

Srinagar
Thursday
April 02 | 2026
13 Shawwal 1447 AH
Issue No: 80
Volume: 16
Pages: 12
Price: Rs 02/-

16TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION
HEADLINES TODAY
Voice To The Voiceless

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS
ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS
NEWSPAPER | BOOKS | FLYERS | LOGO | FLEX | MAGAZINES
VISITING CARDS | BROCHURES | 3D BOARDS | COVER PAGES
WEDDING CARDS | CALLIGRAPHY | WALL PAINTINGS
9999038812
9419008414
Radio Colony, Gund Hassibhat, Lawaipora Srinagar-190017

“IFPRI’s Global Expertise Will Transform J&K Agriculture”: LG Sinha

Centre of Excellence proposed at SKUAST-Jammu to drive data-led policy and rural growth

HT NEWS NETWORK

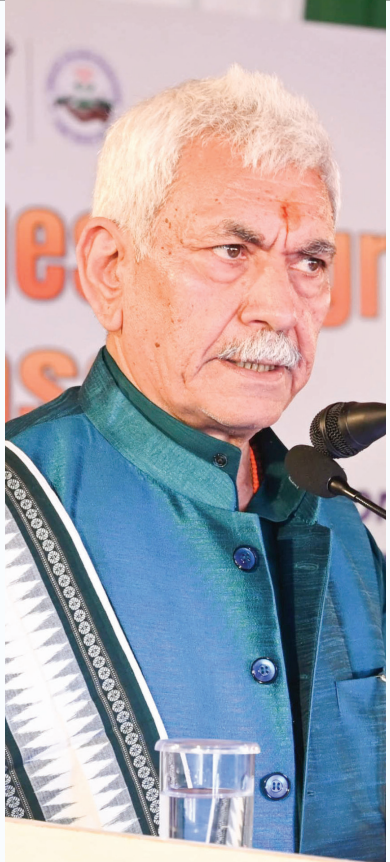
JAMMU, APR 01: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting to discuss a strategic collaboration between Sher-e-Kashmir Univer-

sity of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu and the International Food Policy Research Institute aimed at strengthening evidence-based policymaking and accelerating sustainable agricultural transformation in the Union

Territory. Welcoming the proposed partnership, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized that IFPRI’s global expertise would significantly enhance institutional capacities and support long-term agricultural

development in Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting focused on the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Food Policy and Data Analytics at SKUAST-Jammu in collaboration with IFPRI. The Centre is envisioned as a knowledge hub for continuous

monitoring, policy evaluation and data-driven decision-making, while contributing to national and global discourse on agricultural transformation, particularly in mountain and high-value production systems. **Turn on Page 2**



‘First Village, Not Last’: LG Sinha Puts Border Areas at Centre of Development Push

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APR 1: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday under-

scored the strategic and emotional importance of border villages, declaring them as “India’s first villages” and calling for their development to be treated as a top priority.

Speaking at a public event in Makwal under Phase-II of the Vibrant Villages Programme, Sinha said residents of border areas are not only the first line of defence but also the first face of the nation for outsiders. He asserted that their

Turn on Page 2

Crackdown on Drug Menace : LG Sinha Orders ‘Zero Tolerance’ Across J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APR 01: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday directed

authorities to adopt a strict ‘Zero Tolerance’ policy against drug abuse in Jammu and Kashmir, calling for a coordinated and multi-pronged strategy to eliminate the menace.

Chairing a high-level meeting of Deputy Commissioners, Senior Superintendents of Police and senior civil and police officials at Lok Bhavan here, the Lieutenant Governor stressed the need to dismantle drug trafficking networks. **Turn on Page 2**

Tourism Gets Quality Push in J&K, Govt Steps Up Training and Oversight: CM Omar Abdullah

Robust grievance system in place; 413 of 508 complaints resolved since January 2025

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APR 1: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the government is intensifying efforts to promote responsible tourism in Jammu and Kashmir by strengthening training programmes and tightening regulatory mechanisms for tourism stakeholders.

Replying to a question raised by Tanvir Sadiq during the Question Hour of the ongoing Budget Session of the J&K Leg-



islative Assembly, the Chief Minister said the Tourism Department is focusing on improving service quality, safety and accountability across the sector.

He informed the House that licensing and registration of tourism stakeholders are already governed under relevant laws, adding that there is currently no proposal to introduce mandatory rating or certification for all stakeholders. **Turn on Page 2**

Gulmarg Gets Rs. 46.5 Cr Sewage Project; Govt Caps Registrations to Check Overcrowding

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, APR 01: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday announced a Rs. 46.50 crore Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) for Gulmarg as part of efforts to strengthen sanitation and waste management infrastructure in the premier tourist destination.

Replying during Question Hour in the Legislative Assembly, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the 2 MLD STP project **Turn on Page 2**

SEC reviews panchayat electoral roll revision

Targets 100% voter enrolment

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APR 1: Jammu and Kashmir State Election Commissioner, Shantmanu, today convened a meeting with the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) and Panchayat Block Electoral Officers (PBEOs) to review the ongoing revision of the Panchayat Electoral Rolls, 2026.

The revision process was initiated on 27 March 2026 with the release of the draft electoral roll, inviting claims and objections for new enrolments, deletions or transfers of voters across the Union Territory.

The Election Commissioner emphasised house-to-house **Turn on Page 2**

SHREYA SINGHAL ASSUMES CHARGE AS DIRECTOR INFORMATION

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APR 01: Shreya Singhal, IAS today assumed the charge of Director Information Jammu and Kashmir.

After assuming office, the Director held an introductory meet with the senior officers and officials of the DIPR.

She emphasized the importance of transparent, timely and people-centric dissemination of information. She highlighted the role of the **Turn on Page 2**



House allows introduction of two Private Members’ Bills for discussion

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APR 01: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today allowed the introduction of two Private Members’ Bills moved by Legislators Tanvir Sadiq and Sajad Shaheen for discussion.

The Bills seek restoration of the Jammu and Kashmir Land Grants Act, 1960, and the establishment of a university campus at Banihal in Ramban. Legislator Tanvir Ali Sadiq introduced

a Bill which reads: “A Bill to restore the Jammu and Kashmir Land Grants Act, 1960, and the rules framed there under to the original form as it existed prior to the Jammu and Kashmir Land Grants Act, 2022; to protect the rights of existing lessees and occupants; and to ensure that public land serves the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir (L.A. Private Members’ Bill No. 35 of 2025).” Speaking on the Bill, Chief Minister **Turn on Page 2**

MEMBERS WITHDRAW BILLS; TWO REJECTED

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APR 01: Several Members today withdrew their bills after assurances from the Government. **Turn on Page 2**

Amit Shah Self-Enumerates For Census 2027, Urges People To Cooperate In ‘National Duty’

HT News Network / Agencies

NEW DELHI, APR 1: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday participated here in the first self-enumeration exercise in India’s census history, giving an option to citizens to submit their own information through a special web portal, officials said.



In a message posted on X, Shah urged people to fully cooperate in this national duty by providing the requested essential information to the Census team when it visits their homes.

“As part of the first phase of the Census, the ‘House Listing’ process commencing today, I filled the **Turn on Page 2**

پیشاپہ
Preserve Your Ideas
We Bring Them to Life
LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS
ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS
We Publish in Arabic | Urdu | Hindi | Persian | Kashmiri
Contact us: 9697071471 | 9999038812
lubaabpublications01@gmail.com

Weather to remain erratic till April 10: MeT
HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO
SRINAGAR, APR 01: The India Meteorological Department on Wednesday said erratic weather conditions are likely to continue across Jammu and Kashmir till April 10, with spells of rain, snow, thunderstorms and gusty winds expected over the next several days.
An official of the Meteorological Centre Srinagar told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that light rain or snow may occur at a few places on April 1 and 2, while widespread precipitation is expected between April 3 and 4, accompanied by thunderstorms, hailstorms and gusty winds. Moderate to heavy rain or snow is also expected at isolated higher reaches. **Turn on Page 2**

REVIVE CARE
Mr. Meer Turab
Audiologist & Speech Therapist (Avaz Certified & Apraxia Practitioner)
Former Sr. Audiologist & Speech Therapist at MAX Hospital Saket New Delhi
Former Sr. Audiologist at Dr. JM M Hans Center for ENT & Vertigo
RCI No.: A53474
Available Every Wednesday and Sunday From 4PM
Address National Highway Kanispora Baramulla Near Petrol Pump
99062 15683

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

“IFPRI’s Global.....

Experts from IFPRI, including Shahidur Rashid and Anjani Kumar, shared insights on institutional and technical interventions required to revitalize agriculture and rural economies in the region. A detailed presentation on strengthening institutional support mechanisms was also delivered during the meeting.

The deliberations underscored the importance of convergence across key initiatives such as HADP, JKIP and Mission YUVA, with a focus on improving farmer incomes, generating employment, strengthening value chains and promoting inclusive growth, particularly for smallholders, women and youth. Senior officials, including Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, attended the meeting.

‘First Village.....

service to the country must be reflected in tangible improvements in their quality of life. “Border residents stand first in courage, sacrifice and patience, and they also stand first in the priorities of our Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi,” he said, adding that no family should be left out of government schemes and no genuine need should go unnoticed.

The Lieutenant Governor directed officials to plug gaps in implementation, stressing that there must be no disconnect between government promises and benefits reaching the people. He said where existing schemes fall short, immediate solutions must be devised, describing the development of border villages as “a sentiment, a resolve and a responsibility.”

Highlighting the transformation in recent years, Sinha said that areas once neglected have now seen significant improvements in connectivity, electrification and access to welfare schemes. He noted that poverty levels in border blocks have declined and livelihood opportunities have expanded, leading to reduced migration.

Emphasising inclusive growth, he called for strengthening youth entrepreneurship and women’s self-help groups, stating that local talent must be channelled effectively to drive economic and social progress.

Sinha reiterated the administration’s commitment to ensuring better roads, quality education, healthcare and sustainable livelihoods in border villages, with the aim of turning them into model hubs of development where young people can build their future without leaving their homes.

During the visit, the Lieutenant Governor launched multiple development works, distributed appointment orders and sanction letters under various schemes, and honoured local achievers, while assuring residents that their concerns, including land rights issues, would be addressed in a time-bound manner.

Crackdown on.....

through strengthened law enforcement while intensifying mass awareness campaigns to deter potential users.

He also emphasized enhancing treatment, counselling and rehabilitation mechanisms to ensure a comprehensive response to the crisis. “Action against drug abuse must be our top priority. We need a collective mechanism to safeguard our youth and ensure a healthy future for Jammu & Kashmir,” Sinha said.

The Lieutenant Governor further directed officials to strengthen grassroots intelligence and ensure stringent, coordinated action against drug smugglers to curb supply chains effectively.

The meeting also reviewed preparations for a dedicated three-month under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, with Sinha urging officers to lead from the front and ensure participation from all sections of society to turn the initiative into a mass movement.

Among those present were Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat and other senior officials of the administration and police.

Tourism Gets.....

Emphasising the importance of service standards, Abdullah said visitor experience and professional conduct of service providers play a crucial role in sustaining tourism growth. He cautioned that incidents of harassment, overcharging or poor behaviour can adversely affect the destination’s image.

Responding to concerns about a possible decline in tourist inflow, the Chief Minister said no instance has been reported where such issues led to a drop in tourist numbers. “However, isolated complaints have been reported and are being addressed as per rules,” he added.

He further informed that regular training and capacity-building programmes are being conducted for stakeholders, covering hospitality, etiquette, housekeeping, guiding, front office operations, food and beverage services, homestays, first aid and CPR, rescue operations, responsible tourism and risk management.

Highlighting grievance redressal, Abdullah said a comprehensive system is in place through Tourist Reception Centres, helplines, online portals, email channels and Tourist Police. He noted that 508 complaints have been received since January 2025, of which 413 have been disposed of.

A supplementary question was raised by Nazir Ahmad Khan.

Gulmarg Gets.....

has been approved and is expected to be taken up for execution in the 2026–27 financial year. He added that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for a Solid Waste Treatment Plant (SWTP) is also under preparation by the Mechanical and R&B Departments for subsequent approval.

The Chief Minister clarified that the delay in registration of pony walas, guides, sledge pullers, photographers and other service providers is a deliberate policy decision aimed at regulating tourist pressure. He said the step is necessary to maintain the carrying capacity of Gulmarg, prevent congestion and promote orderly and sustainable tourism.

Abdullah further informed the House that All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and snow bikes in the Union Territory are primarily procured by beneficiaries under bank-linked self-employment schemes, with the Tourism Department facilitating their registration and operational permissions.

The query was raised by MLA Kreeri-Wagooora, while MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah sought additional clarification through a supplementary question.

SEC reviews.....

outreach by the field staff to ensure all eligible voters who turn 18 years by the cut-off date of 1 April 2026 are enrolled in the Panchayat Electoral Roll.

The last date for filing claims and objections has been set as 29 April 2026.

Shantmanu instructed the officials to strictly adhere to the timeline for disposing of claims and objections and submit daily progress reports to the Commission. He asked the Block Development Officers to launch awareness campaigns at each Panchayat Halqa to widely publicise the roll revision process.

The Election Commission will also obtain continuous feedback from the district-appointed Roll Observers to monitor the process and achieve 100 per cent enrolment of eligible voters in the Panchayat electoral rolls.

Shreya Singhal.....

Information Department as a vital bridge between the government and the citizens, stating that effective communication remains essential for promoting awareness about developmental initiatives and welfare programmes of the government.

Shreya Singhal reiterated her commitment towards modernizing the communication strategies by integrating digital platforms, enhancing media coordination and encouraging constructive engagement with the stakeholders.

Joint Director Information (Hqr), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Joint Director Information Jammu, Deepak Dubey; Deputy Director Information (PR&AV), Javid Ahmad Rather; other senior officers and officials of DIPR were present on the occasion.

House allows.....

Omar Abdullah said that the Government would not oppose the Bill at this stage and would like the House to discuss it.

The Chief Minister said that the Government would like the House to deliberate on the matter in detail. “After that, the Government will take a decision on whether to support this Bill or not. Therefore, at this stage, I will not oppose its introduction,” he said.

The Bill was subsequently allowed to be introduced through a voice vote.

Another Bill introduced by MLA Sajad Shaheen reads: “A Bill to provide for the establishment of a university campus at Banihal in District Ramban to promote higher education, research, and socio-economic development in the region and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto (L.A. Private Members’ Bill No. 46 of 2025).”

Speaking on the Bill, Education Minister Sakeena Itoo stated that the Government would not oppose its introduction for discussion.

The Bill was subsequently allowed to be introduced through a voice vote.

Members.....

Member, Ajaz Ahmad Jan moved a bill which reads “a bill to amend the public men and public servants declaration of assets and other provisions act, 1983 (L.A. Private Members’ Bill No. 30 of 2025).”

Member, Ranbir Singh Pathania also withdrew the bill which read, “a bill further to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Public Services Guarantee Act, 2011 (L.A. Private Members’ Bill No. 32 of 2025).”

Legislator, Dr. Rameshwar Singh, moved a bill which reads, “a bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Decentralization and Recruitment) Act, 2010 (L.A. Private Members’ Bill No. 38 of 2025).” However, the Member withdrew the bill after assurances from the Government.

Member, Arjun Singh Raju also moved a bill which reads “a bill to provide better for the better management, protection, administration and governance of Kashmiri Hindu Shrines and religious places in the Union Territory and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto (L.A. Private Members Bill No. 39 of 2025).”

While responding to these Bills, the Chief Minister assured the Members that their issues and concerns shall be addressed.

Later the Members withdrew their bills after satisfactory reply from the Chief Minister.

Meanwhile, Member, Abdul Majeed Bhat (Larmi), moved a bill which read, “A bill to provide prohibition of private practice by the Government doctors in order to strengthen the public health delivery system, ensure full time availability of medical professionals in government institutions like, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto (L.A. Private Members Bill No. 40 of 2025).”

Responding to Bill, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo said that there is complete ban against the private practice by Government doctors during duty hours and both seniors doctors are available on call duty during night hours along with availability of junior doctors at all health institutions.

Meanwhile a bill moved by the Member, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah reads, “A bill to impose a complete ban on the import of frozen/chilled food items from outside Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir in order to protect the local food industry and safeguard public health (L.A. Private Members Bill No. 43 of 2025).”

Responding to Bill, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo said that various measures have been undertaken to ensure import of quality food import to Jammu and Kashmir.

She said that Food Safety Department is working to address these issues and there are many testing labs functioning and additional machinery is being put into service for testing purpose.

Another bill moved by Mir Saifullah reads, “A Bill to provide for creation of gainful employment opportunities and for payment of unemployment allowance/stipend to unemployed youth and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto (L.A. Private Members’ Bill No. 5 of 2025).”

Mubarik Gul moved a bill which read, “A Bill to provide social security to unemployed technocrats/professionals in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (L.A. Private Members’ Bill No. 18 of 2025).”

Also, a bill moved by MLA Ranbir Singh Pathania reads, “A Bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 (L.A. Private Members’ Bill No. 33 of 2025).”

The House also continued discussion on bill moved by legislator Pawan Kumar Gupta yesterday which read, “A Bill to provide compassionate appointments to the next of kin of deceased government employees, security personnel and civilians affected by militancy or enemy action (L.A. Private Members’ Bill No. 27 of 2025).”

The Members withdrew these Bills after satisfactory assurances by the Government.

Legislators Balwant Singh Mankotia and Dr. Syed Bashir Ahmad Veeri pressed their respective bills for introduction.

