes commitments and how much one values the time of others. Labeling the problem as "zero punctuality sense" may capture frustration, but it also risks oversimplifying a complex issue. The goal should not be to assign blame, but to cultivate a culture where being on time is seen not as an exception, but as a norm, quietly, consistently, and collectively upheld.

Finally the "Indian Syndrome" of escaping duty is neither destiny nor identity. It is a challenge, complex, persistent, but not insurmountable. Confronting it requires honesty, effort, and a willingness to change at both individual and collective levels. The journey may be difficult, but the destination, a society where responsibility is embraced rather than evaded, is worth striving for.

Author is International Tagore Awardee. He has authored many book on literature and society and his latest best seller is *Our Time Revisited*. He can be mailed at pratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com



there is a vibrant countercurrent that challenges the narrative of escape. Education must also play a transformative role. Beyond academic knowledge, there is a need to cultivate values such as integrity, empathy, and civic responsibility.

Experiential learning, community engagement, and critical inquiry can help students develop a sense of agency and accountability. When young people see themselves as active participants in society, rather than passive recipients of instructions, the foundation for responsible behavior is strengthened. Cultural change, though more gradual, is equally important. Public campaigns, media narratives, and social movements can help reshape norms and expectations. Celebrating examples of

the cultural and philosophical heritage of India, need not remain a distant ideal. It can be reclaimed and reinterpreted in ways that resonate with contemporary realities. By aligning ancient values with modern practices, by bridging the gap between principle and action, it is possible to transform the narrative from one of escape to one of engagement.

Institutional behavior reinforces the problem. When offices, schools, or even government departments do not enforce time discipline consistently, they signal that punctuality is optional. If meetings rarely start on time, if teachers or managers themselves arrive late, or if there are no meaningful consequences for delay, individuals quickly adapt to the lowest

'All-Weather' Vande

demand it has always inspired. While today's flag-off marks the inaugural run, the extended Jammu Tawi-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express will enter regular service from 2nd May 2026. Two pairs of services will operate across the corridor, covering a distance of around 266 km.

The first service (Train No. 26401) departs Jammu Tawi at 6:20 AM, halts at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, Reasi, and Banihal, arriving at Srinagar at 11:10 AM, a journey of four hours and fifty minutes. Its return (Train No. 26402) leaves Srinagar at 2:00 PM and reaches Jammu Tawi by 6:50 PM. This pair runs six days a week, except Tuesday.

The second service (Train No. 26404) departs Srinagar at 8:00 AM, halts at Banihal and Katra, and arrives at Jammu Tawi by 12:40 PM. Its return (Train No. 26403) departs Jammu Tawi at 1:20 PM and reaches Srinagar by 6:00 PM. This pair runs six days a week, except Wednesday.

Together, the two pairs ensure that passengers have a morning and an afternoon Vande Bharat option from both ends of the corridor on most days of the week, giving travellers meaningful flexibility in planning their journeys.

Extending the Vande Bharat's run from Katra all the way to Jammu Tawi is a straightforward but consequential change for ordinary travellers across the entire J&K region. Until now, pilgrims and passengers arriving at Jammu Tawi Railway Station, which is one of the busiest railheads in northern India, connecting trains from Delhi, Mumbai, and beyond had to change trains or arrange separate road transport to reach Katra. With the extension, they will be able to board the Vande Bharat directly at Jammu Tawi and reach the Vaishno Devi base camp at Katra, and travel onwards all the way to Srinagar, without a single interchange.

The same seamless journey works in the other direction too. A traveller boarding at Srinagar will now be able to reach Jammu Tawi in a single, unbroken ride, connecting directly to the national rail network.

For the millions of devotees who travel each year to seek the blessings of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, this extension removes a persistent inconvenience, the mandatory interchange at Katra. Until now, a pilgrim had to alight at Katra and board a separate Vande Bharat to continue onward, or vice versa. That break in journey is now eliminated. More significantly, for the growing number of pilgrims who combine the Vaishno Devi darshan at Katra with the Amarnath Yatra, whose base camps at Pahalgam and Baltal are accessed from Srinagar, the entire pilgrim circuit of J&K is now achievable on a single, unbroken rail journey, without a change of train, a second reservation, or the anxiety of a missed connection.

For the Indian and international tourist, this extension opens an entirely new way to experience Jammu & Kashmir. A visitor flying into Jammu can now board the Vande Bharat at Jammu Tawi and ride through some of the most breathtaking terrain on the subcontinent, past the Shivalik foothills, across the engineering marvel of the Chenab and Anji bridges, through tunnels carved into the Himalayan rock and arrive in Srinagar, ready to experience the Dal Lake, the Mughal Gardens, and the legendary hospitality of the Valley. No highway delays, no mountain road anxiety, no weather-dependent road closures.

The extension is expected to give a significant boost to tourism across the entire J&K corridor, making the region accessible to a far broader segment of travellers who may have been deterred by the logistics of the journey.

For residents of Jammu, Katra, Reasi, and the Kashmir Valley, the extension addresses a long-standing inconvenience. A student from Srinagar travelling to Jammu for college, a government official commuting between the two capitals of J&K, a patient travelling to a hospital in Jammu, all of them previously had to break their journey at Katra and arrange onward transport. That interchange is now eliminated.

Crucially, this matters most in winter. When heavy snowfall blocks the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, sometimes for days at a stretch, the railway corridor becomes a lifeline. The Vande Bharat, designed to operate in temperatures as low as minus 20 degrees Celsius with heated windshields, advanced heating systems, and all-weather components, will provide a reliable, weather-proof link between the Valley and the rest of the country at precisely those moments when road travel becomes impossible or dangerous.

Kashmir's economy runs on its crafts, the pashmina shawls, walnut wood carvings, hand-knotted carpets, and saffron that find buyers across India and the world. Artisans and traders from the Valley have long grappled with the cost and uncertainty of moving goods and themselves between Srinagar and Jammu. A faster, more reliable, and more affordable rail connection directly cuts the time and cost of doing business.

A Kashmiri artisan heading to a trade fair in Jammu, a fruit exporter from the Valley coordinating a consignment, a textile businessman from Jammu sourcing handicrafts in Srinagar, each of them will find the extended Vande Bharat service a meaningful improvement in the economics of their work. The connectivity also opens up possibilities for smaller traders and entrepreneurs who previously found the journey too cumbersome to make frequently.

Key intermediate stations on the route will also see enhanced connectivity, giving businesses and communities in these towns direct access to both Jammu and Srinagar without changing trains.

During his visit, the Union Minister will inspect the Anji Khad Bridge, India's first cable-stayed railway bridge, rising 331 metres above the Anji River valley and anchored by 96 high-tensile cables. He will also inspect the Chenab Rail Bridge, the world's highest railway arch bridge at 359 metres above the riverbed, taller than the Eiffel Tower. Both structures are the backbone of the USBRL, the 272-km project through the Himalayas that now makes this extended Vande Bharat service possible.

