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# 'VIKSIT BHARAT' by 2047 ; A National Resolve With a Clear Deadline: PM Modi

PRAGATI@50 showcases a decade of faster decisions, cooperative federalism and technology-driven delivery

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI, DEC 31:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday asserted that Viksit Bharat @ 2047 is not a distant dream but a national commitment backed by a fixed timeline, stating that India today is moving at a much faster pace due to decisive reforms, real-time monitoring and accountable governance. Chairing the landmark 50th meeting of PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation), the Prime Minister said the platform represents a fun-

damental transformation in the country's governance culture over the past decade—one that prioritises outcomes over procedures and delivery over delays. Describing PRAGATI@50 as a symbol of change, the Prime Minister said that when decisions are taken on time, coordination is seamless and accountability is clearly defined, governance naturally gains speed and its impact becomes visible in the everyday lives of citizens. During the meeting, the Prime Minister reviewed five major infrastructure projects covering roads, railways, pow-



er, water resources and coal sectors across five States, with a total investment exceeding ₹40,000 crore. He reiterated the government's focus on timely completion of projects and optimum use of public resources. Reviewing the PM SHRI schools initiative, Prime Minister Modi emphasised that the scheme must emerge as a national benchmark for holistic, future-ready education. He stressed that the focus should be on learning outcomes rather than only physical

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## LG, CM, Cabinet Ministers extend New Year greetings

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, DEC 31:** Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has greeted the people on the eve of the New Year 2026. In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said, "On the occasion of the New Year, I extend my greetings and best wishes to all the citizens. The New Year festivity brings new hopes and opportunities in our life. Let us commit ourselves towards building a happier and healthier society and to take J&K to new heights of development and prosperity. Let us also dedicate ourselves to ensure the welfare and progress of Bharat and pledge to take on the future challenges to realise our dreams, preserve our core values to align it with the life goals and give shape to our aspirations. May this New Year brings joy and prosperity to everyone." Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also extended warm New Year greetings to the people of Jammu and

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## J&K Govt plans two-part budget session in 2026

Likely to begin from first week of February

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

**SRINAGAR, DEC 31:** The budget session of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly is likely to be held in two parts- the first before the holy month of Ramadhan and the second after Eid-ul-Fitr, sources said. Sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the NC-led government is considering holding the budget session in two phases. "If all goes as per plan, the first part of the session will be held before the beginning of the holy month of Ramadhan. With the commencement of Ramadhan, the Assembly will go on a month-long recess, after which the session will resume following Eid-ul-Fitr," sources disclosed, adding that the government is currently

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## RECAP 2025: Operation Sindoor Redraws Red Lines, Marks India's Tough New Doctrine on Terror

HT NEWS DESK

**NEW DELHI, DEC 31:** Operation Sindoor emerged as a defining moment for India's national security architecture in 2025, establishing a decisive new normal in the country's response to cross-border terrorism. Widely described as the Indian military's most expansive and multi-domain combat mission in over five decades, the operation signalled New Delhi's resolve to

punish terror sponsorship emanating from Pakistan without restraint or ambiguity. Launched in the early hours of May 7, Operation Sindoor was triggered by the brutal Pahalgam terror attack that claimed the lives of 26 civilians. In a calibrated but forceful response, India carried out precision missile strikes on nine terror camps located across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, eliminating at least 100 ter-



rorists, according to official assessments. The strikes targeted major hubs of terror infrastructure, including the Jaish-e-Mohammed headquarters in Bahawalpur and Lashkar-e-Taiba's base in Muridke, along with facilities in Sialkot, Muzaffarabad, Kotli, Bhimber and other locations long identified as operational centres for cross-border militancy. New Delhi's action was seen

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## Fresh Snowfall Blankets Kashmir's Higher Reaches Amid Unusually Warm Winter

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, DEC 31:** Fresh snowfall blanketed several areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir with the Meteorological department forecasting light to moderate precipitation at most places over the next 24 hours, officials said on Wednesday. Owing to a cloud cover, the night

temperatures remained higher than the seasonal average and settled above the freezing point at most places, the officials said. Despite the fresh snow, the valley continues to experience an unusually warm winter, with temperatures remaining three to seven degrees above the seasonal average, the MeT officials said.

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## Jammu Sees Crime Dip, Zero Terror Footprint in 2025 as Police Intensify Security Grid

HT NEWS NETWORK / UNI

**JAMMU, DEC 31:** Intensive security and crime-control measures remained in force in Jammu, with police conducting 541 cordon-and-search operations and 1,093 long-range patrols in 2025, while reporting no active terrorist presence in the district, a senior police officer said. Presenting the annual crime and security review, Jammu Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Joginder Singh said 4,134 FIRs were registered during the year—the lowest figure in the last five years—reflecting effective preventive policing. "The police ensured security and anti-terror measures remained in force throughout the year. There is no active terrorist presence in Jammu

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## New Year Celebrations: Amid surge in tourist arrivals, authorities beef up security in Kashmir

Visitors throng Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonmarg to welcome 2026

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

**SRINAGAR, DEC 31:** Authorities have beefed up the security across Kashmir as tourists in large

numbers have arrived in the Valley to celebrate the New Year. According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) popu-

lar destinations including Gulmarg, Sonamarg, and Pahalgam are full. "Authorities have made the security arrangements stringent to ensure a safe and

orderly festive environment. A tight vigil is being maintained at key entry points, including Qazigund, the gateway to Kashmir, and at other prominent locations,

said an official.

He said, "Frisking and vehicle inspections have been intensified to ensure public safety."

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**J&K Secures ₹1,430 Cr for Disaster Mitigation**  
CS reviews progress of SASCI, SPARSH implementation in J&K  
HT NEWS NETWORK  
**JAMMU, DEC 30:** In a major relief for the UT of J&K, the Central Government, on the recommendations of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), has approved a comprehensive allocation of over Rs1,430 Cr for reconstruction of damaged public infrastructure and implementation of disaster mitigation measures across affected districts of the UT. This significant development came to light during a high-level review meeting chaired by Chief Secretary,  
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**CS Reviews Homestay, SVAMITVA Lending Push**  
HT NEWS NETWORK  
**JAMMU, DEC 31:** In a major push towards strengthening tourism-led livelihoods and expanding access to institutional credit in rural areas, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today favoured the creation of a comprehensive framework aimed at promoting homestays and facilitating loans against SVAMITVA cards across the Union Territory. The meeting, besides the Principal Secretary, Finance and Managing Director, J&K Bank, was attended by  
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**CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....**

**'VIKSIT BHARAT'.....**

infrastructure and asked Chief Secretaries to personally monitor implementation. He also called upon senior officers to conduct field visits to assess performance and ensure that PM SHRI schools inspire improvements across the entire state education system.

Recalling the origins of PRAGATI, the Prime Minister said the approach draws from the SWAGAT platform he launched as Gujarat Chief Minister to resolve public grievances through technology, transparency and strict timelines. That experience, he said, was expanded at the national level to create PRAGATI an integrated digital platform for reviewing projects, flagship programmes and grievance redressal.

Highlighting its scale and impact, Prime Minister Modi said PRAGATI has helped accelerate projects worth more than 85 lakh crore. Since 2014, 377 projects have been reviewed, with nearly 94 per cent of identified issues resolved, significantly cutting delays, cost overruns and coordination failures.

The Prime Minister noted that PRAGATI has also unlocked several long-pending projects that had remained stalled for decades, including the Bogibeel rail-cum-road bridge, the Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link, the Navi Mumbai International Airport, expansion of the Bhilai Steel Plant and key thermal power projects. These achievements, he said, underline the power of sustained high-level monitoring and inter-governmental coordination.

