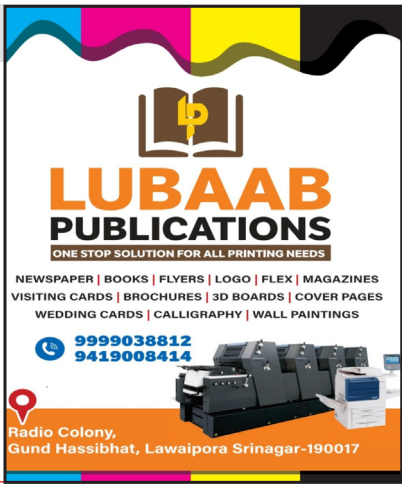


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HEADLINES
TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



Unity Is India's Enduring Power: LG Sinha Unveils Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Flag Point in Jammu

Tricolour Hoisted to Mark 82 Years of Netaji's Historic Declaration of Freedom

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 30: Emphasising that unity remains India's greatest strength and the cornerstone of national success, Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said the ideals of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose continue to guide the country's journey towards a strong, self-reliant and inclusive future.

The Lieutenant Governor hoisted the Tricolour and inaugurated the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Flag Point at JDA Park, Ram Vihar,



Jammu, commemorating the 82nd anniversary of Netaji's historic hoisting of the National Flag on Indian soil at Port Blair in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on December 30, 1943.

Recalling the defining moment when Netaji declared Port Blair free from British rule, LG Sinha said the event ignited a nationwide resolve for independence and became a symbol of courage, sacrifice and self-belief. He said the newly inaugurated Flag Point stands as a tribute to Netaji's glorious

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LG unveils J&K Bank Calendar - 2026

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 30: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Tuesday unveiled J&K Bank's Wall and Table Calendars for the year 2026, at Lok Bhavan.

The Wall Calendar for 2026 is themed "Rivers of J&K and Ladakh", while the Table Calendar

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Mission-Mode Reforms Key to Realising Viksit Bharat by 2047: PM Modi

Urges World-Class Capabilities, Deeper Global Integration and AI-led Growth

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, DEC 30: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called for mission-mode reforms across sectors to sustain long-term economic growth and realise the vision of a developed India by 2047, stressing that policymaking and budgeting must remain firmly anchored to this national goal.

Interacting with a group of eminent economists and domain experts at NITI Aayog ahead of the Union Budget 2026-27, the Prime Minister underlined the need for world-class capabilities, structural transformation

● Turn on Page 2

Dep'ts fully Prepared for Snow response: Div Com Kashmir

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 30: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg on Tuesday said that all departments are fully prepared to deal with the weather situation expected from this evening.

Speaking to reporters, Garg said that a weather advisory issued by the Meteorological Department has already been shared widely across Kashmir. "We need to be very cautious from today evening till tomorrow," he said, urging people to remain alert.

Garg said the snowfall season is also bringing positive signs for the region, especially for tourism. "This is a good thing for Kashmir because we are all waiting for the snow season," he said.

He added that tourist arrivals have already shown a major rise compared to last week's snowfall. "Tourist footfall is much bigger than last week's snow season, and it is increasing,"

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Snowbound New Year: Tourists Rush to Kashmir's Hill Resorts as Fresh Snowfall Looms

Moderate Snow in Upper Reaches Draws Crowds to Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg, IMD Predicts Heavier Spells Around 31st Dec - 1st Jan

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DEC 30: As Kashmir braces for fresh snowfall around the New Year, tourists have begun pouring into the Valley's famed hill stations, turning Gulmarg, Pahalgam and other high-altitude destinations into winter hotspots ahead of the celebrations.

A weak Western Disturbance is currently influencing weather conditions across the region, triggering light rain and snowfall in parts of north Kashmir. Officials said upper



reaches, including Gulmarg, Sadhna Top and the Tulail Valley, have already received light to moderate snowfall, adding to the festive charm and drawing visitors keen on experiencing a white New Year.

Authorities reported heavy vehicular movement on key routes leading to tourist hubs, with increased traffic observed on roads connecting Srinagar to Baramulla and Anantnag.

● Turn on Page 2

2025; Valley in Mourning: Terror, Shelling and Floods Turn Year Into Tears

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, DEC 30: The year 2025 etched itself into Jammu and Kashmir's collective memory as one of bloodshed, devastation and shattered hopes, pushing the Union Territory into a prolonged spell of grief and uncertainty.

What began with renewed political optimism soon spiralled into despair.

The Omar Abdullah-led elected government had vigorously renewed its demands. However that momentum was brutally halted by the April 22 terror attack at Pahalgam's picturesque Baisaran meadows.

In a chilling assault, terrorists gunned down 26 people 25 tourists and a local ponywalla targeting civilians in one of

● Turn on Page 2

Snowfall, Confidence Revive Kashmir Tourism

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 30: Kashmir's tourism sector is steadily finding its feet again, with snowfall, restored full confidence and sustained efforts by stakeholders bringing visitors back to the Valley. Director of Tourism, Kashmir, Syed Qamar Sajad (JKAS) said on Tuesday.

Speaking to Kashmir News Service (KNS), in Gulmarg, Sajad said tourist footfall had returned to near-normal levels after a brief setback earlier this year, offering relief to thousands of families whose livelihoods depend on tourism.

"There was a dip, no doubt, but the confidence rebuilding over the past six months has worked. Tourists have returned, and the trend is encouraging," he said, as per KNS.

Sajad credited the revival to coordinated

● Turn on Page 2

Kupwara Court Grants Bail to Accused Cops

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNS

KUPWARA, DEC 30: The Court of the Principal District and Sessions Judge, Kupwara, on Monday granted bail to several accused persons lodged in Sub Jail Humhama in connection

with a Central Bureau of Investigation case registered under FIR No. RC 482025S0008.

As per the court order issued on December 30, 2025, bail has been granted in favour of Aijaz Ahmad

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CBJ records 67 new FIRs, resolves 1,186 complaints in 2025

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 30: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW)

Jammu of Crime Branch J&K has registered a landmark performance in 2025 by taking firm and decisive action against

a wide range of economic offences across the Jammu zone by registering 67 new FIRs,

● Turn on Page 2

CS Reviews DA-JGUA Tribal Welfare Initiatives

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 30: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today conducted a comprehensive review of the implementation of welfare initiatives being undertaken by the Tribal Affairs Department under the Dharti Aaba Janatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA) for the upliftment of the tribal population across J&K.

The review meeting besides Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department; was also attended by Managing Director, JKRLM; Director General, Codes; Director General, Resources; Deputy Director General, NIC; Director, Tribal Affairs Department (TAD), besides other concerned senior officers.

Deputy Commissioners from all districts participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

During the review, the Chief Secretary impressed upon

● Turn on Page 2

CS Reviews Eco-Tourism, MAP Prospects in J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 30: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired two separate high-level meetings to review the initiatives undertaken for promotion of eco-tourism by the Forest Department and the commercial cultivation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP) across J&K.

The meeting on eco-tourism was attended by the Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF); Chief Wildlife Warden; Managing

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Unity Is India's.....

contribution to the freedom struggle and his enduring relevance in contemporary India.

Paying homage to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the Lieutenant Governor said the powerful slogan "Jai Hind" remains a living symbol of national valour. "It once united the Azad Hind Fauj and continues to inspire 140 crore Indians with the spirit of patriotism and collective resolve," he said.

"Netaji's patriotism was unparalleled. He firmly believed that a nation fragmented by divisions cannot build a lasting future. His message was clear unity is the foundation upon which a strong and prosperous India can be built," LG Sinha observed.

Highlighting Netaji's far-sighted vision, the Lieutenant Governor said his advocacy for Swaraj, emphasis on youth and women empowerment, and progressive economic thinking focused on industrialisation and promotion of small-scale industries laid the groundwork for a self-reliant India.

LG Sinha expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for ensuring that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's legacy receives due recognition and its rightful place in India's historical narrative.

Describing Jammu as a symbol of India's national unity and an unbroken cultural continuum, the Lieutenant Governor said the steadfast spirit of its people has kept alive the aspiration of complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir through generations.

"Our unity is our strength and is crucial for success. We must remain united and safeguard our shared heritage and values," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the Jammu Municipal Corporation, Jammu Development Authority, Housing and Urban Development Department, and District Administration for their coordinated efforts in honouring Netaji's legacy. He also called for regular commemorative events to be held on December 30 every year.

On the occasion, LG Sinha visited a photo gallery chronicling Netaji's life and witnessed the screening of a documentary highlighting his leadership and pivotal role in India's freedom movement.

The ceremony was attended by Shri Sham Lal Sharma and Shri Arvind Gupta, MLAs; Ms Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary Housing and Urban Development Department; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu Zone; Shri Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range; Dr Devansh Yadav, Municipal Commissioner Jammu; Dr Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; Shri Rupesh Kumar, Vice Chairman JDA, senior civil and police officials, Padma Shri Prof Vishwamurti Shastri, Padma Shri Dr S.P. Varma, prominent citizens and people from diverse walks of life.

LG unveils.....

showcases the region's "Historic Places", reflecting the diversity of human heritage and natural wonders of UT of Jammu & Kashmir and UT of Ladakh.

The Lieutenant Governor appreciated the J&K Bank for selecting unique themes which will raise awareness about preserving ancient monuments, archaeological sites and traditions for future generations. He said society must come together to safeguard these priceless treasures. The Lieutenant Governor also emphasised on protecting earth's vital ecosystems. He said rivers in J&K UT are source of fresh water and they are also ensuring food security and supporting biodiversity conservation. The Lieutenant Governor called for community efforts to protect rivers and water bodies to build resilience against climate impacts in the future.

Shri Amitava Chatterjee, Managing Director and CEO, Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited briefed that the 2026 edition of J&K Bank's calendars honour the rivers that sustain life across the regions and the historic sites that define their shared legacy.

The calendar also features important public welfare initiatives such as Mission YUVA and PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, alongside J&K Bank's key products including Housing Loan, Car Loan, Personal Consumption Loan and Online Account Opening, reinforcing the Bank's role as a development partner and facilitator of people's aspirations.

Shri Santosh D.Vaidya, Principal Secretary, Finance Department; Dr. Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor; Shri Sudhir Gupta, Executive Director, Shri Sunit Kumar and Shri Imtiaz Ahmad, Chief General Managers J&K Bank attended the unveiling ceremony.

Mission-Mode.....

and stronger global integration. The interaction was held on the theme "Aatmanirbharta and Structural Transformation: Agenda for Viksit Bharat."

PM Modi said India must continue to position itself as a global hub for talent, innovation and markets, noting that Viksit Bharat has evolved beyond a government programme into a mass national aspiration embraced by citizens across the country.

Economists shared strategic inputs on boosting productivity, competitiveness and efficiency across manufacturing and services, while highlighting that the sweeping cross-sector reforms undertaken in 2025, and their consolidation in the year ahead, would further strengthen India's growth fundamentals and unlock new opportunities.

The discussion focused on accelerating structural reforms through higher household savings, robust infrastructure creation, and rapid adoption of cutting-edge technologies, including the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Participants also emphasised the continued expansion of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) as a key driver of inclusive and scalable growth.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Principal Secretaries to the Prime Minister P K Mishra and Shaktikanta Das, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery, Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran, NITI Aayog CEO B V R Subrahmanyam, and senior members of the Aayog attended the meeting.

Several noted economists and experts, including

Shankar Acharya, Ashok K Bhattacharya, N R Bhanu-murthy, Ashima Goyal, Dharmakirti Joshi, Pinaki Chakraborty, Monika Halan and Siddhartha Sanyal, were also part of the high-level deliberations.

Depts fully.....

he further said.

On administrative preparedness, the Div Com said that the Integrated Command and Control Centre at the divisional level is working round-the-clock. "Our Integrated Command and Control Centre works 24 hours a day," he said.

He added that public helpline numbers have been widely circulated and every distress call is answered quickly. "All the calls from the public are responded immediately," he said.

At the district level, Div Com said, all Deputy Commissioners have set up control rooms that are also operational 24*7.

Garg further said multiple agencies including PWD, Beacon, National Highways, PMGSY, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, and urban local bodies have already activated and pre-positioned snow clearance machinery. "All executing agencies have activated their machinery so that snow clearance can begin immediately if transport is disrupted," he added.

On essential supplies, the Div Com said that border areas are fully stocked adding that the Food and Civil Supplies Department completed dumping by 30 November in all remote and border belts.

Garg also said that LPG stocks have also been placed at 893 snow-bound stations for the next four months. The Health Department has arranged heating and medicines in all hospitals and health centres, especially in hard-to-reach areas. "Heating and medicines have been made available in difficult areas in all institutions," he said.

He also said that vulnerable patients and pregnant women have been identified and mapped for safety adding that all Deputy Commissioners have been asked to ensure timely relocation wherever needed.

Responding to a question on prohibitory orders and VPN restrictions, the Div Com said that such decisions are taken by DCs after security assessment at their own level. "DCs carry out security reviews of anti-social elements on their own level," he said.

He added that districts like Kupwara, Kulgam and others have issued prohibitory orders where required. "Such decisions are taken in the interest of society so that anti-social elements do not misuse the situation," he added. (KNS)

Snowbound New.....

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness generally cloudy weather from December 30 to January 10, with intermittent rain or snowfall at several places. The most active spell is expected during the night of December 31 to January 1, when light to moderate snowfall may occur across most areas, while higher and extreme upper reaches of north and central Kashmir could receive moderate to heavy snow.

From January 2 onwards, weather conditions are expected to turn partly to generally cloudy, with isolated spells of light rain or snow. The IMD has also forecast partly cloudy skies during January 3-5 and January 7-8, while isolated light snowfall over higher reaches is possible on January 6.

Cold conditions continue to prevail across the region. On Tuesday, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 1.0°C, Pahalgam -1.2°C, Gulmarg -1.6°C, Kupwara 2.0°C and Awantipora 1.0°C. In Ladakh, temperatures plunged further, with Leh at -8.4°C, Kargil -7.9°C and Nubra Valley at -4.2°C.

Authorities have cautioned about icy road conditions in high-altitude areas and reduced visibility due to fog. Travelers have been advised to carry adequate winter gear, drive carefully, and stay updated with official weather advisories as the Valley prepares to welcome the New Year under cold and snowy conditions.

2025; Valley.....

the most horrific attacks in recent memory. Survivors later alleged the gunmen identified non-Muslims before opening fire, a claim that sent shockwaves across the nation. The carnage was widely condemned, triggering unprecedented spontaneous protests across the Valley. For the first time in 35 years, Kashmiris rose en masse to declare: "Not in my name."

India responded with cross-border strikes on May 7, avenging the massacre. The retaliation triggered intense shelling from Pakistan along the Line of Control, plunging border districts into fear and destruction. Poonch, Rajouri, Kupwara and Baramulla suffered heavily, with 20 civilians killed and over 2,000 structures damaged, including dozens of schools.

On July 28, security forces announced the elimination of those behind the Pahalgam attack during Operation Mahadev in the Dachigam forests, bringing a measure of justice but little relief from the year's accumulating trauma.

Before the wounds could heal, nature unleashed fresh fury. On August 14, a cloudburst in Kishtwar claimed over 50 lives, while flash floods battered vast areas of Jammu and the Kashmir Valley. Crops were destroyed, homes inundated, and infrastructure crippled. Jammu was hit especially hard as the Tawi River flooded for the first time in more than a decade.

The deluge also tore apart stretches of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, severing Kashmir's only all-weather road link with the rest of the country for weeks, compounding economic losses and logistical chaos.

Adding to the sense of shock, security agencies exposed a "white-collar terror" network involving highly educated professionals. In November, several doctors were arrested in coordinated raids across Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Massive quantities of explosives were recovered from Faridabad, while weapons and incriminating material were seized from a medical college hostel in Anantnag.

The case turned deadlier on November 10 when

one of the accused, Dr Umar Nabi, was killed in a car blast near Delhi's Red Fort Metro Station. The explosion killed 10 people and injured many others. Days later, disaster struck again when seized explosives stored at Nowgam police station in Srinagar detonated, killing nine people and ripping through the facility.

The relentless violence and natural disasters pushed the Union Territory into a severe financial strain. Tourism — Kashmir's economic lifeline — collapsed after a promising start to the year. The Pahalgam attack, heightened India-Pakistan tensions and the closure of nearly 50 tourist destinations on security grounds emptied hotels and houseboats.

