

Good Morning Kashmir

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I urge schools, mosques, temples, gurdwaras, and NGOs to strengthen this initiative through awareness. It will deliver real results, acting like an early warning system, monitoring hotspots while building them into fully drug-free zones: Lieutenant Governor

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Alcohol Remarks Misconstrued, Govt Not Supporting It: Javed Dar

Says Ban Desired In J&K; UT Status Limits Direct Action On Certain Issues



WARIS FAYAZ

BARAMULLA: Cabinet Minister Javed Ahmad Dar on Tuesday clarified that the government is not supporting alcohol consumption and said recent remarks on the issue were being misconstrued.

Talking to reporters here, Minister Dar, maintained that an alcohol ban is desired in the Union Territory. "The government's stand on alcohol remains clear and efforts are underway to address the issue," he said.

"Statements are being misled. We are not supporting alcohol consumption. We want it to get banned," the Minister said.

He said alcohol is prohibited in Islam and stressed that Jammu and Kashmir, being a Muslim majority region,

should work towards distancing society from alcohol consumption.

"Alcohol is prohibited in Islam, but we are in a Union Territory and cannot directly take decisions on few of the issues," he said.

The Minister said discussions are underway, but added that the government does not want to disclose details at this stage.

Reiterating the government's position, the Minister said they are not in favour of alcohol and are exploring ways to curb its use in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We should find ways to get rid of it and stay away from it," he added.

On ongoing "Nasha Mukht Abhiyan", he said the initiative is gaining momentum across the Union Territory and stressed that

LG Launches Two Anti-Drug Programmes For Action Rooted In Family, Community Support

Joined Drug-Free J&K Campaign Padyatra In Baramulla

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Tuesday joined the Drug-Free Jammu Kashmir campaign in Baramulla, engaging with citizens and participating in a Padyatra. The Lieutenant Governor also announced the launch of two innovative pillars under the campaign for the next 69 days- the Community Immunization Program against drugs and the Family Fortress Initiative.

Speaking on the occasion the Lieutenant Governor said that just as we have taught communities to vaccinate against bacteria or viruses, we will partner with religious leaders and social groups to create Community Immunization initiative against drugs in 5-10 high-risk hotspot areas per district.

"I urge schools, mosques, temples, gurdwaras, and NGOs to dedicate one hour weekly to strengthen this



initiative through awareness. It will deliver real results, acting like an early warning system, monitoring hotspots while building them into fully drug-free zones.

The second pillar is the Family Fortress Initiative, which will rely on the strong family and community bonds for the ultimate shield against drug addiction. Over the next 69 days, every school, college, and place of worship in Jammu Kashmir should host a weekly family dialogue

on drugs. These dialogues should be open, honest paired with local campaign audits to spot and fix gaps," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that in the past 31 days, over 2,35,000 awareness and outreach events have been held across Jammu Kashmir. More than 44,000 OPD patients have been treated, nearly 700 drug smugglers and peddlers arrested, and stringent action has been taken against the

Border Villagers Play Extraordinary Role In Nation-Building: LG

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said residents of border villages shoulder an "extraordinary responsibility" in serving the nation.

Sinha, who visited Uran Bowa village in the Uri area of Baramulla, reviewed projects under the central government's Vibrant Village Programme and addressed a public gathering.

The Lieutenant Governor said, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, border villages' distance from Delhi has reduced. They are connected to the mainstream of development and it is commitment of the Government of India to ensure that border villages become symbol of inclusive development.

"The people of our border villages, especially farmers, youth and women shoulder an extraordinary responsibility in serving the nation.

Under the

Infiltration Bid Foiled In Poonch, 1 Intruder Killed: Army

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Army on Tuesday killed an infiltrator after it foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Army's White Knight Corps said that acting on persistent surveillance, a suspicious movement was detected approximately 300 metres inside own territory in the general area of Krishna Ghati Sector, in Poonch, along the LoC at around 4 PM today. City & Local Guides

It said that alert troops of White Knight

14 Lakh Kanals Of State Land Encroached In Jammu, 3 Lakh In Kashmir: Data

AGENCIES

JAMMU: More than 17 lakh kanals of state land have been encroached by the land mafia across Jammu and Kashmir, with Jammu division accounting for over 14 lakh kanals, more than three times the figure recorded in Kashmir division, while Rajouri district topped the list among all 20 districts, official data said.

According to the official figures, a total of around 17,27,247 kanals of encroached state land entries were expunged from revenue

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



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: The Meteorological Department on Tuesday forecast more spells of rain and thundershowers across most parts of Jammu and Kashmir, while warning of hailstorms, lightning and gusty winds at isolated places during the next 24 hours.

According to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, generally cloudy weather with spells of rain and thundershowers was witnessed across several areas of Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

The MeT department informed that there is a possibility of hailstorms, thun-

der and gusty winds with speeds of 50-60 kilometres per hour at a few places in both divisions.

Authorities have advised people to suspend boating and shikara rides during the afternoon and late afternoon hours in view of the possibility of strong winds and thundershowers.

Farmers have been advised to suspend farm operations till May 13 due to the prevailing weather conditions.

The department said weather conditions are likely to remain partly to generally cloudy with brief showers from May 13 to

India Has 2-Month Fuel Stock, OMC Losses May Hit Rs 1 Lakh Cr: Puri

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: With two months of fuel stockpiles, India faces no supply concerns despite disruptions to global energy flows, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday said, while warning that state-run fuel retailers face losses of as much as Rs 1 lakh crore in a single quarter if elevated crude prices persist and retail fuel prices remain unchanged.

He said that at some stage an assessment needs to be made on how long retailers can sustain losses from selling petrol, diesel and cooking gas LPG below cost, but refused to speculate if rates would be raised anytime soon.

"We have no supply-side problems," the minister said at CII's Annual Business Summit here, adding that India began the crisis with "more than enough" crude oil and LPG inventories and had



since ramped up domestic LPG production to 54,000 tonnes per day from about 36,000 tonnes previously.

At the same time, the minister acknowledged growing fiscal stress from keeping retail fuel prices unchanged.

"My oil companies are losing Rs 1,000 crore a day," he said, adding that cumulative under-recoveries had climbed to nearly Rs 1.98 lakh crore and that a

single quarter of losses of Rs 1 lakh crore could wipe out the sector's annual profits.

Since the war broke out in West Asia 10 weeks ago, state-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) have ensured uninterrupted supplies of petrol, diesel and cooking gas LPG at rates that are way below the cost, unlike many global energy systems that imposed rationing or passed through steep price increases.

This has resulted in the three OMCs - Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) - running record-high under-recoveries (the difference between benchmark international cost and retail selling price).

Puri said the combined under-recovery on petrol, diesel and cooking gas LPG is about Rs 1.98 lakh crore for the

CS Reviews Implementation Of PM-JAY SEHAT In J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday chaired the Governing Council Meeting of the State Health Agency (SHA), during which a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) and AB PM-JAY SEHAT scheme across Jammu and Kashmir was undertaken.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department; Commissioner Secretary, Planning; Secretary, Information Technology; Director, SKIMS; Principal, Government Medical College, Srinagar/Jammu besides other concerned officers.

During the meeting, Chief Executive Officer, State Health Agency, Ananth

Dwivedi, delivered a detailed presentation highlighting the achievements registered under the scheme, its financial performance during the current policy period and the proposed modalities for ensuring its continued and sustainable implementation across the Union Territory in the months to come.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary observed that Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as one of the leading regions in extending universal healthcare coverage under the PM-JAY SEHAT scheme, significantly improving access to quality and cashless healthcare services for the people.

He remarked that the scheme has enabled

India Delivers 'Reputation' Rebuke To China Over Admission Of Helping Pakistan During 'Op Sindoor'

GMK NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday reacted to reports alleging that China backed Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, asserting that nations claiming to be responsible global powers must seriously introspect on the consequences of supporting efforts aimed at shielding terror infrastructure.

The response came after reports, citing a Chinese official, suggested Beijing had provided on-site technical assistance to Pakistan during the conflict with India following the Pahalgam terror attack last year.

Addressing a media briefing, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the reports reinforced what India had already



maintained about external backing received by Pakistan during the confrontation.

"We have seen these reports that corroborate what was known earlier. Operation Sindoor was a precise, targeted and calibrated response

to the terrorist attacks in Pahalgam, aimed at destroying state sponsored terrorist infrastructure operating out of Pakistan and at its behest," Jaiswal said.

He further said countries supporting such actions

should weigh the diplomatic implications.

"It is for nations who consider themselves responsible to reflect whether supporting attempts to protect terrorist infrastructure affects their reputation and standing," he added.

Operation Sindoor was launched after the Pahalgam terror attack triggered a sharp escalation in tensions between India and Pakistan. Between May 7 and May 10, Indian forces carried out targeted strikes on terror-linked infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

India had earlier indicated that Pakistan received operational and technical assistance from China during the conflict, particularly in surveillance, air defence coordination and military logistics.

Region Moving Towards Fuel, Gas Crisis: Dr Farooq



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday warned that the region was moving towards a fuel and gas crisis, saying it could push the economy into "distress and uncertainty."

Speaking to reporters in Srinagar, Dr Farooq, said global tensions and ongoing geopolitical conflicts could further worsen the situation.

"We are going towards a crisis, a fuel crisis, a gas crisis and heading towards destruction," he said, adding that if the situation persists, it is difficult to predict the

'NRPC Rebukes J&K For Power Dues Defaults'

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: In a significant regulatory rebuke, the Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) has revealed that Jammu & Kashmir has consistently neglected to clear deviation and reactive energy charges, payments that are mandatorily due within 10 days under the DSM Regulations.

NRPC said that the Northern Regional Load Despatch Centre (NRLDC) is operating and maintaining the 'Northern Region Pool Account' for deviation charges, Reactive Energy Charges and Congestion Charges in accordance with provisions under various CERC Regulations.

It also said that as per the regulations the payment to the statutory pool account have high priority and the

concerned utilities are required to pay the indicated amounts within 10 days of issue of weekly energy account by NRPC secretariat.

"In this regard, it is submitted that J&K has not been making regular payments of Deviation Charges and Reactive Energy Charges in accordance with the Deviation Settlement Mechanism (DSM) Regulations," NRPC said.

In the meantime, authorities in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has informed the NRPC that the Union Territory is expecting no power crunch in summer in view of increased hydel energy output.

The officials have also informed the committee that the Power Development Department is expecting less power demand in coming months.

DC Anantnag reviews preparations for Holy Adhikmas Kumbh 2026

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Anantnag Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat Tuesday chaired a comprehensive meeting at DC Office, to review and finalise the arrangements for smooth observance of upcoming Holy Adhikmas Kumbh, scheduled at Mattan from May 17 to June 16, 2026.

The meeting was attended by SE Hydraulics, ADC, CPO, ACR, DySP HQ, Tehsildar Mattan, AD FCS&CA, Exen PDD, CEO MCA, President SMTT besides officials from Tourism, MVD, Traffic Police and other concerned departments.

At the outset, President SMTT briefed the chair about the religious and cultural significance of the event which is expected to draw huge participation from different places of the country. He informed that the devotees will participate in the month long Kumbh both at Temple and the nearby river as per their faith and devotion.

Reviewing the preparations and arrangements, the DC noted that the district administration is committed to providing a



hassle-free experience for all the pilgrims who are expected to participate in large numbers. This is not only a religious congregation where the devotees from different places of the country will come and perform the rituals but presents an apt opportunity for the district to showcase its hospitality so the pilgrims leave with pleasant and lasting memories, he remarked.

Addressing the meeting, the DC said it is essential the devotees are duly facilitated so they have an enriching experience during their stay. He issued directions to officers of PDD and PHE to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply at the venues, stressing the ease and convenience of the devotees.

To extend necessary medical facilities to the pilgrims, the Health

Department was directed to set up dedicated medical camps with adequate staff and emergency medicines, while the Fire and Emergency Services Department was asked to deploy adequate number of fire tenders in close vicinity of the venue and to maintain a high state of readiness.

Addressing the logistical needs of the month-long event, Dr. Bhat directed the Police and Traffic departments to implement a robust and streamlined security and traffic management plan to prevent congestion and ensure the safety of commuters. He also tasked the ULB authorities to maintain proper sanitation standards near and around the Temple by installing adequate number of mobile toilets, conducting routine sanitation operations and augmenting pilgrim facilities as per the requirement.

ACR and Tourism Department were instructed to arrange the bedding including blankets for the devotees while FCS&CA Department was assigned the duty of ensuring adequate stocks of essential commodities and LPG in the area.

The chair issued directions to the departments that Nodal Officers for liaising with district administration be designated and respective plans be shared in advance, so the Kumbh is managed properly during the entire one month period.

