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# LG Calls for 'Jan Andolan' Against Drugs, Flags 100-Day Campaign Push

Mass outreach, strict crackdown and rehabilitation key pillars of Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyaan

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, APRIL 09:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday reviewed preparedness for the upcoming 100-day intensive campaign under the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan, calling for a united, society-wide movement to eradicate drug abuse from the Union Territory.

Chairing a high-level meeting, the Lieutenant Governor said the campaign would focus on high-impact awareness programmes and strict enforcement measures to dismantle drug trafficking networks. He announced that a mega "Padyatra" will be flagged off from MA Stadium in Jammu on April 11, while a similar large-scale launch is scheduled in Srinagar in the first week of May.



Describing drug inflow into the UT as part of a larger international conspiracy to damage the future of youth, Sinha urged students, civil society

## LG attends musical opera 'Mata Sukrala Ki Kahani' at Jammu

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, APRIL 09:** "Nation-building is rooted in our shared mindset. A strong nation stands on citizens' integrity, common values, and trust among people, not just buildings. My message to the youth is that true nationhood sparks alive when self-interest gives way to community good," the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha said on Thursday. The Lieutenant Governor said that the

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# VP Urges J&K Youth to Lead India's Growth Story

'Watan Ko Jano' delegation told to embrace opportunity, reject drugs and build a progressive future

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI, APR 9:** A 250-member youth delegation from Jammu and Kashmir, participating in the 'Watan Ko Jano' programme, on Thursday met Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan at Uprashtrapati Bhavan, where he called upon them to become drivers of a peaceful, progressive and self-reliant India.

The delegation, part of an initiative organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, is aimed at fostering national integration by exposing youth to different parts of the country.

Addressing the gathering, the Vice President said he was pleased to interact with "vibrant, talented and determined" young people from the Union Territory. Recalling his recent visit to Srinagar for the convocation at the University of Kashmir, he highlighted the strides made in women's empowerment and educational advancement in the region.

Pointing to achievements in sports, he



referred to the Jammu and Kashmir cricket team's maiden Ranji Trophy victory, describing it as a reflection of the changing aspirations and capabilities of the youth. He said such milestones, along with the increasing participation of women in leadership roles, indicate a positive transformation in the region.

He lauded the 'Watan Ko Jano' programme for strengthening the spirit of unity and shared identity, saying it helps build confidence,

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## Sindoor Strike Signals New Era of Joint Warfare, Says Army Chief

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**BENGALURU, APR 9:** Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi on Thursday said Operation Sindoor marked a decisive step in India's evolution towards integrated, multi-domain



warfare, describing it as a "defining case study" in the operational significance of jointness among the armed forces.

Addressing the "Ran Samvad" forum on Multi Domain Operations (MDO), the Army Chief said the military response launched in May last year following the Pahalgam terror attack

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## CM Omar Hands Over Jobs to 90 Bereaved Families in Kashmir

Urges appointees to serve with integrity; vows to remove delays in relief schemes



HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, APR 7:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday distributed compassionate appointment orders to 90 beneficiaries from

across the Kashmir division, reaffirming the government's commitment to support families who have lost their primary earning members. The appointment orders under

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## CM Inaugurates ₹3.17 Cr Community Hall at Buchpora

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, APRIL 09:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said that the government is planning to develop modern, well-planned housing colonies to decongest Srinagar city, emphasizing that providing dignified housing to the underprivileged is both a responsibility and a duty of the government.

Addressing a large public gathering after

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## Kulgam Panchayat Secretary Held in ACB Bribery Trap

Official caught red-handed accepting ₹5,000 for clearing MGNREGA labour bills

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR, APR 9:** The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday arrested a Panchayat Secretary in Kulgam after trapping him while allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs. 5,000 for clearing labour bills under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

An official spokesperson said the ACB received a written complaint alleging that the Panchayat Secretary (VLW) of Block Devsar, identified as Sheikh Zada Irfan, a resident of Muniwara in Anantnag, had

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## J&K Rolls Out Inclusive Education Policy to Mainstream Children with Special Needs

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, APR 9:** In a significant step towards equitable education, the Jammu and Kashmir government has initiated the rollout of an Inclusive Education Policy aimed at integrating Children with Special Needs (CwSN) into mainstream government schools across the Union Territory.

According to official documents, the policy envisions bringing children with

special needs into regular schooling environments while ensuring they receive the necessary academic and infrastructural support. The move marks a shift from segregated systems towards a more inclusive framework designed to promote equal learning opportunities.

Officials said that under the policy, CwSN will be enrolled in nearby government schools and provided a range of support services, including

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## Over 74% of J&K Lakes Vanish or Shrink Since 1967, CAG Sounds Alarm

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**JAMMU, APR 9:** The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has flagged a massive ecological decline in Jammu and Kashmir, reporting that over 74 per cent of the Union Territory's natural lakes have either disappeared or shrunk since 1967, triggering serious environmental and climate concerns.

According to the audit report for the year ended March 31, 2024, 518 out of 697 natural

lakes have witnessed a reduction in area. Of these, 315 lakes covering 1,537.07 hectares have vanished entirely, while 203 lakes have shrunk by 1,314.19 hectares, leading to a total loss of 2,851.26 hectares.

The report warned that the large-scale degradation has disrupted ecological services, caused loss of biodiversity, and adversely impacted water and food security. It also linked the shrinking of lakes to rising climate vulnerability, noting

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## CS Reviews Position of Fuel, LPG Stocks Across Districts

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, APRIL 09:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a high-level meeting with the concerned Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners and District Administrations to review the availability and distribution of essential commodities across the Union Ter-



ritory of Jammu & Kashmir in light of the evolving geopolitical situation in West Asia, with the aim of ensuring adequate buffering against any potential supply chain disruptions.

Comprehensive data presented during the meeting indicated that the UT currently maintains stable stocks of Motor Spirit (Petrol),

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## High-Security Jail at Mahanpur Gets Official Nod

HT NEWS DESK / KNO

**SRINAGAR, APR 09:** The much-anticipated high-security prison in Jammu & Kashmir has been formally declared operational, with the Home Department issuing an official notification designating the facility as a prison and a high-security jail.

According to the Kashmir News Observer, the notification, issued under sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Prisons Act, 1894, states that the structures constructed on 148 kanals of land at village Dambra in Tehsil Mahanpur of Kathua district shall function as a prison to be known as "High Security Prison, Mahanpur."

The order has been issued by Principal Secretary Home, Chandraker Bharti, on

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**LG Calls for.....**

groups, volunteers, and public representatives to actively participate in the campaign to maximise outreach.

He reiterated a firm policy against drug networks, stating that while the innocent must be protected, those involved in the drug trade should face stringent action. At the same time, he stressed the need to identify victims of substance abuse and ensure their proper rehabilitation.

The meeting reviewed department-wise activity plans and noted that UT- and divisional-level committees have already been constituted for effective implementation of the awareness campaign and action plan. The Lieutenant Governor directed officials to transform the initiative into a Jan Andolan by encouraging public participation, integrating feedback mechanisms and motivating citizens to report cases of drug abuse.

Senior administrative and police officials, including the Chief Secretary, divisional commissioners, IGPs, DIGs, deputy commissioners and SSPs, attended the meeting.

**LG attends.....**

cultural heritage is a powerful societal resource that shapes our thinking, actions, values, beliefs and acts as a backbone for society.

He called upon the youth to reconnect deeply with their cultural roots. "Humanity cut off from cultural roots loses its power. J&K's youth, anchored in heritage, will prove unstoppable in nation-building," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor was attending a musical opera 'Mata Sukrala Ki Kahani' depicting the revered legend of Mata Sukrala Devi at Abhinav Theatre Jammu.

The event, organised by Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan, and J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKAACL), encapsulates Goddess Sukrala's timeless message of true devotion remains incomplete without righteous action, while action devoid of devotion loses its essence.

"Truth, faith in the Divine, and love for our motherland bind us together. Mata Sukrala's grace and our common heritage spur nation-building efforts. Dugger Culture's lively stories, arts, and folk practices carry timeless wisdom from elders to youth," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that when we revitalize these traditions through various artistic mediums, we are not merely reminiscing about the past; we are making an investment in the future. By breathing new life into traditional values, we are preparing the younger generation to lead with a strong moral and cultural compass, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the paramount challenge today is viewing nation-building solely as governmental duty.

"Nation-building is a collective responsibility. Aware citizens guide a nation's path because indifference undermines even the mightiest systems. So, awaken your sense of duty and I firmly believe culture will anchor our identity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that our ancient culture embodies bravery, togetherness, devotion, and responsibility. "Reviving it through diverse art forms honors history while fueling the future, reigniting principles for young people to carry forward," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that vibrant culture molds how we think, understand, and live.

"India's rich and diverse traditions with distinct charm and insight, held together by mutual respect forms our essence and unity. This spirit turns attention from personal gain to giving back to the society and building a developed nation," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

Dr. M L Dogra, Chairman & Founder, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan; Dr. Vijay Kumar Magotra, Managing Director, Bhartiya Lok Sangeet Kala Sansthan; Shri Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary Culture, senior officials and people in large number attended the musical opera.

Shri Yudhvir Sethi, Shri Satish Kumar Sharma and Ms. Devyani Rana, Members of Legislative Assembly; Padma Shri Dr S P Varma, Padma Shri Prof. Vishwamurti Shastri, Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, Shri Ashok Bhan, former DGP and prominent citizens were also present.

**VP Urges J&K.....**

awareness and aspiration among young people. Describing Jammu and Kashmir as a land of immense natural beauty and rich culture, he said it holds significant potential to emerge as a global tourist destination.

Urging the youth to believe in their abilities and remain connected to their roots, the Vice President called on them to work collectively towards making Jammu and Kashmir a symbol of harmony and growth. He also advised them to stay away

from drug abuse and motivate their peers to do the same, emphasising that a healthy youth population is key to nation-building.

He expressed satisfaction over students from the region excelling in civil services and premier institutions such as IITs and IIMs, and said the vision of a "Viksit" and "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" can only be realised when every state progresses.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh, who was present on the occasion, highlighted the developmental transformation of Jammu and Kashmir over the past decade under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, noting that the aspirations of the youth have risen significantly, with many making their mark across diverse fields.

**Sindoor Strike.....**

demonstrated how coordinated action across land, air, maritime, cyber, space and cognitive domains is reshaping the character of modern warfare.

"Operation Sindoor was India's most powerful tool of progression towards domain jointness. But we need to achieve domain integration and fusion," he said.

General Dwivedi emphasised that warfare is no longer confined to defined geographical boundaries or dominated by a single service, but is now characterised by continuous interaction across multiple domains and levels of conflict. He described the current security environment as a "dispersed, undeclared, multi-theatre, multi-domain war," where the key challenge lies in effectively orchestrating the interface between domains.

Elaborating on his vision of MDO, he said it is not about different domains operating in silos or parallel, but in constant dynamic interaction where the operational lead shifts depending on the situation. He also drew a distinction between the land domain as a battlespace and land forces as actors operating alongside other domains in a shared environment.

The Army Chief said the battlefield has transformed into a layered, three-dimensional construct, where cyber operations shape perceptions, space-based assets guide targeting, and electronic warfare contests the electromagnetic spectrum simultaneously.

Referring again to Operation Sindoor, he said its success lay in the fusion of ground intelligence networks with cyber and electronic warfare inputs, enabling coordinated targeting by the Army and Air Force, while the Navy's repositioning influenced the broader strategic calculus.

"No single domain decided the operation," he said, stressing that such mutually enabling actions represent the essence of Multi Domain Operations.

He also underlined the need for commanders to develop cross-domain situational awareness from tactical to strategic levels to effectively respond to the complexities of modern conflict.

**CM Omar.....**

SRO-43 and the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (RAS) were handed over at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre, where the Chief Minister addressed a gathering of beneficiaries and officials.

Calling the occasion both significant and emotional, Abdullah said that while government employment is often achieved through competitive examinations, the beneficiaries had endured a far greater sacrifice. "No compensation can replace the loss of a loved one," he said, adding that no one would ever choose a job over the return of a departed family member.

He said the administration has made sincere efforts to stand "shoulder to shoulder" with affected families, but acknowledged that delays and procedural hurdles continue to cause hardship. Stressing the need for reform, he said the transition from SRO-43 to RAS was aimed at addressing structural gaps and improving efficiency.

"Making people run from office to office after such a loss is a grave injustice. We are committed to simplifying and expediting the process," he said.

Congratulating the appointees, the Chief Minister described the appointments as the beginning of a new chapter in their lives and urged them to work with honesty, dedication and a strong sense of responsibility. He reminded them that government employees have a long-term duty to serve the people and advised them to always choose the right path over the easy one.

He also cautioned them against external pressures and underscored the importance of maintaining ethical standards in public service.

Abdullah appreciated the efforts of the divisional administration in facilitating the process and expressed hope that pending cases would be cleared at the earliest. The event was attended by senior officials and a large number of beneficiaries along with their families.

**CM Inaugurates.....**

inaugurating the Imam-ul-Asr Maulana Anwar Shah Kashmiri (RA) Community Hall at Umerhair, Buchpora in Hazratbal

constituency, the Chief Minister highlighted key developmental priorities of his government, including housing, healthcare, transport, and social welfare.

The multi-purpose community facility centre has been constructed at a cost of 3.17 crore, providing a dignified, accessible, and affordable venue for weddings, social functions, and community gatherings.

"As far as Srinagar city is concerned, it continues to face several challenges, particularly congestion in old city areas. In many homes, multiple families live together, placing immense pressure on limited space. Unless we develop new residential colonies, this situation will persist," he said.

"We are planning to develop modern, well-planned housing colonies, including provisions for affordable housing. This initiative is specifically aimed at those who lack the means to purchase land or construct homes. Providing dignified housing to such sections is not merely a responsibility—it is our duty," he added.

The Chief Minister also underlined the need to strengthen healthcare infrastructure by improving primary health centres, community health centres, and sub-district hospitals to reduce the burden on major hospitals.

Highlighting reforms in the transport sector, he said the introduction of free bus travel for women has seen overwhelming success. "Today, a majority of passengers in public buses are women, which reflects the success of this initiative. Ensuring safe and accessible mobility for our mothers and sisters is our responsibility," he remarked.

Referring to welfare measures in the current budget, the Chief Minister said that promises made to the people are being fulfilled. "When we promised free LPG cylinders during the elections, it was mocked by many. Today, we have translated that promise into action, with six free gas cylinders to be provided to eligible families this year," he said, assuring that all manifesto commitments would be implemented with sincerity and accountability.

Congratulating MLA Hazratbal Salman Ali Sagar, the Chief Minister said the completion of the community hall reflects his dedication and perseverance. "This is not merely a building; it is a symbol of service, community spirit, and respect for our rich intellectual and spiritual heritage," he said.

The Chief Minister noted that the facility would serve as an affordable and dignified venue for social functions, especially for families who cannot afford private banquet halls. He said the centrally located hall is equipped with modern amenities, including a spacious hall, multiple rooms, dedicated spaces for bride and groom, essential facilities, and parking provisions.

He directed the Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) to prepare a comprehensive plan for further development of the surrounding area, including parking and landscaping, to enhance the utility and aesthetics of the complex.

Emphasising youth empowerment, the Chief Minister called for the establishment of a library in the vicinity and assured full government support. He also stressed the need to dedicate a section of the proposed library to preserve and showcase the life and contributions of Maulana Anwar Shah Kashmiri (RA), so that future generations remain connected with his legacy.

"Together, we will continue to represent the Hazratbal constituency and address your concerns—be it related to SMC, LCMA, or any other department. We stand committed to your service," he assured.

Member of Legislative Assembly Khanyar Ali Mohammad Sagar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Gurwinder Singh Oberoi, MLA Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed (Pardesi), Commissioner SMC Fazlul Haseeb, senior officers, party functionaries and a large gathering of people were present on the occasion.

**Kulgam Panchayat.....**

demanding Rs. 10,000 from the complainant for clearing pending MGNREGA labour bills. The amount was later negotiated and settled at Rs. 5,000.

