



DIPK-314/26 | Dated: 10-04-2026

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J&K, Ladakh likely to face 8% power crunch this April

Riyaz Bhat

Srinagar, Apr 10: Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are likely to face nearly eight percent power deficit against the total availability during the peak hours in the ongoing month of April.

According to the official documents figures with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) has anticipated a power deficit of minus 7.7 percent during the peak hours for the month of April-2026.

The officials have projected that there will be a total of 2880 Megawatts (MWs) power availability in Jammu and



Kashmir and Ladakh against the total anticipated requirement of 3119 MWs during the peak hours.

It also said that there will be surplus power of 4.8 percent during the other hours

except from the peak hours. Pertinently, KNO in March reported that from the upcoming financial year 2026-27, Jammu and Kashmir will likely require 3813 MWs of power | [More on P6](#)



Blooming tulips in the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden in Srinagar

Pic: Jahangir Shah (KNO/KT)

Girl dies after stray dog attack in Sopore



KNO Correspondent

Sopore, Apr 10: An 8-year-old girl died after being attacked by a stray dog in the Seloo area of Sopore in north Kashmir on Friday, officials said.

An official told the news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that the incident occurred when the minor had gone to her family land, where she was suddenly attacked by a stray dog.

He said, she sustained critical injuries in the attack while the deceased has been identified as Aiman Adnan Sheikh (08), daughter of Adnan Ahmad Sheikh, a resident of Seloo, Sopore.

He added, she was rushed for medical | [More on P6](#)

CAG flags serious ecological concerns over Wular Lake

'Encroachment, siltation pushing waterbody towards catastrophe'

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Apr 10: Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has flagged serious ecological concerns over Wular Lake in Kashmir, warning that the wetland is under severe stress due to encroachment and siltation.

In a recent audit report examining changes in water bodies between 1967 and 2020, the CAG, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said 315 lakes in the Union Territory have disappeared, while several others have deteriorated significantly.

The report noted that Wular Lake in Bandipora district has witnessed a reduction in its water spread due to large-scale encroachments along its periphery and continuous silt accumulation, affecting its role as a



natural flood buffer for the Kashmir Valley.

Officials said out of 697 water bodies studied, only a handful — including Wular, Dal, Hokersar, Manasbal, Surinsar and Mansar — have received any focused conservation efforts, while the majority remain without restoration plans.

The audit also highlighted that many water bodies have

been lost to urban expansion, agricultural conversion and unregulated development.

It further pointed out that several lakes, including Rakh-e-Arth, Marhama and Galwal Talao, have dried up completely over the years.

The report recommended the creation of a unified institutional mechanism to prevent further degradation and called for | [More on P6](#)

Dal Lake shrinks over 10 %, CAG flags lapses

Encroachments rise, sewage flows untreated, conservation projects delayed

Audit flags weak governance, shrinking water spread, deteriorating ecology of lake

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Apr 10: Dal Lake has lost more than 10 per cent of its open water area over the past decade, with a government audit flagging encroachments, untreated sewage and weak monitoring as key factors behind its ecological decline.

According to a report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in possession of the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the lake's open water spread reduced from 15.40 square kilometres in 2007 to 12.91 square kilometres in 2020, marking a decline of 10.15 per cent.

The audit noted that the

shrinking water area coincided with an increase in human activity within and around the lake.

Floating gardens expanded significantly, while areas under cultivation and plantations also grew during the period under review. Built-up spaces saw a rise, indicating increasing habitation and infrastructure pressure on the lake.

Encroachments in many main areas were identified as major contributors to these changes, with the expansion of floating gardens and settlements reducing the lake's water surface.

The report pointed to untreated sewage as another major concern. Despite investments exceeding Rs 45 crore in sewage treatment plants (STPs), waste continued to flow into the lake due to incomplete sewerage networks and delays in connecting households and houseboats.

The audit further highlighted gaps in | [More on P6](#)

LG, CM condole deaths of J&K residents in Kuwait

Assure support

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Apr 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday expressed grief and anguish over the loss of lives of residents from Poonch and Rajouri in a tragic road accident in Kuwait.

In a condolence message, the Lieutenant Governor said, "The news of the tragic road accident in Kuwait is heart-wrenching. In this hour of grief, my thoughts and prayers are with the families who have lost their loved ones. I have directed the officials to extend all possible support to the bereaved families".

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also expressed profound grief over the tragic loss of lives of residents from Thanamandi and Surankote in a road accident in Kuwait.

In a condolence message, the CM conveyed his heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families, sharing in their | [More on P6](#)

Use of artificial intelligence in arbitration should be regulated, not shunned: CJI Surya Kant

PTI

New Delhi, Apr 10: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Friday said the use of artificial intelligence in arbitration should not be shunned over concerns of confidentiality and independent decision-making; instead, its use should be regulated through a procedural framework.

CJI Kant emphasised that protocols on cyber security and confidentiality should "keep pace" so that technology becomes arbitration's "powerful ally" in a fast-paced world.

The country's top judge was speaking at the inaugural session of the Indian Council of



Arbitration's international conference on the theme, 'Arbitration in the Era of Globalization: Legal Technology, Economic Development & Cross Border Disputes'.

In his inaugural address at the fifth edition of the two-day conference, CJI Kant said that technological development has improved accessibility in arbitration and

reduced logistical delays, especially in cases with serious geographical constraints, but it has also brought "new responsibilities".

"The increasing use of artificial intelligence in decision support tools raises a legitimate concern relating to confidentiality and the preservation of independent judgement. Arbitration derives its legitimacy not only from efficiency but from the confidence that decisions remain the product of impartial human expertise. The solution, therefore, lies not in shunning technology altogether but regulating its use through a procedural framework," CJI said.

"Arbitration tribunals must retain autonomy over the manner in which such tools are used so that protocols governing cybersecurity and confidentiality keep pace with technological adoption. When governed by such safeguards, the technology becomes a powerful ally of arbitration in a fast-paced world," he added.

CJI Kant also cautioned against "excessive judicial intervention" in matters of arbitration, saying it weakens faith in the arbitration and risks "unsettling" the assurance that parties would respect their agreement and the tribunal would be permitted to determine | [More on P6](#)

Weather to remain dry, temps set to rise across J&K, predicts MeT

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Apr 10: The India Meteorological Department on Friday forecast generally dry weather in Jammu and Kashmir over the next few days, with a gradual rise in day temperatures.

An official of the Meteorological Centre Srinagar told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that brief spells of light rain or thunder-showers are likely at a few places on April 11, mainly during late afternoon or evening hours.

The weather is expected to remain largely dry on April 12, with isolated light rain spells, followed by completely dry conditions on April 13 and 14. Similar conditions are likely on April 15, while scattered rain and thundershowers may occur again on April 16 and 17. The department

has forecast dry weather from April 18 to 20.

The MeT office has advised farmers to resume agricultural operations, stating that maximum temperatures are expected to rise gradually over the next five days.

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 20.2 degrees Celsius, above the normal of 18.8 degrees, while the minimum settled at 4.6 degrees, below normal by 2.3 degrees.

Qazigund recorded a high of 20.0 degrees Celsius and a low of 4.0 degrees, while Pahalgam registered 16.6 degrees and 0.2 degrees respectively.

Kupwara recorded a maximum of 19.8 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 2.2 degrees, while Kokernag settled at 18.6 degrees and 3.4 degrees. Gulmarg | [More on P6](#)

Census 2027 a 'National Digital Transformation Mission': CS Atal Dulloo

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, APRIL 10: Highlighting that India is at a crucial "data inflection point," Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Friday stated that the upcoming Census 2027 is not merely an enumeration exercise but a National Digital Transformation Mission that will set the bedrock for a 'Viksit Bharat' and evidence-based policy planning.

The Chief Secretary, as per an official statement, made these remarks while speaking at the Census 2027 Summit held at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu.

The summit was participated by the senior administrators, development partners and policy experts to deliberate upon the roadmap, preparedness and significance of Census of India 2027, the country's first-ever fully digital and paperless census exercise.

The Summit was also attended by Amit Sharma, Chief Principal Census Officer and Director Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh; Andrea M. Wojnar, Resident Representative, UNFPA India; Praful Kumar Sigtia, Deputy Director General (Information Security), UIDAI and Rohit Kumar, Co-Chair (Policy Making) G20, as special dignitaries.

Delivering keynote address as the chief guest, the Chief Secretary observed that India is entering a new era of governance driven by technology and real-time insights. Contrasting the upcoming exercise with the manual,



time-consuming 2011 census, he emphasised the paradigm shift towards a technology-first, citizen-centric framework utilising mobile-based enumeration, artificial intelligence and cloud technology to ensure accuracy, transparency and speed.

Speaking on the rapid global advancements in technology, the Chief Secretary stressed that data is going to be the key driver, oil and fuel of any nation's economy in the AI-driven future. He noted that India's vast

demographic diversity provides a far richer dataset compared to Western nations, giving the country a strategic advantage in training AI systems and stepping up as a globally benchmarked data-driven nation.

Atal Dulloo also highlighted how the integration of trusted national datasets with the JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile) has enabled the Government to target the beneficiaries directly, reducing leakages from astronomical to negligible levels. He observed that moving

away from older "one-size-fits-all" centralised planning, this dynamic data ecosystem will allow for micro-level scientific urban and rural planning, supporting health, education and employment infrastructures tailored to the unique strengths of individual villages and districts.

Underlining the immediate administrative tasks at hand, the Chief Secretary directed the Deputy Commissioners and district administrations to ensure seamless grassroots

execution. He issued clear directives for immediate completion of training for all the Census officers and Enumerators, ensuring full readiness for the self-enumeration process beginning from May 17 and the subsequent house to house field work starting June 1, 2026. He further highlighted that census data plays a pivotal role in determining the financial share of States and Union Territories and guiding development initiatives for the next decade.

Earlier, delivering the welcome address, Chief Principal Census Officer Amit Sharma shed light on the two-phased structure of Census 2027. The first phase will cover House Listing and Housing Census (HLO), consisting of Self Enumeration Period from May 17 to May 31 and House to House Field Work from June 1 to June 30, 2026. The second phase shall focus on Population Enumeration (PE), which will commence in September 2026 for snow-bound areas and in February 2027 for the non-snowbound regions.

He emphasised that Census 2027 will be a fully paperless, technology-driven initiative. Enumerators will collect and submit data directly via a dedicated mobile app. However, self-enumeration will be the preferred method. A secure web portal, available in 16 languages, will allow citizens to submit their details online before the door-to-door surveys begin. Additionally, a new Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) will enable

near real-time tracking of all field operations.

To ensure smooth execution, Amit Sharma noted that a structured training hierarchy is already in place, with comprehensive training for Enumerators and Supervisors currently underway across the region.

Speaking on the occasion, Andrea M. Wojnar, Resident Representative of UNFPA India, said that similar census practices anchored in digital technology and self-enumeration are being adopted across the world. She expressed confidence that Census 2027 will be a robust and comprehensive exercise in India as well.

Wojnar underscored the fundamental purpose of any census, emphasising that it is designed to ensure that no segment of society is left unaccounted for in welfare programmes and policy decisions. Accurate and inclusive enumeration, she stated, is foundational to evidence-based governance and equitable development.

Praful Kumar Sigtia, Deputy Director General (Information Security), UIDAI, drew parallels between Census 2027 and the colossal exercise of Aadhaar enrolment, highlighting the scale, complexity and technological sophistication common to both national exercises. He laid emphasis on the meaningful processing of data for practical purposes, acknowledging the critical importance of translating vast volumes of collected information into actionable insights.

DC Srinagar finalizes arrangements for Baisakhi festival



KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, APRIL 10:- In order to review the arrangements for upcoming Baisakhi festival being celebrated on April 14, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Friday at Meeting Hall of the DC Office.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Superintendent of Police, Umar Shah, Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer Hydraulic, Er Ambreen Anjum, Deputy SP Traffic, Zaheer Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, Assistant Commissioner Food Safety, Yamin Ul Nabi, Executive Engineers PDD, Officers of Health, Legal Metrology and other Departments, besides President and members of Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee Srinagar.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed assessment of the preparations and arrangements being put in place by the line departments and Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee for smooth and seamless celebrations of the festival in Srinagar District.

Sadhana Saptah J&K Resident Commission's Samuhik Charcha fuels professional growth



KT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, APRIL 10: The Resident Commission of the Jammu and Kashmir government organized a "samuhik charcha" as part of the Sadhana Saptah observance, which was held from April 2 to April 8 with extension upto April

10, 2026.

