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LG Orders Robust Security Grid, Zero Tolerance Against Terror Networks

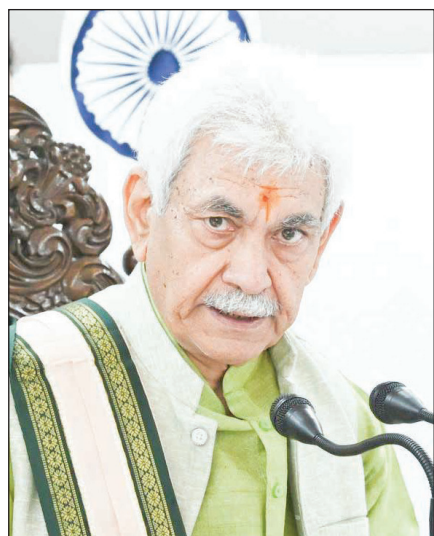
Reviews law and Order, Nasha Mukht Abhiyan Progress

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 29: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting of Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) of Jammu Division, directing a comprehensive strengthening of the security grid through close coordination among all agencies to counter emerging threats.

The meeting reviewed the prevailing security scenario, progress under the 'Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyaan', and district-wise preparedness for upcoming pilgrimages. Senior officials, including Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, were

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LG launches book on Dr. Sushil Razdan

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 29: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha, today launched the book, "Healer in Exile: The Untold Story of Dr. Sushil Razdan" authored by his son Sachin Razdan.

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

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Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat to be flagged off today

■ HT NEWS DESK / PIB

NEW DELHI, APR 29: Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw will flag off the extended Srinagar-Katra Vande Bharat Express service from Jammu Tawi Railway Station on Thursday (30th April 2026).

The train, which previously operated from Srinagar up to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, will now run all the way to Jammu Tawi, bringing the country's most modern train directly to J&K's largest city and railway hub.

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

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express on 6th June 2025, the train ran with 8 coaches. Since then, the train has consistently been running at full capacity, with an overwhelming response from passengers. The decision to augment the rake to 20 coaches is a direct response



to that demand, more than doubling the train's seating capacity at a stroke, and significantly easing the pressure on reservations and wait-lists, particularly during peak pilgrimage and tourist seasons.

For pilgrims who have watched seats sell out days in advance, for tourists planning a trip to the Valley, and for locals who rely on this

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LG Saxena Constitutes Ladakh Haj Committee for Three-Year Term

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

LEH, APR 29: Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved the constitution of the Union Territory Haj Committee for Ladakh, appointing its chairman and members for a period of three years.

The decision comes following the completion of the tenure of the previ-



ous committee in 2025. Ghulam Abbas Abidi has been appointed as Chairman, while Ashay Mallo, Mohammad Hussain, Sheikh Liaquat Ali, Haji Ghulam Mohammad, Bilal Ahmad, and Zahara Banoo have been named as members.

In a statement, LG Saxena said the constitution of the committee

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KASHMIR POLICE UNVEIL 100-DAY CRACKDOWN TO BREAK DRUG NETWORKS

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, APR 29: In a decisive move to combat the rising drug menace, Jammu and Kashmir Police have announced a comprehensive 100-day crackdown aimed at dismantling narcotics networks while strengthening awareness and rehabilitation efforts across Kashmir.

Inspector General of Police (Kashmir Zone), Vidhi Kumar Birdi, said the initiative will focus on stringent legal action against drug peddlers and smugglers, with increased checks and registration of FIRs. Authorities will also step up efforts to identify and destroy illegal

cultivation of poppy and cannabis across the region.

The IGP said investigations will be further strengthened through financial tracking of accused individuals, attachment of properties linked to the drug trade, and timely disposal of seized narcotics. Police stations have also compiled detailed records of repeat offenders to enhance enforcement strategies and improve public awareness.

As part of preventive measures, extensive awareness programmes will be conducted in schools and colleges to educate youth about the dangers of drug abuse. Efforts will also

● Turn on Page 2

Inclement Weather Forces Cancellation of CM Omar Abdullah's Bani Visit

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APR 29: Inclement weather conditions on Wednesday led to the cancellation of Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's scheduled visit to Bani in Kathua district, where he was set to launch and review key development initiatives.

The Chief Minister was to visit Bani-Lohimallar to inaugurate and lay

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J&K Govt Announces 18% Hike in Public Transport Fares

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APR 29: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved an 18 percent increase in fares for all categories of public transport across the Union Territory, issuing a formal notification to this effect on Wednesday.

The Transport Department has directed the Transport Commissioner, J&K, to implement the revised maximum chargeable fares for a wide range of commercial passenger vehicles, including stage carriage buses,

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CIK executes proclamation proceedings against 2 absconders

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APR 29: Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) has executed proclamation proceedings against two absconding accused in a terror-linked case registered in 1995, officials said.

The action was carried out under Section 82 of the CrPC in connection with FIR No. 04/1995 registered at Police Station CIK, following orders from the court of the Principal Sessions Judge

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Weather radars increased to 50 nationwide: Dr Jitendra

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, APR 29: India has significantly expanded its Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) network since 2014, increasing from 14 operational units to 50, marking over 250% rise. These additions, covering over 87% of the country, improve forecasting for cyclones, heavy rain, and thunderstorms under the India Me-

teorological Department (IMD), with 50 more planned under Mission Mausam.

This was stated here today by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking to the media after inaugurating a Selfie Point, depicting Weather Radar, at the entrance gate of India Meteorological Department



(IMD) headquarters, at Lodhi Road, here. The event was held in the presence of the Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Dr. M. Ravichandran, and Director General of Meteorology, IMD, Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, along with senior officials and scientists.

The Minister said, this transformation has been made possible

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Drug menace a serious challenge, need collective effort to curb it: Speaker Rather

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APR 29: Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Wednesday described drug addiction as a "very serious issue" and said it poses a major threat to the future of the younger generation, calling for sustained and collective efforts to address the problem.

Speaking to Kashmir News Service (KNS), the Speaker said he had personally worked on the issue in the past and had chaired a committee constituted by his party to study the problem in detail.

"Drug is a very serious issue. I myself have worked on it and done extensive work. Our party had formed a committee with senior leaders, and I was the chairman," Rather said.

He said the committee had undertaken research on the scale and dimensions of drug addiction in Jammu and Kashmir and prepared a detailed report highlighting the gravity of the situation.

"You will be surprised that millions of people are affected by drug addiction. We had documented the problem and also suggested measures to the government on how to deal

with it," he said, adding that the report had been made available publicly through the party's website.

Rather said he was encouraged that the government has now begun taking steps to address the issue, adding that earlier initiatives, including research-based discussions, had also been held on the subject.

"I am happy that the government has started working on this issue. If sustained efforts are made, I hope we will be able to control this problem," he said.

Referring to governance and administrative issues

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Kupwara's Young Star Shines Bright: 9-Year-Old Tops National Masterminds Competition

Headlines Today congratulates Hiba Altaf Peerzada on winning Gold Medal under Oxford Advantage programme



■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, APR 29: Headlines

Today extends warm congratulations to Hiba Altaf Peerzada, a

● Turn on Page 2

IN THE BLESSED MEMORY OF
HAZRAT SHEIKH ALI SIRHINDI (RA)

ANNUAL
URS MUBARAK

WILL BE OBSERVED ON
3rd MAY 2026 SUNDAY

ACROSS KHONMOH TOWN

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

LG Orders.....

present along with top civil and police officers.

DCs and SSPs briefed the Lieutenant Governor on law and order conditions in their respective districts, status of the 100-day anti-drug campaign, and arrangements for key pilgrimages such as the Amarnath Yatra, Kausar Nag Yatra, and Budha Amarnath Yatra.

Emphasizing a "whole-of-society" approach to eliminate drug abuse, the Lieutenant Governor called for strict action against drug peddlers and smugglers. He directed authorities to identify and dismantle narco-corridors and hotspots across Jammu Division, and to undertake region-wise studies on substance abuse trends using standard methodologies.

The Lieutenant Governor also stressed the need for regular Block Diwas and Thana Diwas to address public grievances efficiently, and called for seamless coordination between police, civil administration, and security forces.

Reviewing preparations for the forthcoming pilgrimages, he instructed district administrations to conduct comprehensive assessments to ensure smooth and secure conduct of the yatras.

Further, the Lieutenant Governor directed effective implementation of the Vibrant Villages Programme, focusing on rural development, healthcare delivery, and ensuring 100 percent screening for non-communicable diseases.

Reiterating a firm stance on national security, Manoj Sinha ordered the strictest possible action against individuals and underground workers aiding terrorists, underscoring zero tolerance for any threats to peace and stability in the region.

LG launches....

the medical field remain unmatched. "The story of Dr. Sushil Razdan's life conveys a significant lesson of committing yourself to the selfless service of others. It is a sacred duty to place the needs of the person before you above your own and see society not merely as a city or village, but as a community of responsibilities, where true fulfilment lies in dedicating one's strength to the care of its most vulnerable population," the Lieutenant Governor said.

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

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

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

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

Jammu-Srinagar.....

service for everyday travel, the expanded rake means the train is now far less likely to turn them away. With the extension to Jammu Tawi happening simultaneously, the 20-coach Vande Bharat arrives at its largest catchment city with the capacity to match it, a train finally built to the scale of the demand it has always inspired.

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

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

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

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

Extending the Vande Bharat's run from Katra all the way to Jammu Tawi is a straightforward but consequential change for ordinary travellers across the entire J&K region. Until now, pilgrims and passengers arriving at

Jammu Tawi Railway Station, which is one of the busiest railheads in northern India, connecting trains from Delhi, Mumbai, and beyond had to change trains or arrange separate road transport to reach Katra. With the extension, they will be able to board the Vande Bharat directly at Jammu Tawi and reach the Vaishno Devi base camp at Katra, and travel onwards all the way to Srinagar, without a single interchange.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The extension of the Vande Bharat to Jammu Tawi is the latest milestone in a decade-long effort to transform railway connectivity in Jammu & Kashmir. The Udhampur-Katra section was commissioned in 2014. The Kashmir Valley saw its first electric train in February 2024. A dedicated Jammu Railway Division was created in January 2025. Stations at Jammu Tawi, Katra, Udhampur, and Budgam are being redeveloped under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. The USBRL, built at a total cost of Rs. 43,780 crore with 36 tunnels spanning 119 km and 943 bridges, is the connective tissue that makes all of it possible.

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

LG Saxena.....

underscores the administration's commitment to ensuring that pilgrims from Ladakh

receive all necessary support for a smooth, safe and spiritually fulfilling Haj pilgrimage.

He expressed confidence that the newly formed panel would function with dedication and sensitivity in addressing the needs of pilgrims while upholding high standards of service.

Officials said the committee has been finalised after due consultations with stakeholders to ensure inclusive representation. The UT Haj Committee will play a pivotal role in facilitating the pilgrimage process, including screening and processing applications, coordinating vaccination and training schedules, organising orientation programmes, liaising with central authorities, and ensuring welfare, assistance and logistical support for pilgrims throughout their journey.

Kashmir.....

be directed towards rehabilitation, ensuring that those affected have access to treatment and recovery support.

Special surveillance will be maintained around educational institutions, with a focus on shops and outlets suspected of selling contraband substances.

Emphasising the importance of collective responsibility, Birdi called for active participation from civil society and religious leaders to help curb drug abuse. A "mega rally" is scheduled for Sunday to amplify the campaign, with coordinated efforts between police and civil administration to ensure widespread outreach across all districts.

Fearless Voting.....

numbers of voters turning out at polling stations.

Describing the polling day as a significant moment in the "festival of democracy," he said visuals of long queues and high voter turnout indicate growing public awareness and confidence in the electoral process.

"What we are witnessing in Bengal today is unprecedented. A fearless environment for voting was difficult to imagine in the past six to seven decades," Modi said, adding that such participation underscores the strength of the Constitution and democratic institutions.

He also expressed gratitude to the people of West Bengal for their active involvement in the electoral process and said the results, scheduled to be declared on May 4, would further bolster the nation's resolve toward achieving the goal of a developed India.

Inclement.....

foundation stones for multiple projects and address a public gathering. However, persistent rainfall and lack of weather clearance compelled authorities to call off the programme despite a large turnout of residents.

Bani MLA Dr Rameshwar Singh said the decision was unavoidable, noting that both the Chief Minister and Education and Health Minister Sakina Itoo were expected to attend the event.

He added that the Chief Minister waited until around 1:30 pm in anticipation of improved weather conditions, but with no clearance forthcoming, the visit had to be cancelled.

Expressing regret over the inconvenience caused to the public, Singh assured that the programme would be rescheduled shortly, reiterating the government's commitment to development and public outreach in the region.

J&K Govt.....

taxis, maxi cabs, and auto-rickshaws.

According to the notification, the new fare structure will be applied over and above the rates previously notified under SRO-97 dated March 19, 2021. The hike will impact big and mini buses, contract carriage taxis such as Sumo, Bolero, and Tempo Traveller, along with medium and high-end tourist vehicles like Scorpio, Xylo, Innova, and Fortuner.

Auto-rickshaws and Tata Magic vehicles operating as stage carriages have also been brought under the ambit of the revised fares, with an identical 18 percent increase.

In a notable move, the government has separately fixed fares for electric vehicles. E-rickshaws will charge Rs. 15 per kilometre, while e-autos will levy Rs. 25 for the first kilometre and Rs. 20 for each additional kilometre.

The order has been issued under the provisions of Section 67 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, partially modifying the earlier notification. The revised fares will come into effect as per directions issued by the competent authority.

CIK executes.....

Kupwara, who is also designated as Special Judge under the NIA Act.

The accused have been identified as Mutwali Poswal, a resident of Kanihehak Batpora in Kupwara, and Ghulam Rasool Shah, also known as Rafie Rasool, a resident of Chandigam in Sogam area of Lolab in the district.

Officials said both accused were evading arrest and avoiding legal proceedings during the course of the investigation.

Based on the material placed before it, the court initiated proclamation proceedings and directed the accused to appear within a stipulated time frame.

In compliance with the court's directions, CIK teams executed the proclamation at the residences of the accused in their respective localities in Kupwara district.

The accused have been asked to surrender before the court within one month from the date of proclamation, failing which further legal action, including attachment of property under Section 83 of the CrPC, will be initiated, officials said.