Emphasising cooperative federalism, the Prime Minister said projects often fail not due to lack of intent but because of silo-based working. PRAGATI, he said, has brought the Centre and States together as "Team India", aligning ministries and departments around shared national outcomes. He thanked the Union Secretaries and State Chief Secretaries whose consistent participation has turned PRAGATI into an effective problem-solving platform.

Outlining the path ahead, Prime Minister Modi reiterated his vision of Reform, Perform and Transform—reform to simplify systems, perform to deliver on time, cost and quality, and transform by improving citizens' lived experiences. He said that Viksit Bharat @ 2047 is both a collective resolve and a time-bound target, and PRAGATI will remain a key driver in achieving it.

Concluding, the Prime Minister said PRAGATI@50 is not an end but a renewed commitment to faster execution, better quality and measurable outcomes, calling for deeper use of technology across the entire project life cycle to sustain India's rapid progress.

**LG, CM, Cabinet.....**

Kashmir and wished them peace, prosperity and good health in the year ahead.

In his message, the Chief Minister expressed hope that the New Year would usher in renewed optimism, harmony and opportunities for progress across Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the occasion offers a moment to reflect on shared aspirations and to reaffirm collective commitment towards building a more inclusive, resilient and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir.

"May the New Year bring happiness to every household and inspire us to work together with dedication and mutual respect for the overall development and well-being of our society," the Chief Minister said.

Omar Abdullah also called upon all sections of society, especially the youth, to contribute positively towards peace, unity and sustainable growth, and to play an active role in shaping a brighter future for the region.

The Chief Minister prayed for a year marked by stability, economic growth and strengthened bonds of brotherhood among the people.

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of New Year 2026, wishing them peace, prosperity and happiness.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the government remains firmly committed towards sustaining the developmental agenda with renewed vigour, ensuring that the benefits of growth and progress reach every section of the society.

He emphasized that the focus will continue to be on improving ease of living, strengthening the basic infrastructure and delivering citizen-centric services in an efficient and transparent manner.

The Deputy Chief Minister stated that the resolve to provide equitable opportunities, inclusive growth and social justice will guide the government's policies not only in 2026 but in the years to come. He added that special emphasis will be laid on youth empowerment, employment generation, infrastructure development and welfare initiatives aimed at uplifting the marginalized sections of the society.

Highlighting the rich social fabric of J&K, he said that Jammu and Kashmir has always stood as a shining example of secularism, harmony and mutual coexistence.

On the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister called upon the people to extend their wholehearted support and cooperation to the administration in its efforts to revitalise all sectors, strengthen peace and work collectively towards building a peaceful, progressive and developed Jammu and Kashmir.

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo extended her heartfelt New Year 2026 greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, expressing hope that the coming year will bring prosperity, and improved wellbeing for all sections of society.

In her greetings, the Minister said that the New Year is a time for renewed optimism and collective resolve to work towards a healthier and more inclusive future. She emphasized on the importance of unity, compassion and shared responsibility in overcoming challenges and building a stronger healthcare system.

Sakeena Itoo highlighted the government's continued commitment towards responsive and people centric governance, with focus on strengthening and upgrading developmental landscape across length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir. She expressed confidence that sustained efforts and public cooperation would lead to meaningful progress in every sector in

the year ahead.

The Minister also prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of entire Jammu and Kashmir.

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of New Year 2026, wishing them peace, prosperity and happiness.

In his New Year message, the Minister said that the Government is entering the new year with renewed commitment to inclusive and sustainable development, ensuring that the benefits of progress reach every section of society. He said that special focus will continue to be laid on strengthening the essential services, improving ease of living and delivering citizen-centric governance with transparency and efficiency.

Highlighting the role of his key departments, Satish Sharma said that the Food and Civil Supplies Department will continue to ensure uninterrupted availability of essential commodities at affordable prices, while the Transport and IT sectors will be further strengthened to improve connectivity, digital governance and public service delivery. He added that the government is also making sustained efforts to modernize infrastructure and improve the quality of public utilities across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister underlined that youth empowerment and promotion of sports will remain among the top priorities of the Government. He said that enhanced sports infrastructure, talent identification and increased opportunities for young people are being created to channel their energy in a positive and productive direction, contributing to the overall development of the Union Territory.

Satish Sharma also reiterated the Government's commitment to social justice, inclusive growth and welfare of the marginalized sections of society. He said that welfare schemes and development programmes will continue to be implemented with greater outreach and effectiveness to ensure that no one is left behind.

Extending his best wishes, the Minister called upon the people of Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen the bonds of harmony, peace and brotherhood. He also exhorted upon the public to extend their wholehearted cooperation to the Government in its efforts to build a peaceful, progressive and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir in the year 2026.

**J&K Govt.....**

contemplating the timetable along these lines.

Sources privy to the development said the government is seriously considering recommending convening the session from the first week of February 2026.

"As per the proposal being discussed, the Assembly would go for a month-long recess from February 18 or 19. The session will then resume after Eid-ul-Fitr," they said.

According to sources, the issue is likely to be decided in the next cabinet meeting, which will be held after the return of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah from abroad.

In that meeting, the cabinet is expected to make a recommendation to the Lieutenant Governor for convening the Assembly to hold the budget session.

It is worthwhile to mention that the Finance Department had started preparations for the 2026-27 budget in October 2025 by asking departments to submit budget estimates for the next fiscal year and revised estimates for the current fiscal.

The Finance Department has also completed budget discussions with all departments.

The budget for 2025-26 was presented by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the J&K Assembly on March 07, 2025—(KNO)

**RECAP 2025: Operation.....**

domestically and internationally as a clear assertion of political will.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi underscored that India would not be constrained by nuclear posturing, making it clear that terrorism and those who sponsor it would face direct consequences. Following the strikes, India conveyed to Pakistan that its objective was limited to dismantling terrorist infrastructure and that it did not seek escalation. However, when Pakistan responded with military retaliation, Indian forces reacted swiftly and decisively. Advanced air defence and combat systems including the Integrated Counter-Unmanned Aerial System grid, S-400 Triumph missile systems, Barak-8 interceptors and Akash surface-to-air missiles—were deployed to neutralise threats.

Indian forces inflicted significant damage on key Pakistani military assets, hitting radar installations, command-and-control centres, aircraft hangars and air base runways at multiple locations. The campaign showcased seamless coordination among the Army, Navy and Air Force, while highlighting the growing role of drones, counter-drone technologies and integrated battlefield systems in modern warfare.

As part of its deterrent posture, the Indian Navy deployed its carrier battle group, submarines and aviation assets at sea with full combat readiness in the immediate aftermath of the Pahalgam attack, reinforcing India's preparedness across all domains.

The hostilities were halted on May 10 following hotline-level talks between senior military officials of both countries. Yet, the message from New Delhi was unequivocal. Addressing the nation on May 12, Prime Minister Modi said India had only "suspended" its retaliatory actions and would judge Pakistan's future conduct with utmost seriousness.

Elaborating on India's evolved counter-terror doctrine, Modi stressed that New Delhi would no longer distinguish between terror groups and the states that shelter them. "If Pakistan wants to survive, it will have to destroy its terror infrastructure. There is no other path to peace," he said.

Defence analysts have described Operation Sindoor as India's most significant military action since the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War, marking a shift from strategic restraint to proactive deterrence. The Defence Ministry noted that the operation combined military precision with diplomatic messaging to enforce

India's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism.

Further underlining the scale of the operation, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A P Singh said in October that at least a dozen Pakistani military aircraft, including US-059 F-16 fighter jets, were destroyed or damaged during the strikes.

As 2025 draws to a close, Operation Sindoor stands as a watershed in India's security policy reshaping deterrence, redefining red lines, and firmly establishing that terror attacks will invite swift and uncompromising retaliation.