The event was conducted in the Resident Commission office to review the activities related to the Karmayogi Portal.

The participation and response of the employees was encouraging which highlighted the success of the programme

in promoting professional development and inter-departmental coordination.

The discussion, as per an official statement, included a structured review of the office's hourly progress with the employees being informed about the key courses under the

programme. It emphasized their significance for professional development and capacity building.

The samuhik charcha provided a platform for open interaction, wherein the officials shared their experiences and discussed various issues faced while accessing and undertaking the courses. These issues were suitably addressed and the individual concerns were resolved on a one-to-one basis to ensure smooth participation.

The initiative aimed at enhancing awareness, promoting active engagement and enabling the employees to derive maximum benefit from the learning modules available on the Karmayogi Portal.

DC Anantnag reviews JK Samadhan

KT NEWS DESK

ANANTNAG, APRIL 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat, Friday directed officers to ensure time-bound and quality redressal of public grievances received through the JK Samadhan and CPGRAMS portals, adding that prompt response by concerned officials is essential to enhance public service delivery.

He also called for the speedy disposal of offline grievances pertaining to various departments to clear pendency in the district. The public must get the benefits of responsible and accountable governance which focuses on expeditious and quality grievance redressal, he remarked.

The DC, as per an official statement, issued these directions while chairing a comprehensive review meeting of all departments at Dak Bungalow, Khanabal. Principal GMC Anantnag, ADC, GM DIC, SE PWD, ACR, CPO, SDMS, ACD, Executive Engineer R&B, Jal Shakti, PDD and I&FC, all district and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

On the occasion, the DC took a detailed review of the JK Samadhan and CPGRAMS grievances of each department and enquired about the status of their resolution. He was informed that out of 5418 grievances received on JK Samadhan and 5908 on CPGRAMS, 4934 (91.07 percent) and 5350 (84.90 percent) respectively have been resolved so far. Further, a total of 03 and 19 grievances in different departments are pending resolution above 28 and 60 days respectively.

Taking note of the grievances pending above 28 & 60 days, the DC directed the concerned departments to immediately resolve the same adding it should be a norm that no grievance remains unresolved beyond 28 days.

Regarding status of citizen registration on JK Samadhan, Dr. Bilal directed the departments to make efforts to push the figures to 100 percent from current 89 percent, in near future.

Asking officers to personally monitor the grievance redressal process on JK Samadhan and CPGRAMS Portals, the DC directed them to make proper analysis of grievances received with special focus on their nature and place of origin. The mapping of data will shift the approach of redressal from mechanical to organic one, helping departments to take corrective measures at administrative and grass root levels ab initio and avoid recurrent public concerns, he noted.

He further directed that a uniform format be devised to help the officers to analyse the grievances received and submit details regularly. Committees shall be constituted to test check the quality of grievance redressal and performance of departments will be rated as per the actual public satisfaction, he

said. Stating that quality grievance redressal shall no way act as an impediment, the DC enjoined upon the officers to minimise any delays, ensuring grievances do not become chronic and turn into complaints.

At conclusion, the DC announced



that the district is working to launch a Digital Arzi Management System enabling him to keep track of the offline grievances forwarded to the concerned departments.

Further, a provision for the citizens to directly register grievances has been provided in the system, featuring a WhatsApp Chatbot that will interact with applicants in real time. To make the process smooth and seamless, proper training of the officials will be held soon, the DC said.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR UT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JS (PHE) RURAL WATER SUPPLY DIVISION, GANDEBAL/SGR.

H.Q. Cheki-Duderhama Ganderbal.

e-mail: phe-rwsgr@jk.gov.in Phone: 0194 - 2416292

NOTICE INVITING e - TENDERS:

GIST OF FRESH SHORT TERM E-NIT No: 02 / JS-PHE/RWSD/Civil of 2026-27

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir U.T, Short Term e - tenders are invited (in TWO - Cover System) on "Percentage basis" from Registered / Approved / Valid Civil Contractors / Agencies (of specified class as shown against each (in Table I) for the following work(s):

Table (I) Detailed Scope of work(s)

S. No	Name of work (s)	Estt. /Advt. Cost of work (s) (In Lacs)	Amount of earnest money/EMD (@ 3%) (In)	Cost of tender doc. (In)	Time for completion	Class of contractor	Major Head of account	Tender Call
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Providing water supply to pilgrims, stake holders, security agencies from sonamarg Baltal for Shri Amarnath ji Yatra	15.00	45000.00	800.00	Full Yatra Period	BEE CEE & DEE	SANJY 2026-27	3 rd
2	Providing water supply to pilgrims, Stake holders, Security agencies from Do-mail to Kali Mata for Shri Amarnath ji Yatra	14.42	43300.00	1000.00	Full Yatra Period	BEE CEE & DEE	-do-	2 nd
3	Extension of 110mm dia HDPE supply line from Tikri to Y-Junction Baltal for Shri Amarnath ji Yatra	6.605	19850.00	800.00	Full Yatra Period	CEE & DEE	-do-	2 nd
4	Laying / fitting additional pipe line Zojila Source to Pony Yard for Shri Amarnath ji Yatra	6.13	18400.00	700.00	Full Yatra Period	CEE & DEE	-do-	2 nd
5	Laying / fitting, testing, commissioning of 90mm dia HDPE pipe line from Fish Pond Sonamarg to Truck Yard for Shri Amarnath ji Yatra	4.925	14800.00	600.00	Full Yatra Period	DEE	-do-	2 nd

Position of Funds: - Demanded

Position of AA: - Accorded

Position of Technical Sanction (s):- Sanctioned

Note: The work figuring at Serial No. 01 (above) was earlier advertised vide this office S/T e-NIT No. 42 of 2025-26 (at S. No. 05) & S/T e-NIT No. 01 of 2026-27 (at S. No. 05) & the works figuring at Serial No. 02, 03, 04 & 05 (above) were earlier advertised vide this office S/T e-NIT No. 42 of 2025-26 (at S.No. 04, 06, 07 & 09) respectively. Hence, the T.R / e- challan (cost of tender documents) of already participated bidders shall remain same / valid in case of all these fresh works.

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Book of quantities (B.O.Q), and Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website:

https://jktenders.gov.in

From 10.04.2026 (10.00 AM) UPTO 22.04.2026 (upto 03:00 P.M.)

As per schedule of dates given below

01	Date of publishing of Tender Notice	09/04/2026
02	Period of downloading of bidding documents	10.04.2026 from 10.00 AM 22.04.2026 upto 03:00 PM
03	Bid Submission Start Date	10.04.2026 from 10.00 PM
04	Bid submission End Date	22.04.2026 upto 03.00 PM
05	Date and time of opening of Bids (Online)	23.04.2026 at 11:30 AM

Bids must be accompanied by bid security viz: Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR/BG and Document fee in shape of TR/e-challan/e-transfer/ screen shot (mentioning therein the NIT No., S.No. of work and Advertised Cost as per the e-NIT) & cost of Tender Document under M.H 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer JS-PHE RWS Division Ganderbal /Sgr (H.Q. Chek Duderhama Ganderbal) I (as specified in the table (I) (above) & all other requisite documents mentioned in the Uploaded SBD of the work(s). Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) RWS Division Ganderbal/Sgr (Hq. Chek Duderhama Ganderbal) on 23.04.2026 at 11:30 AM. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

No: - JS-PHE/ RWSD/ Corrs. / 326 - 50

Dated: - 09.04.2026

DIPK-293/26
DATED: 10-04-2026

Sd/
(Er. Fayaz Ahmad Bhat)
Executive Engineer JS-PHE
RWSD Ganderbal/Sgr

J&K launches centralized Aadhaar Data Vault

KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Apr 10: In a significant move towards strengthening digital governance and ensuring fiscal prudence, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has launched a Centralized Aadhaar Data Vault (ADV) to streamline public service delivery and enhance oversight of social security schemes across departments and financial institutions.

The decision was taken in a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, who underscored the transformative potential of the initiative and directed the concerned departments to identify and onboard additional government services that can be brought under the ambit of the Aadhaar Data Vault to maximize its impact and utility.

The meeting was also attended by ACS, Finance, Shailendra Kumar; MD, J&K Bank, Amitava Chatterjee; Commissioner Secretary, Information and Planning Departments, R Alice Vaz; DG, E&S, Ather Hussain Qadri; Scientists from NIC (J&K Chapter); Representatives from SBI and other Banks along with senior officers from the PD&MD.

Importantly, the Chief Secretary urged the banks to leverage this platform to streamline insurance claim settlements under PMJJBY and PMSBY by enabling instant verification of death records, thereby facilitating timely disbursement of benefits to rightful nominees.

Simultaneously, he underscored on the necessity that the system should be utilised in automatically identifying cases where government benefits such as pensions, social security assistance, and rations under Public Distribution System (PDS) continue to be availed even after the death of beneficiaries, thereby plugging leakages and safeguarding public resources. He



enjoyed upon the NIC to allow this initiative be also used to ease the onboarding process for departments and institutions by providing a single, secure gateway for verification and eligibility checks, reducing both administrative and technical complexities.

On this occasion it was presented by the NIC that the newly established Aadhaar Data Vault has been integrated with the Civil Registration System, including the Birth and Death Portal here, to function as a secure and specialized Aadhaar Data Vault-as-a-Service (ADVaaS). This unified digital infrastructure is designed to act as a "Single Source of Truth," enabling real-time, secure, and authenticated access to vital records while strictly adhering to UIDAI-prescribed security and privacy

protocols.

The initiative focuses on creating a robust and scalable platform for managing civil registration data and Aadhaar-based authentication services. It incorporates seamless API integration with the Office of the Registrar General of India (ORGI) to access real-time master and transactional data. Automated schedulers have been deployed to ensure periodic updates of records, keeping the system dynamic and accurate.

Additionally, the platform enables inter-departmental integration through standardized APIs, thereby eliminating the need for multiple Memorandums of Understanding and significantly simplifying data-sharing processes.

The Centralized ADV is expected to play

a transformative role in strengthening the delivery and monitoring of welfare schemes. By introducing a "Single Token per Aadhaar" framework, the system facilitates effective de-duplication, preventing multiple or fraudulent claims across schemes and departments.

Describing the initiative as a milestone in governance reforms, the Chief Secretary emphasized that the centralized Aadhaar Data Vault reflects the administration's commitment to leveraging technology for data-driven decision-making. He reiterated that by ensuring accurate, secure, and real-time access to critical data, the government aims to protect public funds while guaranteeing that welfare benefits are delivered efficiently and reach to the intended beneficiaries in a time-bound manner.

LG Sinha felicitates para-archer Payal Nag



KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Apr 10: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today felicitated International Para-Archer Payal Nag, at Lok Bhavan.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated Payal Nag for scripting history by winning Gold at the World Archery Para Series 2026 in Bangkok. He extended his best wishes to the athlete for her future games.

Sachin Kumar Vaishya, CEO, Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Abhilasha Chaudhary, Archery Coach, and other senior officials of the Shrine Board were also present.

Uppal calls on LG Sinha

KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Apr 10: Tarun Uppal, Chairman, Nirbhay Bharat Foundation called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday.

Blaze engulfs Darul Uloom at Hyderpora

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

Srinagar, Apr 10: A fire broke out at Jamia Arabia Ashraf-ul-Uloom in Hyderpora area of Srinagar on Friday evening was brought under control after an extensive firefighting operation.

An official said that in the operation, two civilians and one firefighter sustained minor injuries. "Fire erupted in the multi-storied structure and quickly spread to the upper portions of the building, triggering a large-scale emergency response."

He said fire tenders were immediately rushed to the spot, with additional support from command units, to contain the blaze.

"Upon arrival, firefighters found the attic and upper floors of the L-shaped four-storied Darul Uloom structure engulfed in flames. A coordinated operation was launched on a war footing to prevent the fire from spreading to

adjoining structures," the official said.

He said that after sustained efforts, the fire was brought under control, while cooling operations were later carried out to eliminate remaining hot-spots and ensure there is no re-ignition.