They added that efforts are on to ensure the presence of absconding accused and complete the investigation in the case. (KNS)

Weather.....

due to the high priority accorded to the sector by the Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, leading to greater accuracy, accessibility and public trust in forecasts.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that India's meteorological services have undergone a remarkable transformation over the last decade. From a time when weather forecasts were often met with scepticism, the system today provides highly reliable and precise predictions used by a wide spectrum of users, from farmers and homemakers to pilots and event planners. He said that people now routinely check weather updates on their mobile phones before stepping out, reflecting the growing trust and reach of IMD services.

Referring to advancements in forecasting, he highlighted the introduction of 'Nowcast' services, which provide highly localised and accurate forecasts for the next three hours. He said that such real-time information is crucial for disaster preparedness, urban planning and day-to-day decision-making. He added that India's forecasting capability has reached a stage where it can provide detailed inputs on rainfall intensity, type of precipitation, possibility of hailstorms, and even the size of raindrops.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also spoke about the role of Doppler Weather Radar technology in strengthening India's weather monitoring system. These radars use the Doppler effect to track the movement and velocity of weather systems, enabling accurate and timely forecasts. The modern radars deployed by IMD are equipped with dual-polarization technology, allowing precise identification of precipitation types such as rain, hail and drizzle, improved rainfall estimation, and better detection of severe weather events while minimizing false signals.

Dr Jitendra Singh said that the expanding radar network enables continuous monitoring of the atmosphere over large distances and supports early warnings for cyclones, thunderstorms, heavy rainfall and other extreme weather events. It also plays a critical role in aviation safety, agricultural planning and disaster risk reduction.

Highlighting the broader impact, the Minister said that India's forecasting capabilities are also benefiting neighbouring countries, reflecting the country's commitment to global cooperation and shared resilience.

The Minister also referred to the government's focused initiatives such as Mission Mausam, aimed at strengthening weather and climate services, and the ongoing expansion of radar infrastructure, including installations in vulnerable regions like Jammu & Kashmir following recent extreme weather events.

The Selfie Point inaugurated today showcases a legacy weather radar system,

providing visitors with a tangible connection to the evolution of meteorological technology in India. It has been set up to create greater public awareness about weather science and to encourage citizens to engage with IMD's services through platforms such as mobile applications, SMS alerts and social media.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that such initiatives will help bridge the gap between scientific advancements and public awareness, enabling citizens to better understand and utilise weather information in their daily lives.

Drug menace.....

in the Union Territory, the Speaker said the resumption of the Darbar Move had brought renewed activity and connectivity between Jammu and Kashmir regions.

He said the movement of the civil secretariat between Jammu and Srinagar had earlier contributed to regional balance and public engagement.

"When the Darbar Move was not there, there was a sense of silence in the streets and markets. Now it has started again, and it has brought back activity and connectivity," he said.

Rather also welcomed the launch of the Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat train service, saying it would significantly improve travel convenience, reduce journey time and strengthen connectivity between the two regions.

"This is a very big step. It will give people relief, comfort and easy communication between Jammu and Srinagar," he said.

He added that improved transport connectivity, along with institutional and administrative measures, would contribute to strengthening ties and boosting economic activity in the Union Territory.

Responding to a question on the release of MLA Mehraj Malik, the Speaker said it was a positive development that public representatives return to their constituencies after legal processes, noting that elected representatives play an important role in voicing public concerns.

"Their return is important because people have trust in their representatives and approach them with their issues," he said.

Rather said the overall developments, including administrative reforms, infrastructure connectivity and political processes, reflected ongoing changes in Jammu and Kashmir aimed at improving governance and public welfare. (KNS)

Kupwara's.....

promising Grade 4 student of Doon International School, Kupwara, for clinching the top rank at the national level in the prestigious Masterminds competition conducted under the Oxford Advantage programme by Oxford University Press.

The 9-year-old achiever was awarded a Gold Medal along with a Certificate of Excellence for her outstanding performance, marking a remarkable milestone at such a young age. Her success reflects not only her dedication and intellectual brilliance but also the strong academic environment fostered by her school. Headlines Today lauds Hiba's exceptional achievement, which has brought pride to her school and community while inspiring young learners to aim high and excel.

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Secretary RDD directs DCs to prepare District Sanitation Plans for door-to-door waste collection

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APRIL 29: Secretary, Rural Development (RDD) & Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad today chaired a high-level review meeting under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen and directed all Deputy Commissioners to prepare comprehensive District Sanitation Plans within one week for universal door-to-door waste collection across rural Jammu & Kashmir.

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

He instructed districts to design Panchayat-wise collection



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

The Secretary stressed that several sanitation assets in the past had been created at unsuitable locations and therefore future planning must ensure optimum utility, accessibility and long-term sustainability.

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

To ensure sustainability, Mohammad Aijaz Asad said that dedicated funds have now been earmarked as a dedicated al-

location for door-to-door collection, segregation and operation & maintenance of sanitation assets. However, he emphasised that user charges must be regularly collected so that the system remains financially viable.

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

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

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

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

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

JKPICCA Delegation Meets Union Minister to Raise Horticulture, Cold Chain Sector Concerns

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APR 29: A delegation of the JKPICCA led by its President Bashir Ahmad Naik on Wednesday called on Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to discuss key issues affecting the horticulture and



cold chain sector in Jammu & Kashmir. During the meeting, the delegation highlighted the issue of pending approvals for Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage facilities. It informed the Minister that several cases remain unapproved due to non-compliance with MIDH Operational Guidelines 2025, resulting in subsidy support being withheld. The delegation noted that many units have already completed substantial infrastructure without availing any subsidy benefits.

The representatives stressed that the delay in approvals has placed significant financial pressure on entrepreneurs who have taken large bank loans to establish these facilities and continue to bear heavy interest liabilities. With projects operational but awaiting approvals and subsidy disbursement, the financial viability of these units is being severely affected.

The delegation urged the Minister to provide a fair and time-bound opportunity for such units to fulfil pending requirements and regularise their cases. They emphasised that a supportive approach would help mitigate financial losses and safeguard investments in the sector.

After a detailed discussion, the Union Minister gave a patient hearing and assured the delegation that appropriate steps would be taken to facilitate consideration of the pending cases.

The delegation also raised other key issues, including the need for a Minimum Import Price (MIP), promotion of alternate technologies, enhanced incentivisation frameworks, and export-related challenges faced by units operating under EPCG licences. Policy support and procedural ease were requested to strengthen the sector.

The Minister appreciated the concerns raised and assured that all issues would be examined and addressed appropriately. The delegation expressed gratitude for the time and positive assurance received.

Kulgam Police Hold Anti-Drug Awareness Rally at Yaripora Under 'Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan'

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, APR 29: In a continued effort to combat the growing menace of drug abuse, Kulgam Police on Tuesday organized an Anti-Drug Awareness Programme and rally under the flagship initiative Nasha Mukt Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan within the jurisdiction of Yaripora.

The awareness rally was held at Yaripora Market by Police Station Yaripora in collaboration with



Green Valley Educational Institute Yaripora. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, police personnel, and members of the general public.

Participants raised slogans and carried placards highlighting the harmful effects of drug abuse and emphasizing the need for a drug-free society. The programme aimed to sensitize the youth and encourage collective responsibility in addressing the issue.

Officials reiterated that Kulgam Police remains steadfast in its commitment to eliminating drug abuse from society. They also urged citizens, particularly the younger generation, to stay away from narcotics and actively support the ongoing anti-drug campaign.

The rally concluded with a strong message of unity and determination to build a safer, healthier, and drug-free Jammu and Kashmir.

Drug Checks & Awareness Drive at DH Pora

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, APR 29: Under the ongoing Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, the Drug Control Authority conducted a series of inspections and awareness activities at DH Pora, Kulgam. During the inspections, all pharmaceutical establishments were checked. It was observed that CCTV cameras had been installed and computerized billing systems adopted, ensuring improved transparency and regulatory compliance.

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

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

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

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APRIL 29: Continuing outreach efforts to engage stakeholders in the fight against drug abuse and to build a narcotics-free society, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today held a meeting with religious leaders from various faiths. The meeting was attended by Imams, members of the Shia Community, Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee, and representatives of the migrant Hindu community.

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

He emphasized that the role of religious leaders is indispensable in combating the growing menace of narcotics. On the occasion, he extended a cordial invitation to all religious figures, across sects and faiths, to participate in large numbers in the Nasha Mukt J&K Padyatra scheduled for May 3.

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



Dr. Itoo Achieves Notable Global Milestone in Academic Medicine

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APR 29: Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo has achieved a notable global milestone in academic medicine, by securing more than a double figure professional fellowships and memberships from reputed global medical organizations -- reflecting his growing recognition within the international medical and scholarly community. This milestone underscores his sustained dedication to excellence in endocrinology and diabetes, public health, medical education, and evidence-based clinical practice.

Through continued engagement with respected international professional bodies and academic institutions, Dr. Itoo has steadily expanded his professional footprint across disciplines central to modern healthcare. His evolving portfolio of fellowships, member-



ships, and scholarly affiliations highlights a commitment to advancing knowledge, strengthening clinical standards, and contributing to

global medical dialogue.

Dr. Itoo's recognition on the international stage represents not only personal professional advancement but also a

broader commitment to collaborative learning, scientific progress, and academic leadership. His work continues to emphasize interdisciplinary

exchange, lifelong education, and the pursuit of innovation in healthcare delivery and research.

Speaking on this milestone, Dr. Itoo noted that professional recognition carries with it both privilege and responsibility. He reaffirmed his dedication to contributing meaningfully to endocrine science, public health initiatives, and medical scholarship while supporting future opportunities for academic collaboration and professional development.

As he looks ahead, Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo remains focused on building impactful international partnerships, advancing research-informed healthcare practices, and strengthening contributions to academic medicine. This milestone marks an important step in a professional journey defined by service, scholarship, and a continued commitment to excellence.

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

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU APRIL 29: In a major boost to agricultural infrastructure in Jammu region, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, on Wednesday inaugurated a state-of-the-art Fruit and Vegetable Aggregation, Processing, Grading and Packing Unit at Marh, Jammu.

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

Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that establishment of the processing unit will play a transformative role in strengthening post-harvest management, boosting processing capacity and significantly reducing post-harvest losses.

He said the facility will add 100 metric tonnes of storage capacity, ensuring value addition and creating better marketing opportunities for the farmers at both local and national level.

He highlighted that Marh,



known as the vegetable hub of Jammu district, contributes significantly to vegetable supplies across the region, making the installation of such a facility crucial for the farming community.

"The Rs 3.5 crore project will provide farmers with modern post-harvest infrastructure, helping

minimise crop damage and ensuring improved returns through better grading, packing and storage facilities," the Minister said.

Reiterating the government's commitment towards farmers' welfare, Javid Ahmad Dar said the Jammu and Kashmir government is ensuring the availability of high-

quality seeds and fertilizers to maximise farm productivity. He added that exotic varieties of vegetable seeds and fruit plants are being made available through departmental channels.

The Minister further informed that Centres of Excellence have been established across all districts

to provide quality seedlings and technical support to the farmers. He assured that the demands and concerns raised by MLA Marh Surinder Kumar Bhagat would be addressed on priority, adding that several initiatives have already been taken to facilitate the farming community.

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

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

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

Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan: Grand Shikara Rally held at Manasbal Lake to raise awareness on Drug Menace

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, APRIL 29: In a vibrant display of community resolve against substance abuse, the District Administration Ganderbal in collaboration with Wular Manasbal Development Authority (WMDA) today organized a mega Shikara Rally at the iconic Manasbal Lake under the aegis of the 100 days 'Nasha Mukht Abhiyan'.

The rally was flagged-off by the Chief Executive Officer, Wular Manasbal Development Authority, Ahsanul Haq Chishti in presence of Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Ganderbal, Dr. Sheikh Salahuddin, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Hqrs), Umer Urfaan, and several other senior officers and officials besides civil society members and Shikara union members.



The Shikara rally saw dozens of boats decorated with banners and placards traversing the lake, carrying the message of 'Say No to Drugs' to locals and tourists alike. The initiative aimed to utilize Ganderbal's tourism potential to amplify social awareness, urging the younger generation to choose healthy lifestyles over the path of self-destruction.

Earlier, the event commenced with an awareness program where students from various educational institutions delivered impactful speeches. They highlighted the devastating ill effects of drug addiction on physical health and cautioned the audience about its corrosive impact on the social fabric of the valley.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Executive Officer, (CEO WMDA), Dr. Ahsan Ul Haq Chishti said that a drug-free society cannot be built in a day, it must be a daily commitment. Addiction is not just an individual struggle but a social responsibility, and it is up to all of us viz. families, schools, and communities to guide our youth away from it and towards the bright future they deserve.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Ganderbal, Dr. Sheikh Salahuddin underscored the importance of parental and societal roles, stating that our youth are the asset of our nation, and we cannot allow them to fall prey to this menace. "This rally is a symbol of our collective resolve to clean our society from drugs trap," he added.

DSP Hqrs, Omer Urfaan called for a collaborative approach, adding the police department is working tirelessly, but public cooperation, especially from the youth and students is the key to breaking the supply chain of narcotics.

Following the event, a rally comprising of students, faculty, and WMDA officials commenced from Main Manasbal Park and marched through the local area to Kondabal High School, raising awareness for a drug-free society.

The event concluded with a pledge ceremony at Kondabal High School wherein all the participants pledged to transform Ganderbal into a drug-free district.

DYSS Baramulla amplifies Sports Movement, Nasha Mukht J&K Campaign across Multiple Zones

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, APRIL 29 : Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Baramulla continues to promote a vibrant sports culture alongside its intensified anti-drug awareness drive under the banner of Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan, with a series of inter-school zonal level competitions conducted across various zones of the district.

Zone Nehalpora successfully organized an Inter-School Zonal Level Volleyball Competition for Under-14 boys at BMS Waripora, drawing participation from around 200 students. The event witnessed great enthusiasm and showcased the budding sporting talent of the zone.

Similarly, Zone Jhulla conducted Inter-School Zonal Level Volleyball Competitions for Under-14 and Under-17 boys under the Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan, with participation of 60 students. The competitions aimed at channelizing youth energy into positive avenues while spreading awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

Zone Wagoora also organized an Inter-School Zonal Level Competition for Under-17 boys at HS Watergam, where 108 students actively participated, reflecting the growing interest in sports among students.

Extending the outreach beyond students, Zone Dangerpora organized Tug of War and Carrom competitions for senior citizens at HSS Rampora under the Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan, promoting community involvement and inclusivity in the campaign.

Adding further momentum, Zone Rohama conducted Inter-School Zonal Level Volleyball Competitions for Under-14 and Under-17 girls at HSS Rohama, with participation of 107 students.

The event highlighted the active involvement of girls in sports and reinforced the message of a drug-free and healthy society.