The extension of the Vande Bharat to Jammu Tawi is the latest milestone in a decade-long effort to transform railway connectivity in Jammu & Kashmir. The Udhampur-Katra section was commissioned in 2014. The Kashmir Valley saw its first electric train in February 2024. A dedicated Jammu Railway Division was created in January 2025. Stations at Jammu Tawi, Katra, Udhampur, and Budgam are being redeveloped under

the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. The USBRL, built at a total cost of 43,780 crore with 36 tunnels spanning 119 km and 943 bridges, is the connective tissue that makes all of it possible.

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the first Vande Bharat on this corridor last year, it was a historic moment. Tomorrow's extension to Jammu Tawi takes that history forward and brings its benefits to millions more. (PIB)

LG Sinha Calls

Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra. The Lieutenant Governor directed the DCs and SSPs for ensuring seamless coordination between the Police, Civil administration and the security forces. He further asked them for conducting the Block and Thana Diwas regularly for resolving the general grievances of public.

The Lieutenant Governor also directed for outcome-based efforts with whole of society approach for fighting the drug menace. He called for stringent action against the drug smugglers and peddlers in coordination with all the stakeholders.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized identifying narco-corridors in Jammu Division to dismantle hotspots and networks operating in those areas completely. He also stressed the need to conduct a study on region-wise substance abuse trends and a Vulnerability Index, using WHO's standard methodology.

With respect to the arrangements of Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2026 and other upcoming pilgrimages in Jammu division, the Lieutenant Governor directed the DCs and SSPs to conduct a comprehensive review in their respective districts.

The Lieutenant Governor further directed the DCs to drive seamless execution of the Vibrant Villages Programme to deliver rural health, development, economic transformation, and social upliftment and to mandate 100% screening for non-communicable diseases.

The Lieutenant Governor issued a firm directive to fortify the security grid through unwavering coordination among all security forces, ensuring a seamless and impenetrable shield against emerging threats. He directed for the strictest possible action against individuals and OGWs harboring terrorists, vowing zero tolerance for those who shelter threats to national security.

LG Releases Book On

strength to the care of its most vulnerable population," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the central message of this book is profound and what makes a doctor truly exceptional is not only skill in treatment, but the ability to serve with compassion.

Today, some experts in healthcare claim that artificial intelligence will transform the healthcare sector and it will deliver treatments with flawless precision. I hold a different view. Technology can indeed support diagnosis and treatment in important ways, but it cannot replace the spirit of service. No instrument of AI can embody or substitute this essence of care with compassion," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that Dr. Sushil Razdan bore the anguish of being uprooted from his soil. He said the pain of leaving behind roots and cherished homes defies expression and like countless fellow Kashmiri Pandits, Dr. Razdan endured this sorrow, yet he remained steadfast, striving to preserve his heritage, values and spirit of self-less service.

"Dr. Sushil Razdan has touched millions of lives, ensuring with utter devotion that patients recover to nurture families and contribute to nation-building," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Weather To Improve

remained below normal across most parts of the Kashmir Valley, while humidity levels stayed relatively high.

In Srinagar, the maximum temperature was recorded at 23.1°C, which was 1.9°C below normal, while the minimum settled at 11.7°C. Qazigund, Pahalgam, Kupwara and other stations in south and north Kashmir also recorded below-normal day temperatures.

Gulmarg, the famous ski resort, recorded a maximum temperature of 13.8°C, while Pahalgam registered 20.2°C during the day.

In the Jammu division, temperatures also remained mostly below normal. Jammu city recorded a maximum of 35.7°C, which was 3.1°C below normal, while Kathua and Samba reported highs above 33°C.

Light rainfall activity was recorded at a few stations, including Udhampur, Ramban, Rajouri, Reasi, Budgam and Anantnag, while most other stations remained dry during the 24-hour period.

The MeT department said that the prevailing weather pattern is likely to bring temporary relief from heat in parts of the Union Territory, though intermittent rainfall activity is expected to continue in phases over the coming days.

It also issued an advisory asking farmers to suspend agricultural operations on April 28 and 29 in view of the possibility of rainfall, gusty winds and isolated hailstorm activity in some areas—(KNO)

Govt Approves 18%

Meanwhile, the government has separately fixed fares for electric vehicles, stating that e-rickshaws will charge 15 per kilometre, while e-autos will charge 25 for the first kilometre and 20 for each subsequent kilometre.

The order has been issued by the Transport Department under powers conferred by Section 67 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, partially modifying the earlier notification, and will come into effect as per the directions of the competent authority.

545 Village Revenue

which 23 have been reconstructed, leaving only 2 pending. Anantnag has 3 missing records, all of which remain unresolved.

Bandipora has 2 missing Massavis, both still pending, while Ganderbal reported 3 missing records, all of which have been successfully reconstructed with no pendency. Pulwama recorded 7

missing Massavis, with 6 traced and 1 pending, whereas Shopian reported 8 missing, all of which have been reconstructed.

Kulgam stands out as the only district with no missing Massavis, indicating complete availability of records. Srinagar has 6 missing Massavis, with 3 traced and 3 still pending, while Poonch reported 14 missing, of which 6 have been traced, and 8 remain pending.

The data also highlights a parallel issue of dilapidated Massavis, with 665 such records identified across 654 villages in Jammu and Kashmir. Udhampur again reports the highest number at 154 dilapidated records, with 128 partially reconstructed. Ramban follows with 206 dilapidated Massavis, but no reconstruction work has been carried out so far. Kathua has 79 such records, with 25 reconstructed, while districts including Reasi (22), Rajouri (21), Poonch (20), Doda (21), Kishtwar (22), Srinagar (17), and Budgam (32) have recorded no progress in reconstruction.

In Kashmir division, Anantnag has 3 dilapidated Massavis, with 8 reported as reconstructed. Districts such as Pulwama (1), Baramulla (15), and Kupwara (6) show minimal or no reconstruction progress, while Ganderbal, Kulgam, Shopian, and Bandipora have reported either none or very few dilapidated records.

The government has stated that old Massavis are being digitised using high-resolution scanning and geo-referencing to align them with actual ground coordinates. A recent directive has asked district authorities to accelerate the reconstruction process—(KNO)

Wild Boar Menace

25 years, the climate has changed, so the population has revived," Suhail said. He pointed to the animal's high breeding rate, with two litters annually producing up to nine offspring, as a key factor behind the sudden rise.

The officer ruled out large-scale culling or translocation, citing logistical and legal challenges. "They are in hundreds and thousands. You cannot cull such numbers. This requires a policy decision at a higher level," he said.

Suhail urged residents to take preventive steps, including fencing vulnerable agricultural land. He also advised people not to allow children to move in isolated areas where animal movement has been reported.

"This problem is not going to vanish. We have to tackle it in a coordinated manner," he added.

Environmental activist Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat has urged immediate intervention by authorities, including Forest and Wildlife Minister Javed Rana and Chief Wildlife Warden Sarvesh Rai.