**Fresh Snowfall.....**

They said parts of North Kashmir, including Gurez in Bandipora, Gulmarg in Baramulla and Maccbil in Kupwara, experienced fresh snowfall, with reports of light to moderate snowfall in higher reaches as well.

The MET office has said there is a possibility of light to moderate rain/snow at most places during Wednesday night to Thursday forenoon.

A few higher reaches/extreme higher reaches of north and central Kashmir may receive moderate to heavy snowfall, it added.

There is a possibility of a brief spell of light rain/snow over isolated places on Friday as well, it said.

On Tuesday night, Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 2.3 degrees Celsius, which is 4.9 degrees Celsius above the normal for this time of year, they said.

Gulmarg remained the coldest location in the region with the mercury settling at minus 3.0 degrees Celsius, officials said.

The night temperature remained almost three degrees above the usual temperature.

In south Kashmir, Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 1.8 degrees Celsius — seven degrees above the normal temperature, and Qazigund, the gateway town of the valley, saw the mercury settle at 1.4 degrees Celsius.

The region is currently going through 'Chillae-Kalan', a 40-day period of extreme cold. During this phase, night temperatures typically drop between three and eight degrees below the freezing point. However, current readings show a departure from normal patterns. (Agencies)

**Jammu Sees.....**

district. To maintain this security environment, 541 cordon-and-search operations and 1,093 long-range patrols were conducted during the year," Singh told reporters here.

"The reduction of 288 cases (since last year) was attributed to preventive action, Public Safety Act and PIT-NDPS detentions, proactive bail contesting, preliminary enquiries under BNSS," he said, also highlighting sustained deployments during Operation Sindoor and in flash-flood relief.

Police disposed of 5,122 cases, including 1,968 old and 3,154 new ones, marking the highest disposal rate in five years, he said.

Under a zero-tolerance policy against organised crime, police identified 123 hardcore criminals and gangsters, registered 59 FIRs against them, arrested 67 accused and recovered 49 illegal weapons, Singh said, adding, "One accused was detained under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)."

Highlighting the anti-narcotics campaign under Operation Sanjeevani, the SSP said 204 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act cases were registered, with 309 persons arrested and 48 convictions secured.

"Over 15 kg of heroin worth about Rs 60 crore in the international market, along with ganja, poppy straw and opium, were seized, while four properties were attached and 23 drug-linked illegal structures were demolished," Singh said.

In cybercrime-related matters, police registered 36 FIRs, disposed of 708 complaints and secured financial relief of over Rs 11.9 crore through refunds and lien-marking. "As many as 746 stolen mobile phones worth Rs 1.75 crore were recovered and returned to owners," he said.

The SSP said thefts of around Rs 20 crore in total were reported in 2025, out of which nearly Rs 10-crore worth of assets were recovered and restored to respective owners, achieving a recovery rate of around 50 per cent — the highest in five years.

The SSP said more than 6,000 police personnel were trained during the year in new criminal laws, NDPS, cybercrime, counter-terrorism, law and order, and digital policing.

All major events in 2025, including national days, pilgrimages, elections and VVIP visits, were managed peacefully without any major law and order incident, he added.

**New Year Celebrations.....**

"Personnel of Jammu and Kashmir Police, the CRPF, and other forces have been deployed in strength to ensure that celebrations pass off peacefully," the official said, adding, "Senior officials reviewed the security scenario at Lal Chowk in Srinagar on late Wednesday evening. They also interacted with tourists and exchanged greetings. They reviewed security arrangements as visitors gathered to welcome the year 2026."

"All forces are on high alert, crowded areas are being monitored 24x 7," the official added.

Security personnel have been deployed in large numbers along the Gulmarg-Tangmarg road to ensure public safety and maintain law and order.

"Pahalgam, Gulmarg, and Sonamarg witnessed a heavy rush throughout the day, with visitors enjoying the picturesque landscapes and winter festivities. The smooth crowd management, with checkpoints and patrolling are aimed at ensuring minimal disruption," said an official.

Adding to the festive mood, the Meteorological Department forecast light to moderate rain and snowfall over most parts of the Valley from Wednesday night to Thursday morning, with moderate to heavy snowfall expected in higher reaches including Gulmarg, Sonamarg, and parts of North Kashmir.

Snowfall in the Valley, which had largely been absent in recent New Year periods, is expected to enhance the winter tourism experience.

"Considering the weather predictions and the tourist rush, all agencies, including security forces along the Line of Control in North Kashmir are vigilant. Safety and smooth movement are our top priorities," said another senior

official.

**'TOURISM SECTOR WITNESSING REVIVAL'**

Meanwhile, Director of Tourism Kashmir Syed Qamar Sajad said that the Kashmir's tourism sector is witnessing a revival, with snowfall and renewed confidence attracting visitors back to the Valley.

He said tourist footfall had returned to near-normal levels after a brief dip earlier this year, providing relief to thousands of families dependent on tourism.

He credited the revival to coordinated efforts by the tourism department, hotels, transporters and service providers, along with improved perceptions of safety and stability.

"Fresh snowfall has been decisive in encouraging tourists to travel. The Valley looks festive, and people did not want to miss this moment," Sajad said.

He invited visitors from the country and abroad to experience Kashmir firsthand, saying, "Every visitor who leaves happy becomes an ambassador for Kashmir."

Meanwhile, MLA Gulmarg, Farooq Ahmad Shah said that Gulmarg has strong potential to revive Kashmir's tourism sector, noting the resort's scenic appeal and arrangements for visitors.

He added that skiing in the area is affordable and hotels have made preparations to welcome tourists.

Shah said the destination plays a vital role in restoring tourism, which faced setbacks earlier this year, and that security and hospitality measures have been implemented ahead of New Year celebrations.

Tourist numbers have surged, with hotels fully booked, signalling growing confidence in the Valley's winter tourism, he added.

SP BARAMULLA EXTENDS GREETINGS  
Meanwhile, Superintendent of Police (SP) Baramulla Gurinderpal Singh extended New Year greetings to people, especially people of Baramulla, and urged them to act responsibly.

He urged motorists to drive carefully during adverse weather conditions and said security arrangements have been strengthened to ensure peaceful celebrations.

The SSP said sanitisation and coordinated search operations have been underway for the past one month and security deployment has been doubled compared to routine arrangements.

He said a special verification drive was conducted covering over 4,500 service providers in Gulmarg.

Singh said comprehensive measures are in place for safety, security, traffic management and maintenance of law and order to prevent any untoward incident during New Year festivities—(KNO)

**J&K Secures.....**

Atal Dulloo, which was attended by all Administrative Secretaries.

The meeting was convened to assess the progress of key reform-oriented financial initiatives such as Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) and SNA SPARSH, being monitored by the Finance Department and implemented across various departments of the UT Government.

During the meeting, Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya apprised the chair of several major milestones achieved by the UT in securing central financial assistance across multiple sectors.

He further informed that following the recent natural disasters, including cloud-bursts in parts of the UT, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) had visited Jammu and Kashmir. Based on its assessment, the Ministry of Home Affairs recommended the declaration of these calamities as "severe" in nature, paving the way for the substantial allocation aimed at reconstruction of damaged infrastructure and adoption of long-term mitigation measures.

The Principal Secretary, Finance, presented a detailed status report outlining approvals received, expenditure incurred, and reform benchmarks achieved by the UT under various centrally sponsored and reform-linked schemes.

The Chief Secretary expressed gratitude to the Government of India and the Ministry of Home Affairs for the timely assistance, stating that the support would go a long way in strengthening the UT's preparedness against future disasters, besides enabling large-scale reconstruction of damaged public assets, including roads, power infrastructure, and water supply systems.