3-day training for Field Trainers concludes at Jammu

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 29: The three-day training programme for Field Trainers (FTs) in connection with the forthcoming Census-2027 operations concluded today in Jammu.

The training programme was organized by the District Administration Jammu under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner (District Census Officer) Vidhur Shekhar and DSEO, Additional District Census Officer Neeraj Sharma.

A total of 46 Field Trainers from different departments participated in the training programme. The Field Trainers have been trained to further impart training to Supervisors and Enumerators at their respective charge levels to ensure smooth and efficient conduct of census activities across the district.

The training sessions were conducted by Master Trainer Jatinder Kumar, Assistant Director and Nodal Officer (Jammu) from Directorate of Census Operations, J&K, who provided detailed training on various aspects



of Census-2027 including House Listing and Housing Census (HLO), House listing Blocks (HLBs), Layout maps, Definitions uses in Census, Legal aspects of Census, roles and responsibilities of Census Functionaries etc through PPTs and hands on practices on mobile devices. Sunita Reshi, District Coordinator from Census Operations, J&K also attended the training.

The programme concluded today with closing remarks by Vidhur Shekhar, Additional Deputy Commissioner (District Census Officer), who emphasized the importance of proper

training and coordination among field functionaries for the successful conduct of Census-2027.

He appreciated the active participation of the Field Trainers and urged them to effectively disseminate the knowledge gained during the training to the enumerators and supervisors during subsequent training programmes.

The District Administration Jammu reaffirmed its commitment to ensure the smooth, transparent and time-bound conduct of Census-2027 in the district.

Govt Polytechnic Reasi, GDC Katra organise youth engagement events

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

REASI, APRIL 29: As a part of 100 Days Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, Government Polytechnic and Government Degree College Reasi organised a series of youth engagement programmes.

Government Polytechnic organized a series of indoor sports activities, with active

participation of 60 students representing different departments. Contests in Table Tennis, Chess and Carrom were held, providing students an opportunity to showcase their skills, focus and strategic thinking.

The program was organised under the guidance of Principal, Dr. Arun Bangotra. The events

were organised under the supervision of faculty members, Akankasha Sharma, Veena Thapa, Prashtom Lal, Prashtom Singh and Anil Kumar.

Government Degree College Katra, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Police, organised an awareness symposium as part of the ongoing 100-day campaign under the aegis of the

Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan.

The programme was conducted under the leadership of the Principal, Dr. Rajni Bhagat and coordinated by Prof. Mohammad Younus Saleem, Nodal Officer NMBA. Seven students participated in the symposium and shared their insightful views on the theme "Drugs: The Silent Killer." Khushi

Goswami secured the first position, while Gungun and Rohini jointly bagged the second position. The third position was awarded to Riya Thakur.

The Chief Guest and Resource Person Akhilesh Khajuria, Incharge Police Post Kakryal, motivated the students to actively support law enforcement agencies in curbing the menace of drug abuse.

DLSA Doda spreads awareness on Mediation; Child protection laws

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, APRIL 29: Legal Awareness Programme on mediation and child protection laws were organised today by the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Doda. The awareness programme on mediation was held here at the Labour Office to promote alternative dispute resolution mechanisms among the public.

The programme was conducted by Advocate Tahir Hussain Dar (LADC) along with Advocate Abhi Kumar, in the presence of Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) Paramveer and Shehnaza. The speakers elaborated on the significance of mediation as an effective tool for resolving disputes in a quick, cost-efficient and amicable manner. They emphasized that mediation not only reduces the burden on courts but also helps maintain cordial relationships between parties.

The participants were encouraged to opt for mediation as a preferred mode of dispute resolution to avoid prolonged

litigation.

Meanwhile, an awareness camp focusing on child protection laws and prevention of sexual offences was organized today at a local school under the directions of the Chairman District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bhaderwah, Secretary DLSA and Chairman Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Doda.

The session was facilitated by the LADC and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of TLSC Doda. Advocate Tahir Hussain Dar was the resource person. He delivered an informative and engaging session on various aspects of child protection laws. He elaborated on preventive measures against child abuse, the significance of timely reporting and the legal safeguards available for children.

The camp witnessed active participation from students and staff, making the session highly interactive and impactful. The initiative aimed to spread awareness and foster a safe, secure and supportive environment for children.

SMC INVITES BIDS FOR SHOPS, OFFICE SPACES AT HABBA-KHATOON COMMERCIAL COMPLEX PARIMPORA

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APRIL 29: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has issued a Notice Inviting Offer (NIO No. 01 of 2026) for the allotment of built-up shops and office halls at the Habba-Khatoon Commercial Complex, Parimpora, through an online e-auction on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Portal.

The auction will be conducted on an "as is where is" basis to facilitate the commercial utilization of municipal property.

The premises fall under the provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1988. As per the notified schedule, online training and help desk support for bidders commenced on April 28, 2026. The pre-qualification

submission process will remain open from May 1 to May 8, followed by assessment from May 9 to May 15. The submission of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) is scheduled between May 16 and May 20, while the final online bidding will take place from May 22 to May 23, 2026.

Individuals, firms, and companies are eligible to participate in the e-auction, while minors are not permitted.

The allotment shall be made for a maximum period of ten years, extendable subject to approval of the competent authority. A mandatory Earnest Money Deposit equivalent to 10% of the starting price of each unit is required to be submitted through Demand Draft or FDR pledged in favour of the FA/Chief Accounts Officer, SMC. The minimum bid increment has been

fixed at 25,000.

The commercial units are available on the ground, first, and second floors, with sizes ranging from approximately 198 square feet to over 600 square feet.

The starting prices range between 22.28 lakh and 49.78 lakh, depending on the size and location of the unit. The rent structure has been fixed at 34 per square foot per month for ground floor units, 30 per square foot for first floor units, and between 28 to 33 per square foot for second floor units. The rent will remain fixed for an initial period of three years and will thereafter be revised by 10% for subsequent terms.

Successful bidders will be required to deposit 25% of the bid amount within seven days of issuance of the Letter of Intent, while the

remaining 75% must be paid within 45 days.

The allotted units are meant strictly for general commercial use, and subletting or change of allotment will not be permitted. Manufacturing and repair activities are also prohibited within the premises.

Commissioner SMC, Faz Lul Haseeb, while issuing directives regarding the process, emphasized that the entire auction process must be conducted in a transparent, fair, and technology-driven manner to ensure equal opportunity for all eligible participants.

He directed the concerned officers to facilitate maximum public participation, provide necessary guidance to bidders, and ensure that the e-auction process is conducted smoothly without any inconvenience to the applicants.

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

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 29: Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today convened a meeting with the senior officers to review progress on construction of the new Legislature Complex at Jammu.

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



in the meeting.

Threadbare discussion was held on the issues pertaining to early completion of the new Assembly Complex including provision for

Central Hall, committee cum meeting rooms, seating capacity, library, Media room etc.

A detailed presentation about various phases of project execution

was presented by the Executive Engineer in charge of the project through a PowerPoint Presentation.

The Speaker was apprised that Central Hall has been proposed

as it is one of the basic requirements of the Legislative Assembly. It was also informed that there is a provision for 5 committee cum meeting rooms with the seating capacity ranging from 50 to 100 chairs.

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

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

Panchayat Electoral Roll Revision extended; claims, objections can be filled till May 5

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 29: The State Election Commission has extended the deadline for filing claims and objections for the revision of Panchayat Electoral Rolls-2026 to May 5, 2026, with 01.04.2026 as the qualifying date.

In a communication issued today, the Commission said the extension follows requests from several districts. The revised schedule is in continuation of its notification No. SEC/Py/03/2026/607-639 dated 25.03.2026.

Under the revised schedule, claims and objections for addition, deletion, correction or transposition in the electoral rolls can be filed from March 27 to May 5. Special camps will be held at polling booth locations on May 2 and May 3, where the Panchayat Election Booth Officials including VLW, MPW and GRS, along with the Assembly BLOs, will be available with requisite forms and the draft electoral roll to assist voters.

The Electoral Registration Officer will dispose of all claims and objections by May 14 and the final Panchayat Electoral Roll-2026 will be published on May 21.

The Commission has directed the District Panchayat Election Officers to strictly follow the revised timeline and ensure wide publicity at the grassroots level through field staff of all departments, including Numberdars and Chowkidars, so that no eligible voter is left out.

The PEBOs have also been asked to conduct house-to-house surveys to enroll left-out and new voters in their respective Panch wards and Panchayats, and to organize remaining special camps at the Panch ward level.

Yasha Mudgal reviews progress on Centrally Sponsored Computerization of PACS

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 28: Commissioner Secretary, Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal, today chaired a meeting to review progress on the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Computerization of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) under Phase-II across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

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

During the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary was informed that the Union Ministry of Cooperation, has approved 171 PACS for coverage under this phase in J&K. It was further highlighted that while 8 out of 20 districts have successfully completed the identification and approval process through their respective District Level Implementation and Monitoring Committees (DLIMCs), progress remains pending in the remaining districts. Yasha Mudgal reiterated that PACS, being grassroots-level cooperative institutions, play a pivotal role in providing credit and essential services to farmers and rural populations. She



emphasized that the computerization initiative, envisioned by the Government of India, aims to strengthen these societies through digital enablement, ensuring greater transparency and modernized service delivery. Taking serious notice of the slow progress in the remaining districts, the Commissioner/Secretary issued a stern directive to all the Deputy Registrars of the lagging districts. She ordered the immediate expedition of the approval process and set a hard deadline of May 5, 2026, for completion of all DLIMC approvals, making it clear that timely completion of formalities is non-negotiable for the onboarding and digitization of these societies.

The Commissioner Secretary underscored that the success of this centrally sponsored initiative depends on accountability and proactive follow-up at the district level.

She called for rigorous monitoring to ensure that the structural benefits of the scheme, primarily improved efficiency and transparency, reach the rural communities within the stipulated timelines. The meeting concluded with directions for enhanced coordination among the field functionaries and strict adherence to all procedural requirements.

Agriculture Department distributes Seedlings among students

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BILLAWAR, APRIL 29: A plantation awareness and distribution programme was conducted today here at Government High School Danjardhar, Government High School Sialna and Government High School Uchapind.

More than 2,000 cucurbits seedlings were distributed among nearly 300 students to encourage younger generation towards agriculture,



encouraging them to develop interest,

gain knowledge and explore agriculture as a viable entrepreneurial opportunity in the future. The seedlings were raised at the Vegetable Nursery, Uchapind.

The initiative was carried out with the active involvement of field functionaries, including AEA Pyt Danjardhar Sanjeev Kumar, AEA Sialna Raman Sharma, AEA Uchapind Ravi Kumar and AEA Salore Rakesh Kumar, along with Social Worker Raj Kumar and Incharge Vegetable Nursery Uchapind Anil Gupta.

J&K govt deliberates on Multi-Channel Messaging API Solution -Enabled Citizen Service Delivery Ecosystem

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 29: In a significant step towards strengthening the digital governance and enhancing citizen service delivery, the Information Technology Department today convened a comprehensive meeting under the chairmanship of Secretary, Information Technology, to deliberate upon the adoption of a Multi-Channel Messaging API Solution for seamless delivery of government e-services to the citizens.

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



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

The deliberations focused on

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

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

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary IT emphasized that the initiative is aimed at bringing the government services closer to the citizens by utilizing widely adopted digital communication platforms, thereby ensuring ease of access, real-time interaction, and an improved user experience.

He further observed that integration of Multi-Channel Messaging API Solution based services has the potential to significantly strengthen inclusive governance, particularly in remote and underserved areas of the Union Territory.

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

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

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

Rajouri unites against drug abuse

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI, APRIL 29: In a determined effort to strengthen the fight against drug abuse, the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports District Rajouri organised a series of impactful and well coordinated activities across the district under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan.

The campaign featured a diverse range of programmes including Padyatra, Yoga sessions, pledge ceremonies and fitness and wellness activities, all aimed at spreading awareness and inspiring positive behavioural change among the youth.

The Padyatra witnessed energetic participation from students and young volunteers who marched through key areas of the district, spreading awareness and raising a strong voice against drug abuse. Yoga sessions conducted at multiple

venues emphasized mental clarity, discipline and holistic well being, reinforcing the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

Pledge ceremonies were organised across institutions where participants solemnly resolved to stay away from drugs and actively contribute towards building a drug free society. Fitness and wellness activities further motivated the youth to channel their energy into constructive and health oriented pursuits.

The Directorate of Youth Services and Sports District Rajouri reiterated its unwavering commitment to continue such initiatives, ensuring maximum outreach and sustained impact at the grassroots level. The overwhelming participation across the district stands as a testament to the collective resolve of the community to eliminate the menace of drugs and build a vibrant, healthy and empowered Rajouri.

PHC Bhagwah gets Truenat Machine

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, APRIL 29: In a significant development aimed at strengthening healthcare facilities in the remote areas of the district, the Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr. Tanveer Ahmed Rather, today inaugurated a Truenat Machine dedicated to PHC Bhagwah.

With the installation of the machine, TB tests will now be conducted at the PHC, providing timely diagnostic services to the local people and those from adjoining areas.

The CMO said that the addition of the Truenat Machine would greatly benefit the local population and strengthen healthcare delivery services.

District Epidemiologist Umar Anayat, Mashhood Latif, BM&EO Ghat, besides the staff members of PHC Bhagwah were also present on the occasion.

The local residents expressed gratitude



to the Chief Medical Officer and the Health Department for this valuable initiative.

The inauguration reflects the continued efforts of the Health Department Doda towards modernization and strengthening of healthcare institutions across the district.

DDC reviews progress of HADP in Reasi district

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

REASI, APRIL 29: District Development Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today chaired a meeting to review the progress and implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district.

The officers presented detailed updates on the physical and financial progress, highlighting key achievements, existing challenges and proposed action plans for effective implementation.

The DDC reviewed the status of farmer registrations under the programme. He directed the concerned departments to ensure 100 percent



registration within a stipulated timeline. Emphasizing the importance of digital connectivity, he instructed officers to ensure internet facilities at all Kisan

Khidmat Ghar (KKGs) to facilitate seamless service delivery.

He further urged all KKGs to obtain the necessary licenses for the sale and distribution of seeds and fertilizers to strengthen agricultural support services at the grassroots level.

The DDC stressed the need for coordinated efforts among all departments to achieve the objectives of HADP and to enhance the overall productivity and sustainability of the agriculture sector in the district.