Concluding the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner exhorted all concerned officers to work in close coordination, ensuring that the Holy Adhikmas Kumbh is conducted with the highest level of administrative efficiency and sanctity.

DC B'pora chairs Stakeholder Meeting on Draft GIS-Based Master Plan 2026-2046

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, Tuesday chaired a stakeholder meeting to discuss the Draft GIS-Based Master Plan Bandipora 2026-2046 prepared by the Town Planning Organisation, Kashmir.

During the meeting, officials from the Town Planning Organisation presented the methodology for formulation of the GIS-based Master Plan and highlighted the objectives and importance of the Master Plan in addressing unplanned urban growth, infrastructure deficit, environmental concerns, population pressure and economic diversification in the district.

The meeting discussed various components of the draft plan including Local Planning Area (LPA)- delineation, social and demographic profile, population projections for 2046, traffic and transportation, physical infrastructure with focus on water supply, sewerage and solid waste management, and social infrastructure including education and health sectors.

A detailed SWOT analysis covering strengths,



weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the district was also deliberated upon. The Vision 2046 framework and spatial strategy based on a polycentric and three-tier development model were discussed in detail along with proposed land use and residential strategy for 2046.

The meeting also deliberated upon strategic road network development, identification of economic pillars including proposed IT/AI Park, agro-processing and medical sectors,

and promotion of sustainable tourism in the district.

During the discussion, stakeholders emphasized sustainable development, balanced urban expansion and improved public infrastructure.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for inclusive and participatory planning and directed that the draft plan be kept open for public feedback and suggestions. She reiterated that inputs received from stakeholders and the public would be incorporated in the revised draft of the Master Plan.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Bandipora, Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Divisional Forest Officer, Chief Town Planner Kashmir, SE PWD (R&B) and KPDC, ACD, ACP, Executive Engineers of various departments, officers of Municipal Committees, representatives of trade bodies and civil society members.

DC Budgam reviews progress under Mission YUVA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan Tuesday chaired a review meeting at the DC Office Budgam to assess the implementation and progress of Mission YUVA in the district.

During the meeting, a detailed review of various components of the Mission yuva was conducted, including enterprise development, capacity building, credit facilitation, awareness generation, training initiatives and market linkage support for aspiring entrepreneurs.

The DC emphasized the importance of Mission YUVA as a transformative initiative aimed at promoting entrepreneurship, self-employment and sustainable livelihood opportunities among the youth. He stressed the need for coordinated efforts among all stakeholder departments, financial institutions and implementing agencies to ensure effective implementation of the programme at the grassroots level.



The DC directed officers to intensify awareness and outreach activities so that maximum eligible youth, women and self-help groups are motivated to avail the benefits under the Mission.

He further instructed concerned functionaries to ensure timely verification. The DC called for strengthening training programmes and facilitating continuous guidance for beneficiaries to help them establish sustainable enterprises. He stressed the need for improving coordination with banking institutions for smooth credit facilitation and timely disposal of cases.

The DC further instructed the concerned agencies to focus on market linkage opportunities and encourage entrepreneurs to explore digital platforms and innovative business models for wider outreach and business growth.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Budgam, Vivek Agarwal; ADC Budgam, CPO Budgam, All SDMs, ACR, ACD, AD Employment, LDM, officers of line departments, representatives of banks and officials associated with Mission YUVA implementation in the district.

DC visits fire injury victims at GMC Anantnag

Assures full support of administration for treatment, recovery

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat Tuesday visited Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag and met the victims who sustained burn injuries during the unfortunate fire incident that occurred at a seminary located in main town during the intervening night of 11 and 12 May.

The DC was accompanied by ADC, AO GMC, Tehsildar Anantnag, MS AH GMC and other concerned officials.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the injured and enquired about the status of their health and recovery besides the quality of treatment and health care services being provided to them. He directed the medical staff to ensure the best possible healthcare facilities and proper medical attention for the patients so they recover soon.

On the occasion, Dr. Bilal expressed sympathy with



the affected families and assured them of all possible support from the district administration. He prayed for the eternal peace of the soul of one victim who died in the tragic accident and speedy recovery of the injured persons.

In addition, the Deputy Commissioner inspected several sections of the hospital and interacted with the patients and their attendants. He enquired about the quality of healthcare services, the

availability of essential medicines, and the punctuality of the medical staff.

The DC emphasized that providing seamless and patient-friendly healthcare is a top priority for the district administration. He took feedback from the public regarding hospital facilities and instructed the GMC authorities to maintain high standards of patient care and ensure that no patient faces any undue inconvenience.

DC Kulgam visits accident-prone Manigam Crossing on NH-44

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam Tuesday visited the accident-prone Manigam Crossing on National Highway-44 to assess the prevailing situation and review the remedial measures required under road safety initiatives.

During the visit, the DC took a comprehensive stock of the existing infrastructure and safety arrangements at the site.

While interacting with the residents, the DC patiently listened to their concerns regarding the frequent road accidents at the location. The residents demanded the construction of a separate service road from Manigam Crossing to Nipora Crossing to streamline traffic movement and

improve commuter safety. The Deputy Commissioner acknowledged the seriousness of the issue and directed the concerned engineering wings to conduct a detailed feasibility study and submit a comprehensive proposal for the development of a service road along the stretch.

He also stressed the need for immediate interim safety measures, including installation of proper signage, road markings, speed regulation mechanisms, and improved visibility arrangements to prevent further mishaps.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the public that all necessary steps would be taken on priority to minimise accident risks and ensure safer movement for commuters along the highway stretch.

Central Kashmir Excise Range destroys illegal poppy cultivation at multiple locations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Central Kashmir Excise Range intensified its crackdown against the illicit cultivation of narcotic crops under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan and destroyed illegal poppy cultivation at multiple locations across the Srinagar-Budgam-Ganderbal Excise Range in collaboration with Police, Revenue and Agriculture Departments.

During the enforcement drive, illegal poppy cultivation spread over different patches of land was identified and destroyed at various locations, including Khandah, Tehsil BK Pora in Budgam district.

Officials informed that FIRs were lodged under the relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act at the concerned Police

Stations. All legal formalities, seizure, sampling and on-spot destruction of the illicit crop, were completed as per procedure.

In this connection, Case, FIR No. 60/2026 under Section 8/18 of the NDPS Act, has been registered at Police Station Chadoora and investigation has been taken up.

The Excise Department reiterated its commitment towards curbing the illegal cultivation and trafficking of narcotic substances and ensuring strict enforcement of the law. The department said that such drives will continue across the region to eradicate narcotic crop cultivation and safeguard society from the menace of drug abuse.

The enforcement action was carried out under the supervision of the Excise Commissioner and Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive), Kashmir.

Drug Control Deptt conducts inspection drive in far-flung areas of Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Drug Control Department Tuesday conducted a comprehensive inspection drive across several far-flung areas of district Kulgam, including Chowgam, Khargund, Ruzloo, Nowbugh and Waripora Kund, to ensure strict enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

During the inspection drive, one medical shop namely Prince Medical Store at Ruzloo was closed on the spot for violations detected under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

The inspection team also lifted three drug samples from different medical establishments for testing and analysis to ascertain their quality standards and regulatory compliance.

Besides, several medical establishments were



inspected to verify maintenance of mandatory records, adherence to licensing conditions, installation of CCTV cameras and implementation of computerized billing systems as per prescribed norms.

Officials stated that such inspection drives shall continue on a regular basis to curb the misuse and illegal sale of scheduled and habit-forming drugs and to ensure the availability of safe and quality medicines to the public.

Nasha Mukht Campaign

KVK-Anantnag organizes awareness program; hundreds participate in rally

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: As part of the 100 Day Nasha Mukht J&K Campaign, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK)-Anantnag, SKUAST-K organized an extensive awareness programme on drug abuse at its Dooru campus.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from senior officers from civil administration and police, government officials, students, civil society members, religious figures, farmers, academicians, and youth representatives who collectively pledged to contribute towards building a drug-free society.

Addressing the gathering, SDM Dooru Parvaiz

Rahim, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, emphasized the need for sustained community participation, grassroots awareness, and youth engagement to effectively combat the menace of drug addiction. He called for collective societal action involving all stakeholders to eradicate substance abuse and safeguard the future generations.

Delivering a motivating lecture, the Senior Scientist KVK, Dr. Ishtiyah Ahmad Khan advised the students and youth to follow the path of discipline and determination to save themselves from drugs and to develop into responsible citizens. He briefed about the evolution of the centre

as a scientific and agricultural extension institution, adding the organization is addressing key societal concerns affecting rural communities and youth.

Speaking on the occasion, the SHO Dooru sensitized the participants regarding the legal implications of drug abuse and narcotics trafficking. He urged students, parents, and society to remain vigilant against drug peddlers so the youth don't fall victim to the addiction.

A pledge ceremony was also organized wherein all participants collectively resolved to work towards making the society, district and the country drug-free besides promoting disciplined and healthy lifestyles.

Unlocking J&K's Mineral Potential

Ministry of Mines Launches 2nd Tranche of Limestone Block Auctions in Srinagar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Tuesday launched the 2nd Tranche of e-Auction of Limestone Blocks in Jammu & Kashmir at Srinagar, marking another major milestone towards transparent, sustainable, and investor-friendly mineral development in the Union Territory.

Piyush Goyal, Secretary, Ministry of Mines, officially launched the tranche and, in his keynote address, highlighted the transformative reforms and amendments undertaken by the Ministry to simplify processes, strengthen transparency, and improve ease of doing business in the mining sector. He emphasized that Jammu & Kashmir possesses immense mineral potential and that the auction and operationalization of these blocks will significantly contribute towards the vision of Viksit Bharat, Viksit Jammu & Kashmir, and Aatmanirbhar Bharat through economic growth, employment generation, and industrial development.

A total of 12 limestone blocks, spread across the



districts of Anantnag, Rajouri, and Poonch, have been put up for auction under Tranche II. These include both newly identified blocks and blocks being re-auctioned under second attempt, in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 (as amended). The blocks are categorized under G3 and G4 stages of the United Nations Framework Classification (UNFC) and are expected to attract strong industry interest, particularly from the cement and infrastructure sectors.

The auction is being conducted under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development

and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 (as amended). Building upon the momentum of the first tranche, this initiative reflects a calibrated approach to ensure optimal utilization of mineral resources, while enhancing investor participation and confidence.

The technical session featured detailed presentations by MECL, SBICAPs, and MSTC. Shri Srikant Sharma, MECL, presented the geological and mineral potential of the 12 limestone blocks. Shri Pratin Sharma, Assistant Vice President, SBICAPs, explained the mineral auction process and tender framework, while

Shri Keshav Arora, Manager, MSTC, demonstrated the e-auction portal and online bidding process.

During the event Smt. Farida M. Naik, Joint Secretary & Designated Officer, Ministry of Mines, encouraged bidders to explore the region's mining potential, highlighting its role in boosting economic growth, employment, and socio-economic development.

The sale of Tender Documents will commence on May 18, 2026, and the pre-bid conference is scheduled for June 05, 2026. The last date for purchase of Tender Documents is July 15, 2026, and the last date for submission of bids is July 21, 2026.

Sakeena Ito distributes appointment orders among CPWs at Srinagar

Reiterates Govts. commitment to merit based opportunities

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Ito Tuesday said that Omar Abdullah led Government is committed to ensuring fair opportunities based on merit and transparency to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as merit-based promotions to employees for institutional growth and effective public service delivery.

The Minister stated this while distributing the appointment orders among Twenty-five Contingent Paid Workers (CPWs) of School Education department (SED) regularized as Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS), as well as promotion orders among fourteen Laboratory Assistants promoted as Teachers, at SCERT Auditorium Bemina here today.

Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; Chairman JKBOSE, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh; Director School Education Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani; Joint Director School Education Central Kashmir, Syed Shabir Ahmad; senior officers of school education department and other concerned officers were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister reiterated the government's



commitment to ensuring fair opportunities based on merit and experience. She stated that nearly 3,000 CPWs have been regularized over the past one half years, reflecting sustained efforts to provide employment security and career advancement.

The Minister highlighted that employees are the backbone of any institution and their dedication plays a vital role in achieving the larger goal of delivering quality education to students. She emphasized that transparent and merit-based promotions not only recognize the hard work of employees but also motivate them to contribute more effectively towards institutional growth and public service delivery.

She said that several

the initiative and observed that several employees had been waiting for more than 25 to 27 years for regularization.

He stated that the government has initiated a systematic and phased approach to resolve long-pending cases and added that similar orders have been issued in recent months in both Jammu and Srinagar.

He reiterated that the government is prioritizing the education and health-care sectors to ensure improved public service delivery and to meet the legitimate expectations of employees.

In his welcome address, Director School Education Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani highlighted the department's continued commitment to employee welfare and strengthening of education system.