The official said two injured civilians and one firefighter were immediately

attended to on the spot and their condition is stated to be stable. They were later shifted to hospital for medical aid. "Fire and Emergency Services personnel continued operations for several hours amid dense smoke and difficult conditions, with ambulances also stationed at the site as a precautionary measure," he added.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in



MP Ruhullah holds healthcare review in Ganderbal

KT NEWS DESK

Ganderbal, Apr 10: Member of Parliament (MP) from Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Friday chaired a review meeting in Ganderbal to assess healthcare services and development works at District Hospital Ganderbal.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of implementation of government health schemes was carried out. The Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Ganderbal, presented a detailed overview of the hospital's performance, achievements, and ongoing initiatives aimed at strengthening patient care.

Commending the efforts of the hospital administration and staff, the MP lauded their dedication and professionalism in delivering healthcare services. He appreciated the visible improvements and urged the team to further enhance their efforts to provide quality healthcare facilities to the people.

Highlighting recent developments, the MP said that most of the demands projected by the hospital for better equipment and facilities have been approved. He informed that one CT scan machines has already been installed and inaugurated recently, while another is planned for Budgam. He also stated that a formal request has been placed



with the Government of India for MRI machines to further strengthen diagnostic services.

Emphasizing the need for self-sufficiency in healthcare, the MP said the objective is to make local health institutions fully functional and well-equipped so that referrals to other districts are minimized. He stressed that performance will be assessed based on public feedback and measurable improvements in patient care.

The MP assured full support in addressing healthcare needs and reiterated his role as a facilitator between the district administration and the Union Health Ministry.

The meeting also reviewed the functioning of the Rogi Kalyan Samiti (RKS), which serves as a platform for planning and improving hospital

services with a focus on patient welfare and efficient use of resources. Key programmes including Ayushman Bharat, DNB, DEIC and NQAS were discussed with emphasis on patient-centric service delivery.

An amount of ₹129.14 lakh was approved under existing resources of the District Hospital for utilization across various centrally sponsored schemes.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Faheem Bihagi; Chief Planning Officer, Shahnawaz Ahmad; Medical Superintendent District Hospital Ganderbal, Dr. Faraz Shafi and other district and sectoral officers besides Doctors and officials from D.H Ganderbal.

Final location nod for Reasi-Poonch railway track

KNO

Srinagar, Apr 08: The Ministry of Railways has approved the 'Final Location Survey' (FLS) for a proposed new railway line between Reasi and Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to an order issued by the Railway Board, the survey to be carried out by Northern Railway, will cover a distance of around 190 kilometres and has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs 26.41 crore.

The order stated: "The approval was communicated on April 8, following a proposal submitted by Northern Railway in December last year."

Officials said the survey will determine the feasibility, alignment and technical aspects of the proposed rail link aimed at improving connectivity in the region.

The expenditure for the survey will be met under the Railways' head for policy formulation, research and miscellaneous works, the order added.

The proposed line is expected to enhance rail connectivity in the border districts of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly linking the Pir Panjal region with the existing rail network—(KNO)

183 of 236 posts vacant at GMC Udhampur

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Apr 10: Government Medical College (GMC) Udhampur is facing a severe manpower crisis, with an overwhelming majority of sanctioned posts lying vacant, raising serious concerns about the quality of healthcare services being delivered at the institution.

According to details, out of a total of 236 sanctioned posts at GMC Udhampur, only 53 personnel are currently in position, while as many as 183 posts remain vacant, severely affecting the functioning of the hospital.

The data further reveals a significant shortage across key categories. Of the 67 sanctioned posts of Assistant Professors, only 34 are filled—including six on an academic arrangement basis—while 39 positions continue to remain vacant. Similarly, the situation among Medical Officers is alarming, with just one doctor in place against 12 sanctioned posts, leaving 11 posts unfilled.

The nursing segment, considered the backbone of patient care, is also under immense strain. Out of 163 sanctioned staff nurse posts, only 30 are currently filled on an academic arrangement basis, while a staggering 133 positions are vacant.

The situation at the Trauma Centre Udhampur is equally grim. Of the 34 sanctioned posts,

merely three are filled, while 31 positions are lying vacant, severely impacting emergency and critical care services.

Residents have expressed deep concern over the staff shortage, stating that the lack of adequate manpower is directly affecting patient care and leading to hardships for those seeking treatment.

"Patients are suffering due to the shortage of doctors and paramedical staff. The government must act swiftly to fill these vacancies and ensure proper healthcare facilities," said a resident.

The locals have urged the higher authorities to take immediate steps to address the issue and strengthen the healthcare infrastructure at GMC Udhampur.

Meanwhile, a health department official, while acknowledging the shortage of staff, said that efforts are underway to improve infrastructure and augment manpower at Government Medical Colleges across the Union Territory.

"We are working on upgrading facilities and ensuring that adequate staff are posted to meet the growing healthcare demands," the official said, adding that the issue is being addressed on priority—(KNO)

Police arrest 14 drug peddlers

KNO

Srinagar, Apr 10: In a major success against drug trafficking, Police have arrested fourteen drug peddlers and recovered huge quantity of narcotic substances in multiple operations across the valley. Besides, a medical shop was sealed for violating mandatory requirements for sale of schedule H medicines in Kulgam.

According to a statement, in Anantnag, acting on a specific input, a raid was conducted at the residential house of Fayaz Ahmad Dar son of Mohd Jabbar Dar resident of Naina Gund Baba Khalil, Sangam after obtaining a search warrant from the Hon'ble Court. During the search, 3 kg 99 grams of charas powder-like substance was recovered. The accused Fayaz Ahmad Dar and his son Arbaz Ahmad Dar were arrested on the spot. In another operation, a police party from PP Sangam during naka checking at Naibasti Marhama intercepted a Hyundai i20 (JK13J-0803). Two individuals, Shahzada Suvaidd son of Manzoor

Ahmad Shah and Waris-ul-Islam son of Nazir Ahmad Shah, both residents of Batagund Tral, were found in possession of 488 grams of charas-like substance. Further, Police party from Police Station Anantnag during naka checking at Anantnag bypass near the overhead Danter bridge, intercepted Sajad Ahmad Shah son of Gh Rasool Shah resident of Hakhora Badazgaam. During search, charas-like substance in the form of 07 sticks weighing 106 grams and powder weighing 88 grams was recovered.

In Kulgam, during naka checking at Furrah New Bypass, a police party from Police Post Mir Bazar apprehended a suspicious person identified as Danish Khurshid son of Khurshid Ahmad Nath resident of Redwani, Qoimoh Kulgam. During search, 110 grams of charas powder-like substance, 2 grams of heroin-like substance, and cash amounting to 22,000 were recovered. In another action, a police party from Police Post Mir Bazar during naka checking at Akhran apprehended a suspicious individual identified

as Faruk Ali son of Sukur Ali resident of Jiggi No. 256, Block C, JJ Colony Bawana, North-West Delhi. During search, 63.31 grams of charas powder-like substance and 2.03 grams of heroin-like substance were recovered from his possession. In a separate case, acting on credible prior information, a police party from Police Station Qazigund at Kurigam Railway Bridge, arrested a drug peddler identified as identified as Abdul Qayoom Shah son of Mohd Subhan Shah resident of Shastargam, Dooru Anantnag. During search, 109 grams of charas concealed in corn husk was recovered. Accordingly, FIR No. 71/2026 was registered at P/S Qazigund. During further investigation, backward linkages were established. After obtaining the necessary warrant, police conducted searches in Sirhama, Anantnag, leading to the identification and involvement of Mohd Iqbal Rather son of Sanullah Rather resident of Sirhama Camp Colony, Anantnag and Mukhtar Ahmad Wagay son of Mohd Sultan Wagay resident of Wopzan,

Hearpora, Anantnag. During search, 1.212 Kgs of charas was recovered, thereby exposing the supply chain involved in the narcotics network.

In Pulwama, a police party of Police Post Rahmoo, apprehended a suspicious individual identified as Ab Hameed Thoker son of Gh Ahmad Thoker resident of Thokerpora, who was carrying a nylon bag. During search, 6 kgs of semi crushed cannabis powder was recovered.

In Awantipora, a police team at a checkpoint established at Padgampora near Railway Station Awantipora, arrested two drug peddlers identified as Faizan Yousuf Ganie son of Mohd Yousuf Ganie, resident of Koil, Pulwama and Ishfaq Ahmad Sofi son of Bashir Ahmad Sofi, resident of Washbugh, Pulwama. During search, approximately 29 grams of a heroin-like substance was recovered from their possession.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

EDITORIAL

Every Missing Child Is A Life Stolen

The Supreme Court's grave concern over rising child trafficking cases across India is a national emergency alarm. When the highest court of the land warns that "gangs are operating across the country" and that things will "go beyond control" without immediate action, state and Union territory governments must sit up, listen, and act. The fact that multiple states have failed to even file compliance reports in the prescribed format, nearly a year after a landmark judgment, is nothing short of administrative negligence. The court's frustration is justified.

Its April 2025 verdict mandated institutional reforms: completion of trials within six months on a day-to-day basis, strengthening of Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs), and treatment of missing children cases as trafficking unless proven otherwise. Yet, implementation remains "lackadaisical." States like Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Mizoram, Odisha, and Punjab have not filed the required reports. Fifteen states have yet to constitute review committees to monitor trafficking-prone areas. This is a failure of political and administrative will. Child trafficking is

not a distant horror. It operates in our neighbourhoods, across state borders, through organised networks that prey on vulnerability, poverty, and desperation. Each missing child is not a statistic but a life stolen—subjected to forced labour, sexual exploitation, or illegal adoption. The court's directive to treat missing children cases as trafficking unless proven otherwise is a crucial shift in perspective, recognising that every disappearance carries the presumption of foul play. The bench's warning to officially brand defaulting states as "non-compliant" must be followed

through. But naming and shaming alone will not rescue a single child. What is required is urgent, coordinated, and visible action. First, every state and UT must immediately constitute the mandated review committees and ensure they meet regularly with actionable outputs. Second, AHTUs must be strengthened with adequate personnel, training, and resources—not as paperwork exercises but as functional, empowered units. Third, police forces must be trained to treat missing child cases with the urgency they deserve, deploying resources for rapid response.

Fourth, inter-state coordination mechanisms must be operationalised, recognising that trafficking networks do not respect district or state boundaries. The Supreme Court has done its duty. It has provided the framework, the directives, and the monitoring. Now the executive must act. Every day of delay is a day when another child is trafficked, another family is shattered. The court's "humble request" must be heard as a stern command. State and UT governments must demonstrate that the safety of children is not a political slogan but an operational priority.

11 Years Of Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana

Driving financial inclusion and micro-enterprise growth

Press Information Bureau

PM MUDRA Yojana: "Funding the Unfunded"
Across India's cities, towns and villages, millions of small entrepreneurs sustain local economies through modest yet vital enterprises, ranging from neighbourhood shops and repair services to small-scale manufacturing and transport activities. These micro businesses not only generate livelihoods but also support employment and essential services at the community level. However, for years, their growth was constrained by limited access to bank credit. Many relied on borrowing from friends, family, or local moneylenders, as they often lacked collateral and formal financial records required by institutions.

The launch of the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) on 8 April 2015 marked a decisive step in bridging this gap. With the vision of "Funding the Unfunded," the scheme improves credit access and offers collateral-free loans up to ₹20 lakh. Borrowers include non-corporate, non-farm micro and small enterprises across manufacturing, trading, services, and allied agricultural activities.

Notably, as of 27th March 2026, the scheme has disbursed loans worth ₹40.07 lakh crore with over 57 crore accounts. Besides, 12 crore+ accounts belong to new entrepreneurs—highlighting PMMY's role in bringing them into the formal financial system.

Over the past decade, PMMY has evolved into a powerful instrument of empowerment and aspiration. In doing so, it has strengthened grassroots entrepreneurship, deepened financial inclusion, and supported sustained growth of India's local economies.

Driving Credit to the Last Mile: The Architecture

PMMY operates through a three-tier institutional structure comprising the Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Ltd. (MUDRA), Member Lending Institutions (MLIs), and Beneficiaries (borrowers). This framework enables seamless flow of credit from formal financial institutions to micro enterprises through an intermediary-driven model.

DID YOU KNOW?
In FY 2024-2025, MUDRA Ltd. reported its highest-ever profit of over ₹27 crore, strengthening its journey towards self-sustainability while continuing to support its intermediary partners.

The Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency, serves as the supporting institution that provides refinance support to a network of lending institutions, enabling the flow of institutional credit to the micro enterprise sector. Loans under PMMY are extended through MLIs, including Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Small Finance Banks (SFBs), Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs). These institutions are responsible for direct lending to the borrowers, ensuring last-mile delivery of credit.