The bill moved by MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia reads “A Bill to provide vesting of ownership rights of evacuee property to the occupants (L.A. Private Members’ Bill No. 15 of 2025).”

Another bill moved by Dr. Syed Bashir Ahmad Veeri reads, “A Bill to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004 (L.A. Private Members’ Bill No. 24 of 2025).”

The bills were later rejected through voice vote.

self-enumeration form. This process will play a crucial role in accelerating India’s development journey and ensuring that government schemes reach every citizen effectively.

“Soon, the census team will visit your home as well. You are requested to extend full cooperation in this national duty by providing the required information. You can also fill out the form yourself through the link given below. <https://census.gov.in>,” he wrote on X.

The Census kickstarted on Wednesday in eight states and Union Territories, including NDMC and Delhi Cantt areas of the national capital, with the opening of a 15-day self-enumeration window, a first in the history of the massive exercise, where citizens will have the option to digitally submit information on their own.

The Census 2027 is being conducted in two phases — the first stage is known as house listing and housing census, and the second stage is the population census.

The housing listing and housing census beginning April 16 will systematically list all structures, houses and households throughout the country to provide a sound framework for the conduct of the population enumeration.

In a first, the exercise shall be completely digital, with enumerators using a special mobile application created for the purpose on their phones to collect the information. During the housing listing operations, the enumerators will physically visit each house and building and pose 33 questions to the citizens regarding basic facilities in their houses, information about the head of the household, such as the name and sex, and the ownership status, among others. (Agencies)

territory.

An official said, “On the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44), slow movement was reported due to single-lane stretches, with commuters advised to travel during the day and avoid overtaking. Traffic is expected to ply from both sides subject to weather conditions.”

“On the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road (SSG Road), only one-way traffic will be allowed from Srinagar towards Kargil for light motor vehicles, while heavy vehicles will be permitted up to a specified cut-off time, subject to clearance and weather

conditions. The Mughal Road will allow only light motor vehicles and passenger cars from both sides, with heavy vehicles barred due to maintenance work. Cut-off timings have been fixed for both directions.

On the Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road (NH-244), vehicular movement remains temporarily suspended as per orders of the authorities,” he said, adding, “Security force vehicles will be allowed separately on NH-44, and commuters have been urged to check the latest road status before undertaking travel.”—(KNO)

territory.

An official said, “On the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44), slow movement was reported due to single-lane stretches, with commuters advised to travel during the day and avoid overtaking. Traffic is expected to ply from both sides subject to weather conditions.”

“On the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road (SSG Road), only one-way traffic will be allowed from Srinagar towards Kargil for light motor vehicles, while heavy vehicles will be permitted up to a specified cut-off time, subject to clearance and weather

از دفتر عدالت نائب تحصیلدار درجہ اول مجسٹریٹ ٹرال باایلاس غلام نبی وانی صاحب
مضمون: درخواست از جانب عایشہ حین وانی ولد غلام قادر وانی ساکنہ موضع ڈاڈہ سرہ موڑہ تحصیل ٹرال ضلع پیلوامہ
بمراہد عطا فی لیگل ہیر سرٹیفکیٹ (Legal Heir Certificate)

بمراہد آگاہی و عام ہر خاص عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر کے بارے میں مفصل رپورٹ مع مطلوبہ دستاویزات عملہ قبیلہ سے ارسال شدہ واضح ہے کہ سائل کا والد غلام قادر وانی ولد امداد وانی ساکنہ موضع ڈاڈہ سرہ موڑہ 21/07/2025 فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ متوفی مرنے سے اپنے پیچھے وارثان جائیداد شدہ موجود ہیں۔ جسکی تفصیل بذیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام وارث جائز	عمر تخمیناً	رشتہ بہرہ متوفی	کیسٹ
1.	شرف اختر	67	بیوی	بیوہ
2.	عایشہ حین وانی	43	پسر	ثادی شدہ
3.	مسرت	41	دختر	ثادی شدہ
4.	صبحی جان	36	دختر	ثادی شدہ

مطابق رپورٹ قبیلہ ایجنسی دستاویزات ارسال شدہ سے دریافت ہے کہ دیگر وارث جائز یا ذہینہ نہ موجود نہیں ہے۔ نیز کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتہ دفتر خذ میں تحریراً پیش کریں۔ بعد از میعاد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر الصدر نائب تحصیلدار ڈاڈہ سرہ

Govt says ensuring effective timber supply management amid shortage

SRINAGAR, APR 01: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday said that timber supply across the Union Territory is being effectively managed through an established network of depots, even as concerns over shortage were raised.

Replying to a starred question in the Legislative Assembly by MLA Hilal Akbar Lone, the government said the distribution of timber is being handled by the J&K Forest Development Corporation Limited (JKFDCL) through 211 Concessional Timber Sale Depots (CTSDs) and 08 Sale Depots across J&K.

The government, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), further informed that 10.024 lakh cubic feet (cft) of timber stock is available in CTSDs, while 3.727 lakh cft is available in sale depots. It added that JKFDCL has sold 16.876 lakh cft of timber to consumers during the current year.

On the issue of restrictions on felling of trees, including Deodar and Khair on private lands, the government said that felling is regulated under the Jammu and Kashmir Specified Tree Act, 1969, and requires permission from the concerned Divisional Commissioner.

It was informed that in compliance with directions of the Supreme Court, rules governing Khair trees were notified in 2016, and a management plan has been prepared for regulated felling on private lands.

“An 11-year felling cycle has been devised under which felling is carried out during the first 10 years in a phased manner as per a village-wise programme,” the reply stated.

The government further informed that during 2026–27, Khair trees will be re-enumerated across districts, following which an extraction plan will be prepared and submitted to the Supreme Court for further implementation.

“The management plan also includes the identification of villages and assessment of available Khair tree volume on private lands to ensure sustainable utilisation,” it said—(KNO)

SRpixels Pvt.Ltd
EXCELLENCE WITH PERFECTION

Branding • Designing • Printing • Web • Event • Advertising

LARGE SCALE PRINTING

ONE STOP SHOP FOR ALL YOUR BRANDING NEED

DESIGN SRpixels

Check Out All of Our Services

Business Card	Poster	Letter Head
Brochure	Invitation Card	Envelope
Billboard	Signage	Screen Printing
Rollup Banners	Stickers	Embroidery
Website Design	Logo Design	Screen Printing
Mobile App Design	UI/UX Design	Screen Printing
Video Production	Animation	Screen Printing
Photography	Event Management	Screen Printing
Publicity Material	Corporate Identity	Screen Printing
Product Photography	Brand Strategy	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Food Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Medical Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Automotive Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Construction Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Risk Assessment	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Investment Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Market Research	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Competitor Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	SWOT Analysis	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Business Plan	Screen Printing
Real Estate Photography	Financial Projections	



Div Com reviews preparations for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APR 01: To ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting with senior officers to assess preparedness and finalize arrangements for the pilgrimage to the Holy Cave.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Anantnag, Budgam, Ganderbal, Bandipora, and Srinagar along with the Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation and senior officials from multiple departments, including ULB, FCS&CA, RTC, RTO, Rural Sanitation, SASB, KPDCL, R&B, PHE, I&F, AYUSH, BEACON, Animal Husbandry, Labour, Health, Information, Fire & Emergency Services, IMD, Tourism, SDA, PDA, Forests, Wildlife, SDRF, district SSPs, ITBP, NHIDCL, and NHAI. Representatives from service providers including G-Max, Jio, Airtel, and BSNL also participated.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed

departmental proposals under Revenue and Capital Expenditure (Capex) heads. He also assessed the status of works to be executed by BEACON, including snow clearance, repairs, and track widening along the Pahalgam route.

Emphasizing timely infrastructure readiness, he directed the Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department to expedite macadamization of roads around Yatra base camps, development of parking facilities and pony stands, and ensure restoration of helipads.

With regard to tentages along the Pahalgam and Baltal axes, the Divisional Commissioner stressed the importance of quality, safety, and aesthetics. He instructed that tents must be installed only in secure, non-vulnerable areas.

To strengthen disaster preparedness, he directed the Deputy Commissioner Anantnag to coordinate resource pooling and conduct detailed assessments of flood-prone zones, ensuring safe placement of camps and regulated movement of pilgrims.

The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the capacity and amenities at base camps, directing departments to maintain



adequate fire safety measures, including designated fire gaps between tents and deployment of fire tenders and personnel. He underscored the need for robust sanitation arrangements at camps and along the Yatra routes, tasking the concerned departments with ensuring cleanliness throughout the pilgrimage.

On registration, he instructed that all processes for yatris and service providers be completed well in advance of the Yatra's commencement.

Further, he reviewed health-care facilities along both routes and called for increased deployment of ambulances. Directions were also issued regarding accommodation for security personnel, provision of RTC buses for pilgrim transportation, installation of public address systems and signage, dissemination of timely weather updates, and strengthening of disaster management mechanisms.

Telecom service providers were instructed to ensure seamless network coverage across all routes and camps, enabling effective communication and facilitating RFID-based tracking systems.

VSK Awareness Camps Organised Across All Zones of District Ganderbal

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, APR 01: VSK (Vidya Samiksha Kendra) Awareness Camps were successfully organised in all zones of District Ganderbal, including Zone Kangan, Hariganwan, Zone Ganderbal, and Zone Tulamulla. These camps were aimed at strengthening the use of digital platforms in schools and ensuring better monitoring and support through the VSK system. A large number of Heads of Institutions (Hols) participated in the programme with great enthusiasm. The camps were attended by the Chief Education Officer Ganderbal, Deputy Chief Education Officer (DNO VSK), Cluster Heads, and Zonal Education Officers. The officials interacted with the participants and highlighted the importance of adopting modern technology in the education sector. They provided clear guidance and addressed the queries of the Hols in a simple and practical manner.

During the sessions, detailed demonstrations were given on the use of various VSK bots such as Attendance Bot, Siksha Sahayak Bot, Digi Learn Bot, and Study Busy Bot. The participants were guided step-by-step on how to register on the Swift App, how to join and participate in these bots, and how they can be used daily by both teachers and students. The role of these bots in improving classroom practices, tracking student progress, and ensuring timely reporting was also explained. Special focus was laid on achieving 100% registration / implementation of all teachers and institutions on the platform. The officials stressed the need for proper and regular use of all bots to ensure effective implementation of the VSK system. The Hols expressed their satisfaction with the training and assured full cooperation in implementing the initiative in their respective schools.

2 drug peddlers arrested; contraband/psychotropic substances recovered: Police

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, APR 01: Continuing its sustained drive against the drug menace, Police have arrested two drug peddlers in Shopian & Sopore and recovered contraband/psychotropic substances from their possession.

According to a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), in Shopian, a police team at a checkpoint established at Imamshahib Chowk, noticed a person in suspicious circumstances and tactfully apprehended him. During



the search, a Heroine-like substance weighing approximately 6.20 grams was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Adil Ahmad Makroo resident of Khudwani Rehpora Kulgam.

In Sopore, during patrolling at Neharpora-Shalimar Link Road, a suspicious individual was intercepted and apprehended. During search, Charas-like substance and Codeine Phosphate bottles were recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Irfan Majeed Shah son of Abdul Majeed Shah resident of Neharpora Sopore.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations, and further investigation is underway to ascertain the source and wider linkages involved.

J&K Police reiterate their zero-tolerance policy against drug trafficking and reaffirm their commitment to sustained enforcement to safeguard youth and society from the menace of drugs—(KNO)

Seminar on Urdu Language and Literature in Anand City, Gujarat

GULFAM BARJI

GUJARAT, APR 01: A significant literary seminar on the theme "Urdu Language and Literature" was successfully organized in the city of Anand, Gujarat, through the joint collaboration of the Gujarat Urdu Sahitya Academy, Gandhinagar, and the Akhil Sadbhavana Trust. The seminar brought together scholars, academicians and literature enthusiasts to deliberate on the history, evolution, and contemporary relevance of the Urdu language. The session was conducted under the guidance of distinguished members of the academic community.

Dr. Nazima Ansari, Associate Professor at Gujarat Arts and Science College, Ahmadabad attended as the Chief Guest and deliv-



ered the keynote address. In her speech she described Urdu as a vital pillar of India's composite culture, emphasizing that it is not

merely a language but a powerful medium that fosters unity and emotional connection among people.

She also highlighted the early development of Urdu and its rich literary contributions, underlining its continued importance in

the modern era. The seminar further acknowledged Gujarat's notable role in promoting Urdu language and literature. Prominent personalities including Prof. Mohammad Aslam, Dr. Naem Tirmizi, Rafiq M Sheikh and Munir Bawa were present on the occasion and reaffirmed their commitment to the promotion of Urdu. Several literature lovers and community members from Anand City such as Qadri Irfan, Reshma Bano Kathi, Shabbir Hashmi, Shabnam Ansari, Aqeel Shatir, Sahil Sahab and Bashir Rizvi also attended the event.

The seminar concluded with a collective resolve to continue organizing such literary initiatives in the future to further strengthen and promote Urdu language and literature.

CIK chargesheets husband-wife duo for misusing social media platforms

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, APR 01: The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) Wednesday produced a charge sheet against a husband-wife duo for misusing various social media platforms to "manipulate facts and spread misleading information". According to a statement, issued to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the chargesheet was filed against Dr Umer Farooq Bhat and his wife Shahzada Akther in connection with FIR No. 05/2025 registered at Police Station CIK Srinagar under Sections 152, 62(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Sections 13, 38, 39 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UA(P) Act).

The statement reads that the case was registered on the basis of credible and reliable information indicating that accused Shahzada Akther, in

a well-planned criminal conspiracy with members of the proscribed terrorist organization Dukhtar-e-Millat, and in active connivance with her husband Dr Umer Farooq Bhat, was involved in the deliberate creation and dissemination of false, fabricated, and distorted narratives regarding the situation in Kashmir.

"Investigation revealed that the accused persons, acting in concert with members of the proscribed organisation, were engaged in the misuse of social media platforms, including encrypted messaging applications, to manipulate facts and spread misleading information. The content disseminated by them was aimed at promoting secessionist and separatist sentiments, thereby fostering disaffection, hatred, and enmity against the Union of India," it reads. It added that further investigation

established that the accused were also involved in uploading and circulating content intended to create disharmony and criminal ill-will among different religious groups, with the deliberate intent to provoke and radicalize youth, incite violence, and disturb public order.

"Such activities posed a serious threat to peace, tranquility, and the sovereignty and integrity of the nation. Upon culmination of the investigation, sufficient evidence has been collected substantiating the involvement of both accused persons in the commission of offences punishable under the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act," it said.

It added that accordingly, the chargesheet has been filed before the competent court for judicial determination—(KNO)

PDJ Kupwara sentences man to 5-year jail in POCSCO case

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

KUPWARA, APR 01: A court in North Kashmir's Kupwara district has sentenced a man to five years rigorous imprisonment for sexually assaulting a minor.

The verdict was delivered by the Principal District and Sessions Judge, Kupwara, in a case registered at Vilgam police station in 2020.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the accused, identified as Jameel Ahmad Mughal, of Nawbugh Champora in Vilgam, was convicted under Section 8 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 20,000 on the convict. In case of non-payment, he will have to undergo an additional three months of simple imprisonment.

According to the prosecution, the offence involved a child aged around three years. The court, while pronouncing the sentence, took note of the gravity of the crime and observed that the accused had violated a position of trust as he was working at the victim's residence at the time.

Rejecting the plea for leniency, the court held that factors such as the accused's custody since April 2020, lack of prior criminal record, and socio-economic background did not dilute the seriousness of the offence.

The court granted the benefit of set-off under Section 428 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the period already spent in custody.

It also directed that the fine amount be paid to the victim as compensation under Section 357 CrPC, with provision for further relief under the Victim Compensation Scheme, officials said—(KNO)

Environmental, project assessments completed for 13 GW renewable energy projects in Ladakh: GoI

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, APR 01: The Government of India (GoI) on Wednesday said the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the proposed 13 GW renewable energy projects in Ladakh have been completed.

Replying to an unstarred

question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for New & Renewable Energy and Power, Shripad Yesso Naik, said that the Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) is the implementing agency for these projects.

As reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the minister said the ESIA reports have been

shared with the Union Territory administration of Ladakh and the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) for review. The projects are being executed under the Renewable Energy Service Company (RESCO)/developer mode.

The minister further said that key studies, including aerial drone/UAV-based

topographic surveys, soil investigations, and resource assessment studies, have also been completed.

He, however, clarified that these studies, which include data on wildlife surveys, land use maps, grazing assessments, hydrology baselines, and topographical details, are currently not available in the public domain.