Although most tourist spots have since reopened, footfall remains sparse, and the sector continues to struggle.

Horticulture, another key pillar of the economy, also suffered when the flood-hit highway closed during the peak apple harvest season. Emergency rail transport arranged by the Union Ministry of Railways helped avert a complete disaster by ensuring apples reached markets across India.

A rare glimmer of hope emerged with the launch of the Vande Bharat train service, directly linking Kashmir to the rest of the country. The rail link reduced travel time and costs and proved critical in transporting essential supplies and heavy equipment, offering a small but significant lifeline in a year otherwise defined by pain.

As the year ends, Jammu and Kashmir stands battered by terror, shelling and floods — resilient yet wounded, praying that the coming days bring peace, stability and a break from the cycle of tragedy.

Snowfall, Confidence.....

efforts by the tourism department, hoteliers, transporters and service providers, coupled with improved perceptions about safety and stability. He said Kashmir's relationship with tourism was not seasonal or short-term.

"This is not a one- or two-year association. People here have longstanding bonds with visitors from across the country and abroad, and that trust does not disappear easily," he added.

Snowfall, he said, played a quiet but decisive role in lifting sentiment. As fresh snow blanketed Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg, tourists who were earlier hesitant decided to travel.

"Nature has been kind. The Valley looks festive, almost celebratory, and people did not want to miss this moment," Sajad said, noting that winter tourism remains a major draw.

Addressing concerns over changing snowfall patterns and global warming, the tourism director said the department was conscious of its environmental responsibility.

He referred to a recent plantation drive launched during a visit by the chief minister to Gulmarg, under which around 60,000 trees are to be planted.

"As stakeholders, our role is to protect the environment. We will make every effort to strengthen green initiatives and keep destinations clean," he said.

With the New Year around the corner, Sajad expressed hope that 2026 would bring stability and prosperity to the region.

"December has shown us a positive sign. I hope the coming year carries this message forward — for tourism, for employment and for people who have endured difficult months," he said.

He underlined the scale of livelihoods linked to tourism, pointing to areas like Gulmarg where hundreds of service providers depend on daily footfall. "This industry does not push people towards unemployment. It creates opportunities, dignity of work and hope, especially for young people," Sajad said.

On data, he said while detailed figures were still being compiled, the overall trend since early December showed a sharp rise in arrivals. "The footfall we had before the incident has come back. We are on the track of normalcy," he said.

Inviting tourists from India and abroad, Sajad urged them to experience Kashmir first-hand. "Come and see for yourself Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg, Mughal Gardens. What is open today is more than enough to offer a complete experience," he said, adding that decisions on reopening other destinations would be taken by the government keeping security as the top priority.

For many in the Valley, the return of tourists amid falling snow is more than an economic indicator, it is a sign of reassurance. "Every visitor who leaves happy becomes an ambassador for Kashmir," Sajad said, "and that is how healing quietly begins." (KNS).

Kupwara Court.....

Naik of Pulwama, Riyaz Ahmad Mir of Kupwara, Jahangeer Ahmad Beigh of Rationpora Kralpora, Mohammad Younis Khan of Gugjarati Laspora Sogam, Shakir Hussain Khoja of Chamkot Karnah, Tanveer Ahmad Malla of Wangipora Payeen Sumbal Bandipora, Altaf Hussain Bhat of Shalgund Lalpora and Shahnawaz Ahmad Deedad of Goos Kupwara.

The accused are facing charges under Sections 120-B read with 323, 325, 330, 331 and 343 of the Indian Penal Code. The court directed that all accused shall furnish bail and surety bonds amounting to Rs 1 lakh each to the satisfaction of the court.

The bail order lays down several strict conditions, including that none of the accused shall leave the territorial jurisdiction of the court without prior permission. Those holding passports have been directed to deposit the same before the court. The accused have also been barred from intimidating or influencing prosecution witnesses or tampering with evidence in any manner.

The court further directed that the accused must remain present before the trial court on each and every date of hearing unless exempted. It has been made clear that any violation of the bail conditions will be viewed seriously and may result in cancellation of bail.

Following the acceptance of bail and surety bonds, jail authorities have been directed to release the accused from Sub Jail Humhama, provided they are not required in any other case.

The order was formally issued on December 30, 2025. [KNT]

CBJ records.....

resolving 1,186 complaints in 2025

Through meticulous investigations, timely disposal of cases and proactive grievance redressal, the specialised wing dealt with complex frauds, cheating, forgery, job scams and other financial irregularities, emerging as a key pillar in safeguarding transparency and the rule of law in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the year, EOW Jammu successfully disposed of a record number of FIRs involving serious and intricate economic offences and registered 67 new cases, breaking a 25-year record. The monetary value of the disposed cases chargesheeted by the agency in the Hon'ble Courts of Law involved approximately ₹220 crore.

A total of 22 accused persons in different FIRs were arrested, while teams of EOW Jammu were deputed across the Jammu zone and other parts of the country to conduct searches and effect arrests.

These cases required meticulous scrutiny, detailed analysis of documentary and digital evidence, and sustained coordination with various government departments, banks and financial institutions. The timely disposal of these FIRs stands as a testimony to the professionalism, dedication and commitment of the officers and staff of the Wing.

The EOW also played a vital role in public grievance redressal, resolving 1,186 complaints during the year. Each complaint was carefully examined on factual and legal grounds. The Wing investigated numerous land frauds, high-profile cases, impersonation and cheating incidents, visa frauds, misappropriation of government money and misuse of official position by public servants, with particular focus on illegal job consultancies operating in the Jammu zone.

During 2025, organised networks of land brokers, habitual offenders and professional fraudsters involved in systematic economic crimes were identified and booked under law, sending out a strong deterrent message.

Further strengthening investigations, Photo Sections of EOW Jammu established in different districts of the Jammu zone performed a remarkable job by providing comprehensive photographic coverage of crime scenes. These sections covered a total of 3,599 crime scenes in different types of cases registered at various police stations across the Jammu zone, helping secure crucial evidence.

Under the guidance and supervision of Crime Headquarters J&K, the Economic Offences Wing carried out its duties with dedication towards society by effectively preventing and detecting economic crimes and imparting awareness on new criminal laws among the general public.

The EOW expressed gratitude to various government departments, financial institutions, including banks, and the private sector for their continued cooperation and timely sharing of information, which facilitated investigations and effective disposal of cases.

Reiterating its commitment to protecting public trust, EOW Jammu urged citizens to remain vigilant and promptly report economic offences to ensure a transparent and secure economic environment. (KNS)

CS Reviews.....

the Deputy Commissioners to ensure timely completion of all works sanctioned under the DA-JGUA scheme. He took stock of the projects already taken up as well as those yet to be tendered and sought district-wise updates on their progress. Emphasizing strict monitoring, he directed the district administrations to adhere to stipulated timelines to ensure tangible outcomes on the ground. The Chief Secretary also underscored the need to strengthen outreach activities aimed at creating awareness among tribal communities about legal safeguards and entitlements available to them. He advised the Department to formulate a comprehensive plan for a widespread awareness campaign, alongside scaling up the provision of legal aid to members of the tribal community requiring such support.

Reviewing the status of educational infrastructure, the Chief Secretary took note of the establishment and functioning of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) and tribal hostels across the UT. He called for expeditious completion and operationalisation of these institutions to enhance access to quality education for tribal students.

The meeting also witnessed a detailed review of pre-matric and post-matric scholarships being disbursed to tribal students, as well as the constitution and functioning of Forest Rights Act (FRA) cells in each district. The Chief Secretary stressed the early activation of these FRA cells to ensure effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act and timely redressal of issues faced by tribal communities.

The Chief Secretary further reviewed the progress under the Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Vikas Yojana (PMVDVY), particularly the training of tribal members for livelihood enhancement. He directed the Department to expedite the finalisation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NISBUD, Noida, for capacity building and the subsequent establishment of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) across the UT.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Prasanna Ramaswamy G, while briefing the meeting on the implementation of various welfare programmes, informed that over 70 percent expenditure has already been achieved under the DA-JGUA scheme in Jammu and Kashmir. He

presented a detailed district-wise performance under UT Capex, Tribal Sub-Plan, DA-JGUA, and PM-AAGY schemes, besides sharing the physical and financial status of works undertaken under these initiatives. He also apprised the meeting about the progress in completion of EMRS schools and tribal hostels across different districts.

Director, Tribal Affairs Department, Mukhtar Ahmad, informed that out of 28 tribal hostels in the UT, 16 are fully functional, while 12 existing hostels along with five newly constructed ones are in the process of being made operational through deployment of requisite staff.

Managing Director, JKRLM, Subhra Sharma, highlighted the pivotal role of JKRLM in implementing the livelihood and enterprise components of DA-JGUA by leveraging its DAY-NRLM institutional systems and community-based platforms. She stated that JKRLM is acting as the implementing and mentoring agency for DA-JGUA-linked VDVks by mobilising ST beneficiaries, facilitating training, mentoring, and hand-holding support. She added that JKRLM is also focused on strengthening governance and financial management of VDVks, monitoring outcomes, and ensuring long-term sustainability of tribal enterprises.

CS Reviews Eco.....

Director, Forest Development Corporation; Director, Remote Sensing and other senior officers of the Forest Department.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary emphasised the need for a more comprehensive and well-planned approach to eco-tourism development. He advised the department to identify destinations that can offer multiple eco-tourism options, enabling visitors to choose activities based on their interests and the duration of their stay.

The role of the Forest Development Corporation in strengthening eco-tourism infrastructure and services was discussed in detail. The PCCF, Suresh Kumar Gupta, highlighted successful eco-tourism models adopted in other states, including the Ranjit Sagar Lake initiative in Punjab and similar models in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, which were examined for possible replication in J&K.

Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Sheetal Nanda, stated that eco-tourism plans sit at a formative stage, with significant scope for improvement in planning, institutionalisation and execution. She underscored that the initiative aims at sustainable utilisation of the region's rich natural resources while ensuring conservation of forests and wildlife, community participation, livelihood generation and preservation of local culture.

The presentation by the Managing Director, Forest Development Corporation, outlined a structured roadmap for strengthening eco-tourism across identified destinations. The plan includes identification and selection of suitable eco-tourism sites and land parcels, development of environmentally compliant camping infrastructure, and capacity building through creation of Master Trainers for various eco-tourism activities.

The roadmap also envisages development of quality hospitality services through outsourcing and engagement of professional service providers at each eco-tourism site to ensure high standards of service delivery.

It was informed that the eco-tourism initiative is expected to generate substantial employment and livelihood opportunities, particularly for rural and forest-dependent communities. The initiative also aims at promoting high-quality, high-value eco-tourism and establishing a trusted eco-tourism brand, positioning Jammu and Kashmir as a leading sustainable tourism destination.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary also rolled out the mobile application 'e-Bahak', developed by BISAG-N, for online grant of grazing permissions to nomadic pastoral communities of J&K. The trilingual app (Hindi, English and Urdu) is fully digital with an integrated payment gateway, eliminating manual intervention. It also features weather alerts and guidance systems to facilitate ease of use for nomads.

Later, the Chief Secretary chaired another meeting to discuss strategies for promotion of commercial cultivation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants across the districts of the UT.

He called for formulation of a clear-vision plan with well-defined objectives, developed in consultation with market stakeholders such as pharmaceutical companies.

The Chief Secretary directed that commercial cultivation should commence with a few popular and locally suitable MAP varieties, with gradual diversification following the development of scientific packages of practices for additional crops. He emphasised active collaboration with research institutions such as SKUAST and CSIR-IIIM, Jammu. He further stressed the importance of fixing time-bound milestones, developing processing facilities, and ensuring dissemination of advanced knowledge, expertise and infrastructure support from CSIR-IIIM in this sector.

Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Shaileendra Kumar, highlighted that in order to increase the rate of success the farmers' profitability must remain the core objective of the strategy. He advised assessment of the capacity of existing nurseries and the range of products that can be developed through them.

He also called for prioritising MAP varieties unique to J&K to ensure sustainability and competitiveness of the trade, along with robust mechanisms to connect growers directly with buyers.



CS launches online NDC service, releases annual calendar and administrative reforms handbook of ARI & Trainings Deptt

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, DEC 30: In a significant move towards strengthening transparency, efficiency and citizen-centric governance, the Administrative Reforms, Inspections & Trainings Department (ARI & Trainings) today organised a special programme to mark the launch of key administrative initiatives aimed at modernising public service delivery in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The event was presided over by the Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir, Atal Dulloo, and was attended by several Administrative Secretaries and senior officers. On the occasion, the

Chief Secretary formally launched the Online Service for Issuance of No Demand Certificates (NDCs) pertaining to Educational Loans.

The newly introduced digital service has been designed to simplify and expedite the process for retiring government employees seeking No Demand Certificates from the concerned departments. By eliminating manual procedures, the initiative is expected to significantly reduce delays, enhance accountability and ensure greater ease of access for beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of undertaking



further administrative reforms to eliminate redundant and time-consuming processes. He emphasised that the adoption of digital platforms across

departments would substantially reduce turnaround time and improve the overall quality of service delivery to citizens.

During the event, the Chief

Secretary also unveiled the Jammu and Kashmir Government Annual Calendar-2026, which outlines important official events, observances and

milestones for the forthcoming year. The calendar depicts significant events, projects and holidays, presented month-wise for ease of reference.

Further strengthening the reform agenda, the Handbook on Administrative Reforms was also released on the occasion. The handbook serves as a comprehensive reference document highlighting best practices, reform initiatives and procedural improvements undertaken by the government to enhance efficiency, transparency and responsiveness in public administration.

The event as detailed by the Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings Department, Shab-

nam Shah Kamili, highlighted the pivotal role played by the department in driving governance reforms and capacity building across the UT. She elaborated on the utility and impact of the initiative launched and lauded the guidance and leadership of the Chief Secretary in steering the department towards consistent success.

She further stated that the initiatives launched today mark another important milestone in the ongoing efforts of the government to modernise administration, promote good governance and deliver services in a more effective, transparent and citizen-friendly manner.

Dept. of Environmental Sciences, KU celebrates Silver Jubilee with alumni meet

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 30: The Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Kashmir (KU) on Tuesday celebrated its Silver Jubilee – 25 Years of Excellence with a day-long academic and alumni engagement programme themed “Engaging with Peers and Alumni” at the Science Block Auditorium, Main campus.

The event marked a significant milestone in the Department's journey of academic growth, research excellence, and contributions to environmental science at regional, national, and international levels.

Organised as a blend of inaugural session, alumni connect, and commemorative celebrations, the Silver Jubilee event brought together faculty members, former Heads of the Department, alumni, research scholars, and students.

In her presidential address, Vice Chancellor, KU Prof. Nilofer Khan, recalled that the Department of Environmental Sciences began its journey 25 years ago under the patronage of the Centre of Research for Development (CORD) and has since grown into a full-fledged and independent department.

She said that the progress made by the department over the years reflects its strong academic foundation and consistent research output.

The Vice Chancellor emphasised that research carried out at the University must be aligned with societal needs and community engagement, particularly in addressing environmental challenges within the University's catchment areas.

She underlined the need for scientific solutions to pressing issues such as pollution of water bodies, including Dal Lake, and stressed that research in areas like climate change should contribute to policy planning. “As a premier institution of higher learning, the University must engage the community and provide practical, science-based solutions to environmental problems,” she said.

Dean Academic Affairs KU Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada; Dean Research, Prof. Mohammad Sultan Bhat; and Dean, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Prof. Ghulam Jeelani in their remarks emphasised the importance of sharing and pooling academic resources and research infrastructure to make research under the School more integrative, impactful, and purpose-driven. They highlighted the need for collaborative research approaches to address complex environmental challenges.

The Deans further underscored the significance of maintaining strong connections with alumni and organising more such alumni meets. They noted that alumni engagement provides valuable learning opportunities for current students and research scholars, enabling them to benefit from the vast academic, professional, and field experience of former students of the Department.