"These wild animals attack paddy crops at night and destroy entire fields. Farmers are frustrated and need urgent relief," Bhat said.

Officials said a comprehensive study on the resurgence is underway, though no official population data is currently available. They acknowledged growing damage and said movement outside natural habitats is driven by food scarcity—(KNO)

Rajnath Meets Chinese

Ministers' Meet in Bishkek," Singh said.

It is learnt that Singh and Belousov discussed various ongoing defence acquisition projects including Russia's supply of S-400 air defence missiles to India.

In October 2018, India signed a USD 5 billion deal with Russia to procure five units of the missile systems and three of them have already been delivered.

The fourth unit is expected to be delivered in the next few days while the fifth one is likely to be sent in November.

Last month, New Delhi cleared the procurement of a fresh batch of five S-400 missile systems from Russia that will take the total number to 10.

Singh also met his counterpart from Belarus, Lieutenant General Viktor Khrenin on the sidelines of the SCO meet.

"Delighted to meet the Minister of Defence of Belarus, Lieutenant General Viktor Khrenin during the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting in Bishkek. Our talks focussed on strengthening defence cooperation between both the countries," Singh said on 'X'.

The defence minister underlined that India attaches high priority to developing mutually beneficial partnership with Belarus and identified capacity building and training as among the major areas of cooperation, the defence ministry said.

Singh also held separate bilateral meetings with his Kyrgyz and Kazakh counterparts.

In the meeting with Kyrgyz Defence Minister Major General Mukambetov Ruslan Mustafaeich, Singh discussed ways to strengthen the existing bilateral defence cooperation.

The defence minister landed in the capital city of Kyrgyzstan on Monday to attend the SCO conclave. (PTI)

Finance Dept Pushes

electricity dues shall be cleared out of the available funds after proper reconciliation of outstanding bills, simultaneously with the installation of pre-paid smart meters, as the 50% balance funds under the unit head "008-Electricity Charges" stands also released," it reads.

The circular further said that the payment of post "installation of pre-paid meters" electricity charges (pre-paid payments) by all the Drawing & Disbursing Officers (DDOs) shall be made out of the available budgetary allocation on the pattern of payments being made against telephone, Internet, Wi-Fi and other statutory dues.

"After successful implementation or installation of pre-paid smart meters and ensuring recharging, payment for a period of one to two months, the concerned Departments shall furnish a reasonable and justified estimation of further funds, if required, to the Finance Department for consideration," it reads.

The circular further states that the Heads of Departments, Offices and DDOs shall strictly monitor the consumption of electricity units to ensure that usage remains within the budgetary allocation provided. "However, in case of departments providing essential service, critical utilities, the additional requirement of funds, if any, shall be considered by the Finance Department on the basis of actual and justified estimation."—(KNO)

296 Peddlers Arrested,

panchayats and vulnerable areas to sensitise the public, particularly students, about the ill effects of drug abuse.

They also informed that illegal cultivation of narcotic substances spread over around 15 kanals of land has been destroyed during enforcement drives. In addition, several chemist shops found violating drug sale regulations have been sealed, while properties linked to drug trafficking have been identified and attached under relevant legal provisions.

Deputy Commissioners briefed the meeting on district-level progress under the 100-day campaign, highlighting intensified awareness initiatives and coordinated efforts with line departments. They said special focus is being laid on schools, colleges, panchayats and other sensitive areas to strengthen preventive measures.

Addressing the meeting, IGP Kashmir emphasised the need for sustained, coordinated and intelligence-led efforts among all enforcement agencies to dismantle drug networks in the region. He called for strict action against offenders, strengthened financial investigations, property attachments and effective prosecution to ensure higher conviction rates against drug traffickers.

He said the campaign involves multiple components, including legal action, destruction of illegal cultivation, identification of hotspots, awareness generation and rehabilitation support for addicts. He also stressed the importance of tracking the modus operandi of drug networks and enhancing public awareness about their operations.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir underlined the need for a multi-sectoral approach involving civil administration, health, education institutions and civil society organisations. He called for strengthening rehabilitation mechanisms and expanding awareness programmes at the grassroots level to ensure long-term impact.

Meanwhile, the IGP informed that the ongoing "Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan" is being implemented through a multi-pronged strategy involving intensified legal action, destruction of illicit cultivation, awareness generation, and rehabilitation measures across the Kashmir Valley.

He said the 100-day campaign, launched following directions of the Lieutenant Governor, has already triggered coordinated action across all districts.

"As you can see, a few days ago LG sir kicked-started the Nasha Mukta campaign. In all districts of Kashmir Valley there is a lot of activity around it. Our efforts are multi-pronged. The focus is to take legal action. We are already taking legal action, but in the next 100 days we will intensify it further. We will take strict action against drug peddlers, accused persons and those involved in smuggling through FIRs and other legal measures," the IGP said.

He said law enforcement agencies are simultaneously focusing on dismantling supply chains and identifying drug hotspots. "We will detect and destroy illegal cultivation of poppy and bhang. Financial investigations, property attachments and destruction of seized property will also be intensified," he added.

The IGP said nearly 460 awareness programmes have been conducted in schools, colleges, panchayats and vulnerable areas to sensitise youth about the dangers of drug abuse. He also noted that illegal cultivation on around 15 kanals of land has been destroyed and several chemist shops violating regulations have been sealed. Properties linked to drug trafficking have also been identified for attachment under law.

"The second aspect of this campaign is awareness. We are holding events in schools and colleges so that young people stay away from drugs. Rehabilitation of addicts is also part of the effort," he said.

Responding to a question on public participation, including involvement of religious institutions, the IGP said society has a critical role in combating the menace.

"The solution to this problem is not alone. Society has to take part. Religious and senior community figures have influence, and we expect their contribution in creating awareness so that people stay away from drugs," he said.

Referring to the upcoming awareness rally, the IGP said a large public mobilisation is expected. "A mega rally is being held on the coming Sunday. People are participating with enthusiasm. It is aimed at spreading awareness and strengthening the campaign so that the message reaches every section of society," he said.