Joint Director School Education Central Kashmir, Syed Shabir Ahmad delivered vote of thanks, while as Fayaz Ahmad Fayaz conducted the proceedings of the event.

Earlier, Minister Sakeena Ito and Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani also distributed the bicycles among the meritorious students as well as students belonging to BPL families, who had excelled in exams of various classes.

SHPC, SPARSH organise awareness session on "Implementation of POSH Act

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: An awareness lecture session on "Implementation of POSH Act, 2013 and UGC Regulations, 2015 in Colleges and Universities" was Tuesday organized at GGM Science College, Jammu by the Sexual Harassment Probe Committee, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Jammu Wing, in collaboration with the Apex Body of SPARSH (Sensitization, Prevention and Redressal of Sexual Harassment), Cluster University of Jammu.

The program was organized under the visionary leadership of Justice Sindhu Sharma, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Chairperson of the Sexual Harassment Probe Committee, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Jammu Wing and patronage of Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, with the objective of creating awareness regarding the statutory framework governing prevention, prohibition and redressal of sexual harassment at workplaces and educational institutions.

The event witnessed participation from faculty members, administrative officers, members of Internal Committees,

research scholars, students and representatives from various constituent colleges of the University. Registrar, Cluster University of Jammu, Ankur Mahajan graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

In her address, the Registrar CUJ highlighted the significance of establishing a safe, secure and gender-sensitive academic environment in educational institutions. She emphasized that implementation of the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, commonly known as the POSH Act, along with strict adherence to UGC Regulations, 2015, is imperative to ensure dignity, equality and protection of women at workplaces and educational campuses.

She further stated that educational institutions must remain proactive in spreading awareness and strengthening institutional mechanisms for prevention and redressal of complaints relating to sexual harassment.

The programme was presided over and coordinated by Dr. Vandana Khajuria, Chairperson, Apex Body of SPARSH, Cluster University of Jammu,



who welcomed the dignitaries and participants. In her welcome address, she underscored the need for continuous sensitisation programmes to cultivate awareness regarding rights, duties and legal safeguards available under the POSH Act, 2013, including the constitution and functioning of Internal Committees, procedural safeguards, timelines for inquiry, confidentiality requirements and responsibilities of institutions in

The keynote lecture was delivered by Sonia Gupta, Special Judge, Anti Corruption, Jammu, who participated as the Resource Person. During the deliberations, the Resource Person elaborately discussed the objectives and salient features of the POSH Act, 2013, including the constitution and functioning of Internal Committees, procedural safeguards, timelines for inquiry, confidentiality requirements and responsibilities of institutions in

ensuring compliance with statutory mandates. The speaker also highlighted various judicial pronouncements and practical challenges faced in implementation of the law.

Special emphasis was laid upon the UGC Regulations, 2015 pertaining to prevention, prohibition and redressal of sexual harassment of women employees and students in higher educational institutions. The participants were sensitized regarding

the obligation of universities and colleges to establish effective complaint redressal mechanisms, conduct awareness campaigns and ensure gender sensitization at all levels.

During the interactive session, faculty members, students and participants actively engaged with the Resource Person and raised several queries relating to procedural aspects of complaint handling, rights of complainants, safeguards against victimization and the role of institutional authorities in ensuring fair inquiry proceedings. The queries were comprehensively addressed, making the programme highly informative and beneficial for the participants.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks, where-in gratitude was expressed to the dignitaries, participants and organising team for their valuable contribution towards the successful conduct of the awareness lecture. The organizers reiterated their commitment towards strengthening institutional awareness and ensuring strict compliance with the legal framework relating to prevention of sexual harassment at workplaces and educational institutions.

The programme was also attended by the Secretary, High Court Legal Services Committee, Jammu, in the capacity of Ex-Officio Member Secretary/Presenting Officer, Sexual Harassment Probe Committee High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Jammu wing. During the programme, he actively participated in the proceedings and highlighted the objectives and significance of gender sensitization and prevention of sexual harassment at workplace.

He also deliberated upon the role of institutional mechanisms in ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, and emphasized the need for creating a safe, secure, and dignified working environment for women employees and students.

Role of Legal Services Authorities in providing legal aid to entitled persons including the women was also discussed and participants were informed about the remedies they can avail if provisions of POSH Act, 2013 read with UGC Regulations 2015 are not implemented by the authorities/employers/Organizations as mentioned in the Act.

Two-Way Traffic to Resume on Srinagar-Leh Highway from May 14



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major relief for travellers and transporters, authorities have decided to restore two-way traffic on the Srinagar-Leh highway from May 14, 2026.

The decision was taken after a meeting between the Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Mohd Jaffer Akhoun, and the Divisional Commissioner of Ladakh. Officials discussed traffic management and arrangements for smooth movement on the Srinagar-Kargil route.

Authorities also coordinated with the Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir

to finalise the traffic plan.

According to officials, two-way vehicular movement will be allowed between Minamarg and Sonamarg from May 14 onward. The administration has also directed local officials, including the Deputy Commissioner of Drass, to ensure proper coordination and hassle-free implementation on the ground.

The reopening of two-way traffic is expected to ease travel for passengers, traders, transporters, and daily commuters using the strategic highway. The move will also improve the supply of essential goods and reduce travel delays on the important route connecting Kashmir with Ladakh.

Saurabh Bhagat reviews development works, SANJY-2026 preparedness in Pahalgam

Conducts surprise inspection of dumping sites Chandanwari, Pahalgam Granaries

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Saurabh Bhagat, Tuesday conducted an extensive tour of Anantnag to review development activities and preparedness of the department for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026.

He was accompanied by the senior officials of FCS&CA, TSOs and field staff.

During the visit, the Commissioner Secretary inspected the ongoing works related to augmentation of storage infrastructure, repair/renovation of departmental assets and other logistical arrangements being put in place for ensuring seamless supply of foodgrains and other essential commodities during SANJY-2026.



He carried out a surprise inspection of the Chandanwari and Pahalgam Granaries, which function as the main dumping sites for storage and dispatch of foodgrains for Yatra Langars, service providers and government establishments enroute the holy Cave.

Saurabh Bhagat also enquired about the stock position, quality control measures, fire-safety equipments and security of the premises. He emphasized strict adherence to quality norms, round-the-

clock monitoring of stocks and maintaining adequate buffer stock to meet any exigency.

Expressing satisfaction over the arrangements, the Commissioner Secretary directed the officers to ensure 100 percent dumping of requisite foodgrains and petroleum products well before the commencement of Yatra. He instructed the field functionaries to work in close coordination with district administration, and other agencies to ensure hassle-free services for the pilgrims as well as

the local population.

Later, the Commissioner Secretary carried out inspection of various sale outlets in Pahalgam and also visited the office of Assistant Director FCS&CA. He directed the Assistant Director to identify land for establishing Research Institute which will function as a capacity building centre to enhance the skills and professional competence of the employees and workforce of department in the district.

"The institute will serve as a center of excellence for in-service training of employees on modern supply chain management, foodgrain quality control, e-POS operations, end-to-end computerization of PDS, grievance redressal mechanisms and best practices in public distribution," he remarked.

JJM House Committee visits Charar-i-Sharief, reviews implementation of JJM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: The House Committee on Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Tuesday conducted an extensive visit to various areas of Charar-i-Sharief Constituency to review and monitor the implementation of the Mission.

The committee was led by its Chairman Justice Hasnain Masoodi and accompanied by MLA Chadoora Ali Mohammad Dar, MLA Tral Rafiq Ahmad Naik, MLA Pattan Javaid Riyaz Bedar, MLA Poonch Ajaz Ahmed Jan along with senior officers and officials of the Jal Jeevan Mission Department.

During the visit, the committee inspected ongoing works at Dadompura, Nagam, Zaloosa, various water supply schemes and pipeline installations across the Charar-i-

Sharief Constituency.

The purpose of the visit was to assess whether the ongoing works are being executed in accordance with the prescribed norms, standards and regulations of the Jal Jeevan Mission. The committee reviewed the functioning, quality standards and progress of various schemes and interacted with the concerned officials regarding on-ground implementation.

The committee emphasized transparency, accountability and strict adherence to JJM guidelines to ensure the effective and timely completion of water supply projects for the benefit of the public. Necessary directions were issued to the concerned departments to maintain quality standards and proper regulation in all works under execution.

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

The Cost Of Broken Machine

There is a profound irony in a hospital that can diagnose a problem but cannot see it. For weeks, District Hospital Shopian—a lifeline for thousands—has been operating with a blind spot. The prolonged breakdown of its sole X-ray facility is not merely a mechanical failure; it is a systemic lapse that highlights the fragile state of healthcare in Kashmir's peripheral districts. When a machine breaks in a city, there are alternatives around the corner. In Shopian, when the X-ray tube goes dark, the light goes out on emergency care. For a son like Zubair Ahmad, standing in a hospital corridor at 8:00 p.m. with an ailing father, "go elsewhere" is not medical advice—it is an admission of defeat. For the poor, "elsewhere" means expensive private clinics or exhausting journeys to Srinagar, costs that many simply cannot afford. The administration's silence during this crisis has been as damaging as the breakdown itself. In the absence of clear communication, public frustration has naturally curdled into suspicion. When a basic service remains suspended for weeks, people stop blaming the hardware and start questioning the software—the management, the oversight, and the accountability of those in charge. The intervention of local MLA Shabir Ahmad Kullay and his "two-day" promise is a welcome relief, but it also raises a troubling question: Why does it take the arrival of a legislator to fix a diagnostic tool? Healthcare should function on the strength of its protocols, not the pressure of a political visit. The "Aarohan" spirit of innovation and "Digital India" we celebrate in our conference halls must find its way into the maintenance sheds of our district hospitals. A "Viksit J&K" (Developed J&K) cannot be built on the backs of patients who have to travel 50 kilometers for a routine chest film. Repairing the machine in Shopian is the immediate task, but the long-term goal must be ensuring that no patient is ever told "we have nowhere to go" inside a government hospital. We don't just need better machines; we need a better commitment to keeping them running.

Bengal Reclaims Itself



HARDEEP SINGH PURI

Howrah was once called the Sheffield of Asia. The jute mills along the Hooghly were the largest concentration of organised industry on the subcontinent. Kolkata was India's commercial capital, head office to the Birlas and the Tatas, to ITC, Britannia, Coal India, Hindustan Motors, Garden Reach Shipbuilders, IISCO at Burnpur dates to 1918, Durgapur Steel Plant to the Second Plan. In 1950-51, Bengal produced roughly 27 per cent of the country's manufacturing output. I knew that Calcutta. Before I joined the Foreign Service, one of my first jobs was at Hindustan Lever in the city, and Calcutta then was still a place where a young man arriving with his trunks could be sure he had come to where the country's commerce was conducted. The lights stayed on. The trams ran. The companies hired. What had taken a century to build was dismantled by something more deliberate than economic mismanagement. The Left Front took office in 1977 and held it for thirty-four years. Beneath the rhetoric of the working class, an organised shadow state took root. Permission to build, to run a shop, to set up a kiln, to register a transport route, to hold a panchayat meeting came with a cut. The cadre collected. The party banked. The unionism that drove out capital was the visible part. The extortion that drove out the citizen was the part that the cameras did not film. By the 2000s, when the Left Front itself attempted to reverse course and bring Tata Motors to Singur, the Trinamool Congress in opposition staged a hunger strike that drove the project to Gujarat in 2008. The mafia changed colours; it did not dissolve. The Trinamool Congress took power in 2011 on the promise of poriborton. What followed was the same machinery in a new uniform. The cut became cut-money. The cadre became syndicate. Bengal's 27 per cent share of national manufacturing has fallen below 5 per cent. Per capita income, once 127 per cent of the national average, has slipped to 84. More than six thousand registered companies have moved their head offices out of Kolkata. The children of Bengal who would once have worked in Howrah or Salt Lake now live in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Pune. The voter who watched her jobs and her money walk out of the state had a score to settle, and a ballot in her hand to settle it with.