"The dissemination of such information is governed by considerations of project confidentiality, competitive bidding processes and data sensitivity," the minister said, adding that relevant information is shared with prospective bidders during the tendering process to facilitate informed decision-making—(KNO)

CEO SSCL conducts On-Ground inspection at Lal Chowk

Orders immediate redressal of Public Grievances

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APRIL 01: In a proactive move to strengthen civic service delivery and ensure responsive governance, Faz Lul Haseeb, Chief Executive Officer, Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), conducted a comprehensive on-ground inspection at Lal Chowk. During the visit, the CEO engaged directly with traders, shopkeepers, and other stakeholders to gather first-hand feedback on pressing civic issues, including sanitation, drainage, and public utility services. The interaction provided a platform for stakeholders to voice their concerns, which were attentively heard and acknowledged on the spot. Traders and business owners welcomed the initiative,



appreciating the administration's hands-on approach and commitment to resolving long-standing issues through direct field engagement. Taking immediate cognizance of the grievances raised, the CEO issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned departments for swift and effective redressal. The Drainage Wing was instructed to urgently address bottlenecks and ensure the proper functioning and maintenance of the drainage network in and around Lal Chowk. The Chief Sanitation Officer of Srinagar Municipal Corporation was directed to further intensify sanitation drives and maintain sustained cleanliness standards in the area, keeping in view its

significance as a high-footfall commercial and public space. Additionally, officials of SSCL were directed to prioritize the resolution of electrical and allied infrastructure issues to ensure seamless public utility services for traders, commuters, and visitors alike. The inspection underscores the administration's continued focus on robust field monitoring, inter-departmental coordination, and time-bound grievance redressal, aimed at enhancing the quality of urban services and improving the overall civic experience in Srinagar. The CEO was accompanied by the Chief Engineer, SSCL; Chief Sanitation Officer, SMC; Executive Engineer, Drainage Wing; and other senior officials from SSCL and SMC.

Additional IGR reviews progress of digitization of Legacy Registration Records at Budgam Court Complex

HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, APRIL 01: Additional Inspector General of Registration (IGR), J&K, Abid Hussain, along with the Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Mehraj-ud-Din, and the Sub-Registrar Budgam, today visited the Court Complex Budgam to review the progress of digitization of legacy registration records. During the review, it was informed that nearly 70 percent of the digitization work has been successfully completed. The officers took detailed stock of the ongoing process and emphasized the need for timely completion of the remaining work to ensure seamless integration of all records.



The digitization of legacy registration data, previously held by the judiciary, and its subsequent transfer to the Registration Department forms a key component of the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP). The initiative aims to centralize land records, minimize litigation related to property transactions, and provide citizens with faster, transparent, and secure access to registration services. Special focus is being laid on uploading legacy data of the past two decades onto the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS). It was further highlighted that in Jammu & Kashmir, the registration of property documents was earlier undertaken by the judiciary. Although the responsibility now rests with the Registration Department, legacy records continue to remain with the courts, necessitating their digitization for streamlined public service delivery. The Additional IGR appreciated the cooperation and support extended by the judiciary in facilitating the digitization process and expressed satisfaction over the progress achieved so far. He reiterated the importance of completing the remaining work within stipulated timelines to ensure the full realization of the objectives of the programme.

DC Kulgam chairs meeting with stakeholders to reviews Traffic Management in district

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, APRIL 01: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today chaired a meeting with concerned officers and stakeholders, including representatives of transporters, to review and ensure the smooth flow of traffic across the district. During the meeting, various issues related to traffic management, road congestion, parking facilities and regulation of transport services were discussed in detail. The DC stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among departments and transport stakeholders to streamline vehicular movement and minimize inconvenience to the public.



Representatives of the transporters also shared their concerns and suggestions regarding traffic regulation, passenger management and operational challenges. The DC assured that all genuine issues would be examined and addressed in a phased manner. Shahzad Alam directed the concerned departments to strengthen traffic management measures, ensure proper enforcement of traffic rules and create designated parking spaces at key locations to ease congestion. He also emphasized the need for public cooperation and urged transporters to strictly adhere to traffic regulations for maintaining smooth and hassle-free movement of vehicles in the district. The meeting was attended by ARTO and other officers from concerned departments, traffic authorities and representatives of transport unions.

Wanpora, Khandiyal, Badwan areas of Gurez Constituency being provided adequate drinking water supply through existing schemes: Javed Rana

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 01: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana, today informed that the areas of Wanpora, Khandiyal and Badwan in Gurez Constituency are being provided adequate drinking water supply through the existing schemes. The Minister stated this while replying to a Calling Attention Notice moved by Legislator Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi in the Legislative Assembly today. He informed that due to continuous rainfall/snowfall experienced recently, turbidity level in the source water increased beyond permissible limits, a normal phenomenon during such weather conditions, thereby disrupting water supply temporarily. The Minister said that in order to mitigate the inconvenience to the public, the department has deployed



water tankers in the affected areas to ensure the availability of safe drinking water. He added that necessary measures are being taken to restore normal water supply as soon as the turbidity levels recede and weather conditions improve. The Minister also said that a Slow Sand Filtration Plant (SSFP) for Wanpora and Badwan has been proposed under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). He added that due to land dispute, the project is on hold and department is actively pursuing it for early execution and completion.

ADDC Shopian reviews District-Level planning for Mission Gyan Bharatam

HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, APRIL 01: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, today chaired a review meeting at the Meeting Hall, Mini Secretariat Shopian to assess the implementation of the newly launched Mission Gyan Bharatam in the district. At the outset, the ADDC briefed officers and field-level surveyors, including Panchayat Secretaries and Supervisors, about the objectives and significance of the mission. He highlighted that Mission Gyan Bharatam, is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, aimed at preservation of India's rich manuscript heritage. The ADDC informed that

dedicated teams comprising linguistic and historical experts have been constituted to undertake village-level surveys across the district. These teams will systematically identify, verify and document rare manuscripts and valuable traditional knowledge resources preserved by individuals and institutions. Emphasizing grassroots outreach, the ADDC directed the field staff to conduct "Har Ghar Dastak" prior to undertaking the survey to ensure maximum coverage. He further instructed that all identified materials and related data must be uploaded on the Mission Gyan Bharatam mobile application in a timely and accurate manner. Highlighting the technological dimension, the ADDC stated that the mission focuses on scientific



conservation and digitisation of manuscripts using modern tools, including artificial intelligence, to create a comprehensive national digital repository accessible to scholars, students and the general public. He also urged officers and surveyors to actively participate

in capacity-building programmes being organised by the Ministry of Culture aimed at enhancing skills related to identification, documentation and preservation of manuscripts. During the meeting, Professor Dr. Jahangir Iqbal, Head, Department

of Persian, University of Kashmir, Srinagar and UT Coordinator, Mission Gyan Bharatam (J&K), delivered a detailed presentation. He highlighted the historical backdrop and significance of the mission, emphasising the urgent need to preserve India's vast manuscript heritage. He elaborated that manuscripts are handwritten documents on materials such as paper, palm leaves, cloth or bark, containing invaluable knowledge related to history, science, medicine, literature, philosophy and culture, which require systematic preservation for future generations. A detailed demonstration of the Mission Gyan Bharatam mobile application was also conducted by NIC guiding participants on its usage, data entry protocols and operational procedures.

SKUAST-K celebrates World Meteorological Day

Launches 'Climate Champion Club' for youth action

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APRIL 01: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir celebrated World Meteorological Day at its Shalimar campus with the launch of a 'Climate Champion Club'. The event, held under the theme 'Observing Today and Protecting Tomorrow', drew a diverse audience of over 200 participants, including students from the Faculty of Horticulture, SKUAST-K and RP School Nagbal. The program was organised by the university's Division of Agrometeorology in collaboration with the Kashmir Chapter of the Association of Agrometeorologists and the Department of Students' Welfare. The day's activities were designed to bridge the gap between



high-level climate science and practical, youth-led action. Dr Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension attended the programme as the Chief Guest and provided a perspective on the region's ecological history. She contrasted the traditional, sustainable practices of earlier Kashmiri generations with the environmental degradation seen in modern times. Addressing the young participants, Dr Kanth emphasized that the responsibility for restoration now rests with the

younger generation. Dr Sameera Qayoom, Head, Division of Agrometeorology, underscored the vital link between climate services and agricultural success. She challenged the attending students to take personal ownership of the planet's future by mastering climate dynamics. Echoing this sentiment, Dean Students' Welfare and Guest of Honour, Dr Sajad Ahmad Gangoo, called for collective action to drive environmental conservation.

The technical sessions explored the intersection of technology and ecology, focusing on how Artificial Intelligence, biotechnology, and carbon sequestration can build agricultural resilience. Beyond lectures, the event featured hands-on demonstrations. Dr Latief Ahmad, the event organizer, alongside faculty members, trained students on the use of portable agrometeorological instruments. The key highlight of the event was the initiation of Climate Champion Club. As part of this new outreach model, SKUAST-K announced the adoption of RP School Nagbal. The partnership aims to transform school students into climate advocates through practical training, regular awareness activities, and direct improvements to the environmental conditions of their campus.

JKEDI Pulwama concludes MDP-8 under RAMP Initiative

HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, APRIL 01: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Pulwama, successfully concluded the Management Development Programme (MDP-8) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) initiative at its Main Campus in Pampore. The programme trained 23 female entrepreneurs, equipping them with structured training to enhance their entrepreneurial skills and strengthen their business capabilities. The valedictory ceremony was attended by District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Pulwama, Raiyees Manzoor; and Shabir Hussain, a renowned Chartered Accountant. While interacting with the participants, DNO, JKEDI Pulwama lauded their active involvement and enthusiasm. He encouraged them to make the most of the knowledge



and skills gained during the programme to establish sustainable and growth-oriented enterprises. He also highlighted the significance of such capacity-building initiatives in promoting entrepreneurship and empowering women at the grassroots level, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas. The JKEDI course team was present during the valedictory function and provided continuous academic and mentoring support throughout the training period. The participants expressed their sincere gratitude to the course team and JKEDI for their guidance, support, and efforts in successfully organizing the programme.

DDC Anantnag convenes Public Durbar at Dandipora

Calls for effective grassroots planning, inclusive development

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, APRIL 01: To address the concerns and grievances of the local community and ensure efficient public service delivery, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat today convened a Public Durbar and grievance redressal camp, at Dandipora, Larnoo.

The program was attended by ADC, GMDIC, CPO, ACD, CAO, CEO, CAHO, DD Fisheries, ARTO, DMO, AD FCS&CA, BMO, Tehsildar and BDO Larnoo, CDPO, Exen PDD, AEEs of PHE, PMGSY and R&B, TSWO, LDM, officials from various other departments besides representatives from SHGs and civil society and ex PRI members and the general public.

During the program, the DDC gave a patient hearing to the residents who raised issues pertaining to road connectivity, healthcare services, banking facilities, school infrastructure, beautification and tourism promotion, land compensation, Ration Cards, electricity bills, among others.

The demands included completion of NH-44 stretch and widening of bridge at Vailoo, provision of sumo stand at Vailoo, pending land compensation for Lessu-Raen, roads, disbursement on MGNREGA material component, clearance of previous liabilities of works, Hols for HSSs, telecom towers at Halan and Sinthan Top, construction of Gadvail-Dandipora and Khreti bridges, developing waste segregation sheds, ATMs for Dandipora and Bidhard, Ek Lavya Model School, adequate



number of passenger sheds, inclusion of eligible families in PHH & AAY categories, building civil libraries and reading rooms, development of playfields and sports infrastructure and banking facilities at Guridraman.

SHG representatives asked for effective coordination with departments like Animal Husbandary, Fisheries and Rural Development, swift loan disbursement through banks and execution of certain public works through them.

The DDC issued on spot directions to revenue authorities to identify suitable land for sumo stand, in consultation with the stakeholders. He further asked the RDD authorities to conduct field survey for identification of suitable

land for waste segregation sheds and civil libraries in Panchayats. ACD was directed to submit detailed report on Gadvail Vailoo bridge so that the issue is resolved in a time bound manner.

Responding to the issues raised by SHG members, the DDC said that it is heartwarming to know about the financial achievements made by women and asked the banks to sort out the issues on credit disbursement on priority.

CEO was directed to expedite the formalities on Ek Lavya Model School for which the land has already been identified. LDM was asked to explore the possibilities of providing ATM services at Dandipora and Bidhard and properly follow up the anticipated approval for banking services at

Guridraman. Further, R&B, PMGSY and Revenue authorities were instructed to process the pending compensation claims under rules.

On the occasion, Tehsildar Larnoo informed that the land for telecom towers at Halan and Sinthan Top has been identified while the R&B authorities informed that work on Khreti bridge, damaged during recent floods, will commence soon.

Addressing the gathering, the DDC assured that major issues would be taken up with the suitable authorities and emergent ones shall be resolved by the concerned departments in a time bound manner. For sustainable, inclusive and holistic development, it is imperative that people participate in planning process at the Gram Sabha level especially in education, health, road connectivity, sanitation, cleanliness and other important matters, he remarked. He further instructed the RDD department to ensure proper conduct of Gram Sabhas so that all villagers participate in grassroots governance and realistic plans are projected.

Termining public welfare paramount responsibility of district administration, the DDC enjoined upon the officers to visit the Panchayats and villages frequently and get valuable feedback from the people so that the beneficiary oriented schemes and development initiatives are implemented effectively.

He noted that people possess remarkable abilities to be the forces of change through community participation (Jan Bagidari) and departments should act as facilitators to ensure public led

development.

Dr. Bilal also called for active involvement of women in planning adding they have great abilities to be the drivers and leaders of inclusive and holistic development, transcending generations.

Regarding playfields, the DDC said these facilities will be developed at Panchayats and the existing sports infrastructure will also be upgraded across the district.

Advising youth to avail benefits of self employment and livelihood generation schemes, the DDC asked the concerned departments to create proper awareness of the flagship initiatives like Mission YUVA, HADP, Spurring Entrepreneurship, PMEGP etc. and conduct awareness-cum-registration camps in far flung areas of the district for their facilitation and enrollment. He further asked the people to engage with the administration on fight against drug abuse so that this menace is eliminated from the society. There is need for early identification of substance abuse victims, their treatment and rehabilitation through self employment opportunities while avoiding their stigmatisation, he observed.

Calling cleanliness a necessary civic virtue, the DDC said the villagers should contribute towards cleanliness of the hamlets so that visible changes on sanitation are made and aesthetic quotient of the rural areas is enhanced.

Local public and civil society members hailed the initiative hoping such programs will continue for their overall welfare and community development.

Pulwama Admin organises training programme on implementation of Mission Gyan Bharatam

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, APRIL 01: District Administration Pulwama today organised a comprehensive training programme at Town Hall Pulwama on the implementation of Mission Gyan Bharatam in the district.

Mission Gyan Bharatam is a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at digitisation and preservation of manuscripts across the country. The mission seeks to establish a National Digital Repository to facilitate seamless access, dissemination, and long-term preservation of India's rich intellectual and cultural heritage.

The training programme was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tral, Sajid Yehaya Naqash, who is also the District Nodal officer for the mission. On the occasion, ADC highlighted the significance of the mission in preserving the rich cultural and intellectual legacy of the country. He stressed upon the field functionaries to carry out the survey with utmost dedication, sincerity and responsibility, strictly adhering to the prescribed guidelines.

The training session was conducted by Prof. Dr. Jehangir Iqbal, Head, Department of Persian, University of Kashmir and Coordinator, Gyan Bharatam J&K.

The session was attended by surveyors designated for the special household survey to be conducted for identification and documentation of manuscripts in line with the objectives of the National Manuscript Survey under the mission.



During the session, Dr. Iqbal delivered a detailed presentation outlining the objectives, methodology and field-level execution of the survey. He elaborated on the process of identifying manuscripts, their documentation, cataloguing and digitisation, and the importance of developing a comprehensive national database through standardized digital formats.

A hands-on training component was also conducted wherein the surveyors were familiarised with survey protocols, data collection techniques, reporting formats and coordination mechanisms. Emphasis was laid on ensuring accuracy, consistency and timely reporting, alongside maintaining proper communication with local stakeholders and custodians of manuscripts.

Highlighting the importance and historical value of manuscripts, Dr. Iqbal urged the surveyors to handle such materials with utmost care, while maintaining the dignity and sanctity of cultural heritage. He also sensitised the participants about ethical guidelines, including the need for cultural sensitivity and obtaining necessary permissions during the survey process.

During the session, he also provided detailed insights into the usage and functioning of the Gyan Bharatam survey application, including data entry and uploading of images for effective implementation.

Among others, the programme was attended by Principal, Government Degree College for Boys Pulwama; Principal Government Degree College for Women Pulwama; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Pulwama; Block Development Officers and other concerned officers.

DC Kupwara visits Villagam, reviews Developmental Works

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, APRIL 01: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse today visited Villagam area to review developmental works and assess the functioning of various departments.

During the visit, the DC inspected the Block Development Office (BDO) Villagam, where he was received by Tehsildar Villagam, Tehsildar Tarathpora, Chief Education Officer Kupwara, Block Development Officer Villagam, besides senior citizens and members of civil society. During the programme organized under the banner of Future Seed Foundation (Trust),



the DC felicitated meritorious students for their outstanding academic achievements and also honoured individuals actively working against drug abuse in the area. Highlighting the significance of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, he stressed the need for collective efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs and build a healthy society. Later, the DC visited Tehsil Office Villagam, where he reviewed the functioning of the revenue administration. He inspected the progress of Digital Crop Survey, digitization of records, and disposal of backlog mutation cases, and directed the concerned officers to expedite these processes to ensure efficient and timely public service delivery.

During the interaction, several issues including the absence of a dedicated Tehsil Office building, non-availability of Jan-Sugam portal for online certificates, and shortage of funds were brought to his notice. The DC assured that all genuine concerns would be taken up with the appropriate authorities.

Legislators raise several public interest issues

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 01: The Zero Hour in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today witnessed wide-ranging deliberations, with the Members raising pressing public issues and seeking timely intervention from the government in redress of these concerns.

MLA Reyaz Ahmad Khan urged the government to take immediate steps to facilitate safe return of students from Jammu and Kashmir presently stranded in Iran. He emphasized the need for coordinated efforts to ensure their well-being and early evacuation.