Refusing to pay the bribe, the complainant approached the ACB seeking legal action. Following the verification, the bureau conducted a discreet verification, which confirmed the demand. A case (FIR No. 04/2026) under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018) was registered at Police Station ACB Anantnag, and investigation was taken up.

During the course of investigation, a trap team was constituted, which laid a successful trap and apprehended the accused official red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe. He was arrested on the spot, and the bribe amount was recovered from his possession in the presence of independent witnesses.

Subsequently, the ACB carried out a search of the accused's residence in the presence of an Executive Magistrate and independent witnesses. Further investiga-

tion in the case is in progress, officials said.

**J&K Rolls Out.....**

identification and assessment of their specific needs, assistive devices, resource support, and access to trained teaching personnel. The initiative is intended to enable such children to learn alongside their peers in a supportive and accommodating environment.

The government has also emphasized strengthening barrier-free infrastructure in schools across all districts to ensure accessibility. Measures are being taken on a continuous basis to upgrade facilities and remove physical and systemic obstacles that hinder inclusive education.

In collaboration with non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, the administration is already operating special and inclusive schools for children with disabilities. These partnerships are expected to play a key role in the effective implementation of the policy.

Meanwhile, the government has proposed the establishment of two new special schools—one each at Hadipora in Sopore and Dailgam in Anantnag. Officials said these institutions will be set up after the completion of necessary formalities and will serve as regional support centres.

The overall approach, as outlined in the official note, focuses on strengthening the mainstream education system while supplementing it with specialized institutions where required, ensuring that children with special needs receive both inclusion and targeted support.

**Over 74% of.....**

that such degradation was among the contributing factors to the devastating 2014 Jammu and Kashmir floods, as lakes act as natural flood buffers.

Jammu and Kashmir is home to 697 natural lakes spread across 20 districts, including 185 major lakes larger than five hectares such as Wular Lake. However, the audit found that conservation efforts remain confined to just six lakes—Dal, Wular, Hokersar, Manasbal, Surinsar and Mansar—while the remaining water bodies lack structured management.

The CAG attributed the degradation primarily to land-use changes within lake bodies and catchment areas, deforestation, climate change and unregulated human activity. It noted that several lakes, including Khushal Sar and Anchar, are undergoing severe ecological stress, with some nearing complete depletion.

The report also pointed to administrative lapses, stating that despite a mandate since 1989, no comprehensive conservation and management plans have been prepared for 255 lakes under the forest department. It cited lack of technical manpower, inadequate infrastructure, and poor coordination among multiple agencies as key reasons for ineffective conservation.

While 150 lakes showed an increase in area and 29 remained unchanged, the report observed that the reasons behind such changes were neither analysed nor monitored by the concerned departments.

Calling for urgent intervention, the CAG recommended the enactment of a comprehensive legal framework and the establishment of a centralised authority to ensure coordinated lake management. It also stressed the need for enhanced funding, scientific planning, and deployment of experts, alongside measures such as improved sewage treatment, prevention of encroachments, regulation of construction around lakes, and sustained public awareness efforts.

Emphasising that lake conservation requires a holistic and time-bound approach, the audit urged the government to take immediate steps to restore and safeguard these fragile ecosystems.

**CS Reviews.....**

High-Speed Diesel (HSD) and LPG, supplemented by significant stock in transit to further strengthen reserves.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed public grievances registered through helplines and their disposal by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and district administrations, while emphasizing the need for intensified IEC campaigns and strict inspections across districts to prevent hoarding, overpricing and black marketing of essential commodities, including fertilizers and food grains. He underscored the importance of

ensuring 70 percent supply to commercial and industrial sectors in both divisions and called for expediting e-KYC of all active consumers.

Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Saurabh Bhagat, informed that adequate measures have been put in place to ensure smooth supply across the UT, including availability of 5 kg LPG cylinders for migrant populations and labourers, and issuance of orders to ensure 70 percent supply to commercial and industrial establishments in accordance with Government of India guidelines.

For Jammu Division, the Divisional Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar apprised that the Division has an availability of 7,325 KL of Petrol and 27,241 KL of Diesel, besides maintaining a robust 49-day cover for Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO) and 12 days for Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), thereby ensuring uninterrupted essential services. Districts including Udhampur, Kathua and Doda reported strong stock levels, while Kishtwar and Ramban are being closely monitored to continuously replenish their 3-4 day buffers through transit supplies.

He further added that the division currently has 47,296 LPG cylinders in stock, and over the past 10 days, 7,769 cylinders were delivered to the consumers. The Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to bridge this delivery-demand gap to avoid any disruption to industrial and commercial activities.

For Kashmir Division, the Divisional Commissioner, Anshul Garg informed the meeting that the Kashmir Division currently holds 7,721 KL of Petrol and 13,487 KL of Diesel, which along with transit stocks provides a reserve cover of 19 days for Petrol and 21 days for Diesel, while LPG reserves stand at 4,072 MT ensuring a 16-day cover.

He further made out that District-wise assessments indicated stable availability, with districts such as Srinagar, Anantnag and Pulwama maintaining consistent consumption patterns and an average of five days of immediate local storage supported by divisional reserves. A total of 148,769 LPG cylinders are currently available in the division, and between April 1 and April 8, 4,987 cylinders were delivered.

Moreover he added that the administration is closely monitoring supply to ensure that tourism, hospitality and other commercial activities remain unaffected, with directions issued to bridge any emerging demand-supply gaps, he

During this meeting the Deputy Commissioners presented the status of supply and distribution of LPG, automobile fuels and food grains across their districts, including residential institutions and labour populations, along with details of enforcement actions taken against violators and progress in grievance redressal.

The Chief Secretary directed district administrations to strictly monitor market prices to prevent hoarding and overcharging under the pretext of international developments and to ensure seamless last-mile delivery of LPG and other essential commodities, particularly in remote and far-flung areas, while reassuring the public that the UT is well-prepared with sufficient reserves and that there is no need for panic as existing stock levels and supplies in transit are adequate to maintain normalcy across Jammu & Kashmir.

**High-Security.....**

the directions of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Officials said the Administrative Council, headed by the Lieutenant Governor, had earlier approved the creation of 342 posts for the facility on July 7, 2024, to ensure smooth functioning of the high-security establishment. The sanctioned staff includes one post each of Senior Superintendent Jail, Superintendent Jail and Deputy Superintendent Jail, besides three Assistant Superintendents.

With the addition of the new facility, the total number of prisons in Jammu & Kashmir has risen to 15, comprising two central jails, 10 district jails, one special jail, one sub-jail and the newly notified high-security prison.

The development assumes significance as the Union Territory strengthens its correctional infrastructure. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had visited the site in 2022 and reviewed the project, suggesting key changes to enhance its security and design.



## Chief Secy reviews BISAG-N supported e-Governance initiatives in J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, APR 09:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a meeting to review the progress of key e-governance and digital transformation initiatives being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG-N).

The meeting besides the Secretary, IT, Dr. Piyush Singla; and Special Director General, BISAG-N, Vinay Thakur; was attended by the concerned Administrative Secretaries, Heads of Departments, senior police officers, representatives from the National Informatics Centre, and other stakeholder agencies.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary undertook a comprehensive review of the progress achieved in developing various online platforms across departments aimed at enhancing governance efficiency and improving public service delivery. He sought a detailed, first-hand appraisal from BISAG-N regarding the readiness of these platforms, while also directing departments to address bottlenecks hindering their timely completion and rollout.

Dr. Piyush Singla apprised the



meeting of the overall status of ongoing and upcoming digital initiatives across departments, highlighting completed platforms and outlining their benefits in terms of transparency, efficiency, and citizen-centric service delivery.

Presenting a department-wise overview, BISAG-N shared insights into the initiatives undertaken over the past few years. Special DG, Vinay Thakur emphasized the need to make these initiatives more outcome-driven and time-bound, and advised departments to designate nodal officers for sustained coordination with BISAG-N to ensure successful implementation.

Among the key digital platforms reviewed during the meeting were the AI-based GST Fraud Detection System of the Finance

Department and the End-to-End Energy Tracking and Management System (EETMS) for the Discoms under the Power Development Department. The meeting also reviewed improvements in portals such as JKICIP, Kisan Khidmat Ghar, Daksh Kisan Mobile App, and Kisan Sathi developed by the Agriculture Production Department.

The Tourism Department's web portal and mobile application, featuring an AI-enabled chatbot supported by BISAG-N's GPU infrastructure, were also discussed, with particular focus on their user engagement and service delivery potential.

The survey application for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban 2.0 aimed at identifying houseless and landless beneficia-

ries across all 78 Urban Local Bodies in J&K was also reviewed. Significant progress in digitization initiatives of the Revenue Department, including Legacy Jamabandi visualization and the online mutation module, was noted. The Chief Secretary stressed the need for integration of the recently launched Single Window for Recruitment Rules (SWRR-JK) with the e-Office platform to ensure seamless functioning. He also underscored the importance of introducing similar digital systems for the online conduct of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs).

The meeting further deliberated on the upgradation of the JK Samadhan portal to enable seamless integration with the Centralized Public Grievance Redress

and Monitoring System and to strengthen MIS-based monitoring of grievance redressal timelines at both district and departmental levels.

The Home Department informed the meeting about the readiness of an AI-based search engine designed to assist investigation officers, particularly in preparing charge sheets under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, which is set to be rolled out shortly.

Other major platforms reviewed included the JK Sehat Mobile App, Jal Shakti Mobile App, J&K PWD asset mapping application, J&K Industrial Mobile App, MSME Health Clinic App, District Good Governance Index platform, Village Planning Portal of the Planning Department, digitization of SRTC data, and the J&K Anganwadi Tracking System.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to leveraging technology for efficient governance, the Chief Secretary directed all departments to expedite implementation, ensure inter-departmental coordination, and maximize the impact of these digital initiatives in enhancing transparency, accountability, and citizen service delivery across Jammu and Kashmir.

## Deputy CM takes up industrial promotion, revival of struggling units in J&K with JCCI

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, APR 09:** Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, is taking proactive steps to boost the industrial sector in Jammu and Kashmir with emphasis on recalibrating incentives, streamlining approvals and establishing institutional mechanisms for revival of ailing industries.

He convened an exclusive meeting with the Jammu and Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) to discuss the strategies for promoting industrial growth and reviving sick units in J&K. The meeting aimed to create a conducive environment for the industries, focusing on income secu-



rity, skill development and generating employment opportunities for locals.

President, Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Jammu, Arun Gupta, Treasurer, Rajesh Gupta and other representatives from JCCI besides officials were present in the meeting held at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on various issues faced by the industrial stakeholders. The Deputy Chief Minister assured that the government is actively working towards addressing these concerns through timely and effective measures.

Emphasising the revival of sick industrial units, he stressed the need for revamping the industrial policy to facilitate ease of doing business and ensure smooth and timely operations of industries across J&K. He further highlighted the importance of providing adequate infrastructure, including uninterrupted water and power supply, improved road connectivity and other essential facilities in the industrial estates to support seamless functioning of the industrial units.

The stakeholders raised several key issues, including industrial incentive packages, timely release of allotments, streamlining of registration processes and concerns related to Phase-III Samba.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured that all their genuine concerns would be addressed on priority to further boost industrial growth in the region.

## SKUAST-K Promotes Indigenous Livestock at Pahalgam

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, APR 9:** The Division of Animal Genetics & Breeding, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, under the ICAR-NBAGR sponsored Network Project on Animal Genetic Resources, in collaboration with the Directorate of Extension and Research Station, Salar Pahalgam (Anantnag), organised an Awareness-cum-Input Distribution Programme at Gujran Basti, Batkoot and Salar Pahalgam in Anantnag district.

Prof. (Dr.) Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, she highlighted the importance of conserving indigenous livestock genetic resources and underscored their role in sustaining livelihoods, particularly among



tribal farming communities. Prof. & Head, Division of Animal Genetics & Breeding, Dr. Syed Shanaz Shafi, emphasized the urgent need for conservation and scientific management of local animal genetic resources, especially the indigenous Kashmiri goat. She noted that native breeds are well adapted to the region's harsh agro-climatic conditions and are vital for ensuring livelihood security.

Prof. & Head, Extension & Research Station, Salar Pahalgam, Dr. Manzoor Ahmed Ganai, stressed that such programmes play a crucial role in strengthening the livestock sector in tribal areas through capacity building, enhanced productivity and promotion of self-reliance among farmers.

On the occasion, 13 units of Kashmiri local goats were distributed among selected beneficiaries to support conservation and multiplication of indigenous germplasm. Around 50 livestock owners were also provided deworming medicines and mineral mixtures free of cost to improve animal health and productivity.

The programme aimed at enhancing livelihood security of tribal households by promoting locally adapted goat genetic resources suited to the agro-climatic conditions of the Pahalgam region. Experts also imparted knowledge on scientific goat rearing, breed conservation and climate-resilient livestock farming practices.

An interactive session was held wherein farmers shared their experiences and received expert guidance on breeding, feeding and health management practices.

Prof. M. A. Mantoo and Prof. F. A. Mohideen attended the programme as Guests of Honour.

## Anjuman Farogh-e-Urdu J&K Hosts Literary Event in K. L. Sehgal Hall

Release of Mohammad Amin Banihali's Book "Shaam Hone Tak"

■ JAMEEL ANSARI

**JAMMU, APR 09:** Anjuman Farogh-e-Urdu Jammu & Kashmir organised a grand and memorable literary function at K.L. Sehgal Hall, Jammu, which witnessed the participation of prominent poets, writers and intellectuals from across the region.

The event was held to celebrate the Sahitya Akademi Award conferred upon noted poet Pritpal Singh Betab for his Urdu poetry collection "Safar Jaari Hai", and to mark the formal release of "Shaam Hone Tak", the third poetry collection by the patron-in-chief of the Anjuman, Mohammad Amin Banihali.

On the occasion, both distinguished poets were felicitated and warmly congratulated for their valuable literary contributions. Speakers described the moment as a significant milestone for Urdu literature, stating that such recognitions not only strengthen literary traditions but also inspire the younger generation to engage with literature.

In his presidential address, Prof. Qudoos Javaid remarked that the poetry of Pritpal Singh Betab and Amin Banihali reflects intellectual depth, creative richness and a sincere portrayal of human emotions. He noted that "Safar Jaari Hai" symbolises continuous struggle, hope and intellectual evolution, while "Shaam Hone Tak" beautifully captures the subtle and profound experiences of life.

The chief guest, Prof. Lalit Mangotra, appreciated the literary contributions of both poets and said that their works are impactful not only for Urdu readers but also for audiences across other languages. He emphasized the



importance of such literary gatherings in promoting cultural and literary values.

Renowned Punjabi fiction writer Khalid Hussain, Dr. Shah Nawaz and other speakers also presented detailed views on both poetry collections, describing them as meaningful and thought-provoking works. Among those who expressed their views were noted writers and poets including Wali Mohammad Aseer Kishtwari, Prof. Mohammad Riyaz Ahmad, Khurshid Kazmi and Dr. Waqar, who praised the artistic excellence and literary services of the two poets.

The event was further graced by

the presence of several eminent literary personalities from Jammu and Kashmir, including Suhail Kazmi, Manshoor Banihali, Dr. Nirmal Vinod, Prof. Rajkumar, Dr. Shehnaz Qadri, Dr. Farooq Anwar Mirza, Manjeet Singh Kamra, Abdul Qadir Kundariya, Ashok Sharma Paras, Capt. Lalit Sharma, Aslam Qureshi, Iqbal Khullar, Dr. Mushtaq Wani, Prof. T.R. Raina, Arun Abrol, Inder Sarazi and many others.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by the organisers, who reaffirmed their commitment to continue hosting such literary events for the promotion and enrichment of Urdu language and literature.