At the centre of the score was a record on women that no incumbent in independent India has had to defend. A woman Chief Minister presided over the torture and killing of the women of her state. The rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor at the RG Kar Medical College in August 2024. The night-long vandalism at the crime scene by a mob the Kolkata Police chose not to disperse. The Calcutta High Court's order transferring the investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation, on the finding that the Kolkata Police's enquiry did not inspire confidence. The forty-two-day strike by junior doctors, many of them women. Sandeshkhali, January 2024. The women of an island in the Sundarbans came out into the streets against a Trinamool district council member who remained a fugitive for fifty-five days while the State Police filed nothing. A Chief Minister whose own movement once spoke of poriborton has presided over a regime in which the women of her state had to seek refuge in courts, in central agencies, and on the streets, against her own cadre. It is reprehensible. It is unconscionable. What the women of Bengal had to endure was matched only by what the state's young people had to give up. Twenty-one crore rupees in cash, recovered from a single locked flat in Salt Lake on the night of the first Enforcement Directorate raid. Further recoveries on associated properties pushed the total past fifty crore. The arrest of the sitting cabinet minister Partha Chatterjee, who as Education Minister had presided over the West Bengal School Service Commission. The Calcutta High Court cancelling, in April 2024, the appointments of twenty-five thousand seven hundred and fifty-three teachers, Group-C and Group-D staff under a recruitment found illegal at the gate. A ruling carried to the Supreme Court and upheld in 2025. An entire school recruitment cycle meant to give Bengal's young people a foothold in life turned into a counter at which posts were sold, and the legitimate candidate could not see the queue. Layered above that scam was the ration scam that pulled in another sitting cabinet minister, Jyotipriya Mallick. Layered above, the cattle scam, the cut-money culture, the syndicate raj. The voter understood the connecting tissue. The first to suffer in a state run by a mafia is the citizen who refuses to pay the bribe. Against this record stood a record of another kind. Four crore twenty-one lakh houses completed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana over the past decade. Fifteen crore tap-water connections under Jal Jeevan Mission, against a base of three crore in 2019. Ayushman Bharat covering approximately fifty-five crore beneficiaries with a five lakh rupee annual cover. Direct Benefit Transfer rendering obsolete the leakage that once defined every welfare programme in Bengal. None of these are abstractions. They were the floor on which every Bharatiya Janata Party karyakarta in Bengal stood when she asked for the vote. Behind that floor stood a network. The party's booth-level cadre, the panna pramukhs, the karyakartas who endured intimidation, threats, and physical violence across electoral cycles, did the unglamorous work of registration, transport, and turnout in conditions other parties had abandoned. The threats against the Prime Minister and the Home Minister, the declarations of what would follow once central forces left, the lives lost in earlier rounds of post-poll violence, were not rhetoric the karyakarta had to be reminded of. She had lived through it. The Honourable Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah, walked Bengal himself, district by district, sometimes returning to the same town within weeks, knowing what his cadre was carrying. What they were attempting was not an electoral upset. It was the breaking of a citadel. The faces of this breakthrough tell their own story. Smt Ratna Debnath, the mother of the RG Kar victim, fielded by the Bharati-

ya Janata Party in Panihati and leading by margins that demolished a fifteen-year Trinamool stronghold. Smt Rekha Patra, who stood on her own soil at Sandeshkhali to demand what the state had refused her, and who carried that demand to a contest in Hingalganj. Voters of districts that had been Left for thirty years and Trinamool for fifteen, turning to the lotus for the first time. On Sunday, 4 May 2026, Bengal settled the score. The Bharatiya Janata Party won 206 of 293 declared seats. Forty-nine years of mafia rule, in two successive uniforms, have ended. This was not only an electoral verdict. It was a moral one. The breakthrough is already being contested. The Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls, which removed ninety lakh ineligible names from a state where ineligibility had been allowed to accumulate for 15 years, is being characterised by the losing side as voter suppression. The data settles the question. Of the twenty constituencies that saw the highest deletions during adjudication, the Trinamool Congress won thirteen. Samserganj, Lalga, Bhagabangola, Raghunathganj, and Metiaburuz, the five with the most deletions, all returned a Trinamool MLA in both 2021 and 2026. Of the forty-nine constituencies in which the winning margin was lower than the number of electors removed during the revision, twenty-six were won by the Bharatiya Janata Party, twenty-one by the Trinamool Congress, and two by the Congress. A targeted exclusion does not produce a near-even split between the winning party and the losing one. The 92.93 per cent voter turnout, the highest in the state's history, settled the question of whether the rolls were credible. By disputing the verdict the voter has already delivered, the losing party only confirms the dadagiri the voter rejected, and the wisdom of the choice she made. Bengal has voted, and Bengal has chosen. What the voter has asked for is not difficult to read. Peace and freedom from the violence that has shadowed her streets. Prosperity and the return of work to the city she lives in. Stability, and an administration that does not collect a cut for letting her live. A cultural and economic renaissance in the state that gave the country its first industrial belt, its commercial capital, and the early architects of national administration. The Calcutta I worked in is recoverable. Bengal is ready to resume its contribution to a Viksit Bharat by 2047. Behind every welfare delivery and infrastructure decision of the past decade has been a Prime Minister who treats the citizen as the unit of account. The reward for keeping faith with that citizen has now been recorded. (The author is the Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas. Courtesy: PIB)

AMR IS NOT GENDER-BLIND

Why Drug Resistance Hits Women Hardest



SHOBHA SHUKLA

The common phrase 'good girls take care of family' reflects a deeply ingrained social expectation, often referred to as 'Good Girl Syndrome,' where girls and women are expected to be nurturers, compliant, and prioritise others' needs over their own. This often translates to handling household burdens, emotional labour, and caregiving to ensure family stability. It is important for girls and women and people of all gender diversities to prioritise infection prevention and control, and access public healthcare services in a rights-based, gender transformative, non-stigmatising and non-discriminatory manner as and when needed. **AMR threatens health, food, environment** "Drug resistance or Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is caused by misuse and overuse of medicines in human health, livestock health, food and agriculture and it is also polluting our environment. We cannot afford any misuse and overuse of medicines in any sector if we are to deliver on SDGs. However, AMR is already among top 10 global health threats and is also threatening food security and our environment along with a significant economic cost," said Dr Ijyaa Singh of ReAct Asia Pacific at the Women Deliver Conference 2026 – world's largest gathering on gender equality this year. Women and girls (including those sick with infectious diseases) are the primary carers in most settings - especially in the Global South. But the infection prevention and control measures in the healthcare facilities, communities and homes are far from optimal to protect them and undermine the roles and responsibilities they shoulder. Many studies looking at male: female ratio of



child vaccination, unsurprisingly reveal that the male child is more likely to have received essential immunisation as compared to a girl child. When it comes to screening and diagnostics for a range of infections, women are less likely to seek health services in a rights-based, person-centred and gender transformative manner. A complex mix of biological, social, cultural and economic factors arising from gender-based inequalities and injustices impact infection prevention and control, added Dr Ijyaa Singh. **Gender inequalities fuel AMR** Gender inequalities, harmful gender norms, stereotypes, and tropes have normalised the neglect of the well-being of girls and women, making them more vulnerable to AMR. Lived experience of girls and women and gender diverse communities show how violence puts them at increased risk of getting infected with sexually transmitted infections. According to Dr Soumya Swaminathan (former Deputy Director General for Programmes and former Chief Scientist of the World Health Organization - WHO), we cannot be successful in reducing or preventing AMR, without tackling gender-based violence, as violence, impacts the access of women to healthcare. She was speaking at AMR Dialogues hosted earlier this year by Global AMR Media Alliance (GAMA) which was re-presented at SHE & Rights session at the Women Deliver Conference 2026. "Women are at a very high risk of intimate partner violence or domestic violence - physical or sexual. This could lead to more infections. And because of their position within the household and the community, they are less likely to seek timely and adequate care for these injuries or infections, which could lead to drug-resistant infections. Whether it is sexually transmitted infections or urinary tract infections, or reproductive tract infections, or pelvic inflammatory disease, all of these are linked with sexual violence and an increased risk of antibiotic use. Also, even if the woman seeks care, quite often follow-up is poor. She may have taken a partial course of antibiotics or the wrong doses. Women facing an unplanned pregnancy, or those who go for an unsafe abortion are also at higher risk of AMR." **Intersectional stigma and AMR** "Diseases or infections like TB or HIV carry a huge stigma in our society especially for the women. In many communities a woman diagnosed with TB or HIV is judged not only as a patient but as someone who has brought shame to the family. Her character, her marriage prospects and even her abilities to being a good wife, daughter, mother are questioned. I have seen many women hide their illness because of this stigma. They delay testing, they avoid going to the clinics, some take the medicine secretly and others stop treatment early to prevent family members or neighbours from finding out about it," said Bhakti Chavan, a survivor of extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) - one of the most serious forms of drug-

resistant TB. Bhakti is also a member of WHO Task Force of AMR Survivors. She spoke in AMR Dialogues hosted by Global AMR Media Alliance (GAMA) which was re-presented at SHE & Rights session at Women Deliver Conference 2026. AMR is not gender neutral. Impact of AMR is not gender blind. If we want to fight AMR effectively, we must listen to the women, diagnose them early on, ensure proper treatment, support adherence and design policies that include most vulnerable and marginalised women and consider their realities. Dr Soumya Swaminathan cited an example of feminisation of agriculture. "From an intersectional perspective, here is a woman who lives in a rural area, she is also a small farmer, she has some livestock and she does some agriculture, and she has a family to look after. And she is alone because she has a migrant husband. And therefore, she has less access to health centers. She has less financial autonomy as well. In such a situation, she would be probably more likely to either neglect infections or take inappropriate treatment". There is a common consensus on the need to address gender inequalities in our National Action Plans on AMR. "We must include gender-based violence indicators in AMR National Action Plans, recognising that sexual health and violence services are hotspots for antibiotic exposure and we must also include gender-sensitive stewardship indicators", said Dr Swaminathan. **Why we need a feminist AMR response?** Only possible effective and sustainable way to prevent AMR has to be a feminist way. AMR and other health responses must be rooted in feminist development justice model which is based on care and solidarity for each other, where no one is left behind in the truest sense of the words. We can only end health injustices when we also end gender, climate, social, and economic injustices. Author is a feminist, health and development justice advocate. She can be mailed at ramakantbobby@gmail.com

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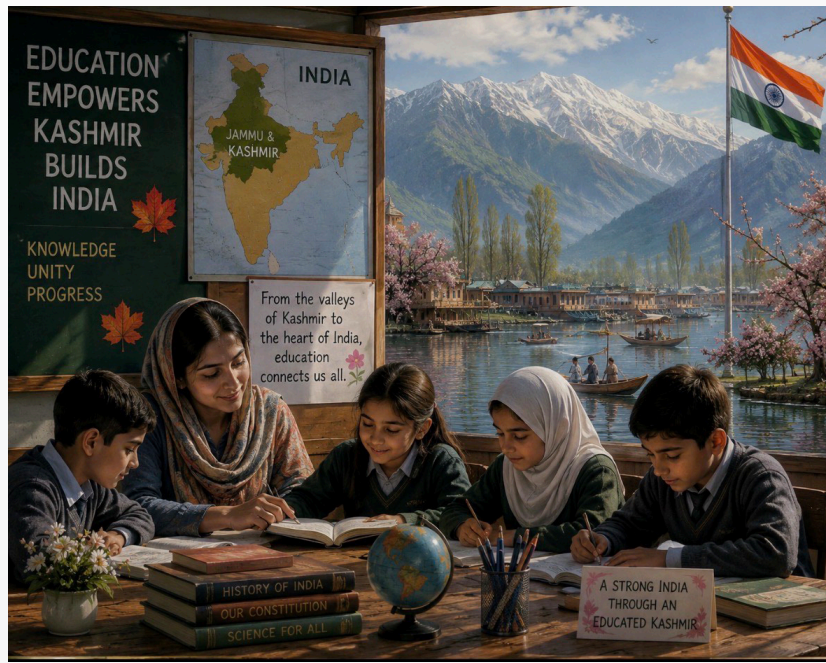


DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

The education scenario today is a complex blend of progress, inequality, innovation, and persistent challenges. India has one of the largest school systems in the world, with millions of children enrolled across government, private, and alternative institutions. Over the past two decades, initiatives like the Right to Education Act, Samagra Shiksha, and the Mid Day Meal Scheme have significantly improved enrolment and reduced dropout rates, especially among marginalized communities. Government schools continue to serve the majority of rural and economically weaker students, offering free education, textbooks, uniforms, and meals. However, issues such as teacher shortages, uneven infrastructure, and learning gaps remain widespread. Private schools, on the other hand, have expanded rapidly, driven by parental aspirations for English-medium instruction and modern facilities. Yet the quality of private schools varies greatly, with many low-cost institutions lacking trained teachers or strong academic outcomes. The rise of digital learning has added a new dimension to India's education landscape, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, but it has also exposed a deep digital divide between urban and rural areas. Higher education in India is growing, with more universities, technical institutes, and skill development programmes emerging, but employability remains a concern due to outdated curricula and limited industry alignment. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to transform the system by promoting holistic learning, vocational training, and foundational literacy, but its implementation will take time and coordinated effort. Overall, India's education scenario reflects both remarkable strides and significant gaps, highlighting the need for sustained investment, teacher training, technological inclusion, and equitable opportunities so that every child, regardless of background, can access quality learning and contribute meaningfully to the nation's future.