MLA Shabir Ahmad Kullay called for constitution of a committee to examine the discrepancies between officially claimed sports infrastructure and the actual facilities available on the ground. He highlighted concerns over the mismatch between records and reality, stressing the importance of transparency and accountability.

MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia demanded prompt action on the findings of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), particularly regarding unspent and unaccounted funds in various government departments. He underscored the need for financial discipline and adherence to audit observations.

MLA Nizam-ud-din Bhat drew attention to the shortage of specialist



medical staff at District Hospital Bandipora, specifically absence of a Surgeon Specialist following a recent retirement. He urged the concerned authorities to address the gap to ensure uninterrupted healthcare services to the public.

The House also witnessed detailed discussion on the issue of legislators' salaries, allowances, and related privileges.

MLA Dr. Narinder Singh Raina advocated for a structured and periodic revision of legislators' salaries, aligned with the patterns followed for government employees.

MLA Javid Hassan Baig emphasized that salaries constitute a legitimate entitlement of legislators and called for their rational revision in line with parliamentary practices, while maintaining discretion in public discourse given the diverse socio-economic backgrounds of Members. Supporting this view, MLA Ranbir

Singh Pathania stressed the need for an institutionalized mechanism for revising legislators' emoluments. Referring to the principle articulated by former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee, he noted that such matters should be addressed through an independent and credible framework, safeguarding the dignity and sovereignty of the House.

MLA Sajad Gani Lone described the issue as a test of the authority of the Legislature and called for a review of the factors delaying implementation of the House's recommendations.

MLA Nizam-ud-din Bhat further linked the matter to broader concerns of legislators' privileges and protocol, advocating for a comprehensive and merit-based resolution to settle the issue conclusively.

MLA Muzaffer Iqbal Khan observed that the proposed increase in salary was relatively modest, while a larger enhancement had been suggested in allowances to meet the growing expenditure associated with legislative responsibilities.

Reiterating his earlier concerns, MLA Shabir Ahmad Kullay highlighted the need to enhance the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) allocated to legislators. He noted that the current annual allocation of 4 crore per constituency is insufficient to meet the developmental expectations of the public.

UIDAI hosts UT-Level Training Workshop for Aadhaar Authentication Operators at Jammu

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 01: The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Regional Office Chandigarh, in association with Information Technology Department UT of Jammu & Kashmir, on Wednesday organised a one-day UT-level training workshop for Aadhaar

authentication operators here at the Convention Center.

More than 100 officials from the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Jammu & Kashmir Grameen Bank and other departments attended the programme. State Project Manager UIDAI Shoaib Khan welcomed the

participants and outlined the evolution of Aadhaar and its future roadmap. He elaborated on the two major divisions, Enrollment & Update and Authentication & Verification and recent advancements in both areas. He shared Aadhaar's success over the past decade and highlighted Aadhaar as a fundamental digital

identity of more than 350 Central and 50 State/UT government schemes and services. The training programme covered the Aadhaar authentication ecosystem, related rules and procedures, best practices and security protocols required for efficient and compliant service delivery. The session focused on improving skills, maintaining data

accuracy, ensuring confidentiality and solving practical issues through interactive discussions, demonstrations and real-life examples.

The workshop was conducted by UIDAI Master Trainer Hitesh Gajjar and interactive discussion sessions were held by Manger UIDAI Kuldeep Kumar and Pundee Singh.

DDC Rajouri reviews progress under Mission YUVA, JKIP, stresses accelerated implementation and youth-centric development initiatives

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI, APRIL 01: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting in the VC Room of the DC Office to assess the progress achieved under Mission YUVA and the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP) in

the district.

At the outset, the DDC reviewed the block-wise progress under Mission YUVA. He directed for the effective implementation of the programme at the grassroots level. Specific targets were assigned at the block level, with a focus on Self-Help Groups and ensuring wider community participation.

The meeting also witnessed a detailed review of the progress under JKIP in four blocks of the district.

The DDC took stock of the performance of Sheep Husbandry, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Agriculture and Cooperatives and emphasized convergence and coordinated efforts for achieving desired outcomes.

Highlighting the importance of value addition and income generation, the DDC laid special emphasis on the establishment and strengthening of wool shearing units, mutton processing units and milk processing units to boost the rural economy.

Reviewing the agriculture sector progress, the DDC stressed

the need to adopt climate-smart practices, including promotion of climate-resilient and rainfed crops. Directions were issued to scale up interventions such as mulching, drip and sprinkler irrigation to ensure sustainable agricultural growth and efficient water management.

Assessing the targets assigned to the departments, the DDC

directed the officers to expedite the pace of implementation and ensure timely achievement of set goals.

He underscored the importance of regular monitoring, field-level execution and inter-departmental coordination for maximizing the impact of ongoing schemes.

Among others, ADDC

Malikzada Sheraz-ul-Haq; Deputy Director Employment Mohammad Nawaz; DSWO; Abdul Raheem; District Horticulture Officer Sushil Kumar; Functional Manager DIC Razaqat Aziz; AD Fisheries, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Programme Manager (SHGs) and other district and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

HT EDITORIAL

Don't coerce children to leave for schools early in morning

The Directorate of School Education Kashmir changed the timings for the educational institutions both within the municipal limits of Srinagar city and outside the same. According to the revised school timings the schools operating in Srinagar have been asked to adhere to the timing from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. At the same time the schools operating outside the municipal limits of Srinagar have been asked to operate between 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

The order is somewhat bizarre as the commencement of schools has been advanced by one hour while there is no change in the closure time. It means that the students have to give one more hour at the school and it may be taxing at times for the students especially those who are in the formative stage. It is quite unfair to ask a little child to get up early in the morning and then leave for the school too early.

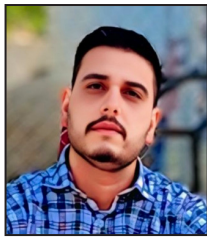
Some of the students are not able to have their breakfast at their home and they have to take the same along while leaving for the school. In other words, it can be conveniently said that these little children are not able to have a sound sleep and at the end of the day it affects their overall development. Ideally the schools should open in the morning at 10:00 AM and operate for five hours with the closure time being 3:00 PM.

It is quite astonishing that the colleges and universities start their day from 10 in the morning while the little children have to start their day much earlier. This is not just and this discrepancy needs to be removed. It is important that the children are allowed to develop in each and every aspect of life and there is no compromise in this regard. Proper development is the right of every child and nobody can deny the same to them.

It is important that the timings of offices, colleges and universities are changed rather than changing the timing of the schools. The policy makers and decision makers have to take a call in this respect and this should be done at the earliest. Grown up people can move to their workplaces and colleges as well as universities in the early hours. At the same time, it is not fair to coerce the children to leave the schools early in the morning.

Chief Patron Of Lubaab Publications Group:
Syed Sad Ud Din Bukhari (Saidi),
Printer Publisher, Owner And Editor:
Syed Jahangir Bukhari,
Printed At: Lubaab Publications, Radio
Colony Gund Hassibhat Lawaipora
Srinagar -190017,
Gen. Manager: Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmad
Cell No - 9697071471,
Editorial Section: 7006846797,
Multimedia Section: 9419008414,
Advertisement Section: 9697071471
RNI No: Jkeng/2011/39231
dailyheadlinestoday@gmail.com
headlinestoday2024@gmail.com

If You Like a Book, Don't Meet the Author



■ **JAWAID IQBAL**

There is a quiet, almost sacred intimacy between a reader and a book. It is not merely ink on paper, but a living, breathing world shaped in the private corridors of the mind. When we fall in love with a book, we are not just admiring a story—we are embracing a feeling, a truth, a version of ourselves reflected through words. And sometimes, in that fragile, poetic relationship, the author remains a distant, almost mythical presence. Perhaps, it is better that way.

To love a book is to build a world untouched by reality. The characters speak in voices we imagine, the landscapes bloom in colors only we can see. The author, in this delicate arrangement, is not a person of flesh and flaws but a silent architect of emotions. When we choose to meet them—literally or metaphorically—we risk collapsing that beautifully constructed illusion.

There is something deeply emotional about this distance. A writer pours their heart into pages, but once the book is released, it no longer belongs solely to them. It becomes ours. The laughter, the tears, the pauses between paragraphs—these are experiences that belong to the reader. Meeting the author can sometimes disrupt this emotional ownership. The person behind the words may not align with the purity of the feelings their work created. And suddenly, the magic feels altered, fragile, and human.

Psychologically, this phenomenon reflects how humans idealize creators. We tend to associate the beauty of a creation with the virtue of its creator. If a novel is wise, we assume the writer must be wise. If a poem is gentle, we imagine a gentle soul. But reality is more complex. Authors are human—layered with contradictions, imperfections, and ordinary struggles. Encountering this reality can create a quiet dissonance, where admiration turns into confusion, or worse, disappointment.

Socially, the culture of celebrity has intensified this urge to "know" the creator. Book signings, interviews, and social media have brought authors closer to their audience than ever before. While this accessibility is enriching in many ways, it also blurs the boundary between art and artist. We begin to judge books not just by their content, but by the personality, opinions, or behavior of the person who wrote them. In doing so, we risk losing the pure, unfiltered experience of literature.

But beyond the relationship between a reader and a book, there exists another layer—one that is often overlooked: the silent companionship that books offer, and how they shape our understanding of friendship.

A good book is, in many ways, a friend. It sits beside us in solitude, speaks when we are silent, and listens when we cannot find the words. It does



not interrupt, does not judge, and does not demand. In a world that often moves too fast, books teach us the patience and depth that true friendships require.

Friendship, like literature, is not about constant presence but about meaningful connection. It is not measured by the number of conversations but by the depth of understanding. Just as we do not need to meet an author to love their work, we do not always need grand gestures to validate a friendship. Sometimes, the quiet assurance that someone exists in our life is enough.

True friendship goals are not found in perfection, but in acceptance. It is about having someone who knows your unfinished sentences, who understands your silences, and who does not demand explanations for every emotion. It is about being seen—not as an ideal version of yourself, but as you are, with all your contradictions.

There is a poetic beauty in friendships that resemble books. Some friends enter our lives like short stories—brief yet impactful, leaving behind lessons that linger long after they are gone. Others are like novels—complex, evolving, and deeply rooted in our journey. And then there are those rare friendships that feel like timeless classics—steady, enduring, and always relevant, no matter how much time passes.

Emotionally, both books and friendships serve as anchors. They hold us steady in moments of chaos and remind us of who we are when the world tries to redefine us. A friend, like a favorite book, becomes a part of our inner voice. Their words echo in our decisions, their presence lingers in our memories, and their influence shapes the way we see the world.

Yet, just as meeting an author can disrupt the magic of a book, overanalyzing friendships can sometimes weaken their essence. Not every bond needs to be questioned or explained. Some connections are meant to be felt, not dissected. The more we try to define them, the more we risk losing their natural rhythm.

Psychologically, humans crave certainty. We want to label relationships, define boundaries, and understand every emotion. But the most meaningful friendships often exist beyond definitions. They are fluid, evolving, and sometimes even contradictory.

They teach us that it is okay not to have all the answers, that it is okay for people to change, and that it is okay for some stories to remain unfinished.

Socially, however, modern life has complicated the simplicity of friendship. In a world driven by appearances, friendships are often measured by visibility—how often we meet, how many pictures we share, how publicly we acknowledge each other. But the truest friendships often exist away from the spotlight. They are found in late-night conversations, in unspoken understanding, and in the quiet comfort of knowing someone cares.

Deep down, both books and friendships remind us of a fundamental truth: connection does not require constant proximity. It requires sincerity.

There is also a certain vulnerability in loving something deeply—whether it is a book or a person. When we invest ourselves emotionally, we open the door to both joy and disappointment. And perhaps that is why the idea of not meeting the author resonates so strongly. It is not about avoiding reality, but about preserving a feeling that is too precious to risk.

But life, unlike literature, does not always allow us to maintain such distances. We meet people, we learn their flaws, and we navigate the complexities of real relationships. And maybe that is where the true lesson lies—not in avoiding reality, but in learning how to hold on to beauty even when reality reveals its imperfections.

Friendship goals, then, are not about finding perfect people, but about building imperfect yet meaningful connections. It is about choosing to stay, even when the illusion fades. It is about understanding that people, like authors, are not defined solely by their best moments or their worst mistakes, but by the entirety of their journey.

To love deeply—whether it is a book or a friend—is to accept this duality. It is to embrace both the poetry and the prose, both the imagination and the reality.

Perhaps, in the end, the statement "If you love a book, don't meet the author" is not a strict rule, but a gentle reminder. A reminder to cherish the magic of imagination, to respect the boundaries between creation and creator, and to understand the delicate balance between idealization and reality.

And when it comes to friendships, it is a reminder of something even more profound: that the people who truly matter are not those who live up to our expectations, but those who remain meaningful even when they don't.

So let books remain your quiet companions, untouched by unnecessary reality. Let friendships grow naturally, without the pressure of perfection. And most importantly, let yourself feel deeply—without the fear of disappointment.

Because in the end, it is not about avoiding disappointment, but about finding meaning despite it. It is about holding on to the words, the moments, and the connections that shape us, even when they are imperfect.

And maybe, just maybe, that is where the real beauty lies—in the spaces between what we imagine and what we experience, in the silence between words, and in the unspoken understanding between hearts.

The writer is a teacher

CITY LIKE FEELING

APPEARANCE OF AUTO-RICKSHAWS IN VILLAGES



■ **SAHIL MANZOOR BHATI**

Auto-rickshaws are now moving on village roads, and it feels as though the entire valley is being placed on a single platform. This development is truly great and appreciable for the upliftment of villages and is very convenient for people living in the upper reaches of the Kashmir Valley.

It gives me immense pleasure to see auto-rickshaws running on village roads and connecting remote villages to nearby towns and cities. The introduction of auto-rickshaws in villages has brought a positive change to rural life. Villages that were once isolated are now witnessing a steady movement of autos on their roads. These autos provide comfort and convenience to people and save them from long and tiring walks.

In earlier times, villagers had to cover long distances on foot. There were no proper roads or transport facilities. People used shortcuts through mountains, hills, forests, rivers, and agricultural lands to reach their destinations. These journeys were full of hardships and dangers. Elderly people, women, and children suffered the most due to the lack of

transportation. There was no comfort, and reaching a nearby market or hospital was a difficult task.

With the passage of time, things have changed rapidly. Development has reached villages, and transportation facilities have improved. Auto-rickshaws have become a lifeline for villagers. They help people travel easily from one place to another. Students use autos to reach schools and colleges. Farmers use them to transport vegetables, fruits, and other agricultural products to markets. Patients can now reach hospitals on time, which has saved many lives.

Today, villages are no longer completely cut off from cities. There is a visible reduction in the gap between rural and urban areas. Roads, electricity, the internet, and transport facilities have brought villages closer to cities. Auto-rickshaws play an important role in this transformation. They act as a bridge between villages and towns and improve communication and connectivity.

In the future, the world may become like a single rounded tray where every country and region is connected and aware of one another. The internet has already made this possible to a great extent. Today, we have powerful digital platforms where people can meet and interact through social media applications like Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and many others. These platforms have connected villages to the global world.

Due to the internet and improved transportation, the difference between cities and villages is slowly decreasing.

Villagers now have access to information, education, and entertainment just like city dwellers. This is a good sign for the present generation and the generations to come. People will be able to enjoy their lives anywhere in the world without facing barriers between cities and villages.

Present Scenario of Cities and Villages

As far as our nation is concerned, India is heading toward great achievements in almost every field. Significant progress has been made in science and technology, agriculture, horticulture, pisciculture, entrepreneurship, and education. Villages are no longer backward; they are becoming centers of growth and development.

India has also achieved remarkable success in the field of space science. Space research is one of the most challenging areas, often requiring decades to achieve major goals. The year 2023 was a great and memorable year for the nation when India successfully landed its Chandrayaan mission on the Moon. This achievement placed India among the leading space-faring nations of the world, alongside countries like the USA and China.

Such achievements inspire rural youths as well. With better roads, transport facilities, and internet access, village students can now dream big. They can prepare for competitive examinations, learn new skills online, and contribute to the nation's progress.

Today, villages are becoming peaceful places with clear signs of develop-

ment. Road connectivity has reached almost every corner of the country. Roads lead to development, and strong road networks are the backbone of progress. Almost every village is now connected by roads, making travel easier and faster.

Auto-rickshaws play a crucial role in making road connectivity meaningful. Roads without transport facilities are of little use. Autos ensure that people can effectively use roads for daily travel, trade, education, and healthcare. They provide employment opportunities to drivers and mechanics and contribute to the rural economy.

Moreover, auto-rickshaws are affordable and suitable for village roads. They can travel on narrow roads and rough paths where larger vehicles cannot reach easily. This makes them ideal for rural areas. They are also more eco-friendly than bigger vehicles, as they consume less fuel.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the introduction of auto-rickshaws in remote villages has transformed rural life. They have reduced hardships, improved connectivity, and brought comfort to villagers. Autos have helped bridge the gap between villages and cities and have become symbols of progress and development. With continuous improvements in infrastructure and technology, villages will continue to grow and prosper, contributing significantly to the nation's overall development.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com



Stuck in Silence: Living with Helplessness



■ ABID HUSSAIN RATHER

All of us must have observed that there comes a moment in our lives when our efforts seem useless and futile. We try our best, we push hard and we wait patiently, but nothing changes and the situation remains unaltered. The world moves on but we remain stuck, watching from the sidelines. This feeling usually called as helplessness is silent, heavy, deeply exhausting and disturbing. Helplessness does not announce itself loudly. Its entry is slow and silent. At first, it is just disappointment. Then it becomes frustration. And before we realize it, it settles into our hearts like a permanent resident. A person begins to believe that whatever he does will not make a difference at all. This belief, more than any failure, becomes truly dangerous and disastrous.