He added that coordination between civil administration, police, and other stakeholders will continue to ensure the campaign achieves its objective of a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

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 Gani 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

Anantnag admin goes tough on NDPS Act violators

Demolishes illegal properties of drug peddlers built on State Land

operation against NDPS Act violators, the District Administration Anantnag along with the Police, Wednesday carried out a massive demolition drive against the illegal properties built by the drug peddlers in Sangam, Bijbehara. The action was part of the

intensified 100 Days Nasha Mukat JK campaign launched recently to eradicate the drug menace from the society. During the crackdown, revenue authorities led by SDM and Tehsildar Bijbehara, supported by a district police team led by SDPO Bijbehara,

identified several commercial structures viz Kashmir Restaurant, Taj Restaurant, and MIR Restaurant that had been illegally raised on State Land and found to be owned and operated by individuals involved in narcotics trafficking. Several FIRs had already been regis-

tered against the accused and by utilizing these unauthorized roadside locations, they were facilitating illegal activities and promoting substance abuse in the area. The Revenue officials also ensured retrieval of the encroached land along NHW-

44, while the demolition was executed in coordination with the local police for removal of the structures. This operation underscored the administration's firm stance that narcotics trade and other associated illegal activities will be dealt with strictly as per law.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Shameema Khaliq (Existing name of spouse as per change of next of kin Record/Service documents), spouse of Abdul Rashid Dar (Name of the husband) resident of Goji Gund, Tehsil / District Ganderbal Kashmir, Post Office Tulmulla-191131 (J&K) have changed my Name from SHAMEEMA KHALIQ (existing name of spouse as per change of next of kin record/ Service documents) to SHAMEEMA BANO (proposed/adopted new name) having DOB: 15-03-1981 vide affidavit dated -28.04.2026 before -tehsil Tulmulla dist.Ganderbal (J&K)

GMK NEWS NETWORK
ANANTNAG: In a major

Government of Jammu and Kashmir HOME DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU & KASHMIR

Subject: Common Standard Operating Procedure(SOP) for cancellation/suspension/withdrawal of Passport, Driving License, Arms Licence, Aadhaar Card, Contractor's Licence, Security and Allotment of Government accommodation in respect of accused/detenues under the NDPS Act, 1985 and the PITNDPS Act, 1988 in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

GOVERNMENT ORDER NO. 240 - JK(HOME) OF 2026 DATED: 17.04.2026

Whereas, the menace of drug trafficking continues to pose a grave threat to public health, social order and the security of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and whereas drug traffickers habitually exploit government-issued identity document, licences, security, secure accommodation and travel documents to evade law enforcement, flee justice and facilitate their criminal networks;

Whereas, it has been found expedient and necessary to lay down a uniform, time-bound and legally sound Standard Operating Procedure(SOP) for Law Enforcement Agencies and Administrative Authorities across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir so as to ensure the systematic and expeditious cancellation, impoundments, suspension and deactivation of Passport, Driving Licence, Arms Licence, Aadhaar Card, Contractor's Licence, Government accommodation and Government provided security, of persons accused of drug-related offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and persons detained under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988.

Now, therefore, for effective exercise of relevant powers and functions under the Passports Act, 1967, the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the Aadhaar(Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, the Arms Act 1959, J&K Registration of Contractors Act, 1956, the NDPS Act, 1985 and the PITNDPS Act, 1988 and all other enabling provisions of law, the following Standard Operating Procedure(SOP) is hereby issued for strict compliance by all concerned:

- 1.1 Applicability: This SOP shall require all Investigating Officers (IOs), Superintendents of Police, Senior Superintendents of Police, District Magistrates, Regional Passport Officers, Regional Transport Officers/Assistant Regional Transport Officers, UIDAI Regional Office, the Bureau of Immigration, Director Estates, Head of Security Wing of J&K Police, Head of the Department of Contractors' Registration and all other concerned agencies for taking appropriate necessary steps in accordance with applicable legal provisions.
- 1.2 This SOP shall come into force from the date of issuance of this Government Order and shall remain in force until superseded or amended.
- 1.3 This SOP aims to restrict the mobility, prevent concealment of identity, deny escape routes, debar from owning a weapon, denying contractor's licence, denying secure accommodation & security and dismantle the support infrastructure of drug traffickers by ensuring that all government issued identity, travel, arms licence, contractor's licence, secure accommodation, security and mobility documents of accused/detenues are cancelled, impounded or deactivated swiftly in accordance with law.

2. The following legislative provisions constitute the legal basis for actions under this SOP:

Document	Provision	Ground/Effect
Passport	Sec. 6(2)(a)/(b), Passports Act, 1967	Refusal/revocation where presence abroad is detrimental to sovereignty, security or friendly relations of India.
	Sec. 6(2)(f)	Refusal where accused is subject to warrant, summons or prohibitory order of a competent court.
	Sec. 10(3)(a)/(c)	Impoundment/revocation in the interest of sovereignty, security or general public interest.
	Sec. 10(3)(b)	Revocation where passport was obtained by suppression of material facts.
	Sec. 10A	Emergency suspension pending formal revocation proceedings.
Driving Licence	Sec. 6(2)(e) & 10(3)(h)	NDPS conviction constitutes offence involving moral turpitude, triggering revocation.
	Sec. 19(1)(b), MV Act, 1988	Cancellation where holder is addicted to narcotic drug or psychotropic substance.
	Sec. 19(1)(c)	Cancellation where motor vehicle was used in commission of a cognizable NDPS offence.
	Sec. 19(1)(e) Sec. 20 & 22	Cancellation where DL was obtained by fraud or concealment of narcotic addiction. Court-ordered disqualification/ revocation on conviction for NDPS offences.
Aadhaar	Reg. 28(1)(f) of Aadhaar (Enrolment & Update) Regulations, 2016	Deactivation of Aadhaar by UIDAI.
Arms Licence	Section 17(3) of Arms Act 1959	Cancellation of Arms Licence.
PITNDPS	Sec. 3, PITNDPS Act, 1988	Detention order of competent authority constitutes a triggering event for all document actions.
Contractor's Licence	Section 5(1) of J&K Registration of Contractors Act, 1956 and Rule 5(1)(v) read with Rule 5(6) of J&K Registration of Contractors Rules, 1991	Head of the Department which has registered the contractor will cancel the registration of the licence.
Government Accommodation	Ground for cancellation would be a report from IO/SP/SSP concerned for involvement in any drugs related crime	Director Estates/IGP Security, J&K/District Magistrates, as the case may be, shall cancel the Government accommodation immediately on receipt of report from the concerned.
Security provided by the Police	Ground for withdrawal of security would be a report from IO/SP/SSP concerned for involvement in any drugs related crime	IGP Security, J&K shall withdraw the security immediately.

3. This SOP shall be mandatorily operated upon the occurrence of any of the following events:

1. Registration of a First Information Report (FIR) for offences punishable under Sections 8, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27A or 29 of the NDPS Act, 1985, where the alleged quantity is equal to or exceeds the "commercial quantity" as defined under the Act.
2. Issuance of a Detention Order under Section 3 of the PITNDPS Act, 1988 by the competent authority.
3. Receipt of a Court Warrant, Remand Order or Prohibitory Departure Order from a competent Magistrate or Sessions Court against an NDPS accused.
4. Receipt of specific intelligence/input from the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), J&K Police or any other Central/State Law Enforcement Agency identifying a named accused who is a resident of or is present in J&K.
5. Conviction by a Trial Court for any offence under the NDPS Act, 1985.
6. Receipt of a direction from the Hon'ble High Court of J&K & Ladakh or the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in relation to any NDPS accused.