Government schools and private schools in India represent two parallel worlds within the same education system, shaped by history, economics, policy, and social expectations. Understanding the differences between them requires looking beyond simple comparisons of infrastructure or exam results and instead examining the deeper forces that influence how children learn, how teachers teach, and how communities perceive education. The debate between government schools and private schools is not just about quality; it is about access, equity, aspiration, and the future of India's demographic dividend. Government schools and private schools in Kashmir represent two distinct educational experiences shaped by geography, economy, and social expectations. In many rural and mountainous parts of Kashmir, government schools are the primary source of education, often located in remote villages where private institutions cannot operate easily. These schools typically have modest buildings, simple classrooms, and limited facilities, yet they play a crucial role in ensuring access to education for children from economically weaker backgrounds. Government teachers are usually well qualified and appointed through formal recruitment processes, which gives these schools a strong academic foundation. However, challenges such as harsh winters, infrastructure damage, and resource shortages can affect the overall learning environment. Despite these obstacles, government schools remain vital for social inclusion, offering free education, textbooks, uniforms, and mid day meals that encourage attendance and reduce dropout rates.

Private schools in Kashmir, especially in urban areas like Srinagar, present a contrasting picture. They often feature multi-storey buildings, better-maintained classrooms, English-medium instruction, and a wider range of extracurricular activities. Parents who can afford the fees prefer private schools because they associate them with discipline, modern teaching methods, and stronger academic outcomes. These schools tend to adopt technology more quickly, offering smart classrooms and digital learn-



ing tools. However, the quality of private schools varies widely, and many low-cost private institutions may not match the teacher qualifications found in government schools. The difference between the two systems is therefore not only about quality but also about perception, affordability, and opportunity. In Kashmir's unique socio political landscape, both government and private schools play essential roles, and strengthening both is necessary to ensure that every child receives a fair chance at education and a hopeful future.

Government schools in India form the backbone of the country's educational structure. They are funded, managed, and regulated by the central, state, or local governments. Their mission is rooted in the constitutional promise of free and compulsory education for all children aged 6 to 14 under the Right to Education Act (RTE). This makes public education not just a service but a social responsibility. Government schools are designed to ensure that no child is denied learning because of poverty, caste, gender, disability, or geography. They are often the only educational institutions available in rural and remote regions, tribal belts, and economically disadvantaged urban pockets. In contrast, private schools operate on a fee-based model. They range from elite international schools charging several lakhs per year to low-cost private schools that charge as little as 300-800 per month. This wide spectrum means that the term "private school" itself covers institutions of vastly different quality, resources, and philosophies. Parents often choose private schools because they associate them with English-medium instruction, stricter discipline, better infrastructure, and perceived academic superiority. This perception, however, is shaped as much by marketing and social aspiration as by measurable outcomes.

The most visible difference between government and private schools is infrastructure. Many government schools struggle with inadequate buildings, insufficient classrooms, poor sanitation facilities, and limited access to digital tools. Although initiatives like the Swachh Vidyalaya campaign and Samagra Shiksha have improved conditions, disparities remain. Private schools, especially mid-range and premium ones, tend to offer better-maintained campuses, smart classrooms, computer labs, sports facilities, and extracurricular programs. Yet infrastructure alone does not guarantee learning outcomes. Studies by organisations such as ASER have repeatedly shown that even in private schools, foundational literacy and numeracy levels can be weak. The real difference often lies in teacher accountability and classroom culture.

Teacher quality and motivation form another major point of comparison. Government school teachers are typically better qualified, with formal training, stable salaries, and job security. They are recruited through competitive exams and receive regular professional development. However, systemic issues such as administrative workload, absenteeism, and lack of performance-linked incentives can affect classroom effectiveness. Private school teachers, especially in low-cost institutions, often earn significantly lower salaries—sometimes less than 10,000 per month—and may not have formal training. Yet they are subject to stricter supervision and performance pressure, which can lead to more consistent classroom engagement. This creates a paradox: government teachers are more qualified but less accountable, while private school teachers are less qualified but more accountable. The result is a complex landscape where neither system consistently outperforms the other across

all regions and socioeconomic groups.

Language of instruction is another defining factor. Government schools traditionally use regional languages as the medium of instruction, which aligns with research showing that children learn best in their mother tongue. However, the growing demand for English-medium education has led many parents to shift their children to private schools, believing that English proficiency is essential for future employment. In response, several state governments have begun converting government schools into English-medium institutions. This shift raises important questions about teacher preparedness, curriculum design, and the balance between global competitiveness and cultural identity. The debate around English-medium education is not merely linguistic; it reflects deeper anxieties about social mobility and economic opportunity.

Cost is perhaps the most obvious difference between the two systems. Government schools are free, and they provide additional support such as midday meals, textbooks, uniforms, and scholarships. These incentives play a crucial role in improving enrolment and retention among economically disadvantaged families. Private schools, on the other hand, rely on fees, which can be a significant burden for low-income households. Even low-cost private schools may require expenses for uniforms, books, transportation, and extracurricular activities. The financial strain can push families into debt or force them to compromise on other essential needs. Yet many parents willingly make these sacrifices because they believe private schools offer better prospects for their children. This belief is reinforced by social narratives that equate private schooling with success, even when evidence does not always support this assumption.

Learning outcomes present a mixed picture. While private schools often show better average performance in standardised tests, the differences shrink when controlling for socioeconomic background. Children from



wealthier families tend to perform better regardless of the type of school they attend. Government schools serve a disproportionately higher number of children from marginalized communities, which affects aggregate performance metrics. When comparing students of similar backgrounds, the learning gap between government and private schools narrows significantly. This suggests that the problem is not government schooling itself but the broader social and economic inequalities that shape children's learning environments. Improving government schools, therefore, requires addressing not only classroom factors but also nutrition, health, parental literacy, and community support.

One of the most important but often overlooked aspects of government schools is their role in promoting social inclusion. They bring together children from diverse castes, religions,

and economic backgrounds, fostering a sense of shared identity and citizenship. Private schools, especially elite ones, tend to be socially homogeneous, reinforcing class divisions. The RTE Act mandates that private schools reserve 25% of seats for economically weaker sections, but implementation challenges and social barriers often limit the effectiveness of this provision. Government schools remain the primary spaces where India's diversity is reflected and experienced daily. They are essential for building an equitable society where education is not a privilege but a right.

Private schools, on the other hand, have expanded rapidly, driven by parental aspirations for English-medium instruction and modern facilities. Yet the quality of private schools varies greatly, with many low-cost institutions lacking trained teachers or strong academic outcomes.

Private schools, however, excel in offering choice and innovation. They can experiment with teaching methods, curricula, extracurricular programs, and technology integration. Many private schools adopt activity-based learning, project-based learning, or international pedagogical frameworks. They often have stronger parent engagement, more frequent assessments, and better communication systems. This flexibility allows them to respond quickly to changing educational trends and market demands. Government schools, bound by bureaucratic structures, face challenges in implementing reforms at scale. Yet when reforms do succeed—such as the Delhi government's transformation of public schools—they

while ensuring continuity of learning for all children.

Looking ahead, the future of Indian education depends on strengthening both government and private schools rather than positioning them as competitors. Government schools must focus on improving infrastructure, teacher accountability, digital access, and community engagement. Private schools must ensure transparency, affordability, and adherence to quality standards. Collaboration between the two sectors—through public-private partnerships, teacher training exchanges, and shared resources—can create a more balanced ecosystem. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 provides a framework for such collaboration, emphasizing foundational learning, holistic development, and equitable access.

Ultimately, the choice between government and private schools is shaped by parental aspirations, economic capacity, and local realities. For some families, government schools offer stability, inclusivity, and affordability. For others, private schools represent opportunity, prestige, and upward mobility. The goal should not be to declare one system superior to the other but to ensure that every child, regardless of background, receives a high-quality education that nurtures curiosity, confidence, and competence. India's demographic future depends on how well it educates its children today. Strengthening government schools is essential for national equity, while supporting responsible private schools is important for innovation and diversity. A balanced, collaborative approach can help India build an education system that is both inclusive and aspirational, rooted in local realities yet aligned with global standards.

The education scenario of Kashmir reflects a unique blend of progress, resilience, and persistent challenges shaped by geography, climate, and socio political conditions. Schools in Kashmir operate in an environment where harsh winters, frequent disruptions, and remote terrain often affect regular academic schedules, yet the region continues to show strong commitment to learning. Government schools form the backbone of education in rural and far flung areas, providing free schooling, textbooks, uniforms, and mid day meals to children from diverse backgrounds. Many of these schools have improved significantly in recent years, with better infrastructure, trained teachers, and the introduction of smart classrooms under various government initiatives.

However, gaps remain in terms of resources, classroom facilities, and consistent attendance, especially during winter months when heavy snowfall makes travel difficult. Private schools, particularly in urban centers like Srinagar, offer more modern facilities, English-medium instruction, and a wider range of extracurricular activities, attracting parents who seek a competitive academic environment for their children. Yet the quality of private schools varies widely, and many low cost institutions face their own challenges, including

limited teacher training and high student teacher ratios. Digital learning has grown in Kashmir, especially after the pandemic, but internet restrictions and connectivity issues have often disrupted online education, highlighting the need for more stable digital infrastructure. Despite these obstacles, students in Kashmir consistently perform well in board examinations, reflecting strong dedication and community support for education. The region's education system continues to evolve, balancing tradition with modernity, and striving to ensure that every child—whether in a remote village or a bustling town—has access to meaningful learning opportunities and a hopeful future.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of both systems. Private schools rapidly shifted to online learning, though access varied widely depending on fees and resources. Government schools struggled due to limited digital infrastructure, but they played a crucial role in distributing food, learning materials, and community support. The pandemic also exposed the digital divide, with millions of children lacking smartphones, internet access, or electricity. This divide was not between government and private schools alone but between socioeconomic classes. The crisis underscored the need for a more resilient and inclusive education system that can adapt to disruptions

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Alcohol Remarks

collective public participation is essential to eradicate the drug menace from society. The Minister said the anti-drug campaign has turned into a common cause and expressed hope that sustained efforts by the administration, police, health institutions and the public would yield positive results. He said the government is focusing on rehabilitation of drug victims and treating addiction as a medical condition rather than a social stigma—(KNO)

LG Launches Two Anti

drug supply chain. "Action has targeted every financial transaction of drug cartels, seizing crores in properties built from drug money by major smugglers. Across Jammu and Kashmir divisions, 300 driving licenses and over 400 vehicle registrations linked to drug smugglers have been recommended for cancellation. Enforcement agencies have ensured massive drug hauls. We have inspected more than 3,300 drug stores, and 150 licenses have been suspended for violating the norms. Nearly 3,000 CCTV cameras are now installed at the drug stores across Union Territory. Over two dozen smugglers have been nabbed under PIT-NDPS Act. I assure the people that we will chase every rupee, every asset, and shell company of drug traffickers, ensuring the harshest punishment for those who are destroying our youth's future," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that fueled by public support, this people's movement is setting historic records in Jammu Kashmir and no past social campaign has seen such massive participation. "We have received nearly 3,000 calls for tele-manas counselling and support in the past 31 days. I want our response to drugs to be rooted in science. We don't shame diabetes patients into health or cure cancer victims through stigma. Likewise, we must treat and rehabilitate addicts with dignity, reconnecting them to society's mainstream through resolve and compassion. Government officials and citizens must unite for surveillance, rally against drugs, and foster drug-free villages and towns," the Lieutenant Governor said.

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Border Villagers Play

leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, border villages' distance from Delhi has reduced. They are connected to the mainstream of development and it is commitment of the GOI to ensure that border villages become symbol of inclusive development," the Lieutenant Governor said.

It is pertinent to mention that under the Vibrant Villages Programme, the Government of India has rolled out a structured initiative for inclusive development in all border villages selected under the programme. At its core are four key areas that will lay the foundation for a new era in border regions. The first is ensuring all-weather road connectivity, household electrification, telecom connectivity and television connectivity.

"I truly believe that roads unlock new possibilities. All 18 villages covered under the Vibrant Villages Programme are now linked by all-weather roads. The process to connect all 83 border villages of Baramulla has been expedited and very soon every border village of Jammu Kashmir will be integrated into the economic mainstream and linked to other key cities of the country. Before 2019, telecom and digital coverage in those 18 strategically vital Villages was under 40%. Under the Hon'ble Prime Minister's leadership, we have ensured 100% 4G and 5G connectivity in these critical spots," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor assured the residents of border villages that the digital revolution won't stop at city limits and the administration is committed to strengthening digital infrastructure and delivering reliable mobile and internet services to every frontier hamlet. He also said that youth and women are being empowered and entrepreneurship is being promoted in border areas for a prosperous society.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that the Administration is working on three key parameters- improving literacy rate, ensuring economic growth and providing Livelihood generation opportunities for the youth of villages like Uran Bowa.