In present times, helplessness has become disturbingly common. Despite advanced technology, instant communication and endless information, people feel much more powerless than ever. Economic pressure, unemployment, rising costs of living, health crises and social uncertainty have pushed many into a corner where choices feel limited, hope feels fragile and purpose feels vague.

For every individual, helplessness is deeply personal. It appears when dreams remain unfulfilled, when hard work goes unrewarded or when circumstances seem unfair and unfavourable. A student studies sincerely but despite working hard he fails repeatedly. Parents work day and night yet struggle to provide basic comfort to their children. A patient follows every instruction but does not recover at all. Slowly, the question arises: What is the point of trying?

This question is toxic. When helplessness takes hold, it does not remain confined to a single problem. It spreads in every direction. It weakens our confidence and fades motivation. Even a small challenge begins to feel impossible and a slight problem looks unlovable. We start doubting our own abilities, our worth and sometimes even our very existence. Our mental peace disappears and it is replaced by anxiety, sadness and anger.

On a social level, helplessness becomes even more dangerous. When entire communities face poverty, injustice or lack of opportunity, frustration turns collective. People stop believing in systems, institutions and sometimes even in one another. Silence replaces protest and indifference replaces compassion. This kind of helplessness does not just hurt individuals but it weakens social bonds and slowly damages the soul of the society.

Psychologists often say that the human mind can endure pain, but it struggles with helplessness. When a person believes that suffering has no end, emotional and physical health both begin to collapse slowly. Sleeplessness, stress and depression related illnesses are often not just medical



problems; they are symptoms of long term helplessness.

Helplessness is not the end of the story. On a keen analysis, history, personal experience and even everyday life remind us of one simple truth: no state remains permanent. Just as night inevitably gives way to morning, moments of helplessness also carry within them the seed of change. That seed is hope. Hope does not always arrive dramatically. Sometimes it comes quietly—as a small opportunity, a kind word, an unexpected support or a renewed inner resolve. It may not change everything at

once but it changes our perspective which is very important for continuing the journey of life forward.

When a person begins to believe that change is possible, efforts regain meaning. Failure becomes a lesson rather than a verdict. Struggle turns into preparation. Hope does not deny difficulties; it simply refuses to accept defeat as final.

Importantly, hope is not a luxury but it is a necessity. It gives us the strength to stand up one more time, to try again even after repeated setbacks. It reminds us that circumstances may be out of our control,

but our response is not and our judicious response can change the circumstances. Equally important is the role of human connection. Helplessness grows in isolation but weakens in company and association. When people support each other—listen without judgment, help without conditions and stand together in difficult times—the weight of helplessness becomes lighter. Sometimes, just knowing that someone understands our pain is enough to restore our faith.

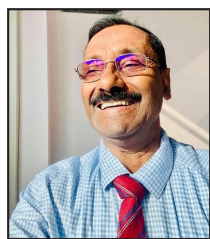
Societies that survive crises are not those without problems, but those where people refuse to abandon one another. Compassion, empathy and collective responsibility act as antidotes to despair and hopelessness. They transform helplessness from a personal burden into a shared challenge. Shared challenges are always easier to face.

In the end, helplessness can become a teacher. It forces reflection. It reveals our weaknesses but also uncovers our hidden strength. Many people discover their true resilience not during success but during their lowest moments. What once felt like an unpleasant ending often turns out to be a beautiful beginning in disguise.

Life does not promise ease, but it does offer possibilities. Every problem carries a solution, though it may take time, patience, and courage to find it. As long as hope remains alive, helplessness loses its power. And perhaps that is the most important lesson of all: even in the darkest moments, a small ray of hope is enough to guide the way forward.

The author can be reached at: rather1294@gmail.com

Reimagining April's Cruelty: T.S. Eliot and Indian Literature



■ DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

In Kashmiri literature, April is celebrated as the arrival of spring, a season of blossoms, tulips, and cultural renewal, but it is also portrayed with poignancy—snow sometimes lingers, and poets often use April to express both joy and longing. Kashmir's literary heritage stretches back to Sanskrit texts and Kashmiri Shaivism, but seasonal imagery has always been central. April, marking Vasanta Ritu, symbolizes rebirth and fertility in Kashmiri poetry, often tied to the valley's natural beauty—cherry blossoms, almond blooms, and the awakening of gardens. Contemporary poets like Inshah Malik, Omair Bhat, and Sobia Bhat have written April-themed poems. Inshah Malik's verse captures April's paradox: "And it snows in April"—a reminder that Kashmir's spring is fragile, often interrupted by lingering winter. April becomes a metaphor for uncertainty, longing, and resilience, reflecting both personal emotions and the socio-political climate of the valley. April is present in the cultural symbols. Tulip Festival in Srinagar: April is the peak season for the famous Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, Asia's largest, which remains open until mid-April. Mughal Gardens: Nishat and Shalimar gardens burst into bloom, inspiring poets and writers with imagery of renewal. Duality of April: While blossoms dominate, snow at higher altitudes like Gulmarg and Sonmarg persists, creating a poetic tension between winter and spring. April is a canvas for describing Kashmir's landscapes—lush valleys, blooming orchards, and flowing rivers. Much like classical Sanskrit poetry, Kashmiri poets use April's spring to symbolize romance and desire. Modern Kashmiri literature often layers April's beauty with undertones of conflict, exile, and yearning for peace.

Thomas Stearns Eliot, one of the most influential poets of the 20th century, reshaped the landscape of modern literature through his innovative style, philosophical depth, and cultural critique. His seminal work *The Waste Land* (1922) stands as a cornerstone of literary modernism, capturing the disillusionment of post-World War I Europe. The poem's opening line—"April is the cruellest month"—has become iconic, not only for its poetic brilliance but also for its subversion of traditional seasonal symbolism. This essay explores Eliot's literary contributions, the structure and themes of *The Waste Land*, and the layered mean-

ing behind the assertion that April is the cruellest month—while also challenging that very claim. Eliot's poetry marked a radical departure from the romantic and Victorian traditions that preceded him. He embraced fragmentation, ambiguity, and intertextuality, reflecting the fractured consciousness of the modern world. His work is characterized by: i) Multiple voices and perspectives, often shifting abruptly. ii) Allusions to classical texts, religious scriptures, and contemporary culture. iii) A rejection of linear narrative, favoring collage-like structures. Eliot's style mirrored the chaos and uncertainty of the early 20th century, especially in the aftermath of World War I. He did not seek to comfort readers but to confront them with the spiritual and cultural void of modern life.

The Waste Land is divided into five sections: i) The Burial of the Dead ii) A Game of Chess iii) The Fire Sermon iv) Death by Water v) What the Thunder Said Each section presents a collage of voices, languages, and references. The poem draws on sources ranging from Shakespeare and Dante to Hindu scriptures and the Grail legend. This intertextuality creates a tapestry of cultural memory, suggesting that meaning can be recovered through myth and tradition. The poem reflects the spiritual and emotional desolation of post-war Europe. The "waste land" is both literal and metaphorical—a barren landscape and a symbol of cultural decay. Eliot portrays a world where: a) Human connection is lost b) Sexual relationships are mechanical and devoid of meaning c) Religious faith is eroded d) Nature itself seems hostile or indifferent. The poem's fragmented structure mirrors the fragmentation of identity and society. It does not offer resolution but invites readers to confront the emptiness of modern existence.

"April is the Cruellest Month" is a paradox. The poem opens with the lines: "April is the cruellest month, breeding Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing Memory and desire, stirring Dull roots with spring rain." Traditionally, April symbolizes renewal and hope. In Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, April's showers awaken life and inspire pilgrimage. Eliot reverses this symbolism. For him, April's renewal is painful—it forces the buried past to resurface, stirs dormant emotions, and exposes the hollowness beneath the surface. Spring is not comforting but cruel because it demands engagement with life. In a spiritually barren world, such engagement is tormenting. Eliot's April is cruel not because of external suffering but because of internal awakening. The poem suggests that: a) Memory and desire are sources of pain. b) Emotional numbness is preferable to painful awareness. c) Nature's renewal contrasts with human stagnation. This inversion reflects the modern condition. In a world stripped of meaning, even beauty becomes unbearable. The lilacs blooming in April are not symbols of joy but reminders of what has been lost.

While Eliot's line is powerful, it is not universally accepted. Many readers and critics argue that: April's cruelty is subjective, tied to the speaker's emotional state. Spring can be healing, offering a chance for rebirth and transformation. The poem's despair is not definitive, and later sections hint at redemption. In *What the Thunder Said*, the final section of the poem, Eliot introduces the Sanskrit word "Shantih" (peace), suggesting the possibility of spiritual renewal. The journey through the waste land may lead to restoration. For many cultures, April is a time of celebration—of harvest, festivals, and new beginnings. The cruelty Eliot describes may resonate with post-war Europe but not with all readers. In agrarian societies, April brings life, not pain. Moreover, the line has been reinterpreted in various contexts. In literature, music, and popular culture, "April is the cruellest month" has become a metaphor for emotional complexity. It invites reflection rather than acceptance.

Eliot's Legacy and the Enduring Power of *The Waste Land* invited critical attention. Eliot's contribution to literature lies not only in his themes but in his form. He redefined what poetry could be—intellectual, fragmented, and deeply intertextual. His work demands active engagement from readers, challenging them to piece together meaning. *The Waste Land* continues to resonate because it captures the existential anxiety of modern life. Its themes—alienation, loss, and the search for meaning—are timeless. The poem speaks to readers across generations, offering both despair and the possibility of renewal. In an age of digital fragmentation, environmental crisis, and cultural upheaval, Eliot's vision remains strikingly relevant. The waste land is not confined to post-war Europe—it is a metaphor for any society grappling with disconnection and disillusionment. T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* is a masterwork of modernist poetry, blending myth, memory, and cultural critique into a haunting portrait of spiritual desolation. The line "April is the cruellest month" encapsulates the poem's paradoxical vision—where renewal brings pain, and beauty exposes emptiness. Yet, this cruelty is not absolute. It is a challenge, a provocation, and perhaps even a call to awaken. Eliot's genius lies in his ability to confront readers with uncomfortable truths while leaving space for interpretation and hope. In the end, April may be cruel—but it is also necessary. It stirs the roots, mixes memory and desire, and forces us to confront what lies beneath. And in that confrontation, there may be the first stirrings of redemption.

April in Indian Literature is a season of renewal, romance and spiritual awakening. April, in the Indian literary imagination, is far more than a mere month in the calendar. It is the embodiment of spring—Vasanta or Basant—a season that has inspired poets, dramatists, and mystics for cen-

turies. Where Western modernist literature, epitomized by T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*, famously declared "April is the cruellest month," Indian literature has consistently celebrated April as a time of joy, fertility, and transcendence. From the Sanskrit classics of Kalidasa to the devotional songs of Jayadeva, from the Bhakti poets of medieval India to the modern works of Rabindranath Tagore and Sarojini Naidu, April emerges as a symbol of renewal, romance, and spiritual awakening. This essay explores the multifaceted role of April in Indian literature, tracing its evolution across traditions and examining its enduring resonance in cultural consciousness.

We may look into the Classical Sanskrit literature to see how poets dealt with April. Kalidasa, often hailed as the greatest poet of classical Sanskrit, devoted an entire work to the six seasons of the Indian year. In *Ritusamhara*, April falls within Vasanta Ritu, the season of spring. Kalidasa's descriptions of April are lush and sensuous: trees heavy with blossoms, bees buzzing in ecstasy, and cuckoo singing melodiously. Lovers wander through gardens, intoxicated by the fragrance of flowers. For Kalidasa, April is the season of *shringara rasa*, the aesthetic of love. Nature itself conspires to unite lovers, making April a time of passion and beauty. Unlike Eliot's cruel April, Kalidasa's April is a celebration of vitality. Jayadeva's 12th-century masterpiece situates the divine romance of Radha and Krishna in the lush groves of spring. April's flowering trees and singing birds provide the backdrop for Krishna's playful encounters with Radha. The season becomes a metaphor for divine union, where human love mirrors cosmic love. Jayadeva's verses are filled with imagery of April's abundance: mango blossoms, humming bees, and moonlit nights. Here, April is ecstatic, a season of spiritual bliss and divine play (*lila*). Sanskrit literature abounds with references to April as a season of festivity. In Bharata's *Natyashastra*, spring is associated with *shringara rasa*. In Kalidasa's plays like *Malavikagnimitra*, April's spring is the setting for romance and intrigue. Across classical texts, April is consistently portrayed as a season of joy, fertility, and union. April in Bengal's Bhakti Poetry is a celebration of happiness. In Bengal's Vaishnava tradition, April's spring is celebrated as the time of Krishna's *Rasa Lila*. The blossoming of nature mirrors the blossoming of devotion. Poets like Vidyapati and Chandidas use April's imagery to express longing and union with the divine. The cuckoo's song becomes the voice of the devotee, calling out to Krishna. The fragrance of flowers symbolizes the sweetness of devotion. April is thus both a natural and spiritual season.

Sant Poets Kabir and Mirabai, though less focused on seasonal imagery, often invoke spring as a metaphor for inner awakening. For Kabir, April's renewal symbolizes the blossoming of

spiritual consciousness. His verses speak of the soul flowering when touched by divine love. For Mirabai, April evokes Krishna's presence, turning natural beauty into a spiritual metaphor. The season becomes a reminder that divine love is eternal renewal. In Sikh tradition, April is significant for Vaisakhi, a harvest festival that also marks the founding of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699. Sikh hymns celebrate April as a time of both agricultural abundance and spiritual renewal. Literature surrounding Vaisakhi emphasizes April's dual role as a season of worldly prosperity and divine grace.

April in Modern Indian Literature is also a season of happiness. Rabindranath Tagore deeply attuned to nature, wrote extensively about spring. In poems like *Basanta*, April becomes a symbol of creative energy and human renewal. For Tagore, spring is not only about flowers and romance but also about the rejuvenation of the human spirit. His songs celebrate April as a time when life itself seems to sing. In his play *Basanta*, April's spring is the backdrop for themes of love, freedom, and creativity. Tagore's April is a season of hope, contrasting sharply with Eliot's despair. Known as the "Nightingale of India," Sarojini Naidu often used seasonal imagery in her poetry. April's spring appears in her verses as a time of festivity, color, and music. In poems like *Spring Song*, she celebrates April's abundance and vitality. For Naidu, April is a season of cultural richness, reflecting India's festivals and traditions.

Modern Indian writers continue to use April as a metaphor for change and renewal. In novels and short stories, April often marks turning points—new beginnings, love stories, or spiritual realizations. Writers like R.K. Narayan and Amitav Ghosh use April's spring to symbolize transformation. The season's symbolism remains deeply embedded in the literary imagination. In Indian literature, April is not cruel but transformative. It represents: a) Nature's renewal: Blossoms, rains, and fertility. b) Romantic union: Lovers brought together by the season's beauty. c) Spiritual awakening: Devotees experiencing divine presence. d) Cultural festivity: Celebrations like *Basant Panchami* and *Vaisakhi*. This contrasts sharply with Eliot's modernist despair. Where Eliot saw April as painful, Indian poets saw it as joyous, even sacred. April is a reminder that literature, like life, is shaped by cultural context: what is despair in one tradition can be joy in another.

International Dickens Medal Winner
Multilingual writer Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee is an International Visiting Professor and Retd. Head Post Graduate English Dum Dum Motijheel College and author of *Twilight of Love and Six Feet Distance*. He may be mailed at prof.ratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com

Collagen For Beauty



SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

Collagen comes from the Greek word kolla, meaning 'glue', which forms the structural basis for the skin, nails, hair, bones, cartilage, and blood vessels.

Collagen is a group of 28 substances – collectively referred to as 'collagen' for ease – and is the most abundant protein in mammals, making up about 30% of the body's total protein content.

Collagen makes up 70% of your skin's dry weight. In an average 80-kg body, that's around 4kg of pure collagen.

It's the primary structural protein in the extracellular matrix – a support network of proteins, sugars, and other components – and plays a vital role in the body's connective tissues, including your skin, bones, cartilage, tendons, and ligaments.

Collagen is the skin's main structural protein, responsible for the plump, smooth complexion characteristic of teens and young adults. Collagen banking means stimulating the production of the protein before it declines.

Collagen banking is a proactive, long-term skincare strategy to stimulate and preserve a peak collagen matrix while your body remains efficient at producing it.

Think of it a bit like a savings plan that allows you to invest in your skin's elasticity. The earlier you make efforts to preserve your collagen, the better.

It aims to maintain the skin's hydration, elasticity, and overall strength for a longer time when our natural supply inevitably depletes in later years, roughly around the

forties.

There are five main types of collagen in the body. The most abundant form of collagen is type I, which constitutes over 90% of the organic mass in bones and about 80% of human skin. Type I builds skin, bones, tendons, and ligaments. Type II helps to make cartilage, the flexible tissue between bones and in your ears and nose. Type III helps create muscles and blood vessels. Type IV helps in the layers of your skin. Type V helps in the cornea of your eyes, some layers of skin, hair and tissue of the placenta.

Collagen production peaks in your mid-twenties before declining approximately 1 per cent to 1.5 per cent due to the natural ageing process per year after the age of 25. Besides age, it accelerates with sunlight, smoking, stress, and lack of sleep.

It is easier to maintain existing collagen than to rebuild lost collagen later in life.