He directed the concerned departments, particularly the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRR&R) and the School Education Department, to promptly identify mitigation works eligible under the approved funding and ensure their completion by August 2026, in accordance with scheme guidelines.

Emphasizing optimal utilisation of funds, the Chief Secretary called upon all departments to fully utilise the first instalment of Rs 944 Cr released under SASCI and ensure that at least one bill under pending Centrally Sponsored Schemes is processed through SNA SPARSH. He set a deadline of January 7, 2026, for achieving this target, with the Finance Department tasked to monitor progress on a daily basis.

He also stressed the need for early identification of projects for the next financial year under SASCI, urging departments to prioritise works that can be completed within a single financial year, as mandated under the scheme.

Providing an update on SASCI implementation, the Principal Secretary, Finance informed that 222 works across 27 departments had been approved, including 162 ongoing projects and 60 new works. Out of the approved allocation, Rs 944 Cr has been released as the first instalment,

against which an expenditure of Rs 758 Cr has already been recorded.

He urged the departments to fast-track implementation, particularly 95 projects currently showing zero expenditure, to ensure full utilisation of funds within stipulated timelines.

He also gave out that Government of India approved additional allocation under SASCI 2025-26 based on the progress made by J&K in utilizing the initial loan of Rs. 1431 Cr. It was stressed that for claiming this additional allocation expediting ongoing capital investments and infrastructure works, progress in implementation of CSS in SPARSH mode and initiating Aadhar based payments for CSS, DBT schemes are essential.

The meeting was also apprised of fresh approvals under Part-II reforms, wherein Jammu and Kashmir has been covered under the Unity Mall initiative, applicable to Union Territories with legislatures. Under this initiative, the Government of India has approved special assistance of up to Rs 200 Cr for establishment of Unity Malls in Srinagar and Jammu.

Significant progress has also been made in the mining sector, with the Mining Department notifying a new Minor Mineral Policy introducing an auction-based allocation mechanism along with other reform measures. In recognition of these reforms, the Government of India has sanctioned Rs 100 Cr under the Mining Sector Reforms component.

Additionally, under the Digital Public Infrastructure initiative for agriculture, Jammu and Kashmir is implementing the Farmers' Registry (Component-I) and Digital Crop Survey (Component-II). The UT has successfully achieved these milestones under the Digital Crop Survey, leading to approval of Rs 60 Cr by the Government of India under this component.

The Chief Secretary took this occasion to reiterate the UT Government's commitment to financial discipline, timely execution of reforms, and effective utilisation of central assistance to strengthen infrastructure, enhance resilience, and ensure sustainable development across Jammu and Kashmir.

**CS Reviews.....**

Secretary, Labour & Employment, Director, Employment, Managing Director, JKTC and other concerned officers. While reviewing the initiatives in detail, the Chief Secretary impressed upon J&K Bank to actively support community-based tourism, enhance ease of credit for homestay operators and unlock the economic potential of rural property owners through SVAMITVA-enabled lending. He underscored the need for dedicated systems to give the required impetus to these initiatives across the UT.

The Chief Secretary also urged the Labour & Employment Department to seek technical assistance from BISAG-N for developing an end-to-end digital solution that would make SVAMITVA cards a ready and seamless platform for availing bank finance through a simplified and time-bound process.

Briefing the meeting, Managing Director, J&K Bank, Amitava Chatterjee, informed that the Bank, as recommended earlier, has rolled out a dedicated loan product for homestays registered with the Tourism Department, offering affordable finance with simplified procedures and minimal collateral requirements. He elaborated that financial assistance is available for up to six rooms per homestay, with a maximum loan of 5 lakh per room and an overall ceiling of 30 lakh per unit.

He further stated that the interest rate is linked to the RLLR, currently at 8.20 percent, with a repayment period of 60 months and a moratorium of up to six months. Loans up to 10 lakh are collateral-free and supported by simplified documentation to facilitate easy access to credit.

The MD apprised the Chief Secretary that 81 homestays have already been financed, with a total outstanding credit of 5.50 crore, indicating steady traction under the scheme. He added that nearly 80 percent of registered homestays have been digitally onboarded on banking platforms, while the remaining units are being covered in mission mode to achieve complete digital inclusion.

It was further informed that the homestay loan product has recently been revised to make it more attractive and customer-friendly, thereby facilitating higher credit off-take. Bank branches, particularly those located in and around prominent tourist destinations, have been directed to proactively reach out to homestay operators for credit linkage. To enhance uptake, lists of registered homestays have also been shared with zonal and cluster offices to strengthen customer engagement, while digital platforms are being leveraged to ensure hassle-free lending with minimal turnaround time.

The Chief Secretary was also briefed on J&K Bank's initiatives to promote credit access through SVAMITVA cards, aimed at monetising rural properties by enabling their use as formal financial assets and strengthening the rural credit ecosystem.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo appreciated J&K Bank's proactive alignment with the government's priorities of tourism promotion, rural empowerment and economic formalisation. He emphasised the need for intensified outreach, faster onboarding of eligible beneficiaries and close coordination among the Bank, Tourism Department and district administrations to ensure that the benefits of homestay financing and SVAMITVA-based lending reach the grassroots level.

He directed that these initiatives be scaled up in mission mode, particularly in rural and off-beat destinations, to generate sustainable employment and strengthen the tourism ecosystem more effectively across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir.



## Div Com conducts spot visit of Natipora Junction and Barzulla Underpass to improve Traffic Flow

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, DEC 31:** To address persistent traffic congestion and ensure smooth vehicular movement on the Rambagh-Natipora-Chanapora road, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, conducted a spot visit of Natipora Junction and Barzulla underpass today.

During the visit, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed the existing traffic scenario and issued slew of directions for implementing strategic interventions.

He instructed the Public

Works Department (PWD) to develop a T-junction at Natipora by utilizing available land of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) to facilitate smoother traffic movement and reduce congestion.

The Div Com further directed the PWD to expedite the removal of structures falling within the alignment of the right-side bund road of Doodh Ganga. He also instructed the department to establish connectivity of the left-side bund road of the Doodh Ganga from Barzulla to the Sanatnagar Flyover.

While inspecting the ongoing construction of the Barzulla Bridge underpass, the Divisional Commissioner emphasized



extending the bund road beyond the underpass to connect it with IG Road, aimed at eliminating wrong-side traffic movement from bridge to Rambagh Chowk.

Besides, Garg directed the PWD to take up land acquisition matter with the CRPF required for road widening and instructed the concerned authorities to prepare detailed drawings showcasing the proposed road layout, including the "before and after" configuration.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, SSP Traffic Srinagar, senior officers of the PWD, and the Commanding Officer of CRPF were present during the inspection.

## VOMEDH Hosts 'Tees Ki Tees' Book Review at Press Club Jmu

### GULFAM BARJI

**JAMMU, DEC 31:** A grand literary review session was organized yesterday at the Writers Club, Jammu, under the auspices of Vomedh Rang Manch. The Principal Secretary, Department of Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma, participated in the event as the Chief Guest. During the session, a detailed discussion and critical review was held on the short story collection "Tees Ki Tees" by renowned radio, television, and stage announcer Bindiya Tikoo.

On this occasion, Brij Mohan Sharma congratulated the author and specially praised the short story "Naakhun" (Nail), stating that Bhandiya Tikoo had proven her literary skill by presenting deep meaning effectively through concise writing.

The session was also attended by Harvinder Kour, Secretary of the JKAACL, and eminent literary personalities Dr. Agni Shekhar and Dr. Javaid Rahi. While reviewing the book, Padma Shri Mohan Singh and theatre actor and broadcaster Raj Kumar Bahroopia congratulated Bhandiya Tikoo and advised her to further engage in thoughtful work to firmly establish her identity in her original literary genre.