## Illegal Tree Felling in Kupwara Forests; FIR Registered, Probe Underway

■ DR AB QAYOOM

**KUPWARA, APR 09:** Illegal felling of forest trees by alleged jungle smugglers has been reported from Compartment No. 20 of Forest Division Kupwara, covering the areas of Kandi, Takibal, and Hoarn villages in Kupwara district. The incident has sparked concern among local residents and environmental observers, who have expressed alarm over the continued degradation of forest resources in the area. Efforts to obtain an official statement from the concerned

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) remained unsuccessful, as repeated phone calls, text messages, and WhatsApp communications went unanswered, which termed as unfortunate and disappointing. (HT-NEWSNETWORK). However, a local forest officer confirmed that an FIR bearing No. 0063 under Section 303(2)/26 of the Forest Act has been registered on April 08, 2026, against two identified smugglers involved in the illegal activity. The officer further stated that a forest guard has been attached to the Range Office for the past five days in connection with the case. Authorities have initiated an investigation, and strict action is expected against the accused smugglers as well as any forest officials found involved or negligent in the matter. The incident underscores the urgent need for enhanced vigilance, accountability, and coordinated efforts to safeguard the fragile forest ecosystem of Kupwara.

## Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo to attend AoME Membership Assessors Meeting 2026

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, APR 9:** Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo, a distinguished medical professional, public health advocate, and internationally recognized medical educator, will participate in the upcoming Academy of Medical Educators (AoME), United Kingdom – Membership Assessors Meeting 2026, scheduled to be held virtually on 20 April 2026.

The annual meeting brings together AoME assessors from across the globe to deliberate on key aspects of membership and fellowship assessment processes. It serves as a vital platform for sharing experiences, exchanging insights, and strengthening quality standards in medical education. The session will also focus on discussions regarding feedback on the upcoming AoME website and assessment portal, reflecting the organization's commitment to innovation and excellence. Dr. Itoo, who has recently been appointed as an Assessor by AoME (UK), represents a growing international presence in academic medicine from India. His participation underscores his continued contribution to advancing global standards in medical education, assessment, and professional development.

The meeting will be conducted virtually via Zoom and is expected to host leading medical educators and assessors from diverse regions, reinforcing collaboration and shared learning within the global medical education community.

Dr. Itoo holds multiple prestigious international distinctions, including FRSPH (UK), FIDF (Belgium), IPFP (UK), MAcadMed (UK), and MRSB (UK), and is a member of the American College of Physicians (USA) as well as an Academic Life Member of the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI).



## DC Kulgam reviews key infrastructure projects in district

Directs executing agencies to ensure timely completion of projects

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM, APRIL 09:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today chaired a review meeting at the DC Office Kulgam to assess the progress of various ongoing construction projects across the district.

The meeting was attended by the Superintending Engineer PW(R&B) Circle Kulgam, Executive Engineers of the Mechanical Division, R&B Electric Division, KPDC, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Kulgam/Qazigund, and the District Mineral Officer Kulgam, among other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the DC conducted a comprehensive review of several key infrastructure projects, including Transit Accommodations at Mirhama, Chowgam and Vessu; Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Qaimoh;



Government Degree College (GDC) Frisal; Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) Tangmarg; Multipurpose Sports Hall at GDC Kilam; SDM Office D.H. Pora; Tehsil Office Pahloo; PHC Pahloo; Solid

Waste Management Sites at Kulgam and Yaripora; Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Kulgam; DDC Quarters, and ADDC Quarter at Lirrow.

The Deputy Commissioner

reviewed the physical and financial progress of each project and sought detailed updates from the concerned executing agencies regarding timelines, bottlenecks and the overall status of execution.

Emphasizing the importance of timely completion of these vital infrastructure projects, the DC directed all executing agencies to expedite the pace of work and strictly adhere to the prescribed timelines.

He instructed officers to closely monitor the progress on the ground and ensure that any issues hindering the execution of works are addressed promptly.

The DC further stressed the need for effective inter-departmental coordination to ensure smooth implementation of projects aimed at strengthening public infrastructure and improving service delivery in the district.

He also directed the concerned officers to submit updated progress reports and ensure regular monitoring so that all projects are completed within the stipulated timeframe.

## DC Bandipora holds Candid Session with G&B Hostel Students

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA, APRIL 09:** Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, visited the Gujjar and Bakarwal Boys Hostel Bandipora and held an engaging interactive session with students of Classes 10th, 11th, and 12th.

During the session, the Deputy Commissioner welcomed open questions from students and spoke at length on career pathways, leadership, and ethics, drawing from her own academic and professional



journey to inspire young minds to pursue their aspirations with dedication and integrity.

She underscored the importance of balancing sports and physical activity with academics for holistic development, and stressed the need for regular mental health sessions within the hostel to nurture students' overall well-being.

On the occasion, 13 meritorious students were felicitated for their outstanding performance in the recently concluded Annual Examinations.

The session was attended by Bashir Ahmad Khan, Warden; Munawar Hussain Lone, Assistant Warden; and Altaf Ahmad Mir, Tutor, who also served as Anchor and Moderator for the proceedings.

Students and hostel staff expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner for her visit and for the encouragement and motivation she brought to the young scholars of the hostel.

## District Admin Bandipora conducts IEC Awareness Programmes

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA, APRIL 09:** Continuing its sustained outreach under the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the District Administration Bandipora on Thursday organised a series of IEC (Information, Education and Communication) awareness programmes across multiple Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and educational institutions in the district.

The IEC activities were conducted at ULB Bandipora (Ward No. 11 Kaloosa), ULB Hajin (Parray Mohalla) and ULB Sumbal (Manz Mohalla). Simultaneously, awareness programmes were held in several educational institutions including HS Malangam, HS Bothu, HS Achoora, HSS Arin, HS Tarabal, HS Barnai and Candles Garden Secondary School Gund Jahangir.



A multi-departmental team comprising officials and resource persons from Health, Police, Education, Social Welfare, Excise & Taxation, Youth Services & Sports and JKNRIM participated in the programmes, ensuring a coordinated and impactful awareness campaign at the grassroots level.

During the sessions, resource persons sensitised participants about the harmful effects of drug abuse and emphasised the importance of preventive measures, healthy lifestyle choices and collective societal responsibility in eradicating substance abuse.

The programmes witnessed active participation from students, local residents and stakeholders, who engaged meaningfully in the sessions and expressed their commitment to support the Nasha Mukht initiative.

## JKEDI Shopian concludes 20 day ESDP batch at GDC Shopian under RAMP Initiative

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN, APRIL 09:** Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Shopian today concluded the second batch of its 20 day Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme (ESDP) under the RAMP initiative at GDC Shopian.

The valedictory session was presided over by Principal GDC Shopian, Prof. Tariq Hussain Mir.

Addressing the participants, the Principal commended JKEDI for organizing impactful programmes and stressed the need for sustained initiatives to promote entrepreneurship and self-employment among youth.

On the occasion, JKEDI District



Nodal Officer presented a comprehensive overview of the programme. He highlighted its core components, including structured classroom sessions, field exposure, group activities, business simulations, and interactions with successful entrepreneurs, aimed at enhancing practical skills and

fostering an entrepreneurial mindset. Participants shared positive feedback, expressing satisfaction with the training and acknowledging the value of mentorship and hands on learning experiences gained during the programme.

## DM Jammu chairs civil society meet ahead of massive anti-drug drive

Padyatra by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha to mark launch of 3-month campaign

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, APRIL 9:** District Magistrate Jammu Dr. Rakesh Minhas today chaired a meeting with the members of the civil society, seeking collective commitment to the 3-month mass public mobilisation campaign against drug abuse set to be formally launched from April 11.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Joginder Singh; Additional District Magistrates Anusuya Jamwal and Vidhu Shekhar, besides other officers from the district administration.

Reiterating the government's resolve to mount a massive crackdown on drug menace, the DM said that drug abuse was not merely a law and order problem but a social emergency and that the administration was fully committed to fighting it with every

resource and every partner at its command. He said the forthcoming drive would encompass stringent enforcement action alongside sustained public participation, emphasising that the fight against drugs must be waged at every level of society and that civil society stood at the very heart of this effort.

"We have to be forthcoming about this menace that is eating into the fabric of our society. We must end the stigma and encourage open conversations about drug abuse within families, among friends and across social circles," he said. The DM informed that Panchayat-wise and Ward-wise committees would be constituted to ensure grassroots-level monitoring and checks. Helpline numbers are being widely publicised and overall administrative support is being significantly augmented to mount a concerted and coordinated fight



against drugs.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to protect whistleblowers, Dr. Minhas assured complete anonymity and safety to anyone providing information regarding drug trade. He further affirmed that all possible support would be extended to those seeking help to free themselves from the grip of addiction.

The DC also announced that

youth clubs would be formed across the district as part of the broader public outreach initiative, channelling the energy of young people into the anti-drug movement.

Seeking active support and cooperation from civil society members, the DM urged them to serve as the eyes and ears of the administration, engaging in vigilant monitoring and promptly reporting

suspicious activity through designated channels.

Suggestions and inputs were also presented by the attendees on strengthening the three-month drive, underscoring that the experience and reach of civil society would be invaluable in shaping a campaign. The house was informed that Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, shall lead a Padyatra on April 11, commencing from MA Stadium and culminating at the Parade Ground. The Padyatra would herald the beginning of a rigorous three-month chain of awareness events, community mobilisation drives and sustained activities aimed at combating drug abuse across the district. The meeting was attended by a broad cross-section of civil society, including heads of religious bodies, representatives of trade and transport unions, educators, social activists and other community leaders.

## AHD Shopian drives livestock growth

Records significant achievements in Financial Year 2025-26

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN, APRIL 09:** Animal Husbandry Department (AHD) Shopian has registered notable achievements under various government initiatives, significantly strengthening livestock-based livelihoods and rural economy in the district.

Under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), focused interventions in dairy, poultry, and fodder development have yielded tangible outcomes both in physical and financial terms.

Under Dairy Development, the department established two Satellite Heifer Units, one Milk Value Addition Unit, and five Automatic Milk Collection Units (AMCU) with cost of Rs 104.29 lakh.

Similarly, under the Roadmap for Poultry Development, 17 Free Range Units were established with an investment of Rs 17 lakh, providing sustainable livelihood opportunities to beneficiaries.

In the fodder sector, significant progress was achieved under Project 28 with the establishment of three Silage Making Units, three Hydroponic

Units, distribution of four Chaff Cutters, development of 18 fodder demonstration plots, and distribution of 35 seed kits.

Under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme, 44 Dairy Units, three Milking Machines, and two Vermicompost Units were established with a financial achievement of Rs 75.772 lakh, further strengthening dairy infrastructure in the district.

The department also recorded major physical achievements during 2025-26, with milk production reaching 75.633 thousand tons and egg production touching 5.356 million.

In the breeding sector, 34,810 artificial inseminations were carried out and 9,972 births were recorded, indicating steady genetic improvement in livestock.

Animal healthcare services were significantly expanded, with 2,29,276 lakh doses administered for cattle vaccination, 0.558 lakh doses for poultry vaccination, and 1,77,728 lakh doses under deworming programmes, while 67,619 cases were treated across the district.

In addition, 121 awareness camps were organized to educate farmers

on scientific livestock management practices.

Under DAJGUA-NLM, the department facilitated the establishment of three poultry units (100 birds each) with a financial support of Rs 0.75 lakh, promoting backyard poultry and supplementary income generation.

Under the NLM Scheme, 442 dairy animals were insured to cover risk due to death. Further, 674 equines were also registered and provided insurance cover for SANJY 2025-26.

To provide doorstep facilities to farmers, two Mobile Veterinary Units are operational in the district manned by two Paravets and one qualified Vet. The MVUs provide facilities like free medicine including deworming, besides arranging awareness camps across all Panchayats of the district.

These achievements reflect the department's sustained efforts in improving productivity, enhancing farmer income, and ensuring sustainable livestock development in Shopian, thereby contributing significantly to the district's rural economy.

## Divisional Level Mega Awareness Programme: Day 2 witnesses enthusiastic participation in Doda

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**DODA, APRIL 9:** The second day of the ongoing Divisional Level Mega Awareness Programme featured a series of informative sessions and student-centric activities centered on key social and developmental themes.

The programme witnessed engaging technical sessions conducted by expert resource persons from various departments, generating awareness about Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, Road Safety, Environmental Protection, Career Guidance and Mental Well-being. Prominent speakers included Touseef Ahmed Zarger (TSO) from the Social Welfare Department, Diwan Singh Gouria, Forester from the Forest Department, Prof. Dr. Sandeep Kotwal from the Higher Education Department, Dr. Shazia Shakeel and Mohammad Faheem from the Health and Family Welfare Department and Farooq Ahmed Khateeb, DySP Traffic. The experts shared valuable insights and actively interacted with the audience, making the sessions both informative and impactful. Adding vibrancy to the programme, a variety of student competitions were organized across



different venues. A quiz competition was held at Town Hall Doda, while painting and essay writing competitions took place at Government Higher Secondary School (Girls) Doda.

The events witnessed enthusiastic participation, showcasing the creativity, awareness and talent of the students. The concluding ceremony was graced by Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur, who highlighted the ill effects of drug abuse and emphasized the importance of road safety. He urged students to

act as ambassadors of change and ensure that the message of the awareness programme reaches every corner of the district.

He was accompanied by Joint Director School Education (DKR), Mohammad Ashfaq and District Information Officer, Abhimanyu Singh. Also present on the occasion were Chief Education Officer Bhusan Kumar Pathak, District Education Planning Officer Dr. Anis Ahmed along with other officers of the School Education Department.

## DC Srinagar chairs District Telecom Committee Meeting; Reviews development of telecom infrastructure under JKCCIP

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, APRIL 09:** To review and discuss the development of telecom infrastructure under Jammu & Kashmir Communication and Connectivity Infrastructure Project (JKCCIP), a meeting of District Telecom Committee (DTC) was today held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Dy Superintendent of Police, Syed Sleeth Shah, Chief Planning officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B, Shabir Ahmad, DIO NIC Srinagar, Shahnaz Nayeem, besides Officers from Forest, SDA, PCC and representatives of various telecom companies operating in



district.

During the meeting, the Committee deliberated on key issues related to strengthening of telecom infrastructure and enhancement of network connectivity across Srinagar district. Detailed discussions were held regarding construction and commissioning of mobile towers, 4G saturation, status of Right of Way (RoW), progress under the amended BharatNet Project, 5G street furniture mapping and other related matters.

On the occasion, the DC highlighted the importance of close coordination among all related departments to ensure that telecom infrastructure projects are completed on schedule. He emphasized connecting every panchayat to its respective block in a timely manner to strengthen local governance and improve service delivery.

The DC also urged the

saturation of 4G network coverage and the BharatNet projects across the district, noting that these initiatives are vital for enhancing digital connectivity and benefiting residents across all communities.

Highlighting the significance of robust telecom networks, the DC stated that improved connectivity is vital for effective governance, delivery of essential services, education and economic activities.

He reiterated that strengthening network coverage and improving signal quality are crucial for public welfare and the overall development of the district.

During the meeting, the DC also took detailed feedback from telecom companies operating in Srinagar district and urged them to enhance the quality of telecom services, particularly in remote areas.

## DC Ramban reviews preparedness for effective implementation of 100-Day Nasha Mukt Campaign

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**RAMBAN, APRIL 09:** Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a meeting of senior officers to review preparedness for the upcoming 100-day intensive campaign under the Nasha Mukt Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan.

The campaign, aimed at eradicating drug abuse from the district and making Ramban drug-free, will be marked by a series of high-impact awareness programmes across the district.

The mega inaugural function will be held on April 11 at the District headquarters, Sub-Divisions, Tehsil and Panchayat level in line with the UT-level event during which Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will flag off a mega padyatra from MA Stadium.

The Deputy Commissioner briefed all departments about their role and responsibilities in ensuring the successful implementation of the 100-day campaign. He issued strict directions to all officers to implement the Nasha Mukt campaign in mission mode and make it a mass movement through active public participation.

Emphasizing the need for a result-oriented approach, the Deputy Commissioner directed officers to ensure the involvement of students, youth, volunteers, civil society organisations, public representatives and the general public so that the campaign reaches every section of society.