Earlier, Head, Department of Environmental Sciences and Convener of the event, Dr. Sami Ullah Bhat, in his welcome address, said that the Silver Jubilee celebrations recognise the dedication and achievements of the Department's alumni, who have made significant contributions to scientific research and environmental protection at various levels. He also provided an overview of the Department's key areas of specialisation and highlighted the role of alumni in promoting environmental stewardship.

The event also featured the felicitation of former Heads and faculty members for their contributions to the growth of the department. A documentary film showcasing the 25-year journey of the Department, including its achievements and alumni success stories, was also screened during the event.

Prominent alumni and former Heads shared their experiences and perspectives, adding depth and inspiration to the Silver Jubilee celebrations.

Academy reaffirms commitment to promotion of Pahari language through literary engagement

Writers and intellectuals unite to strengthen Pahari cultural and literary legacy

■ JAMEEL ANSARI

SRINAGAR, DEC 30: The Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, organised a grand literary event at the Conference Hall, Tagore Hall, aimed at promoting and preserving the rich heritage of the Pahari language and literature. The event featured a Mushaira (poetry session) and a short story reading session, drawing participation from prominent writers, poets, and intellectuals associated with Pahari literature.

The programme was presided over by renowned scholar and former Chief Editor (Pahari), Dr. Farooq Anwaar Mirza, while Secretary in Information Technology, Dr. Hafiz Masoodi attended as the Chief Guest. Distinguished guests included Ab. Rashid Lone, Mir Ghulam Haider Nadeem, and Parvez Manoos.

The event commenced with a welcome address by Mohammad Ayub Mir, Head of the Pahari Section, who highlighted the importance of preserving the Pahari language as an invaluable cultural and civilisational heritage. He emphasised that such literary initiatives play a vital role in connecting the younger generation with their linguistic and cultural roots and reaffirmed the Acad-



emy's commitment to promoting regional languages.

The first session featured a Mushaira in which poets from various regions presented their thought-provoking and aesthetically rich poetry. The participating poets included Mohammad Azeem Khan, Ab. Rashid Ghamgeen, Mohammad Shafi Sabir, Gulab-ud-Din Jaza, Rafiq Zakhmi, Abdul Qayoom Raaz, Waqar Danish, Nazir Diljani, Danish Ashfaq Turk, Sajjad Ahmad Qureshi, Mohammad Rafiq Khan

Rafiq, Mashkoor Ahmad Shad, Iftikhar Ahmad Qureshi, Irshad Kamil, Liaqat Abbas, Inam-ul-Haq Bismil, Nishat Afroze Naim, Aqeel Abbasi, Inayatullah Khan, Mohammad Rafi Khari, Farooq Anwar Mirza, Parvez Manoos, Abdul Majeed Hasrat and Mir Haider Nadeem. Their poetic contributions were highly appreciated by the audience.

The second session featured presentations of six short stories in the Pahari language, followed

by meaningful literary discussions. The participating fiction writers included Sheikh Shabbir Ahmad, Shabbir Ahmad Khan Shams, Zubair Qureshi, Raza Javed Qureshi, Mohammad Sadiq Magray, and Mohammad Iqbal Sahil. The short stories reflected social realities, cultural values, and contemporary sensibilities.

In his presidential address, Dr. Farooq Anwaar Mirza emphasised that the Pahari language is not merely a medium of com-

munication but a vital component of the region's cultural identity. He stressed the need to engage the younger generation with their mother tongue to ensure its continuity and growth.

Chief Guest Dr. Hafiz Masoodi, while addressing the gathering, remarked that language is the soul of a nation, and promoting the Pahari language strengthens cultural roots. He lauded the efforts of the Cultural Academy in organising such meaningful literary programs that foster intellectual awareness and cultural harmony.

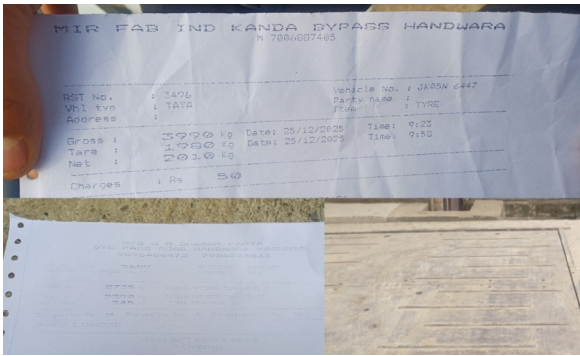
The dignitaries, including Parvez Manoos, Abdul Rashid Lone, and Mir Ghulam Haider, also shared their views, emphasising the need for collective efforts to promote Pahari language and literature. They noted that such literary gatherings not only encourage writers and poets but also inspire the younger generation to engage with literature.

The proceedings were conducted by Mohammad Ayub Mir, Head of the Pahari Section, while the vote of thanks was presented by Research Assistant Abdul Wahid Minhas, who expressed gratitude to all the guests, writers, and participants for making the event a success.

Transporters Allege Overcharging, Violation of Legal Metrology Norms at Dharam Kanta in Handwara

■ DR. AB QAYOOM

HANDWARA, DEC 30: Local transporters have raised serious allegations of overcharging and violation of Legal Metrology Department guidelines against Al Maqbool Dharam Kanta located at Watayan near about half km away from Police Chowki Chogal in north Kashmir's Handwara area. Transporters alleged that while most Dharam Kantas in Handwara and adjoining areas charge between ₹50 to ₹150 per weighing, the Watayan-based Dharam Kanta is forcibly charging ₹300 per turn from truck operators, including load carriers like 407 vehicles, which is nearly double or triple the prevailing rates. A local transporter, Mahraj Ahmad Kaboo, termed the practice “unfortunate and unlawful.” He said that at other Dharam Kantas in Handwara, charges are ₹50 for load carrier 407 vehicles and ₹100 for LP trucks, strictly as per pre-



scribed norms. He further alleged that the Watayan Dharam Kanta neither follows notified rates nor issues digital receipts, which is mandatory under Legal Metrology rules. To verify the complaint, as per the ground report was carried out, which confirmed the allegations. Digital receipts obtained from other Dharam Kantas in Handwara showed significantly lower charges along with proper legal formalities. For instance, Mir Feb Industries Kanta, Bypass Handwara issued Receipt No. 3496 dated 25-12-2025 for vehicle JK05N-6447, charging ₹50 for 201 kg. Similarly,

M/SUDharam Kanta, Bypass Road Handwara issued Receipt No. 5689 dated 01-09-2025 for vehicle JK09-81582, charging ₹50 for 345 kg, both with digital receipts and serial details. In contrast, Al Maqbool Dharam Kanta issued a manual bill (No. 899 dated 28-12-2025) for vehicle JK01T-4218, charging ₹300 for only 60 kg, without any digital receipt—clearly inconsistent with prevailing norms. When contacted, the Dharam Kanta owner, Shri Abid, admitted to charging ₹300 per weighing. He stated that since it is his “personal Dharam Kanta,” he is free to fix rates of his choice,

adding that the charges were earlier ₹100, later increased to ₹200, and now ₹300. He further claimed he is not bound by any authority, a statement that has raised further concerns among transporters. Reacting to the issue, Tehsildar Handwara, Zeeshan Khan, assured strict action against any violation of national rules and Legal Metrology norms. Meanwhile, Assistant Controller Legal Metrology, Shri Mudassar Ahmad, termed the matter “very unfortunate” and confirmed that the owner has violated mandatory guidelines. He assured that a joint inspection by the Legal Metrology Department and Tehsil Administration will be conducted shortly and action will be taken as per law against those found violating government guidelines. Transporters have demanded immediate intervention to ensure uniform rates, transparency, and strict enforcement of Legal Metrology rules to protect them from exploitation.

Blanket Distribution Programme Held at Tehsil Office Khag under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KHAG, BUDGAM, DEC 30: A blanket distribution programme was organized today at the Tehsil Office Khag under the flagship Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative, aimed at providing winter relief and promoting the welfare of women and girl children.

The programme was organized by the SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women under Mission Shakti, District Social Welfare Office Budgam, in coordination with the Tehsil Administration Khag. During the event, blankets were distributed among needy women and families to help them cope with the severe winter conditions.

Speaking on the occasion, officials emphasized that the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme not only focuses on the survival, protection, and education of the girl child but also ensures dignity, care, and social security for women. They added that such welfare-oriented initiatives reflect the government's commitment to inclusive development and community welfare.

Officials from the Social Welfare Department, local administration staff, and beneficiaries were present during the programme. The beneficiaries appreciated the initiative and expressed gratitude for the timely assistance provided during the harsh winter season.

The programme concluded with an interactive session with beneficiaries, during which awareness was also spread about various government schemes related to women empowerment and social welfare.



Javid Ahmad Dar reviews performance of RDD Kashmir; lauds record MGNREGA gains, calls for innovation in Waste & Water Management

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 30: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today conducted a comprehensive review of performance of the Rural Development Department, Kashmir, focusing on flagship schemes and key development initiatives.

The Minister, while chairing the review meeting, issued a series of directions to strengthen the delivery and accountability at the grassroots level. He directed that all pending IAY dues be reviewed and cleared on priority and PMAY-G installments be released expeditiously after due verification to ensure no eligible beneficiary is deprived.

Stressing inclusive growth, the Minister said MG-NREGA works must focus on economically weaker and vulnerable households for maximum livelihood support. He



instructed that local PDD Junior Engineers be engaged for electrical works in DDC and BDC office buildings and the technical sanctions of all approved projects be shared with the concerned ACDs, ACPs and BDOs to ensure transparency. Emphasis was laid on speedy utilisation of SAsCI funds, timely submission of next financial year work plans by 31 March 2026 and prioritisation of water conservation projects, especially in water-scarce and upper reaches.

Regarding the Solid and Liquid Waste Management under SBM-G, the Minister called for incorporating ground-level inputs from BDOs. He underlined that the work plans must be prepared in consultation with the elected representatives, particularly MLAs. He further stressed timely completion of projects with strict adherence to quality standards. He directed the officers to maintain professional conduct, administrative discipline and responsive public interaction while addressing public grievances. During the meeting, Director

RDD Kashmir presented a detailed overview of department's achievements, with special emphasis on MG-NREGA, under which Kashmir Division has delivered exceptional results. Against an annual target of 1.34 crore person-days, the Division has already generated 1.87 crore person-days, marking a significant milestone.

The Minister was informed that over 82 percent e-KYC of job card holders has been completed. Notably, more than 98 percent of MGNREGA wage payments have been released within the stipulated T+8 days timeframe, reflecting improved efficiency in service delivery.

The review also covered progress under PMAY-G 2.0, where a massive survey drive has resulted in 1.91 lakh households being identified as potential beneficiaries for upcoming phase of the programme. Besides, progress under CD and Panchayati Raj works, ADP, Capex and RGSA was also discussed in detail.

MLA Sonawari presides over Women Entrepreneurship, SHG Mela at GDC Sumbal

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 30: District Employment & Counselling Centre, Bandipora, under the Directorate of Employment, J&K, organized a Women Entrepreneurship & SHG Mela at Government Degree College, Sumbal, to promote women entrepreneurship and self-reliance.

The event showcased stalls featuring homemade products, handicrafts, handloom items and start-up initiatives by women entrepreneurs and Self Help Groups from across the district.



DC Bandipora attends Career Counselling Session at Kaloosa

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 30: A career counselling session was organised today, at the Auditorium Hall, Kaloosa, Bandipora by Mindwire Academy Bandipora to guide students towards informed career choices and personal growth.

The session was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib; Registrar, University of Kashmir, and Deputy Superintendent of Police Bandipora, who interacted with students and shared valuable insights from their professional journeys.



Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner encouraged students to be active participants in life, advising them to work hard, be players rather than spectators, and learn from people who have faced setbacks.

Emphasising the importance of vision, she urged students to "dare to dream," stating that dreams and goals are essential to give direction to life and career. She noted that once a dream is firmly absorbed in the mind, half the journey towards success is achieved, and those who frame clear strategies eventually succeed.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner further said that while society offers numerous career suggestions, students must ultimately listen to their own mind and heart, adding that choosing a career is a personal decision and the absence of a defined career path is not the end of life.

The speakers highlighted the need for self-belief, discipline and informed decision-making in an increasingly competitive environment.

The session was well received by students, who actively participated and benefited from the guidance shared by the distinguished guests.

Women Entrepreneurship, SHG Mela held at Anantnag

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

ANANTNAG, DECEMBER 30: A vibrant Women Entrepreneurship and Self Help Group (SHG) Mela was organised in Anantnag to promote women-led enterprises and strengthen grassroots entrepreneurship under Mission YUVA. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from SHG members across the district and showcased the growing spirit of self-reliance among women.

The Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Anantnag, Sandeep Singh Bali, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, Sandeep Singh Bali encouraged SHG members to actively avail the benefits of Mission YUVA. He appreciated the efforts of SHG women for their determination,

innovation, and contribution to local economic development. Speaking on the occasion, Employment Officer, Rayees Iqbal, highlighted Mission YUVA as a transformative initiative aimed at supporting women entrepreneurs through financial assistance, capacity building, and market linkage.

District Programme Manager (DPM), NRLM, Shireen Shafi, assured that SHG members will be systematically sensitised about Mission YUVA through Udhayam Jagriti programmes. She emphasized that these awareness drives will help SHG women understand the initiative in detail and fully benefit from the opportunities provided under the mission. During the mela, SHG members showcased their products through exhibition stalls, displaying a wide range of items including food products, handicrafts, garments, and

other locally produced goods. Several women entrepreneurs also shared their success stories, inspiring fellow SHG members to scale up their enterprises.

All line departments participated actively in the event, setting up stalls and showcasing their respective entrepreneurial and livelihood initiatives, reflecting strong inter-departmental convergence in support of women entrepreneurship.

More than 400 SHG members from different blocks of the district participated in the mela, making it a grand success and a significant platform for networking, learning, and market exposure. The event reaffirmed the district administration's commitment towards empowering women, strengthening SHGs, and fostering a culture of entrepreneurship through Mission YUVA.

DC Budgam holds Preparatory Meeting for Republic Day Celebrations 2026

Focus on Timely Execution, Inter-Departmental Coordination & High Standards

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, DECEMBER 30: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a preparatory meeting regarding the forthcoming Republic Day Celebrations 2026 at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, Budgam.

The meeting of district officers and representatives of various security agencies was convened to review preparedness and finalize arrangements for the smooth and dignified conduct of the celebrations across the district.

The Chair was apprised that the main function will be held at Sports Stadium, Budgam, while similar celebrations will also be organised at Sub-Division, Tehsil, Block and Panchayat levels. Contingents of JKP, CRPF, NCC and students of various Government schools will participate in the march-past parade. Besides, cultural programmes and a felicitation ceremony will also form part of

the celebrations.

On the occasion, various committees including Hospitality Committee, Stage Management Committee and Selection Committee were constituted to ensure seamless conduct of the event.

The DC directed all concerned departments including Education, Jal Shakti, R&B, DYSSO, Information, Health, Sports, Traffic, Motor Vehicles, Police, Floriculture, PDD, Municipality and Paramilitary Forces to discharge their assigned responsibilities with utmost coordination and professionalism.

The meeting discussed in detail arrangements related to venue decoration, seating, uninterrupted power supply, drinking water, barricading, medical aid camps, availability of ambulances, fire tenders, transportation facilities, parking, refreshments, invitations, public address system, brochures, cleanliness and sanitation. Special emphasis was laid on march-past



rehearsals, cultural performances, refreshments, transportation, mobile toilets and changing room facilities for participating

students.

Addressing the meeting, the DC stressed that all arrangements must be completed well in advance

and maintained at the highest standards befitting the national importance of the occasion.

He impressed upon the officers to ensure effective inter-departmental coordination, punctuality and zero-lapse execution, while also directing them to maintain cleanliness, discipline and decorum at all venues.

Security agencies were instructed to put in place fool-proof security arrangements at all venues where Republic Day functions will be held across the district.

The DC also directed the Heads of Departments to install departmental stalls/banners at the venue to showcase their flagship programmes and achievements for public awareness.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ADC Budgam, ASP Budgam, GM DIC, CEO Yousmarg Development Authority, SDMs, CMO, CEO, District Officers, DySP DAR, representatives of security agencies, and other concerned officers and officials.