The author, Bindiya Tikoo, while speaking on the occasion, said that the purpose of such review sessions is to help new writers understand the true value of their creative identity and to elevate literary standards. She emphasized that young writers should not fear criticism; instead, they should understand it positively and use it to strengthen their future writings.

At the beginning of the session, Vomedh President Rohit Bhat warmly welcomed the guests. It is worth mentioning that the book "Tees Ki Tees" is a collection of 38 short stories covering themes such as values of life, connection with culture and nature, the impact of COVID-19, the pain of migration, and the courage to move forward despite hardships.

Other notable attendees included Bal Krishan Sanyasi, Sahitya Akademi awardee Mahraj Santoshi, Doly Tikoo Abrol, Santosh, Fouzia Mughal, filmmaker Dr. Ayash Arif, Bihari Kak, Pankaj Khajuria, Shami Malhotra, Rani Bhan, broadcasters Ramesh Bangloo and Ramesh Maratha, Keshu Chopra, Tarun Opal, Arvinder Singh Aman, along with various literary and cultural organizations.

At the conclusion of the session, Bharti Koul, Vice President of Vomedh Rang Manch, delivered the vote of thanks, while the proceedings were conducted by Kusum Tikoo.

## SKUAST-K-Backed Honey FPO Wins State-Level Laurels

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, DEC 31:** SKUAST-K—handheld FPO The Kashmir Sehjar Organic Honey Cooperative Ltd. (Trail, Pulwama) has added another milestone by receiving the Second Best Cooperative Award at Jammu on 31 December 2025. The award carries INR 25,000 prize money, along with a citation and a shawl, recognising the cooperative's commendable performance and its contribution to strengthening the cooperative movement through organised honey production and farmer-led enterprise. The first prize was won by The shivalik Hills Honey FPO, Chadwal, Kathua.

The award was formally presented by Mr. Bal



Krishan, JKAS, Additional Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Department of Cooperatives, Government of Jammu & Kashmir. His presence and the recognition from the Department underline the importance of well-governed cooperatives and FPOs in driving sustainable livelihoods, encouraging value addition, and ensuring better market access for grassroots producers. The award was received by Mr Ubaid Ahmad Reshi, Chief Executive Officer, of the said FPO on the behalf of its members and BoDs.

This honour reflects the collective dedication of the cooperative's member beekeepers, Board, and field functionaries who have worked consistently to improve practices, maintain quality, and expand outreach. It also highlights the role of SKUAST-K's Directorate of Extension in providing continuous handholding support through training, technical advisories, institutional strengthening, and facilitation for branding and market linkages—helping the cooperative progress as a model of organised, farmer-owned development in the region.

Directorate of Extension, SKUAST-K congratulated The Kashmir Sehjar Organic Honey Cooperative Ltd. and all its members for this well-deserved recognition, and wishes the cooperative continued growth in quality improvement, diversification, and wider market penetration—so that more beekeepers and rural families can benefit through a strong and sustainable cooperative framework.

## Bhadarwah Battles 82% Rainfall Deficit: Massive Green Drive Launches to Revive Dying Streams and Forests

### AMIR IQBAL KHAN

**BHADARWAH, DEC 31:** In a determined effort to restore Bhadarwah's fragile ecosystem facing an alarming 82% rainfall deficit, a large-scale plantation drive was launched today at Bhalra under the "Green Planet" campaign. The initiative, organized jointly by The Social Welfare Organisation of India (TSWOOI) and the All India Peoples Welfare Society (AIPWS), in collaboration with the Forest Department and 10 J&K Bn NCC cadets aimed to counter an escalating ecological and water crisis gripping the Chenab Valley.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Guest Vinod Kumar, Additional Superintendent of Police Bhadarwah, urged citizens to adopt a "war footing" approach towards afforestation. "We are witnessing a critical juncture where our natural resources are vanishing; planting a tree is no longer a choice but a mandatory duty to ensure this earth remains habitable for our children," he asserted while joining NCC cadets from

PMShri Govt. Higher Secondary School Bhalra in planting Deodar saplings.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Bhadarwah, Davinder Kumar, appearing as Guest of Honour, revealed that the region recorded a staggering 82% rainfall deficit from October to December 2025, resulting in drying streams and a severe water shortage. "Our rivers and rivulets are gasping for life," he warned emphasizing that community based reforestation was essential to sustain both the environment and livelihoods.

Adding to the discourse, Umar Tak and Om Parkash Senior Lecturer underlined the urgent need for community ownership of green spaces, stating, "Environmental responsibility can't be outsourced. Every villager needs to see tree planting as an act of survival, not just an act of charity. The day we start valuing water like gold, our forests will revive naturally." Their remarks resonated deeply with attendees, many of whom pledged to support the initiative in the coming months.

Leading the drive, Zaffar Hussain Wani, President of AIPWS and Vice President of TSWOOI, alongside Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Koul, Associate NCC Officer of 10 JK Bn at PM Shri HSS Bhalra, expressed grave concern over the "ecological imbalance" fueling seasonal diseases and reduced soil fertility. Wani termed the drought like condition a "man-made disaster born of decades of deforestation," while Dr. Koul hailed the spirit of the youth, remarking that "environmental literacy among students is the only shield against the climate catastrophes looming over Jammu and Kashmir."

The green drive which saw participation from several dignitaries including Sameer Rishu (Range Officer, Neeru Range) and community members, concluded with participants vowing to adopt and nurture each sapling planted. Their collective pledge marked a hopeful step towards rejuvenating Bhadarwah's shrinking green cover and reviving its long-parched water sources.

## Hill States Warn FTAs Threaten Apple Growers

### MUSHTAQ UL ISLAM

**SRINAGER, DEC 31:** The Hill States Horticulture Forum (HSHF) on Tuesday raised serious concerns over the impact of ongoing and proposed Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) on India's apple sector, warning that tariff concessions on apple imports could destabilise the hill-state horticulture economy.

A high-level delegation of the Forum, led by Harish Chouhan and comprising Maajid A. Wafai, Bashir Ahmad Naik, Izhan Javeed, Irshad A. Bhat, and Sunil Aggarwal, met Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at his residence to convey the concerns of apple growers from Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. The delegation underlined that horticulture, particularly apple cultivation, is the backbone of hill-state economies, sustaining lakhs

of farming families and a wide network of allied livelihoods including labour, transport, cold storage, packaging, and local trade.

Farmer representatives expressed apprehension over policy signals emerging from recent and ongoing trade negotiations, including discussions with New Zealand, the European Union, the United States, and Chile, which may lead to reduced import duties on apples, even if limited through tariff-rate quotas.

Growers cautioned that any dilution of the existing 50 percent customs duty places domestic producers at a disadvantage against imported apples that often benefit from state subsidies, advanced mechanisation, and export incentives abroad.

"The proposal to allow apple imports starting from March will severely damage the existing cold-

store infrastructure built across the hill states, which produce the bulk of India's apples," the Forum members cautioned. They reminded the Union Agriculture Minister that this storage and post-harvest ecosystem has been developed at enormous cost over decades, supported through various central and state incentives, subsidies, and policy interventions.

Allowing imports at the very start of India's marketing season, they warned, would not only depress domestic prices but also catastrophically impact every vertical of the horticulture economy—from cold-store operators and transporters to packers, commission agents, farm labourers, and thousands of orchard-dependent families across the Himalayan region. Apple cultivation in hill states is not just an agricultural activity—it supports a multitude

of allied industries including fruit packing, transport, cold storage, labour employment, and local markets. The apple economy contributes significantly to regional GDP and rural employment, making it inherently sensitive to market disruptions.