"Youth and women in border areas now have self-employment opportunities, increased education infrastructure provides vocational training for the next generation, and border tourism, new revolution in agriculture and allied sectors have ignited prosperity across all 18 vital villages," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor inaugurated and laid foundation stone for various development projects worth Rs 94 crores under different sectors and key infrastructure projects in 83 Vibrant Villages under Vibrant Villages Programme -II.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor handed over appointment orders to SPOs, computer tabs to students and sanction letters to various youth of the village and beneficiaries under HADP, Mission Yuva and other schemes. He also unveiled the jersey and trophy for the upcoming SPAN-DAN League 2026, North Kashmir Football Championship, to be organised by BSF.

Dr Sajjad Shafi, Member Legislative Assembly from Uri; Shri Nalin Prabhat DGP; Shri S.J.M.Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; Shri Sarmad Hafeez, Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare, Shri V K Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri Syeed Fakhrudin Hamid, Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla; senior officials of BSF,

Police and civil administration, prominent citizens and people from different walks of life in large numbers were present.

Infiltration Bid

Corps swiftly responded and foiled the infiltration bid, ensuring no breach of the LOC, and added that one intruder has been neutralized.

It also said that troops continue to dominate the area and maintain a high state of operational readiness across the sector.

14 Lakh Kanals Of

records across Jammu and Kashmir. Of the total, Jammu division accounted for 14,00,051 kanals and five marlas of encroached state land, whose entries were expunged from revenue records, while Kashmir division recorded 3,27,199 kanals, it said. The data revealed stark regional differences, with seven districts of Jammu division recording more than one lakh kanals of encroached state land each, while two districts -- Rajouri and Reasi -- crossed the two lakh kanal mark.

In contrast, none of the 10 districts of the Kashmir division recorded encroachments exceeding one lakh kanals. Only Baramulla and Kupwara crossed the 50,000 kanal mark in the Valley, it said.

The figures further showed that the twin capital districts of Jammu and Srinagar recorded wide disparities in encroached state land.

Jammu district accounted for 1,45,487 kanals and six marlas of encroached land, while Srinagar recorded 13,862.95 kanals, indicating that Jammu district alone had over ten times more encroached state land than Srinagar.

Rajouri district has emerged as the worst-affected district in Jammu and Kashmir in terms of encroachment on state land, with 2.73 lakh kanals found under illegal occupation by land grabbers, according to official data.

Rajouri topped the list with 2,73,848 kanals and 12 marlas of encroached state land, followed by Reasi with 2,26,857 kanals and six marlas, and Ramban with 1,73,832 kanals. Jammu district recorded 1,45,487 kanals and six marlas of encroached land, while Kathua accounted for 1,30,403 kanals and 1.5 marlas.

Udhampur and Poonch also crossed the one lakh kanal mark with 1,19,822 kanals and eight marlas, and 1,11,133 kanals and 16 marlas, respectively, the data said.

Doda recorded 91,957 kanals and five marlas of encroached land, followed by Samba district, which accounted for 74,196 kanals and three marlas of encroached land, while Kishtwar recorded 52,513 kanals and 7.5 marlas respectively.

In the Kashmir division, Baramulla recorded the highest expunged encroached land at 81,327.65 kanals, followed by Samba in Jammu division with 74,196 kanals and three marlas, Kupwara with 52,698.1 kanals, and Kishtwar with 52,513 kanals and 7.5 marlas, the data revealed.

Pulwama recorded 42,730.8 kanals of encroached land, followed by Anantnag with 36,984 kanals, Budgam with 21,775.55 kanals and Bandipora with 20,925.65 kanals, it said.

The data further showed that Shopian recorded 19,034.85 kanals, Ganderbal 19,005.2 kanals, Kulgam 18,853.75 kanals and Srinagar 13,862.95 kanals of expunged encroachment entries.

The figures were disclosed in response to a query seeking details of state and central governments, and JDA lands presently under encroachment and steps being taken to retrieve and regularise such land.

The authorities have expunged illegal records of land grabbers of state government land under encroachment in Rajouri, Reasi, Ramban, Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur, Poonch, Doda, Baramulla, Samba, Kupwara, Kishtwar, Pulwama, Anantnag, Budgam, Bandipora, Shopian, Ganderbal, Kulgam and Srinagar districts.(PTI)

MeT Forecasts Rain,

May 17, while scattered areas may receive light rain or thundershowers on May 18. Similar partly cloudy conditions are expected to continue till May 21.

Meanwhile, several parts of Kashmir and Jammu divisions recorded below-normal temperatures along with rainfall during the past 24 hours.

Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 24.4 degrees Celsius, slightly above normal, while the minimum settled at 12.5 degrees Celsius. The city received 1.9 mm of rainfall during the last 24 hours, officials said.

Pahalgam, one of the coldest tourist resorts in Kashmir, recorded a minimum temperature of 8.4 degrees Celsius, while Gulmarg recorded 4.8 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 33 degrees Celsius, which was over four degrees below normal, while the minimum temperature settled at 21.9 degrees Celsius.

Batote received the highest rainfall in the Jammu division at 10.8 mm, while Bhaderwah recorded 13.8 mm of rainfall during the past 24 hours, according to the MeT data.

The weather office urged people, particularly those living in vulnerable areas, to remain cautious during thunderstorms and avoid unnecessary movement during periods of intense weather activity—(KNO)

India Has 2-Month

current quarter, while the actual loss is about Rs 1 lakh crore.

The losses in one quarter, he said, are enough to wipe out profits that oil companies earn in the entire year.

Without saying if widening losses could result in a price increase anytime soon, he said, "How long will the oil companies be able to take it (losses)... frankly, that's something that worries me".

Puri said there has been no increase in petrol and diesel prices in the last four years.

"Today, we are in a situation where we don't know how long the blockades or counter-blockades will continue. But I can tell you categorically that today, we are in a situation where, unlike other countries in the world which have had to either face problems in terms of availability and supply or where prices have gone rampant, we have had stable prices and supplies."

Despite a 50 per cent surge in input crude oil prices, petrol and diesel continue to be priced at a two-year-old rate of Rs 94.77 a litre and Rs 87.67 per litre, respectively.

Domestic cooking gas LPG prices were raised in March by Rs 60 per cylinder, but they are still way lower than the actual cost.

The oil companies are currently losing Rs 14 per litre on petrol, Rs 42 a litre on diesel and Rs 674 a litre on cooking gas LPG.

Puri termed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for moderation in energy consumption as a "visionary" long-term approach rather than signalling imminent restrictions.

"It's not that any lockdown is going to happen tomorrow," he said.

"But if this (disruption due to war in West Asia) continues, we have to start thinking about measures to lessen the fiscal strain."

He urged industries and households to accelerate the shift from LPG to piped natural gas where possible, saying India was rapidly expanding gas pipeline infrastructure and LNG availability.

"We have no shortage of pipe gas," he said. "It is cleaner, cheaper and helps us scale up the energy transition."

The government is also reassessing strategic energy storage policies after the current crisis exposed vulnerabilities in global supply chains, the minister said, adding that India would need to build larger reserves over time.

"The experience since February 2026 means you have to rethink everything," he pointed out.

Modi had on Sunday urged for fuel conservation and lower imports as surging global energy prices pressure India's foreign exchange reserves, while also calling for restraint in gold purchases to ease external vulnerabilities.

"The Prime Minister's statement is very visionary. It looks to the future -- that if this (war) were to continue, we also have to (see) what we can do in terms of life changes," Puri said.

"There are certain activities which we can curtail."

This, he said, does not mean any drastic thing like lockdown or rationing was to happen. "There is absolutely no cause for anxiety."

The minister said India has done well in managing the situation, considering the large magnitude of dependence on Gulf supplies that it had in the pre-war era.

These had been quickly replaced with sourcing from alternate places without any disruption or dryouts.

"We have done very well, and I have no reason to believe that we will not do well in the future. But, we should (curtail) certain activities" that can help reduce consumption, he said.

Puri said India had turned the crisis "into an opportunity", ensuring uninterrupted fuel supplies even as geopolitical tensions raised concerns over the Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly 20 per cent of global energy supplies transit.

India, the world's third-largest oil consumer, is also the third-largest refiner and fourth-largest exporter of refined products, he said, pushing back against what he described as "false narratives" around shortages, import disruptions and possible lockdowns.

"There are no shortages anywhere," he said. "Every petrol pump in the country has had petrol and diesel. LPG supply is more than enough."

The minister said India had not raised fuel prices in the last four years despite global energy shocks and elevated crude prices, describing it as an unprecedented achievement among major energy-importing economies.

"Tell me one country where prices have remained the same, and there has been no shortage anywhere," he said.

The remarks come as global crude prices surged amid uncertainty over shipping disruptions and escalating regional conflict.

The minister said around 60 per cent of India's LPG imports had previously moved through the Strait of Hormuz, while 88 per cent of the country's crude oil requirement is imported.

He said the government and state-owned oil companies had been conducting continuous "war-room" reviews of supply and refining operations, with officials monitoring the situation "hour by hour".

India currently holds around 60 days of crude oil supplies, 60 days of LNG inventories and 45 days of LPG reserves, he said, adding that there was "absolutely no cause for anxiety".

Fuel demand has remained resilient during the crisis, with petrol consumption rising around 6 per cent, while LPG demand has moderated to about 75,000 tonnes per day from nearly 90,000 tonnes earlier, partly because of seasonal factors.

The minister said refiners had increased LPG output while supplementing supplies through kerosene and biofuels, helping India reduce dependence on imported cooking gas.

"We are no longer import-dependent on our refineries, and that is where our strength has come from," he said.

India plans to expand refining capacity to 320 million metric tonnes annually by 2030 from around 260 million currently, positioning the country as one of the world's major refining hubs, the minister said.

He also signalled a more aggressive push toward domestic oil and gas exploration, saying the government has amended exploration rules, increased outreach to global oil majors and expanded acreage offered under exploration licensing rounds.(Agencies)

CS Reviews Implementation

lakhs of beneficiaries, particularly from economically weaker and vulnerable sections of society, to avail specialized treatment free of cost in both public and empanelled private healthcare institutions, thereby providing substantial economic relief along with quality medical care.

Emphasizing the importance of the scheme in protecting households against catastrophic healthcare expenditure, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for maintaining transparency, ensuring timely settlement of claims and strengthening monitoring mechanisms.

He called for sustained efforts to further reinforce public healthcare institutions, improve beneficiary outreach and ensure seamless delivery of healthcare services under the PM-JAY SEHAT framework.

The presentation revealed that during the current Policy Period-8, spanning from April 17, 2025 to April 16, 2026, more than 4.08 lakh pre-authorizations were approved under the scheme involving a financial outgo of nearly Rs 775 Cr. It was informed that over 3.86 lakh claims were submitted under the programme, reflecting the extensive utilization of healthcare services by beneficiaries across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Governing Council was also apprised that public sector hospitals continue to play a dominant role in implementation of the scheme, accounting for a major share of treatments and financial transactions. It was added that more than Rs 515 Cr worth of pre-authorizations were approved in public hospitals during the ongoing policy period, demonstrating the growing capacity and strengthening of government healthcare institutions in delivering advanced treatment under the flagship healthcare programme.

While reviewing the future roadmap, the Chief Secretary was informed about various reforms and financial restructuring measures being contemplated for the upcoming Policy Period-9 to ensure long-term sustainability of the scheme without compromising the quality of healthcare services being extended to the people.

The presentation further outlined comparative projections between Insurance Mode and Trust Mode for implementation of the scheme. It was informed that under the Trust Mode, based on present expenditure trends, the expected annual expenditure is projected to remain substantially manageable while ensuring uninterrupted healthcare coverage to all eligible beneficiaries.

The Governing Council was also informed that certain changes approved in the Health Benefit Package by the competent authority are expected to rationalize expenditure and improve operational efficiency during the next policy cycle. The proposed measures include optimization of package rates in select specialties while safeguarding critical and high-end healthcare services.

The meeting concluded with detailed deliberations on future strategies aimed at preserving the gains achieved under PM-JAY SEHAT while making the scheme financially sustainable, more efficient and increasingly responsive to the healthcare needs of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Region Moving

consequences for the economy." He also said there was a need to find a way out, warning that continued uncertainty could have severe implications—(KNO)

'NRPC Rebukes

NRPC has said, "J&K representative informed that with the availability of hydro power and low demand in summer months, power position in J&K is expected to be comfortable."