Chief Planning Officer Narinder Kumar; Chief Agriculture Officer Harbans Singh; District Sheep Husbandry Officer Dr. Sarfaraz Choudhary and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

Mega Block Diwas held at Behibagh

Programme witnesses active public participation

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, APRIL 29: Taking governance at the doorsteps of the people, the District Administration Kulgam today conducted a Mega Block Diwas at Behibagh and programme witnessing active public participation where a wide range of grievances and developmental demands were raised by the people. The public outreach programme was presided over by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Altaf Ahmad Khan, who listened patiently to the issues highlighted by the residents.

During the programme, people from various areas including Cheki

Hanjini, Behibagh, Semipora, Daderkoot, Numai, Kadder and adjoining villages projected several developmental demands. Key demands included upgradation of link roads, macadamization of Sheganpora-Madarkoot and Daderkoot-Khijogipora roads, and desilting of water canals to ensure proper irrigation. Given the horticulture significance of the area, the residents also emphasized the need for ensuring the availability of standard quality pesticides. Other issues highlighted included augmentation and realignment of the High Tension (HT) power line for reliable electricity supply, and construction of a protection bund at a public park.

The ADDC, along with other officers, gave a patient hearing to all the grievances and assured that all genuine issues would be examined thoroughly and addressed in a phased and time-bound manner in coordination with the concerned departments.

He also directed the officers to take immediate necessary action on priority matters. Officers from various departments responded to the grievances and provided on-the-spot clarifications to the public. On the occasion, several government departments had set up stalls and counters for on-the-spot registration of beneficiaries under various welfare schemes.

HT EDITORIAL

Hold elections for Srinagar Municipal Corporation at the earliest

Srinagar city might have got the tag of one of the smart cities of the country but there are certain issues that are acting as a dampener to this achievement. These issues need to be addressed at the earliest so that Srinagar is viewed as a smart city in the real sense. This would also give a new dimension to the development of the summer capital of the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

In the first instance the union territory government should hold elections for the municipal corporations of Srinagar and Jammu. Once the elections are completed then local representatives would project the demands of the city residents and as such the developmental plans would get a new meaning. As on date the legislators of the Srinagar district are calling the shots when it comes to taking up the various activities across the district. Srinagar Municipal Corporation needs to be strengthened and the same is possible only when the public representatives are there in the saddle.

As everyone is pitching for democracy at the grassroots level it is important that local body polls are held across the union territory. Elections need to be held for the corporations, committees and councils across the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. As far as Srinagar is concerned the city is without a city father for a long time. Ever since the tenure of the SMC has ended there is no Mayor for Srinagar and in such a scenario the development has been badly hit.

A Mayor is pivotal for the development of an important city and the same needs holds true with the Srinagar city. The mayor along with the other corporators of the corporation frame plans for the overall development of the city. Since a corporator belongs to his or her particular ward he or she is fully aware about the needs and requirements of the people living in that particular ward. In other words, we can say that precision planning and execution is possible only when the locals are involved in the decision making process. At the same time, it is imperative that youth come forward and take part in the municipal polls. This is important since young people have fresh ideas and also plans on how to make things work in the contemporary world. The veterans in the field should guide the young Turks so that they deliver to the best possible level.

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Editorial Section: 7006846797,
Multimedia Section: 9419008414,
Advertisement Section: 9697071471
RNI No: Jkeng/2011/39231
dailyheadlinestoday@gmail.com
headlinestoday2024@gmail.com

The Cry That Changed My Life



■ SYED MAJID GILANI

April 30, 2014, is not just a date for me. It is a memory that returns each year with warmth and gratitude.

That day, the city was under strict curfew. Outside Modern Hospital, Rajbagh, there was uncertainty and silence, but inside the hospital, I waited for a moment that would change my life forever. The contrast between the unrest beyond those walls and the quiet anticipation within made every passing second feel heavier, as hope and anxiety intertwined.

By the grace of Allah, and owing to my duties at the time as a Sub Inspector in the Vigilance and Inspections Wing of the then Commercial Taxes Department, I was able to manage everything. For that, I remain deeply thankful.

When your mother was taken in for a caesarean delivery performed by Prof. Dr. Tasneem Gowhar, every moment felt long. My heart was filled with both worry and hope. And then, suddenly, I heard it, your first cry.

Sarah, that sound was the most beautiful sound I had ever heard. It filled the room with joy and brought peace to my heart. In that moment, nothing else mattered except the well-being of your mother and you, my newborn daughter.

At that precious moment, I kissed your forehead, whispered the gentle words of the Azaan into your ears, and named you Sarah, meaning "purity and brightness." When I first held you, wrapped in a soft blanket, your tiny fingers curled around mine, and I felt a deep sense of responsibility and love.

It was a moment of pure bliss and deep gratitude, a reminder of the precious gift of life. I remain deeply thankful for the kindness and care of Prof. Dr. Tasneem Gowhar, and for the warmth of Mr. Jan Sahib, the proprietor of Modern Hospital, whose presence made that difficult time easier.

Your birth changed me, Sarah. Becoming a

father to a daughter awakened feelings I had never known before. I felt a strong desire to protect you, guide you, and always stand by you.

As the years passed, I watched you grow. Your first steps, your first words, and your small achievements filled my heart with quiet pride. Every moment with you has been special, and every memory is precious.

I fondly remember the day Mohammad Shafi, our trusted hairdresser, visited our home, Gilan House, to perform the sacred ritual of your first head shave in accordance with Islamic tradition. That tender moment remains close to my heart. Soon after, your studio portrait, prepared by Mim-mic Colour Lab, was displayed in our lobby, a proud memory for us all.

I also remember the day your mother and I bought your first tricycle. Your bright red tricycle quickly became your favourite, and your daadi would lovingly watch over you as you rode along the pathway and lawn.

Among my most cherished memories is our visit to the Hazratbal Shrine, where I offered Nimaz-e-Shukrana, thanking Allah for blessing us with you. Not long after, we enrolled you in Crescent Public School, Naseem Bagh, marking the beginning of your educational journey. Your first day at school was a moment of celebration, and when the school van stopped at the gate of our beloved home, it began a routine I still remember vividly.

Today, you are in the 7th grade at Crescent Public School, Naseem Bagh, Srinagar. I feel proud watching you grow into a kind, thoughtful, and graceful young girl.

Like all children, you went through the usual illnesses, coughs, colds, fevers, and other small discomforts. I remain thankful to your pediatrician, Prof. Dr. Wajid Ali, and the staff at Tawheed Medical Hall, Alamgari Bazar, for making your vaccinations and boosters almost tear-free. Their care has meant a lot to us.

During the global lockdown of 2020, the quarantine period remains etched in my memory with striking clarity. I was under quarantine, confined to a small room on the ground floor, where even the briefest glimpse through the narrow gaps in the doorframe became a source of comfort and quiet hope. Those fleeting moments, though simple, carried a deep sense of reassurance in a time filled with uncertainty.

Securing school admissions, arranging a tuition

teacher, and inviting a Moulvi Sahib for Quranic lessons ensured that all of you received a strong and balanced foundation.

Morning walks, cycling trips, picnics, and family outings brought moments of pure happiness into our lives. The laughter we shared while passing through Chandni Chowk, Gumat Bazar, and Jewel Chowk remains unforgettable, carefree and innocent moments that continue to live vividly within me.

I often share my stories, hoping my children will find guidance, strength, and inspiration in them. Though hardships did arise, they only deepened our bond and strengthened our connection. Visits to sacred and spiritually significant places laid a profound spiritual foundation that I trust will continue to guide you throughout your lives.

I often think of the teachings of my late great-grandfather, Moulana Syed Mohammad Yasin Shah Gilani. His life continues to guide me, and I strive to pass those values on to you and your brothers. Each of you is unique, and together you have filled our home with love, purpose, and meaning.

My dear Sarah, as your birthday comes once again, I make a simple prayer for you:

May you always be healthy and happy.

May you receive the best education.

May you grow into a person of strong character and kindness.

May you always walk on the right path and make us proud.

You are a blessing in my life, Sarah. I thank Allah for you every single day. No matter how much you grow, you will always remain the little girl whose first cry changed my life forever.

My life is devoted to my children. I promise to remain your rock, your guiding light, and your safest haven. With love, tears, and unending longing, my heart beats solely for Arshad, Sarah, and Murshad. My life's purpose is simple yet profound: to see you remain forever connected to your roots, your heritage, and the values that define who you are.

Happy Birthday, my dear Sarah.

With love and prayers,

Your Papa

Syed Majid Gilani is a Government Officer, storyteller, and opinion writer. He writes on family, faith, resilience, and moral values

Kashmir Deserve First Then Desire



■ MOOL RAJ

Notwithstanding that Kashmir has a huge potential as far as tourism is concerned and if harnessed properly this sector could certainly change the economic profile of the entire state, however, it is also a reality that tourism cannot sustain itself as long as political turmoil continues here. So if the government is really interested in attracting more and more tourists to Kashmir, it cannot go on brushing the underlying causes of political conflict here under the proverbial carpet. This is amply evidenced by the fact that despite record number of tourist arrivals during past few years, Kashmir still is and will remain a controversial place to visit, even under the best of circumstances. Not only does a tourist lose his or her health insurance while travelling to what is still deemed to be a disturbed area, but frequent strikes and sometimes curfews also present huge inconveniences to unsuspecting visitors. And as if the turbulent politics of the place was not enough, the inadequate and often overpriced tourism infrastructure here is also a big disappointment, besides being an indicator of the failure of the tourism industry to put their money where their mouth is.

Given this scenario, one cannot help but wonder if we have become terribly unrealistic about what we have to offer and, in the process, have priced ourselves out of the market. Truth is that there are many "paradises" elsewhere and most are not confronted with the same problematic potential instability. Many of these other destinations are also priced much more reasonably and offer a variety of products for every income group. One has to wonder whether short-term thinking is getting the



better of an industry that is counted as an answer to many of Kashmir's pressing problems.

Take the example of the much touted policy of encouraging private players to offer accommodations under a bed & breakfast scheme. Isn't it true that it has mostly resulted in more congested neighbourhoods and unregulated growth in establishments that do not compare favourably in quality and pricing to those offered in other states. Regardless of what we might have been told, skiing at Gulmarg is no longer such an inexpensive alternative to resorts in the West, with costs for lodging skyrocketing and gondola rides approaching prices charged abroad. Many skiers who used to come to Gulmarg for the entire skiing season are no longer able to pay for the experience of a long-term stay. Inconveniences caused

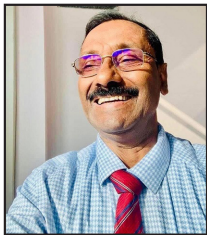
by poor service and lack of other infrastructure are no longer acceptable when prices are similar to those charged in places where everything works. If charged to the hilt, then a visitor has to have all the other basics like sanitation, availability of water and electricity, timely opening of lifts and gondolas, and access to evening entertainment. But if all these things can't be ensured, then the logical and rational way to go about it is to price our packages reasonably. There are people who are willing to forego some of these things in exchange for a reasonable package deal. But even this minimum is not being done here.

Then there is yet another problem – that of unplanned and unregulated growth of so-called tourism infrastructure at the most eco-fragile zones. Places previously famous for their scenic beauty have been turned into

concrete jungles that no longer attract those looking for nature and solitude. Noise and air pollution are approaching and sometimes superseding those in nearby mountain states or other destinations. Yet, these places offer more affordable vacations despite no worries about political stability and lack of security concerns. If people opt for a trip to Southeast Asia because the cost of a stay is more reasonable and hassle-free, shouldn't we adjust to that reality and change our expectations of what is sustainable in Kashmir under current conditions? According to Aristotle, knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom. Isn't it time to introspect and stop blaming others?

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

Jhal Muri Politics of Food: Prime Minister on the Road



■ DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

Jhal muri is deeply associated with Bengal and eastern India, especially the bustling streets of Kolkata where vendors, often called “muriwalas,” roam with tin containers strapped around their waists or set up small stalls near railway stations, markets, and parks, calling out to passersby with rhythmic cries, and the preparation itself is a performance, a quick choreography of mixing, tossing, and serving, accompanied by the metallic clink of spoons against containers and the rustle of paper cones made from old newspapers, and when a Prime Minister engages with this practice, even briefly, it elevates the visibility of these micro-economies that sustain thousands of livelihoods, drawing attention—intentionally or otherwise—to the informal sector that remains the backbone resonate of urban and semi-urban India. Here entrepreneurship is often born out of necessity and sustained through resilience, and such a gesture can be read in multiple ways, depending on the observer’s perspective, Jhal Muri represents Bengal’s bold culinary style while contributing to India’s larger cultural mosaic. It reminds us that food is not only about taste—it is about memory, community, and pride. Whether enjoyed on a Kolkata street corner or recreated abroad, Jhal Muri continues to embody the spirit of Bengal and the enduring power of food in shaping culture and politics

Jhal Muri has been for many Indians is associated with childhood memories, evening walks, train journeys, or casual conversations with friends, and in that sense, the Prime Minister’s roadside snack becomes a bridge between personal memory and public narrative, inviting citizens to see a reflection of their own experiences in the actions of their leader, however fleeting that reflection may be, and this interplay between food and politics is not new, as throughout history, leaders have used culinary gestures to convey messages of solidarity, simplicity, and cultural alignment, whether it is sharing a meal with farmers, visiting local eateries, or endorsing traditional foods. What makes the jhal muri moment particularly striking is its informality, its rootedness in the street rather than the staged environment of a curated event, even if the presence of cameras inevitably introduces an element of staging, because the street itself is unpredictable, alive with movement, noise, and spontaneity, and to step into that space, even momentarily, is to acknowledge its significance as a site of social interaction and cultural production

In such taking of jhal muri in a serious election campaign of a hugely popular

Prime Minister class boundaries blur and the rhythms of daily life unfold without the constraints of formal protocol, and in this sense, the act of eating jhal muri on the road can be interpreted as a symbolic immersion into the everyday, a gesture that suggests an awareness of the textures and tastes that define ordinary existence, even if such immersion is temporary and mediated. Yet one must also consider the broader implications of such moments, asking whether they translate into tangible support for the communities they highlight, whether the visibility accorded to street vendors leads to improved policies, better infrastructure, or enhanced recognition of their contributions to the urban economy, or whether the moment remains largely symbolic, a fleeting spectacle that captures attention but does not necessarily alter structural realities. This tension between symbolism and substance is central to understanding the significance of the Prime Minister’s jhal muri moment, because while symbolism has the power to inspire, to create a sense of connection, and to shape narratives, it must ultimately be accompanied by substantive action if it is to have lasting impact. Even as one critically examines these dimensions, it is important not to dismiss the emotional resonance of the image, because food, perhaps more than any other cultural element, has the ability to evoke a sense of belonging, to transcend linguistic and regional differences, and to create moments of shared experience, and in a country as complex as India, where diversity is both a strength and a challenge, such moments of shared experience can play a role, however small, in fostering a sense of unity. Such acts remind people that despite differences, there are common threads that bind them together, and jhal muri, with its simple ingredients and explosive flavor, becomes one such thread, a culinary metaphor for the nation itself, where diverse elements come together to create something vibrant, dynamic, and uniquely Indian. Perhaps that is why the image of a Prime Minister enjoying jhal muri on the road resonates so deeply, because it encapsulates a narrative that is both aspirational and grounded.