4. STEP-BY-STEP PROCEDURE:

Step 1 Identification, Documentation and Preparation of Dossier

- 4.1.1 Immediately upon operationalization of this SOP, the Investigating Officer (IO) shall prepare a Case Summary Dossier containing the following documents and information:
 - Certified copy of the FIR / Detention Order.
 - Complete identity particulars of the accused/detenu: full name, parentage, date of birth, permanent address & photograph.
 - Passport number and issuing authority (if known or seized).
 - Driving License number and issuing RTO (if known).
 - Aadhaar number (if known).
 - Vehicle registration number(s) used in the commission of the offence.
 - Details of the Arms Licence issued by the Competent Authority.
 - Details of the Contractor's Licence in case the accused/detenu has obtained such licence.
 - Details of security provided to the accused/detenu, if any.
 - Details of Government accommodation provided to the accused/detenu, if any along with details of the authority which has provided the Government accommodation.
 - A brief summary note recording the nature, scale and gravity of the NDPS offence.
 - Certified copy of Remand Order/Court Order, if any.
- 4.1.2 The IO shall verify details of the accused from NDPS Accused Database maintained by the J&K Police, NIDAN Portal and any other National Database accessible to the Police.
- 4.1.3 The IO shall prepare separate covering letters/applications for the Regional Passport Officer, Driver Licensing Authority (RTO/ARTO), the UIDAI Regional Office, Bureau of Immigration, Arms Licensing Authority, HoD of the Department for Contractors Registration, Director Estates/District Magistrate, IGP Security, duly signed/forwarded by the concerned Superintendent of Police/Senior Superintendent of Police.
- 4.1.4 If a passport is in the physical possession of the accused at the time of arrest, the IO shall seize it and take requisite steps immediately for its impounding under Section 13 of the Passports Act, 1967 and shall record the same in the arrest memo and case diary. The passport shall be deposited with the concerned Regional Passport Officer within 48 hours of seizure.

Step 2 Issuance of Look Out Circular (LOC)

- 4.2.1 The IO/SP/SSP shall simultaneously and without any delay, forward a Look Out Circular (LOC) request to the Bureau of Immigration (BoI), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India through the designated Nodal Officer, citing the involvement of the accused in NDPS cases. The LOC shall seek to prevent the accused from exiting India through any airport, seaport or land immigration check post.
- 4.2.2 The LOC request shall be transmitted through the official Police communication channel (fax/e-mail/official portal) with a follow-up by registered post.
- 4.2.3 A copy of the LOC request shall be endorsed to the CISF Incharge at the Srinagar/Jammu Airports and DGP, J&K.

Step 3 Passport Impoundment / Suspension / Revocation

- 4.3.1 The IO, after obtaining approval of the SP/SSP, shall address a formal written application to the concerned Regional Passport Officer(RPO) Srinagar or Jammu, as the case may be, for impoundment/revocation of the passport, citing one or more of the following grounds:
 - The accused is involved in an offence prejudicial to sovereignty, security or public interest of India (Section 10(3)(a)/(c) of Passports Act, 1967).
 - The accused is subject to a warrant or prohibitory departure order of a Competent Court (Section 6(2)(f)).
 - The passport was obtained by suppression of material facts, including Narcotic Trafficking (Section 10(3)(b)).
 - The accused has been convicted of an NDPS offence constituting moral turpitude (Sections 6(2)(e) and 10(3)(h)).
- 4.3.2 In cases of flight risk or where the accused is a known TransNational Trafficker, necessary steps by IO requesting Competent/Designated Authority for invoking Section 10A of the Passports Act, 1967 for emergency suspension of the passport pending formal revocation proceedings shall be taken.
- 4.3.3 The application to the RPO shall be accompanied by: certified copy of FIR / Detention Order, Court Remand Order, a recent photograph

of the accused and the seized passport (if available).

- 4.3.4 Simultaneously, the SP/SSP shall forward a request to the Ministry of External Affairs, Consular, Passport and Visa (CPV) Division, New Delhi, for flagging/blacklisting of the passport number in the Immigration, Visa and Foreigners' Registration and Tracking (IVFRT) System to prevent exit from India.

Step 4 Driving Licence Cancellation

- 4.4.1 The IO, with the approval of the SP/SSP, shall address a formal application to the concerned Licensing Authority (RTO/ARTO) of the district where the Driving Licence was issued) for cancellation/suspension of the Driving Licence under one or more of the following provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988:
 - Section 19(1)(b): The licence holder is involved in trafficking of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances as defined under the NDPS Act, 1985.
 - Section 19(1)(c): The licence holder used a motor vehicle in the commission of a cognizable NDPS offence.
 - Section 19(1)(e): The licence was obtained by fraud, misrepresentation or concealment of narcotics trafficking.
- 4.4.2 The application to the Licensing Authority shall contain: the Driving Licence Number, vehicle registration number (if used in the offence), copy of FIR and Remand Order, a statement recording the facts of narcotics trafficking or cognizable NDPS offence.
- 4.4.3 The Licensing Authority shall issue a show-cause notice to the accused even if in judicial custody through the Jail Superintendent and shall, after due opportunity of hearing and consider passing a cancellation order within 15 working days.
- 4.4.4 The cancellation order shall be forwarded by the Licensing Authority to the National SARATHI Portal for National-level blocking and a copy shall be transmitted to all States/UTs Transport Authorities through the designated Nodal Officer.
- 4.4.5 On conviction by a Competent Court for an NDPS offence, where a motor vehicle was used, the Public Prosecutor shall move an application before the Trial Court for disqualification from holding a Driving Licence under Section 20/22 of the MV Act. After obtaining order from the Competent Court, the same shall then be communicated to the RTO for updating the same on SARATHI.

Step 5 Aadhaar Deactivation / Flagging

- 4.5.1 The IO/SP/SSP shall submit a formal written complaint to the UIDAI Regional Office having territorial jurisdiction for J&K matters for deactivation/flagging of the Aadhaar number of the accused/detenu with the following supporting documents:
 - Copy of FIR / Detention Order / Conviction Order.
 - A request that the Aadhaar number be flagged so that any authentication attempt generates an automatic alert to the designated Law Enforcement Nodal Officer.
- 4.5.2 The IO shall apply for deactivation under Regulation 28 of the Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations, 2016.

Step 6 Financial Investigation and Bank Account Freezing

- 4.6.1 Simultaneously with document cancellation proceedings, the IO shall initiate proceedings under Section 68F of the NDPS Act, 1985 (forfeiture of property) for attachment of properties of the accused.
- 4.6.2 The IO shall write to the concerned bank(s) through the SP/SSP, with a certified copy of the FIR requesting/directing freezing of accounts linked to the accused's Aadhaar/PAN number pending further legal proceedings.
- 4.6.3 If the accused is a PITNDPS detenu, the Detaining Authority may separately recommend to IGP Crime J&K for tracking of suspicious financial transactions linked to the detenu's identity documents.