Ultraviolet radiation from the sun is categorised into three types: UVA, UVB, and UVC. UVA and UVB rays penetrate deeply into the skin, where collagen is found. This can cause oxidative stress and activate enzymes that break down collagen.

Solar UV irradiation causes photoaging, characterised by fragmentation and reduced production of type I collagen fibrils that provide strength to skin.

Many of the chemicals in cigarette smoke can damage the skin, which can make the skin sag and wrinkle. Smoking decreases collagen production, levels by accelerating its breakdown and inhibiting new production, leading to premature ageing, saggy skin, and deep wrinkles. Nicotine constricts blood vessels near your skin's surface, reducing nutrient and oxygen delivery to the skin, while over 4,000 chemicals in smoke damage elastin and collagen.

Smoking decreases the synthesis rates of type I and III collagens in skin in vivo and alters the balance of extracellular matrix turnover in skin.



Smoking impairs the skin's ability to repair itself because it promotes the production of an enzyme called metalloproteinase (MMPs), responsible for breaking down collagen in the skin and causing it to sag.

The toxins in tobacco can decrease blood flow to skin cells, reduce moisture in the dermis, and break down collagen and elastin, causing wrinkles.

Sugar causes the fibres to cross-link and tangle. This makes your skin less elastic over time. High sugar intake decreases collagen levels through a process called glycation.

A natural chemical reaction which happens when sugar levels in the bloodstream spike beyond what our insulin can handle.

Refined sugars and high-fructose corn syrup have the most significant impact on glycation. These ingredients are commonly found in: Soft drinks, energy drinks, and sweetened juices. Biscuits, cakes, and processed snacks. Flavoured yoghurts and cereals. Sauce. Excessive sugar can break down collagen, leading to premature age-

ing; this is particularly bad if you're older than 30.

This damage accelerates skin ageing, leading to wrinkles, sagging, and reduced skin elasticity.

The collagen is also lower in quality when you cross 40. Women experience a significant reduction in collagen production after menopause. Studies show that during the first 5 years of menopause, there is a decrease of up to 30% of collagen, and it can also be seen that during the following 15 years, the decrease is greater than at younger ages, with a reduction of 2% of collagen.

When collagen drops, you may experience symptoms such as joint pain, stiff tendons or ligaments. Your muscles may weaken. You could also have papery, saggy, and wrinkly skin.

The ideal age to start collagen banking is in your mid-20s, and well into your 30s. But it's never too late to begin:

Starting early can help you maintain your skin's elasticity and firmness as you age.

This can be as simple as avoiding sun-bathing, tanning beds and using a quality SPF year-round.

Vitamin C: Vitamin C is a crucial cofactor in the biosynthesis of collagen.

Intake of around 250 mg of vitamin C daily stimulates collagen production at a cellular level, enhancing skin firmness, reducing fine lines, and protecting against UV-induced damage.

Vitamin C aids the function of two enzymes – prolyl hydroxylase and lysyl hydroxylase – that stabilise and cross-link collagen fibres.

Applying a vitamin C serum daily can help protect existing collagen from damage and support the production of new collagen.

The body, however, does not store vitamin C, so we recommend cultivating a habit of consuming Vitamin C daily.

Collagen serum- It is a formula that combines ingredients that work together to promote collagen production.

It's important to clarify that collagen serum does not contain actual collagen, but it instead encourages your skin to produce more collagen, therefore helping you to appear younger. Collagen serum helps to restore elasticity, skin hydration and brightness.

The best anti-ageing collagen serums contain: Collagen peptides, Vitamin C, Retinol or retinyl palmitate and Hyaluronic acid.

Applying broad-spectrum SPF, antioxidants, and peptides, along with proper nutrition, supplements, exercise, healthy living, and professional treatments, helps protect the skin and gently stimulates collagen production every day. This daily routine forms the foundation of collagen banking.

The author is international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India

REVIVE CARE +

Dr. Pervaiz Majeed Zunga
CONSULTANT PHYSICIAN SPECIALIST

- ✓ MBBS, MD (MEDICINE) SKIMS
- ✓ EX REGISTRAR SMHS HOSPITAL
- ✓ Fellowship Diabetes
- ✓ Fellowship Gastroenterology, Hepatology

• Expert in Thyroid Disorder
Diabetes, and Diabetic Neuropathy

Available Every
Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday Friday

🕒 Morning 9AM to 10 AM
🕒 Evening 5:30 PM onwards

Near Petrol Pump National Highway Kanispora Baramulla
📞 9906215683

MS. JAASINDAH MIR

RCI-LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST | EFT MASTER PRACTITIONER |
FLOWER ESSENCE PRACTITIONER | AUTHOR

TRAUMA-FOCUSED PSYCHOLOGIST

MA Applied Psychology
(Clinical)-Jamia Millia Islamia
Air 4-NIPCCD (RCI-Licensed)

SPECIALIZATIONS

- ☑ Anxiety & Depression
- ☑ Trauma & PTSD
- ☑ Emotional Dysregulation
- ☑ Chronic Stress
- ☑ Psychosomatic & Pain Disorders
- ☑ Parent-child Counselling
- ☑ Adolescent & Young Adult Mental Health

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

2000+ Therapy Sessions Delivered
20+ Workshops Conducted
Former Lead Psychologist At
K.R. MANGALAM UNIVERSITY, GURUGRAM
Founder - Redeemer Heals Counselling & Wellness

THERAPY FOR

- ☑ Children And Adolescents
- ☑ Adults
- ☑ Individuals & Couples
- ☑ Parent-child Counselling
- ☑ People Requiring Subtle Help With Emotional Regulation

THERAPEUTIC EXPERTISE

EFT | REBT | CBT | FLOWER ESSENCE TREATMENTS |
MR | ART & PLAY THERAPY

Available Post

9TH JANUARY AT REVIVE CARE
NATIONAL HIGHWAY KANISPORA NEAR PETROL PUMP
SATURDAY & SUNDAY

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT
A Day Prior To Your Visit
Contact Us At
📞 9906215683

Bringing Better Health Closer To Home +

Revive Care

Complete Approach to your Well being

Chemists & Druggists , Polyclinic , Clinical Lab

AVAILABLE SERVICES

- ✓ Minor Surgical Procedures Including,
 - ➔ Post Operative Dressing
 - ➔ All Types Of Wound Dressing
 - ➔ Immediate First Aid

Lab Facilities (Collection Centre of Global Diagnostic & Imaging centre)

AVAILABLE CONSULTATIONS

- ✓ General Medicine
- ✓ Chest Medicine
- ✓ Braces & Dental Care
- ✓ Speech Therapy & Audiology

- ✓ Orthopedics
- ✓ Paediatrics
- ✓ Clinical Psychology
- ✓ Neurosurgery

Contact Us At 📞 9906215683

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT
A day prior to your visit : (First Come, First Served)

NATIONAL HIGHWAY KANISPORA NEAR PETROL PUMP

REVIVE CARE +

DR. GURDEV SINGH BALI
(BDS, MDS ORTHODONTICS)
(Govt. Dental College Srinagar)

BOOK APPOINTMENT

Call To Schedule Your Visit

REVIVE CARE

NATIONAL HIGHWAY KANISPORA
NEAR PETROL PUMP
📞 9906215683

x

REVIVE CARE x MAX HOSPITALS
BRINGING WORLD-CLASS ENT CARE TO BARAMULLA!

Dr. SUMIT MRIG

Director & Head,
ENT & Cochlear implant surgery
Max Smart super speciality hospital Saket & Max Hospital Dwarka . NEW DELHI

Director Sankalp ENT & Cochlear Implant Centre
NEW DELHI

@kifayatkifi

JOIN FACEBOOK LIVE
WITH Dr.SUMIT , Mr.TURAB, Former Sr. Audiologist
at Max Hospital Saket ,Delhi
@ Kifayatkifi
🕒 8:00PM On January 18th , Sunday

Satish Sharma reviews functioning of Youth Services & Sports Deptt

Pushes for HR reforms, infrastructure expansion, strengthened grassroots sports framework

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APR 1: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma today reviewed functioning of the Department of Youth Services and Sports, focusing on critical administrative and human resource issues.

The review aimed to chart a strategic roadmap for the holistic development of sports and youth engagement across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister addressed the key challenges and explored opportunities to enhance the sports infrastructure, promote youth participation and streamline departmental operations. He emphasised the need for innovative approaches to nurture young talent and encourage sports excellence in the region.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Director General Youth

Services and Sports Anuradha Gupta, Secretary J&K Sports Council Nuzhat Gul, Special Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Additional Secretary YSS, Joint Director Finance and other senior officers of the department.

The Minister had a detailed department-wise review of ongoing programmes, institutional mechanisms and field-level operations. He emphasized the need for results-oriented, transparent and accountable governance framework to ensure that policies translate effectively into outcomes on the ground.

Satish Sharma also reviewed the long pending human resource issues, which he described as "central to the efficiency and morale of the department."

Detailed discussions were held regarding regularisation of Rehbar-e-Khel (ReK) instructors, with the Minister directing the officers to fast-track the process by resolving procedural bottlenecks and ensuring a fair, transparent, and time-bound mechanism.

Focusing on the welfare and

motivation of grassroots-level workforce, Satish Sharma reviewed the status of National Youth Corps (NYC) volunteers and stressed the urgent need to enhance their honorarium in recognition of their vital contribution in mobilizing youth and implementing sports and developmental programmes at the grassroots level. He further directed the department to examine viable modalities for their phased regularisation, stating that "those who have served the system with dedication deserve institutional support and stability."

The Minister also took stock of the availability and deployment of human resources across districts and zones, calling for a rational and need-based approach to staffing so that no region remains underserved. He instructed the officers to identify gaps and submit a comprehensive proposal for strengthening manpower in critical areas.

Satish Sharma also took a thorough review of ongoing and proposed sports infrastructure projects,

including stadiums, indoor sports complexes, playgrounds and training centers. He stressed the importance of timely completion of all projects, adherence to quality standards and optimal utilization of funds.

"Developing world-class sports infrastructure at the grassroots level is essential for nurturing talent and providing equal opportunities to youth from every corner of the Union Territory," the Minister said. He further directed that special focus be given to rural and far-flung areas to ensure inclusive and equitable development.

The Minister also emphasized the importance of convergence and coordination between the Department of Youth Services & Sports and the J&K Sports Council for maximizing impact and avoiding duplication of efforts. He called for a unified and synchronized approach in organizing sporting events, talent identification programmes, and coaching initiatives.

Highlighting the transformative power of sports, Satish Sharma reiterated that the government is

committed to build a vibrant sports culture that not only promotes physical fitness but also fosters discipline, leadership, and social harmony among youth.

"Sports is a powerful medium to channel the energy of youth in a positive direction. Our aim is to create an enabling environment where talent is identified early, nurtured professionally, and provided with platforms to excel at national and international levels," he added.

The Minister also directed the officers to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, ensuring regular follow-ups on key decisions and measurable outcomes. He stressed the use of technology and data-driven approaches for better planning, execution, and tracking of departmental initiatives.

Reaffirming the government's unwavering commitment to youth empowerment, Satish Sharma assured that all genuine concerns of employees, volunteers and stakeholders would be addressed in a time-bound manner.

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written on my Adhaar Card Having adhaar No 7315 2288 7885 as Afreen Javaid D/O Javaid Ahmad Khan
While my actual name is Afreena Javaid D/O Javaid Ahmad Khan According to my D.O.B Class 10th . Now I want to correct it.
If any body have any objection He/she can contact concerned authority within a period of 7 days after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name :-Afreena Javaid
D/O Javaid Ahmad Khan.
R/O Rangeen Kultreh Chodoora Budgam
Adhaar No:-7315 2288 7885**

Public Notice

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer id no 0214010012256 From Mohd Yaseen Najar S/O Late Mohd Sultan Najar

R/O Khandaji Satkoji Handwara District Kupwara to Mohd Amin Najar S/O Late Mohd Sultan Najar R/O Khandaji Satkoji Tehsil Handwara if anybody having any objection in this regards he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the P.D.D Department chotipora Handwara within of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection will be entertained.

**Mohd Amin Najar S/O Late Mohd Sultan Najar
R/O Khandaji Satkoji Tehsil Handwara
District Kupwara**

Public Notice

I, Shabeer Ahmad Khan son/daughter of Late Ghulam Hassan Khan resident of TANGWARI Bala Tehsil Wagoor District Baramulla do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. That my father, Late Ghulam Hassan Khan, was the registered consumer of electricity connection bearing Consumer No 0212040002231 installed at Tangwari Bala.
2. That my father expired on 08/11/2019
3. That I am the legal heir of the deceased and reside at the above-mentioned address.
4. That I request the concerned electricity department to transfer the said electricity connection in my name.
5. That I undertake to pay all future electricity dues and clear any outstanding bills, if applicable.
6. That the information provided above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

**Shabir Ahmad Khan
S/o: Late Ghulam Hassan Khan
R/o: Tangwari Bala**

Public Notice

I, Rafi Jan D/o Ghulam Mohammad R/o Veer Sarn, hereby inform that my name has been wrongly recorded in J&K Bank Pahalgam bearing account No. 0122040100010490.

My correct name as per Aadhaar Card is Daisy Jan W/o Sabir Ahmad Wani R/o Wadan, Anantnag, Kashmir.

Hence, my name may be read and treated as Daisy Jan for all purposes.

Any objection in this regard may be conveyed within 15 days from the date of publication.

**Sd/-
Rafi Jan / Daisy Jan**

Commissioner Secretary inaugurates orientation workshop for DYSS officers, officials

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APR 1: A two-day orientation course cum workshop for the officers and officials of the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) J&K began today at the Convention Centre, marking a key step towards enhancing the sports infrastructure and talent development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Commissioner Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Dr Shahid Iqbal, inaugurated the workshop, emphasising the need for sustained support to drive sports development and robust youth engagement programs. "This initiative reaffirms DYSS J&K's commitment to build a robust sports ecosystem, empowering youth, and positioning the region as a powerhouse in Indian sports," he said.

The workshop drew participation from the District Youth Services and Sports Officers, officers and officials from various wings, Physical Education Masters and Teachers from across J&K.

Dr Iqbal advised the participants to leverage the workshop for efficient program implementation and flawless execution of sports activities.

Director General Youth Services and Sports, Anuradha Gupta, highlighted ambitious targets for nurturing young



talent and elevating J&K's sports ecosystem to national prominence.

The workshop focused on streamlining sports activities, talent scouting, and strategies to boost J&K's medal tally on the national stage.

The Chief Guest felicitated the best-performing districts in online events on the MyBharat portal, recognising winners in Aorohan Quiz, Volleyball, Cricket, Football, 8 on 8 Challenge and Green Jammu and Kashmir.

JKBOSE allows migration of CBSE, other Board students for 2025-26 Academic session

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APR 01: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) has allowed students from CBSE and other Government-recognised Boards across the country to seek admission in JKBOSE-affiliated institutions for the Academic Session 2025-26.

An official notification issued by JKBOSE in this regard reads that students the students who have passed and are otherwise eligible or have appeared in their Class 9th Secondary School Examination (Class

10th), Higher Secondary Part-I (Class 11th) as the case may be, from CBSE or any other Govt. Recognised Board of the country and are desirous to migrate to J&K Board of School Education for seeking admission in its affiliated institutions for the Academic Session 2025-2026 in their next higher classes, i.e., 10th, 11th and 12th respectively will be allowed to do so provisionally on the same analogy as is being done in case of candidates of this organisation (JKBOSE) who appear as Regular candidates.

"The admissions shall be,

however, regularised by the concerned Registration Sections (K.D./ JD) and Sub / Branch offices of the JKBOSE subject to production of their pass certificates including other requisite documents of the corresponding qualifying examination(s) conducted by their respective Boards and determination of the eligibility by the J&K BOSE and applicable fee etc, failing which their provisional admission shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio", the notification reads.

The heads of institutions have also been directed to obtain an undertaking from

migrating students acknowledging possible cancellation of admission in case of non-qualification, it adds

JKBOSE further informed that admissions under the eligibility-cum-migration category will remain open till May 21, 2026.

Pertinent to mention, Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo while chairing a review meeting of JKBOSE on 30th March, 2026 had issued strict directions to JKBOSE authorities to streamline migration process of CBSE, other Board students to JKBOSE.

DLSA Reasi hosts series of legal awareness events

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

REASI, APR 01: Under the visionary leadership of Khalil Choudhary Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Reasi (also Pr. District and Sessions Judge) and the guidance of Pooja Gupta, Secretary, an awareness programme on Prohibition of Child marriage and related Government Schemes was organized today at Shajroo Jamaslan and Dewal

Mahore

The participants were educated about the harmful effects of early child marriage, its legal implications under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and the importance of education and empowerment of children, especially girls.

Similarly, an awareness program on Mediation was conducted by the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA at Main Bazar Reasi. The program was organized

under the directions of the Secretary, DLSA to educate the general public about the significance of mediation as an effective alternative dispute resolution mechanism. Emphasis was laid on how the mediation helps in resolving disputes amicably, saving both time and cost, besides reducing the burden on courts. The PLVs also interacted with the public and addressed their queries regarding mediation and legal aid services.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR JAMMU - 180001

website: <http://jkpsc.nic.in> | Jammu: 0191-2566528 (f) 2566530

email: jkpscsecret3ry@gmail.com | Srinagar: 0194F2312629 (f) 2312634

Subject: Date Sheet for Jammu & Kashmir Combined Competitive (Main) Examination, 2025.