It suggests that leadership can be both elevated and accessible, that power can coexist with simplicity, and that the essence of a nation is not only found in its grand monuments or official ceremonies but also in the everyday practices that unfold on its streets, in the hands of its people, in the flavors that define its cuisine, and in the stories that emerge from the intersection of the ordinary and the extraordinary. Here a simple snack becomes a symbol, a moment becomes a narrative, and a roadside encounter becomes part of the larger tapestry of national identity.

In Kolkata, Jhal Muri is inseparable from the city’s street food culture. It is sold at railway stations, bus stops, and tea stalls, often enjoyed alongside a steaming cup of chai in an earthen bhar. For students, office workers, and travelers,



it is a quick bite that sustains conversation and community. Culturally, Jhal Muri represents inclusivity. It is inexpensive, so anyone—regardless of class—can enjoy it. It is also social, often shared among friends during evening chats or picnics. Beyond Bengal, Jhal Muri has spread to Bangladesh, Odisha, Bihar, and Assam, showing its cross-cultural appeal. Each region adapts it slightly, but the essence remains the same: puffed rice transformed into a flavorful symbol of everyday life. Food in India is never neutral. It is tied to identity, pride, and politics. Leaders often highlight traditional foods to connect with people, emphasizing cultural heritage and regional diversity. By referencing local cuisines, they signal respect for traditions and attempt to unify diverse communities under a shared national identity. For example, when leaders mention dishes like Jhal Muri, they are not simply talking about food—they are acknowledging Bengal’s cultural contribution to India. Such gestures resonate with people because food is deeply personal. It reminds them of home, childhood, and community. In this way, food becomes a political tool, used to build rapport and emphasize inclusivity.

Few images capture the soul of eastern India as vividly as a paper cone filled with jhal muri, that humble yet electrifying mixture of puffed rice, mustard oil, green chilies, onions, peanuts, and a medley of spices that awaken not just the palate but the senses, the memory, and the imagination, and when such an everyday delicacy intersects with the spectacle of political power—when a Prime Minister pauses amid the choreography of security convoys and public engagements to partake of this roadside snack—it creates a moment that transcends the ordinary and becomes symbolic of a deeper connection between governance and grassroots culture, between authority and authenticity, between the polished corridors of power and the dust-laden roads where real life unfolds in its raw, unfiltered vitality. Jhal muri, in this context, is not merely food, it is a cultural text, a narrative compressed into a handful of ingredients, each telling a story of

migration, economy, taste, and tradition, and its sudden elevation into the national spotlight through the simple act of a Prime Minister enjoying it by the roadside

Food is never just food. It is memory, identity, and culture wrapped into flavor. In India, where diversity is celebrated through language, dress, and ritual, food becomes one of the most powerful markers of belonging. Among the many culinary treasures of Bengal, Jhal Muri stands out as a humble yet iconic street snack. It is spicy, pungent, and communal, embodying Bengal’s love for bold flavors and shared experiences. At the same time, food traditions like Jhal Muri often intersect with politics, as leaders highlight regional cuisines to connect with people and emphasize cultural heritage. The name itself explains the dish: jhal means spicy, and muri means puffed rice. Jhal Muri is prepared by mixing puffed rice with chopped onions, tomatoes, cucumber, boiled potatoes, roasted peanuts, green chilies, and a generous drizzle of mustard oil. A squeeze of lemon adds tang, while chana-chur (a spiced snack mix) provides crunch. Vendors prepare it fresh in paper cones or banana leaves, ensuring crispness and immediacy. This phenomenon is not unique to India. Globally, politicians often use food as a symbol of cultural pride. In India, however, the diversity of cuisines makes this practice especially powerful. From Gujarat’s dhokla to Punjab’s paratha and Bengal’s Jhal Muri, each dish represents a region’s identity, and acknowledging them reinforces the idea of unity in diversity.

Unlike elaborate meals, Jhal Muri requires no cooking—only mixing. This simplicity reflects Bengal’s food philosophy: maximum flavor from minimal effort, relying on fresh ingredients and the sharp bite of mustard oil. It is a snack for the masses, affordable and accessible, yet deeply tied to regional identity. Jhal Muri, the spicy puffed rice snack of Bengal, is far more than a quick bite sold in paper cones on Kolkata’s bustling streets. It is a cultural emblem, a reminder of Bengal’s love for bold flavors, mustard oil, and community. In India, food often carries meanings beyond taste—it becomes a

marker of identity, heritage, and even politics. Jhal Muri, humble yet iconic, illustrates how everyday cuisine can embody the spirit of a region while also participating in the larger narrative of India’s cultural diversity. It reflects a powerful democratization of taste, an acknowledgment that the flavors that define a nation are not curated in elite kitchens but are born in the hands of street vendors who blend ingredients with instinct, speed, and an inherited understanding of balance that no culinary school can replicate.

This image—of a leader standing or sitting casually, perhaps surrounded by curious onlookers, security personnel maintaining a respectful distance, cameras capturing every gesture, while a vendor deftly mixes muri with chopped onions, coriander, green chilies, a squeeze of lime, a dash of mustard oil, and a secret masala—becomes an emblem of accessibility. It is a performative yet meaningful gesture that collapses the distance between ruler and ruled, suggesting that leadership is not only about policy and rhetoric but also about participation in the shared cultural practices that define the everyday lives of citizens, and in a country as vast and diverse as India, where culinary traditions vary dramatically across regions, such moments acquire an additional layer of significance because they signal recognition of regional identities within the larger national narrative.

In the larger Indian mosaic, Jhal Muri symbolizes Bengal’s contribution to national identity. Just as bhel puri represents Mumbai’s street food culture, Jhal Muri represents Kolkata’s. Together, these snacks illustrate India’s regional diversity and shared love for flavorful, communal eating. Food festivals across India often feature Jhal Muri as a representative dish of Bengal. Abroad, members of the Bengali diaspora recreate it to keep cultural ties alive. In this way, Jhal Muri transcends geography, becoming a global symbol of Bengal’s identity. The intersection of food and politics is not always formal. Sometimes, it is about everyday life. When leaders eat local foods in public, it sends a message of relatability. When they highlight traditional snacks, it reinforces cultural pride. Jhal Muri, being a street food, is particularly symbolic because it represents the common person’s experience. In Bengal, Jhal Muri is tied to trains, tea stalls, and conversations. It is part of the rhythm of daily life. By acknowledging such foods, leaders connect with people’s lived realities. Food thus becomes a bridge between politics and culture, between leadership and everyday citizens. In India, where diversity is celebrated, food becomes a powerful symbol of identity and unity.

International Tagore Awardee Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee is a former Affiliate Faculty Virginia Commonwealth University & Retd. Head Post Graduate Dept of English Dum Dum Motijheel College .He may be mailed at prof.ratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com

Mind Over Metaphor



■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

As global interest grows in blending science with inner well-being, researchers are increasingly exploring how ideas like entanglement relate to meditation, spirituality and brain science. While the term “entanglement” originates in quantum physics, its real value in daily life lies not in subatomic particles but in how we understand the human mind through neuroscience and psychology.

Quantum entanglement suggests

that particles can behave as a connected system, regardless of distance. However, when we move from physics to human experience, the nature of connection changes fundamentally. The connections that shape our lives arise from brain networks, emotional memory and social relationships. These are governed by biological processes, not quantum effects in the brain. The brain continuously builds and reshapes these connections through neuroplasticity—the ability to rewire itself based on thoughts, habits and experiences.

Meditation is often described in mystical terms, sometimes even linked to universal or quantum connections, but scientific evidence points to a more grounded reality. Meditation works by training the mind and altering brain function in measurable ways. Regular practice calms the nervous system, lowers

stress hormones and enhances focus and emotional regulation. Mindfulness, in particular, teaches individuals to observe thoughts without reacting impulsively, creating space between stimulus and response.

Inside the brain, meditation reduces activity in regions associated with stress while increasing activity in areas responsible for attention and self-control. It strengthens emotional regulation, which is why it is widely used alongside treatments for depression and anxiety disorders.

Spirituality, too, plays a meaningful role. While it is not a scientific form of entanglement, the sense of connection it fosters has genuine psychological benefits. It provides meaning, reduces existential stress and builds emotional resilience. This feeling is better understood as psychological integration rather than

any physical linkage described by physics.

Humans naturally create entanglement-like experiences through the mind. A single thought can trigger a cascade of emotions, memories and even physical sensations, forming powerful feedback loops. Social bonding further deepens this sense of connection. Humans are biologically wired for relationships, with hormones like oxytocin reinforcing emotional ties and a sense of belonging. Attention also plays a crucial role—what we focus on shapes our mental state, amplifying either stress or positivity.

Improving mental well-being does not require misunderstood scientific metaphors but practical, evidence-based approaches. Rewiring thought patterns through cognitive behavioral techniques helps identify and challenge negative thinking. Mindfulness breaks cycles of overthinking and an-

chors the mind in the present. Strong, healthy relationships provide emotional support, while limiting exposure to negative media and engaging in constructive activities nurtures a healthier mental environment.

Understanding these principles matters because misusing scientific terms can create confusion and unrealistic expectations. A grounded approach keeps us aligned with real science and empowers us to apply effective mental health strategies.

The true entanglement in human life is not quantum but mental, emotional and social. Thoughts influence emotions, actions affect others and environments shape the mind. By understanding how the brain truly works, one gains not just insight, but control, clarity and the ability to heal.

The author is a Faculty, Science Department Sri Amritsar Sahib, Punjab

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ALL THAT YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT BREAST CANCER



Breast cancer is the most common cancer seen in India (14 per cent) and worldwide (11.8 per cent). The breast consists mainly of three different types of tissues – lobules (milk producing glands), ducts (drain the milk from lobules to nipple) and fat (tissue that make up the rest of the breast).

If the cancer arises from the lobules it is called lobular carcinoma, if it arises from the duct it is called ductal carcinoma and if from the fat or the blood vessels then it is called a sarcoma.

There are many risk factors that may contribute to the occurrence of breast cancer. Some of these risks we cannot change (unmodifiable) and some we can (modifiable). The unmodifiable risk factors that may increase the chances of developing breast

cancer are sex (more common in females, but men can also get breast cancer) and age (older women are more likely to develop breast cancer). Other unmodifiable risk factors are early menarche and late menopause, consumption of certain hormonal drugs such as oral contraceptive pills and infertility.

Dr Vijay Agarwal, Lead and Senior Consultant, Medical Oncology, Aster RV Hospital, "There are certain genetic factors that may contribute to the development of breast cancer such as inheriting BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutated genes from your parents.

Modifiable risk factors include obesity, lack of regular exercise, sedentary lifestyle, having children late in life, not breast feeding and high alcohol consumption. The symptoms of

breast cancer are usually painless lump in the breast or under the armpits. Other symptoms include change in the size or shape of breast, discoloration or puckering of skin over the breast, change in nipple size or colour, or discharge from the nipple area."

If breast cancer is suspected then various investigations such as mammography (X-Ray of the breast), Ultrasound, biopsy, CT scan, PET CT scan, MRI of breast and molecular studies may be required. The main reasons for doing these tests are to confirm breast cancer, know the nature of the cancer and whether it has spread to any other organs in the body. The treatment is very varied and depends upon the type of cancer, its molecular characteristics and stage.

Breast cancer treatments now

are very advanced and personalized to the individual, based on a multi-disciplinary approach.

The main stay of early breast cancer treatments are usually surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. Other treatment option such as targeted therapy and hormone therapy may be advised based on molecular characteristics of the tumour. In advanced breast cancer, the main treatment options are chemotherapy, hormone therapy, targeted therapy or immunotherapy depending upon the nature of cancer, its molecular characteristics and patient's wishes and expectations.

We know that if breast cancer, if identified early such as in stage 1 and 2, the cure rate from treatment is in excess of 90 per

cent as opposed to stage 3 and 4 where it is significantly less. It is important that we try to identify them early through breast screening programmes such as self-breast examination, clinic breast examination and mammogram screening.

It is recommended that all women above the age of 40 years should undergo 2 yearly mammograms, which can be increased to yearly in high risk women. All women should be self-breast aware and know how their breast feel.

They should examine them regularly and if there is any change, they should report to their family doctor. This is likely to increase the pickup rate at early stages, thereby having the maximum impact in breast cancer survival and outcomes. **Courtesy EMJ**

Can You be Allergic to Cold Weather or Temperatures?

Everyone feels cold during winters but if you get hives or a severe allergic reaction to cold temperatures then what you have is a different problem altogether. If you notice changes to your skin or any other symptoms or experience anaphylaxis due to sudden exposure to cold temperatures then you might have cold urticaria or allergy.

In a recent case study published in the Journal of Emergency Medicine, a 34-year-old man suffered from low blood pressure and breathlessness after taking a cold shower and had to be admitted to the intensive care unit. After investigations, doctors concluded that the patient had experienced a severe allergic reaction to cold temperatures. This not only indicates that cold allergy is real but also that you should be aware of any symptoms that may occur to avoid severe outcomes.

Cold urticaria often runs in families and, in other cases, it can be triggered by autoimmune diseases, viral infections, chickenpox, viral hepatitis and other conditions that affect your blood. If you have cold urticaria, sudden exposure to cold temperatures can cause symptoms. If you suddenly step out in cold weather, take a cold shower or suddenly enter a cold temperature environment like a walk-in freezer, it can trigger the increased production of histamines in your body. High levels of histamines in the body is the direct cause of cold allergy in most cases.