The delegation has made the following key requests to the Union Agriculture Ministry and the Government of India:

1. Immediate review and reconsideration of the apple import duty reduction, especially within the FTA quota framework.
2. A comprehensive socio-economic impact assessment of existing and proposed FTAs on domestic horticulture, particularly apples.
3. Strengthened safeguard mechanisms and strict enforcement to prevent market flooding and protect domestic prices.
4. Direct engagement with

farmer groups at all stages of trade negotiations to ensure that agricultural stakeholders' voices are meaningfully represented.

5. Revision of the assessing value (reference price) of imported apples, urging the government to increase it from the existing ₹50 to ₹90, to ensure fair valuation and prevent under-invoiced imports from destabilising domestic markets.

The delegation left the meeting with a deep sense of satisfaction, noting that the Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister listened patiently to all concerns and assured the Forum that the interests of India's farmers will never be compromised under any circumstances. The Minister's commitment to safeguarding the horticulture sector provided confidence that the issues raised will receive due consideration at the highest levels.

## CEO GANDEBAL REVIEWS REPUBLIC DAY 2026 PREPARATIONS

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**GANDEBAL, DEC 31:** The meeting was convened to review and finalise comprehensive arrangements for the smooth and dignified conduct of the "Republic Day celebrations." Detailed deliberations were held on the preparation of "March Past contingents, finalization of cultural programmes, transport arrangements" for participating students and staff, and overall coordination among the concerned departments.

Special emphasis was laid on ensuring that the "cultural programmes reflect the relevance and spirit of Republic Day, highlighting

constitutional values, unity in diversity, patriotism, and national integrity." The observance of "Vande Mataram @ 100" was also discussed in detail, with directions to suitably incorporate its historical significance and national importance into the programme.

Mr. Oneel Kumar Bhat stressed the importance of discipline, coordination, punctuality, and quality performance in all events, particularly the march past and cultural presentations.

He directed all Heads of Institutions to ensure proper rehearsals and selection of students so that the district-level function is conducted in a befitting manner, upholding the

dignity of the occasion.

The meeting was attended by Heads of Institutions (HOIs), representatives of the "ARTO, DYSSO, Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs)", and the District Cultural Coordinator. The District Cultural Coordinator briefed the participants about the "programme schedule, thematic presentation, and the essence of Republic Day celebrations."

All stakeholders assured full cooperation and timely completion of assigned responsibilities to ensure the successful celebration of Republic Day 2026 at the district level. CEO Gandebal Reviews Republic Day 2026 Preparations

## Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat Abhiyan Awareness Programme Held at DSWO Office, Budgam

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM, DEC 31:** A district-level awareness programme under the Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat Abhiyan was organised at the Meeting Hall of the District Social Welfare Office (DSWO), Budgam by the SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW), Mission Shakti Budgam. The programme witnessed active participation from teachers representing various educational institutions across the district. The primary objective of the programme was to sensitise teachers about the legal, social, educational, and health consequences of child marriage, and to strengthen their role as key

stakeholders in preventing and reporting cases of early marriage. Special emphasis was laid on the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, the significance of girls' education, and the need for community-level vigilance.

Resource persons from the SANKALP Hub highlighted the adverse impact of child marriage on the health, education, and overall development of girls. They stressed the crucial responsibility of teachers in identifying vulnerable cases, spreading awareness among parents, and ensuring timely reporting through appropriate mechanisms.

The programme also featured interactive discussions, during which teachers shared their field-level experiences

and proposed strategies for effective community outreach, school-based awareness programmes, and counselling of parents and adolescents.

Participants collectively reaffirmed their commitment to act as change agents within their institutions and communities. The programme concluded with a collective pledge to support the Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and to work proactively towards making Budgam a child-marriage-free district. The event underscored the continued commitment of Mission Shakti Budgam towards safeguarding children's rights and empowering women through sustained awareness and capacity-building initiatives.

# Sakeena Itoo reviews cleanliness, sanitation measures across health facilities in Kashmir Division

Stresses on proactive, people-centric approach for accessible, quality healthcare services

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**JAMMU, DECEMBER 31:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today chaired a comprehensive review meeting regarding cleanliness and sanitation measures in Government Medical Colleges (GMCs), District Hospitals and Sub-district hospitals of Kashmir division as well as other facilities at Civil Secretariat here, with special focus on preparedness for the upcoming winter season.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed; Managing Director, JKMSCL, Tariq Hussain Ganai; Director Family Welfare and Immunization, Director Planning Health and Medical Education, Principals of all GMCs of Kashmir, Medical Superintendents of all hospitals, Chief Medical Officers of all Kashmir districts and other concerned officers of health department, either in person or through video conferencing.

During the review, the Minister assessed the availability of healthcare services, patient care mechanisms, manpower deployment and infrastructure status in major healthcare institutions as well as sanitation and cleanliness measures across these health facilities.

The Minister emphasized on the need for improved sanitation and cleanliness in the hospitals. "Everyone has role in management and cleanliness of hospitals, not just medical superintendents or



Principals", Minister Sakeena said. She directed the Medical Superintendents not to allow any kind of food or eatables inside the hospitals from outside. She also called for complete ban on polythene bags inside the hospital premises.

The Minister directed the Principals and Medical Superintendents to form Committees at their levels who would carry inspection regarding cleanliness in their respective hospitals on daily basis. She further directed them to carry out awareness among the attendants regarding Dos and Don'ts in the hospital premises.

She also called upon the Secretary Health to establish a Central Control Room on which

people can report feedback or any issues related to cleanliness of hospitals and health facilities.

The Minister also directed Principals and Medical Superintendents to establish an appreciation mechanism like certificates or cash rewards for people involved in cleanliness of hospitals.

Regarding management of hospitals, the Minister directed the officers to devise a proper plan for management of attendants in hospitals and GMCs. She asked them to allow not more than two attendants with the patients.

The Minister also directed the Principals and Medical Superintendents to install signages inside the hospital premises so that the attendants and patients

are facilitated regarding tests and other facilities available at the hospital.

The Minister further directed the Health Secretary to carry out a detailed audit regarding all utilities available in the hospitals.

In view of the winter season, the Minister directed the officers to make all kind of medical supplies and equipments available in all far flung and snow prone areas beforehand. She asked the health authorities to undertake meticulous and time-bound planning for the stocking and distribution of essential medicines, medical equipment, and consumables, particularly in far-flung and snow-prone areas. She stressed that no lapse should occur in the supply chain during periods when

connectivity is disrupted due to snowfall.

The Minister also asked the Director Health to carry out a detailed survey in snow prone areas regarding expecting mothers in view of inclement weather forecast and make all arrangements for their smooth facilitation to the nearby hospitals.

The Minister also underscored the importance of strengthening emergency services, ensuring the functionality of critical care units, and maintaining adequate availability of doctors, paramedics, and support staff. She called for regular monitoring of healthcare institutions and prompt redressal of gaps affecting patient services.

Reiterating the government's commitment to accessible and quality healthcare, Sakeena Itoo urged the concerned officials to adopt a proactive and people-centric approach, ensuring that healthcare delivery remains uninterrupted even in the most challenging terrains and weather conditions of the Kashmir division.

She also directed the Principals and Medical Superintendents to submit progress reports on utilisation of Hospital Development Funds as well as on maintenance of lifts and other essential equipments in their respective health facilities.

During the meeting, the Principals and Medical Superintendents briefed the Minister about measures in places regarding sanitation and as well as over functioning of their respective hospitals.

## JKBOSE launches First-Ever Shina Textbooks for Classes I & II

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 31:** In a landmark move to promote and preserve regional languages, the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) has announced the maiden publication of textbooks for the Shina language (Classes I and II).