NOTIFICATION NO. PSC/EXAM/2026/03 DATED: 01.04.2026

In continuation to this Office Notification dated 13.02.2026, it is for information of all the concerned eligible candidates that the J&K Combined Competitive (Main) Examination, 2025 shall be conducted as per following Schedule:

Date/Day	Forenoon Session 10:00 AM to 01:00 PM	Afternoon Session 02:30 PM to 05:30 PM
02-05-2026 (Saturday)	(Qualifying Paper) English	(Paper-I) Essay
04-05-2026 (Monday)	-	(Paper-II) General Studies – I
05-05-2026 (Tuesday)	-	(Paper-III) General Studies – II
06-05-2026 (Wednesday)	-	(Paper-IV) General Studies – III
07-05-2026 (Thursday)	-	(Paper-V) General Studies – IV
09-05-2026 (Saturday)	-	(Paper VI) (Optional Paper – I) Agriculture / Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science / Anthropology / Botany / Chemistry / Civil Engineering / Commerce & Accountancy / Economics / Electrical Engineering / Geography / Geology / History / Law / Management / Mathematics / Mechanical Engineering / Medical Science / Philosophy / Physics / Political Science & International Relations / Psychology / Public Administration / Sociology / Zoology / Dogri / English / Hindi / Kashmiri / Punjabi / Urdu.
10-05-2026 (Sunday)	-	(Paper VII) (Optional Paper – II) Agriculture / Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Science / Anthropology / Botany / Chemistry / Civil Engineering / Commerce & Accountancy / Economics / Electrical Engineering / Geography / Geology / History / Law / Management / Mathematics / Mechanical Engineering / Medical Science / Philosophy / Physics / Political Science & International Relations / Psychology / Public Administration / Sociology / Zoology / Dogri / English / Hindi / Kashmiri / Punjabi / Urdu.

The Admit cards will be uploaded on the website of the Commission w.e.f. 23.04.2026. However, in case, a candidate is not able to download his/her admit card, he or she may represent before the Commission two days before the Examination Date with a valid proof of having filled in Online Application form and online fee, failing which it shall be presumed that they are not interested in appearing in the said examination and no claim whatsoever shall be entertained.

Note:

1. The candidates should read carefully all the instructions mentioned on the admit card.
2. Only those candidates should appear in the Main Examination, who fulfills the eligibility criteria prescribed under Notification No. 03-PSC (DR-P) of 2026 dated 13.02.2026. However, permission to appear in the CCE-Main Examination is purely provisional subject to further verification of their documents/eligibility at any stage of selection process.
3. The candidature of such applicants shall be rejected at any stage of process of selection, who are found to have misrepresented or concealed the material facts having a bearing on their eligibility.

**No: PSC/Exam/GCE (Mains-2025)/2026/03
Dated: 01-04-2026**

**Sd/- (Sachin Jamwal) JKAS
Controller of Examinations,
J&K Public Service Commission**

DIPK: 28/26 | Dated: 01-04-2026

Sakeena Itoo flags off group of students for 'Watan Ko Janoo' exposure tour

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 01: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today flagged off a group of students embarking on an educational exposure tour under the flagship 'Watan Ko Janoo' Youth Exchange Programme from K K Hakku Hockey Stadium here.

The Exchange Programme has been organised by J&K Rehabilitation Council of Social Welfare department in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, MLA Banihal Sajjad Shaheen, Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare Sarmad Hafeez, senior officers of Social Welfare department and J&K Rehabilitation Council, large number of students, their parents and teachers were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Education Minister Sakeena Itoo highlighted the importance of



experiential learning beyond classrooms, emphasizing that exposure visits provide students with opportunities to understand cultural diversity, educational

innovations and developmental achievements across country first-hand.

"Act as ambassadors of their respective areas and make most

of the learning experience by engaging actively with new environments and ideas during the tour," the Minister told the students.

The Minister remarked that the 'Watan Ko Janoo' initiative plays a significant role in nurturing confidence, leadership qualities and mutual understanding among youth.

She added that such programmes help students develop a broader national perspective while strengthening bonds among different regions of the country.

The Education Minister reiterated the commitment of Omar Abdullah led Government towards providing a holistic educational opportunities and creating platforms that promote learning, cultural exchange and national unity among the youth.

The Minister also interacted with students and extended her best wishes for a safe and enriching journey.

She urged them to share their experiences with peers upon return so that the benefits of the programme reach a wider student community.

Amit Sharma highlights digital Census 2027 roadmap; clarifies SIR distinction, key timelines

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 01: Chief Principal Census Officer and Director Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, today addressed a press meet here and shared comprehensive details regarding the upcoming Census 2027, which will be India's first Census to be conducted fully through digital mode.

Highlighting the scale of the exercise, Amit Sharma informed that Census 2027 will ensure complete confidentiality of individual data as per the provisions of the Census Act, 1948. The Census will be carried out in two phases across the Union Territory, with the first phase of House Listing Operations and Housing Census scheduled from June 1 to June 30, 2026, preceded by a 15-day self-enumeration period from May 17 to May 31, 2026, he added. Besides, the population enumeration in non-snow bound areas will be undertaken in February 2027 while snow-bound areas will be covered earlier in September 2026 as per notified timelines.

He highlighted that the option to self-enumerate wherein people can submit their own information through Self Enumeration online portal is a first-time feature and unique initiative of Census 2027. Emphasizing the digital aspect, data collection on household amenities and assets will be carried out through mobile applications equipped with in-built validation checks. A web-based Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) will enable real-time monitoring and efficient execution of Census activities.

He further informed that extensive preparatory work has already been completed, including freezing of administrative boundaries, conduct of pre-tests, development of training modules in multiple languages and appointment of Census functionaries at district and field levels. Likewise, training of Census functionaries, enumerators and supervisors is currently underway to ensure accuracy and uniformity in data collection.

Amit Sharma specifically clarified that Census 2027 is entirely distinct from the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. He stated that while SIR pertains to revision of voter lists, the Census is a comprehensive national exercise for collection of demographics, socio-economic and housing data of persons for policy planning and governance.

On data security, Amit Sharma assured that stringent safeguards have been put in place, including end-to-end encryption, secure transmission protocols and ISO certified data centers designated as Critical Information Infrastructure, ensuring complete protection of personal information.

Responding to queries, Sharma informed that Enumerators and Supervisors will visit each household during the normal working hours within the notified period carrying valid Identity Cards and Appointment Letters. He advised that their credentials should be verified before sharing information. He added that recognized local officials like teachers, revenue officials are being engaged to ensure familiarity and trust.

The Chief Principal Census Officer for the Union Territory urged people to actively participate in the Census exercise, stating that accurate and reliable data is crucial for inclusive development, targeted welfare measures and effective governance.

He was accompanied by Manmeet Singh Loomba, Deputy Chief Principal Census Officer and Nimrat Kour, Assistant Chief Principal Census Officer, Jammu and Kashmir.

Restoration project worth Rs 3 cr approved for flash flood-damaged Brakpora-Kanganhal-Chitergul road: Dy CM

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 01: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary today informed the House that the road stretch at Brakpora-Kanganhal-Chitergul suffered extensive damage due to recent flash floods.

The flash floods had washed away portions of the road edges and adjoining areas, leading to erosion of the embankment and partial loss of the carriageway.

The Deputy Chief Minister stated this while replying to a Calling Attention motion moved by MLA Anantnag Peerzada Mohammad Syed in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today.

He said that the high-velocity floodwaters caused severe erosion along the road stretch, reducing the effective width and affecting the stability of the carriageway.

Before the floods, he informed, the road had a blacktopped surface width of approximately 18 feet (excluding shoulders), categorized as an intermediate lane and capable of accommodating two-way traffic. However, after the erosion, the width at the affected spot has been reduced to around 12 feet, effectively turning it into a single-lane stretch and creating inconvenience for vehicular movement, particularly during peak hours.

The Deputy Chief Minister informed that, to address the damage comprehensively, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) worth 3 crore has been prepared considering the extent of damage and the need for permanent restoration. The DPR has been approved under the UT Capex Budget.

He further said that the restoration work has been tendered out for 295.56 lakh and the tender process is currently underway. The bids are scheduled to be opened on April 15, 2026, following which the work will be allotted to the successful bidder and taken up on priority.

The Deputy Chief Minister added that despite the damage, the road remains trafficable and is being used by commuters with caution. However, the narrowed portion poses inconvenience and safety concerns.

He said that the proposed restoration work will not only repair the damaged stretch but also restore the road to its original width and structural strength. Measures such as edge protection, embankment strengthening and improved drainage systems will be incorporated to prevent similar damage in the future.

Once completed, he added, the project will significantly enhance the road safety, improve riding quality and ensure smooth connectivity for the local population.

DDC Doda reviews NGT Compliance

Pushes for strengthening environmental management

HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, APRIL 01: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Krishan Lal today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of directives issued by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and evaluate the status of environmental management practices in the district.

The DDC emphasized strict adherence to NGT guidelines and underscored the need for coordinated and sustained efforts to preserve ecological balance and ensure a clean and healthy environment for the public. He stressed the timely execution of the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) project at Baderwah and directed the concerned officers to expedite its completion within the stipulated time frame.

Reviewing the progress of D-Wet projects in Baderwah, the officers informed that four such units are planned for construction. The DDC directed that all procedural formalities be completed promptly to facilitate early execution.

The meeting also reviewed the status of soakage pits, commercial establishments, public waste management units and CCTV



installations. It was informed that 47 soakage pits have been completed and CCTV cameras installed at key locations to monitor and deter violations. The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) apprised that the STP at Sub-Division Hospital Baderwah is fully functional and effectively treating hospital waste, contributing to improved water quality.

Detailed deliberations were held on solid waste management, including door-to-door waste collection, segregation at source, development of community sewage sheds, provision of dedicated waste collection vehicles and scientific disposal methods. DDC directed all concerned departments and municipal bodies to ensure comprehensive coverage of waste

collection services and to strengthen sanitation systems, particularly in urban and semi-urban areas.

Special emphasis was laid on promoting public participation through awareness programmes, highlighting the impact of human activities on the environment.

The DDC directed stakeholder departments to prepare a calendar of IEC (Information, Education and Communication) activities and intensify cleanliness drives, especially along the Neeru River.

The DDC also reviewed the progress of the 6-kilometre fencing project along the Neeru River. The concerned officers informed that work is on. The DDC stressed completion of the project within the stipulated time frame.

To enhance transparency and accountability, the DDC asked for geo-tagged photographic evidence and regular reporting by field staff. Officers were directed to conduct routine inspections and submit daily progress reports.

The meeting was attended by ADC Baderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, CMO Dr. Tanvir Ahmed, ACP Mushraf Haff, XEN (REW), Tehsildar Baderwah (virtually), BDO Baderwah, Accounts Officer BDA and other concerned officers and officials.

Water level at Sangam MS rises to 7 feet after recent rains: Javed Rana

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 01: Minister for Jal Shakti Javed Ahmad Rana today informed the House that due to persistently low temperatures during winter, the gauge readings at the Sangam monitoring station in the Jhelum River basin remained around one foot for most of the season.

The Minister stated this while replying to a Calling Attention motion moved by MLA Zaidil Tanvir Sadiq in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly during the ongoing Budget Session.

He said that snowmelt in the Jhelum River generally becomes

noticeable during March and April as temperatures begin to rise. Following the recent spell of rainfall, the gauge level at the Sangam monitoring station has been recorded at around seven feet. He added that the contribution of snowmelt in river runoff typically continues till the end of May, provided there are no intermediate weather disturbances. With the arrival of the monsoon in late June or early July, runoff levels in water bodies increase again.

The Minister further informed that the Directorate of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing (DEERS) has prepared a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) report, which provides a preliminary

vulnerability assessment of downstream habitations and bridges using basic GIS analysis. The draft report is presently under consultation.

He said that although the Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) Department, Kashmir does not have a direct mandate to assess GLOF risks, the Morphology and Climate Directorate of the Central Water Commission (CWC) is monitoring the glacial lakes and water bodies across the Himalayan and Tibetan regions that drain into India and regularly uploads monitoring reports on its website.

Highlighting the flood monitoring mechanism, the Minister said that in the Jhelum

basin, the I&FC Department has installed 22 Automatic Water Level Recorder (AWLR) sensors and 8 rain gauges at key nodal points across the valley to record hourly water level round the clock. The data helps generate flood forecasts and advance warnings, enabling the administration to take timely preventive measures during flood situations.

He added that the Kashmir Flood Watch app, developed by I&FC Kashmir and available across all digital platforms, also helps alert the residents about changing flood conditions and potential risks.

The Minister further said that to strengthen the climate resilience

and water security, several initiatives have been undertaken. These included the promotion of modern irrigation techniques such as micro-irrigation, development of artificial water storage structures and rejuvenation of natural water bodies like lakes and ponds. These efforts are being supported under various schemes including Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority and the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain initiative.

The Minister also informed that DEERS is currently revising the State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC), which is at an advanced draft stage.

Master Plan being formulated for Baderwah Development Authority: Govt

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 01: The Tourism department is formulating a comprehensive Master Plan for Baderwah Development Authority (BDA), which is currently underway.

This was stated by Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakeena Itoo, in the House today, while replying to a question raised by Legislator Shakti Raj Parihar on behalf of MLA Daleep Singh regarding Municipal Committee Baderwah.

She was replying on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah.

She informed that the Tourism

department is in the process of initiating a time-bound exercise for formulation/revision of Master Plans for various Tourism Development Authorities, including the Baderwah Development Authority for incorporating updated planning and development requirements.

The Minister also gave out that the Municipal Committee Baderwah is not facing dearth of funds regarding construction/renovation of lanes/footpaths and drains in its 13 Wards.

She also said that the existing Master Plans shall remain in force until they are lawfully revised or replaced, thereby ensuring continuity in planning control and regulated development.

Govt realizes over Rs. 3.83 cr under CA, NPV for Srinagar-Baramulla Highway diversion: Javed Rana

JAMMU, APRIL 01: An amount of over Rs. 3.83 crore has been realized under Compensatory Afforestation (CA) and Net Present Value (NPV) on account of forest land diversion for the Srinagar-Baramulla National Highway.

This was stated by Minister for Jal, Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana while replying to a question raised by Legislator Dr Sajjad Shafi in the Legislative Assembly today.

The Minister said that the user agency has deposited the requisite

compensatory levies, including Rs. 96,43,949 for compensatory afforestation and Rs. 2,87,31,678 as Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land.

Javed Rana said that compensatory measures, including afforestation and ecological restoration, have been undertaken in lieu of forest land diverted for widening of the Srinagar-Baramulla National Highway. Further, a proposal for plantation of 27,000 saplings over 27 hectare of degraded forest land has been prepared and approved by the competent authority. It was

also stated that no separate plantation target has been fixed for the year 2026, as plantation activities were completed during 2024-25.

With regard to environmental protection and ecological restoration, the Minister stated that slope stabilization works are being carried out by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) along the affected stretch. These included construction of breast walls and retaining walls at various locations, with 22,315 metre envisaged under DPR, of which, 15,900 metre has been completed, so far. The Minister said that total

area diverted for construction of the Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri Road (Section-4) under the Border Roads Organisation in District Baramulla, is 20,9352 hectare under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The final forest diversion approval has been accorded by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

The government reiterated its commitment towards ensuring that infrastructure development is carried out in an environmentally sustainable manner, with due emphasis on mitigation and restoration measures.

Hegseth signals increased Naval activity through Strait of Hormuz amid rising tensions

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

WASHINGTON APR 01: US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Tuesday that "many more" ships are now passing through the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz, underscoring heightened military and commercial activity in the region as tensions with Iran continue to escalate.

Speaking during a Pentagon briefing, Hegseth revealed that he made an unannounced visit over the weekend to US service members operating within the United States Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility.

He declined to specify the locations visited, citing operational security concerns and the risk of exposing troops to potential targeting.

"The trip was an honor," Hegseth said. "I witnessed the best of America — warriors united in purpose, commitment, and capability."

Hegseth described a markedly different atmosphere among troops compared to past conflicts such as Iraq and Afghanistan, emphasizing a sense of urgency and clarity of mission. He recounted an interaction with a female service member who, when asked what she needed, replied simply, "More bombs."

According to Hegseth, service members expressed strong motivation and confidence in achieving operational goals.

He said he met personnel across ranks and specialties, including Air Force and Navy pilots, missile defense operators, and intelligence analysts. In one instance, he shared his personal contact information with an Air Force analyst to stay updated on "ground truth."

Joining the briefing, Dan Caine reported significant operational gains over the past month. He said U.S. forces have neutralized



more than 150 ships and struck over 11,000 targets in the last 30 days alone. Increased air

superiority, he added, is allowing B-52 bomber missions deeper over land, expanding targeting options.

Hegseth confirmed that diplomatic talks with Iran are "very real, active, and gaining strength," but warned that failure to reach an agreement with President Donald Trump would result in intensified U.S. military action.

He also suggested that leadership changes in Iran could influence negotiations, saying the country's leadership "should be wiser than the last."

Meanwhile, the Trump administration has expressed frustration with allied nations for what it sees as insufficient involvement in securing maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. Trump, posting on Truth Social, urged allies to "build up some delayed courage" and take a more active role.

Hegseth echoed that

sentiment during the briefing, remarking,

"The Strait of Hormuz is not just an American problem set." He specifically referenced the Royal Navy, suggesting that traditional allies should step up their presence.