Usually, symptoms of cold urticaria can occur within 1-5 minutes of cold exposure and the effects can last for a few hours. Cold allergy symptoms can range from mild, which are usually non-life-threatening, to severe, which can cause hospital trips and even death. **Courtesy EMJ**

Most Humans at Diabetes Risk as Evolution of Insulin Hits Roadblock

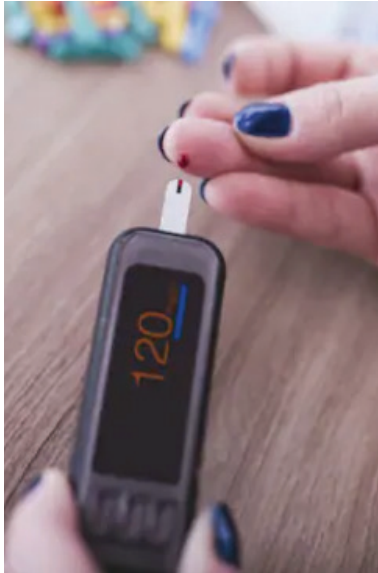
The evolution of insulin in vertebrates -- including humans -- has encountered a roadblock, limiting its ability to adapt to obesity and thereby rendering most people vulnerable to Type 2 diabetes, a significant research has claimed.

Scientists from Indiana University (IU), University of Michigan and Case Western Reserve University determined that the sequence of insulin has become entrenched at the edge of impaired production -- an intrinsic vulnerability unmasked by rare mutations in the insulin gene causing diabetes in childhood.

Insulin is produced by a series of highly specific processes that occur in specialised cells called beta cells.

A key step is the folding of a biosynthetic precursor, called proinsulin, to achieve the hormone's functional three-dimensional structure. Past studies have suggested that impaired biosynthesis could be the result of diverse mutations that hinder the foldability of proinsulin.

"Biological processes ordinarily evolve to be robust, and this protects us in the majority of cases from birth



defects and diseases. Yet, diabetes seems to be an exception," said Michael Weiss, Distinguished Professor at IU School of Medicine.

The group discovered that even the slightest variation of the insulin-sequence process not only impairs insulin folding (and eventual insulin secretion) but also induces cellular

stress that leads to beta cell dysfunction and eventually permanent damage.

The study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, highlights the importance of folding efficiency as a critical but hidden factor in the evolution of insulin over the past 540 million years.

Humans have evolved to be vulnerable to diverse mutations in the insulin gene and that this vulnerability underlies a rare monogenic form of diabetes and provides an evolutionary backdrop to the present obesity-related diabetes pandemic.

"The authors highlight the fact that the insulin gene has been susceptible throughout evolution to mutations that impair insulin's function or stress beta cells," said Barbara Kahn from Harvard Medical School.

"As we approach the 100th anniversary of the discovery of insulin, these elegant observations might lead to a better understanding of the pathogenesis of Type 2 diabetes".

The group will work to fully define the sequence determinants that make proinsulin foldable in beta cells. **Courtesy EMJ**

How to Deal with Mild Chest Congestion at Home

Ever since the COVID-19 pandemic began, even a slight itch in the throat can cause a lot of anxiety. But with the change in the weather, some people are bound to complain of a sore throat or chest congestion that can make it difficult for them to sleep at night. Mild chest congestion usually clears within 3-5 days but if it stays for long without any sign of relief, you should consult your doctor. Here are a few remedies that you can try at home to get relief from chest

congestion.

Consumption of warm fluids is the most popular home remedy for chest congestion. These warm fluids help in thinning the mucus and make it easy to expel with a cough. A study published in the international journal Rhinology in 2008 stated that hot beverages provide immediate relief from congestion and their positive effects stay for a long period of time. They further added that hot drinks can be helpful in relieving

other respiratory symptoms such as sneezing, cough, sore throat, and chills. People can consume hot water, bone broths or some herbal teas to get relief from congestion.

Steaming is one of the easiest and most effective ways of treating upper respiratory tract infections. Steam helps in loosening the mucus, providing immediate relief to the person. For this, you need to fill a large bowl with hot water and lean over the bowl while

draping a towel over your head to contain the steam. Breathe in the steam for as long as is comfortable and then drink a glass of water to prevent dehydration.

You can also try gargling with salted warm water as it will help in removing phlegm and mucus from the back of the throat.

Honey is an easily available ingredient which can help in relieving the chest congestion. Studies have shown that honey has antiviral and antibacterial

properties which help it fight infection-causing bacteria/viruses. A study conducted in 2007 stated that when children with upper respiratory tract infections were given buckwheat honey, their symptoms were relieved with and without standard medication.

You can consume one tablespoon of honey every 3 to 4 hours until the symptoms ease. People with diabetes and infants under 12 months of age should not be given honey. **Courtesy Healthline**

Eating habits take a healthy route as Covid teaches us lessons

The coronavirus pandemic has drastically changed our lives. Although many blogs talk vastly about various sectors and emerging technologies, they seldom discuss its effect on our personal choices. Agree or not, COVID-19 has altered our food preferences.

Dolly Kumar, Founder & Director at Cosmic Nutracos Solutions Pvt. Ltd., the parent company to health and wellness brand Gaia shares, "The early days of the lockdown revolved around hoarding calorie-laden processed food. With restaurants shuttered, concerns over hygiene, and to break free from the robotic routines of WFH, the pandemic brought out the chefs in most of us."

Even today, the cooking channels are becoming popular as people are turning to the kitchen to experiment with edibles or say, to just enjoy a lavish food spread at the dining table. After all, it is not just the consumption of food videos or blogs that experienced a spike. eCommerce giants Grofers and Flipkart too reported a spike in sales of food items. The trend continues to rise. Undoubtedly, the contagion has initiated a new bonding between us and the food we eat. A sudden thrust towards health and nutrition has drawn us to immunity-boosting food items, ditching our spicy packaged eatables. Here are a few eating habits that people have adopted during this period.

Healthy eating

People are moving towards the raw food items such as grains, cereals, fruits, and veggies and incorporating them in their daily meals. They have become the primary source of nutrition and the go-to option for between-the-meal snacking.

Mindful of processed foods

A lot of people are watching their intake of fats, salt, and refined oils in their diet. As per some analysts, the consumption of sugar is also expected to slip during this year. The speculations are based on the data shared by one of the leading soft drink



brands that reported a dip in sales by 25% during the first three months of April. In fact, the brand's direct competitor had a similar story to tell.

Choosing nutritional supplements and healthy food substitutes

Nutritional supplements are finding their place in kitchen larders and in the daily routines. People are incorporating supplements like Curcumin, Amla and Spirulina in the diet to strengthen immunity. Additionally, there is an increased awareness and demand for healthy food substitutes like infusion teas, oats, muesli, honey, etc.

Opting for on-the-go immunity enhancers

Remote working schedules have called for holistic but instant food items. Here, energy bars and multigrain cookies are helping people stay clear of binge-eating during hunger pangs. They are abundant in nutritive elements and a tasty and efficient way to strengthen immunity. The best part, they can be munches while working on a laptop as one does not have to fear spillage.

Good food hygiene

This is one part that should have been a priority. But, it is only recently that hygiene is being practiced very seriously. Not only people are washing their hands but also cleaning their fruits and vegetables rigorously to get rid of even the slightest strain of germs on the surface. Moreover, people have become cautious about sanitizing the food packages that they receive from food aggregators or grocery stores. This is one of the reasons that the business of online food delivery plummeted during the first phases of lockdown.

Following healthy habits

People have started pairing healthy eating with other activities that promote well-being. These range from regular exercising, drinking plenty of water, quitting smoking, moving to sustainable food patterns, etc. It is a relief that comfort foods no longer account for our first preference. But as we step into the New Normal, we have to still ensure that we don't normalize or glamorize eating junk. They act as a silent killer to deteriorate our immunity that we have built over the years. Thankfully, people are exploring and picking up healthier food alternatives. With the threat of various viruses looming large and the season changing, it is only advisable to not compromise with your health and sticking to the new-found love of nutritious foods. **Courtesy Healthline**

Public Notice

I have applied for DEE class card under name Mohd Maqbool Lone S/O Ameer Lone R/O Sonamulla Tehsil villagam Dist Kupwara if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of superintendent engineer R&B circle Baramullah/ Kupwara/kralpora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

Mohd Maqbool Lone
s/o Ameer Lone
R/O Sonamulla Tehsil villagam Dist Kupwara

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Naib Tehsildar Palhallan (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for information of the general public that the Block Development Officer (BDO) pattan has forwarded the case file for issuance of date of Birth certificate in favour of MISRA BEGUM D/O GH QADIR MALIK R/O PALHALLAN A/P DOWLATPORA with Date of Birth 16/01/1967

Objection if any regarding the details furnished by the applicant may be submitted in writing in the office of the Naib Tehsildar PALHALLAN within seven days from the date of publication of this notice

If no objection are received within the stipulated time, the case shall be processed for issuance of the Birth certificate as per rules in vogue.

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 file pertainingto Birth of RABIYA JAN & SHAHIDA AKHTER S/O SAJAD AHMAD LONE R/O. KHARGAM Tehsil PATTAN Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 27/04/2015 & 07/12/2016 event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth 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

It is hereby informed to the general public that I, TALIB HUSSAIN BEIG S/o MOHAMMAD HUSSAIN BEIG, R/o FAQIR BAGH CHANDOOSA, having Consumer No. 0212040015633 installed at a shop in FAQIR BAGH CHANDOOSA under PDD Sub-Division Watergam Wagoora, am transferring my electricity connection to my son, DANISH HUSSAIN BAIG S/o TALIB HUSSAIN BAIG, R/o *FAQIR BAGH CHANDOOSA for the same premises.

If any person has any objection to this transfer, he/she may file the objection with the Office of the Assistant Executive Engineer, PDD Sub-Division Watergam Wagoora, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after the stipulated period.

Sd/- TALIB HUSSAIN BEIG

Public Notice

My Name and Parentage wrongly mentioned in my service book as Ajaz Ahmad Khan instead of Aijaz Ahmad Khan and my Parentage as Samad Khan instead of Ab Samad Khan .Now I am applying for its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after no objection will be entertained.

AIJAZ AHMAD KHAN S/O AB SAMAD KHAN R/O TERKI BATPORA TEHSIL KUNZAR P/S TANGMARG DISTRICT BARAMULLA
Contact 9906592297

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father'sname MOHAMMAD SUBHAN SOFI Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040001144 wants to be registered on my name MOHAMMAD HAMZA (MALYARE) SOFI S/O MOHAMMAD SUBHAN (MALYARE) SOFI .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....MOHAMMAD HAMZA MALYARE (SOFI)
S/O...MOHAMMAD SUBHAN MALYARE (SOFI)
BLOCK.... WAGOORA

Public Notice

I have lost my discharge certificate at somewhere bearing admission date 15/11/1994 .Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody having any objection in this regard he /may file his/her objection in the office of GOVT HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL WOGOORA / ZEO office within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....TARIQ AHMAD HAJAM
S/O... GH QADIR HAJAM
R/O ...VIZER WAGOORA

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given on behalf of the family of Late Ghulam Hassan Mir, son of Late Mohd Sultan Mir, resident of Village Lowdara, who was serving in the Police Department and passed away on 20th April, 2026, regarding correction of his name in official records.

It has been observed that in the Character Roll, his name has been incorrectly recorded as "Gh Hassan Mir." The correct and full name is "Ghulam Hassan Mir." Accordingly, the same is required to be rectified in all official records.

Any person having any objection to the aforesaid correction may file their objection in writing before the office of the Senior Superintendent of Police, Bandipora within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

This notice is issued for general information.

Sd/- Ziya Begum
Wife of Late Ghulam Hassan Mir
Resident of Village Lowdara

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of BILAL AHMAD TELI S/O GH RASOOL TELI R/O KREERI Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward classes in his/her their 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 KREERI of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the TELI community having annual income 262000// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

1...GH RASOOL TELI Father 56 Labour 72000
2..RAJA BEGUM Mother 53 years H/W
3... RIFAT RASOOL sister 33 years student
4....NASIR AHMAD TELI Brother 33 years Imam
5...BILAL AHMAD TELI Applicant 26 years student
6....AAMIR AHMAD TELI Brother 24 years labour 120,000
7...ABDUL HANAN son in law 6 years student

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission

Resham Ghar Colony, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu - 180001

Subject: Accounts Clerk Course Departmental Examination, June 2024-Revised result thereof.
Ref. No: DGAT-EIII0Misc/2/2024-01/7723927/18 dated: 04-02-2026

NOTIFICATION NO: PSC/EXAM/S/2026/43

DATED: 28-04-2026

In continuation to Notification No: PSC/Exam/S/2024/80 dated: 18-12-2024, the revised result of Accounts Clerks Course Departmental Examination (Old Course), June 2024 is declared as under:

Roll No	Name of the Candidate	Parentage	PI	PII	PIII	PIV	Remarks
6	Ishtiyaq Ahmad	Pir Saif u Din	29	38	36	25	Passes with 8 grace marks in Paper IV
28	Abdulah Qutoom Ganai	Ghulam Qadir Ganai	27	48	43	23	Passes with 10 grace marks in Paper IV
46	Intkhab Alam	Ghulam Nabi	19	36	35	40	Passes
64	Sandeep Yadav	Des Raj	22 Passed in 12/2020	36	46	35	Passes
85	Ilyas Khan	Gh. Hussain	21 Passed in 12/2020	30	37	43 Passed in 12/2020	Passes with 3 grace marks in Paper IV
103	Ilyas Najeed	Mohammad Najeeb Bhat	28 Passed in 12/2020	37	36 Passed in 12/2020	28	Passes with 5 grace marks in Paper IV
108	Mohammad Arif Mir	Mohammad Maqbool Mir	26	43	30	B.Com	Passes with 3 grace marks in Paper IV
114	Fidah Ahmad Shah	Mohd Yousuf Shah	20	47	29	35	Passes with 4 grace marks in Paper IV
123	Khalid Sarvar	M. Maqbool Bhat	24 Passed in 12/2020	40	35 Passed in 12/2020	36	Passes

No: PSC/Ex-Secy/2024/51

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

DIPK: 872/26

Dated: 29-04-2026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU/SRIANGAR

Select list for the post of Lecturer Persian in school Education Department.