Step 7 Cancellation of Arms Licence

- 4.7.1 The IO/SP/SSP shall write to the Arms Licensing Authority i.e. District Magistrate or Home Department or Arms Division Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, as the case may be, as per Arms Act 1959 and Arms Rules 2016, for cancellation of Arms Licence, in case, a person is found involved in the narcotics trafficking or upon arrest of a person under NDPS Act or detention of a person under PITNDPS Act.

Step 8 Cancellation of Contractor's Licence

- 4.8.1 The IO after obtaining approval from SP/SSP shall immediately write to the Head of the Department which has registered the accused/detenu under Jammu & Kashmir Registration of Contractors Act, 1956 along with the details of his/her involvement in drugs related crime. In the letter to be written to the Head of the Department, the IO shall recommend the cancellation of the Contractor's licence.

Step 9 Cancellation of Government Accommodation

- 4.9.1 The IO shall write to the concerned authority in case the accused/detenu has been provided a Government accommodation. The IO shall address this communication to such authority which has allotted the Government accommodation to the accused/detenu with the clear recommendation that in view of the conduct of the person, the Government owned property to accommodate him should immediately be withdrawn.

Step 10 Withdrawal of Security

- 4.10.1 The IO shall write to IGP Security J&K or the concerned Police Authority, in case the accused/detenu has been provided the Police security with recommendations to withdraw the same on immediate basis. The concerned Police authority shall pass an order in this regard within a period of not more than 48 hours.

Step 11 Post-Conviction / Acquittal Action

- 4.11.1 Conviction: Upon conviction by the Trial Court for any offence under the NDPS Act, 1985, the IO shall, within 30 days of the conviction order:
 - Apply to the RPO for revocation of the passport under Section 10(3) of the Passports Act, 1967.
 - Ensure the Driving Licence cancellation order has been registered on SARATHI.
 - Apply to UIDAI for deactivation of Aadhaar number under Regulation 28.
 - Update the Look Out Circular(LOC) to reflect conviction and apply for its continuation for the duration of the sentence.
 - Ensure that the Arms Licensing Authority has cancelled the Arms Licence issued in favour of the accused.
 - Ensure that the Contractor's licence has been cancelled.
 - Ensure that the Government accommodation has been cancelled.
 - Ensure that the government provided security has already been withdrawn.
- 4.11.2 Acquittal/Discharge: If the accused is acquitted or discharged by the Competent Court, the Nodal Officer shall within 30 days of the final order:
 - Apply to the RPO for immediate restoration of the passport.
 - Write to the Licensing Authority for withdrawal of the DL cancellation order.
 - Apply to UIDAI for re-activation of the deactivated Aadhaar.
 - Withdraw the LOC by writing to the Bureau of Immigration without delay.
 - Inform the concerned bank(s) for de-freezing of accounts.
 - Inform the Arms Licensing Authority.
 - Inform the Contractors Licensing Authority.
 - Inform the IGP Security J&K.

5. NODAL OFFICERS AND COORDINATION MECHANISM

- 5.1 The DGP, J&K shall designate Inspector General of Police, Crime J&K as the State-Level NDPS Nodal Officer for coordination and oversight of this SOP.
- 5.2 The IGP Kashmir/Jammu shall designate NDPS Nodal Officer not below the rank of Deputy Inspector General of Police.
- 5.3 Each SSP/SP shall designate a District-Level NDPS Nodal Officer not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police.
- 5.4 The State-Level Nodal Officer shall maintain regular coordination with the NCB Regional Office (North Zone), the Bureau of Immigration (MHA), the RPO Srinagar, the RPO Jammu, the UIDAI Regional Office (Chandigarh), Transport Department, Contractors Registration Authority, IGP Security, Director Estates and District Magistrates.
- 5.5 All communications with the RPO, UIDAI and BoI shall be marked to the State-Level Nodal Officer for records.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Designation	Responsibility	Timeline
Investigating Officer (IO)	Prepare Case Summary Dossier; draft all applications and forwarding letters; update case diary at each stage.	Day 1-3
Superintendent of Police / SSP	Review and approve applications; sign forwarding letters to RPO, RTO/ARTO, UIDAI, BoI, Contractors Registration Authority, Director Estates, District Magistrates & Security Headquarters; ensure compliance monitoring.	Day 2-5
IGP Crime J&K	Maintain NDPS Document Cancellation Register; coordinate Inter-agency communication; ensure timely follow-up; submit monthly progress reports to DGP.	Ongoing
Regional Passport Officer, Srinagar/Jammu	Receive application; issue acknowledgment; consider issue of impoundment / suspension / revocation order within 7 working days.	Within 7 working days
Licensing Authority (RTO/ARTO)	Issue show-cause notice; hear the accused; consider passing of cancellation order; update SARATHI Portal.	Within 15 working days
UIDAI Regional Office	Receive formal law enforcement complaint; consider processing deactivation request; flag Aadhaar for authentication alerts.	As per UIDAI Regulations
Bureau of Immigration	Consider issuance of and operationalisation of Look Out Circular; alert all Airports; confirm LOC activation in writing.	Day 1
Public Prosecutor	Move Court for court-ordered revocation of Driving Licence under Sections 20/22 MV Act at conviction stage; assist IO with legal process.	At Trial stage
District Magistrate	Coordinate with RPO and RTO in respect of PITNDPS detenu; forward detention orders to all concerned agencies within 48 hours of issuance. Consider taking action for cancellation of Arms Licence.	Within 48 hours of detention order
DGP, J&K	Review monthly progress reports; issue administrative directions; ensure SOP compliance across all Districts and Police Units.	Monthly review

7. MONITORING, REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM

- 7.1 NDPS Document Cancellation Register: Every District SP/SSP shall maintain a dedicated NDPS Document Cancellation Register, recording FIR/Case Number, accused name, Aadhaar number, Passport number, Arms Licence, Driving Licence number, Contractor's Licence number, Details of accommodation/security if any, date of FIR/detention order, date of application to RPO/RTO/UIDAI/BoI, date of order received, current status and date of final disposal.
- 7.2 Monthly Compliance Report: The District Nodal Officer (NDPS) shall submit a Monthly Compliance Report to the Inspector General of Police, Crime J&K and the DGP J&K, by the 5th of every succeeding month, detailing action taken under this SOP during the previous month.
- 7.3 Review Meetings: The DGP, J&K shall convene a quarterly review meeting with IGP Kashmir/Jammu, IGP Crime J&K, District SPs/SsSP and other stakeholder agencies to assess progress, address bottlenecks and issue fresh directions.
- 7.4 Case Diary Update: The IO shall ensure that every application, acknowledgment, order and correspondence relating to document cancellation is entered in the case diary and a copy is maintained in the Case Dossier for production before the court.
- 7.5 Accountability: Any Officer who fails to initiate action under this SOP within the prescribed timelines, without written reasons on record, shall be liable for departmental action as per the Rules.

By Order of the Lieutenant Governor, Jammu and Kashmir.