DC Pulwama reviews implementation of pension schemes in district

Stresses coordinated efforts, grassroots outreach to bridge enrolment gaps

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

PULWAMA, DECEMBER 30: Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom chaired a comprehensive review meeting today here at administrative complex Pulwama to review the implementation and progress of key pension and social security schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) and PM-Kisan Maandhan Yojana (PM-KMY).

During the meeting, the Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC), Pulwama gave a detailed presentation highlighting the objectives, eligibility criteria, enrolment status, sector-wise coverage and challenges related

to the implementation of the pension schemes for unorganised workers and small and marginal farmers. The presentation also outlined the registration figures and the role of various stakeholder departments in improving coverage.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the performance of line departments and field functionaries and highlighted the gap between potential beneficiaries and enrolments. He stressed the need for aggressive outreach, coordinated efforts and targeted mobilisation, particularly among unorganised workers, MGNREGA workers, small farmers and other eligible groups.

Dr. Qayoom further apprised the house that Tehsil-level Sub-



Committees have already been constituted to ensure effective implementation of financial inclusion

schemes across the district and directed all concerned officers to ensure that these committees become fully functional at the ground level and conduct regular enrolment drives, awareness camps and beneficiary facilitation activities in their respective jurisdictions.

The DC instructed Tehsildars and departmental officers to work in close coordination with CSCs, Panchayati Raj Institutions and field staff of various departments to identify eligible beneficiaries, remove bottlenecks in registration and ensure timely enrolment under the schemes. He further emphasized that special focus must be laid on left-out and vulnerable sections to ensure inclusive coverage.

Mission YUVA: Women Entrepreneurship & SHG Mela Organised at GDC Shopian

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 30: A Women Entrepreneurship and Self-Help Group (SHG) Mela under Mission YUVA was today organised by the District Employment and Counselling Centre (DE&CC), Shopian at Government Degree College (GDC), Shopian.

The objective of the Mela was to promote awareness about Mission YUVA among SHGs of the district by sensitising them through awareness sessions, enterprise showcasing, mentoring and on-ground application support.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by the Employment Officer, DE&CC Shopian, who briefed the participants and SHG members about the benefits of the Mission YUVA App and its associated

schemes. He highlighted the role of Mission YUVA in providing access to skill development opportunities, financial assistance and employment-related information.

While addressing the gathering, the Employment Officer stated that in today's dynamic economic landscape, entrepreneurship is no longer just an option but a necessity.

He emphasised that Mission YUVA aims to empower youth especially women by enabling them to become job creators rather than job seekers.

More than 250 SHG members from across District Shopian participated in the event. Faculty members and resource persons from concerned institutions conducted training and mentoring sessions, while YUVA Doots actively facilitated awareness and on-ground application support.



Women Entrepreneurship Mela Held in Ganderbal; DC Urges Greater Women Participation

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

GANDERBAL, DECEMBER 30: A Women Entrepreneurship and SHG Mela under Mission Yuva was organised in District Ganderbal today to promote women entrepreneurship and provide a common platform for women entrepreneurs to showcase their products to the general public.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore presided over the event as the Chief Guest.

While interacting with women entrepreneurs on the occasion, DC said that the Mela was organised with the objective of generating awareness among budding women entrepreneurs about different government schemes, including Mission Yuva, NRLM, UMEED, PM-FME and other self-employment initiatives, besides providing necessary handholding support for business expansion.

He lauded the lady entrepreneurs of the district for their active participation in entrepreneurial activities and encouraged them to scale up their enterprises by availing handholding support under various



government schemes.

DC emphasised upon the Employment Department, ITIs, Degree Colleges and other stakeholder departments to ensure effective utilization of the platform by providing guidance, mentoring, and technical support to women entrepreneurs to help them scale

up their ventures.

He urged the participating women to actively enroll under government schemes and motivate other women in their neighbourhoods to take up entrepreneurial ventures. He encouraged those already running businesses to expand their operations by leveraging available government

initiatives.

Earlier, DC inspected the stalls put up by various Self Help Groups (SHGs) and interacted with the women entrepreneurs, enquiring about their products, production capacity, market linkage and future expansion plans. He directed the concerned officers to provide requisite training in soft skills, branding and marketing to enhance the market reach of their products.

A programme to commemorate the entrepreneurial spirit of the local women entrepreneurs was also organised on the occasion during which success stories of several SHGs were presented, highlighting their entrepreneurial journey and achievements.

Entrepreneurship and SHG Expo, Workshops and Learning Sessions among other activities were also conducted to boost entrepreneurial spirit among aspiring women entrepreneurs.

Later, a felicitation ceremony was held during which awards and sanction letters under Mission YUVA were distributed among women entrepreneurs and best performing SHGs.

42nd District-Level NCORD Meeting held in Budgam

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, NOVEMBER 30: The 42nd District-Level NCORD (Narco Coordination) Committee Meeting was today convened at the DC Office Budgam under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, along with SSP Budgam Nikhil Borkar to review ongoing measures against drug abuse and to formulate fresh strategies for achieving a drug-free Budgam.

The meeting was attended by ADC Budgam, all SDMs, ACD, CMO, DSWO, Medical Superintendent DH Budgam, Principals of all Government Degree Colleges, Executive Officers of Municipal Committees, and other concerned officers.

At the outset, the action taken on previous NCORD decisions was reviewed. It was informed that 192 kanals of land have been reclaimed and made agriculturally viable by the Agriculture Department through the destruction of wild cannabis during the last three years.

The chair was also apprised that 58 cases have been registered under the NDPS Act, 17 detentions made under PIT-NDPS, and 83 persons arrested so far in the district.

Addressing the meeting, the DC said that drug abuse is not merely a law-and-order issue but a grave social challenge impacting families, youth and the overall fabric of society.

He emphasised that the administration will adopt a strict, zero-tolerance approach towards drug peddlers, traffickers and cultivators, while simultaneously ensuring care, treatment and rehabilitation for victims of addiction.

The DC stressed that a multi-pronged strategy encompassing enforcement, deterrence, treatment, rehabilitation and mass awareness is indispensable to effectively combat the menace. He directed all line departments to intensify coordinated action against narcotics cultivation and peddling, adding that roadsides, embankments, forest fringes and Panchayat areas must be kept completely free of cannabis and poppy cultivation.

While appreciating the progress achieved so far, the DC remarked that continuous, visible and proactive enforcement is essential to sustain public confidence and deter offenders. He further stated that community participation and timely intelligence sharing are critical pillars in breaking the drug supply chain.

On regulation of drugs, the DC underscored the need for 100 percent CCTV coverage and Computerised Billing Systems (CBS) in all chemist shops. It was informed that Budgam has 630 retail and 225 wholesale chemist outlets, all under strict monitoring. The DC directed that regular inspections

must continue and stringent action be taken against any violations. He further instructed the Drug Inspector to ensure wide publicity of enforcement actions, including cancellation of licences, to promote transparency and deterrence.

It was informed that 72 calls have been received on the Tele-MANAS mental health helpline, reflecting its growing role in providing psychological support. The DC directed that such facilities be widely publicised to enable people to seek confidential and timely assistance.

The DC directed the Excise Department to work in close coordination with Revenue and Police authorities for destruction of illicit crops and prompt registration of FIRs.

SDMs were asked to engage religious scholars and community leaders to encourage sermons against substance abuse and promote the concept of "Nasha-Mukt Panchayats."

The meeting was informed that the Rural Development Department shall organise special Gram Sabhas focusing on drug abuse awareness, while the DSWO shall conduct large-scale IEC campaigns across villages, towns and educational institutions.

The chair was apprised by ARTO Budgam that 18 licenses of the drivers involved in narcotic drug trafficking have been suspended in the district.

The DC directed that the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at District Hospital Budgam must remain functional round-the-clock, and noted that the Drug De-Addiction Centre is now fully ready for intake of patients requiring treatment and rehabilitation.

He also instructed that all Government Degree Colleges in the district ensure installation of CCTV cameras within campuses to strengthen preventive monitoring.

Reiterating the administration's zero-tolerance policy, the DC stated that Budgam must emerge as a model district by dismantling drug networks and safeguarding the future of its youth through collective action. He stressed that this mission requires active involvement of government departments, civil society, parents, teachers, religious scholars and community elders.

He added that a holistic, community-driven and sustained approach is the only way to permanently eradicate the drug menace from the district.

On the occasion, SSP Budgam urged concerned officers to ensure installation of CCTV cameras at identified hotspots including Nasrullapora Budgam, Chadoora and Magam. He also emphasised strong inter-agency coordination and focused rehabilitation and counselling of drug-affected persons at the District Drug De-Addiction Centre.

One-day Women Entrepreneurship cum SHG Mela under Mission YUVA held at Qaimoh

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KULGAM, DECEMBER 30: One-day Women Entrepreneurship cum SHG Mela under Mission YUVA was organized today at GHSS Qaimoh with the objective of promoting women led enterprises and strengthening Self-Help Groups.

The event was inaugurated by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan who interacted with participants and inspected stalls established by Women SHG's, Employment Department, Lead Bank, and One Stop Centre for Women.

The programme was attended by Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer (SDAO) Qaimoh, Career Counselling Officer DE&CC Kulgam, District Programme Manager/Block Programme Managers (NRLM), Bank Officials, SHG members, and aspiring women entrepreneurs.

The event featured structured presentations, deliberations, and speeches conducted as per the devised schedule, focusing on entrepreneurship development, financial inclusion, and institutional support mechanisms.

In his address, ADC Kulgam highlighted the commitment of District administration Kulgam towards women empowerment, emphasizing the importance of integrating promising women SHG members with the ambitious Mission YUVA to ensure sustainable livelihood opportunities and inclusive economic growth.

During the programme, successful SHG women entrepreneurs shared their inspiring success stories, motivating participants and providing practical insights into enterprise development and sustainability.

In recognition of outstanding performance, successful women entrepreneurs and best-performing SHG stalls were felicitated. Further, sanction letters were distributed among eligible women beneficiaries sponsored under Mission YUVA, reinforcing efforts towards livelihood promotion and economic empowerment.

The Mela served as an effective convergence platform for multiple stakeholders, enabling experience sharing, capacity building, market exposure, and awareness generation, thereby significantly contributing to the objectives of Mission YUVA and overall women empowerment.

Director Agriculture Kashmir Inspects Seed Multiplication Departmental Farms

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 30: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, today conducted an inspection visit to Seed multiplication farm, Allowpora and Padgampora to review ongoing agricultural activities and assess the status of seed production.

During the visit, the Director Agriculture Kashmir inspected various sections of the farms, including sown areas, and interacted with farm managers, technical staff, and field workers. He took stock of the progress in seed multiplication initiatives aimed at ensuring high-quality seed availability for farmers across the region.

Emphasizing the critical role of these departmental farms in achieving self-reliance in seed requirements,

the Director directed the farm manager and the official staff to provide special attention and care to the sown seeds and instructed the staff to remain extra vigilant against pest and disease incidence and to adopt all recommended preventive and



corrective measures in a timely manner to maximize output and ensure a bountiful harvest.

The visit was aimed at reinforcing effective seed multiplication programmes and ensuring the availability of high-quality seeds for farmers of the region, thereby contributing to sustainable agricultural development in Kashmir.

DIC Kulgam conducts Export Awareness cum e-Commerce Onboarding Workshop at Kulgam

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KULGAM DECEMBER 30 District Industries Center (DIC) Kulgam in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) today organized an export awareness cum e-Commerce onboarding workshop for potential exporters at Auditorium Mini secretariat Kulgam

Programme was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Amir Khan.

Speaking on the occasion the DC highlighted importance of exports for sustained economic growth.

He further highlighted the major products from Kulgam which have

potential for exports and spotlighted the importance of fine tuning and finishing of products.

He also urged participants and youth to get benefited from various government employment generation schemes and to become enter-pruners.

The DC also appreciated the organisers of the programme for conducting such important awareness programmes.

During the workshop detailed sessions on benefits of exports, credit linkages for exports and credit risk insurance facilities and potential of products of the region in international market were discussed.

The emphasis of the workshop was to boost and support exports

from District Kulgam with a focus on developing the district as an export hub under the District as Export Hub/ODOP initiatives.

The beneficiaries were briefed regarding the potential of their products for exports, countries to be targeted and procedures of exports.

District Officers from line departments viz Agriculture, Horticulture, Legal metrology, Horticulture and Marketing, Handloom and Handicrafts Department, KVIB, District Employment along with Traders, Farmers, FPOs, Artisans, Msme's, Potential Exporters dealing with ODOP and GI attended the workshop.

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Women Entrepreneurship, SHG Mela held at Town Hall, Kupwara

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KUPWARA, DECEMBER 30: District Administration Kupwara, in collaboration with the District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC) Kupwara and JKRLM Kupwara, today organized a Women Entrepreneurship and Self-Help Group (SHG) Mela at Town Hall, Kupwara.

The event witnessed an overwhelming response from Self-Help Groups, aspiring women entrepreneurs, established women entrepreneurs, and a large number of participants from across the district. Several successful SHG entrepreneurs set up stalls to showcase and market their unique products. Line departments including the Agriculture Department, Fisheries, District Industries Centre (DIC), Handicrafts and Handloom Department, and

the Mission YUVA Helpdesk also installed informative stalls on the occasion.

The stalls showcased a wide range of handmade apparel, handicrafts, dairy products, and agri-allied products, reflecting the diverse livelihood initiatives promoted under JKRLM-Umeed and Mission YUVA.

The programme was presided over by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara, Mufti Fareed-ud-Din as the Chief Guest. He visited various stalls, interacted with women entrepreneurs, and appreciated their efforts towards self-reliance and economic empowerment.

During the programme, several successful women entrepreneurs shared their inspiring entrepreneurial journeys, highlighting challenges,



opportunities, and the role of government initiatives in their growth.

The Women Entrepreneurship and SHG Mela recorded enthusiastic participation from SHG members and local women entrepreneurs representing different blocks of the district. The Mela served as an important

marketing platform, providing direct customer interaction to women entrepreneurs, enabling them to enhance their income, improve product quality through customer feedback, and build confidence as independent business owners.

The District Administration Kupwara, in collaboration with

Mission YUVA and JKRLM, is utilizing this initiative to strengthen women-led enterprises, encourage branding and formalization of SHG products, and motivate more rural women to join SHGs and adopt sustainable livelihood opportunities.

To further engage and motivate budding women entrepreneurs, Mission YUVA songs and informative videos were played during the programme.

On the sidelines of the event, Ishfaq Ahmad Wani, Employment Officer, DE&CC Kupwara, briefed the participants about the financial support and assistance available under Mission YUVA.

Certificates of appreciation were distributed among the successful women entrepreneurs by the Chief Guest in recognition of their achievements and contributions.

HT EDITORIAL

Heartening to see tourists back in Kashmir valley

After a long lull of eight months the tourist season has started to pick up in the Kashmir valley and tourists in good numbers can be seen roaming around the Lal Chowk area and also at the famous tourist resorts of the valley. The arrival of tourists from the different places of the country has rekindled hopes among the tourism players of Kashmir that the upcoming winter season would be bountiful for them.

Since the winter season has already set in the tourism players are pinning their hopes on good spells of snowfall. Once the Kashmir valley receives good booty of snowfall one can hope that there would be an increase in the arrival of tourists. Since the world famous health resort of Gulmarg in North Kashmir has already received a bout of snow some of the tourists have already reached this place and are enjoying the beauty of Kashmir winter more so the snow bound tourism.

A beeline of tourists could also be seen at health resorts like Pahalgam and Sonamarg but the number of tourists is much lower when compared to the past few years. It is expected that the tourist inflow of tourists to these health resorts along with some others will pick up once the winter begins to show its true colours across the Kashmir valley. Hope the snow flakes come down merrily across the length and breadth of the valley so that there is winter in real sense.

The union territory government headed by chief minister Omar Abdullah has been quite proactive with respect to the revival of tourism in Kashmir. Just recently Omar inaugurated or laid the foundation stone for some of the development projects at Gulmarg. However, at the same time the chief minister has been quite critical with regards to the closure of many tourist places in Kashmir. He has been quite vocal in this regard and demanded lifting of sanctions on these tourist places.

One can hope that the ban is lifted over these tourist places and people would once again visit the places that are out of bound for them. Once all the tourist places are open for both the locals as well as tourists people would have more options of visiting the places of tourist importance located across the valley. The same would infuse a new lease of life in the tourism sector with the stakeholders rejoicing over the same.