The Deputy Commissioner said that drug abuse poses a serious threat to society and is adversely affecting the future of youth. He stressed that every section of society must come together to fight the menace of drugs and support efforts aimed at prevention, awareness and rehabilitation.

He further directed officers to identify victims of drug abuse within their areas and make sincere efforts towards their counselling, treatment and rehabilitation.

The meeting also discussed a series of activities planned under the campaign and reviewed the department-wise activity calendar prepared for the Abhiyaan.

The Deputy Commissioner issued directions for launching an intensive IEC campaign across the district to maximize awareness and public outreach.

The meeting was attended by ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, Addl. SP Mujeeb Ur Rehman, ACR Shoket Hayat Mattoo, CPO Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, SDM Banihal Mohammad Naseeb Bajraan, SDM Ramsay Sayed Mazahir Hussain Shah, SDM Gool Imtiaj Ahmed, ACD Sheraz Ahmed, Tehsildars, BDOs, district and sectoral officers and other concerned officials.

## Army organise Painting, Essay Writing Competition at Banihal

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**RAMBAN, APRIL 09:** The Indian Army today organized a Painting and Essay Writing Competition with the aim of encouraging creativity, intellectual expression and holistic development among the youth of the region. The event witnessed active participation from students of Govt High School, Bankot in Banihal who showcased their talent and enthusiasm through art and writing.

The competition provided a vibrant platform for young participants to express their ideas, thoughts and perspectives on diverse themes relevant to society, nation-building and personal growth. Through their paintings, students displayed remarkable imagination and creativity, while the essays reflected thoughtful insights, clarity of expression and awareness of



contemporary issues.

The event was conducted as part of the Indian Army's continued efforts to engage with the local community and promote educational initiatives. It also aimed at fostering confidence, discipline and a sense of responsibility among the youth.

A panel of judges, comprising Army personnel and educationalists, evaluated the entries based on originality, creativity, relevance and presentation. The participants who excelled in their respective categories were awarded prizes in recognition of their efforts.

Speaking on the occasion, an Army official highlighted the importance of such activities in nurturing young minds and motivating them to contribute positively to society. The initiative was well received by students and teachers, who appreciated the Indian Army's role in promoting constructive and developmental activities in the region.

The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, leaving the participants inspired and encouraged to pursue their talents further.

## Day 2 of Divisional Awareness Drive witnesses widespread civic engagement across Jammu Division

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, APRIL 09:** The second day of the ongoing three-day Divisional Level Awareness Programme unfolded across the length and breadth of Jammu division with a remarkable confluence of creativity, participation and civic consciousness, as schools transformed into vibrant arenas of dialogue and expression. A diverse array of activities, including poster making, slogan writing, essay writing, awareness sessions and thematic lecture etc were organised in institutions across districts, each serving as a microcosm of the larger societal resolve against pressing concerns such as drug abuse, mental health stigma, environmental neglect and road safety.

Students, in particular, emerged not merely as participants but as articulate voices of change, channeling



their ideas through colour, language and reason, imbuing the campaign with both immediacy and depth.

What lent further gravitas to the proceedings was the active involvement of public representatives, government functionaries, subject experts, parents and members of civil society, whose presence elevated these engagements from routine school activities to meaningful community interventions. The programme, thus, transcended institutional boundaries and assumed the character of a collective civic movement. At the district level, the

seamless execution of activities was ensured under the supervision of Chief Education Officers, working in close coordination with the concerned Joint Directors and Personnel Officer, DSEJ, Manisha, whose organisational oversight lent coherence and direction to the multi-layered initiative.

The entire divisional endeavour continues to be steered under the guidance and supervision of Director School Education Jammu, Dr. Naseem Javaid Chowdhary, whose emphasis on participatory awareness has sought to reposition educational spaces as catalysts of social transformation.

As the programme advances towards its culmination, Day Two stands as a testament to the quiet yet potent power of informed engagement, where awareness is not merely disseminated, but lived, expressed and collectively owned.

## 84 Bn CRPF inaugurates Pickle Ball Court, Central Police Canteen Building at Boom Ramban on Valour Day

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**RAMBAN, APRIL 09:** The 84 Bn CRPF celebrated Shaurya Diwas today at its Tactical Headquarters Boom Ramban. During the function, Unit personnel, led by Commandant N Ranbir Singh, paid rich homage to the CRPF Martyrs.

Speaking at the function, the Commandant stated that on 09 Apr 1965, a small component of 02 Coys of 02nd Bn CRPF successfully repulsed the full-fledged attack of 01 Infantry Brigade of regular Pakistan Army at Sardar Post in the Rann of Kutch Gujarat killing 34 enemy Soldiers. Valour day is celebrated across the Nation in CRPF to honour the exemplary bravery, sacrifice and devotion to the duty displayed by the 06 CRPF personnel who attained Martyrdom in the above battle for the Nation.

Later, the First Lady 84 Bn CRPF, N Gayabati Devi inaugurated the First Pickle Ball Court in CRPF in J&K and Kendriya Police Kalyan Bandar Building at its Tactical Headquarters 84 Bn CRPF Boom Ramban. Pickleball is a new game gaining popularity across the globe.



The inauguration function was attended by Commandant 84 Bn, Second in Command Vikram Singh, Officers, families, personnel of 84 Bn CRPF and Media personnel. The Commandant 84 Bn stated that this court and other sports facilities are developed to promote sports and fitness among the Unit personnel and local populace. He also assured that, in the coming days, the sports facilities and the new games will be provided to the youths and students of the local area, through periodical exchange programs.

An exhibition Pickleball match was played after the inauguration. 84 Bn CRPF Boom Ramban already had 02 Badminton courts, 01 Volleyball Court, 01 Lawn Tennis court, 01 Modern Indoor Gym and 01 Open Air Gym to ensure fitness of its personnel.

## ADDCC Rajouri reviews Agriculture Credit-Linked Schemes

Directs to benefit genuine farmers

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**RAJOURI, APRIL 9:** On the directions of DC Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, a meeting to review implementation of credit-linked schemes of the Agriculture Production Department was chaired by ADDCC Malikzada Sheraz ul Haq, at his office chamber today.

The meeting assessed progress under key schemes, including the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund and the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The ADDCC emphasized close monitoring and periodical review of the progress of each scheme to achieve optimal outcomes. He underscored the importance of agricultural development in strengthening rural growth and well being of farming community.

The meeting was attended by senior officers, including Chief Agriculture Officer Rajesh Gupta; Chief Horticulture Officer Sushil Kumar; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Khalid Hussain; DSHO PP Sajotra;



AD Fisheries Bodh Raj and LDM Ravinder Singh.

## Joint Inspection drive of Chemist Shops, Drug De-Addiction Centres conducted in Jammu North

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, APRIL 09:** To enforce compliance with the Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan under NCORD and adherence to prescribed Standard Operating Procedures, a joint inspection drive of chemist shops and drug de-addiction centres was conducted today across the territorial jurisdiction of Jammu North. The inspection team was led by Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Dr. Deepak Kumar, accompanied by SDPO Domana, Mudassir Chowdhary and the Drug Inspector, Jammu North.

During the extensive drive, the joint team inspected several medical establishments to verify the maintenance of the records, functionality of CCTV cameras and implementation of mandatory computerized billing systems with invoices being verified on the spot by the officials.

Emphasizing a zero-tolerance policy against medical negligence, the SDM Jammu North directed all chemists to ensure the

availability of qualified personnel, proper record-keeping and functional billing systems. It was reiterated that such surprise inspection drives will continue in the future and warned that stringent action will be taken against violators to safeguard public health and ensure transparency in the sale of medicines.

Further, the joint team also inspected drug de-addiction centres to ensure compliance with prescribed guidelines. The inspection focused on verification of valid registration/licenses issued by the competent authority and their renewal status, availability of qualified medical staff including psychiatrists, doctors, nurses and trained counselors and maintenance of proper patient admission and discharge records including consent forms and case histories.

The team also enquired as to if there is illegal detention or confinement of patients and those admissions were carried out strictly in accordance with legal provisions.

## JKAACL releases Punjabi short story book "Ruhan Da Mel"

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, APRIL 09:** The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), in collaboration with Punjabi Sahitak Sabha, R.S. Pura, Jammu, today organised an impressive book release function, releasing "Ruhan Da Mel", a collection of Punjabi short stories authored by Taranjeet Kour. The function was held here at K.L. Saigal Hall amidst a distinguished gathering of literary enthusiasts.

Dr. Arvinder Singh Amn, former Additional Secretary, JKAACL, presided over the function. Among those present on the dais were Dr. Rajbir Singh, President, Punjabi Sahitak Sabha, R.S. Pura, Jammu; Popinder Singh Paras, Editor, Sheeraza Punjabi; Shamsheer Singh Chouhalvi and the author Taranjeet Kour.

In his presidential address, Dr.



Arvinder Singh Amn congratulated the author for her literary contribution and underscored the importance of encouraging emerging writers in Punjabi literature. He appreciated the growing participation of new writers in enriching the literary landscape.

Earlier, Dr. Rajbir Singh delivered the welcome address, warmly greeting the dignitaries and

participants. He highlighted the Sabha's consistent efforts in promoting literary activities and strengthening literary institutions. He also shared his views on the book and lauded the author's creative endeavour, emphasizing the need for more such literary contributions in the future.

A detailed paper on the book was presented by Dr. Amanpreet

Kaur, who critically analysed the themes and narrative style of the short stories.

Several eminent speakers, including Shamsheer Singh Chouhalvi, H.S. Uppal, Dr. Monojit, Mohinderpal Singh and Harbhajan Singh Pumpy also expressed their views on the book and appreciated the author's work.

Speaking on the occasion, Taranjeet Kour shared her reflections on writing and expressed her deep passion for Punjabi short stories. She described "Ruhan Da Mel" as a humble attempt to present her creative expression to readers.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by S. Popinder Singh Paras, who also presented the vote of thanks.

A large number of writers, scholars, teachers, students and literature lovers attended the function, making it a memorable and enriching literary gathering.

HT EDITORIAL

For smooth traffic movement implement ITMS

The Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) is one of the important components of the traffic management system in the cities especially in those which have been designated as smart cities in the country. This type of traffic management system provides an insight to the motorists as well as those who have to cross the roads in cities located across the country. People as a whole have welcomed ITMS and hailed the same as a revolutionary step in the traffic management system.

Like the other cities of the country Srinagar too was entitled to have this type of traffic management system. Since the summer capital of the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir is one of the smart cities of the country, people of the city should have all the up-to-date facilities. Some months back the people at helm had claimed that ITMS would be installed in the Srinagar city and people would feel relieved while driving their vehicles and moving around.

Some of the steps might have been taken by the traffic police department in this regard but a lot more needs to be done. As part of ITMS, cameras have been installed at some of the traffic lights across the city so as to catch the people found violating the traffic rules and regulations. These cameras need to be installed at all the traffic lights not only in Srinagar, but at the other district headquarters as well as towns of Kashmir and Jammu divisions of the union territory.

A significant and important feature of ITMS is the timers installed at the top of a traffic light. In this regard the Srinagar city is lagging behind and there are one or two traffic lights that have the timers installed at their top. The other traffic lights don't have this facility and as such both the motorists as well as pedestrians experience difficulties. Once the timer is working at the traffic lights it gives an idea to the motorist as well as a pedestrian as when to start and when to stop.

Yet another interesting step related to this concept is that it depends upon the wish of the traffic police personnel to keep the timer system on or not. One fails to understand the thinking of the traffic police personnel in not making the timer system a regular feature at the traffic lights. There is no need to tinker with the timer system and the same needs to be understood by the traffic police personnel posted at the traffic lights.

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Winter Wings over Kashmir's Wetlands



MOHAMMAD HANIEF

Every winter, as vast stretches of Central Asia, Siberia and Europe succumb to freezing temperatures, the Kashmir Valley quietly assumes a global ecological role. Its wetlands, lakes and marshes become temporary homes for migratory birds that traverse thousands of kilometres in search of food, safety and moderate climatic conditions. This annual avian influx, one of the most remarkable natural phenomena in the region, once again unfolds across Kashmir's landscape, reaffirming the valley's importance on the international migratory map while also highlighting the environmental pressures that threaten this delicate balance.

From early October onward, wetlands such as Hokersar, Haigam, Shalabugh, Mirgund, Dal Lake and Wular Lake begin to witness the gradual arrival of waterfowl. By the onset of winter, these habitats are alive with movement, sound and colour as birds settle into their seasonal refuge. Species commonly recorded include mallards, northern pintails, common teals, gadwalls, tufted ducks, coots, greylag geese and bar-headed geese, along with several species of gulls and waders. For months, these wetlands provide sustenance and shelter before the birds begin their return journey in spring.

Recent seasonal assessments indicate that Kashmir's wetlands have collectively hosted more than a million migratory birds, a figure that reflects a steady rise observed over the past several years. The Asian Waterbird Census and local wildlife surveys have recorded an encouraging increase in both population numbers and species diversity. This resurgence is widely attributed to sustained wetland management initiatives, improved water retention mechanisms and increased surveillance against illegal hunting and encroachment.

Wular Lake, one of Asia's largest freshwater lakes and a designated Ramsar site, continues to serve as a crucial wintering ground. Its vast open waters and surrounding marshes support large congregations of birds, particularly geese and ducks. Dal Lake, despite urban pressures, remains an important habitat due to its complex mosaic of open water, reed beds and floating vegetation. Hokersar wetland, often described as the gateway for migratory birds entering the valley, retains its ecological significance, especially during early winter when bird arrivals peak.

The importance of these wetlands extends beyond seasonal migration. They act as natural flood buffers, groundwater recharge zones and biodiversity reservoirs. For migratory birds, they offer not only food but also relative safety from predators and extreme weather. The presence of healthy bird populations is therefore considered a key indicator of wetland health and water quality.

In recent years, conservation efforts across Kashmir have intensified, yielding visible results. Measures such as controlled water regulation, selective desilting and habitat restoration have helped improve the carrying capacity of several wetlands. Surveillance infrastructure has been strengthened, with night patrols and monitoring systems deployed to curb poaching, a practice that once posed a seri-



ous threat to migratory birds in the region. Awareness campaigns targeting local communities have also contributed to greater public participation in conservation.

At the same time, the current scenario reveals contrasting realities. While some wetlands report higher bird concentrations, others are experiencing stress due to environmental and climatic factors. Prolonged dry spells and erratic precipitation patterns have affected water levels in certain marshes, particularly Hokersar, where reduced inflows have limited suitable foraging areas. Such fluctuations directly influence bird distribution, forcing species to either relocate within the valley or shorten their stay.

Climate variability has emerged as a critical concern. Changing snowfall patterns in the upper catchments and inconsistent rainfall have altered hydrological cycles that wetlands depend upon. Reduced winter precipitation not only affects water availability but also impacts aquatic vegetation, a primary food source for many migratory species. Over time, these shifts could influence long-established migration routes and seasonal timings.

Human pressure remains another major challenge. Encroachment, pollution from untreated sewage, agricultural runoff and unregulated development continue to threaten wetland ecosystems. Urban expansion around Dal Lake and Wular Lake has increased nutrient loading, leading to eutrophication and loss of open water. In rural wetlands, land reclamation and silt deposition have reduced marshy areas critical for feeding and nesting.

Despite legal protections and Ramsar recognition for several sites, enforcement gaps persist. Conservationists emphasize that wetland protection cannot succeed through isolated interventions alone. It requires integrated land-use planning, strict regulation of waste disposal, and coordinated water management across river basins. Without such measures, short-term gains in bird numbers may not translate into long-term ecological stability.

The annual arrival of migratory birds also carries socio-economic significance. Birdwatching and nature tourism have gained momentum, drawing photographers, researchers and visitors to Kashmir's wetlands. This growing interest has the potential to support local livelihoods through eco-tourism,

provided it is managed responsibly. Infrastructure such as observation decks, guided trails and interpretation centres is increasingly being viewed as a means to balance conservation with community benefit.