NOTICE

Pursuant to the recommendations of the J&K Public Service Commission vide letter No. PSC/DR/Lect/School Edu./Persian (7843661) Dated 08-04-2026, the following candidates are hereby directed to submit their e-mail id and contact number details in the School Education Department, (Gazetted Section) Civil Secretariat, Jammu, in person or on e-mail id: school- edu@jk.gov.in within a period of fifteen (15) days positively, for uploading their verification rolls on the Employees Verification System:

S.No	Name	Parentage	Address	Category
1	Asif Iqbal	Javid Iqbal	02 Village Loran Mandi Poonch	OM
2	Mohd Qadeer	Mohd Nasir	167 Tehsil Rajouri Rajauri	(ST-I/OM)
3	Harbans Lal	Romal Singh	Village Mandole Dharouth Tehsil Kashtigarh	SC
4	Altaf Hussain	Abdul Rashid	78 Village Fatehpur Gurrain Rajouri	ST-I

No: Edu-Lect/86/2026-01-(7747195)

Dated: 28-04-2026

Sd/- (Sheetal Pahdita) JKAS

Deputy Secretary to the Government

DIPK: 867/26

Dated: 29-04-2026

HQ District Police, Kupwara, UT of J&K

No: CRB/Lookout Notice/2026/ 24236-55 | Dated: 28/04/2026

LOOKOUT NOTICE

As intimated by SHO P/S Kupwara vide letter No. 979/5-A/PSK/2026 dated 25-04-2026, that accused Mumtaz Ahmad Baba S/O Ghulam Mohi U Din Baba R/O Payerpora Gulgam is involved in case FIR No. 103/2026 U/S 8/21 NDPS Act of P/S Kupwara and is absconding after commission of crime. Despite strenuous efforts, whereabouts of the said accused are not ascertained so far. The Photograph alongwith description roll of absconding accused person is as under:

Description Roll
Name: Mumtaz Ahmad Baba
Parentage: Ghulam Muhi Ud Din Baba
Address: Payerpora Gulgam Kupwara
Age: 40 years
Height: 5 Feet 10 Inch
Complexion: Brown
Build: Normal
Hair: Black
Face: Oval
Language Known: Urdu /Kashmiri

It is therefore requested that a sharp lookout may please be maintained and if traced out or any clue leading to the whereabouts of said absconding accused, immediate information may kindly be shared on the below mentioned Email/phone No's. Email: dpokupwara@jkpolice.gov.in

PCR Kupwara: 7051404938
SHO P/S Kupwara: 7051404914
PS Kupwara: 7051404915

DIPK: 870/26

Dated: 29-04-2026



Sd/- (Syed Al-Tahir Gilani)-JKPS

Sr. Superintendent of Police, Kupwara

CMYK

DC Budgam inaugurates Three-Day 'Spectrum 2026' at NIFT Ompora

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, APRIL 29: National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Srinagar today commenced its Annual Sports & Cultural Festival "Spectrum 2026" at its Ompora Campus in Budgam, with the Deputy Commissioner Budgam Athar Aamir Khan inaugurating the three-day cultural-cum-sports festival as Chief Guest.

The inauguration ceremony was held in the presence of Hariprasad K. K., SSP Budgam, as Guest of Honour, and Director NIFT Srinagar, Dr. Monika Gupta.

The festival, themed "Vismay – The Escape of Imagination," reflects a celebration of creativity, innovation, and holistic development, bringing together students from various schools and colleges across Kashmir on a common platform of cultural expression and sporting excellence.

On the occasion, the DC formally inaugurated the festival proceedings and flagged off a series of sports, cultural, and literary activities.

He also took a round of the campus, visited various event venues, and interacted with participating students, appreciating their enthusiasm, creativity, and active engagement.



Addressing the gathering, the DC underscored the importance of extracurricular activities in nurturing well-rounded individuals and fostering qualities such as

teamwork, discipline, and leadership.

Highlighting the festival theme, he stated that "Vismay – The Escape of Imagination" captures the

essence of youthful innovation and encourages students to think beyond conventional boundaries and explore their creative potential. He commended NIFT Srinagar

for organizing Spectrum 2026 and providing a vibrant platform for youth engagement, inter-institutional collaboration, and cultural exchange. He further appreciated the institute's sustained efforts towards promoting inclusivity, creativity, and cultural integration in the region.

The festival has witnessed wide participation from educational institutions across Kashmir and features a diverse range of competitions and performances, including sports events, cultural showcases, and literary activities aimed at promoting talent and strengthening social cohesion among youth.

Earlier, Director NIFT Srinagar, welcomed the dignitaries and highlighted the significance of such initiatives in fostering creativity, discipline, and unity among students. She reiterated the institute's commitment to encouraging innovation and providing holistic learning experiences.

Spectrum 2026 reflects NIFT Srinagar's continued endeavour to create a dynamic environment where education, creativity, and cultural vibrancy converge, offering students an opportunity to showcase their talents and build meaningful connections.

Bandipora witnesses intensified Anti-Drug Awareness Activities across Educational Institutions

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, APRIL 29: Continuing its sustained efforts under the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukti Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, a series of awareness programmes, skits, pledge ceremonies, and student engagement activities were conducted across various educational institutions of Bandipora district.

Students and staff of several institutions actively participated in pledge-taking ceremonies, reaffirming their commitment to eradicate drug abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free society.



Creative awareness initiatives formed a key highlight of the campaign, with multiple schools organizing impactful skit presentations depicting the harmful effects of substance abuse.

Institutions including PM SHRI Girls High School Sumbal, HSS Shahgund, HSS Nowgam, HSS Shadipora, HSS Gadakhud, HS Achoora, HS Ketson, and HSS Chuntimulla staged thought-provoking performances highlighting the physical, mental, and social consequences of drug addiction. The skits effectively conveyed messages about making informed choices, resisting peer pressure, and adopting a healthy lifestyle.

In Sumbal and adjoining areas, primary and secondary school students actively participated in awareness activities, including short skits and pledge ceremonies, demonstrating enthusiasm and a strong sense of responsibility towards building a drug-free society.

In addition to cultural activities, essay writing competitions and sports events such as Kabaddi were organized in institutions like HS Garoora, engaging students in constructive and awareness-driven participation under the campaign.

The district observed widespread participation and community engagement, reinforcing the commitment towards achieving the goal of a drug-free Bandipora.

DYSS Ganderbal conducts Zone-Wise Sports activities under Nasha Mukti Abhiyan

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, APRIL 29: Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Ganderbal organised a series of zone-wise sports activities under the ongoing Nasha Mukti Abhiyan to promote fitness and awareness against drug abuse.



In Zone Kangan, a Kabaddi tournament for U-14 boys was conducted, witnessing enthusiastic participation from young students. Zone Ganderbal hosted a Badminton Championship for girls, showcasing talent and competitive spirit. In Zone Hariganwan, Table Tennis competitions were organised, while Zone Tulmulla conducted a Mini Marathon to encourage physical fitness and mass participation.

Students from various institutions actively took part in these activities, reflecting a strong commitment towards healthy living and social awareness.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer Ganderbal appreciated the efforts of the organising staff and the participation of students. He emphasized the role of sports and awareness programmes in building a drug-free and disciplined society.

The activities concluded successfully, reinforcing the message of fitness, unity, and a drug-free lifestyle among the youth.

District Admin Anantnag goes tough on NDPS Act violators, demolishes illegal properties of drug peddlers built on State Land

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, APRIL 29: In a major operation against NDPS Act violators, the District Administration Anantnag along with the Police, today carried out a massive demolition drive against the illegal properties built by the drug peddlers in Sangam, Bijbehara.

The action was part of the intensified 100 Days Nasha Mukti JK campaign launched recently to eradicate the drug menace from the society.

During the crackdown, revenue authorities led by SDM and Tehsildar Bijbehara, supported by a district police team led by SDPO Bijbehara, identified several commercial structures viz Kashmir Restaurant, Taj Restaurant, and MIR Restaurant that had been illegally raised on State Land and found to be owned and operated by individuals involved in narcotics trafficking. Several



FIRs had already been registered against the accused and by utilizing these unauthorized roadside locations, they were facilitating illegal activities and promoting substance abuse in the area.

The Revenue officials also ensured retrieval of the encroached land along NHW-44, while the demolition was executed in coordination with the local police for removal of the structures. This operation underscored the administration's firm stance that

narcotics trade and other associated illegal activities will be dealt with strictly as per law.

The District Administration has reiterated its commitment to a zero-tolerance policy against drug peddling and narcotic business. Local authorities have been directed to maintain a strict vigil, and the public is encouraged to continue supporting the administration in its mission to make the district drug-free.

J&K Judicial Academy organises special session on "Yoga for Mental Fitness"

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APRIL 29: Under the patronage of Arun Palli, Hon'ble Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), Arun Palli and guidance of Chairperson and members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, the J&K Judicial Academy today organised a special session titled "Yoga for Mental Fitness" at the District Court Complex, Mominabad, Srinagar, for the Judicial Officers and staff of Srinagar district, in collaboration with the Isha Foundation.

The session was inaugurated by Naseer Ahmad Dar, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, who in his address, underscored the importance of maintaining the



physical and mental well-being in the discharge of judicial responsibilities. He observed that the effective administration of justice demands sustained concentration, emotional balance and resilience and that structured wellness practices such as yoga can significantly contribute towards enhancing the professional efficiency and overall well-being.

The programme emphasised yoga as a holistic discipline that harmonises the body, mind, and breath. The participants were encouraged to incorporate simple yet consistent wellness practices into their daily routines to enhance the clarity of thought, reduce stress and build resilience.

The Judicial Academy conveyed its sincere appreciation to the Isha Foundation for its collaboration and expert guidance in conducting

the session.

The programme witnessed active participation and was widely appreciated by the attendees. The Academy also extended its gratitude to Haq Nawaz Zargar, PDJ Srinagar, for his valuable logistic support and cooperation.

The Academy reaffirmed its commitment towards organising similar initiatives aimed at fostering a culture of health, well-being, and holistic development within the judicial system.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Tabasum, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar, who conveyed her heartfelt appreciation to the Judicial Academy, the Isha Foundation and all the participants for their cooperation and engagement in the successful conduct of the session.

JMC kick-starts Swachh Survekshan 2025-26 with Major Fleet Expansion, New Citizen Feedback Initiatives

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 29: Jammu Municipal Corporation took decisive steps towards a cleaner and healthier Jammu today with the official launch of Swachh Survekshan 2025-26, Swachhta Jingle and flagging off the fleet of new garbage collection vehicles and revamping of the Garbage hotspot Challenge initiative and enhancing the Citizen Feedback system her at an event held in Town Hall in presence of Member Legislative Assembly Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi and MLA Bahu Vikram Randhawa, Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation Dr. Devansh Yadav and other officers of JMC.

Joint Commissioner (H&S), JMC Abdul Star, welcomed the guests

followed by ceremonial flag-off of 16 garbage collection vehicles including 10 for door-to-door (D2D) e-waste collection vehicles provided by HDFC Bank under the Parivartan Pariyojna under CSR initiative with a significant contribution of 1 crore. The remaining 06 vehicles (3 tippers & 3 auto-tippers) approximating to an amount of 89 lakh have been procured by Jammu Municipal Corporation.

The Garbage Hotspot Challenge, an initiative of Jammu Municipal Corporation, with quick reaction teams has been established to dispose of the complaints regarding waste within 24 hours of lodging on MyJammu Portal & its helpline Number. Further, the event also witnessed the launch of the Citizen

Feedback System as a part of Swachh Survekshan 2025-2026. The platform provides residents a direct way to share their views on the quality of municipal services and the overall cleanliness of the city. Through this system, people can express whether they are satisfied with daily waste collection, the maintenance and cleanliness of public and community toilets and the efficiency of dustbin lifting in their neighbourhoods. It serves as a vital tool for the public to report on whether they find the city's facilities clean and accessible, making every citizen an active auditor of the city's progress.

An official Swachhata Awareness jingle in Dogri language written and composed by Padmashri Awardee Balwant Thakur was also released

at the event. The lyrics of the song connect deeply with the cultural roots of Jammu, ensuring the message of a "Swachh City" resonates in every household through the mother tongue. To integrate social welfare with civic duty, the event also featured a solemn "Nasha Mukti Bharat" pledge by the participants.

MLA Yudhvir Sethi and MLA Vikram Randhawa addressed public, media and officials of JMC, appreciating their continuous efforts in improving the Swachh Shehar ranking of Jammu Municipal Corporation to 42 in the last Sarvekshan. They also assured continuous support of general public & community organisations to Jammu Municipal Corporation for improving the city cleanliness.

Seminar on Drug Abuse held at GHSS Shangus

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, APRIL 29: As part of the 100 Days intensified Campaign on Nasha Mukti J&K Abhiyan, Government Higher Secondary School Dethu, Shangus on Tuesday organized a seminar on the theme "How to Safeguard our Society from Drugs" at the school premises.

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

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

Addressing the gathering, the speakers highlighted the need for coordinated efforts by families, educational institutions,



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

India-Kenya trade surges to USD 4.31 bn, JTC meet deepens economic ties

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, APRIL 29 : India and Kenya have reinforced their growing economic partnership at the 10th session of the India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee (JTC), held in Nairobi on April 27-28, with both sides outlining a roadmap to expand trade, investment and sectoral cooperation.

The meeting, co-chaired by Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal and Kenya's Principal Secretary for Trade Regina Akotah Ombam, noted a sharp rise in bilateral trade, which reached USD 4.31 billion in 2025-26, marking a robust 24.91 per cent increase from USD 3.45 billion in the previous fiscal. India has emerged as one of Kenya's key trading partners.

Deliberations focused on diversifying trade and addressing market access barriers, while leveraging complementarities in sectors such as engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and electronics, the Ministry of Commerce statement said here on Wednesday.

A series of agreements aimed at easing trade and boosting institutional cooperation were also concluded.

These include a pact between the Bureau of Indian Standards



and the Kenya Bureau of Standards to strengthen standardisation practices, and another between the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs and the Kenya Revenue Authority to enable exchange of pre-arrival customs data for faster clearances.

An additional agreement between the Confederation of Indian Industry and the India Kenya Chamber of Commerce and Industry aims to promote business collaboration and investment flows.

Both countries also explored mechanisms to ease trade settlements in local currencies.

Kenyan banks have opened Special Rupee Vostro Accounts with Indian counterparts, and discussions are underway to ex-

pand the Local Currency Settlement framework to facilitate smoother cross-border transactions.

Sector-specific cooperation formed a key pillar of discussions.

In engineering and manufacturing, opportunities to boost exports of automobiles, machinery and construction equipment were highlighted.

In pharmaceuticals, India underscored its role as a reliable supplier of affordable generic medicines and medical devices, while both sides agreed to deepen engagement between businesses.

Agricultural trade was also discussed, with a focus on addressing sanitary and phytosanitary barriers.

On renewable energy, India

expressed readiness to support Kenya's solar and wind initiatives. Kenya indicated its intent to join the International Solar Alliance framework agreement soon.

Digital cooperation emerged as another key area, with discussions covering UPI-like payment systems, Bharat Connect and digital public infrastructure to enhance financial inclusion.