The Strait of Hormuz remains one of the world's most important shipping lanes, handling a significant portion of global oil transit. While U.S. officials emphasize increased security operations, some foreign leaders have pointed out that the waterway had remained open for commerce prior to the recent escalation involving U.S. and Israeli strikes in Iran.

When asked how long operations might continue, Hegseth declined to provide a timeline.

"It's military 101," he said. "Don't tell your enemy what you're willing to do — or when you're willing to stop." UNI

No longer needs Spain's support in Iran operations: US

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, APR 01: The White House announced Tuesday that the United States no longer requires Spain's assistance in its operations against Iran, following Madrid's decision to close its airspace to U.S. aircraft involved in the conflict.

A White House official told Newsweek that "the U.S. military is meeting or surpassing all of its goals under Operation Epic Fury and does not need help from Spain or anyone else."

According to Newsweek, Washington views Spain's refusal as a continuation of its stance against supporting U.S. and Israeli military actions in Iran. The report noted that after Spain denied the U.S. access to its military bases, President Donald Trump threatened to cut trade with Madrid.

Earlier in March, the U.S. had pressed Spain to raise defense spending to 5% of GDP, as advocated by Washington and some NATO allies.

Spain has consistently upheld its commitment to international



law and declined to participate in military actions it considers legally unsupported.

Madrid has specifically denied US requests to use the Rota and Moron bases for Iran-related operations, including flights by refueling aircraft.

President Donald Trump has sharply criticised countries, particularly the United Kingdom, for their refusal to support US-Israeli strikes on Iran and reluctance to assist in securing the Strait of

Hormuz and suggested them to purchase oil from the US or build up courage to go to the Strait to take it.

"All of those countries that can't get jet fuel because of the Strait of Hormuz, like the United Kingdom, which refused to get involved in the decapitation of Iran, I have a suggestion for you: Number 1, buy from the U.S., we have plenty, and Number 2, build up some delayed courage, go to the Strait, and just TAKE IT."

Trump has earlier said the US-UK relationship was "always the best" until "Prime Minister Keir Starmer came along".

He also labelled the war with Iran as a "great test" of the alliance's relations with the US.

Trump went on slamming other countries, without naming, saying that the countries who have refused to join the war against Iran should now start learning to fight for themselves.

"You'll have to start learning

how to fight for yourself, the U.S.A. won't be there to help you anymore, just like you weren't there for us. Iran has been, essentially, decimated. The hard part is done. Go get your own oil," Trump said in a post on social media.

It is noteworthy to mention that Trump also accused NATO members of making a "foolish mistake" by declining to assist the US in securing the Strait of Hormuz during the ongoing conflict with Iran.

Despite disruptions to global oil supplies and rising pressure on energy markets, he maintained that the US does not require allied support.

Trump said he had been informed that most NATO allies were unwilling to get involved in the war, which many view as illegal. He reiterated that "we don't need any help" from NATO, but added, "they should've been there."

The US president described the allies' reluctance to deploy mine-sweeping vessels to the Gulf as "not a big deal," but termed it "unfair" to Washington. UNI

Go to the Strait and just take it: Trump blasts UK, NATO for refusing to assist US in securing Hormuz

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, APR 01: President Donald Trump has sharply criticised countries, particularly the United Kingdom, for their refusal to support US-Israeli strikes on Iran and reluctance to assist in securing the Strait of Hormuz and suggested them to purchase oil from the US or build up courage to go to the Strait to take it.

"All of those countries that can't get jet fuel because of the Strait of Hormuz, like the United Kingdom, which refused to get involved in the decapitation of Iran, I have a suggestion for you: Number 1, buy from the U.S., we have plenty, and Number 2, build up some delayed courage, go to the Strait, and just TAKE IT."

Trump has earlier said the US-UK relationship was "always the best" until "Prime Minister Keir Starmer came along".

He also labelled the war with Iran as a "great test" of the alliance's relations with the US.

Trump went on slamming other countries, without naming, saying that the countries who have refused to join the war against Iran should now start learning to fight for themselves.

"You'll have to start learning how to fight for yourself, the U.S.A. won't be there to help you anymore, just like you weren't there for us. Iran has been, essentially, decimated. The hard part is done. Go get your own oil," Trump said in a post on social media.

It is noteworthy to mention that Trump also accused NATO members of making a "foolish mistake" by declining to assist the US in securing the Strait of Hormuz during the ongoing conflict with Iran.

Despite disruptions to global oil supplies and rising pressure on energy markets, he maintained that the US does not require allied support.

Trump said he had been informed that most NATO allies were unwilling to get involved in the war, which many view as illegal. He reiterated that "we don't need any help" from NATO, but added, "they should've been there."

The US president described the allies' reluctance to deploy mine-sweeping vessels to the Gulf as "not a big deal," but termed it "unfair" to Washington.

B'desh reports spike in measles infections; 676 children diagnosed; vaccination rates lowest during Yunus regime

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

DHAKA, APR 01: Bangladesh is seeing a sharp resurgence of measles infections, with 676 children diagnosed in the first three months of the year — a dramatic spike compared to just nine cases during the same period last year.

The scale of the increase is nearly roughly 75 times higher than last year and nearly 11 times higher than 2024, when 64 cases were recorded, according to the Directorate General of Health Services. While no official death figures have been released, health officials caution that the real number of infections is likely higher, as the data only reflects cases reported in government hospitals.

The outbreak is unevenly spread across the country. Dhaka division accounts for the largest share with 245 cases — over a third of the total — followed by Rajshahi (137) and Chattogram (93). Mymensingh, Barishal and Khulna have reported moderate numbers, while Sylhet and Rangpur remains relatively low but not unaffected.

Bangladesh was previously being held up as a success story in national immunisation, maintaining rates close to or above 90% immunisation for years and even exceeding 100% in 2021–2022 due to expanded campaigns.

However, that momentum soon reversed sharply, as vaccination coverage dropped to 93.6% in 2023, then fell further to 86.6% in 2024, and is now estimated at just 59.6% in 2025 — well below the 95% threshold public health experts say is needed to prevent outbreaks.

The decline has been particularly severe in key childhood vaccines, including measles-rubella doses (MR1 and MR2), as well as BCG and pentavalent vaccines.

Health experts in the country have warned that such a drop creates ideal conditions for highly contagious diseases like measles to spread rapidly, especially among children with incomplete immunisation. They also point to gaps in field-level monitoring, disruptions in programme delivery and administrative changes in the health sector as contributing factors. The situation has triggered concern within Bangladesh's public health community, with calls for urgent intervention to restore vaccination coverage and prevent a wider outbreak that could place significant strain on the healthcare system in the months ahead. UNI

Average gas prices in US surge past USD 4 per barrel marking 35Pc increase since war with Iran began

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, APR 01: The average price of gas in the US ballooned up to USD 4 a gallon on Tuesday, further rising from Monday's USD 3.990 a gallon, marking what is the country's highest rise in prices for the first time in more than three years, and ever since the US-Israel war against Iran started on February 28.

The reported jump marks more than a 35 per cent increase at the pump

for the average consumer, since the war in Iran began last month, and there's little hope that costs are going to ease anytime soon, as the Strait of Hormuz remains economically paralysed and closed to all, save ships from a few nations, straining energy supplies worldwide significantly, as the blocked route controls more than 20 per cent of the global oil transit.

Furthermore, oil prices have surged to over USD 100 a barrel or more since the war began, raising the prices that

consumers pay when they fill up, in contrast to the average rate of USD 2.98, just a month ago. A year ago, it was slightly above, clocking in at USD 3.17.

According to President Donald Trump's claims, the ongoing war could end soon, as Tehran has begun to open itself to diplomacy in a sign of progress, as Pakistan indicated it would host talks between Washington and the Islamic Republic in the "coming days." UNI

US positions amphibious forces in Indian Ocean amid speculation of ground operation in Iran

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, APR 01: Amid rising speculation over a possible US ground operation against Iran, the amphibious assault ship USS Tripoli, carrying nearly 1,800 Marines, has been deployed to the Indian Ocean, US Central Command (CENTCOM) said in a social media post.

A photograph released by CENTCOM showed the 45,000-ton warship sailing in the Indian Ocean on Sunday, though its exact distance from Iran was not disclosed.

The Tripoli is embarked with troops from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, according to images posted on March 26 by the US Defense Department. The visuals showed Marines engaged in a "ship defense exercise."



According to US Navy data, the vessel can carry around 1,850 Marines along with a crew of about 1,200 sailors. Supporting it is the amphibious transport dock USS

New Orleans, part of the Tripoli Amphibious Ready Group, which can accommodate an additional 700 Marines.

US President Donald Trump

has indicated that American forces could target Iran's Kharg Island, a critical hub handling nearly 90% of the country's oil exports.

In response, Iran has warned it would "wipe out" any US troops attempting a landing and escalate attacks on global energy infrastructure.

In a parallel buildup, the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, comprising up to 2,200 Marines, has reportedly been directed toward the Middle East.

Additionally, around 1,000 troops from the 82nd Airborne Division have reportedly been ordered to the region, signalling a broader US military buildup amid escalating tensions.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi asked the Saudi Arabian government to "eject" US troops from its country, three days after

the Iranian military attacked a US air base in Saudi Arabia.

"Iran respects the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and considers it a brotherly nation," Araghchi wrote on the social platform X. "Our operations are aimed at enemy aggressors who have no respect for Arabs or Iranians, nor can provide any security."

US President Donald Trump has threatened Iran's energy infrastructure in spite of what he said was "great progress" in talks with officials in Tehran.

Moreover, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters at the White House that Operation Epic Fury is "moving ahead successfully and according to plan," noting more than 11,000 targets have been hit and Iranian ballistic and drone attacks are down by 90 percent. UNI



Keep calm, swing the ball, and carry on: the Auqib Nabi mantra

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Auqib Nabi's greatest quality is his balance. This perhaps explains why, on the day of the IPL 2026 mega auction when he secured an INR 8.4 crore deal with Delhi Capitals (DC), he chose to quietly avoid the fanfare. Nabi was mindful not to inconvenience his neighbours in Baramulla.

"I hadn't even told my relatives or friends I'm at home," Nabi says. "I tried to avoid all the fanfare, but the mahaul [atmosphere] was celebratory. I watched from my room through the curtains as everyone danced and celebrated anyway." Those who know Nabi vouch for this trait: he is understated and rarely speaks unless he has something meaningful to add. Yet, he's quietly assured about his skills.

P Krishnakumar, Jammu & Kashmir's bowling coach for three seasons now, recalls an exchange from the recently-concluded Ranji Trophy season.

Nabi had been a wrecking ball across conditions, but ahead of the final against Karnataka, with the spotlight firmly on him, Kumar asked how he was handling the

prospect of bowling to India players like KL Rahul and Karun Nair. "He said, 'Nothing, sir. We'll bowl them out for under 300. We've got this,'" Krishnakumar remembers. "And that is what he did."

Nabi picked up 5 for 54 to help J&K clinch their maiden Ranji title. Among Nabi's wickets on a flat Hubballi deck were those of Rahul and Karun - now his DC teammates - in a devastating opening spell that set up the match.

A current team-mate recalls the method behind one of those dismissals. "Karun's bat was coming down at an angle. So Auqib felt there was a great chance to either have him caught in the slips or bowled. He went slightly wide of the crease and got one to straighten off the seam to beat the outside edge and hit top of off."

That clarity is evident every time Nabi has the ball. Krishnakumar remembers Nabi mapping out plans for Vaibhav Sooryavanshi during a Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) game against Bihar at Eden Gardens last November. After reviewing multiple options, they arrived at a formula. "I asked him, 'Can you bowl the first ball as an inswinging yorker, or a full ball with late

inswing?' He said, 'Done, sir.' And he did exactly that. Vaibhav was bowled first ball."

Nabi finished SMAT 2025-26 with 15 wickets in seven matches and an economy rate of 7.41. At the subsequent Vijay Hazare Trophy, the 50-overs competition, he took 14 wickets in seven games with an economy rate of 5.76. Apart from his contributions with the ball, Nabi also walloped a maiden List A century from a dire situation.

Chasing 269, J&K were 90 for 7 when Nabi joined forces with Vanshaj Sharma. Nabi finished unbeaten on 114 off 82 balls, and the pair added an unbroken 182 for the eighth wicket to seal an improbable win.

"The main thing is his hard work," Krishnakumar says of Nabi's success. "He is always ready to learn, never says no. Doesn't miss a single session. In three years I haven't seen that."

"In my first year [as J&K bowling coach], I really pushed him on the fitness side. Fitness is a big part for a fast bowler. If you're not fit, even if you have skills, you can't show them. I pushed him hard, he responded, and the rest is history."

Sooryavanshi 'definitely in the race' for higher honours

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

GUWAHATI: Riyan Parag was watching Vaibhav Sooryavanshi bat in Guwahati against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) on Monday and going, "Wow, how does he do it". At the same time, Piyush Chawla and Ambati Rayudu - watching from the studios - were wondering if an India call-up is around the corner for the 15-year-old Rajasthan Royals (RR) dasher. Chawla said he "would love to see him fast-tracked" to the top level. Rayudu was a bit more cautious, but said the young man was "definitely in the race".

"He looks a cut above a lot of youngsters in the country, and he's a talent that will definitely do wonders for Indian cricket. I don't know when, but definitely in the future," Rayudu said on show after Sooryavanshi had slammed 52 in 17 balls to hurry



RR to an eight-wicket win over CSK. "The way he has been batting and the freedom with which he has been batting, it's a great testament to the fact that [RRs] management has been doing a wonderful job, not complicating things for him. And his shot-making - the ease with which he's been taking on bowlers is unbelievable at this age."

It's easy to forget that Sooryavanshi is just 15 - he reached the milestone on March 27 - and the role of the team management, not just at RR but wherever he plays, cannot be overstated.

"The messaging to Vaibhav is like... we don't put pressure on him and don't want him to be aware of the noise outside. So it's about what he likes doing. He likes batting, so we ensure that he gets to bat enough in the nets. If there's something he likes to eat, we make sure that's available for him," Riyan Parag, the RR captain, said in the press conference after the game.

"As far as what he does inside [the ground] is concerned, like Dhruv [Jurel] and I were sitting outside and the first two-three overs had been bowled, we were wondering how he was hitting the ball so well when the wicket was a bit sticky, it had some moisture. Like everyone in the stands, we also watch him the same way. We are also like 'wow, how does he do it'. I feel he is a talent and I am very glad that he is in our team and not in another team."

French court dismisses Cardiff's \$138M claim against Nantes over Emiliano Sala's death

■ ASSOCIATED PRESS

NANTES (FRANCE): A commercial court in France dismissed Welsh club Cardiff's claims for compensation in the death of soccer player Emiliano Sala in a ruling issued Monday, more than seven years after the plane crash that killed the Argentine forward.

In a long-running legal dispute, Cardiff was seeking more than 120 million euros (\$138 million) from the player's former team Nantes following a series of previous legal setbacks for

the Welsh club. Rulings by FIFA, the Court of Arbitration for Sport and Switzerland's supreme court have gone against Cardiff in its legal dispute with Nantes since Sala died in January 2019.

The court in the western French city ruled that the Ligue 1 club was not at fault in relation to the flight and that Cardiff did not suffer reputational damages. It added that Cardiff's "extravagant claims" had already been ruled on by other courts and that Nantes suffered moral damage. It ordered Cardiff to pay 300,000 euros in damages,

plus an additional 180,000 euros for legal costs.

"Unfortunately, Cardiff has been pursuing us feverishly for seven years now, and it reopens this wound every time," said Jérôme Marsaudon, a lawyer for Nantes. "We are therefore very pleased with the court's decision, which only confirms what we have been asserting for years. The court has stated it loud and clear and has condemned Cardiff to quite exemplary damages. FC Nantes is in no way responsible for the tragedy that occurred. We are

pleased that the court has heard us."

The 28-year-old Sala was signed by Cardiff from Nantes for a club-record fee of 17 million euros as it tried to stave off relegation from the lucrative Premier League. But the single-engine Piper Malibu aircraft the Argentine player was traveling in from France to begin his career with Cardiff crashed into the sea near the Channel Island of Guernsey. The pilot, David Ibbotson, also died. After the crash, Cardiff disputed that the transfer deal with Nantes had

been finalized. FIFA ruled it had received the required international registration forms.

The businessman who organized the flight was found guilty of endangering the safety of an aircraft in 2021. David Henderson, the aircraft operator who arranged the flight, had asked Ibbotson to fly the plane as he was away on holiday. Ibbotson, who regularly flew for Henderson, did not hold a commercial pilot's license or a qualification to fly at night, and his rating to fly the Piper Malibu had expired.

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS
ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS

NEWSPAPER | BOOKS | FLYERS | LOGO | FLEX | MAGAZINES
VISITING CARDS | BROCHURES | 3D BOARDS | COVER PAGES
WEDDING CARDS | CALLIGRAPHY | WALL PAINTINGS

9999038812
9419008414

Radio Colony,
Gund Hassibhat, Lawaipora Srinagar-190017

HEADLINES TODAY INVITES CONTRIBUTIONS

Are you a writer, poet, storyteller, columnist, or feature writer with a passion for literature or health writings? Headlines Today offers a platform to share:

Literature Section: Well-crafted essays, literary articles, reflections, and creative writings.

Health Section: Well-researched articles, expert columns, and in-depth feature reports from professionals and specialists.

Send your contributions to:
Dr Basharat Khan
Honorary Editor: Literature & Health Sections (HT) at
chogalwriter76@gmail.com

YOUR WORDS CAN INSPIRE, INFORM, AND IGNITE; LET THEM BE HEARD.