Educational initiatives have further strengthened this link. Schools, colleges and environmental groups are now actively involved in bird monitoring and wetland clean-up drives. Such engagement fosters environmental stewardship among younger generations, reinforcing the idea that wildlife conservation is a shared responsibility rather than an isolated administrative task.

Scientifically, migratory birds serve as living indicators of broader ecological changes. Variations in their numbers, health and behaviour often signal shifts in climate, water quality and habitat integrity. Continuous monitoring through structured censuses and research programmes is therefore essential to understanding long-term trends and planning adaptive conservation strategies.

Looking ahead, the future of Kashmir's migratory birds will largely depend on the resilience of its wetlands. Strengthening water security, restoring degraded marshes and curbing pollution must remain top priorities. Equally important is the need to align development goals with ecological limits, ensuring that infrastructure expansion does not undermine natural systems that have sustained both wildlife and human communities for centuries.

The winter skies over Kashmir, streaked with the silhouettes of migrating birds, remain one of the valley's most enduring natural spectacles. Each arrival is a testament to the valley's ecological relevance on a global scale. Yet, it is also a reminder that this ancient cycle is fragile. Preserving it demands sustained commitment, informed policy and collective action.

As another migration season unfolds, Kashmir stands at a crossroads. Its wetlands can either continue to serve as sanctuaries for millions of birds or slowly lose their vitality under mounting pressure. The choices made today will determine whether future winters will still echo with the calls of distant lands carried on wings across continents.

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BRIDGING GAP BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN CLASSROOMS EDUCATION



MOOL RAJ

Students often struggle to grasp lessons in a language that is not their mother tongue, and many teachers also lack proficiency, which compounds the difficulty.

Teacher's today is not only expected to impart subject knowledge but also to guide their students in using technology responsibly, ethically, and effectively.

Teachers must therefore serve as digital mentors, helping students cultivate not just skills, but also the discipline and discernment to use those skills meaningfully.

At a recent education conference, an engaging discussion unfolded around a critical question how do the needs of students in rural areas differ from those in urban settings, and what can teachers do to meet them? Though the contexts may vary widely, both sets of teachers face strikingly similar challenges chief among them, the struggle

to provide individualized attention in overcrowded classrooms. Large class sizes, coupled with mixed-ability groups and, in many rural schools, mixed-age classrooms, make it difficult for teachers to cater to every learner's pace and potential. The issue is worsened by the limited access to training programs that equip teachers to handle such diversity effectively.

Another persistent concern lies in moving away from traditional, lecture-heavy teaching methods. Despite awareness of the need for change, both rural and urban teachers often find it difficult to adopt student-centered strategies such as inquiry-based or project-based learning. Implementing such methods requires not only planning and resources but also a degree of pedagogical agility that many teachers were never trained for. In classrooms everywhere, sustaining student engagement has become an uphill battle as attention spans are shrinking, distractions are multiplying, and teachers frequently find their expertise tested as they try to motivate learners toward academic commitment.

A widespread complication across regions is the language of instruction. Students often struggle to grasp lessons in a language that is not their mother tongue, and many teachers also lack proficiency, which compounds the difficulty.

Language barriers not only slow curriculum completion but also contribute to teacher burnout. When teachers feel overwhelmed, frustration seeps into their interactions with school management, eventually leading to disillusionment and, in some cases, attrition. These ripples from misaligned goals to unmanageable workloads create an environment where neither teachers nor students can thrive, and significant numbers of learners "fall through the cracks."

To counter these challenges, professional development programs must align with both teachers' professional needs and institutional expectations. Unfortunately, many initiatives are still narrowly focused on academic outcomes lesson planning, student performance metrics, and test preparation while overlooking the emotional and social dimensions of teaching. The education system's obsession with results has birthed a "teach-to-the-test" culture, leaving little room for creativity, critical thinking, or personal growth. In the race to achieve high scores, schools often cultivate compliance rather than curiosity, producing students who may graduate with academic credentials but little practical or emotional readiness for life beyond the classroom.

Behind every thriving classroom is a teacher who is not only skilled but also

emotionally well. Yet teacher well-being remains one of the most neglected areas in education policy and practice. Many educators juggle mounting workloads with family responsibilities and professional stress, often without access to the emotional support or guidance they need. The "oxygen-mask" principle tending to one's own well-being before helping others is as true for teachers as it is for anyone else. When teachers neglect self-care, their ability to nurture and guide their students diminishes.

This concern deepens in today's technology-driven educational landscape. Digital tools, online platforms, and continuous information flow have transformed teaching, but they have also introduced new layers of complexity.

Teachers must constantly upgrade their technological skills while maintaining emotional resilience amid rapid change. Professional development that includes social-emotional learning for teachers is no longer optional it is essential for sustainability in the profession. Teachers who build resilience are better equipped to help their students handle stress, uncertainty, and the evolving pressures of modern life.

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

# Bringing Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan to the Doorstep: A Community-First Approach



■ **IMRAN RAINA**

Drug addiction is no longer just a "law-and-order" or "health" problem; it is a social crisis that must be confronted at the level of every home, mohalla, and panchayat. The Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory has already taken significant steps through the launch of the 14446 helpline, the establishment of De-Addiction Centres, and the pledge to banish drugs from society. However, to achieve lasting change and if it is to truly become a people's movement, the Abhiyan needs a grassroots, community-first approach that reaches every doorstep, every playground, every classroom, and every family conversation.

One of the most effective ways to bring awareness into homes is through structured but respectful house-to-house visits. Local youth volunteers, including NSS and NCC students, college volunteers, and ASHAs, can be trained to conduct short, 10-15-minute conversations with families in each ward or village. These visits should focus on explaining the health risks of drugs, including inhalants, opioids, and cannabis, the legal consequences of misuse and trafficking, and the confidential support available through the 14446 helpline and District De-Addiction Centres. Simple handouts in local languages—Urdu, Kashmiri, and Dogri—can be provided, with QR codes that directly link to the official Nasha Mukta J&K website and helpline information. A light, consent-based register can track which families may need further counseling or referral, while strictly protecting privacy and avoiding any sense of surveillance.

At the same time, every mohalla, village, or ward should have a visible "Nasha Mukta

Cell" that acts as the first point of contact for the community. These cells can be formed by a small group comprising local youth, at least one teacher or school counsellor, an ASHA or community health worker, and a representative from the panchayat or municipal ward committee. Their role is to observe early warning signs of addiction—such as sudden drop in school performance, withdrawal from family, or physical changes—and to discreetly guide families toward de-addiction services instead of judgement.

Schools and colleges naturally become powerful spaces for prevention, especially because youth are at the highest risk of experimenting with substances. Under the banner of Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir, every educational institution can aspire to become a "Nasha Mukta Zone," where at least one period every month is dedicated to interactive drug-awareness sessions conducted by trained teachers, counsellors, or doctors. These sessions can move beyond rote lectures and instead use videos, role-plays, and real-life stories to help students understand addiction as a treatable health issue rather than a moral failing. In addition, student-led "Nasha Mukta Warriors" clubs can be formed to conduct debates, poster competitions, and Short Street plays in local languages, giving youth a sense of ownership over the movement. Peer-counselling groups can also operate quietly inside schools and hostels, allowing students to support classmates who may be under stress or already using drugs, while knowing how and when to involve adults or counsellors.

Beyond the classroom, communities must offer attractive alternatives that keep youth engaged and fulfilled. Many young people turn to drugs because of idleness, frustration, or a lack of safe spaces for recreation and growth. Local "Mohalla Youth Hubs" can be created in parks or community centres, where evening sports, yoga, fitness sessions, skill-training, and even informal IT or craft classes are regularly organised. Community sports tournaments, cultural festivals, and music or



drama competitions can be organised under the explicit banner of Nasha Mukta J&K, where each participating team or group signs a "Nasha Mukta Pledge" before the event. When joy, competition, and celebration are clearly linked with a drug-free lifestyle, social norms begin to shift in lasting ways.

In Jammu and Kashmir, people often place deep trust in religious and traditional leaders, who can play a powerful role in spreading the message. Imams, priests, preachers, and other religious figures can be sensitized to the narcotics crisis and encouraged to include brief messages on "preserving physical and mental purity" in their sermons. These messages can be framed spiritually, linking a healthy body and mind with religious duty and social responsibility.

To sustain awareness at the doorstep level, the message must be repeated in relatable formats through local media and technology. Local radio stations and cable TV channels can broadcast interviews with doctors, counsellors, and former addicts, making the issue feel personal and urgent. Mobile "Nasha Mukta Vans" can travel to remote villages and urban neighbourhoods, equipped with audio-visual screens showing awareness films, volunteers distributing pamphlets, and teams taking down helpline-registration

forms. These vans can also conduct live question-answer sessions, clearing myths and misinformation about drugs and treatment in front of real audiences.

At the same time, the movement must recognise that drug addiction is often tied to deeper issues such as unemployment, poverty, and family conflict. Local administrations can help link vulnerable families with government skill-training schemes, micro-enterprise programmes, and employment platforms, easing the economic stress that sometimes pushes youth toward drugs. Women-led self-help groups or cooperatives can be strengthened to provide both financial and emotional support, creating a safety net for households that are already under strain.

For the Abhiyan to remain effective over time there must be simple, visible monitoring and feedback at the grassroots level. Each ward or panchayat can maintain a "Nasha Mukta Scorecard" that tracks how many awareness sessions have been held, how many homes have been visited, how many helpline numbers have been distributed, and how many referrals have been made to de-addiction services. This scorecard can be displayed publicly at the panchayat office, school gate, or community hall, encouraging healthy competition among mohallas and motivating

volunteers to keep improving. Every six months, a "Nasha Mukta Mohalla/Award" can be given to the ward or village that shows the highest participation, the most referrals, and the most creative youth-engagement activities. Local leaders and administration can use national occasions like Independence Day, Republic Day, and the International Day Against Drug Abuse to publicly recognize these achievements, keeping the Abhiyan alive in people's collective memory.

Legal awareness is also crucial because many families hesitate to act due to fear of punishment or stigma. Short, community-based sessions can help residents understand the difference between addicts who need help and traffickers who must be reported to police. Volunteers can explain how to safely report suspicious activity or dealers through local police or official Abhiyan channels, while also reassuring communities that calling the 14446 helpline is confidential and treatment-oriented. When people learn that reporting is not only safe but a civic duty, they are more likely to become active partners in the movement rather than silent bystanders.

Ultimately, the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan will only succeed when it is no longer seen as a government campaign but as a way of life within every community. By combining doorstep visits with mohalla-level cells, school-based zones, youth hubs, trusted local voices, and simple monitoring systems, the movement can touch every front yard and every young heart. When every mohalla celebrates its own Nasha-free status, when every youth hub buzzes with sports and skills instead of substance, and when every family feels confident to dial 14446 without shame, then Jammu and Kashmir will not only be free from drugs but also stronger, healthier, and more hopeful for the future.

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# Vanishing Lakes of J&K: A Silent Ecological Crisis



■ **SHAHNAWAZ NAZIR**

The alarming disappearance and degradation of natural lakes in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) has emerged as a serious environmental concern, demanding urgent attention from policymakers, environmentalists, and the public alike. Once home to 697 natural lakes spread across its 20 districts, the Union Territory now faces a grim reality: since 1967, 315 lakes have completely disappeared, while 203 others have significantly shrunk in size. This represents not just a numerical loss, but a deep ecological and socio-economic crisis that threatens the region's environmental stability and cultural heritage.

According to audit analysis based on data from the Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing Department (EE&RSD), there has been a total reduction of 2,851.26 hectares in lake area over the past five decades. Of this, 1,537.07 hectares correspond to lakes that have vanished entirely, while 1,314.19 hectares represent the reduced area of partially surviving lakes. In total, 518 lakes—nearly three-fourths of the original count—have either disappeared or degraded, painting a disturbing picture of environmental neglect.

The geographical distribution of this loss reveals an even more concerning trend. Out of the 315 lakes that have disappeared, 259 were located in the Jammu division, which originally had 367 lakes in 1967. Meanwhile, the Kashmir division, which had 330 lakes at the time, has lost 56 lakes. While the loss is more pronounced in Jammu in terms of



numbers, the ecological sensitivity of Kashmir's lakes means that even smaller losses can have disproportionately large impacts.

Lakes are not just static water bodies; they are dynamic ecosystems that support a wide range of flora and fauna. They serve as habitats for aquatic species, migratory birds, and numerous plant varieties. The disappearance and shrinkage of these lakes have therefore led to a significant loss of biodiversity. Species that once thrived in these ecosystems are now endangered or have vanished entirely from certain regions. The disruption of these ecosystems also affects the food chain, leading to long-term ecological imbalances.

Beyond their ecological importance, lakes in J&K have immense socio-economic value. They support agriculture

by maintaining groundwater levels, provide water for irrigation, and sustain local livelihoods through fishing and tourism. Many communities depend directly on these lakes for their daily needs. The degradation of lakes has thus had a direct impact on these communities, leading to reduced agricultural productivity, loss of income, and increased vulnerability to water scarcity.

The causes behind this widespread loss are multifaceted. Rapid urbanization, unplanned construction, encroachment, and land-use changes have significantly contributed to the shrinking of lake areas. Wetlands and lakes have often been viewed as wastelands, making them easy targets for conversion into residential or commercial spaces. Pollution is another major factor, with untreated sewage, agricultural runoff,

and solid waste finding their way into these water bodies, degrading water quality and accelerating their decline.

Climate change has further exacerbated the situation. Changing precipitation patterns, reduced snowfall, and rising temperatures have affected the natural replenishment cycles of lakes. In regions like J&K, where many lakes depend on glacial melt and seasonal rainfall, even slight climatic variations can have significant consequences. The combined effect of human activity and climate change has thus created a perfect storm leading to the rapid decline of these vital ecosystems.

The findings highlighted in the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India on "Conservation and management of lakes in Jammu and Kashmir" underscore the urgent need

for effective intervention. The report not only brings attention to the scale of the problem but also raises questions about the adequacy of conservation measures undertaken so far. Despite the recognized importance of lakes, efforts to protect and restore them have often been fragmented and insufficient.

Addressing this crisis requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach. First and foremost, there is a need for strict enforcement of environmental regulations to prevent further encroachment and pollution. Lakes and wetlands must be clearly demarcated and protected under law. Restoration projects should be initiated to revive degraded lakes, involving scientific methods such as desiltation, afforestation, and the removal of invasive species.

Community participation is equally crucial. Local populations must be made aware of the importance of lakes and involved in their conservation. Traditional knowledge and practices can play a valuable role in sustainable management. Educational campaigns and grassroots initiatives can help foster a sense of ownership and responsibility among citizens.

Moreover, integrating modern technology such as remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS) can enhance monitoring and management efforts. Regular assessment of lake health, water quality, and area changes can help in timely intervention and policy formulation.

The disappearance of lakes in Jammu & Kashmir is not just an environmental issue; it is a reflection of how development and neglect can erode natural heritage. If immediate and sustained action is not taken, the region risks losing not only its lakes but also the ecological balance and livelihoods that depend on them.

The time to act is now—before more of these silent sentinels of nature vanish forever.

# Natural Cleanser for Summer



■ SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

Everyone loves their skin, don't they? The scorching summer heat can take a toll on your skin, leading to dehydration, sunburn, and breakouts.

The rising mercury and long, dry days snatch the glow and softness of the skin. Cleaning your face properly during the summer months is essential to keep your skin fresh, healthy, and free from issues like excess oil, sweat, and clogged pores.

As the temperature rises and the sun shines brighter, it's time to revamp your summer skin care routine for the hotter months.

Owing to its hydrating, cooling properties and low calorie value.

Natural ingredients like coconut water, cucumber juice, mint, and rose water offer excellent, soothing, and hydrating options for cleaning facial skin, reducing summer tan and oiliness.

## Coconut Water

Packed with nutrients like potassium, magnesium, and antioxidants, coconut water is a natural skincare booster.