No: Home-HR/34/2026-03 (CC:7740753)
Dated: 17.04.2026

DIPK-888-26
DT: 29/04/2026

Sd/-
(Chandraker Bharti) IAS.
Principal Secretary to the Government.

Head, Klaasen power SRH to fourth-highest run-chase in IPL history, beat MI by 6 wickets

AGENCIES

MUMBAI: Travis Head (76) and Heinrich Klaasen (65 not out) outmuscled Ryan Rickelton's record 123 not out for Mumbai Indians as Sunrisers Hyderabad romped home to a six-wicket in their Indian Premier League contest, here on Wednesday.

After Rickelton's highest individual score for MI and also their fastest-ever ton in IPL history took the hosts to a formidable 243/5, SRH rode on a combined batting show to win with eight balls to spare.

Mumbai Indians had also registered their highest score batting first, but SRH recorded the fourth-highest successful run chase in IPL history on a docile wicket which provided absolutely no competition between the bat and the ball.

Chasing 244, SRH made 249/4 in 18.4 overs.

While Head provided early fireworks racing to 30-ball 76 with eight sixes and four fours, Klaasen produced an equally brutal knock to finish with 65 not out off 30 balls with seven fours and four sixes.

For MI, a string of missed opportunities early on proved costly in their sixth defeat in eight matches.

While he was in his usual element, Head's knock was also littered with lifelines provided by MI.

The first ball of the third over from Trent Boult (1/41) swung away from Head and he threw his hands at it, slicing in the air towards deep point. Naman Dhir did well to get to the ball but it burst through his hands to land beyond the ropes.

In the fifth over, Head went deep in the crease to cut one in the air and despite timing his jump right, the ball brushed Dhir's fingers.

Dhir was in action again at the boundary ropes over point when he collected the ball in his hands but ended up on the ropes with it, as Head completed a 20-ball half-century.

A pivotal moment had, meanwhile, arrived in the third over's second ball when one that shaped away from Head off Boult, was collected by Rickelton and none in the MI camp realised there was an edge off



the bat. Head and Abhishek went about their job nonchalantly while smacking almost every bowler around the park.

Wicketless once again, Jasprit Bumrah (0/54) was hit for 14 in his first over, Boult for 18 after 11 in his first, and Will Jacks was clobbered for 19 runs in his first as SRH raced to 62 in four overs.

The onslaught continued beyond the powerplay when MI brought in Ashwani Kumar (2-0-41-0), as SRH openers collected 23 runs off the left-arm seamer to continue with the carnage.

SRH responded to MI's 93-run opening stand which took seven overs with 129 runs in only 8.4, with Head being the more dominant than Abhishek.

The India opener had not qualms in reading a slower one from Bumrah which he launched over mid-on for a six in the second over and freed up his arms at will on a benign track before he mishit one.

Abhishek went hard against one from Allah Ghazanfar (2/51) outside the off only to

slice it in the air for a comfortable catch at backward point.

MI enjoyed a second breakthrough soon after when Ghazanfar, having pulled out of his run-up twice, got Ishan Kishan (0) chopping one on to his stumps.

A third wicket came when Head hit a full toss straight to Jacks at extra cover and MI felt they were back in the game.

But Klaasen was quick enough to crush any such hopes when he launched a counter-attack with 16 runs off Ghazanfar in the 11th over and 18 off Ashwani — including three fours in a row — off the 12th.

The bat versus bat contest ended in the penultimate over when Salil Arora blazed his way to a 10-ball 30 not out, striking three sixes and two fours.

Earlier, Rickelton's 123 not out took his team to massive 243 for five.

Rickelton batted through the innings for an unbeaten 123 off a mere 55 balls with 10 fours and eight sixes, anchoring MI's charge to an at-par total on a batting friendly track here at the Wankhede Stadium

The 29-year-old Rickelton brought up a third century for his franchise as MI made a desperate attempt to revive their fortunes with their highest total of the season so far.

Using the long handle to maximum effect, not for once did Rickelton take any unwarranted risk but executed his strokes with conviction.

Alongside Rickelton's exploits, MI also had England opener Will Jacks (46 off 22 balls) and skipper Hardik Pandya (31 off 15 balls; 2 fours, 2 sixes) delivering the goods.

With a new opening partner in the form of Jacks, the South African wicketkeeper-batter Rickelton provided MI with the spunk they have missed most of this season hitherto.

The pair put on 78 in the powerplay and 93 for the first wicket in seven overs to set the tone in a fearless approach with the bat.

But more importantly, Rickelton hung around for a long haul as his innings proved to be the glue which held MI together as well as kept driving them towards a strong total.

IPL 2025-26: Real Kashmir, Gokulam Kerala face off in key relegation encounter

FIANS

HYDERABAD: Real Kashmir FC will take on Gokulam Kerala FC in a relegation-stage clash in the Indian Football League (IFL) 2025-26 at the Deccan Arena in Hyderabad on Thursday. Real Kashmir enter this contest with a clear psychological edge, having secured a 6-2 victory against Gokulam in their previous meeting. That result underlined the Snow Leopards' ability to impose themselves both structurally and in attacking phases.



Momentum, too, favours the Kashmir-based side. They closed out the league stage with a 2-0 win against a swift Sreenidi Deccan, demonstrating defensive discipline and attacking efficiency. Gokulam, in contrast, endured a difficult finish, suffering a 2-5 defeat to table-toppers Diamond Harbour FC.

Real Kashmir head coach Ishaq Ahmad emphasised the positives from his side's recent performances, particularly highlighting discipline and defensive solidity. "I think the last two matches have been fantastic for us. The boys did really well. A lot of credit goes to them because they really worked hard and got out of that bottom place. Now they have to do the same thing they have been doing, stick to the plan, and main-

tain discipline. Hard work and good discipline were two positives from those two matches, along with finishing with a clean sheet. Hopefully, by the grace of the Almighty, we continue in the same way," he said.

Despite these contrasting results, the table remains finely balanced. Real Kashmir sit eighth, just above Gokulam, with both sides level on eight points apiece; they are separated only by head-to-head record. With no tangible points advantage, the fixture carries significant weight in shaping the relegation battle.

A win for either side could lift them to the top of the Relegation Stage with 11 points, subject to other results, further underlining the importance of this encounter.

Gokulam assistant coach Ranjith CM, how-

ever, struck an optimistic note: "Real Kashmir are a very good team. We lost to them in their home match. Now, this is a neutral venue. There, we made some crucial errors during the second half, especially in the last 20 minutes. We have realised our mistakes; our players have realised our mistakes. We have watched the videos of that match. So, we won't be making those mistakes again. We are ready to fight back and get a victory against them."

Ultimately, this contest presents a clash of structure against urgency. Real Kashmir's organised, mid-field-centric approach contrasts with Gokulam's need for attacking fluency and defensive stability. With survival at stake and little separating the two sides, fine margins and tactical execution are likely to prove decisive.