Meanwhile, NRPC said that, "Due to inadequate reactive compensation in J&K STU network, severe low voltages have been observed in J&K grid."—(KNO)



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Info Deptt condoles demise of wife of Iqbal Ahmad

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Joint Directorate of Information Kashmir Tuesday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the demise of the wife of Mohammad Iqbal Hajam, Multi Tasking Staff (MTS) in the department, who passed away after a brief illness.

In a condolence message, officers and officials of the department conveyed heartfelt sympathies and condolences to Iqbal Ahmad and his bereaved family during this difficult hour.

They prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and for strength and patience to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

LoP Sharma attends swearing-in ceremony of Assam CM

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Leader of Opposition Sunil Kumar Sharma on Tuesday attended the swearing-in ceremony of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in Guwahati.

Sunil Kumar Sharma was present at the oath-taking ceremony.

Sharma, who served as co-incharge of the BJP for the Assam elections, had spent considerable time devising strategy and campaigning for the party in the state. He also played a crucial role in securing eight additional votes for the BJP in the Rajya Sabha elections held in J&K in October 2025—(KNO)

Minor dies, three injured as fire damages Darul Uloom in Anantnag

UMAISAR GULL

ANANTNAG: A 12-year-old boy was killed and three others were injured after a massive fire broke out at a Darul Uloom in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Tuesday, officials said.

An official said that the fire erupted at Faizan Baba Hyder Rishi Darul Uloom in Old Mattan Adda, leaving four boys with burn injuries, following which a rescue operation was launched.

He said the injured were shifted to GMC Anantnag, where one of them succumbed to his injuries.

"The deceased has been identified as Bilal Ahmad (12), son of Mohammad Akbar and a resident of Wadwan, while the injured have been identified as Sabit Fayaz and Sahil Ahmad, both residents of Sangaldan, and Irfan Ahmad of Pahalgam," the official said.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident—(KNO)

B'pora admin continues Nasha Mukta Abhiyan awareness across Schools, Panchayats

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: District Administration Bandipora on Tuesday continued activities under the 100-Day Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan across the district with awareness programmes, essay competitions, pledge ceremonies, IEC campaigns and Gram Sabhas organised in educational institutions and Panchayat Halqas.

Awareness and IEC pamphlet distribution programmes were conducted at HS Panar, HS Achoora, HS Ketson, Government High School Trigam, Government High School Ahamsharif, PM SHRI HSS Shadipora, HSS Nowgam, HSS Quilmuqam, HSS Chuntimulla and HSS Gadakhud to educate students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promote a drug-free lifestyle.

Essay writing competitions on the theme "What Does Drug Addiction Mean to You" were organised at Government High School Garoora, HSS Gadakhud and HSS PTL Gurez Bandipora, while Government High School Nadihal



conducted pledge-taking and essay writing activities. PM SHRI Girls High School Sumbal organised an awareness programme and a short race to spread the message of a healthy and drug-free society.

Special Gram Sabhas and awareness activities under the Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan were also held at Panchayat Onagham-A, Panchayat C.A. Khan, Panchayat Halqa Sadunara-A in Block Hajin, Panchayat Ganastan-B, SK Bala Panchayat-B, Guzarbal Bonakoot and Braripora Bonakoot-C to raise awareness about substance abuse and promote a drug-free society.

The Excise Range North Kashmir organised an Anti-Drug Abuse Awareness Programme under the

100 Day Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan in collaboration with Baba Gani Public High School Shadipora, Sumbal. The programme included pledge-taking, sports activities and an anti-drug rally to spread awareness against substance abuse. Teachers and excise officials sensitised students about the harmful effects of drugs and the importance of a drug-free life.

Awareness sessions on drug abuse and prevention measures were also organised by the AYUSH Department Bandipora. Medical Officer AHWC Banyari also conducted an awareness programme at Panchayat Sadunara-A and Government High School Banyari with participation of students, teachers and healthcare staff.

DC Budgam inspects progress of main Bridge Project on Nallah Sukhnag

Stresses timely completion for enhanced public connectivity

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan Tuesday visited Beerwah to inspect the progress of the Main Bridge being constructed over Nallah Sukhnag in Sub-division Beerwah.

During the inspection, the DC took a detailed review of the ongoing works and was informed by the concerned executing agency that the project has achieved around 45 percent physical progress as on date.

Officers and engineers present on the occasion briefed the DC about the current status of construction, technical aspects of the project, and the timeline for completion. The DC directed concerned officials and executing agencies to ensure timely completion of the bridge so that the people of Beerwah and adjoining areas can benefit from improved connectivity and



safer transportation facilities at the earliest.

During the visit, the DC stated that main bridge approved under NABARD XXX, is a vital infrastructure initiative aimed at strengthening the main connectivity corridor between Beerwah and Budgam, thereby improving transportation in the area.

The DC said, "bridge will play a crucial role in enhancing socio-economic activities in the region by facilitating better access

to educational institutions, healthcare services, markets, and other essential public services". He said that the District Administration is committed towards accelerating developmental works and strengthening public infrastructure across the district.

Besides, SDM Beerwah, Toufeeq Gazi, Executive Engineers, and other concerned officers accompanied the DC during the inspection visit.

Div Com Jammu reviews implementation of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar today chaired a meeting to review the implementation and progress of Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna in the Jammu province.

The meeting was attended by MD Jammu Power Development Corporation



Ltd (JPDC), Deputy Commissioners from all districts of Jammu division, Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDC, CEO JKEDA,

Superintendent Engineers, Executive Engineers and concerned officers. The Divisional Commissioner sought the details

of the total number of applications received in each district for installation of Solar panels under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna and the to-date progress achieved.

Stress was laid on identifying the bottlenecks for effective implementation and mobilizing of maximum number of people to avail the subsidized scheme

which aims at reducing the power bill and promoting green energy usage.

The Divisional Commissioner asked the JPDC to intensify the awareness and publicity campaign to highlight the benefits of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna. He asked them to ease the process so that maximum number of people can avail benefit of the scheme.

He further directed the Deputy Commissioners to conduct periodical review for smooth and expeditious implementation of the Yojna. The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the progress of smart metering under RDSS. He directed the concerned officers for meticulous distribution of the teams for increasing the coverage of the scheme.

Preliminary probe confirmed irregularities forcing NEET-UG 2026 cancellation: NTA DG

WIANS

NEW DELHI: National Testing Agency (NTA) Director General Abhishek Singh said on Tuesday that the decision to cancel the NEET-UG 2026 examination was taken after a preliminary investigation, triggered by a whistleblower complaint, found substance in allegations of a question paper leak.

Addressing the media in the national capital, Singh said the Union government and the NTA received information on May 7 regarding possible irregularities in the examination process.

"As per the information received by the government and the NTA on May 7, and based on inputs provided by a whistleblower, we conducted an inquiry and investigation. During the investigation, some truth was found in the allegations," the NTA Director General added.

Singh said that during preliminary verification, investigators found that some questions circulating before the examination matched the actual question paper.

He added that the probe revealed that the integrity of the ongoing examination process had been compromised, making it unfair for sincere students who had prepared with dedication. Therefore, we decided to cancel the exam and conduct it again," he said.

The NTA Director General also added that the matter has now been handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a detailed probe

into the origins and extent of the alleged leak.

"What the system is, what flaws are there in the system, this will become clear after the inquiry. If there is any such process in the system because of which this problem happens, then it will definitely be reviewed," he said.

He clarified that the NTA's role was limited to verifying whether the complaint had merit, while the larger investigation into the network behind the alleged paper leak would now be carried out by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

"From the day we got the information on May 7, we only examined whether there was truth in the complaint or not. What was the origin, where the fault lied -- this work belongs to the CBI," Singh said.

He added that the central probe agency would investigate how the alleged paper leak originated, who all were involved, how many people were linked to the case, and in how many states across the country the irregularities may have spread.

"The CBI will properly carry out this work and bring before everyone what happened, where it started from, who all were involved, how many people were involved, and in how many states in the country it happened," he said.

The cancellation of NEET-UG 2026 has triggered widespread outrage among students, parents, coaching institutes and political parties, with many raising concerns over repeated controversies surrounding national-level competitive examinations. Sandicia doles estis quatio con porempos auditas de por rem. Ti ipsape consequi nonecaboria dolore laccatus, cus ipsae volorem velia nimolorita et endeles doluptatum

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN KHANYAR

Subject: Publication of Final Merit List of Sanginis (AWWs) 4th Phase.

It is to submit that 03 Vacancies of Sanginis (AWWs) have been identified in different AWCs of Poshan (ICDS) Project Khanyar. These vacancies were advertised vide notification No. 01 of 2025 dated: 22.04.2025 in prominent local dailies on 25.04.2025 viz, Kashmir Images, New Crescent Kashmir & Srinagar Times but due to the poor response the timeline was extended upto 17.05.2025 vide No: CDPO/Posh/Khy/Estt/2025-26/76-87 dated: 02.05.2025 which was published in local dailies on 04.05.2025 viz, Global Express, Chattan & Tafajur. Again due to the poor response from the eligible persons all three vacancies were re-advertised on the advice of Committee members vide notification No. 02 of 2025 dated: 30.10.2025 and published in local dailies on dated: 04.11.2025 viz, Kashmir Frontier, Aftab, Roshini, Iqbal-e-Kashmir and Kashmir Express. Accordingly 17 application forms were received by this office upto the closing date and a tentative merit list was published in 03 local dailies viz, Kashmir Despatch, & Indian Times, besides uploaded on District & Departmental Website for inviting objections, but within the stipulated time no objection has been received by this office. Accordingly final merit list has been framed by this office in light of the marks obtained by the candidates in 12th class examinations and got approved by the District Level Selection Committee. Hence the final merit list is hereby published in local dailies for inviting objections within 10 days from the date of publication.

S. No.	Name & No. of Ward	No. of Vacancy	Name of AWC	Name with Parentage	Residence	D. O. B	Qualification	Max. Marks in 12 th	Total Posts Obtained	%age on the basis of marks obtained
1	44 - Rozabal	01	Hazari Bazar	Maqsooda Khurshed W/o Adil Ahmad Shah	New Colony Mir Masjid Khanyar Sgr.	12.01.1994	B. Sc.	500	387	77.40
2	55 - Hawal	01	Kani Devar	Maheen D/o Gh. Ahmad Lattoo	JKPCC Colony Hawal Sgr.	27.02.2004	12 th	500	456	91.20
3	60 - Botshah Mohalla	01	Arampora	Bazila Aftab Banday D/o Lt. Aftab Ahmad Banday	Lal Bazar near Masjid Rehmat Sgr.	19.11.2001	B. A.	500	444	88.80

Subject: Publication of Final Merit List of Sanginis (AWWs) 5th Phase.

It is to submit that 03 Vacancies of Sanginis (AWWs) have been identified in different AWCs of Poshan (ICDS) Project Khanyar. These vacancies were advertised vide notification No. 03 of 2025 dated: 31.12.2025 in prominent local dailies on 03.01.2026 viz, Kashmir Observer, & Aftab to receive applications from the eligible candidates of respective wards within the given time of 15 days. In response to sad advertisement Notice 37 application forms were received by this office against the 03 vacancies. The tentative merit list was framed by this office and after approval by the District Level Selection Committee, the tentative merit list was published in 03 local dailies i.e. Kashmir Despatch, Aftab & Indian Times, besides uploaded on District & Departmental Website to incite objections, but within the stipulated time no objection has been received by this office. Accordingly final merit list has been framed by this office in light of the marks obtained by the candidates in 12th class examinations and got approved by the District Level Selection Committee. Hence the final merit list is hereby published in local dailies for inviting objections within 10 days from the date of publication.

S. No.	Name & No. of Ward	No. of Vacancy	Name of AWC	Name with Parentage	Residence	D. O. B	Qualification	Max. Marks in 12 th	Total Posts Obtained	%age on the basis of marks obtained
1	Jogilanker - 62	01	Kondabal	Nadiya Mushtaq D/o Mushtaq Ahmad Teli	Mia Shah Sahib Rainawari Sgr.	08.02.2002	12 th	500	443	88.60
2	Bud Dal - 65	01	Ashraf Mohalla	Seerat Mumtaz D/o M. Maqbool Bhat	Rooni Mohalla Mir Behri Dal Sgr.	19.08.2001	B. A.	500	385	77.00
3	Wanihama - 67	01	Tailbal Dangerpura	Zeemat Mehraj D/o Mehraj Ud Din Dar	Dangerpura Tailbal Sgr.	07.03.2005	12 th	500	465	93.00

Sd/-
CDPO Poshan Project
Officer, Khanyar (Member
Secretary)

Sd/-
Deputy Director,
Employment Srinagar
(Member)

Sd/-
District Social Welfare
Officer, Srinagar
(Member)

Sd/-
General Manager DIC,
Srinagar (Member)

Sd/-
District Programme
Officer, Poshan Srinagar
(Chairman DLSC)

DIPK-1226-26
DT: 12/05/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change name and in my driving license bearing No: JK 1620120012328 from BILAL AHMAD GANIE S/O MOHD GANIE TO BILAL AHMAD GANAI S/O GH MOHD GANAI (as per aadhar card). If anybody having any objection in this regard he/ she may file the same before the concerned authority within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained.