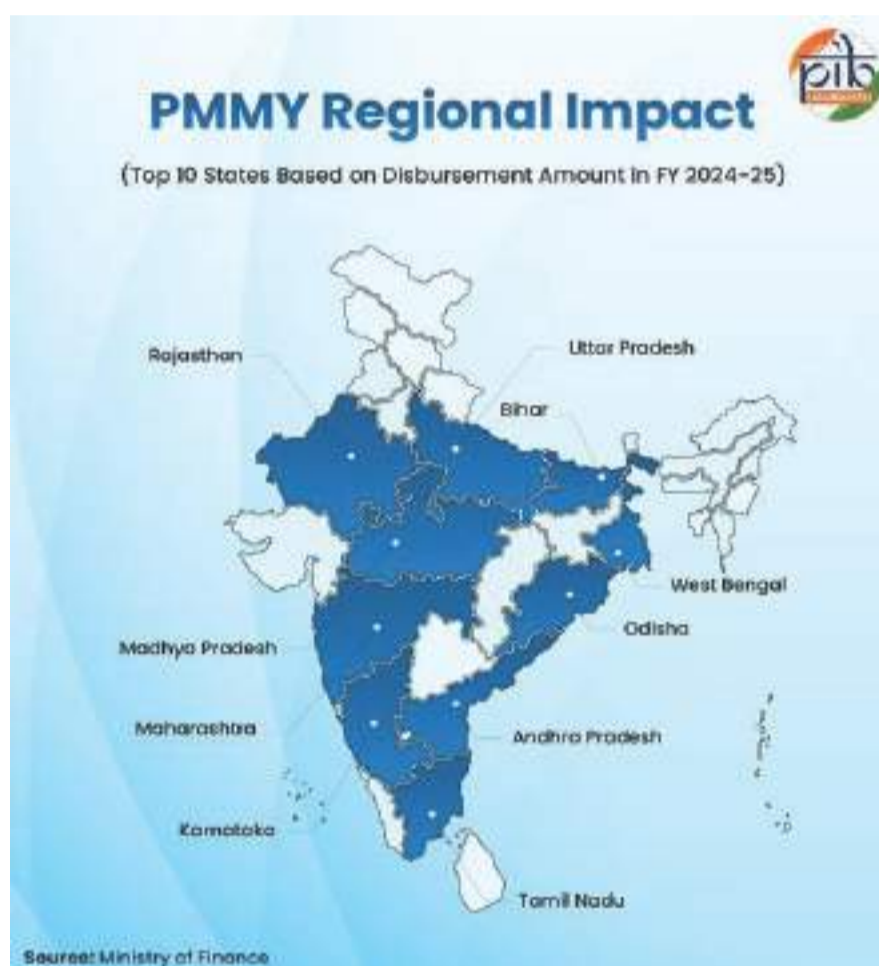
The borrowers under PMMY comprise micro enterprises engaged in manufacturing, trading, services, and allied agricultural activities. They access collateral-free loans to support income generation activities, sustain business operations, and expand their enterprises. Through a structured framework, PMMY facilitates inclusive access to finance and promotes entrepreneurship.

PMMY Coverage
Mudra loans are extended for a wide range of activities that promote income generation and employment creation. These loans are primarily provided for:

Business loan for vendors, traders, shopkeepers and other service sector activities, such as community, social & personal services, food products, textiles etc.

Working capital loans through MUDRA cards
Equipment finance for micro units such as purchase of necessary machinery, equipment etc.

Transport vehicle loans for commercial use only such as auto rickshaws, small goods transport vehicles, 3 wheelers, e-rickshaws etc.



Loans for agri-allied non-farm income generating activities such as pisciculture, bee keeping, poultry, livestock-rearing, grading, sorting, aggregation agro-industries, dairy, fishery, agri-clinics and agri-business centres, food & agro-processing,

etc.
Supporting Enterprises at Every Stage with Distinct Loans
In order to enable easy credit access based on the business requirements, loans under PMMY are classified into four distinct

categories namely; Shishu, Kishor, Tarun and Tarun Plus. The categorization caters to different stages of growth and financial needs of the enterprises.

Shishu
The Shishu category covers loans up to ₹50,000 and is intended for very small or early-stage business activities. It typically supports individuals who are starting new enterprises or operating at a minimal scale, including activities such as small retail outlets, repair services etc. The accessibility of the Shishu category loan includes entrepreneurs with no credit history or collateral. This provision helps even the most marginalised entrepreneurs to transform an idea into an actual business.

Kishor
The Kishor category includes loans above ₹50,000 and up to ₹5 lakh. This category is designed for new as well as enterprises that have already commenced operations and require additional funds for stabilisation, working capital or modest expansion of business activities.

Tarun
The Tarun category covers loans above ₹5 lakh and up to ₹10 lakh. It supports growing enterprises seeking to scale up operations, invest in equipment or increase production capacity.

Tarun Plus
The newest category of PMMY- Tarun Plus category, started in 2024, extends loans above ₹10 lakh and up to ₹20 lakh to borrowers who have successfully repaid previous loans under the Tarun category and demonstrated a stable business track record. The provision enables further expansion and progression to higher levels of enterprise activity.

PMMY: A Catalyst for Inclusive Growth & Development

PMMY has achieved significant success in the recent times. It has not only deepened financial inclusion but also strengthened entrepreneurship leading to inclusive growth and development. The performance in FY 2024-25 reflects that the core focus of PMMY has been on credit access, women-led enterprises, and formalising micro businesses to create a lasting socio-economic impact.

Among all states, Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest loan disbursement at ₹58,111 crore, followed by Bihar with ₹54,064 crore, while Maharashtra ranked third at ₹50,762 crore.

Women borrowers accounted for 59.81% of the total number of loan accounts, with total share of 37.45% in disbursed amount.

New entrepreneurs constituted 21% of total loan accounts and accounted for a 30.09% share of the total disbursed amount.

The cumulative share of SC, ST, and OBC categories stood at 45.52% in terms of loan accounts and 31.77% in terms of the total disbursed amount.

In doing so, the scheme continues to play a vital role in democratizing finance and supporting the growth of micro-enterprises across India.

Strengthening PMMY Ecosystem
The wide spectrum of PMMY integrated with other government-backed schemes and digital portals ensures a strengthened credit ecosystem along with financial inclusion of micro enterprises and Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

Digitization of MUDRA transactions has enhanced efficiency, transparency, and ease of credit access for borrowers. Notably, the credit ecosystem has strengthened, supported by schemes such as the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU)-administered by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC). It provides guarantee cover for loans extended under PMMY and reduces the credit risk for lending institutions thus, facilitating flow of collateral-free credit to micro enterprises.

Additionally, measures have been undertaken to simplify the PMMY's loan application process and ensure timely disbursement of loans. For instance, JanSamarth portal enables multiple integrations including Mudra loans, to provide digital access to authenticate date and reduce hassles for MLIs.

JanSamarth is a national portal that covers

Key Takeaways

- PMMY has evolved into a powerful instrument of empowerment and aspiration, with 57 crore+ loans amounting to ₹40.07 lakh crore.
- Easy credit access with four distinct loan categories: Shishu, Kishor, Tarun and TarunPlus.
- Collateral-free loans up to ₹20 lakh for activities covering manufacturing, trading, services & allied agricultural activities.
- Strengthening financial inclusion with about 60% of loan accounts belonging to women and about 21% to new entrepreneurs in FY 2024-25.
- Over the past decade, PMMY has progressed into a more technology-driven, integrated and sustainable lending framework.

14 credit-linked government schemes, 7 loan categories (including PMMY for business activities) and 200+ lenders.

Small Loans, Big Dreams: Lives Changed by PMMY

The outcome of PMMY is reflected in the journeys of borrowers across the country who have leveraged institutional credit to establish and expand their enterprises.

For Poonam Kumari, a farmer's daughter-in-law from Bihar, starting a business was not an obvious path. It was a considered decision, made together with her husband, born out of necessity and quiet determination. In 2024, an ₹8 lakh MUDRA loan, obtained with minimal paperwork, gave her the means to launch a seed trading business. Within a short span, her monthly earnings reached ₹60,000, a figure that has not only brought financial independence but also earned her the trust and confidence of her family. Her story is one of resolve, partnership and the quiet dignity that comes with standing on one's own feet.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otN6xwrs5c>

Mudassir Naqshbandi tasted success from once being a job-seeker to a job-creator. The owner of Bake My Cake in Baramulla, Kashmir, Mudassir used his MUDRA loan to build a thriving bakery business that employs 42 people from remote corners of the district. His earnings, once in the thousands, have climbed to lakhs and crores. His business also reflects a broader shift in how India transacts—nine out of every ten payments at his bakery are made through UPI, a sign of expanding digital financial inclusion.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkhViDhJ9cc>

When Lavkush Mehra from Bhopal took his first MUDRA loan of ₹5 lakh in 2021, he did so with some hesitation. Within a few years, that single step was the beginning of a remarkable journey—his pharmaceutical business grew from a ₹12 lakh turnover to over ₹50 lakh, his income more than doubled, and he became a homeowner. His story reflects what the PMMY was designed to achieve—giving young entrepreneurs the financial foundation to build livelihoods on their own terms.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPqmp6PuWGU>

These success stories highlight the transformative potential of PMMY in facilitating transition of micro-businesses into growth-oriented ventures.

Conclusion
The PM MUDRA Yojana has been central to India's financial inclusion efforts providing collateral-free credit to millions of micro-entrepreneurs. The scheme has grown more effective through digital integration and alignment with complementary government initiatives. As it enters its next phase, the priorities are clear: improving credit quality, ensuring enterprise sustainability, and shifting towards growth-oriented financing, so that today's micro-enterprises become tomorrow's resilient and scalable businesses.

The views expressed by contributors on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the newspaper

Govt committed to equitable development of Jammu, Srinagar cities: Deputy CM

Meets delegations, assesses key civic, development issues

KT News Desk

JAMMU, APRIL 10: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary on Friday reiterated the Government's firm commitment towards ensuring balanced and equitable development of both Jammu and Srinagar cities.

The Deputy Chief Minister made these remarks while interacting with various public and individual delegations at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

A delegation, as per an official statement, led by former MLC, Rattan Lal Gupta, along with Tejinder Pal Singh (Aman) called on the Deputy Chief Minister and highlighted several issues and demands pertaining to the development of Jammu city.

Giving a patient hearing to the delegation, the Deputy Chief Minister assured that the Government is focused on holistic and robust development across all regions, with special emphasis on key urban centres like Jammu and Srinagar.



He stated that a series of progressive initiatives are being undertaken, ranging from city beautification to creation and upgradation of essential infrastructure, including roads and civic amenities, aimed at enhancing the overall quality of life for residents.

The Deputy Chief Minister

issued necessary directions to the concerned departments for prompt and effective redressal of issues impacting day-to-day life in the Jammu region.

During the interaction, several other delegations and individuals also met the Deputy Chief Minister and raised concerns related to road and bridge

construction, employment opportunities, industrial growth, water supply, electricity, and other public welfare issues.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured that all genuine issues raised by the delegations will be taken up with the respective departments for timely and appropriate resolution.

MY Bharat Budget Quest 2026: Grand finale to be held in Srinagar

Women's Youth Parliament on "Nari Shakti: Viksit Bharat Ki Awaaz" to be key highlight

KT News Desk

Srinagar, April 10: Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, will organise the grand finale of MY Bharat Budget Quest 2026 - Zone 1 (J&K-Ladakh) on April 12-13, 2026 at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre, Srinagar.

The two-day event, as per a PIB statement, will bring together selected youth participants from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh who have progressed through a multi-stage national competition linked to the Union Budget 2026. The programme forms part of a nationwide initiative involving over 15,000 youth across 17 locations representing all States and Union Territories.

Launched on February 2, 2026 by Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, the MY Bharat Budget Quest has emerged as a platform for

engaging youth in policy discourse aligned with national development priorities. The initiative was conducted in three stages, including a national quiz, an essay competition across nine development themes, and interaction with leadership.

The programme witnessed participation from over 12 lakh youth and received more than 46,500 essay submissions from across the country.

During the Srinagar finale, participants will deliberate on themes such as human capital development, education, skill development, employment and sustainable development, reflecting key priorities of national policy.

A major highlight of the event will be the Women's Youth Parliament to be held on April 12 under the theme "Nari Shakti: Viksit Bharat Ki Awaaz". The session will feature structured parliamentary-style discussions

by women participants on the Women's Reservation Bill, culminating in the adoption of a resolution.