Capacity building and skill development were identified as priority areas. India offered training under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation initiative across sectors such as mining, healthcare and education, along with promoting student mobility through the "Study in India" programme.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to a balanced and forward-looking economic partnership, agreeing to strengthen institutional mechanisms to resolve trade issues and enhance business-to-business engagement.

On the sidelines, an India-Kenya Joint Business Forum brought together industry leaders from both nations, including representatives from the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to explore opportunities across manufacturing, infrastructure, digital technologies and services. UNI

Hanumayamma Innovations expands AI-powered cattle monitoring system in Andhra, Telangana, Kashmir

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, APR 29 : Hanumayamma Innovations and Technologies Inc., a global developer of artificial intelligence platforms and agricultural data analytics solutions, on Tuesday announced it has developed an AI-enabled wearable cow-necklace sensor aimed at improving livestock management and dairy productivity.

Founded in 2010 in California, the company has expanded operations in India, with a base in Hyderabad, and has deployed its technology across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kashmir.

The wearable sensor captures key physiological and behavioural indicators in cattle, including activity levels, rumination patterns, temperature and feeding behavior, the company said in a release.

The data is analysed in real time to detect early signs of disease, stress and productivity changes, enabling timely intervention by farmers and veterinarians.

The solution is designed to enhance animal health, improve milk yield and reduce veterinary costs, while supporting rural livelihoods, particularly among women dairy farmers.

The technology has also gained traction in international markets such as California and the Philippines.

Recently, the company participated in the India AI Impact Summit 2026, where its innovation was featured in the "AI in Agriculture Sectoral Compendium" released under the India AI Mission of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.



Founder and CTO Jayashankar Vuppalapati said the company aims to leverage artificial intelligence to strengthen agricultural productivity, improve livestock monitoring and contribute to food security.

He added that the firm is focused on expanding deployment of its sensors while aligning its innovations with long-term goals of sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture. UNI

OpenAI and AWS expand partnership to foster AI reach across businesses

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, APRIL 29 : OpenAI has announced a comprehensive multi-year partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS) aimed at extending the reach of advanced artificial intelligence (AI) solutions to global businesses.

Under the agreement, OpenAI's latest AI models will be made available through AWS platforms, including Amazon Bedrock, enabling companies to build, customise and deploy AI applications using existing cloud infrastructure.



The integration will also bring OpenAI's coding capabilities and

agent-based tools into AWS, helping organisations automate

complex workflows.

A key focus of the collaboration is the development of advanced AI agents capable of handling multi-step tasks while maintaining context.

These systems are expected to support businesses in improving productivity and streamlining operations.

AWS will also introduce managed services powered by OpenAI models, allowing enterprises to deploy AI solutions with built-in security, governance and scalability.

This is aimed at simplifying the transition from experimen-

tal AI use to full-scale implementation.

As part of the partnership, AWS will serve as a major cloud provider for OpenAI's enterprise offerings, while OpenAI will significantly expand its use of AWS infrastructure, including high-performance computing resources and custom chips, to train and run its models.

The collaboration marks a major push toward making powerful AI tools more accessible through cloud platforms, supporting broader adoption of artificial intelligence across industries. UNI

Gold investment demand tops jewellery consumption for first time in India: WGC

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, APRIL 29 : India's gold market saw a structural shift in the March quarter, with investment demand overtaking jewellery consumption for the first time on record, according to the World Gold Council (WGC).

The surge in investment buying — driven by strong interest in coins, bars, and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) — helped offset a sharp decline in jewellery demand, which was weighed down by elevated gold prices.

Investment demand rose 52pc year-on-year to 82 metric tonnes during the quarter, while jewellery consumption dropped 19.5pc to 66 tonnes, the WGC said in its latest report. Overall gold demand in India increased 10.2pc to 151 tonnes.

The trend is likely to gain further momentum in the coming quarters as both retail and financial investors increase exposure to the precious metal.

Investment demand accounted for 54.3pc of total gold consumption in the March quarter, a significant shift from the historical trend where it typically contributes about a quarter of overall demand.

The rise in investment appetite has been supported by a sharp rally in domestic gold prices, which have nearly doubled since the start of 2025. In contrast, India's benchmark Nifty 50 has delivered relatively modest returns of around 2.4pc over the same period.

Gold ETFs emerged as a key driver of this shift, with inflows surging 186pc year-on-year to a record 20 tonnes in the March quarter. Analysts attribute the spike to growing investor preference for safe-haven assets amid volatile equity markets and global uncertainties.

The WGC noted that while higher prices have dampened jewellery purchases, they have simultaneously boosted investment demand, signalling a changing pattern in India's gold consumption dynamics. UNI

REC declares highest ever profits of Rs 16,282 cr

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI, APRIL 29 : While approving the annual standalone and consolidated financial results for the year ended March 31, 2026, REC Limited states that the Indian power sector is at the cusp of new vibrance owing to numerous initiatives taken by the government.

According to a press note issued here, the legacy loss-making power distribution companies achieved a rare, collective overall net profit, marking a significant turnaround. This improvement led to a stable environment, indicating improved quality of assets, resulting to reduction in risk



premiums. REC, as a responsible lender, focused towards nation-building, has proactively passed on such reduced risk premium to its borrowers by rationalising its yield on loan assets.

The continued focus on sustainable growth is showing results with the Net Stage-3 loans (NPA) nearly "Zero" (0.12%) and Stage-2 loans reduced by 75% YoY. Without compromising on the asset quality, REC has registered a growth in loan book of around 17,000 crores during the last year.

As a result, the loan book is at an all-time high of 5.84 lakh crore as on March 31, 2026. In conjunction with government vision, the Renewable loan book increased to 75,347 crore as on March 31, 2026, reflecting 30% growth.

In spite of challenging macro economic situations and geopolitical uncertainty, REC has registered its highest ever annual net profit of 16,282 crore during financial year ended March 31, 2026, the statement added. UNI

Brigade Group acquires 5.72 acres land @ Rs 44 Cr per acre in Hyderabad for residential project

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, APR 29 : Brigade Group on Tuesday announced the acquisition of a prime land parcel in Hyderabad through a recent auction conducted by the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGILIC). The outright purchase of Plot 6 at Osman Nagar, Hyderabad comprising 5.72 acres was acquired at a price of INR 44 Crores per acre, excluding registration costs, the company said in a release.

The company plans to develop a residential project.

Commenting on the development, Amar Mysore, Executive Director, Brigade Enterprises Limited said, "We are committed to contributing to Hyderabad's skyline by integrating high-technology developments and world-class construction standards that reflect the city's status as a global enterprise hub. This ac-



quisition is a vital step in our expansion in the city, as we strive to deliver excellence and create future-ready spaces that meet the evolving demands of the city"

The company has developed many landmark buildings and transformed

skylines across India in the cities of Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Mysuru, Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, and GIFT City with developments across Residential, Office, Retail, Hospitality and Education Sectors. UNI

Magellanic Cloud forms \$11 mn UAV JV with Rayonix Tech, XTEND

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, APR 29 : Magellanic Cloud Limited on Tuesday announced a strategic joint venture with Rayonix Tech and Israel-based XTEND to manufacture unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in India.

The joint venture, valued at about \$11 million (around 100 crore), aims to establish localised manufacturing, testing and distribution capabilities for UAV systems to cater to India's growing defence and security requirements, the company said in a release.

The partnership will combine XTEND's autonomous operating systems with domestic

manufacturing capabilities to deliver mission-critical drone solutions tailored for Indian operational needs.

XTEND's XOS operating system will power the UAV platforms, enabling AI-driven navigation, human-guided autonomy, mission planning and real-time operational control.

Under the agreement, Magellanic Cloud will act as the exclusive manufacturing and distribution partner in India for select XTEND platforms.

The drone portfolio includes systems such as SCORPIO 500 and SCORPIO 1000 for tactical missions, XTENDER for micro-ISR operations, HONEY BADGER



for rugged environments, and WOLVERINE for AI-assisted combat roles.

Speaking on the development, Mr. Joseph Sudheer Thumma, Global CEO & MD, Magellanic Cloud Ltd, said the collaboration represents a major step in strengthening indigenous defence capabilities and advancing software-defined, AI-enabled warfare systems.

The initiative aligns with India's "Make in India" vision and will support the development of advanced defence technologies while expanding its footprint in UAVs, AI-led surveillance and intelligent infrastructure, he added. UNI



Bhuvneshwar leads Purple Cap race; Kohli climbs up Orange Cap list

RCB quick grabbed 3 for 5 against DC, before Kohli moved up to No. 4 among run-getters

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHANDIGARH: Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) bowled Delhi Capitals (DC) out for 75 in their IPL 2026 contest on Monday. As a result of their field day with the ball, there was a new leader in the Purple Cap table. There was movement in the Orange Cap standings as well, despite an aggregate of just 152 runs in the match.

Purple Cap Bhuvneshwar Kumar finished with figures of 3-0-5-3 against DC, with all three wickets coming in the powerplay, as RCB crushed DC with nine wickets and 81 balls to spare. As a result, Bhuvneshwar now leads the Purple Cap race. Like

Anshul Kamboj and Eshan Malinga, Bhuvneshwar also has 14 wickets. But his average of 16.85 helps him scrape him past Kamboj (16.92) and Malinga (18.21).

RCB's left-arm spinner Krunal Pandya bagged one wicket against DC to enter the top ten of the wicket-takers' list. He has nine wickets, the same as Kartik Tyagi, Jamie Overton and Vaibhav Arora, but at a better average of 26.55.

Josh Hazlewood joined Bhuvneshwar in grabbing three wickets in the powerplay against DC, thus reducing them to a record IPL low of 13 for 6 in the powerplay. He grabbed one more wicket later to end with 3.3-0-12-4 to double

his wickets tally to eight, sitting just below Arora at 14th position.

Orange Cap Virat Kohli passed 9000 IPL runs while scoring 23* during RCB's modest chase of 76 in Delhi. That contribution also pushed him up to No. 4 in the Orange Cap list, with 351 runs at an average of 58.50. Kohli is only six runs behind Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who, in turn, is just one short of KL Rahul. The DC opener scored 1 against RCB, but that was enough for him to cross Sooryavanshi and move up to No. 2, with 358 runs at 51.14.

The Orange Cap race continues to be led by SRH's opener Abhishek Sharma, who has 380 runs at an average of 54.28.



Patidar: 'Even I'm surprised the way the wicket played'

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI: "Just a little bit in the surface" was all that Royal Challengers Bengaluru seamer Josh Hazlewood and his new-ball partner Bhuvneshwar Kumar needed to reduce Delhi Capitals (DC) to 13 for 6, the lowest powerplay score in IPL history.

Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar bowled three overs each in the powerplay and took 3 for 5 and 3 for 6, respectively. DC were bundled out for 75, their third-lowest total of all time and RCB went on to win with 81 balls to spare.

"There was a little bit there in the first six overs, which we maximised," Hazlewood said. "I think there's a little bit up and down, maybe a little bit of sideways, so there was enough there to work with. The ball seemed to be skidding on quickly from short of a length in particular, and probably once the ball got soft, it became more consistent."

"It feels like Bhuvi and I have been pretty close to producing a really good powerplay, so yeah, I just followed his lead basically again, and what



happened happened, so it was a great result."

The previous game in Delhi, between DC and Punjab Kings (PBKS), aggregated 529 runs, but this was a different pitch. Still, no one expected DC to collapse the way they did. "Even I'm surprised the way the wicket played," RCB captain Rajat Patidar said. "All credit goes to the bowlers, the way they've bowled, especially in the powerplay, Hazlewood and Bhuvi, I think the way they hit those areas and got that bit of swing, that was tremendous to see. I think the swing was normal, and the good thing was we got early wickets and that's why it kept us in the driving seat."

"They [Bhuvneshwar and Hazlewood] are world-class bowlers," he said. "They swing the ball and have done it at every ground. If our openers or one-down batters had batted one or two more overs, it could have been a different score or a different match. Credit to them for the way they bowled."

DC's batters came into this game with confidence after their game against PBKS. But the fact that they lost the game despite putting up 264 did play on their mind today, according to Axar. Any intentions of tempering their approach could not be put into practice as five of DC's top-six batters fell after facing three balls or fewer.

The sharpening of Sakib Hussain

■ AGENCIES

HYDERABAD: Sakib Hussain learnt to bowl fast in the wheat fields of Gopalganj in Bihar, about halfway between Patna and the Nepal border, where makeshift pitches are carved out by clearing roots and rolling the surfaces flat. It's a world far removed from the structured cricket set-ups of the big cities, with their nets, coaches, selectors and well-defined pathway. Here there is none of that - just an unfiltered tennis-ball cricket ecosystem that thrives on mad passion and modest rewards.

For Sakib, now 21, those rewards meant the world. A good outing in a tennis-ball game fetched him anywhere between Rs 300 and 500 (US\$5 approxi-



mately), money that went to a household dependent on his father's daily wages. Today, two IPL stints later - first with Kolkata Knight Riders in 2024 and now as a regular with Sunrisers Hyderabad - the financial burden has begun to ease, but the hard days are a reminder of how far he has come.

It was in those tennis-ball matches played on unpredictable surfaces that Sakib sharpened his pace to become the fast bowler he is today. The stamina came from his sprinting routine right through his teens - which he thought was a prerequisite for army training to join the army, which he seriously considered at one time.

Robin first heard of Sakib in 2018, when he was just about 14.

"One of my nephews told me, 'Chacha, I have a friend. He's quick, but only plays tennis-ball cricket. With proper guidance, he'll become excellent,'" Robin says. Intrigued, Robin invited Sakib to train at an academy he was associated with, in Patna's Anisabad area. He saw a wiry, wayward fast bowler with an unorthodox action.

"If these were state trials, maybe I wouldn't have shown that much interest," Robin says. "But my instincts told me he is special. The ball was travelling even on a slow wicket. It wasn't losing pace after pitching, it was skidding through. Batters were getting rushed."

Robin's belief is that while you can teach discipline, refine actions and build consistency,

the kind of natural pace and skid Sakib possessed, despite never having had formal coaching or even having bowled with a red ball, was rare.

"I told him, 'Beta, we'll offer you free practice.' He said thank you, but later told my nephew that even if coaching was free, he couldn't afford the living expenses in Patna. So he went back to Gopalganj. When my nephew told me this, I said, 'We'll find a way.'" In 2019, that way presented itself when a facility came up in Gopalganj. The man instrumental in setting it up was the late Tunna Giri, then president of the district cricket association there and a long-time patron of the sport in the region, who also happened to be a close family friend of Robin's.

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