Coconut water is more than just a drink; it's the ultimate skincare ingredient.

Coconut water acts as a natural, hydrating cleanser suitable for all skin types, including sensitive skin, due to its antibacterial, antimicrobial, and nutrient-rich properties.

While you can enjoy it anytime, drinking it on an empty stomach lets your body absorb the electrolytes and vitamins without competing with food. It "wakes up" your skin cells after a night of repair.

Using fresh, pure coconut water as a natural cleanser helps hydrate, fight acne with antimicrobial properties, and balance skin pH.

Coconut water that can be used for cleansing the face is the water inside a



tender coconut. The water is clear and also sterile and contains vitamins, minerals, amino acids, and enzymes. As such, it is highly nutritious. The face can be washed daily with coconut water to refresh and cleanse. It is said to impart a smooth and glowing skin. It helps to remove oil and other impurities. It can also be mixed with Multani mitti into a paste and applied to the face. Wash it off when it dries. It is ideal for reducing oiliness and clarifying oily skin.

## Cucumber Juice

Cucumber juice is a natural, hydrating, and mildly astringent cleanser that soothes inflammation, tightens pores, and reduces puffiness. With up to 95%

water, cucumber juice helps replenish lost moisture, keeping your skin soft, supple, and refreshed. It is especially beneficial for dry skin and helps improve overall skin texture and elasticity.

It effectively removes excess oil and dirt while being gentle on sensitive skin. It can be used on its own, mixed with ingredients like honey or yoghurt, or frozen into ice cubes.

Cucumber juice has minerals like silicon, magnesium, and potassium, which are super skin-friendly. It is why cucumber and cucumber juice are found in many spa and skincare products.

Cucumber juice has several beauty benefits. It is an astringent and helps to tone and refresh the skin.

Cucumber is packed with antioxidants, it contains biotin and potassium, and also serves as a nutrient-rich source of Vitamin A, C and B1.

It closes the pores and reduces oiliness. It also helps to lighten skin colour over a period of time. The effect of cucumber juice is gentle on the skin. That is why it is a traditional remedy for the delicate skin around the eyes, helping to reduce dark circles and brighten the skin. Cucumber juice may be applied daily on the skin around the eyes, washing off with plain water after 15 minutes. It helps to reduce dark circles around the eyes.

For a cooling face pack, mix Cucumber juice with two teaspoons of powdered milk and one egg white. Put the ingredients in a blender for a smooth paste. Apply to the face and neck and rinse off with water after half an hour. It will also help to remove tan. To tone the skin, mix cucumber juice with rose water in equal quantities. Apply to the face and wash off with plain water after 20 minutes. For a skin-lightening pack, mix cucumber juice with ripe papaya pulp and yoghurt. Apply on the face and wash it off after half an hour.

## Mint Water

Mint leaves have a chemical called astringent, which helps in removing dirt from your skin and cleaning the clogged pores.

Mint leaves can lock moisture into your skin by tightening your pores. You can also hydrate your skin by drinking lemon and mint-infused water, a refreshing drink that can be consumed daily.

Mint water, consumed or applied topically, offers significant skin benefits, including acne reduction, inflammation soothing, and pore tightening due to its high antioxidant and antibacterial properties. It acts as a natural toner, hydrating skin to reduce premature ageing signs. Drinking it daily aids in flushing toxins, promoting a radiant complexion.

It has antiseptic and healing properties. It is particularly beneficial in summer. Cucumber juice can be mixed with mint water to refresh and tone the skin in summer. It closes the pores and keeps the skin free from problems. Mint has

anti-inflammatory properties and helps to control acne conditions. Crushed mint leaves can be added to water and left for an hour. Strain and use the water to wash the face.

## Rose Water

When it comes to natural skincare, rose water for face—or gulab jal as it's fondly known in India—has earned a timeless spot on vanities across generations.

It's especially handy during harsh summers when your skin needs that extra TLC.

You can directly spray rose water on clean skin.

A swipe of rose water twice a day will keep your skin away from any acne, inflammation, irritation, or redness.

Mix a few drops into your moisturiser for an added hydration boost.

Take a few drops of Rose water on a clean tissue or cloth and use it to wipe your face. It helps remove excess dirt, oil, and pollution from your face, and it also instantly hydrates and makes you feel fresh.

The best part is that it suits all skin types, including sensitive skin and acne conditions. Rose water-based skin tonics have helped to improve skin texture, reduce oiliness and soothe acne-prone, rashy skin. Rose water is a powerful natural skin toner and also helps to refresh the skin. It is a natural coolant. Due to its cooling effect, rose water is ideal for Indian summers as a skin cleanser and freshener. For oily skin, mix rose water with witch hazel in equal quantities and apply it to the face after cleansing. It helps to complete the cleansing process and also tones the skin. Rose water is versatile and can be mixed with many ingredients. Mixed with rice powder, it forms an ideal scrub for cleansing the pores of oily skin. Mixed with multani mitti into a paste, it forms an ideal cleansing pack.

Regular use of rose water will keep the skin free of extra oil and prevent acne and pimples.

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

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

## Midnight Blaze Guts Passenger Buses at Kupwara Bus Stand, No Casualties Reported

DR.AB QAYOOM

**KUPWARA, APR 09:** A devastating midnight fire broke out at the old bus stand in Kupwara town, reducing several passenger buses to ashes and causing significant financial losses to the owners. The incident occurred late Wednesday night, sending shockwaves across the area and leaving multiple families distressed. According to a senior police officer, the fire erupted at approximately 11:50 pm under mysterious circumstances. In the blaze, five passenger buses were completely gutted, while at least two others sustained partial damage. Fortunately, no loss of life or injuries were reported.

Eyewitnesses described the scene as alarming, with flames soaring high into the night sky and visible from a considerable distance. Locals acted swiftly, alerting the Fire and Emergency Services. Within minutes, fire tenders, assisted by police personnel and units of the Indian Army, rushed to the spot and launched an intensive operation to control the inferno. After strenuous efforts, the fire was eventually brought under control, preventing further damage. Among the vehicles completely destroyed were buses bearing registration numbers JK02BL-2722 owned by Pirzada Showkat Ahmad Shah of Kunan Poshpora, JK02BL-9191 belonging to Ali Mohammad Khan of Kandi Khass, and JK05P-6881



owned by Sajad Ahmad Sanjai of Ashpora. Additionally, two video coach buses, JK01BC-8916 owned by Hilal Ahmad Sheikh and JK09D-5002 belonging to Manzoor Ahmad Magrey, were also engulfed in the flames. Two other buses, JK21-9557 owned by Ghulam Nabi Ganie of Kupwara and JK05P-2324 belonging to Abdul Rasheed Parry of Sultanpora Pattan in Baramulla, suffered partial damage in the incident.

Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation to ascertain the exact cause of the fire. Officials have not ruled out any possibility, and a thorough probe is underway. Later, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Shrikant Suse and Senior Superintendent of Police Kupwara Syed Al Tahir Gillani visited the site to assess the situation. They interacted with the affected bus owners and assured them of all possible assistance from the district administration. The incident has raised concerns over fire safety measures at public transport hubs, with locals urging authorities to implement stricter safeguards to prevent such tragedies in the future.

## Public Notice

Office of the Executive Magistrate 1st class Kralgund. It is hereby notified that i Altaf Ahmad Lone has applied for the birth certificate of my Children's Born at home namely Bilkees Akhter DOB 19/03/2006 Adnan Altaf Lone DOB 02/01/2008, R/o, Hampora now i have applied for his Birth certificate. if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection at Block Development office Kralgund Qaziabad within a period of 07 day's after that no objection will be accepted.

**Name: Bilkees Akhter DOB 19/03/2006**  
**Adnan Altaf Lone DOB 02/01/2008**  
**Prantage Altaf Ahmad Lone**  
**R/O : Hampora Tehsil Kralgund Qaziabad**

## Public Notice

IT is hereby notified that my Children's applying for Birth certificate Apply at Block Development office handwara Born at Doctors inn Maternity Home Maidain Chogal Handwara namely Iram Jaan DOB 10/02/2020 Adeel Haneef Thekri DOB 05/02/2024, R/o Nowgam Tehsil Qalamabad District: kupwara. if anybody having any objection in this regards he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Block Development Office handwara within 07 days .After that no objection shall be entertained.

**IRAM JAAN, DOB 10/02/2020 ADEEL HANEEF**  
**THEKRI DOB 05/02/2024**  
**PRANTAGE: MOHD HANEEF THEKRI**  
**R/O NOWGAM TEHSIL QALAMABAD**  
**DISTRICT KUPWARA**

## Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written on my Adhaar Card Having adhaar No 7315 2288 7885 as Afreen Javid D/O javaid Ahmad Khan

While my actual name is Afreena Javid D/O Javid 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 aperiod of 7 days after that no objection will be entertained.

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

## Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application NARGIS FAROOQ D/O FAROOQ AHMAD GANAIE R/O SHEIKHPORA Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of OBC ( Other Backward classes in his/her favor

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the GANAIE community having annual income 340,000// (Three Lack Forty Thousand ) the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1....FAROOQ AH GANAIE Father 45 years Labour
- 2.SARA BEGUM mother 43 years H/W
- 3...FIZA FAROOQ sister 20 years student
- 4...NARGIS FAROOQ self 19 years student
- 5...MURTAZA FAROOQ brother 16 years student

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

**Naib Tehsild Kreeri**

## Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill ) power connection is registered on my Father in Law name MALLA SAMAD S/O MALLA ISMAIL R/O WATERGAM Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040001000 wants to be registered on my name ABDUL RASHID GANAIE S/L GH RASOOL MALLA R/O WATERGAM .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

**Name.ABDUL RASHID GANAIE**  
**S/L ...GH RASOOL MALLA**  
**R/O ....WATERGAM**  
**BLOCK.... WAGOORA**

## Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) chokedar hassubmitted case filepertainingto death of ABDUL SALAM MIR S/O AB AZIZ MIR R/O. DOLIPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of death as 21/03/2024 event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

**Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri**

## Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill ) power connection is registered on my Father in Law name NOOR UD DIN SHAH S/O GH AHMAD SHAH R/O CHANDERSEERA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0213040007978 wants to be registered on my name SYED RIYAZ AHMAD S/O SYED GHULAM MOHAMMAD R/O CHSNDERSEERA Tehsil PATTAN .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

**Name...SYED RIYAZ AHMAD**  
**S/O ..SYED GHULAM MOHAMMAD**  
**R/O ..CHANDERSEERA**  
**TEHSIL...PATTAN**  
**DIVISION.... SOPORE**

## Public Notice

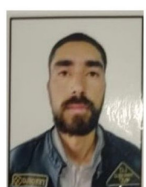
This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill ) power connection is registered on my Fathers name Gh Mohi ud din Rather S/O Ab Khaliq Rather Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040003446 wants to be registered on my own name Irshad Ahmad Rather S/O Gh Mohi ud din Rather .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**IRSHAD AHMAD RATHER S/O GH MOHI UD DIN**  
**RATHER R/O WARIPORA BALA**

## Public Notice

It is to inform the general public that I have lost my ST Certificate and Domicile certificate. Now I want to apply for its duplicate. Anybody having any objections may contact Tehsildar Kargil within a period of 7 days of this notice.

**Name- Ashiq Hussain**  
**S/O- Mohammad Hussain**  
**R/O- Karkit Badgam**  
**Contact no- 8491865674**



## Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application ARZIMNA MUSHTAQ D/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD GANAIE R/O SHEIKHPORA Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of OBC ( Other Backward classes in his/her favor

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the GANAIE community having annual income 211960 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1..MUSHTAQ AH GANAIE Father 47 years Dilywager
- 2.SHAREEFA BEGUM mother 45 years H/W
- 3...DANISH MUSHTAQ Brother 27 years student
- 4..NISHA MUSHTAQ sister 24 years student
- 5...SUFAIEA MUSHTAQ sister 21, years student
- 6...ARZIMNA MUSHTAQ self 19 years student

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

**Naib Tehsild Kreeri**

## Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application AB MAJEED PARRA S/O AB HAMEED PARRA R/O KOKATHAL Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of OBC ( Other Backward classes in his/her favor

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of KOKATHAL of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the PARRA community having annual income 440000// ( Four Lack Forty Thousand ) the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1..AB MAJEED PARRA self 49 years Farmer
- 2.FAMEEDA BEGUM wife 49 years H/W
- 3... ZAHID MAJEED Son 16 years student
- 4...ANZAR MAJEED Son 16 years student

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

**Naib Tehsild Kreeri**

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

### Notice Inviting e-Tender

**NIT No: 03/EEA/R&B of 2026-27/192-202 | Dated: 09-04-2026**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways sand other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No	Name of work	Adv. Cost	T.D Cost	Time	Class
1	Development of Green spaces at MC Awantipora	54.79	1600/-	90 Days	AAV

**Earnest Money (In Rupees): 2% of Adv. Cost**  
**M.H of Account: Hon'ble NGT action Plan 606/2018**  
**Project Authority: Director Urban Local Bodies (K)**  
**Position of AAA: Accorded vide order No: DULB/PLG/097 of 2026 dated: 20.01.2026.**  
**Position of TS: Accorded vide No: 02/SE/PS of 2026-27 Dated: 03.04.2026.**  
**Position of funds: Committed.**

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	09-04-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	09-04-2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	10-04-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	20-04-2026 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	21-04-2026 12:00 PM

1. Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department)

(The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- A of the NIT and submit/ upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No., Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority)

3. All the bidders must upload Earnest Money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority)(The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, otherwise bids shall be rejected).

4. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority)as per rule-171 (I) of GFR 2017. The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority).

6. The earnest money/ Bid security in favour of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of original Treasury Challan.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120-days from the date of opening of Technical bids

8. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:  
i. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

ii. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

iii. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

9. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

i. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "BiddersManualKit" option on website www.jktenders.gov.in to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process.

ii. Toparticipateinbiddingprocess, biddershavetogot'DigitalSignatureCertificate (DSC)'asper information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from an approved Vendor.

iii. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

iv. Bidderswillbeopenedonlineaspertime schedulementionedinPara-1.

v. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.

Note: Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

**No: 03/EEA/R&B /2026-27/192-202 | Dated: 09-04-2026**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer**  
**R&B Division Awantipora**

**DIPK: 242/26 | Dated: 09-04-2026**

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR Office Of The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Srinagar

### NEAR J&K BANK(ZALDAGAR)

Sub: Extension in bidding time for e-NIT No. 38 OF 2025-26, Dated:28-03-2026 for below mentioned works:  
Mechanical repair works to 05 cusec diesel engine driven pumping unit lying at LIS Lar Chanthan of MISD Ganderbal.  
Ref: JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No.: - 2026\_IFC\_306878\_1

### EXTENSION NOTICE 2

Due to Poor response to above mentioned e-NIT for the subject works, the critical dates are extended as under:

Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	13/04/2026 at 1400 hrs
Date and time of Bid opening	15/04/2026 at 1230 hrs

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.

**No. MIDS/Ts/ 154-58 | Dated: 08-04-2026**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer,**  
**Mechanical Irrigation Division Srinagar**

**DIPK: 250/26 | Dated: 09-04-2026**

# Mendhar gets major road development push; Rana launches Rs 3 crore projects

HT NEWS NETWORK

**MENDHAR, APRIL 09:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for a series of road development projects in Mendhar, worth 3.19 crore.

The initiative marks a significant step towards strengthening the road network in such border and rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir, underscoring the government's firm commitment to achieve last-mile connectivity.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister described the projects as a transformative move aimed at bridging the long-standing infrastructural gaps and improving accessibility in Mendhar. He emphasized that the development of durable and sustainable road networks is central towards unlocking the socio-economic potential of underserved areas.

Among the major works inaugurated was construction of a road from Main Road NH-144A Kallarto Shadhar Sharief via Kamlo Gali, being executed under the UT



Capex Budget at an estimated cost of 1 crore.