The programme will also include an inaugural session, MY Bharat engagement sessions and expert panel discussions on April 13, focusing on sectoral aspects of the Union Budget.

As part of community engagement, a 'Sundays on Cycle' initiative will also be organised in Srinagar in collaboration with the Sports Authority of India, promoting awareness on sustainable development.

A total of 621 selected participants from Zone 1 will engage in discussions and interactions with experts and peers, contributing ideas and perspectives on policy and development.

The event aims to provide a platform for youth to participate in policy dialogue and contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

ADC Handwara chairs meeting on digitization of backlog mutations



KT News Desk

HANDWARA, APRIL 10: Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi on Friday chaired a meeting to review the progress of digitization of backlog mutations across the sub division.

During the meeting, a detailed assessment of pending mutation cases was carried out. The ADC emphasized the importance of timely and accurate digitization of revenue records to ensure transparency, efficiency, and ease of access for the public. He directed all concerned Tehsildars to expedite the process and clear the backlog within the stipulated timeframe.

The ADC, as per an official

statement, stressed the need for close coordination among revenue officials and instructed Tehsildars to closely monitor the progress at the field level.

He also underscored the importance of maintaining data accuracy and adhering to prescribed guidelines during the digitization process.

Officers were asked to identify bottlenecks, if any, and take immediate corrective measures to ensure smooth and speedy completion of the task.

The ADC reiterated that digitization of land records is a key step towards strengthening governance and improving public service delivery.

The meeting was attended by Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, and other concerned revenue officials.

DC Budgam chairs follow-up review to assess progress of 125-Bedded Hospital, 100-Bedded CCU at Reshipora

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, APRIL 10: In a follow-up review meeting, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Friday assessed the progress of the under-construction 125-bedded hospital and the 100-bedded Critical Care Unit (CCU) at Reshipora Budgam.

The DC, as per an official statement, conducted a comprehensive review of both projects, which are being developed to significantly enhance healthcare infrastructure and ensure improved medical services for the people of the district.

During the meeting, the DC took a detailed appraisal of the proposed hospital infrastructure, including building arrangements, functional requirements, and floor-wise facilities.

He emphasized that the hospital must be developed as a modern, patient-centric institution equipped with all essential healthcare services.

A detailed status of the 100-bedded CCU, a G+3 structure, was also reviewed. The CCU is envisioned as a key facility for strengthening emergency and critical care services in the district.

Officials informed that since the project was handed over in May 2024, substantial physical progress has been achieved. Major works including pile cap



casting, plinth level columns, plinth beam RCC, and ground floor slab have been completed. Construction of upper floors is progressing steadily, with nearly 50% completion of the first and second floor slabs, while AAC block masonry work is also underway.

It was further informed that the remaining work on the second floor slab is targeted for completion by mid-April 2026, and the overall project is expected to be completed by September 2026.

The DC directed the executing agency to ensure optimal utilisation of resources to accelerate the pace of work.

He stressed strict adherence to quality standards, safety norms, and timelines. He reiterated that the

125-bedded hospital and the 100-bedded CCU at Reshipora Budgam will play a transformative role in strengthening healthcare delivery, particularly in critical and emergency care services.

The DC instructed officers to maintain close coordination, promptly address bottlenecks, and ensure timely completion of both projects for the larger public benefit. He further reiterated that the district administration remains committed to augmenting healthcare infrastructure and providing accessible, quality medical services to the people of Budgam.

The meeting was attended by JD Planning, SE R&B, officials from Jal Shakti, CMO, concerned executive engineers, and other officers.

DDC Shopian reviews CAPEX Budget 2026-27 preparation

KT News Desk

SHOPIAN, APRIL 10: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian Shishir Gupta Friday chaired a meeting to review and discuss the preparation of the District CAPEX Budget 2026-27.

At the outset, the DDC, as per an official statement, emphasized the importance of timely and comprehensive planning for the upcoming financial year.

All departments were directed to prepare and submit well structured, realistic, and need based proposals in line with the developmental priorities of the district.

The meeting primarily focused on identifying priority sectors, ensuring optimal allocation of resources, and streamlining the planning process for effective implementation of works under CAPEX 2026-27.

Officers were instructed to give due importance to projects of public utility and long-term impact.

During the deliberations, review of District CAPEX 2025-26 was also discussed. It was highlighted that the district achieved 100% physical targets, reflecting effective execution and monitoring of developmental works across sectors.

The DDC stressed the need for improved coordination among departments and adherence to timelines to avoid delays in project execution.

Emphasis was also laid on maintaining quality standards and ensuring transparency in implementation.

The meeting also discussed tourism development proposals, with departments directed to identify potential sites and submit viable, project based proposals under CAPEX 2026-27.

Emphasis was laid on developing basic infrastructure, improving accessibility, and creating facilities to promote tourism and generate local employment.

Officers were further directed to ensure timely submission of inputs, removal of bottlenecks, and proactive planning to facilitate smooth execution of works in the upcoming financial year.

The meeting was attended by the Additional District Development Commissioner Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; CEO, Dubjan Peer Ki Gali Development Authority, Rouf ul Rehman; ADC, Muzafar Ahmad; Sub Divisional Magistrate, Zainapora, Bilal Ahmad; CPO, CEO, CMO, CAO, CHO, Executive Engineers of R & B, Irrigation, PHE, REW, KPDC, and other concerned officers.

45th IACR Experts converge at KU, meet opens with global focus on breakthroughs & challenges

KT News Desk

Srinagar April 10: The Department of Biochemistry, University of Kashmir (KU), on Friday inaugurated the 45th Annual Meeting of the Indian Association for Cancer Research (IACR), alongside a four-day international conference titled 'Advancements in Cancer Research: Discoveries, Therapeutics and Challenges' at the varsity's Main Campus.

Bringing together scientists, clinicians and academicians, the conference aims to serve as a dynamic platform for sharing ideas, presenting cutting-edge research, and exploring innovative approaches in cancer care, with a strong focus on improving diagnosis, treatment, and patient outcomes.

The event, as per a statement issued by KU, has attracted leading experts from across India and abroad, including participants from premier institutions such as AIIMS, IISc Bengaluru, and IITs, as well as globally reputed universities and research centres including

Mayo Clinic, Emory University, and Harvard University.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, said, "This conference brings together diverse scientific perspectives to address one of the most pressing health challenges of our time. Such academic engagements are essential for developing innovation and strengthening research that can translate into better healthcare outcomes."

Director, SKIMS Srinagar, Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie, in his remarks said, "Collaboration between clinicians and researchers is key to advancing cancer care. Platforms like this enable meaningful dialogue that can bridge the gap between laboratory research and clinical practice."

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, and Dean Research KU, Prof. Mohammad Sultan Bhat, highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary research and stressed on the need for sustained academic efforts to address complex health issues like cancer. Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer

Iqbal, noted that the University is committed to promoting quality research and academic exchange at national and international levels. President, IACR, Prof. Subrata Sinha, spoke about the vision and goals of the association, and emphasized advancing cancer research through collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing.

Earlier, in her welcome address, Head, Department of Biochemistry KU and convener of the event, Prof. Sharjul Amin, outlined the objectives of the conference and highlighted its importance in bringing together experts working across various domains of cancer research.

The conference abstract book was also released on the occasion. Students and scholars from across the country and abroad are attending the event. It features keynote and plenary lectures, thematic sessions, and oral and poster presentations on diverse areas of cancer research, including immunotherapy, genomics, precision oncology, and emerging therapeutic approaches.

Nasha Mukht Abhiyaan: DC Samba finalises modalities

KT News Desk

SAMBA, APRIL 10: Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan on Friday chaired a comprehensive meeting in the Conference Hall of District Administrative Complex, Nandani Hills to finalise the modalities for the 100-day "Nasha Mukht Abhiyaan" in the district.

The meeting was attended by the officers from Education, Youth Services & Sports, Health, Social Welfare, Police, Information and others.

The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, undertook a detailed review of the preparedness of all participating departments and issued comprehensive directions for the effective and time-bound implementation of the campaign.

The DC underscored the pivotal role of the Education Department in organising awareness programmes in schools and colleges, while the Youth Services & Sports Department was tasked with engaging the youth through sports activities and community outreach. The Health

Department was directed to strengthen de-addiction services and conduct regular medical and counselling camps at the grassroots level.

The Police Department was asked to intensify enforcement measures against drug trafficking and abuse, while the Information Department was instructed to ensure wide publicity and sustained community outreach throughout the campaign period. All other departments were also assigned specific roles to ensure saturation coverage of awareness and preventive measures at the ground level.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated the importance of community participation and called for collective resolve from all stakeholders to make the campaign a success. She further directed all officers to prepare detailed departmental action plans and ensure timely execution of all scheduled activities within the 100-day period.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Jagdish Singh; ASP Garu Ram; SDMs and other district and sectoral officers from various line departments.

Director FCS&CA inspects stock position at central food store



KT News Desk

JAMMU, APRIL 10: Director Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Jammu Rajesh Kumar Shavan on Friday inspected the Central Food Store at Bikram Chowk to review the overall stock position, storage arrangements, infrastructure and upkeep of the premises.

The Director, as per an official statement, checked the stock position of food grains, office record, functioning of CCTV cameras and cleanliness of food godowns. He emphasized the need for maintaining proper storage standards to safeguard departmental stocks and ensure efficient functioning of the Central Store.

The Director issued strict

instructions to the concerned Supervisor and Storekeepers to ensure thorough cleanliness of the entire Central Store premises, including godowns, office spaces and surrounding areas. Special stress was laid on maintaining hygiene, proper stacking of materials, removal of obsolete and unserviceable items and systematic record maintenance and inventory of the stores. Directions were issued for immediately starting repair and renovation of damaged portions of the godowns to protect the ration.

The Director laid stress on regular inspections, cleanliness and timely maintenance of infrastructure for the smooth and efficient management of ration dispatches and storage.

Srinagar's historic Old City bridges to get safety fencing

Works in final stage; DC Labroo conducts site review

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Apr 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Friday conducted a detailed site inspection of ongoing fencing along the sides of historic Old City bridges and allied upgradation works in the Shahr-e-Khaas areas of the district, underscoring the administration's firm commitment to strengthening pedestrian safety and urban infrastructure.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B Shabir Ahmad, Executive Engineer R&B Arif Hazari, Tehsildar South Sajad Rasool Shah, and other concerned officers.

On the occasion, the DC reviewed the progress of fencing along the sides of Old Zaina Kadal, Aali Kadal, and New Zaina Kadal over the river Jhelum, where ongoing fencing works are at an advanced stage and nearing completion. The



works have been carried out to enhance pedestrian safety and prevent accidents in high-density areas.

While assessing the works, the DC directed the executing agency to maintain strict adherence to quality standards and timelines, emphasizing precision, durability, and

coordinated execution. He directed the completion of works within a week's time.

The DC also reviewed the status of ongoing road repair and upgradation works across stretches in the area, including Bulbul Lanker, laying emphasis on expediting progress while ensuring

minimal inconvenience and disruption to public movement.

Reaffirming that pedestrian safety remains a top priority, the DC stated that all major works are being carried out in a synchronized and well-coordinated manner and will be completed at the earliest.

Doctors should offer free care once a month under 'medical social responsibility': Mandaviya

PTI

New Delhi/Pune, Apr 10: Union minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday urged doctors to commit to a "medical social responsibility (MSR)" and offer free medical services once a month, asserting that the medical profession is not merely a business but a responsibility towards society.

Launching the "Jan Sehat Setu" (Service for Enhanced Health Access and Treatment) campaign in Pune, Mandaviya, the Union Minister of Labour and Employment, said the initiative aims to improve access to affordable healthcare by encouraging doctors to provide free medical care on the 9th of every month.

"Just as corporate entities contribute to society through CSR (corporate social responsibility), doctors should also discharge their duty through MSR," he said.

The campaign was inaugurated in the presence of Maharashtra Public Health Minister Prakash Abitkar and Pune Mayor Manjusha Nagpure.

Referring to the government's Jan Aushadhi scheme,



Mandaviya said affordable medicines have already been made accessible to the masses and the new initiative seeks to similarly expand access to treatment.

He also called upon ESIC, ASHA workers of the Pune Municipal Corporation and volunteers of the 'MY Bharat' initiative to actively contribute to the campaign.