Football: Georgia, Armenia to host 2029 FIFA U-20 World Cup

FIANS

YEREVAN/TBILISI: World soccer governing body FIFA has named Georgia and Armenia as co-hosts of the 2029 U-20 World Cup, marking the first time the two South Caucasus countries will host a FIFA tournament. The joint bid was approved at a FIFA Council meeting on April 28 in Vancouver, Canada, on the eve of the 76th FIFA Congress.

The tournament, held every two years since 1977, features 24 teams in its final round.

The Football Federation of Armenia (FFA)

called it "an unprecedented achievement," saying it reflected the international football community's high confidence and would give young Armenian players and fans the chance to experience a World Cup atmosphere on home soil, reports Xinhua.

"Hosting this tournament is of great importance for both federations," said FFA president Armen Melikbekyan, adding that he was confident both Georgia and Armenia would host the World Cup with dignity and would do everything possible to make the tournament stand out in the



history of FIFA's youth competitions. President of the Geor-

gian Football Federation (GFF) Levan Kobiasvili said he was confident the tournament would leave a lasting mark on football development in the region.

"This is truly a remarkable event -- for the first time in the history of independent Georgian football, we will host a world-class tournament under FIFA's auspices," added Kobiasvili.

The competition has been staged every two years since the inaugural tournament in 1977, when it was hosted by Tunisia under its old name of FIFA World Youth Champion-

ship, which stayed till 2005, when it was changed to the present name in 2007. FIFA bills the men's Under-20 World Cup as "the tournament of tomorrow's superstars."

Thus far, 23 editions of the tournament have been held, and 12 nations have won the title so far. Argentina U20 is the most successful team with six titles, followed by Brazil U20 with five titles.

Morocco won the title in the last edition of the competition held in Chile in 2025. The next edition will be jointly hosted by Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan in 2027.

'IPL is always exciting, and it's just beginning of this season', says Kiran More

FIANS

MUMBAI: Former India wicketkeeper Kiran More believes the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 has already lived up to expectations, noting that while the tournament has begun on an exciting note, the second half promises even more intensity with multiple teams in strong contention and no clear favourite emerging yet.

"It's a good beginning and an exciting one. The first half of this season has already delivered much more than the expectations. We have seen multiple 200+ scores, which makes it more exciting. IPL is always exciting, and you will see that the second half has started. So I don't know who's going to win, but a lot of teams are doing very well," More told IANS. One of the key trends

of IPL 2026 has been the sharp rise in scoring. This shows a clear change in batting strategy across teams. After 38 completed matches, not counting the washed-out PBKS vs KKR game, the average first-innings score has risen to 186.

This is noticeably higher than the 178 recorded at the same point in IPL 2025. As a result, the average total score per match has also increased from 356 to an impressive 372, showing how teams are consistently pushing for more runs this season.

The most significant sign of this batting surge is the number of 200-plus totals. Once seen as a winning score, the 200-run mark has become the new normal. In the first 39 matches of IPL 2026, teams have surpassed 200 runs 31 times, compared to just 21

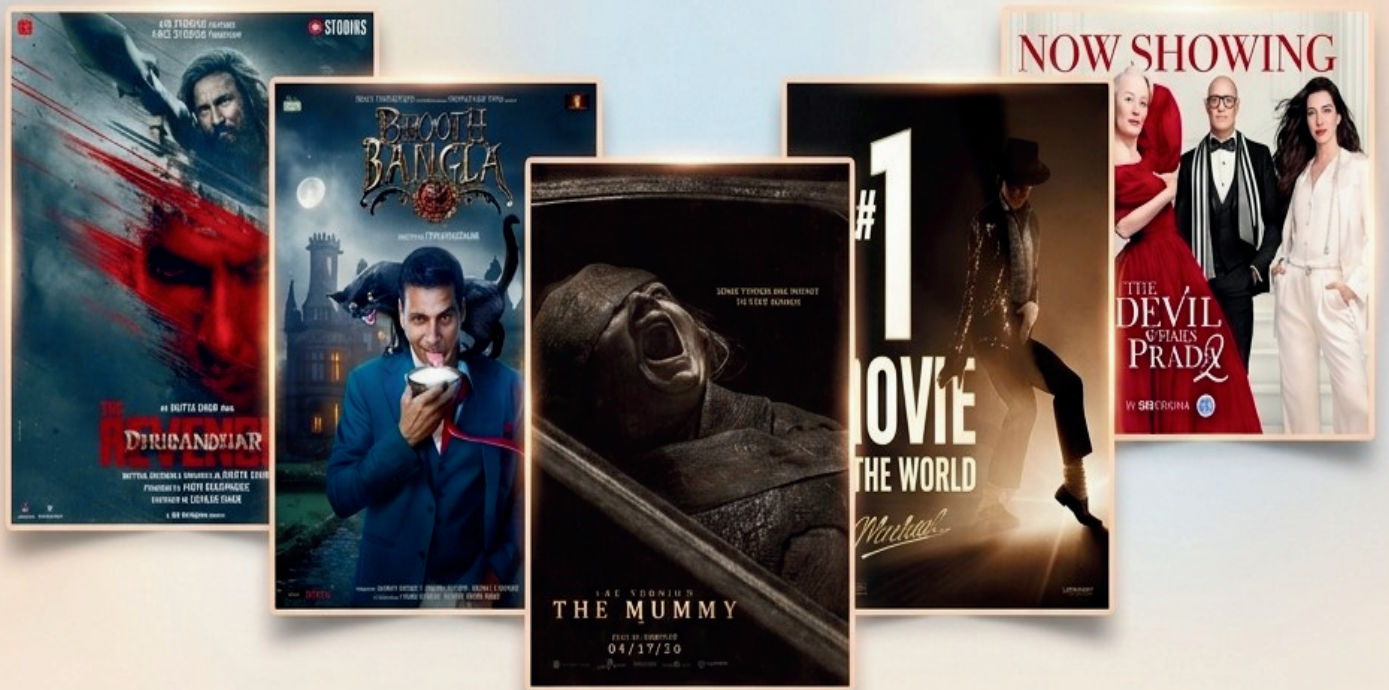
times at the same stage last season. This change indicates that batting teams are increasingly ambitious, no longer aiming for 170-180 but instead targeting higher totals as the new standard.

More also talked about the inaugural EUT20 Belgium League as an exciting new step for the game in Europe, expressing enthusiasm about the tournament's launch and highlighting the presence of top and current players as a major boost to its appeal.

"It's a very good league, the EUT20 Belgium League. This is happening for the first time in Europe, so I think it's a start. I'm very excited about this, and the best part of this league is that we have great players who are going to participate, and a lot of current players are also playing," he said.

Movies Schedule

Thursday, 30th April



Dhurandhar: The Revenge (A)
Hindi - 10:45 AM

BHOOTH BANGLA (U/A16+)
Hindi Atmos - 11:15 AM, 02:30 PM, 05:45 PM
Hindi - 03:30 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

The Devil Wears Prada 2 (A)
English with English Subtitles
07:00 PM

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