Additionally, the upgradation of the Ari to Sarhuti road, taken up under the MLA Constituency Development Fund, has been completed at a cost of 50 lakh.

The Minister also laid foundation stone for further strengthening of the Ari-Sarhuti stretch, including its macadamization under the Potholes Repair Programme at a cost of 30 lakh and its permanent restoration under the UT Sector with an allocation of 40 lakh.

Another significant project included macadamization of Main Road to Dara Top via Haji Pallu, undertaken under the C&T Scheme at an estimated cost of 75 lakh.

Furthermore, the upgradation of the road from Main Road to Shahstar Ziyarat in Mendhar, executed under CTMV Gursai, has been completed at a cost of 24 lakh.

Addressing the gathering, Rana reiterated that ensuring connectivity in remote, border

and underserved areas remains a top priority of the government led by Omar Abdullah. He stressed that no community should remain isolated due to inadequate road infrastructure.

He described quality connectivity as a fundamental right of every citizen, irrespective of any consideration.

The Minister highlighted that the government is adopting a comprehensive and multi-pronged strategy for road development by leveraging constituency

development funds, UT sector allocations and targeted repair programmes. This integrated approach, he noted, is aimed at ensuring that every village, hamlet and border settlement is connected through reliable road networks.

Underscoring the broader impact of infrastructure development, the Minister stated that improved road connectivity serves as a catalyst for economic growth and social progress.

Rana directed the Public Works (R&B) Department to ensure strict adherence to quality standards and timelines in execution of all projects. He made it clear that any compromise on construction quality would not be tolerated and called for robust monitoring and on-ground supervision at every stage.

The locals, while extending gratitude to the present dispensation for these vital projects, highlighted that better infrastructure would encourage local entrepreneurship, support trade and commerce and generate employment opportunities, ultimately contributing to improved livelihoods and sustainable development in Mendhar.

## BHSS Rajouri hosts series of competitions on Day 2

HT NEWS NETWORK

**RAJOURI, APRIL 9:** The School Education Department successfully conducted Day-2 of the 3-Day Divisional Level Awareness Programme at Boys Higher Secondary School Rajouri, as part of an initiative aimed at promoting awareness on vital social themes including Mental Health, Drug Addiction, Career Counselling, Traffic Awareness and Environmental Protection.

The programme was organized under the supervision of the Chief Education Officer Mohammad Hafeez and



witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of various Higher Secondary Schools across the district.

Painting and Essay Writing competitions on the allotted themes were conducted separately. These events were evaluated by an experienced jury comprising Mohammad Gafoor, Shakti Gupta, Vikrant Gupta and Sajjad Ahmed Mir, who appreciated the creativity and awareness reflected in the students' work.

The Quiz Competition, the highlight of the day, was conducted in an innovative and engaging manner by Mohammad Ayaz Raina, who effectively utilized smart technology to enhance interaction and learning. Madhu Gupta efficiently maintained the score sheet, ensuring transparency and accuracy. A total of eight teams participated enthusiastically in the quiz, showcasing commendable knowledge and team spirit.

The programme concluded with a grand prize distribution ceremony, attended by ARTO Rajesh Gupta; DEPO Sardari Lal; Host School Principal Mohammad Muslim Wani and Senior Lecturer Fazal Chouhan along with faculty members and escort teachers.

Mohammad Arshad from GHSS Dangri secured first position in Painting, while Kashish Sharma from GHSS Chingus and Dadya Zahoor from GHSS Manjakote secured second and third positions, respectively. In Essay Writing, Sana Fatima from GHSS Dangri secured first position, while Aradhana Sharma from GHSS Chingus and Riya Sharma from Girls GHSS Rajouri secured second and third positions, respectively. In the Quiz Competition (team event), GHSS Dhandkote secured first position, followed by GHSS Saaj in second place and Girls GHSS Rajouri in third place.

Two students each drawn from 12 Higher Secondary Schools participated in the competitions. The winners were felicitated with souvenirs, while consolation prizes were awarded to the remaining participants.

## 3-day Census training workshop concludes at Kathua

HT NEWS NETWORK

**KATHUA, APRIL 09:** A three-day Training Workshop for District and Charge Level Clerical Assistants, conducted by District Administration Kathua in coordination with the Directorate of Census Operations Jammu & Kashmir, concluded successfully today at the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex here.

The workshop was held under the close supervision of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma, who is also the Principal Census Officer.

The training programme, held from April 7 to April 9, 2026, was organised as part of capacity-building measures for the forthcoming Census operations, in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India.

Addressing the participants, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the active participation of the trainees and underscored the critical role of trained manpower in ensuring smooth, accurate and error-free Census operations. He expressed confidence that the trained officials would contribute effectively to the successful conduct of Census 2027.

During the three-day workshop, participants were imparted comprehensive training on various aspects of Census-related activities, including data collection procedures, use of digital tools, field-level coordination and reporting mechanisms. Emphasis was laid on maintaining accuracy, efficiency and strict adherence to timelines.

Resource persons highlighted the importance of meticulous planning and close coordination at the grassroots level for the successful execution of Census exercises.

The sessions also featured interactive discussions and practical demonstrations, enabling participants to gain hands-on experience and clarity regarding their roles and responsibilities.

Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner Vishavjeet Singh; District Statistics & Evaluation Officer Kathua Sidharth Anand; District Informatics Officer Shubham Singh; Nodal Officer Seirin Kohli and Sanjay Kumar (District Coordinator) from Directorate of Census Operations, J&K, besides other officers and officials associated with the forthcoming Census exercise, participated in the training programme.

## JDA conducts anti-encroachment; retrieves 8 Kanal land at 2 locations

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, APRIL 9:** Jammu Development Authority (JDA) today carried out a major anti-encroachment and demolition drive on its land at Rathore Dhok (Dhok Waziran), Nagrota and Sidhra near security headquarters. The drive was carried out with the active support of the District Administration.

At Rathore Dhok (Dhok Waziran)-Nagrota, one unauthorized structure along with plinths was demolished, retrieving approximately 3 kanal of JDA land.

Similarly, five unauthorized permanent structures were demolished at Sidhra.

The operation resulted in the retrieval of around 5 kanal of encroached JDA land. In total, about



8 kanal of JDA land was reclaimed during the drive.

The anti-encroachment operation was conducted under the directions of Vice Chairman JDA Rupesh Kumar and executed smoothly with full cooperation from the District

Administration and JDA enforcement teams.

JDA reiterates its commitment to safeguarding its land and will continue such drives to remove encroachments and ensure proper utilization of public assets.

## DC Kathua reviews preparedness for 100-Day Nasha Mukta campaign

Mega Pad Yatra on April 13; departments asked to mobilize mass participation, awareness

HT NEWS NETWORK

**KATHUA, APRIL 09:** Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex to review the preparedness for the upcoming 100-day intensive campaign under the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of a coordinated and result-oriented approach by all departments to make the campaign effective at the grassroots level. He directed the concerned officers to plan and implement a comprehensive schedule of activities for the 100-day period with a special focus on awareness,

prevention and rehabilitation.

It was informed that a series of activities including awareness drives, seminars, rallies, counselling sessions and community outreach programmes shall be organised across the district involving students, youth, civil society organisations and the general public.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted that a major "Pad Yatra" would be organised on April 13, 2026 from Sports Stadium Kathua to GDC Men to mobilize public participation and spread awareness against drug abuse. He stressed on ensuring maximum participation of students, NSS, NCC volunteers and youth groups in the event.

The Deputy Commissioner



called for making the campaign a mass movement (Jan Andolan)

with active involvement of all sections of society. He underlined the need for intensified drives against drug trafficking and urged departments to work in close coordination to dismantle the network of drug abuse.

The DC further directed all departments to prepare and submit a detailed activity calendar for the 100-day campaign and ensure its strict implementation. He also stressed on incorporating feedback mechanisms and encouraging the public to report cases related to drug abuse. ADDC Surinder Mohan Sharma, POICDS Mohammed Syed, ADC Vishavjeet Singh, ASP Sunil Kumar Kesar, CPO Ranjeet Thakur and other concerned officers were also present.

## Young entrepreneur from Singpora is transforming north Kashmir through education

HT NEWS NETWORK

**Singpora, Apr 08:** At just 32, Raaj Bhat has carved out a remarkable identity as a young changemaker from Singpora in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. In a place where opportunities have often been limited, Raaj's journey stands as a story of determination, vision, and community-driven progress.

A few years ago, driven by the belief that education is the most powerful tool for transformation, Raaj took a bold step by establishing Doon International School in his native village. What initially appeared to be an ambitious idea in a rural setting has today evolved into a centre of learning for children

from Singpora and nearby areas. The school provides access to quality education and modern facilities, reducing the need for students to travel long distances.

For many parents, the school has brought relief and renewed hope. Earlier, options were limited and families often had to send their children to towns for better schooling. Today, with a reputed institution in their own village, students are receiving education in a more supportive and competitive environment, helping them prepare for future challenges.

Beyond academics, Raaj Bhat's initiative has created livelihood opportunities for many locals. Teachers, administrative staff, and support workers have found

stable employment through the school. In a region where unemployment remains a concern, this contribution is significant. It has helped strengthen the local economy while also giving young graduates a chance to work within their own community.

Apart from his contributions to the education sector, Raaj Bhat has also ventured into infrastructure and real estate development. He has been instrumental in developing residential colonies across multiple locations in both Kashmir and Jammu, contributing to planned urban growth and improved living standards. These projects have not only provided housing solutions but have also



generated employment for local labourers, engineers, and other professionals associated with the construction sector.

In addition, he has expanded his entrepreneurial footprint by establishing hotels at various locations, further boosting the

local economy. These hospitality ventures have opened up new avenues for employment, particularly for youth in the region, ranging from management roles to service and support staff. His diversified initiatives reflect a broader vision of development that goes beyond education, focusing on economic growth and job creation.

Raaj's decision to invest in his home village instead of moving elsewhere reflects a strong sense of responsibility and connection to his roots. At a time when many young people look for opportunities outside Jammu and Kashmir, his journey highlights the impact of building something meaningful at home. His work shows that local

solutions can address local challenges effectively.

Over time, his efforts have begun to inspire others in the area. Many young people now see his journey as proof that success is possible through perseverance and a clear vision. He has quietly become a role model, encouraging youth to think differently about their future and to consider entrepreneurship as a path.

Looking ahead, Raaj Bhat is now planning to expand his vision by establishing a nursing college alongside the school. This proposed institution aims to provide skill-based professional education, particularly benefiting young women who often face limited career opportunities. A

nursing college in Singpora would not only open new avenues for employment but also contribute to strengthening healthcare services by producing trained professionals from within the region. If this plan takes shape, it could further transform the village into an emerging hub of education and opportunity. It would also reduce dependence on institutions outside the district and encourage more families to invest in higher education.

Raaj Bhat's journey reflects how individual initiative can bring about meaningful change. His work continues to inspire a new generation in Baramulla, showing that progress can begin with a single step taken with purpose and commitment.

# Industry experts say policy on expected lines, no major surprises

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

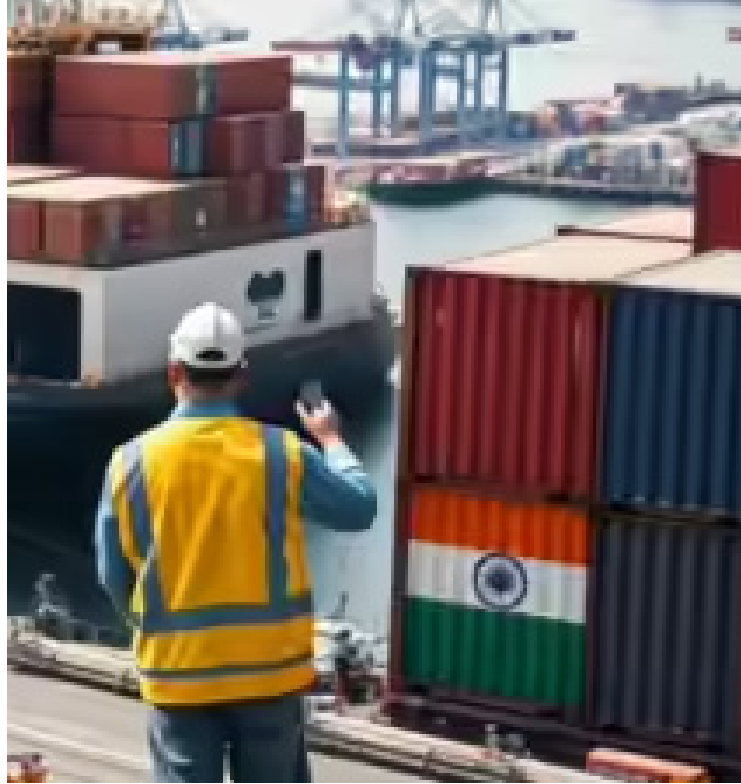
**NEW DELHI, APRIL 9:** Welcoming the Reserve Bank of India's move of keeping the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.25pc and maintaining a "neutral stance", industry experts shared optimistic opinions.

Elaborating on the market-oriented perspective, N Aruna-Giri, CEO of TrustLine Holdings, noted that the RBI policy was largely on expected lines, with no major surprises or headline announcements.

"However, the key takeaway from the policy lies in the RBI's assessment of the impact of ongoing geopolitical tensions," he said.

He highlighted that the central bank has indicated only a marginal impact on both inflation and GDP growth projections, which is noteworthy in the current global context. This provides a significant degree of comfort and reinforces the broader narrative of macro resilience for the Indian economy.

"In our view, this remains the most important signal from the



policy, underscoring the strength and stability of the underlying macro environment," he added.

Echoing the same, Ratul Puri, Chairman of Hindustan Power, said the RBI's decision was on

expected lines and reflects a calibrated approach as it assesses the impact of the West Asia conflict on growth and inflation.

He said India's dependence on oil and gas imports means that supply disruptions, along with rising freight and insurance costs, could play out over the next few months and may build inflationary pressures.

While the recently announced two-week truce is a welcome step, it is critical that the cessation of hostilities becomes permanent so that oil prices decline to pre-war levels.

Puri added that the Indian economy is currently on a stronger footing, supported by low interest rates, benign inflation and strong private consumption, making it better prepared to absorb shocks arising from the ongoing energy crisis.

He also emphasised that this is the time to strengthen domestic energy security and accelerate the push towards electrification, leveraging India's abundant coal reserves and solar potential. UNI

## Cyient Semiconductors completes USD85 million majority investment in Kinetic Technologies

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**HYDERABAD, APRIL 9:** Cyient Semiconductors on Wednesday announced the successful completion of its USD 85 million majority-stake investment in global power semiconductor solutions provider Kinetic Technologies, marking a significant step in its strategy to build a globally competitive semiconductor platform from India.

With the investment, Kinetic Technologies joins Cyient Semiconductors as a revenue-generating global custom and Application-Specific Standard Product (ASSP) company, bringing more than 100 silicon-proven intellectual properties and over 250 high-volume custom and ASSP products across power management, protection, display power and interface solutions.

The move strengthens Cyient Semiconductors' ambition to establish a scaled semiconductor innovation platform anchored in India while serving global markets.

In a release, the Hyderabad-based company said the partnership aligns with a long-term strategy to capitalise on a USD 44 billion global market opportunity in power and compute infrastructure.

By combining Cyient Semiconductors' spec-to-silicon engineering expertise with Kinetic Technologies' power management and protection IC portfolio, the

integrated platform is expected to enhance support for global customers through broader design resources and improved operational capabilities.

Kinetic Technologies will continue operating under its existing leadership, with strategic oversight from Cyient Semiconductors, while maintaining continuity in engineering and customer operations.

Speaking on the development, Suman Narayan, CEO of Cyient Semiconductors, said the investment accelerates the company's ambition to build a globally competitive semiconductor innovation engine from India.

"The partnership positions us to drive the next wave of intelligent power semiconductor solutions across critical markets by combining Kinetic's leadership in power and protection ICs with our custom silicon and ASSP expertise," he said.