Mandaviya said the initiative has been designed as an institutionalised mechanism, supported by a digital platform that enables patients to locate nearby free health

camps while connecting doctors, clinics and beneficiaries on a single interface.

On the launch day, over 100 free health camps were organised across Pune with participation from around 1,500 gynaecologists, officials said, adding that such camps will now be held on the 9th of every month.

The Union minister said the campaign, which has begun in Pune, will soon be expanded across Maharashtra and later across the country.

The initiative is being supported by several organisations, including the National Medical Organisation (NMO), Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI), Pune Gynaecology Society, Rotary Club, ESIC, MY Bharat, Jain International Organisation (JITO), Asian Chamber of Hospitality Industry (ACHI), Maharashtra Gynaecological Association and Vishva Kalyan Bharti Foundation.

NMO Pune president Dr Amul Lunkad said efforts will be made to expand the campaign nationwide and bring more doctors on board in the coming months.

India doesn't see ties as transactions but as enduring bonds: Jaishankar in Mauritius

PTI

Port Louis, Apr 10: India does not see ties as transactions but as "enduring bonds" and the country will "always stand" with Mauritius as a trusted partner, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said here on Friday.

The minister, addressing an event, also said the world is today going through a period of "deep turbulence and uncertainty" and asserted that in such times, "partnerships like ours become more important".

Jaishankar, who is in Mauritius to attend the 9th Indian Ocean Conference, inaugurated a renal transplant unit at the Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi says that Mauritius is not a partner; Mauritius is part of family," said the EAM.

Sharing a message from Modi, Jaishankar said, "Ye dil ka rish-ta' hai, one that is not just reflected in words, but in also in meaningful action."

"The inauguration of the first dedicated renal transplant unit of Mauritius is indeed a landmark achievement. It is not just a medical milestone, it is a moment of hope," the EAM said.

Listing out various initiatives, Jaishankar said, "A 100 km pipeline replacement will improve water security across the island. A new Forensic Sciences Laboratory to strengthen modern investigation capabilities. A National Archives and Library will preserve your heritage for future

generations. A Mauritius Police Academy will enhance training and professionalism in law enforcement. And our e-judiciary initiative will make the legal system more efficient, transparent, and credible."

Jaishankar also made a reference to the security challenges in the Indian Ocean Region and conveyed to Mauritius that "your security is our security".

"As a large ocean state, Mauritius faces unique challenges. India remains committed as a maritime partner. Our vessels from the Indian Navy and Coast Guard work alongside the Mauritius National Coast Guard in guarding your waters, and we continue to assist Mauritius in EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) surveillance, because your security is our security," he said.

"But we are also looking beyond the ocean surface, quite literally, to the skies. India and Mauritius are jointly developing a satellite, which we expect to launch very soon," he said.

"This is not just any satellite. It will carry a multi-spectral imager payload, supporting Earth observation applications across agriculture, forestry, ecosystem monitoring, weather forecasting, and coastal observation," the EAM added.

"For a country like Mauritius, with its dependence on its natural environment and its vulnerability to climate events, this kind of capability will be genuinely transformative," he said.

The EAM thanked Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra

Ramgoolam for his leadership and commitment to "strengthening this special partnership".

"The world is today going through a period of deep turbulence and uncertainty. In such times, partnerships like ours become more important. We do not see ties as transactions, but as enduring bonds. And as a trusted partner, India will always stand with Mauritius," he said.

Jaishankar in his address also underscored the centuries-old cultural ties between the two countries.

"Now, many of you I know have ancestral links with India, but what is for us truly inspiring is how these roots have grown into something uniquely Mauritian because you have not just preserved what was brought here, you have made it your own," he said.

Mauritius is a former British and French colony that gained independence from the British rule in 1968.

Under the nearly century-long French rule (in the year 1729), the first Indians were brought to Mauritius from the Puducherry region, to work as artisans and masons.

Under British rule, about half a million Indian indentured workers were brought to Mauritius between 1834 and the early 1900s. About two-thirds of these workers permanently settled down in Mauritius.

The EAM said, "As we look ahead, our goal is very clear: to work together, to grow together, and most importantly, to improve the lives of every Mauritian."

PTI

Mathura/Chandigarh, Apr 10: A boat carrying tourists, primarily from Punjab, capsized in the Yamuna in Vrindavan on Friday afternoon, leaving at least 10 people dead, 22 injured and five missing, officials said.

The accident occurred near Kesi Ghat when the boat carrying over two dozen tourists moved into deeper waters and hit a floating pontoon, they said.

Authorities noted that a pontoon bridge had recently been dismantled in the area due to rising water levels, leaving some pontoon drums in the river, one of which the boat is believed to have collided with.

District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh reported six fatalities earlier and later rescuers recovered four more bodies, taking the toll to 10, the district administration officials confirmed.

The deceased have been identified as Kavita Rani (49), Charanjit (40), Sapna Hans (55), Rikesh Gulati, Madhur Behl, Asha Rani, Pinki Behl, Anju Gulati, Ishan Kataria, Minu Bansal, according to an official statement.

Those missing have been identified as Manik Tandon, Pankaj Malhotra, Rishab Sharma, Yash Bhalla and Monika.

"Sixteen to 17 people have been rescued safely so far. Efforts are ongoing to locate the missing," the DM said earlier, adding that all tourists onboard



were from Punjab.

Among the 22 injured, Pinki Manju, Savita, Tanish Jain, Rekha, Rajinder Kaur, Saroj and Dolly are undergoing treatment, while the condition of others is stated to be stable, according to the statement.

Medical authorities at the Vrindavan Joint Hospital said the deceased include six men and four women.

The tourists were part of a larger group of around 150 pilgrims from Ludhiana and Muktsar in Punjab who had come to Vrindavan.

Search operations are being carried out by police, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), fire services, civil defence teams, the Army and local divers, while the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams are also expected to join the efforts soon, officials said.

Locals told the media that the boat began to sway

violently due to gusty winds, picked up speed and collided with a pontoon bridge, causing it to overturn.

Officials, however, said that the boat collided with a floating pontoon left behind after the pontoon bridge was dismantled recently.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken cognisance of the incident and expressed deep grief over the loss of lives. He conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families.

Adityanath has directed officials to expedite the ongoing relief and rescue operations and ensure that the injured are provided immediate and proper medical treatment, officials said.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann spoke to Adityanath and said all necessary assistance will be provided to the victims. He said the boat

was carrying 32 people hailing from Jagraon city in Punjab for darshan in Vrindavan.

Senior UP officials, including the district magistrate and superintendent of police, visited the spot to monitor the situation.

Additional Director General of Police Anupam Kulshreshtha, Divisional Commissioner Nagendra Pratap, Deputy Inspector General Shailish Kumar Pandey, District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh and other senior administrative officials are present at the spot, supervising rescue operations and efforts to trace the missing pilgrims.

The Ludhiana administration has set up dedicated control rooms in Ludhiana and Jagraon -- 01624223226 (SDM Jagraon office) and 01612403100 (Deputy Commissioner Office Ludhiana).

Special teams of civil and

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K, Ladakh

during the peak demand.

The authorities had further projected that in the financial year 2027-28 Jammu and Kashmir will require 3964 MWs of electricity during the peak hours followed by 4117 MWs of energy in the financial year 2028-29.

Apart from peak demand, the authorities had also projected that there will be an electrical energy requirement of 23,372 Million Units (MU) in the financial year 2026-2027.

It also said that in the year 2027-28, Jammu and Kashmir will likely require 24,559 MU of energy followed by 25,780 MU in the year 2028-29.

Earlier the news agency reported that Jammu and Kashmir is likely to face a four per cent Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) increase in electricity requirement and six per cent increase in peak electricity demand for the period of 2025-26 to 2035-36.

The official documents in this regard reveal that it has considered electrical energy requirement projections as per J&K State Load Despatch Center (SLDC).

The documents further reveal that the SLDC has projected that the annual electrical energy requirement of the UT is likely to grow at a CAGR of 4 per cent while the peak electricity demand for the utility is likely to grow at a CAGR of 6 per cent for the period of 2025-26

to 2035-36.

About the day-wise surplus coal capacity, the documents said that the surplus capacity is available with the Union Territory due to RE availability, demand variation etcetera.

"The UT has likely surplus capacity of around 700-900 MW during May to June months and 500 MW from July to September in 2028-29 which can be shared with other states and Discoms," it reads. (KNO)

Dal Lake shrinks

the functioning of the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), stating that it failed to regulate land use effectively or assess the reasons behind the rapid changes in the lake's ecosystem.

Key conservation initiatives taken up under central schemes, including the National Lake Conservation Programme and the Prime Minister's Reconstruction Programme, were found to be delayed or inadequately implemented.

Works related to relocation of houseboats and hotels, dredging of acquired land, and catchment area management remained incomplete, while even the executed components did not meet prescribed standards, the report said.

The CAG also flagged underutilisation of funds between 2017 and 2022, attributing it to irregular board meetings and the absence

of adequate project management mechanisms. The report warned that nutrient inflow from untreated waste has accelerated the growth of weeds, further reducing open water and deteriorating water quality.

Calling for urgent corrective measures, the audit recommended a comprehensive lake management policy, improved monitoring of water spread, proper functioning of sewage treatment systems and faster execution of conservation works.

Without systemic improvements in planning and implementation, the report cautioned, restoration of the lake's ecological health may remain difficult. (KNO)

LG, CM condole deaths

pain during this moment of immense sorrow. He prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and strength to the families to bear this irreparable loss.

The Chief Minister stated that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir is in close coordination with the concerned authorities to ensure that all necessary formalities are expedited for the early repatriation of the mortal remains. He assured that every possible assistance will be extended to the affected families.

A tragic road accident in Kuwait has claimed the lives of residents of Jammu and Kashmir including individuals hailing from the

Thanamandi and Surankote areas of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri and Poonch districts.

CAG flags serious

immediate intervention to protect critical wetlands.

Meanwhile, officials said a bathymetric and hydrodynamic study of Wular Lake is currently being carried out by the National Institute of Hydrology to assess its capacity and siltation levels.

Experts have warned that without urgent conservation measures, the lake could face further ecological decline, impacting flood management and water security in the region. (KNO)

Girl dies after

treatment, but succumbed to her injuries. Meanwhile, investigation have been taken up. (KNO)

Use of artificial

its own procedure. He asserted that courts should remain "passive" in arbitral proceedings unless it is manifestly abusive and an anti-arbitration injunction should be exceptional.

CJ Kanta further said that arbitration plays a central role in ensuring that disagreements in "modern commerce" are resolved with

clarity and predictability and India has made a purposeful effort to modernise its arbitration framework.

Yet the task today is no longer simply one of reform but responsiveness to the emerging needs of business, he said.

"The credibility of India's dispute resolution mechanisms will increasingly influence how investors assess the country as a reliable destination for sustained investment. Globalisation ultimately depends not only upon the movement of capital, but upon the stability of expectations.

"Arbitration provides that stability. It reassures investors, supports commercial partnerships, and ensures that disagreement does not become disruption," he said.

The inaugural session was held in the Delhi High Court auditorium.

Weather to remain

recorded a maximum temperature of 9.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of minus 1.9 degrees. In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum temperature of 28.3 degrees Celsius, below normal by 2.1 degrees, and a minimum of 12.4 degrees.

Banihal recorded 20.4 degrees and 4.5 degrees, Batote 20.8 degrees and 5.7 degrees, while Katra registered 26.2 degrees maximum and 10.9 degrees minimum, the MeT office said. (KNO)

BJP manifesto pitches industrial revival in Bengal, flags land reforms, port-led growth

PTI

Kolkata, Apr 10: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday unveiled the BJP's manifesto for the 2026 West Bengal assembly elections, outlining a sector-wise roadmap spanning industry, agriculture and port-led development, while promising to revive Bengal's industrial fortunes.

Shah stressed that the BJP would address industrial concerns that have remained politically sensitive in the state, claiming that issues such as land acquisition -- left unresolved during the Congress-led UPA era -- have been successfully tackled elsewhere in the country.

"Problems that remained unresolved since the Manmohan Singh era have been solved in other parts of the country and can be resolved in Bengal too," he said.

Calling the party's 'sankalp patra' a roadmap for a developed Bengal and a vow of trust, Shah said, "The people of Bengal should trust us. Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, we will also put Bengal on the path of development."

He added that a BJP-led government in the state would ensure solutions to long-pending industrial challenges.