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Satish Vimal: The Voice of Kashmir's Cultural Soul



■ JAMEEL ANSARI

Kashmir has, for centuries, remained a cradle of knowledge, spirituality, and cultural enlightenment. This sacred land has produced countless thinkers, poets, and visionaries whose intellectual radiance has illuminated not only their own times but also generations to come. Among these distinguished personalities stands Satish Vimal not merely a poet or writer, but a true interpreter of Kashmir's cultural soul.

Born in the picturesque village of Bochu in Pulwama district, Satish Vimal discovered the power of words at an early age. Naturally reserved in temperament, he found in literature a profound medium of expression. His early engagement with local theatre and literary circles played a pivotal role in shaping his creative identity. Under the guidance of his mentor, Mohammad Shaban Mir, his literary sensibility matured, laying the foundation for a deeply thoughtful and committed creative journey.

After completing his education, Satish Vimal began his professional career with Doordarshan Srinagar, but it was All India Radio Srinagar that truly became the platform through which his intellectual and cultural voice reached the masses. Here, he conceptualized and presented several impactful literary and cultural programs that resonated deeply with listeners. Among these, "Shash Rang," "Sangarmal," "Saaen-o-Tareekh," and "Sufi Sada" stand out as remarkable contributions. These programs not only celebrated Kashmir's rich Sufi heritage but also reconnected audiences with their spiritual and cultural roots, making them enduring



milestones in regional broadcasting.

Satish Vimal's intellectual pursuits extend far beyond broadcasting. With formal training in English literature, he developed a deep engagement with world literature, while his command over Kashmiri, Urdu, Hindi, and English enriched his creative expression. His familiarity with Arabic, Persian, Sanskrit, and Punjabi further expanded his literary horizon. The teachings of Sufi saints such as Sheikh Noor-ud-Din (Nund Rishi) and Lal Ded profoundly influenced his thought process, reflections of which are clearly visible in his poetry and prose.

His Kashmiri literary works including Siyah Var, Wariyah Tchieng Chi Zalin, and Padaweche Dairy are not merely artistic expressions but powerful representations of Kashmir's cultural consciousness. The translation of his poetry into Persian further

attests to the universal appeal and timeless relevance of his thought. Equally significant is his contribution in translating global literary works into Kashmiri, thereby enriching the language and expanding its intellectual horizons.

Even today, Satish Vimal stands as a guiding light for younger generations. He firmly believes that literature is not merely a means of expression but a social responsibility a bridge connecting the past, present, and future. Through his lifelong dedication to language, culture, and human values, he continues to embody the essence of Kashmir's spiritual and cultural heritage.

Like a quiet flame that never flickers, Satish Vimal continues to illuminate minds and hearts, preserving the soul of Kashmir through the power of words.

Newspapers Boost Students' Focus, Creativity



■ DR. VIJAY GARG

In such a period when children have started considering digital media as the final truth, it is a pleasant feeling to make reading newspapers in schools by the Uttar Pradesh government. During the morning prayer, it has been mandatory to read national-international news and editorial for ten minutes. Five difficult words will be recorded on the blackboard with meaning every day. Surely, with this effort, where the culture of reading in children will increase, words and general knowledge, their screen time will be reduced. Undoubtedly, this will gradually increase the tendency of students to read. Children will be rich in emotional, intellectual and social concerns by connecting with the culture of reading. It is very possible that if this campaign runs with continuity, children will start to get interested in libraries. Ironically, today children's fingers keep on the keyboard of mobile instead of turning pages of books. It is a worrying situation that children up to five years in India also spend more than two hours on screen every day. In a survey, it was also revealed that even children as young as two years of age put 1.2 hours on the screen every day. The critical situation is that one quarter of children have access to the Internet. At a time when the access to social media of children under 16 years of age in Australia has been blocked, there are social media accounts up to children under ten years old in



India.

Actually, the Uttar Pradesh government has decided that children will be given to read English and Hindi newspapers during the morning assembly. These decisions are for all government secondary and basic schools, but if private schools also want to make such a decision. Undoubtedly, children should also get used to reading books separate from the school curriculum. All the surveyors are telling that even today newspapers are reliable information medium. In many stages, the editorial board investigates and publishes news in a safe manner. Although the information has been reported on the alleged social media, but their credibility is doubtful due to lack of an institution called editor. The inherent selfish elements continue to broadcast misleading information.

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The critical situation is that one quarter of children have access to the Internet. At a time when the access to social media of children under 16 years of age in Australia has been blocked, there are social media accounts up to children under ten years old in India.

Undoubtedly, when children read newspapers, they will be able to develop their attitude by reading the editorials and articles of newspapers. Also, their language will be rich. The lowest number of today's students come in the mother tongue. The crisis is also that today social media platforms are taking away the innocence of children and making them adults prematurely. In the presence of teachers, authentic information received through newspapers will develop their positive thinking. This child's habit of reading will develop further when parents also encourage children to study at home. It is also important here that this campaign started in schools for children should continue with continuity.

Dr. Vijay Garg Retired Principal
Malout Punjab



■ MOHAMMAD HANIEF

Wular Lake, the largest freshwater lake in the River Jhelum basin, occupies a central place in the ecological and hydrological framework of the Kashmir Valley. For centuries, this vast wetland has functioned as a natural regulator of floods, a reservoir of biodiversity, and a lifeline for thousands of families dependent on its resources. Today, however, Wular Lake finds itself under mounting pressure from unplanned development, climate variability, and prolonged neglect, making its conservation one of the most urgent environmental challenges facing the region.

Situated at the foothills of the Harmukh mountain range, Wular Lake historically spread over nearly 200 square kilometres, acting as a massive absorption basin during periods of high discharge in the River Jhelum. Its ability to store excess water during floods and release it gradually during lean seasons has been critical in maintaining hydrological balance across the valley. This natural buffering system has protected downstream settlements, sustained agriculture, and ensured water availability during dry spells. As climate change intensifies rainfall extremes and alters snowfall patterns in the upper catchments, the importance of this flood-moderation function has become even more pronounced.

Beyond its hydrological role, Wular Lake is a biodiversity-rich wetland of regional and global significance. The lake and its associated marshes form an important segment of the Central Asian Flyway, providing wintering and stopover habitat for thousands of migratory waterbirds. Each winter, species such as Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Common Pochard, Little Egret, and Cattle Egret transform the lake into a vibrant ecological hub. The presence of globally threatened species, including Pallas's Fish Eagle and the Marbled Teal, highlights the lake's international conservation value and justifies its designation as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance in 1990.

Equally vital is the lake's contribution to the local economy and livelihoods. Wular Lake accounts for nearly sixty per cent of the freshwater fish production in Kashmir, directly supporting between eight and ten thousand fishers living along its fringes. Fishing, water chestnut harvesting, fodder collection, and related wetland-based activities have sustained generations of communities, particularly in the Sonawari region. Water chestnut cultivation, locally known as gaar, covers large portions of the lake during summer months, forming floating carpets that provide both nutritional and economic security to local households. These traditional livelihoods underscore the close interdependence between ecological health and human well-being in the Wular landscape.

Despite its immense value, Wular Lake has suffered decades of fragmented and sectoral development planning. Unlike Dal Lake, which has received sustained political and administrative attention, Wular has largely remained outside mainstream urban and tourism-focused narratives. Developmental interventions in and around the lake have often prioritized short-term economic gains over long-term ecological sustainability. Large tracts of wetlands along the periphery have been drained and converted for agriculture, settlements, and plantations, steadily shrinking the lake's natural extent.

The construction of flood-protection bunds at various contour levels has further altered the lake's ecological character. While intended to protect crops and settlements, these structures have fragmented the wetland system and disrupted the natural exchange of water between the lake and its surrounding marshes.

Safeguarding Wular Lake: Biodiversity Conservation Amid Growing Challenges



As a result, the lake's ability to moderate floods and retain water during dry periods has been significantly compromised. The unintended consequences of such interventions have become increasingly evident during recent flood events, when a degraded and fragmented lake has struggled to perform its natural buffering role.

Catchment degradation has emerged as another major driver of Wular's decline. The forests and alpine pastures in the upper reaches of the Jhelum basin, once effective in stabilizing soils and regulating runoff, have been subjected to deforestation, infrastructure expansion, and unregulated land use. Rivers and streams such as Erin, Bohner, Madhumati, Ningal, and other tributaries now carry heavy sediment loads into Wular Lake. Each year, hundreds of tonnes of silt are deposited on the lake bed, progressively reducing its depth and water-holding capacity. Over time, this process has transformed large areas of open water into shallow marshland, altering habitats and accelerating ecological degradation.

The expansion of willow plantations within the lake represents another complex challenge. Initially promoted to meet the growing demand for firewood and timber, willow plantations have spread extensively across the lake's open-water areas. While they provide short-term economic benefits, their long-term ecological costs are substantial. Willows impede water circulation, degrade fish habitats, reduce biodiversity, and contribute to the physical shrinkage of the lake. Ironically, these changes have undermined the very livelihoods they were meant to support, deepening poverty among communities most dependent on the lake's resources.

Water quality deterioration is an emerging concern that further threatens Wular's ecological balance. Nutrient inflows from agricultural runoff, settlements, and untreated waste have led to localized eutrophication, excessive growth of aquatic vegetation, and declining dissolved oxygen levels. Such conditions pose serious risks to fisheries and aquatic life, particularly during warmer months when oxygen stress is highest. Without timely intervention, these trends could severely undermine the lake's productivity and resilience.

Yet, despite these pressures, Wular Lake continues to sustain remarkable biodiversity. In addition to migratory waterfowl, the surrounding landscapes support a wide range of terrestrial and forest-associated bird species, including the Himalayan Pied Woodpecker, Short-toed Eagle, Monal Pheasant, Alpine Swift, and European Hoopoe. This diversity reflects the deep ecological linkages between the lake, its marshes, forests, and mountain catchments—linkages that must be preserved if conservation efforts are to succeed.

In recent years, there has been a gradual shift in how Wular Lake is perceived by policymakers and environmental planners. The growing recognition of wetlands as nature-based solutions for flood management and climate adaptation has brought renewed attention to Wular's strategic importance. Restoration initiatives increasingly emphasize protecting the lake's boundaries, reducing sediment inflow through catchment treatment, restoring hydrological connectivity with surrounding wetlands, and managing invasive or excessive vegetation such as willows. These measures, if implemented in a coordinated and sustained manner, can help

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restore the lake's ecological functions and resilience.

Crucially, conservation efforts must be closely aligned with local livelihoods. Protecting biodiversity cannot come at the cost of marginalizing communities who depend on the lake for survival. Sustainable fisheries management, improved value chains for wetland products, and carefully planned eco-tourism centered on birdwatching and cultural heritage offer pathways to link conservation with economic security. Community participation, rooted in traditional knowledge and stewardship, will be essential for ensuring long-term success.

Ultimately, the future of Wular Lake hinges on a shift from fragmented, sector-driven decision-making to an integrated, basin-level approach that recognizes the lake as a living ecological infrastructure. Wular is not vacant land awaiting development, but a critical natural asset that underpins flood security, biodiversity conservation, and livelihoods across the Kashmir Valley.

As climate change accelerates and human pressures intensify, the question facing Kashmir is no longer whether Wular Lake deserves protection, but whether the valley can afford the consequences of its continued degradation. Safeguarding Wular is not merely an environmental necessity; it is a social and economic imperative, central to the sustainable future of the region.

The author is a senior analyst and can be mailed at m.hanief@gmail.com
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Breaking the Chains of Comparison: A Call to Action for Parents and Educators



■ BY SAQLAIN IMAM DAR

In today's hyper-competitive world, students are facing unprecedented pressure to perform. The constant comparison to peers, the emphasis on grades and rankings, and the fear of failure are taking a toll on their mental health. The statistics are

alarming: rising cases of anxiety, depression, and even suicidal tendencies among students are a stark reminder of the urgent need for change.

Comparison is the thief of joy, and it's stealing our children's happiness. They're being forced to fit into a mould that's not designed for them. We need to break free from this toxic cycle and focus on nurturing individuality, creativity, and curiosity. It's time to recognize that every child is unique, with their own strengths and weaknesses.

Parents, teachers, and policymakers must come together to create a supportive environment

Comparison is the thief of joy, and it's stealing our children's happiness. They're being forced to fit into a mould that's not designed for them. We need to break free from this toxic cycle and focus on nurturing individuality, creativity, and curiosity. It's time to recognize that every child is unique, with their own strengths and weaknesses.

that values effort over achievement. Let's give our children the freedom to explore, to learn, and to grow at their own pace. Let's encourage them to take risks, to experiment, and to learn from their mistakes.

It's time to rethink our priorities and redefine what success means. Let's raise happy, healthy, and well-rounded individuals, not just high-achievers. Let's focus on building resilience, empathy, and compassion in our children. Let's give them the tools they need to navigate the complexities of life.

The future of our society depends on it.



Recognizing and avoiding triggers best way to prevent common headaches:

— Dr Itoo —



Caffeine



Alcohol



Junk Food



Eminent physician Dr Tasaduk Hussain Itoo on Monday said that recognizing the various triggers for headache, documenting and trying to avoid them -- is the best way to prevent headache episodes or decrease their frequency.

He said that there are many possible triggers responsible for augmenting headaches in general and tension and migraine headaches in particular -- including physical, emotional, environmental, dietary, hormonal and medicinal factors.

"The physical triggers include excessive tiredness, getting an inadequate sleep, random shift work schedule, poor posture (neck or shoulder tension), strenuous exercise; while as the emotional triggers include stress, anxiety, depression", he said.

"The environmental triggers include bright lights, flickering screens with more screen time (television or computer screen), smoking (or smoky rooms), loud noises, sudden changes in climate -- such as changes in humidity or very cold temperatures, strong smells, a stuffy atmosphere", he said.

Talking about the dietary factors he said these include -- missed, delayed or irregular meals, dehydration, alcohol consumption, excessive intake of caffeine products (tea and coffee) and their sudden withdrawal, excessive



intake of specific foods (chocolate and citrus fruit), excessive intake of foods containing the substance tyramine (cured meats, pickled herrings, smoked fish and certain cheeses).

He further said that triggers are very individual/personalized and can be possible factors for augmenting tension/migraine headaches, however it may be helpful to keep a diary to document and identify a consistent trigger.

"Frequent use of over the counter pain killer medications can also act as a trigger and lead to medication overuse headaches or rebound headaches", he said.

How Your Sleep Position Can Impact Heart Health, Metabolism, and More

■ HEADLINE

Quality sleep is vital Trusted Source for overall health and well-being. During sleep, your body works hard to maintain your physical health and support healthy brain function.

The amount and quality of sleep you get can impact various aspects of your health, including your heart, metabolism, respiratory system, and immune system.

The position you sleep in may also affect your health. Some experts suggest that certain positions may be better for your health, while others may have negative effects.

Healthline spoke to sleep experts about what may be considered the best and worst sleeping positions for your health.

■ Why sleep positions matter

The position you sleep in can affect your body in various ways.

For example, some positions may lead to back pain and stiffness. Other positions, such as sleeping on your back, may aggravate symptoms of sleep apnea or indigestion.

Nancy Collop, MD, a professor of medicine and neurology and director of Emory Sleep Center, explained how your sleep position can impact your respiratory health.

"If the upper airway (nasal passage to larynx) [is] vulnerable to collapse (narrow or congested, say due to allergies, URI [upper respiratory infection], then when sleeping on your back, you are more prone to snore or have sleep apnea," Collop told Healthline.

"This is likely because the jaw drops back and [the] airway narrows. Also, if you are prone to reflux, that might be worsened when sleeping flat, either on [your] back or left side."

Sarathi Bhattacharyya, MD, a pulmonologist and sleep medicine specialist, and medical director of the MemorialCare Sleep Disorders Center in Long Beach, CA, noted that sleep positions can affect people differently depending on any underlying medical conditions.

"Common considerations that may influence your choice of sleeping position include chronic pain, sleep apnea, and pregnancy," Bhattacharyya told Healthline.

"Certain positions can make these conditions more challenging or worsen their impact on the quality of your sleep."

■ Best sleep positions

Sleeping positions are often a personal preference. However, some experts may recommend certain sleeping positions based on medical needs.