Kin Shum, CEO of Kinetic Technologies, said the partnership would strengthen the company's ability to scale globally, expand engineering capacity and manufacturing in India, and accelerate its R&D roadmap.

The company stated that the transaction reinforces India's momentum under the India Semiconductor Mission to become a global hub for semiconductor innovation, high-value chip development and manufacturing. UNI

## RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 5.25%; warns West Asia conflict to impact growth

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, APRIL 9:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor, Sanjay Malhotra, announced on Wednesday that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has unanimously decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.25%.

Speaking about GDP numbers, the Governor said, "As per the new GDP series comes into play, the real GDP growth for last year is estimated at 7.6%. In terms of quarterly GDP growth projection, the growth for Q1 is projected at 6.8%, Q2 at 6.7%, Q3 at 7% and Q4 at 7.2%."

In terms of inflation, RBI projected the inflation for Q1 at 4%, Q2 at 4.4%, Q3 at 5.2% and then going down in Q4 at 4.7%. Speaking on the West Asia conflict, he said it will "adversely impact" India's growth as the higher input costs associated with increase in energy prices and international freight and insurance costs along with supply-chain disruptions could constrain availability of key inputs for downstream sectors, thus impairing growth.

The Government has taken several measures targeted at supporting exports and protecting supply chains, which should mitigate the adverse impact of the conflict, he said.

RBI Governor further said the fundamentals of the Indian economy are on a "stronger footing", providing it with greater resilience to withstand shocks now than in the past.

"The economy is confronted with a supply shock. It is prudent to wait and watch the changing circumstances and the evolving growth-inflation outlook," Governor said.

"Elevated crude oil prices could increase imported inflation and widen the current account deficit. The weaker global growth prospect may dampen external demand and reduce remittance flows," he said. "The global economy has been hit due to the ongoing Middle East crisis and has led to energy crisis globally." However, he extended hopes of easing after then recent announcement of ceasefire. Governor Malhotra has also mentioned that the ongoing crisis in West Asia is going to impact the Indian economy saying, "Disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz is likely to impact growth this year. This year, the government has, however, been proactive in ensuring supply of inputs across critical sectors to minimize the impact of supply chain disruptions. UNI

## ALEMAI launches 'Aluminium Bharat' initiative to boost domestic manufacturing and global competitiveness

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, APRIL 9:** In a significant push to strengthen India's aluminium ecosystem, the Aluminium Extrusion Manufacturers Association of India (ALEMAI) on Tuesday launched the 'Aluminium Bharat' initiative, aimed at addressing key industry challenges and positioning the country as a global hub for high-value aluminium products.

The initiative was formally unveiled by union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada, who emphasised the need for resilient domestic manufacturing in the face of shifting global trade dynamics.

He said the initiative reflects India's intent to move up the global value chain while ensuring a level playing field for domestic manufacturers.

'Aluminium Bharat' will serve as a collaborative platform, bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, and global stakeholders to identify bottlenecks and chart a roadmap for sustain-

able sectoral growth.

As part of this effort, the country's first comprehensive aluminium value chain exhibition, 'Aluminium Bharat 2026', will be held from September 26-29 in Gandhinagar alongside Alumex India 2026.

The event is expected to showcase a wide range of primary and downstream aluminium products, placing India among leading global platforms such as international aluminium exhibitions in China, the United States, and Germany.

It will also underline the industry's alignment with the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' vision by reducing import dependence and strengthening domestic capabilities.

However, industry leaders highlighted pressing concerns impacting the sector. Jitendra Chopra noted that India's mid-stream and downstream aluminium segments are witnessing a severe contraction, with production declining by 40 to 50 per cent despite an installed capacity of 4.2 million tonnes.



Current utilisation levels remain significantly below potential, reflecting structural and market challenges.

The sector is grappling with rising energy and raw material costs, further aggravated by geopolitical tensions in West Asia that have led to volatility in global oil and gas prices. Limited availability of aluminium scrap, a key input for down-

stream operations, has also contributed to one of the highest raw material cost structures globally.

Additionally, Indian manufacturers face increasing competition from low-cost imports, often backed by subsidies, preferential tariffs, or surplus capacities in other countries. This imbalance, coupled with regulatory complexities, inconsistent

fuel allocation, and labour-related challenges, has particularly impacted MSMEs within the value chain.

Despite these challenges, the aluminium industry remains a crucial pillar of the economy, supporting over 10 lakh jobs. Stakeholders stressed that strengthening the downstream sector will be key to driving value addition, enhancing manufacturing competitiveness, and advancing the broader vision of a USD 5 trillion economy and 'Viksit Bharat 2047'.

From a sustainability standpoint, aluminium is also central to India's circular economy ambitions, given its infinite recyclability and lower energy requirements, making it a critical enabler of decarbonisation and net-zero goals.

With the launch of 'Aluminium Bharat', the industry has signalled a strong intent to address structural challenges while unlocking new growth opportunities through innovation, policy support, and global collaboration. UNI

## US-India Forum delegation meets Telangana CS, explores investment opportunities

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**HYDERABAD, APR 9:** A high-level delegation from the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum on Tuesday met Telangana Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao at the Secretariat to discuss investment opportunities across sectors.

The delegation included representatives from companies in insurance, financial services, agriculture and technology.

During the meeting, the Chief

Secretary presented an overview of Telangana's growth, stating that the state has made significant progress since its formation in 2014, with strong growth in Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and per capita income driven by public and private investments.

He said Telangana is among the fastest urbanising states, with nearly one-third of its population residing in and around Hyderabad, which he described as a major hub for pharmaceuticals and informa-

tion technology.

Rao also highlighted Hyderabad's emergence as a centre for Global Capability Centres (GCCs), startups—particularly in the defence sector—along with strong presence in education, healthcare and fintech.

Emphasising the state's investment potential, he cited factors such as skilled manpower, favourable climate, cultural heritage and infrastructure as key strengths.

## Blue Star unveils extensive new cooling portfolio to tap India's growing AC market

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, APRIL 9:** Blue Star Limited has launched a comprehensive new range of unitary cooling products, including 125 models of room air conditioners, as it aims to capitalise on the rapidly expanding cooling demand across India, a company statement said here on Tuesday.

The new lineup for Summer 2026 spans inverter, fixed-speed, and window ACs across multiple price points, catering to both residential and commercial segments. All models comply with the latest energy efficiency norms set by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, reinforcing the com-

pany's focus on sustainability and high-performance cooling solutions.

A key highlight of the launch is the premium 'Iconia' range, designed for discerning consumers, along with specialised categories such as super energy-efficient ACs, heavy-duty ACs, hot and cold ACs, and models equipped with anti-virus technology.

The company said its super energy-efficient models deliver significantly higher performance, while heavy-duty variants are engineered to operate in extreme temperatures of up to 56 degree celsius.

The move comes at a time when India's room air condi-

tioner market is witnessing strong structural growth, driven by rising incomes, rapid urbanisation, and increasing climate intensity.

Industry estimates indicate that the market could grow from around 14 million units currently to nearly 30 million units by FY30, with smaller cities emerging as key growth drivers.

To support this demand, Blue Star has strengthened its manufacturing capabilities, with a current production capacity of 1.4 million units, scalable to 1.8 million units.

Its facilities in Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh are equipped with advanced automation and IoT-enabled systems

to enhance efficiency and quality.

The company is also expanding its footprint through a wide distribution network spanning over 900 towns and 10,000 retail outlets, backed by a strong after-sales service ecosystem.

In addition to room ACs, Blue Star highlighted its broad commercial refrigeration portfolio, catering to sectors such as food retail, healthcare, hospitality and pharmaceuticals.

The segment is witnessing strong momentum due to the growth of quick commerce, rising demand for cold storage, and increasing consumption of fresh and frozen foods.

Commenting on the outlook,

B.Thiagarajan, Managing Director of Blue Star Limited, said India's cooling demand is at an inflection point, with nearly 150 million households expected to afford air conditioners in the future.

He added that the company's expanded product portfolio positions it strongly to capture opportunities across both residential and commercial segments.

With continued investments in R&D, energy-efficient technologies, and eco-friendly solutions, Blue Star is aiming to strengthen its leadership in India's fast-evolving cooling market while aligning with sustainability goals. UNI

## Aurobindo Pharma Gets USFDA Nod for Dapagliflozin Tablets

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**HYDERABAD, APR 9:** Aurobindo Pharma Limited on Tuesday said it has received final approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) to manufacture and market Dapagliflozin Tablets in 5 mg and 10 mg strengths.

The approved product is bioequivalent and therapeutically equivalent to the reference listed drug Farxiga of AstraZeneca, the Hyderabad based pharma company said in a release here.

The company said the product will be manufactured at Unit-IV of APL Healthcare Limited, its wholly owned subsidiary, and will be launched immediately.

According to industry estimates, the approved product has a market size of about \$10.2 billion for the 12 months ending February 2026.

Aurobindo Pharma said it now has a total of 579 ANDA approvals from the USFDA, including 554 final approvals and 25 tentative approvals as of March 31, 2026.

The company, being among the first ANDA applicants with a substantially complete filing and Paragraph IV certification for this drug, is eligible for 180 days of shared generic drug exclusivity.

Dapagliflozin is indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise to improve glycaemic control in adults with Type-2 diabetes mellitus.

The company operates in over 150 countries with a wide portfolio of generic and specialty pharmaceutical products backed by a strong research and manufacturing base. UNI

# Jaiswal Storms to Orange Cap, Bishnoi Leads Purple Race



■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**CHANDIGARH:** Rajasthan Royals (RR) continued their dream run in IPL 2026 with a convincing victory over Mumbai Indians (MI) in a rain-curtailed clash at Guwahati, registering their third consecutive win and climbing to the top of the points table. The match not only strengthened RR's campaign but also reshaped the leaderboard charts, with Yashasvi Jaiswal and Ravi Bishnoi emerging as the standout performers of the season so far.

Opening the batting in an 11-overs-a-side contest, Jaiswal delivered a sensational unbeaten 77 off just 32 balls. His explosive innings powered RR to a dominant position and took his overall tally to 170 runs in just three innings, with only one dismissal. This remarkable consistency has earned him the Orange Cap, awarded to the tournament's highest run-scorer.

Jaiswal's innings also helped him overtake Sameer Rizvi, who had briefly held the top spot with 160 runs. Rizvi, representing Delhi Capitals, has also impressed early in the season, including a highest score of 90 against Mumbai Indians in a previous match.

The batting charts remain competitive, with several players crossing the 100-run mark. Heinrich Klaasen of Sunrisers Hyderabad, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi of Rajasthan Royals, and Rohit Sharma of Mumbai Indians are among the leading names, rounding off the top performers in the early phase of the tournament.

On the bowling front, Ravi Bishnoi has taken firm control of the Purple Cap race. His impressive spell of 2 for 25 against Mumbai Indians added to his earlier four-wicket haul against Gujarat Titans, taking his total to seven wickets. With this, Bishnoi has moved ahead of the competition and established himself as the most effective bowler of IPL 2026 so far.

Chasing him closely are four bowlers tied at five wickets each, including Vijaykumar Vyshak of Punjab Kings, Anshul Kamboj of Chennai Super Kings, Nandre Burger of Rajasthan Royals, and Jacob Duffy of Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

As IPL 2026 gathers momentum, the race for both the Orange and Purple Caps is heating up, with Rajasthan Royals setting the pace through both batting brilliance and bowling excellence.

## The Sooryavanshi effect: even Bumrah is thinking, 'don't get it wrong'

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**GUWAHATI:** "Yeah, I think we had some plans, but I don't think, being honest, that we ever executed those plans the way we wanted," Mahela Jayawardene, the Mumbai Indians (MI) coach, said after going down to Rajasthan Royals (RR) in their IPL 2026 game.

"The margins are very small," Jayawardene said at the press conference after the game. "The guys are batting really well. We knew the danger especially when the rain [curtailed the game to 11 over per side] and you have the license to go up front. So we needed to make sure that first four, five overs were crucial for us. I thought we pulled very well to get back from the start that they had and yeah, I think we missed our lengths, we missed our lines, and they played really, really well." Asked to bat first, RR got 22 from the first over, bowled by Deepak Chahar, and were 80 for 1 after five. Jayawardene made a fair point that MI pulled things back - only 52 runs were scored between overs six and ten, and 18 off the last one - but the damage done early on was too much for MI to make up for. Though Jaiswal was the star of the RR batting show, with 77 not out in 32 balls, the damage was equally done to Sooryavanshi's knock. He hit 39 in 14 balls. In fact, Dale Steyn suggested that bowlers - even the best in the game, like Bumrah - might be getting muddled in the head when up against Sooryavanshi.

"I think that's what he's done. I mean, honestly, he's created and instilled the fear into bowlers that he's going to hit you for boundaries," Steyn said on ESPNcricinfo's TimeOut show, speaking specifically about Bumrah's first ball to Sooryavanshi, which went over mid-on. "That delivery from Bumrah. That's in the slot. That's so rare of Bumrah. So even the great Bumrah is thinking in the back of his mind: 'don't get it wrong; because if I get it wrong, this guy's going to hit me for six.'" Which is exactly what Sooryavanshi has been doing. In fact, you don't even have to get it too wrong for him to do what he does.

"I feel, if you think like that, more often than not, you do get it wrong," Steyn said of the mindset of the bowlers. "You can see even when he's hit him for six, he [Bumrah] almost started to laugh afterwards and then go, 'I knew that was going to happen if I got it wrong'. And that's exactly what happened.

"And this kid's not scared, man. If you miss a half-volley, he's going to hit you out of the ground. So drag your length back and hit a good length and you might be on the money with him. Miss and you're traveling the distance. It doesn't matter who you are, Bumrah or Joe Average. You know, so that's fantastic batting."

## It felt like Mumbai Indians lacked purpose and intent with ball: Kumble

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** Mumbai Indians appeared to lack intent and purpose in their 27-run defeat to Rajasthan Royals, said former India captain Anil Kumble as he lauded young swashbuckler Vaibhav Sooryavanshi for his "brilliant" offensive against pace ace Jasprit Bumrah in an IPL clash in Guwahati.

RR cruised to the comfortable win over Hardik Pandya's Mumbai Indians, powered by Yashasvi Jaiswal's scintillating unbeaten 77 and Sooryavanshi's 14-ball blitzkrieg of 39.

Their performance set the tone

for a 150-run total in the rain-shortened, 11-overs-a-side contest. Mumbai Indians fell well short, restricted to 123 for 9, with their entire top order failing to make an impact.

This was Rajasthan Royals' third consecutive win, while MI endured their second loss in three matches.

"It felt like the Mumbai Indians lacked a bit of purpose and intent with the ball, and that certainly spilled over into the batting. It was always going to be a big task to score 151 in 11 overs," said Kumble on 'JioStar'.

Rajasthan Royals' Indian cricket

players Yashasvi Jaiswal and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi bump fists during the 2026 IPL T20 match between Rajasthan Royals and Mumbai Indians at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati on April 7, 2026.

Kumble was amazed by how Sooryavanshi confidently took on a bowler of Bumrah's calibre, smashing a six off the very first delivery he faced.

"Sooryavanshi makes it look easy against one of the world's best bowlers. First ball, he hits him (Bumrah) for a six and then sets him up. He set the bowler up, not the other way around.

## Liverpool aims to stop slide against PSG in Champions League quarterfinals

■ AGENCIES

**PARIS:** Out of the Premier League title race. Routed in the FA Cup. Mounting questions over the manager's future. A star striker set to leave. A disgruntled captain saying his team gave up. Liverpool heads into the first leg of its Champions League quarterfinal against Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday in disarray. "We need 90 minutes full energy and full commitment otherwise we will have no chance," Liverpool attacking midfielder Florian Wirtz said Tuesday at a news conference. Liverpool manager Arne Slot knows what to expect from the outset at Parc des Princes. "PSG under (coach) Luis Enrique do not give you a second to have the ball comfortable on your feet," Slot said, calling PSG one of the top two sides in the world from open play.

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