"When the reins of the government come into our hands, the chief minister we choose will find solutions to all these problems. There will be a double-engine government, and we will revive Bengal's



industry," the BJP leader said. He cited Singur in Hooghly district, where Tata Motors abandoned its Nano car factory in 2008 following intense anti-land acquisition movement led by the TMC, as a key industrial node.

"For job creation, an industrial park will be built in Singur," Shah said, adding that 50 per cent of the land would be reserved for MSMEs, while the remaining portion will be allocated to large-scale industries to ensure balanced growth and employment generation.

About the jute sector, Shah promised a comprehensive revival mechanism through modernisation and reopening of closed mills.

He said, "We will re-establish the old glory of the 'Golden Fibre'. The (BJP) government will

launch a nationwide campaign to increase the use of eco-friendly jute products in bags, textiles, and packaging," with an eye on building a global supply chain for sustainable products.

Focusing on the tea industry in north Bengal, he announced the formation of a special commission to examine labour welfare and export potential, which will submit its report within one year.

"Tea garden workers will be granted land titles within 100 days of our government forming," Shah said.

He said welfare measures would include setting up schools and health centres for workers' families and ensuring minimum wages.

To protect the global reputation of Darjeeling Tea, he added that a

"dedicated squad" would be created to curb fake products and promote Geographical Indication (GI) tagging. A laboratory would also be set up to develop new, high-yielding tea plant varieties to replace ageing bushes.

Outlining a maritime strategy, Shah said, "We will tap into the full potential of maritime trade by constructing modern deep-sea ports at Tajpur and Kulpi," while targeting a "130 per cent increase in port capacity" through modernisation of existing infrastructure.

He added that Haldia Port would be developed as a key hub for the "Blue Economy" under a time-bound roadmap, supported by new infrastructure for fisheries and aquaculture to position Bengal as a major export centre for marine products.

Shah also accused Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of depriving the state of central health schemes for political reasons.

"Mamata Banerjee fears that if these are implemented in Bengal, Prime Minister Modi will become popular. That is why Bengal's poor have been deprived of these benefits," he said, referring to Ayushman Bharat and other health programmes.

Urging voters to back the BJP, Shah said a "double-engine government" would ensure faster implementation of projects, create jobs and deliver a "fear-free Bengal" on the "track of development".

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar takes oath as Rajya Sabha member



PTI

New Delhi, Apr 10: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday took oath as a member of Rajya Sabha, marking the end of his two-decade rule in the eastern state and paving the way for a new chief minister.

The oath was administered by Rajya Sabha Chairman C P Radhakrishnan in his chamber at a brief ceremony. The Chairman later welcomed him as a member of the Upper House and also on his return in Parliament.

Kumar took the oath in Hindi in the presence of Union Minister J P Nadda, who is also leader of the house, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Panchayati Raj Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ram Nath Thakur and Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal.

Bihar deputy chief minister Samrat Chaudhary was also present at the oath-taking.

JD(U) leader and party's working president Sanjay Kumar Jha, Congress chief whip in Rajya Sabha Jairam Ramesh, besides BJP MP and former union

minister Rajiv Pratap Rudy and BJP chief whip in Lok Sabha Sanjay Jaiswal, were among those present during the oath-taking.

"Vice President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, administered the oath to Shri Nitish Kumar as an elected Member of Rajya Sabha, from Bihar, at Parliament House today," the Vice President's office said on X, while sharing pictures of the oath-taking.

After the oath-taking, Kumar came out of the new Parliament building and spoke about the time he was a member of the Lok Sabha and sat in the old Parliament building.

As Kumar assumes the Rajya Sabha role, it marks the end of his long two-decade rule in Bihar. Kumar will soon resign as chief minister and the NDA is likely to elect a new chief minister of Bihar on April 14.

He has already resigned as a member of the State Legislative Council on March 30 after he was elected to Rajya Sabha.

The JD(U) supreme was elected to the Upper House of Parliament on March 16, and he had to quit as an MLC in the 14-day period after his election.

State can't differentiate between serving employees & pensioners on DA: SC

PTI

New Delhi, Apr 10: The Supreme Court on Friday held that the State cannot differentiate between serving employees and pensioners when enhancing allowances meant to counter inflation.

In a significant judgment upholding the right to equality for retirees, a bench comprising Justice Manoj Misra and Justice Prasanna B Varale dismissed appeals filed by the State of Kerala and the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and affirmed that inflation hits both serving and retired employees with "equal force". "Equality is a dynamic concept with many aspects and dimensions, and it cannot be cribbed, cabined and confined within traditional and doctrinaire limits. From a positivistic point of view, equality is antithetic to arbitrariness. In fact, equality and arbitrariness are sworn enemies; one belongs to the rule of law in a republic while the other, to the whim and caprice of an absolute monarch," Justice Mishra, who authored the judgement, said.

Referring to Article 14 (right to equality) of the Constitution, the verdict said it forbids class legislation but permits reasonable classification which must satisfy twin tests.

As per the twin tests, the classification must be founded on an intelligible differentia that distinguishes those that are grouped together from others, and second "that differentia must have rational nexus with the object sought to be achieved by the Act", it added.

The bench said the judgments cited by KSRTC do not deal with a situation where there is no dispute as regards entitlement to the benefit in question.

"Here, the retired employees are not only entitled to pension but also dearness relief, which is revisable from time to time, based on inflation. Thus, the issue is not of entitlement to the benefit but of differential rates at which those benefits are provided, dependent on whether the recipient is a serving or a retired employee," it said.

"When those benefits serve a common purpose and are linked to inflation, and inflationary pressures do not discriminate between a serving employee and a pensioner, fixing different rates of enhancement of dearness allowance and dearness relief have no rational nexus to the object sought to be achieved and is clearly discriminatory as well as arbitrary," the bench said.

It said no doubt, financial crunch might be a guiding factor to defer disbursement of certain benefits or may justify separate dates for implementation of beneficial schemes.

"But once a decision is taken to provide certain allowances as also to increase them, based on inflation, fixing a higher rate of increase for the ones who are serving than the ones who have retired, would be arbitrary and violative of Article 14..." it said.

Hopeful that amendments to Women Reservation Act will be approved unanimously: Speaker Birla

PTI

Panaji, Apr 10: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Friday said he was hopeful that the Women Reservation Act will be amended in the coming special sittings of the Parliament unanimously with the cooperation of all political parties.

Birla also said that use of unparliamentary words and showing of banners and placards are not allowed within the House and within the Parliament complex; and the language used should be in conformity with parliamentary traditions.

Asked about the amendments to the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, more commonly known as Women Reservation Act, the speaker said the law was the first to be passed in the new Parliament in September 2023 when all political parties had supported it and it was passed unanimously.

"Therefore, I am hopeful that the amendments to the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' would be done in the Parliament with everyone's cooperation unanimously," he said in response to a question by PTI at a press conference.

The Budget Session of Parliament has been extended and a special three-day sitting of the House has been convened between April 16 to 18.

The Women Reservation Act will ensure an increase in the number of



Lok Sabha seats to 816, of which 273 will be reserved for women.

The provision to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies was brought by amending the Constitution in 2023, but it will come into effect after the completion of the delimitation exercise on the basis of 2027 Census. It is expected to come into force only in 2034 if the present law remains as it is and, therefore, the need to amend it for making it enforceable from 2029 general elections.

On the use of unparliamentary language on certain occasions in Parliament, the Speaker said the language used should always be in conformity with parliamentary traditions.

"Furthermore, banners and posters must

not be brought inside. We have issued a bulletin for this, and I have personally appealed to all Members within Parliament, as well as to all political parties. It was discussed at the Business Advisory Committee meetings too that the use of banners, placards, unparliamentary language, and sloganeering is not befitting of a democracy," he said.

Birla said everyone has expressed their agreement on this point and efforts are being made to strictly curb the use of unparliamentary language, as well as the practice of bringing banners and posters into the House.

On the questions by some quarters about the timing of the three-day special sittings, the speaker said everyone is entitled to express their

views but the responsibility for proposing the dates of a session rests with the government.

"The government has proposed the agenda for the April 16, 17 and 18th. Subsequently, we will convene a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee, which comprises representatives from all political parties, to engage in deliberations. This is the established procedure and this has been going on for a long time," he said.

Earlier, while delivering the valedictory address at the conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region West Zone (Zone VII) here, the speaker said greater participation of women would bring greater sensitivity to governance, making policymaking more people-centric and better aligned with societal needs.

He said women are already playing leadership roles across sectors and are contributing a fresh and constructive perspective to governance and development.

Highlighting the role of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence in strengthening public communication, Birla observed that these advancements are enabling greater citizen engagement in the democratic process. He underlined that increased public participation leads to more

meaningful and effective policymaking and at the same time, he cautioned that technology should not be used in ways that waste the valuable time of young people, but rather serve as a tool to enhance their skills and capacities.

He said the three states of CPA Zone VII -- Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Goa -- have placed strong emphasis on the development of coastal regions.

Birla highlighted that these states have demonstrated successful models of converting challenges into opportunities.

The speaker observed that Goa stands out as one of the world's most attractive tourist destinations, supported by its strong tradition of hospitality, while Gujarat and Maharashtra are also making significant strides in the tourism sector.

Birla informed that a total of 31 legislators shared their views and experiences, offering valuable learning opportunities for all participants.

He noted with pride that both formal and informal exchanges during the Conference facilitated the sharing of innovations and best practices.

He observed a strong emphasis on promoting healthy competition in trade, tourism, and innovation, with participants also focusing on adopting a positive approach to transform challenges into opportunities.

Justice Varma, facing impeachment proceedings, resigns



PTI

New Delhi, Apr 10: Allahabad High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma, facing impeachment proceedings after wads of burnt currency notes were found at his residence here, has submitted his resignation to President Droupadi Murmu, sources said on Friday.

"Your Excellency, While I do not propose to burden your august office with the reasons which have constrained me to submit this missive, it is with deep anguish that I hereby tender my resignation from the office of Judge of the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Allahabad, with immediate effect. It has been an honour to serve in this office," the resignation letter sent to the President on April 9 said.

Justice Varma was repatriated from the Delhi High Court to the Allahabad High Court after burnt wads of currency notes were found at his official residence in New Delhi on March 14 last year.

India defers power plant maintenance to add 10 GW capacity for summer peak demand

PTI

New Delhi, Apr 10: India will defer maintenance shutdowns at thermal power plants and operationalise additional capacity to ensure around 10,000 MW of extra supply during peak summer demand, the Ministry of Power said on Friday, as it moved to strengthen short-term electricity availability amid global uncertainty.

Power plants have to annual take a shutdown for maintenance and repair of wear-and-tear in the machinery but this has been posted to make available electricity to meet peak demand, said Piyush Singh, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Power, at a media briefing.

Silver rebounds Rs 3,800, gold gains Rs 400 amid fragile truce in West Asia

PTI

New Delhi, Apr 10: Silver prices rebounded by Rs 3,800 to Rs 2.47 lakh per kilogram in the national capital on Friday, and gold edged higher to Rs 1.55 lakh per 10 grams as investors weighed fragile geopolitical developments and a weak US dollar.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the white metal climbed by Rs 3,800, or 1.6 per cent, to Rs 2,47,000 per kg (inclusive of all taxes), reversing Thursday's decline of Rs 2,43,200 per kg.

Gold of 99.9 per cent purity also went up by Rs 400 to Rs 1,55,300

per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). The yellow metal had settled at Rs 1,54,900 per 10 grams in the previous market session.

The gains capped a strong week for precious metals, with silver advancing by Rs 10,000, or 4.2 per cent, and gold gaining 3,800, or 2.51 per cent.

"Bullion prices have recovered firmly, supported by cautious diplomatic optimism on the Iran conflict and sustained central bank buying," Renisha Chainani, Head of Research at Augmont, said.

Global bullion prices also moved



higher, with spot gold gaining USD 11.52, or 0.24 per cent, to USD 4,777.17 per ounce, and silver was

trading nearly 1 per cent higher at USD 75.91 per ounce.

"Gold steadied above USD 4,700 per ounce and remained on course for a third consecutive weekly gain, as the US-Iran ceasefire triggered a sharp decline in oil prices and eased concerns over renewed inflation and potential interest rate hikes," Jigar Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst at IndusInd Securities, said.

A softer dollar, which had emerged as the leading safe-haven asset during the crisis, further supported the sentiment, he added.