For instance, a recent systematic review Trusted Source found that supported side sleeping and back sleeping (supine) may be more beneficial for spine health in individuals with lower back pain.

Collop agreed that side sleeping, especially on the right side, may be one of the best sleeping positions.

Bhattacharyya said that the "best" sleep position also depends on the individual medical context. He gave the following examples:

- **The best sleeping position for back and neck pain is typically sleeping on your back. This can help achieve better alignment**

of the spine and neck, preventing strain on the neck muscles.

- **The best sleeping position for patients with sleep apnea is often on their sides. This may not be necessary if the sleep apnea is treated, for example, with a CPAP machine.**

- **During pregnancy, medical providers often encourage side sleeping during the later trimesters. The left side is usually the most recommended sleeping position to prevent compression of one of the large veins in the neck.**

You may want to consult with your healthcare professional to discuss the best sleeping positions for addressing your specific health concerns.

■ Worst sleep positions

Collop said that sleeping on your back may be the worst sleeping position, as it can cause breathing issues. However, she also noted that this can be alleviated by elevating your head.

Bhattacharyya agreed that sleeping on your back can aggravate sleep apnea and affect breathing. He added that side sleeping can be detrimental if you have neck or back pain issues.

"Sleeping on your stomach can contribute to worsening of both conditions and is generally not a recommended sleeping position to address any chronic medical condition," he added, referring to sleep apnea and chronic pain.

Stomach sleeping can also lead to an increased likelihood of back, neck, and shoulder pain.

■ How to adjust your sleeping position

Both Collop and Bhattacharyya agreed that retraining your body to sleep differently can be difficult.

"Training yourself to sleep in a different position can take several weeks," Bhattacharyya said.

He gave the following advice:

- **Placing pillows under your knees and lower back can help with alignment if you are trying to sleep on your back.**
- **Sidesleeping can be maintained by placing a pillow between your legs to help align your spine and hips.**

"Start the night in your desired sleeping position, even if you may not maintain that position all night," he recommended.

"Supporting your body with pillows, wedges, and the right mattress can also help with retraining your body to sleep in your desired position."

Collop said that there are "trainers" you can buy to help keep you from rolling onto your back.

"You can also buy fancy beds that elevate the head or a wedge pillow," she said.

"There are devices that have a 'bumper' that runs up your spine, so if you roll to your back, it is uncomfortable -- I have also seen people sew a tennis ball or similar object in the pajama top back for a similar effect."

The Science Of Success And Failure



■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

Success and failure are universal human experiences, commonly interpreted through social, cultural and philosophical perspectives. Modern medical science, neuroscience and psychology, however, reveal that both phenomena are deeply rooted in biological processes, cognitive mechanisms, emotional regulation and environmental interactions. Historically, success has been associated with achievement, productivity and social recognition, while failure has been viewed as a sign of deficiency or inadequacy. Contemporary scientific thought challenges this rigid division by recognizing success and failure as adaptive processes essential for learning, resilience and human evolution. Research in neuroscience, behavioural medicine and psychology demonstrates that both emerge from the same neurobiological and cognitive systems, differing mainly in perception, regulation and response.

At the neurobiological level, success and failure are mediated by interconnected brain circuits involving the prefrontal cortex, the limbic system, dopaminergic reward pathways and the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis. Experiences of success are associated with optimal dopamine release, which reinforces motivation, goal-directed behaviour and learning. Positive outcomes activate the nucleus accumbens and strengthen neural pathways linked to confidence, persistence and reward anticipation. Failure, particularly when perceived as threat or loss, activates the amygdala and stimulates the HPA axis, leading to increased cortisol levels. While acute stress may enhance alertness and learning, prolonged exposure to stress can impair memory, immunity and emotional regulation. Biologically, therefore, success and failure are not opposites but complementary signals guiding adaptation and survival.

Human success and failure are also influenced by intrinsic attributes. Cognitive factors such as intelligence, executive

functioning, problem-solving ability and metacognition play a crucial role. Psychological traits including determination, resilience, emotional intelligence, optimism, self-efficacy and tolerance to uncertainty further shape outcomes. Behavioural patterns like discipline, consistency, adaptability and a learning-oriented mindset contribute significantly to long-term trajectories. Personality dimensions, particularly conscientiousness and openness to experience, are positively associated with sustained success, whereas impulsivity and learned helplessness may predispose individuals to repeated failure. Importantly, the same trait can lead to either success or failure depending on context. Risk-taking, for instance, may result in innovation and growth or in loss and setback, depending on regulation, insight and circumstance.

Success has distinct physical and psychological impacts. From a medical perspective, sustained success, when accompanied by emotional balance, is associated with reduced stress biomarkers, improved cardiovascular health and enhanced neuroplasticity. Psychologically, success strengthens self-esteem, motivation and a sense of purpose. However, unchecked success may also result in burnout, performance anxiety or narcissistic tendencies if not balanced with self-awareness and emotional regulation.

Failure, on the other hand, exerts profound effects on both body and mind. Chronic stress related to repeated failure can lead to hypertension, metabolic disorders, sleep disturbances and immune suppression. Psychologically, failure may contribute to anxiety, depression, low self-worth and learned helplessness. Yet, when cognitively reframed, failure becomes a powerful catalyst for resilience, emotional maturity and long-term psychological strength. It can foster adaptability, humility and perseverance when approached with insight and support.

Scientific evidence strongly suggests that success and failure are sequential and interdependent processes. Failure activates learning circuits in the brain, promoting error correction and behavioural modification. Research on neuroplasticity confirms that repeated exposure to manageable failure strengthens adaptive neural networks, thereby increasing the likelihood of future success. Failure, therefore, often serves as a precursor rather than an antagonist to success.

The conscious, subconscious and superconscious aspects of the human mind play distinct roles in shaping responses to success and failure. The conscious mind governs rational thinking, decision-making and goal-setting. It evaluates experiences as success or failure based on social norms and personal expectations and enables planning, reflection and corrective action. The subconscious mind stores beliefs, emotional memories, habits and conditioned responses. Repeated success strengthens confidence-related neural schemas, while repeated failure may embed fear, self-doubt or avoidance behaviours. Many barriers to success arise not from lack of ability but from negative subconscious conditioning. The superconscious mind, often discussed in neurophilosophical and contemplative sciences, is associated with intuition, creativity, moral insight and transcendental awareness. Individuals who access this level often maintain equanimity toward both success and failure, using each as a tool for growth rather than as a measure of identity.

Understanding success and failure as biological and psychological processes has significant implications for education, healthcare and mental health policy. Early interventions that focus on emotional regulation, resilience training and cognitive reframing can reduce failure-induced psychological distress and enhance overall well-being. Preventive mental health strategies should aim not at eliminating failure, but at normalizing and harnessing it as a learning mechanism.

From a medical and scientific standpoint, success and failure are intertwined adaptive mechanisms rooted in human neurobiology, psychology and consciousness. Both arise from the same cognitive and emotional systems and exert profound physical and psychological effects. The balance between conscious reasoning, subconscious conditioning and superconscious awareness determines whether success becomes sustainable and whether failure becomes destructive or transformative. Redefining success and failure as dynamic processes rather than fixed endpoints is essential for individual health, societal progress and human flourishing.

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





“ACHII BAAT” Program Successfully Organized to Promote Social Awareness

Campaign Against Drugs and Emphasis on Positive Lifestyle



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, DEC 30: A purpose-driven and socially inspiring musical program, “Achi Baat”, was successfully organized by AR Studio Srinagar in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Department and the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages at Tagore Hall, Srinagar. The central theme of the program was “Stay Away from Drugs, Drive Carefully, and Be Polite”, highlighting the promotion of positive values within society.

The event was led by AR Studio Chairman Mr. Arshid Hussain, whose continuous efforts and visionary leadership were highly appreciated by the audience. The

program's Chief Guest, Member of the Legislative Assembly Mr. Tanveer Sadiq, expressed that such cultural and social initiatives play a pivotal role in guiding the youth and shaping a civilized and responsible society.

The program witnessed participation from prominent artists and distinguished personalities of the Valley, including renowned singer and musician Qaiser Nazami, President of Literary Center Kamraz Mr. Mohammad Amin Butt, singers Muneer Mir and Raja Bilal, painter Arshad Saleh, Ashraf Adel, Executive Engineer Hafizullah Khan, Dr. Rauf Baig, Shahi Mumtaz, and former Director of All India Radio Mr. Syed Humayun Qaiser.

On this occasion, AR Studio felic-

itated all esteemed guests and artists with honorary awards, presented by Chief Guest Mr. Tanveer Sadiq and Chairman Mr. Arshid Hussain. The awardees appreciated Mr. Hussain's selfless dedication and efforts in promoting art, culture, and social awareness.

The program also saw enthusiastic participation from students and youth representing schools, colleges, universities, and government institutions. Their artistic performances left a lasting impression on the audience, making the event memorable.

The “Achi Baat” program concluded with a strong message that art, culture, and awareness are the foundations of a healthy, dignified, and responsible society.

Public Notice

I FATIMA BEGUM W/O LATE ABDUL RASHID RATHER R/O TAKIYA YOUSUF SHAH Block WAGOORA Dist BARAMULLA hereby inform the general public that my Son FAROOQ AHMAD RATHER S/O ABDUL RASHID RATHER R/O Takiya Yousuf Shah expired 04/06/1993 That I am now applying for issuance of his Death Certificate from concerned authorities .If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file the same before the BDO office WAGOORA / TEHSIL office WAGOORA within seven days from the date of publication of this notice .After the expiry of the said period no objection shall be entertained.

**Name....FATIMA BEGUM
W/OABDUL RASHID RATHER
R/O TAKIYA YOUSUF SHAH, BLOCK.... WAGOORA**

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Fathers name AB AZIZ TEELI R/O WATERGAM .Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040001028 wants to be registered on my name GH HASSAN TEELI S/O. ABDUL AZIZ TEELI R/O WATERGA .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name.GH HASSAN TEELI
S/O ... AB AZIZ TEELI, R/O ...WATERGAM**

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Fathers name HABIB GANAIE S/O MAHAD GANAIE R/O WATERGAM .Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040000995 wants to be registered on my name MOHD YOUSUF GANAIE S/O HABIB GANAIE R/O WATERGA .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name..MOHD YOUSUF GANAIE
S/O ... HABIB GANAIE, R/O ...WATERGAM**

Public Notice

I have lost my school leaving certificate at somewhere .Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his /her objection in the office of HANFIA MODEL HGER SECONDARY SCHOOL KREERI within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name.....ALTAF HUSSAIN DAR
S/O ...AB AHAD DAR R/OSALOOSA**

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that I have lost my 10th Class Marksheet and Date of Birth (D.O.B) Certificate somewhere. Despite best efforts, the documents could not be traced. Hence, this notice is being published to declare the said documents lost and null and void. If anyone finds the above-mentioned documents, they are requested to kindly contact the undersigned at the earliest. Any misuse of these documents shall be the sole responsibility of the person concerned, and the undersigned shall not be held liable.

**Name: Dawood Nabi Para
Father's Name: Gh. Nabi Para
Address: Kachwa Muqam , Contact No.: 9797968286**

Public Notice

I, Syed Hamidullah, son of Late Syed Habibullah of Hail Jagir Kreeri, inform that my father, the registered consumer of Electricity Consumer No. 0212040001335, passed away on 17-12-2024. I have applied for transfer of the said connection to my name.

Objections, if any, may be submitted to the PDD Subdivision Wagoora, within 7 days of this notice.

Public Notice

I have lost Number Plate of my Vehicle ALTO VXI JK05L 3235. Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact ARTO Baramulla within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**TARIQ AHMAD MALLA S/O BASHIR AHMAD MALLA
R/O DUDBUG SULTANPORA BARAMULLLA**

Public Notice

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that Mrs. Bisma Amin, W/o Bilal Ahmad Rather, R/o Brah, has applied / is concerned with the grant of Fertilizer License for the shop namely Green Gold Pesticides, situated at Khullochohar, District Anantnag.

If any person has any objection with regard to the said Fertilizer License, he/she may submit the same in writing along with valid proof to the office of the Chief Agriculture Officer, Anantnag, within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, it shall be presumed that no one has any objection and the case shall be processed further as per rules.

**Bisma Amin
W/o Bilal Ahmad Rather
R/o Brah
Place: Khullochohar**

Public Notice

This is for the information of the general public that Mr. Ali Mohammad Khanday, father of Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Khanday, resident of Mamal, Pahalgam, expired on 28-03-2025.

If anyone has any objection/claim in this regard, the same may be submitted in writing to Municipal Committee Pahalgam (MC Pahalgam) within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, no claim shall be entertained later on.

**Notifier: Manzoor Ahmad Khanday
R/o: Mamal, Pahalgam**

Public Notice

It is hereby informed to the general public that Mr. Abdul Ahad Bhat, resident of Pahalgam, has expired.

Now, Mr. Mohammad Ramzan Bhat S/o Abdul Ahad Bhat, resident of Pahalgam, is applying for transfer/registration of electricity connection in his name bearing Consumer ID No. 0209020006369. If anyone has any objection/claim in this regard, the same may be submitted in writing to the concerned office KPDC, Sub Division Ashmuqam, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, no objection/claim shall be entertained thereafter.

**Notifier: Mohammad Ramzan Bhat
S/o Abdul Ahad Bhat, R/o Pahalgam
Consumer ID: 0209020006369**

Public Notice

It is hereby notified for general information that the name of my ward was wrongly recorded as Rohan Bin Wahid / Rohaan Bin Wahid in the Date of Birth Certificate issued by the Municipal Council Anantnag.

The correct name is Talha Bin Wahid. This correction is made on the basis of an affidavit duly attested by the competent authority. Henceforth, Talha Bin Wahid shall be treated as the correct name for all official and legal purposes.

**Deponent: Saima Jan
R/O Hardu Tooru, Ban Tooru
District Anantnag**

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore

Extension Corrigendum

Sub: Extension of e-tender.

Ref: 1. This office E-NIT No. 27 of 2025-26, S. No. 01 and 02.
2. This office E-NIT No. 34 of 2025-26, S. No. 03 and 04.

Due to no response the above referred e-NIT is hereby extended as hereunder:

S. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Last date for online submission of bids	05-01-2026 (06:55 pm)
2.	Date of online opening of bids	06-01-2026 (02:00 pm)

All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

**No: PHE/MDNS/DB/5338-41
Dated: 29-12-2025**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE)
Mechanical Division (North) Sopore**

DIPK: 9466/25 | Dated: 30-12-2025

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Uri

Notice Inviting e-Tender Fresh to NIT No: 85,88,90

eNIT No: 94 of 2025-26/7821-29/R&B Uri e-tendering | Dated: 30-12-2025

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

S.No	Name of work	Adv. Cost (in Lacs)	T.D Cost	E/M	Time	Class	MHA
1	Construction of Washroom, Library and Renovation of existing Bar Room at the Sub Judge Court Uri	9.80	600/-	19600/-	40 days	CEE / DEE	CDF
2	Repair and Renovation of R&B Divisional Office at Uri	2.49	200/-	5000/-	20 days	DEE	209 M&R
3	Repair and Renovation of residential Quarter of Hon'ble Sub Judge Uri	1.99	200/-	4000/-	30 days	DEE	M&R

Time & Date of opening of Bid: 07-01-2026

**Project Authority: District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department North Kashmir
Position of AA/TS: Accorded/Sanctioned**

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30-12-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	30-12-2025 from (11:00 AM) to 07-01-2026 (02:00 PM)
3	Bid Submission Start Date	30-12-2025 from (11:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	07-01-2026 (02:00 PM)
5	Date & Time of opening of Bids (Online)	07-01-2026 (03:00 PM) in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan debited under M.H-0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri (tender inviting authority) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date)

3. At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Uri (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful (1st lowest) bidder will have to provide Performance security @ 5% of Allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG at the time of contract award. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only .after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.

3 (a). Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.

3. (c) The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited If:

(i) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.

(ii) Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter of intent.

(iii) Successful Bidder fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

(iv) If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance security/EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited.