NAME: BILAL AHMAD GANAI
S/o GH MOHD GANAI
R/o FATEHPORA, GANDEBAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of general public that my name enlisted in my bank account AB MAJEED HAJAM however my actual name as per my Aadhaar card is ABDUL MAJEED HAJAM Now I intend to rectify my name in my bank records. In this regard if anybody having any objection may file the same before the Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd MANIGAM Ganderal within a period of 7 days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name. ABDUL MAJEED HAJAM S/O . GH RASOOL HAJAM
R/O.BENA HAMA GANDEBAL.
Account number. 06320401- 1579

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change name and in my driving license bearing No: JK 1620120012328 from BILAL AHMAD GANIE S/O MOHD GANIE TO BILAL AHMAD GANAI S/O GH MOHD GANAI (as per aadhar card). If anybody having any objection in this regard he/ she may file the same before the concerned authority within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained.

NAME . BILAL AHMAD GANAI
S/o . GH MOHD GANAI
R/o FATEHPORA GANDEBAL

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Name. ABDUL MAJEED HAJAM S/O . GH RASOOL HAJAM
R/O.BENA HAMA GANDEBAL.
Account number. 06320401- 1579

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER GANDEBAL

NOTICE

Whereas, an application for Re-registration / Transfer of Ownership has been received from Mr. Mohd Ashraf Mir resident of MIR 8/3 Back Side Top Floor Jangpura, Extension Bhoagal, New Delhi 110014 in Respect of LMV Motor CAR Bearing Reg No. DL1CAF5864, Chassis No MALC381UMGM068378, Engine No D4FBGM018224 in favor of: Mohammad Ashraf Mir Son of Wali Mohammad Mir Resident of: Shahpora Payeen Ganderal Kashmir -191201 (Transferee). Now, therefore, it is notified for the information of the general public that the representation / objection, if any in connection with proposed Re-registration / Transfer will be received within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice to the address of undersigned. No representation / objection shall be considered unless it is made in written and shall be submitted within the aforesaid period.

No. JK/ARTOG/15
Dated: 27/04/2026

Authorized Signatory
Assistant Regional Transport Officer,
Ganderal

Innovation and Heritage Meet at Srinagar's Youth Festival

AZHAR HAJINI

Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) was buzzing on Tuesday as AAROHAN 2026 entered its second day. Organized by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) J&K, the event felt less like a formal conference and more like a vibrant brainstorm session for India's future.

Tech with a Heart
The morning focused on the power of young ideas. From the challenges of living in border towns to the complexities of the "Himalayan Economy," delegates didn't shy away from big topics. Highlights included:

A Digital Shield: A standout mobile app designed to help users fight addiction drew massive applause, proving tech can be a tool for healing.

AI Awareness: Presenters tackled modern risks like Deepfakes, while others championed "Start-up Swaraj" and the Digital



India movement. Hackathon Energy: Young inventors Rayees Ahmad and Shalinder

Kumar turned heads with prototypes that showcased pure local ingenuity.

A Cultural Kaleidoscope
As the sun began to set over Srinagar, the focus shifted from logic to lyricism. The stage transformed into a mini-India, featuring:

Rhythmic Energy: Powerful dance and music from contingents representing Punjab, Meghalaya, and Maharashtra.

The Power of Words: A moving spoken-word piece by Heena Alam and a soulful solo from Gujarat's Rajput Janaksinh Vikrambhai reminded everyone that while technology moves us forward, culture keeps us grounded.

The day wrapped up with a high-energy performance by the GCOPE Ganderbal team, leaving the participants—innovators and artists alike—with a sense of shared purpose. AAROHAN 2026 continues to prove that when you give young people a platform, they don't just speak; they inspire.

South Kashmir Volleyball League-2026 to be held at Shopian from May 14

GMK SPORTS DESK

SHOPIAN: The Volleyball Association of Jammu and Kashmir (VAJK) in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council is all set to host the South Kashmir Volleyball League-2026, a four-day mega sporting event, at the newly constructed Indoor Sports Stadium Shopian from May 14 to 17, 2026.

According to the organizers, the volleyball league is being organized for six districts of Jammu and Kashmir including Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Rajouri and Poonch.

More than 170 players and officials from across the Union Territory are expected to participate in the championship and showcase their talent and competitive spirit.

The event will be conducted under the rules and regulations of the Volleyball Federation of India (VFI). The organizers have made elaborate arrangements for free boarding, lodging, transportation and sports kits for the participating teams and officials to ensure the smooth



conduct of the league.

The championship is also aimed at promoting sports culture among youth and encouraging them to stay away from drug addiction and other social evils. Organizers said the league would play an important role in channelizing the energy of youth towards positive and developmental activities.

Officials of the association stated that VAJK has been continuously organizing volleyball events across the Valley and has already conducted three South

Kashmir Volleyball Championships for both men and women, attracting participation from thousands of sports lovers in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council.

The upcoming edition will mark the first major volleyball league to be played at the newly constructed Indoor Sports Stadium Shopian. The association expressed hope that the event would further strengthen volleyball at the grassroots level in the region.

President of VAJK, Sid-

harth Daluja, congratulated all participating teams and wished them success in the tournament. He also appealed to players to spread the message of "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Sports" during and after the championship in their respective districts. The President also conveyed his good wishes to Amir Bhat, Organizing Secretary, Chairman Control Committee of the league, Vice President of VAJK and his team for successful conduct of the league on behalf of all office bearers of VATK.

11th District Srinagar Pencak Silat Championship 2026-27 Inaugurated at Polo Ground, Srinagar

GMK SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: The 11th District Srinagar Pencak Silat Championship 2026-27 was formally inaugurated today at the historic Polo Ground, Srinagar, amid great enthusiasm from athletes, coaches, and sports lovers.

The championship is being organised by the District Srinagar Pencak Silat Association under the aegis of Pencak Silat Association of J&K and J&K Sports Council. Over 450 athletes from various schools, clubs, and academies across Srinagar district are participating in Sub-Junior, Junior, and Senior categories for both boys and girls.

The event was inaugurated by demonstration of female athletes. Polo ground manager was the chief guest in his address, the chief guest lauded the role of Pencak Silat in promoting discipline, self-defence, and fitness among youth and assured full sup-



port from the administration for developing combat sports in J&K.

The 3-day championship will feature Tanding (Match), Tunggal (Single), Ganda (Double), and Regu (Team) events. Medal winners from this district meet will represent Srinagar at the upcoming UT-level Championship.

Speaking on the occasion, Nasir Ahmad thanked

the J&K Sports Council for providing the venue and logistical support, and appreciated the coaches and parents for encouraging youth to take up this UNESCO-recognised martial art.

The event commenced with a colourful demonstration by national-level Pencak Silat athletes, which drew huge applause from the audience.

ISL 2025-26: Inter Kashi frustrate Mohun Bagan Super Giant in stalemate

IAN S

KOLKATA: Mohun Bagan Super Giant were held to a goalless draw by a resolute Inter Kashi side in their Indian Super League (ISL) 2025-26 clash at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata, on Tuesday.

Despite dominating possession for large spells, the Mariners were unable to break down a disciplined Inter Kashi defence, as both sides settled for a point. The result takes Mohun Bagan to 22 points from 11 matches, level with leaders East Bengal FC, but behind on goal difference. Meanwhile, Inter Kashi remain 10th with 12 points. Mohun Bagan SG's Deepak Tangri was awarded Man of the Match.

The Mariners made a lively start with midfielder Sahal Abdul Samad testing the Inter Kashi defence early on, but his two attempts in quick succession couldn't find the target.

Abhijit Mondal's side had a chance to take the lead in the ninth minute and disrupt Mohun Bagan's rhythm. An early



opening fell to Mohammed Asif after a clever move involving Alfred Planas, Nauris Petkevicius, and Sergio Llamas, but his effort drifted narrowly wide, offering a glimpse of Inter Kashi's attacking intent.

Mohun Bagan gradually assumed control of possession, with Sahal orchestrating play in midfield. The home side created half-chances through Sahal and Robinho, but Inter Kashi's compact defensive shape ensured clear opportunities remained scarce.

Dimitrios Petratos and

Jason Cummings tried to find a rhythm but lacked the final touches, and set-pieces proved to be Mohun Bagan's most consistent avenue. Yet Inter Kashi's backline, marshalled by Narender Gahlot and David Humanes, stood firm. At the other end, Planas came close late in the half, but his effort sailed over as the visitors continued to threaten sporadically.

The first half ended goalless, with Mohun Bagan enjoying the majority of possession but failing to register a meaningful test for Inter Kashi goalkeeper

Shubham Dhas. Mohun Bagan head coach Sergio Lobera responded at the break with attacking changes, introducing Liston Colaco and Jamie Maclaren in search of a breakthrough. The Mariners increased their intensity, with Dimitri Petratos and Maclaren linking up well in advanced areas.

Petratos forced a save early in the second half, while long-range efforts from Colaco and Aldred failed to trouble the scoreboard. Mohun Bagan continued to probe, but Inter

Kashi's defensive discipline, led by Rohit Danu, Sandip Mandi, and Narender, restricted space in and around the penalty area.

A promising move in the 66th minute saw Manvir Singh cut the ball back for Sahal inside the box, but once again Inter Kashi held their ground with a crucial block at close range.

As the match wore on, Inter Kashi grew in confidence, introducing fresh legs and managing possession smartly to disrupt Mohun Bagan's rhythm. Jayesh Rane had a sight of goal following a counter, but his effort sailed over.

The Mariners pushed hard in the closing stages, with Maclaren coming closest in the 85th minute, only to be denied by an excellent save from Shubham Dhas, who stretched to deflect the effort away. Moments later, Tom Aldred headed wide from a corner as frustration grew among the home side.

Inter Kashi nearly snatched a late winner in stoppage time when Rohit Danu broke forward, but Vishal Kaith came off his line swiftly to deny the chance.

IPL 2026: Sudharsan, Sundar help GT recover from early blows to post 168/5 against SRH

IAN S

AHMEDABAD: A composed half-century from Sai Sudharsan and a late flourish by Washington Sundar rescued Gujarat Titans from a shaky start and carried them to 168/5 against Sunrisers Hyderabad in their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 clash at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

After being asked to bat, Gujarat never really found early momentum as SRH's disciplined new-ball attack kept the hosts under pressure throughout the powerplay. Pat Cummins set the tone immediately with probing hard lengths, while Praful Hinge struck crucial blows to leave GT struggling at 34/2, their lowest powerplay score of the season.

Sai Sudharsan was once again the stabilising force for Gujarat. The left-hander weathered the difficult phase with calm accumulation before gradually shifting gears once the field spread. He found support first from Nishant Sindhu, whose brisk 22 off 14 injected some much-needed momentum after a



sluggish start. Sindhu counterattacked impressively, hammering Nitish Kumar Reddy for an 85-metre six and following it with boundaries against Hinge, but his promising stay ended when he mis-cued Pat Cummins to Heinrich Klaasen at long-off.

That dismissal brought Washington Sundar to the crease, and the all-rounder played a defining hand in reviving Gujarat's innings. Initially watchful, Sundar settled quickly against spin before targeting the pace bowlers in the death overs with clever placement and calculated aggression.

Meanwhile, Sudharsan continued his remarkable consistency this

season. He pierced the off-side field regularly, striking elegant boundaries off Sakib Hussain and Eshan Malinga, while also launching a straight six over the bowler's head to move into the forties. His fifty came in style when he swept Shivang Kumar to the boundary, marking his third successive 50-plus score of the campaign.

The pair stitched together a crucial 60-run partnership for the fourth wicket, helping Gujarat recover from 68/3 after ten overs. Sundar's intent against the short ball and his ability to access gaps square of the wicket ensured the scoring rate never completely stalled during the middle phase.

Movies Schedule

Wednesday, 13th May

	BHOOTH BANGLA (U/A16+) Hindi - 10:45 AM, 06:30 PM	
	Michael (U/A 13+) English with English Subtitles 11:45 AM, 02:00 PM	
	The Devil Wears Prada 2 (A) English with English Subtitles 03:00 PM	
	Dhuranhar: The Revenge (A) Hindi - 02:05 PM	
	THE SHEEP DETECTIVES (UA 7+) English - 04:45 PM	
	DAADI KI SHADI (U) Hindi - 11:05 AM, 07:05 PM	
	MORTAL KOMBAT II (A) English Atmos with English Subtitles 06:00 PM	

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