Meanwhile, geopolitical tensions

continue to linger.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reiterated that operations in Lebanon are not covered under the US-Iran ceasefire, while Washington is expected to host further discussions next week involving Tel Aviv and Beirut aimed at advancing broader truce efforts.

US President Donald Trump also warned Iran over imposing transit fees in the Strait of Hormuz, adding to uncertainty in energy markets.

Chainani said the upside for gold remains capped amid fragile ceasefire conditions.

US, Iran prepare for ceasefire talks as Netanyahu authorises negotiations with Lebanon

Dubai, Apr 10: Negotiators from Iran and the US prepared for high-level talks with their ceasefire still shaky on Friday, as Israel and Hezbollah traded fire and Tehran maintained its stranglehold on the Strait of Hormuz.

There remain many issues that could derail the truce — as well as negotiations for a broader deal to permanently end the war.

Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency, close to the Revolutionary Guard, claimed that talks set for Saturday wouldn't happen unless Israel stopped its attacks in Lebanon. And US President Donald Trump complained that Iran was "doing a very poor job" by not allowing the free flow of ships through the strait, through which 20 per cent of the world's traded oil once passed.

Kuwait, meanwhile, said it faced a drone attack Thursday night that it blamed on Iran and its militia allies in the region. Though Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard denied launching any assault, it has carried out attacks across the Mideast in the past that it did not claim.

And yet, preparations for the talks between Iran and the US appeared to be moving forward, with US Vice President JD Vance making his way to Pakistan from Washington. Negotiations between Israel and Lebanon, meanwhile, are expected to begin next week in Washington, according to a US official and a person familiar with the plans, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the delicacy of the matter.

Boarding Air Force Two on his way to Pakistan, Vance said he believes negotiation with Iran will be "positive." "We're looking



forward to the negotiation. I think it's gonna be positive. We'll, of course, see," Vance said.

He cited Trump in saying, "If the Iranians are willing to negotiate in good faith, we're certainly willing to extend the open hand."

But he added, "If they're gonna try and play us, then they're gonna find that the negotiating team is not that receptive."

Israel and Lebanon will have direct negotiations

Israel's insistence that the ceasefire in Iran does not include a pause in its fighting with Hezbollah, which joined the war in support of its backer, Iran, has threatened to scupper the deal.

The day the truce was announced, Israel pounded Beirut with airstrikes, killing more than 300 people, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry. It was the deadliest day in the country since the war began Feb. 28.

Trump said Thursday that he has asked Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to dial back the strikes. Early Friday, Israel's military said it hit approximately 10 launchers in Lebanon that had

fired rockets toward northern Israel a day earlier.

Iran's parliament speaker, Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, warned Thursday that continued Israeli attacks on Hezbollah would bring "explicit costs and STRONG responses."

Netanyahu, meanwhile, said that he authorised the negotiations with Lebanon "as soon as possible" with the aim of disarming Hezbollah militants and establishing relations between the neighbours, which have technically been at war since Israel was established in 1948. The Lebanese government had not responded as of early afternoon Friday. The timing and location of the talks were first reported by Axios.

In a first statement since Israel announced direct negotiations with Lebanon, Hezbollah chief Naim Kassem urged Lebanese officials to stop offering "free concessions" but did not take a clear stance on the talks.

Two days after Israel's intense barrage, people sifted through the wreckage of their homes, trying to salvage whatever furniture and

personal mementoes they could find in the rubble. Some expressed gratitude that they lost only their homes and belongings, not their loved ones, as others had.

"There is no substitute for family," said Wissam Tabila, 35. "Everything else can be replaced."

The Strait of Hormuz remains a sticking point

Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz has sent oil prices skyrocketing, driven stocks down and roiled the world economy. Tehran's control over the waterway has proved to be its biggest strategic advantage in the war.

The spot price of Brent crude, the international standard, was around USD 97 Friday, up more than 30 per cent since the war started.

Before the conflict, over 100 ships passed through the strait each day — many carrying oil to Asia. With the ceasefire in place, only 12 have been recorded passing through.

Underscoring the precarious situation, a Botswana-flagged liquefied natural gas tanker attempted to travel out of the Persian Gulf via a route ordered by the Revolutionary Guard, but suddenly turned around early Friday, ship-tracking data showed.

The head of the United Arab Emirates' major oil company, Sultan al-Jaber, said some 230 ships loaded with oil were waiting to get through the strait and must be allowed "to navigate this corridor without condition."

Trump complained about that situation, writing on his social media platform: "Iran is doing a very poor job, dishonourable some would say, of allowing Oil to go through the Strait of Hormuz."

"That is not the agreement we have!" Trump wrote of the trickle of ships Iran has allowed to pass.

India voices concern over civilian casualties in Lebanon

New Delhi, Apr 10: India on Friday voiced "deep concern" over reports of mounting civilian casualties in Lebanon.

New Delhi's comments came amid increasing Israeli strikes on Lebanon that triggered uncertainty over the stability of a precarious US-Iran ceasefire agreement. Tehran has been maintaining that Lebanon has been covered under the deal while the US and Israel disputed the Iranian assertion.

At least 300 people were killed in Israeli air strikes on Lebanon on Wednesday, according to Lebanese authorities.

"We are deeply concerned by reports of a large number of civilian casualties in Lebanon," external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at a media briefing.

"As a troop contributing

country to the UNIFIL (UN Interim Force in Lebanon) that is invested in Lebanon's peace and security, the direction of events is very disturbing," he said. "India has always emphasised the protection of civilians as the foremost priority. Observing international law, and respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity of states is essential," he added.

The external affairs ministry spokesperson said India continued to reach out to the countries in the Gulf region and referred to the ongoing visit of Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri to Qatar.

Jaiswal also noted the upcoming visit of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to the United Arab Emirates that is expected to focus on exchanging views on the West Asia conflict. India on Thursday had welcomed the two-week ceasefire between

the US and Iran and called for unimpeded freedom of navigation and flow of commerce through the Strait of Hormuz while hoping that lasting peace will return to West Asia.

On the precarious security situation in Lebanon, Jaiswal said Indian embassy there remained in close touch with the Indian community for its safety and security.

Earlier this month, India condemned the deadly attacks on UN peacekeepers in southern Lebanon and called for the "inviolability" of the mission.

The reaction had come following the deaths of two Indonesian 'Blue Helmets' that has sparked global concerns over the safety of UN peacekeepers in the conflict zone.

The fatalities occurred against the backdrop of a sharp escalation in cross-border violence between the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and Hezbollah.

Foreign Secy Misri meets senior White House officials, NSC leadership

Washington, Apr 10: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri held productive discussions with senior White House officials and the National Security Council leadership on issues of mutual strategic interest and recent developments in West Asia, the Indian embassy here said on Friday.

Misri's meetings at the White House come as the US and Iran have agreed to a two-week ceasefire for the war that broke out on February 28.

A delegation led by Vice President JD Vance is headed to Pakistan for negotiations with the Iranian leadership on Saturday to end the war.

The Foreign Secretary's discussions also focused on the Indian Ocean Strategic Venture, an initiative announced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington in February last year.

"Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri had productive discussions with senior White House officials. He met NSC leadership and exchanged views on issues of mutual strategic interest, including the Indian Ocean Strategic Venture and recent developments in West Asia," the Indian embassy said in a social media post.

Indian Ocean Strategic Venture seeks to emerge as a whole-of-government forum to advance coordinated investments in economic connectivity and commerce in the Indian Ocean.

Misri arrived here late Tuesday night on a three-day visit.

He has held meetings with senior officials from the Department of Defence, Commerce and State.

Misri also met Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Thursday.

Efficient delivery, legacy planning discussed as Mandaviya meets CS team on 2030 CWG



New Delhi, Apr 10: Time-lines to ensure "efficient delivery" and legacy planning dominated the discussions as Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya met Commonwealth Sport President Donald Rukare here on Friday and reaffirmed India's commitment to a sustainable Commonwealth Games in 2030. The Games will be held in Ahmedabad and the Commonwealth Sport delegation headed by Rukare had landed here after reviewing the planning and preparation in the host city.

"India is ready to welcome the sporting world, with all its color and cultural vibrancy. The centenary celebrations of the Commonwealth would be a moment to remember," Mandaviya stated in a press release issued by the Sports Ministry. "There is a lot of enthusiasm in the country to host these games successfully, and India is ready to welcome the sporting world, with all its color and cultural vibrancy. The centenary celebrations of the Commonwealth would be a moment to remember," he added. India last hosted the Games back in 2010 in Delhi.

The Commonwealth Sport delegation, led by Rukare, included CEO Katie Sadleir, Director of Games and Assurance Darren Hall, Director of Sport Ann-Louise Morgan, and major events expert Neil Carney.

Kumble urges patience on Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's India call-up

Mumbai, Apr 10: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's record-breaking IPL exploits have triggered calls for an early India cap but spin legend Anil Kumble has advised caution, stressing that the young prodigy's journey should not be rushed.

Speaking on a range of issues during an interaction here on Friday, Kumble noted that while exceptional talent can make it difficult to hold a player back, early expectations can also place unnecessary pressure on a young athlete.

"The player himself probably



answers that question," Kumble said, referring to the debate around fast-tracking versus gradual

progression. He drew parallels with the great Sachin Tendulkar, who

made an undeniable case for selection as a teenager with consistent performances back in the late 1980s.

Kumble acknowledged that Sooryavanshi has shown promising signs, adding that the 15-year-old boy is "doing all the right things."

"At this point in time, it's a bit of pressure on a young lad to say, 'I want you to play for India in two months' time,'" he said.

Highlighting the advantage of youth, the former India captain pointed out that time is firmly on Sooryavanshi's side.

"Even 10 years later, he's going to be 25," he remarked.

Ahmedabad is ready for a grand show: Commonwealth Sport president Rukare

New Delhi, Apr 10: Commonwealth Sport (CS) president Donald Rukare on Friday expressed satisfaction at India's preparedness for the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad, saying the country "is ready for a grand show" in four years' time.

A three-member team of Rukare, CEO Katie Sadleir and Director of Games Darren Hall undertook a comprehensive multi-city visit from April 8-10, reviewing key venues and infrastructure across Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Vadodara and Ekta Nagar in Gujarat.

The visit included inspections of competition venues such as Mahatma Mandir, Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, Narendra Modi Stadium and IIT Gandhinagar, as well as meetings with senior government officials and city authorities in Gujarat.

"From what we saw yesterday and the day before, it's very clear that the facilities that are available, India is ready to put on the show. So we leave with a sense of confidence," Rukare said in an interaction with the media.

"When the athletes come here in 2030, they are going to have a truly awesome time, not only in terms of the sporting programme, but also the cultural side of it has been amazing so far."

The high-level delegation did not, however, give a clear picture



of the sports programme of the 2030 CWG, through Rukare said there would be 16-17 sports in the roster. He said the full sports programme will be known in the first half of 2027.

"We're working with the city, the country, our counterparts at Commonwealth Games India (IOA), we're beginning to co-create the sports programme. It's very clear that the facilities that are available, Ahmedabad can host a wide range of events."

"Under our reset and refresh agenda, we believe in co-creating a sporting programme, a facility itinerary, which is not predicated primarily on the Games, but predicated on what is the plan, the vision of the city, of the country." Athletics and para athletics, swimming and para swimming, table tennis and para table tennis, bowls and para bowls, weightlifting and

para powerlifting, artistic gymnastics, netball and boxing are the confirmed disciplines.

T20 cricket and hockey are expected to be included in the roster given the popularity of the two sports in the country, but the visiting team as well as the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) officials were non-committal.

"Very soon he (Rukare) will announce it. Think positively," said IOA president PT Usha when asked if India has proposed T20 cricket.

Two sports out of hockey, rugby sevens and T20 cricket are mandatory in the CWG.

Asked if the 2030 CWG will be a multi-city event, Rukare said, "This is something that we are assessing, there are a number of important building blocks that need to be put in place in terms of the local organizing company, looking at a wide range.

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Movies Schedule
Saturday, 11th April

PROJECT HAIL MARY (U/A)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
03:25 PM

DACOIT (U/A)
HINDI - 06:35 PM

DHURANDHAR THE REVENGE (A)
HINDI - 11:00 AM, 12:20 PM, 04:45 PM
HINDI ATMOS - 02:15 PM, 06:40 PM

VAAZHA-II-BIOPIC OF BILLION BROS (U/A)
MALAYALAM WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
11:00AM

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