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

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

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

6.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act 2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

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

6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

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

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

No: 2025-26/7821-29 | Dated: 30-12-2025

**Sd/- (Er. Imran Ali)
Executive Engineer, R&B Division, Uri**

DIPK: 9476/25 | Dated: 30-12-2025

Condolence



Abdul Rashid Lone

We express our profound grief and sorrow over the passing away of Abdul Rashid Lone of Naribal Tangawari, Baramulla. His demise is an irreparable loss for the bereaved family and the entire area.

May Almighty Allah grant him the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdaus and bestow patience and strength upon his family and loved ones to bear this irreparable loss.





DC Kulgam reviews arrangements for Republic Day 2026

Departments Asked to Ensure Meticulous Arrangements and Seamless Coordination

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KULGAM, DECEMBER 30: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today reviewed preparations for the smooth conduct of Republic Day-2026 celebrations during a meeting of officers held here at new Conference Hall Mini Secretariat, Kulgam.

Threadbare discussions were held on various arrangements to be made at the venue, including security, seating arrangements, parking, transportation, illumination of buildings, refreshments and accommodation for participants.

During the meeting, the DC directed all concerned departments to put in place elaborate and well-coordinated arrangements to ensure the successful conduct of the national function.

During the meeting it was shared that the main function will be held at DPL Kulgam, where the National Flag will be unfurled by the Chief Guest, followed by a parade comprising contingents of J&K Police, CRPF, NCC, Police Band, Women Contingent, NCC and other participating units.

The DC issued strict instructions to all departments



to complete arrangements well in advance to ensure the smooth and dignified conduct of the

celebrations.

Keeping in view the prevailing cold weather conditions, departments were asked to ensure adequate heating arrangements for rehearsals as well as on the final day of the event.

Emphasising coordination, the DC directed all concerned officers and agencies to maintain close inter-departmental coordination.

KPDCL was instructed to ensure uninterrupted power supply and to keep standby DG sets in readiness at the venue.

The Municipality and Power Department were also directed to ensure proper illumination of important buildings across the town.

The DC further instructed the concerned departments to present colourful cultural programmes to mark the occasion.

Executive Engineer, MED was directed to keep men and machinery in a state of readiness to ensure timely snow clearance in case of any snowfall.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) SMD H. Pora, Executive Engineers of PDD and R&B, Chief Education Officer (CEO), Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Dy-SP HQ and officers from other departments.

District Admin Budgam Orders Suspension of VPN Services on Mobile Phones

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BUDGAM, DECEMBER 30: In the interest of public safety, law and order, and data security, the District Administration Budgam has ordered the suspension of all kinds of Virtual Private Network (VPN) services on mobile phones within District Budgam for a period of two months, with effect from the date of issuance of the order, unless withdrawn earlier. The order has been issued by the District Magistrate, Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, following inputs received from the Senior Superintendent of Police, Budgam regarding unprecedented and suspicious high usage of VPNs across various parts of the district. The communication highlighted that such usage has the potential to be exploited for unlawful and anti-national activities, including incitement of unrest, dissemination of inflammatory material, and coordination of activities prejudicial to the maintenance of public order. It was further observed that VPNs enable encrypted data transmission, mask IP addresses, bypass firewalls and website restrictions, and may expose sensitive information to potential cyber threats.

Considering the prevailing circumstances and the need to take immediate preventive measures to safeguard public security and sensitive data, the District Magistrate deemed it necessary to impose the said restriction. As per the order, Senior Superintendent of Police, Budgam, has been directed to ensure strict implementation of the order in letter and spirit. The District Administration has appealed to the public for cooperation in the interest of maintaining peace, public order, and data security in the district.

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DDC Pulwama Chairs DLRC Meeting, Reviews Performance of Banks

Emphasises Priority Sector Lending and Saturation of Financial Security Schemes

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

PULWAMA, DECEMBER 30: District Development Commissioner (DDC), Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting for the second quarter of the financial year 2025-26 at Circuit House, Pulwama.

The meeting aimed to assess the performance of banks and line departments under various financial and developmental parameters.

At the outset, the Lead District Manager (LDM), Pulwama, presented a detailed presentation highlighting the district's banking performance.

The Chair was apprised that Pulwama recorded a year-on-year growth of 8.18 per cent in deposits and 10.49 per cent in advances, while the Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio increased by 2.35 per cent. The district's CD ratio at the end of the second quarter stood at 111.86 per cent, ranking among the highest in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

During the review, Dr. Qayoom examined the sector-wise performance of banks against allocated targets and directed

all concerned banking institutions to devise a comprehensive action plan to achieve the stipulated targets.

A major focus of the meeting was the implementation and saturation of social security schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY).

The DDC reviewed the bank-wise progress under these schemes and directed branch managers to maximise enrolments in a time-bound manner. He further instructed cluster Head to monitor daily progress and ensure priority saturation under these schemes.

While reviewing achievements under Priority and Non-Priority Sector lending, the DDC urged banks to place greater emphasis on Priority Sector Lending and to improve the ease of access to banking facilities for consumers.

The DDC also stressed upon all line departments and banks operating in the district to ensure effective implementation of self-



employment schemes such as Mission YUVA, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) and PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, among others.

He emphasised strengthening financial inclusion through proper handholding of beneficiaries to enhance credit outreach, while the Agriculture and allied departments were directed to ensure 100 per cent saturation of PM-Kisan beneficiaries under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Pulwama, Aashiq Hussain Khanday; Chief Agriculture Officer; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer; Assistant Director, Fisheries; representative of RBI; District Development Manager, NABARD, Pulwama; Cluster Head, J&K Bank along with branch managers; Director, RSETI, Pulwama, and representatives from various line departments and banks forming part of the committee.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER REVENUE JAMMU & KASHMIR AT SRINAGAR

IN THE CASE OF: - Caveat application captioned below: -

Abdul Rashid Makai aged 87 Years S/o Abdul Ahad Makai R/o Iqbal Colony Barramulla.

...Applicant.

V/s

General Public.

...Non-caveators.

IN THE MATTER OF: - Caveat Application.

May it please your Lordships.

The caveator most humbly submits as under: -

1. That the caveator has resumed the landed property measuring 24 Kanals & 04 Marlas falling under Survey Numbers 736 & 818 of Mouza Rakh-i-Burn Pattan mutated on his name vide mutation order Number 267 under Section 07 of the J&K Agrarian Reforms Act 1976, besides the wife of the caveator namely Misrah Begum also resumed the land measuring 04 Kanals & 18 Marlas falling Survey Numbers 792, 806 and 830 of Mouza Rakh-i-Burn Pattan, which upon her death too has devolved unto the caveator.

2. That it is worthwhile to mention over here that the resumption of the land by the applicant and his wife was challenged by the cultivators namely Ghulam Qadir Khan & others in a revision petition before the Court of Ld. Financial Commissioner Revenue at Srinagar, which stands dismissed vide order dated 27-12-2024. The order of Ld. FCR is under challenge before this Hon'ble Court in a writ petition, but given the merits of the claim in favour of the caveator no stay has been granted by the Hon'ble Court.

3. That as the caveator in in the process of fencing his land aforesaid and there are people, who are averse to the fencing and protection of the land by the caveator and they are in the process to halt the construction on the spot, as such the caveator has an apprehension that any person/member of the public may file a petition, before this Hon'ble Court for halting the fencing process carried by the caveator, as such the caveator through the medium of this caveat application seeks to submit that should any motion be made by any person on the subject aforesaid against the caveator, let no orders be passed in the application for interim relief, unless the caveator is given a chance to present his case.

4. That the caveat is complete in all respects and the requisite document is annexed herewith. In the premises it is, therefore, prayed that should any motion be made by any person/member of public on the subject aforesaid, let no orders be passed in the interim application unless the caveators are given a chance to present his case against the same. For which act of kindness the applicant as is duty bound in law shall ever pray.

Applicant through counsel.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE COURT OF SUB-JUDGE PATTAN BARRAMULLA

IN THE CASE OF: - Caveat application captioned below:-

Abdul Rashid Makai aged 87 Years S/o Abdul Ahad Makai R/o Iqbal Colony Barramulla.

...Applicant.

V/s

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Applicant through counsel.

Forest Minister reviews Water Supply Schemes in Jammu North

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, DECEMBER 30: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of water supply schemes in Jammu North constituency.

The meeting was also attended by legislator Sham Lal Sharma, Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control, Chief Conservator of Forests, Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers and other departmental officers.

During the deliberations, the Minister emphasized the need to accelerate the pace of ongoing projects and address the challenges confronting water infrastructure in the region. He reviewed the status of several schemes and asked the officials to ensure strict adherence to approved timelines.

The importance of maintaining functional assets, Rana directed the immediate restoration of defunct tube-wells and instructed the engineering staff to undertake corrective measures wherever deficiencies were observed.

The Minister further underscored the necessity of close coordination with the Wildlife Department to resolve clearance-related hurdles. He pointed out that issues concerning pipe-laying and construction activities in protected and fringe areas must be addressed proactively to prevent unnecessary delays.

He issued firm instructions on contractor accountability, directing the officials to engage directly with the executing agencies to identify bottlenecks at the ground level. He cautioned that contractors failing to meet the prescribed quality standards or timelines would face penal action.





Labour reforms, job incentives and social security drove govt's 2025 agenda

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, DEC 30 : The Ministry of Labour & Employment on Tuesday highlighted the implementation of four Labour Codes, Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY), digital transformations, job fair on National Career Service (NCS) Portal among other initiatives in 2025.

In a historic decision, the Government of India has implemented four Labour Codes-- the Code on Wages, 2019; the Industrial Relations Code, 2020; the Code on Social Security, 2020; and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, with effect from 21st November 2025, rationalising 29 existing labour laws.

By modernising labour regulations, enhancing workers' welfare and aligning the labour ecosystem with the evolving world of work, the Labour Codes' implementation lays the foundation for a future-ready workforce and stronger, resilient industries driving labour reforms for Aatmanirbhar Bharat, Ministry of Labour & Employment said.



Alongside labour reforms, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY) with an outlay of Rs 99,446 crore to generate over 3.5 crore jobs in two years.

The scheme provides wage incentives to first-time employees and financial support to employers

for creating new jobs, with special focus on manufacturing. Jobs created between August 1, 2025 and July 31, 2027 will be eligible under the scheme.

India has also made significant gains in social security coverage, rising from 19% in 2015 to 64.3% in 2025, placing the country second

globally after China.

The achievement earned India the International Social Security Association (ISSA) Award 2025 for outstanding performance in social protection.

Major digital reforms were undertaken by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), including auto-settlement of claims up to Rs 5 lakh, a centralised pension payment system enabling pension access from any bank, and face-authentication-based UAN activation.

Meanwhile, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) expanded its coverage to 713 districts, tripled hospital bed capacity and operationalised new medical colleges across the country.

The government also reported progress in employment facilitation through the National Career Service (NCS) portal, which organised nearly 9,800 job fairs and enabled over 1.58 lakh job selections in 2025.

The e-Shram portal crossed 31.42 crore worker registrations, including the onboarding of gig and platform workers, further strengthening the social security net for unorganised labour. UNI

Russia supplies fuel for third 1,000 MW N-power plant in Kudankulam

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI, DEC 30 : Russia's integrated nuclear power major Rosatom today said its Nuclear Fuel Division (managed by TVEL JSC) has supplied nuclear fuel for the initial loading of the VVER-1000 reactor core at Unit 3 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in India.

The fuel, including the initial reactor loading and some reserve assemblies, was manufactured by the Novosibirsk Chemical Concentrates Plant (a facility of Rosatom's Nuclear Fuel Division).

The shipment is provided under the contract covering full lifetime fuel supply for Units 3 and 4 from their onwards. The delivery was carried out under the contract for fuel supply of power units of the second stage of the Kudankulam NPP No. 3 and No. 4 for their entire service life starting from the initial loading.

During the operation of the two power units of the first phase of the Kudankulam NPP, Russian and Indian engineers have done considerable amount of work to increase their efficiency through the introduction of advanced nuclear fuel and extended fuel cycles.

Starting from 2022, the Kudankulam NPP is supplied with nuclear fuel of the TVS-2M model. It provides more reliable and cost-effective reactor operation due to its rigid design, a new generation anti-debris filter and an increased mass of uranium.

Its introduction has also enabled elongation of the fuel cycle of the reactors from 12 to 18 months, so the power units are being stopped less frequently for fuel re-load and generate more electricity.

The facilities of the second stage of the Kudankulam NPP will become the first in history VVER-1000 power units to be launched already in an 18-month fuel cycle.

This is the result of successful cooperation in recent years between Rosatom's Nuclear Fuel Division and Indian partners, as the efficient solutions that had been previously implemented at similar power plants in Russia and China were introduced at the two operational Kudankulam power units.

Throughout the entire operational life of nuclear power plants, Rosatom not only supplies nuclear fuel, but also provides engineering services, increasing the efficiency of power units introducing new fuel and fuel cycle solutions, the company said.

Kudankulam NPP in Tamil Nadu state in southern India involves the construction of six power units of VVER-1000 reactors with an installed capacity of 6000 MW.

The first stage, consisting of power units No. 1 and No. 2, was commissioned in 2013 and 2017, respectively. Power units No. 3, 4 and No. 5, 6 are the second and third stages of the Kudankulam NPP. Currently, power units 3, 4, 5, 6 are under construction.

The plants belong to India's nuclear power plant operator Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. UNI

Hyd: Deepa Jewellers files DRHP with SEBI for Rs. 250 crore IPO

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, DEC 30 : Hyderabad-based Deepa Jewellers, an organised B2B gold jewellery processor and supplier, has filed its Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with market regulator SEBI to raise funds through an Initial Public Offering (IPO).

The proposed IPO comprises a fresh issue of shares aggregating up to Rs. 250 crore and an offer for sale of up to 1.18 crore shares by promoters Ashish Agarwal and Seema Agarwal.

The shares carry a face value of Rs. 2 each and will be listed on the BSE and NSE.

A significant portion of the fresh issue Rs. 215 crore will be utilised towards long-term working capital requirements, primarily to support procurement, maintenance, and scaling up of gold jewellery inventory.

The remaining proceeds will be deployed for general corporate purposes, reflecting the company's focus on sustaining growth amid rising demand from organised jewellery retailers.

Founded in 2016, Deepa Jewellers operates as a B2B designer, processor and supplier of hallmarked 22-karat gold jewellery, with a strong presence across Telangana, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

According to a CRISIL report, the company is among the key processors and suppliers of vaddanam and CNC machine-cut bangles in southern India.

The company follows an outsourced manufacturing model, supported by a network of around 40 karigars, enabling asset-light operations and design scalability.

As of November 30, 2025, the company offered 14 product categories and 76 SKUs.

Deepa Jewellers has built a diversified customer base of 315 clients across 13 states and one union territory, comprising 43 jewellery retail chains and 272 standalone stores.

Its key customers include leading organised players such as Joyalukkas India, Kalyan Jewellers India and Lalithaa Jewellery Mart, underscoring its growing relevance in the formal jewellery supply chain.

The company's revenue from operations stood at Rs. 1,397 crore in FY25, up from Rs. 921 crore in FY23, while net profit increased to Rs. 40.5 crore from Rs. 22 crore during the same period.

For the six months ended September 30, 2025, revenue was Rs. 812 crore with a net profit of Rs. 48.6 crore.

The IPO will be undertaken through the book-building route, with up to 50% reserved for Qualified Institutional Buyers, at least 15% for Non-Institutional Investors, and a minimum of 35% for Retail Individual Investors.

Emkay Global Financial Services and Valmiki Leela Capital are the book-running lead managers to the issue, while Bigshare Services is acting as the registrar. UNI

Hyderabad has emerged as a high growth wealth centre: Emkay Global Financial Services

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI, DEC 30 : Hyderabad has emerged as a high-growth wealth centre in India, driven by the rapid expansion of Global Capability Centers (GCCs), robust infrastructure development, and a thriving start-up ecosystem, states Emkay Global Financial Services Ltd.

According to Emkay Wealth Management, the wealth management arm of Emkay Global Financial Services, the city is witnessing strong demand for ultra-luxury real estate, particularly 5,000 plus sq ft 'Sky Mansions' in micro-markets such as Kokapet and the Financial District, reflecting rising affluence and evolving lifestyle aspirations among high-net-worth individuals.