The initiative aligns seamlessly with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) 2022, which advocate mother-tongue-based, multilingual, and culturally responsive education at the foundational level.

The textbooks have already been printed and distributed as per requisition, ensuring timely availability for classroom use.

The introduction of the Shina textbooks marks a milestone in JKBOSE's sustained efforts to mainstream indigenous languages in school education. By enabling children to begin learning in their mother tongue, the Board aims to strengthen foundational literacy, cognitive development, and cultural connection among Shina-speaking learners.

Developed strictly as per NCF-FS 2022 guidelines, the textbooks follow a play-based, activity-oriented, and child-centric pedagogy. The age-appropriate content focuses on developing listening, speaking, early reading, and writing skills, in keeping with the NEP 2020 vision of joyful and meaningful learning rooted in local culture.

JKBOSE has consistently played a proactive role in the promotion and protection of Jammu & Kashmir's rich linguistic heritage. Through the introduction, revision, and standardization of curricula in regional languages, the Board has been endeavouring to protect rich cultural diversity and its transmission to future generations through well-knit curriculum and scheme of studies.

The publication of Shina textbooks further reinforces JKBOSE's commitment to linguistic inclusivity and cultural preservation. More than an academic initiative, this step represents a strategic effort to empower local communities, affirm linguistic identity, and translate national policy mandates on multilingual education into classroom practice, especially for the Shina-speaking communities of J&K.

Meanwhile, JKBOSE appreciated the dedicated efforts of the textbook development committee, headed by Masood A. Samoon and Prof. Musavir Ahmad, Department of Linguistics, University of Kashmir, for their scholarly guidance and meticulous review of the textbooks, ensuring academic rigour and linguistic authenticity.

## JJB Shopian conducts inspection of police facilities to inspect implementation of Juvenile Justice Act

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**SHOPIAN, DECEMBER 31:** In a bid to ensure the strict implementation of child protection laws, the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) Shopian, under the leadership of Principal Magistrate, Bazila Bashir, today conducted a comprehensive inspection of Police Station Imam Sahib and Police Post Keegam.

The inspection was carried out under the statutory powers vested under Section 8 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, which mandates periodic inspections of facilities where juveniles may potentially be detained. The primary objective was to ensure compliance to juvenile justice protocols and ensure that no child is held in contravention of the law.

The inspection was conducted by a dedicated team comprising Rafie Ahmad Ganie, Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC), Shopian; Nighat Meharbaan, Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP); Amir Ayoub, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC) Shopian and Sumaira Imtiaz, Legal-cum-Probation Officer (LcPO).

During the visit, the team undertook a meticulous review of detention records and custody documentation, conducted physical inspections of holding areas and interrogation rooms, scrutinized age-determination procedures and assessed overall compliance with juvenile-specific legal and procedural safeguards.

Following thorough examination of records and physical verification of all individuals in custody, the inspection team confirmed that no juveniles were presently lodged at Police Station Imam Sahib or Police Post Keegam.

Principal Magistrate, Bazila Bashir emphasized the need for constant vigilance and issued on-the-spot directions to police personnel, underscoring the importance of correct identification, humane treatment and lawful processing of any juvenile in conflict with the law, strictly in accordance with the provisions of the JJ Act.

## JKTPO organises Export Awareness-cum-E-Commerce onboarding drive in Anantnag

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**ANANTNAG, DECEMBER 31:** Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) today organised an Export Awareness-cum-E-Commerce Onboarding drive in Anantnag.

The workshop was conducted in collaboration with the District Administration Anantnag, ODOP Team, DPIIT, APEDA, ECGC.

The primary objective of the workshop was to empower local MSMEs, artisans, SHGs, FPOs, and entrepreneurs by equipping them with comprehensive knowledge on export-related schemes, procedures, and the benefits of digital commerce platforms.

The event aimed to connect

local producers and artisans with national and international markets through digital platforms and to get well acquainted with the different schemes of the Centre and State Governments.

At the outset, Manager JKTPO highlighted the pivotal role of JKTPO in organising district-level outreach programmes to promote ODOP and facilitate seller's onboarding on e-commerce platforms. General Manager District Industries Centre, Anantnag, while addressing the participants said that District Anantnag has a great potential of exports in Trout fishes, Cricket Bats, and scented rice (Mushk budij). "Trout fish is selected as ODOP (One District One Product) from

district Anantnag with immense potential for exports and other allied derivatives. District Administration is working in full swing with Government and other export institutions to boost exports and make District Anantnag a hub of exports for its potential products under District as Export Hub Initiative", he added.

Rahul Sharma, Branch Manager, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) explained the role of Credit Guarantee Bank, Credit Risk Insurance and related services for exports and gave a detailed insight on how exporters can safeguard their shipments and money for exports.

Likewise, Business Development Consultant, APEDA, provided

valuable insights into APEDA's role in promoting agricultural exports and explained the registration process and documentation requirements.

The role of FIEO for Indian Exporters include market research and trade information, and the procedure for obtaining the Import Export Code (IEC) was also elaborated. The participants were given necessary guidance to update their knowledge by explaining to them about various Government of India Export-related schemes like MEIS.

More than 120 artisans, exporters, and FPO representatives from Anantnag district participated in the workshop. The event witnessed enthusiastic engagement,

with participants actively interacting during the sessions and expressing keen interest in onboarding their products.

The initiative is part of JKTPO's ongoing efforts to promote exports from all districts of Jammu & Kashmir under the Districts as Export Hubs scheme and the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative. Expert-led sessions also covered topics such as export benefits, branding of local products for international markets, export financing options, and credit risk insurance mechanisms.

Hilal Ahmad Reshi IPO, Nodal officer DIC Anantnag along with senior officers from line departments also participated in the said workshop.

## ADC Handwara reviews arrangements for Republic Day celebrations

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**KUPWARA, DECEMBER 31:** Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi today convened a meeting of all concerned officers at Environmental Hall Handwara here, to review the arrangements for celebrations of Republic Day in the Handwara sub division.

On the occasion, the ADC stressed upon the officers to ensure elaborated and hassle free arrangements for conduct of the National event. He directed the officers to maintain proper coordination and ensure arrangements well in advance.

The ADC directed the line departments to display Tableaus during Republic Day to showcase developmental activities of their respective departments and government schemes. He said all efforts shall be made

to make National functions more attractive and informative. He gave directions that Republic Day celebration functions shall be held at Tehsil headquarters and block headquarters with the same fervour and enthusiasm.

It was given out in the meeting that the main venue of Republic Day celebration shall be held at District Police lines (DPL) Kulangam Handwara for the Sub-Division, where the National flag will be hoisted and the VIP will take salute on the March past.

Entrusting the responsibilities for smooth conduct of the event, the ADC asked R&B department, Mechanical Engineering and Municipality Handwara to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness of the DPL ground and Town area. They were also directed to keep manpower available in case of snowfall on the day of rehearsal as well as main function Day.

## DC Bandipora reviews Land Subsidence Issue at Hajin, Calls for Permanent Restoration Plan

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 31:** Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a review meeting to take stock of the ongoing restoration efforts related to the sinking and land subsidence issue in Hajin town, which has adversely impacted power supply, water supply, and both residential and commercial structures.

During the meeting, the Jal Shakti Department informed that temporary restoration measures have been in place for nearly one and a half years.

Emphasizing that stop-gap arrangements cannot continue indefinitely, the Deputy Commissioner expressed concern over the prolonged reliance on temporary solutions and underscored the urgent need to identify a sustainable and long-term remedy.