"These structural trends

position Hyderabad as a key market for long-term wealth creation, offering opportunities across equities, private markets, real assets, and alternative investments," Vice President at Emkay Wealth Management Abhishek Vaish said.

Looking ahead to 2026, Emkay Wealth expects stock markets to become more balanced and earnings-driven, with high GDP growth and low inflation.

The Nifty 50 is projected to deliver a steady return of 11-14 pc, while mid and small caps are likely to outperform, due to improved valuations and balance sheets.

Precious metals to not replicate their 2025 gains but continue to maintain a long-term bullish outlook on gold and silver. In the debt market, it believes that a likely pause in rate cuts may limit bond



yield gains, prompting investors to focus on medium-duration strategies and select credit-oriented opportunities

Key sectors to watch include BFSI, which is expected to enhance

Nifty profitability, along with a recovery in consumer discretionary post GST 2.0, and potential value opportunities in IT stocks.

Vice President of Emkay Wealth Management Abhishek Vaish added

2025 landmark year for MSMEs with growth reforms, global outreach

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, DEC 30 : The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) marked 2025 as a landmark year, registering major gains in formalisation, credit access, digital governance, and global outreach, according to its Year-End Review released by the ministry on Tuesday.

One of the biggest highlights was the surge in formalisation, with Udyam Registrations crossing 7.3 crore enterprises since 2020, reflecting accelerated integration of MSMEs into the formal economy.

To further support scale and competitiveness, the government revised MSME classification thresholds from April 1, increasing investment and turnover limits to enable enterprises to grow without losing MSME benefits.

Access to finance also saw a significant boost. The Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGSMSE) completed 25 years, crossing one crore guarantees.

During 2025 alone, over 29 lakh guarantees amounting to Rs 3.77 lakh crore were approved, while the guarantee cover ceiling was doubled to Rs 10 crore.

Special incentives were also introduced for enterprises promoted by transgender entrepreneurs.

The Prime Minister Vishwakarma scheme emerged as another major success, achieving its target of 30 lakh beneficiary registrations within two years.

The scheme delivered skill training, collateral-free loans, digital enablement, and modern toolkits to artisans and craftspeople across the country, strengthening traditional livelihoods with modern support systems.

In the Khadi and Village Industries sector, sales crossed Rs 1.27 lakh crore during FY 2025-26 (till November), reinforcing the government's push for 'Vocal for Local' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

Coir exports also rose sharply, touching Rs 5,260 crore between January and October 2025, supported

by skill development and global marketing initiatives.

On the technology and governance front, the Ministry aligned nearly one lakh MSME assets with the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan through geo-mapping, enabling data-driven planning and efficient resource allocation.

New initiatives such as the MSME Hackathon 5.0 and the Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) portal further strengthened innovation and ease of doing business.

The year also saw strengthened international cooperation, with multiple MoUs signed with countries including Mauritius, Thailand, Slovakia, and Malaysia to promote MSME collaboration, technology transfer, and market access.

Overall, 2025 stood out as a year of consolidation and expansion for India's MSME ecosystem, with policy reforms and digital initiatives laying the foundation for sustained industrial growth and inclusive development. UNI

NFAP-2025 comes into force, India aligns with global spectrum standards

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, DEC 30 : The key policy document that governs the management and allocation of radio-frequency spectrum in India, NFAP-2025, comes into effect from Tuesday.

Released by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications, the National Frequency Allocation Plan 2025 (NFAP-2025) provides the allocation of radio-frequency spectrum to various



radio-communication services in the frequency range 8.3 kHz to 3000 GHz. It serves as an essential reference for spectrum managers, wireless operators, and telecom equipment manufacturers. NFAP-2025 introduces several strategic and future-ready revisions to meet the growing spectrum demand for next-generation technologies: * Identification of the 6425-7125 MHz band for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT), significantly enhancing mid-band spectrum availability for 5G, 5G Advanced, and future 6G networks.

* Allocation of Ka, Q, and V bands for satellite-based services is crucial for high-throughput Geo-Stationary Orbit (GSO) satellites and large non-GSO satellite constellations. * Additional spectrum for In-Flight and Maritime Connectivity (IFMC) to ensure seamless broadband access in the air and at sea.

* Support for emerging technologies such as Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) communication, LEO/MEO satellite services, and expanded broadband connectivity solutions.

"These enhancements will ensure that India's spectrum management remains responsive, high-capacity, and harmonised with global standards, supporting both current and future digital innovations, which will help in enhancing the development of the ecosystem in India," the ministry said on Tuesday.

Reliance Industries rejects report claiming USD 30 billion gas dues

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, DEC 30 : The Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has strongly refuted media reports that claimed the Centre is seeking USD 30 billion from the company and its partner BP over alleged underproduction from a gas field.

In a communique issued here on Tuesday, the company said the report was factually incorrect and based on unnamed and unidentified sources.

RIL clarified that there is no claim of USD 30 billion against Reliance Industries or BP.

According to the company, the actual amount involved in the dispute related to the KG-D6 gas

block is approximately USD 247 million, which has already been disclosed in its annual audited financial statements in line with regulatory and disclosure requirements.

"The publication of a report such as this based on unnamed and unidentified sources is inappropriate and irresponsible," the company said, adding that the contents of the report mischaracterise facts related to the matter.

Reliance stated that the issue referred to in the report is currently sub judice and will be decided by the judicial system in accordance with Indian law. The company said it has full faith in the judicial process



and reiterated that it has complied with all contractual and legal obligations at all times.

The company also emphasised that the USD 247 million claim made by the Government of India has been consistently disclosed in its financial statements over

the years. RIL said the reporting of a much larger figure created a misleading impression and did not reflect the actual status of the dispute.

Reliance Industries, together with its partner BP, took strong exception to what it described as

the misrepresentation of facts in the report. The company maintained that it has adhered to all terms of the production sharing contract governing the KG-D6 block.

The clarification comes amid heightened scrutiny of large energy projects and their compliance with contractual production targets. RIL's statement seeks to put on record its position that the reported \$30 billion claim does not exist and that the matter under litigation is significantly smaller in scope and value.

The company said it will continue to engage with the legal process and expressed confidence that the issue will be resolved in accordance with the law. UNI



Zeeshan Parvez – The Silent Architect of Rural Cricket in Kashmir

■ **DR. RIYAZ RABBANI KASHMIRI**

At a time when sports success is widely linked with instant fame and commercial interests, the story of Zeeshan Parvez stands out as a shining example of patience, resilience, sacrifice, and an unwavering belief in the growth of sports at the grassroots level. Born in Thindima, Kreeri, Zeeshan serves as a teacher in the Department of Education, but his identity is far more profound than that of a mere educator. For nearly three decades, he has been shaping talented rural cricketers across Kashmir — polishing dreams with discipline and turning challenges into opportunities.

Zeeshan Parvez stepped into the world of cricket in 1995–96. Like thousands of Kashmiri youngsters, his love for cricket began not with formal coaching or professional facilities, but with pure passion. What distinguished him from the rest, however, was his relentless hard work backed by immense family support. His father always encouraged him, while his uncle, Nazir Ahmad, played a vital role in strengthening him both physically and mentally.

Through continuous training and dedication, Zeeshan earned opportunities outside J&K where he proved his skills. He was primarily known as a fast bowler — a role that demands power,

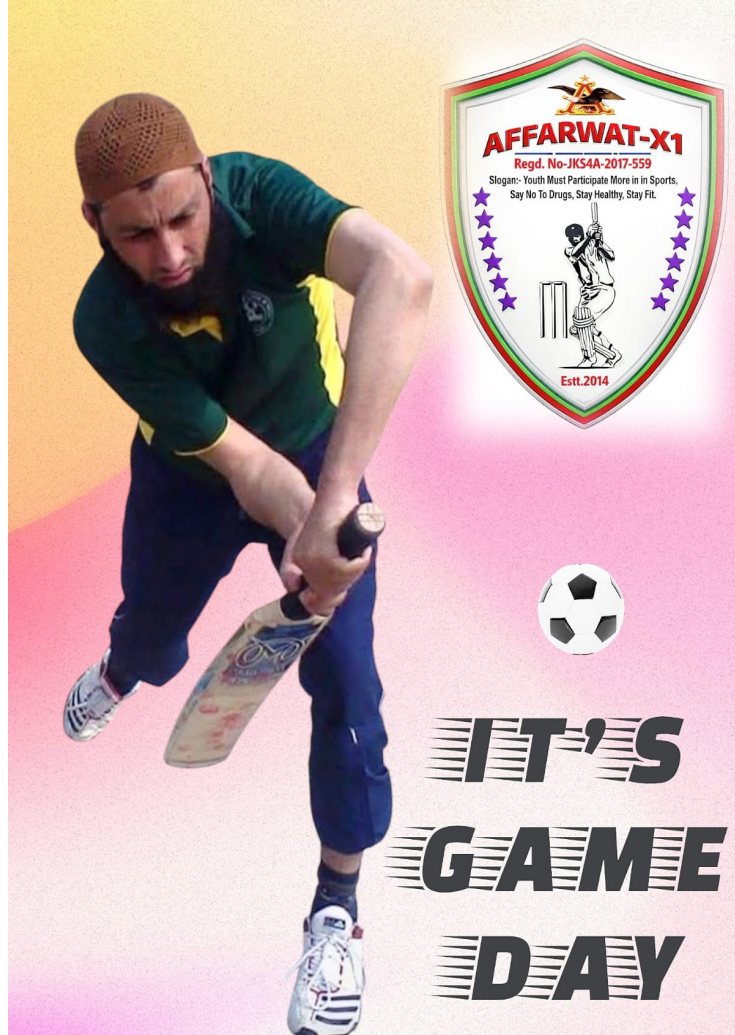
control, and strong determination. These very traits later became the core of his coaching philosophy.

As time passed, Zeeshan transitioned into a new role. He associated with district-level tennis ball cricket teams as a coach and travelled to places like Jammu and Kathua, where his expertise and leadership were widely appreciated. Later, he visited Rajasthan and Goa with different teams, gaining invaluable experience and insight.

However, like every sporting journey, his path too faced a tough challenge. In 2013, while playing cricket, he suffered a severe back injury which led to a disc surgery. For a fast bowler, such an injury often signals the end of a career — but for Zeeshan, it became a turning point that transformed his mission.

During his long period of recovery, he reflected on the condition of cricket in rural Kashmir. He realized that while talent exists in abundance, what is lacking is guidance, platforms, and opportunities. It was during this phase that a new dream took shape — a dream that later emerged as the Affarwat-XI Sports Club.

This club was not created with huge financial resources or facilities, but with deep concern for youth, strong determination, and unwavering belief. Despite limited means, Zeeshan began reaching out to youngsters from remote and economically weak back-



grounds, giving them access to training and exposure. Over time, Affarwat-XI became a beacon of hope for aspiring cricketers across

Kashmir. Zeeshan's coaching approach has always been holistic. Along with technical training, he

emphasizes education, discipline, character building, and social responsibility. Being a teacher himself, he strongly believes that education and sports must complement each other.

His dedication soon began to bear fruit. In 2023, two players from Affarwat-XI — Rizwan Wani (Kachwa) and Faizan Hameed (Pusnag) — reached the ISPL Auction. Although they remained unsold, their achievement was significant — a rural club producing talent capable of reaching national-level opportunities.

During the same period, Rizwan Wani was awarded a scholarship of ₹1 lakh by the Amitabh Bachchan Foundation, presented to him by cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar — a proud moment for the entire club.

Despite setbacks, Zeeshan never gave up. He continued identifying and grooming fresh talent. His belief remained firm: "Hard work is never wasted."

This belief finally turned into reality in 2025 when Shahid Mir, son of Mohammad Maqbool Mir from Wahigund Tangmarg, was selected by Bengaluru Strikers for ISPL 2025 with a base price of ₹3 lakh. It marked a historic milestone for Zeeshan and Affarwat-XI — the reward of years of silent dedication and perseverance.

Shahid's success inspired countless youth across the region, proving that with proper guidance, neither limited resources

nor geographical remoteness can hold back talent. It also highlighted the pivotal role of grassroots coaches like Zeeshan Parvez — who form the real foundation of sports.

In acknowledgment of his unmatched contribution, Zeeshan Parvez was honoured by the Baramulla Cricket Forum, particularly for shaping rural cricketers and playing a key role in Shahid Mir's success.

Beyond cricket, Zeeshan sees social responsibility as an essential part of his mission. Affarwat-XI aims to steer youth away from drugs and negative influences, driving them toward education, sportsmanship, and purposeful living.

The club's motto reflects its noble vision:

"Education for All, Sports for All"

Today, Zeeshan Parvez stands as a strong symbol of grassroots cricket development in Kashmir — a man who evolved from a player to a coach and an influential sports promoter. His journey proves that true success lies not in individual fame, but in transforming the lives of others.

His story is not merely about cricket — it is a living example of hope, purpose, and positive social change, showing how one determined individual can shape the future of an entire generation through silent commitment and service.

World Blitz: Erigaisi stuns Carlsen to emerge joint leader on day one; Humpy, Deshmukh slip

■ **UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

DOHA: Top Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi demonstrated strong endgame technique and quick calculation to stun Magnus Carlsen and emerge joint leader, with the Norwegian world No.1 slamming the table in frustration, on day one of the World Blitz Championships here.

Erigaisi then went on to defeat another top GM Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan and drew three other games to emerge joint leader late on Monday.

With Erigaisi -- who ended day one on 10 points from 13 games and was tied for the top spot with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana -- in menacing form, it was Carlsen who lost a tense endgame in Round 9.

Erigaisi had just nine seconds on his clock while Carlsen was down to three.

Just as the Norwegian -- who had also slammed the table after losing to India's D. Gukesh in Norway Chess earlier this year -- was about to make a queen move, it slipped from his hand and flew off the table.

Alexander Grischuk, who happened to be passing by at that moment, jumped and tried to move out of the way quickly. By the time Carlsen picked up his queen and put it back on the board, his time had already run out.

The Norwegian couldn't hide his anger and slammed his fist on the table to give it a mighty tremor, though Erigaisi remained unruffled by the drama.

The leaders are trailed by six players on 9.5 points.

The co-champions in the 2024 edition of World Blitz, Carlsen and Ian Nepomniachtchi, sit on 9/13.

Dutchman Jorden van Foreest emerged as the first sole leader in the 'Open' section after Round 6. The 26-year-old, who won the Dutch championship this year, defeated the likes of Alireza Firouzja and Erigaisi, who suffered his only loss on Monday to the Dutch player.

However in Round 7, van Foreest fell to Abdusattorov, who briefly joined a six-way tie for the lead at 6/7. But things didn't go well for them after that, and both finished the day on 8/13.

By the end of Round 10, Erigaisi stood alone at the top with 8.5/10, having drawn only once (with Firouzja) and lost once (to van Foreest).

Entering the final round of the day, three players were tied at 9.5/12.

Carlsen finished on 9/13, suffering a second setback on the day against Caruana after overlooking a rook. Six more rounds will be played on Tuesday to reach the semifinals, followed by the final.

Carlsen, who is aiming for his ninth World Blitz title to go with his sixth Rapid crown he won on Sunday, would be keen to overcome the setbacks with his never-say-die attitude.

Budgam Police Host CAP Volleyball Event

■ **HT SPORTS DESK**

BUDGAM: Today budgam police under the supervision of SSP Budgam Shri Nikal Borkar (IPS) organized a Volleyball Tournament under the Civic Action Programme (CAP) at Government Higher Secondary School, Magam. Four teams from Dangerpora, Sodipora, Magam, and Mazhama enthusiastically participated, demonstrating remarkable sportsmanship, dedication, and team spirit.

The event was graced by SDPO Magam Mohd Ashrif Lissery, SHO Magam Mudassir Zaroo, and DO Narbal Sharafat Mohiddin, who encouraged the participants and interacted with the youth.

The primary objective of



organizing such sports activities under CAP is to promote a healthy lifestyle among the youth, prevent drug abuse, and channelize their energy towards constructive and disciplined pursuits. Budgam Police remains committed to engaging youth through community-oriented programmes focusing on sports, education, and awareness campaigns.

The event concluded with appreciation and encouragement for all participating teams to remain active in sports and contribute positively to society. Budgam Police reaffirmed its resolve to continue similar initiatives across the district to strengthen police-community relations and foster a drug-free, progressive society.

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