Taking serious note of the gravity of the issue, the DC directed the constitution of

a dedicated Assessment Committee to carry out a detailed technical evaluation of the affected area and recommend appropriate remedial measures at the earliest. She also instructed all concerned departments to conduct a joint site inspection to assess ground conditions, identify potential risks, and ensure coordinated and time-bound restoration efforts. The Deputy Commissioner further directed concerned officers to proactively engage with residents of the Naninara Bridge area, including families already affected as well as those likely to be impacted, and ensure proper counselling, clear communication, and reassurance.

Reiterating the district administration's commitment to public safety, the DC stressed the importance of close inter-departmental coordination and timely execution of restoration works, affirming that safeguarding lives, property, and essential services remains the top priority.

## DC Kulgam chairs review meeting on PM Vishwakarma Scheme

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**KULGAM, DECEMBER 31:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation and progress of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme in the district.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed key components of the scheme, including beneficiary registration, skill training, toolkit distribution, with special focus on credit linkage.

Stressing the importance of timely



credit support for successful implementation of the scheme, the DC directed concerned line departments and banking institutions to enhance coordination, identify bottlenecks, and expedite the processing and

disbursement of pending credit cases.

Lead District Manager (LDM) was instructed to ensure that all cases sanctioned are promptly disbursed.

Principal, ITI was directed to ensure distribution of toolkits to all trained beneficiaries, and to take up any issues related to toolkit delivery with the concerned authorities.

The DC further emphasized the need for proactive measures to ensure speedy and effective credit linkage for eligible beneficiaries across the district.

## DC Kupwara inspects construction of Transit Accommodations at Nutnussa, Kulangam

Directs engineers for prioritizing the completion of projects

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**KUPWARA, DECEMBER 31:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse today undertook an extensive visit and inspected the ongoing construction of Transit Accommodations at Nutnussa and Kulangam.

He was accompanied by Chief Engineer R&B North Kashmir, Sushil

Kumar; Additional Deputy Commissioner Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi; Superintending Engineer R&B, Rais Makdooimi; Executive Engineer R&B Handwara; Farooq Ahmad Shah, Tehsildar, Zeeshan Khan and other concerned officers.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the transit Accommodations at Nutnussa and

Kulangam and assessed the pace and quality of work, and issued necessary directions to the concerned officers to ensure timely completion of the projects as per prescribed standards.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner in a follow up visit inspected the ongoing restoration work of the Drugmulla-Hatmulla Bridge.

# Vibrant tourism imperative for employment generation, regional development: Satish Sharma

Satish Sharma Steers Grand Conclusion of Patnitop-Sanasar Winter Carnival 2025

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**UDHAMPUR, DECEMBER 31:** Minister for FCS&CA, IT, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, ARI & Trainings Satish Sharma today said that promotion of winter tourism, cultural heritage and sports-linked activities is central to the government's strategy for employment generation, regional development and youth engagement.

The Minister was speaking at the concluding function of the two-day Patnitop-Sanasar Winter Carnival-2025.

"With large tourist footfall and enthusiastic participation of locals, the carnival reflected the growing success of the Omar Abdullah-led Government's vision of transforming Jammu and Kashmir into a vibrant all-season tourism and youth activity hub", the Minister maintained.

The Minister said that Patnitop and Sanasar are being positioned as flagship winter destinations of the Jammu region. He added that the government is committed towards upgrading the tourism infrastructure, improving connectivity and enhancing the visitor facilities. He added that the



festivals like the Winter Carnival not only attract the tourists but also create sustainable livelihood opportunities for local people, artisans, performers and small entrepreneurs.

Satish Sharma lauded the

Tourism Department, Patnitop Development Authority and district administrations for organising a professionally managed and vibrant event. He stated that the scale and success of the carnival demonstrated Jammu and Kashmir's rising stature

on the national tourism map.

The Minister called upon the people, especially the youth, to become partners in promoting tourism, culture and sports. He asserted that Jammu and Kashmir is rapidly emerging as a hub of

tourism, talent and opportunity under the present government.

The Minister also congratulated the renowned Punjabi singer Ninja and his team for their electrifying performance, which became one of the biggest attractions of the festival.

The carnival featured an exciting blend of folk culture, live band performances, adventure and leisure activities including horse riding, open-mic competitions, ethnic food stalls and a colourful street bazaar, creating a festive ambience that delighted visitors of all age groups.

Senior dignitaries including DDC Chairman Ramban Dr Shamshad Shan, MLA Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia, Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan, Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta, SSP Ramban Arun Gupta, SSP Traffic Adil Hamid, Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Prem Singh and CEO PDA Virender Kumar Manyal were also present on the occasion.

Director Tourism, Jammu, Vikas Gupta briefed the gathering about the ongoing and upcoming initiatives to further develop Patnitop and Sanasar as premier winter tourism destinations.

## Rana attends concluding ceremony of 20th National Matsogi-Do Championship

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**JAMMU, DECEMBER 31:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today attended the concluding ceremony of the 20th National Matsogi-Do Championship 2025 at the University of Jammu Gymnasium Hall.

The four day national championship, held from December 28 to 31, brought together martial artists from across the country and witnessed a high standard of competition marked by discipline, skill and exemplary sportsmanship.

MLA Budhal Javid Iqbal Choudhary was the guest of honour at the event which was organized under the supervision of Mahinder Keasari, President, Matsogi-Do Federation of India; Gurdeep Singh, General Secretary; Taranjeet Singh Tony, President, State Matsogi-Do Association and Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister congratulated the participants and organizers for successful conduct of the event.

He lauded the athletes for their dedication, perseverance and commitment to excellence. He described Matsogi-Do as a modern combat martial art that effectively integrates self-defence techniques, physical fitness and mental discipline. He observed that the sport is steadily gaining popularity among the youth due to its emphasis on speed, tactical movement, agility and strong sporting values.



Highlighting the wider significance of the sports, the Minister said that national-level championships play a crucial role in identifying emerging talent for international competitions. He added that such events also help project Jammu & Kashmir as a peaceful, progressive and sports-friendly destination.

Reaffirming Omar Abdullah Government's commitment, he assured continued support for strengthening sports infrastructure and promoting youth participation across a wide range of sporting disciplines.

On the occasion, the Minister distributed cash prizes amounting 4.50 lakh among the outstanding performers. He announced that top-performing athletes from the championship would be shortlisted for future international events, providing them an opportunity to represent India on the global stage.

The championship featured competitions in sub-junior, junior and senior categories, with dedicated events for girls and women.

The successful hosting of this national championship highlighted the improved sports infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir and is expected to give a significant boost to sports tourism in the region.

The Matsogi-Do Federation of India, the national governing body of the sport, continues to work towards promoting Matsogi-Do across the country by organizing national competitions and selecting elite athletes for international participation, while fostering values of confidence, self-control, and discipline among practitioners.

## DC Ramban chairs public grievances redressal camp at Panchayat Kanthi

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**RAMBAN, DECEMBER 31:** Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today convened a Public Grievances Redressal Camp here at Panchayat Kanthi.

A team of officers representing different departments was present to take note of the public issues and initiate measures to resolve the same. Departmental stalls were also established at the venue to provide on-the-spot services and disseminate information



regarding government schemes.

The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the grievances and demands raised by the local residents. Most of the issues of public importance were resolved on the spot, while matters requiring further examination were referred to the concerned departments with clear directions for time-bound redressal. The officers present included Assistant Commissioner Development, Tehsildar, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Executive Engineers PWD, PMGSY and Jal Shakti, Assistant Labour Commissioner, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, Block Development Officer Ramban, besides officers from various line departments.

Responding to the demands, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department to expedite the completion of under construction Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) projects and ensure proper functioning of existing water supply schemes in the area.

The Chief Education Officer was asked to take measures to make the Girls Hostel at Kanthi functional from the current academic session to benefit the girl students. He was further asked to rationalise the teaching staff to address shortage in the schools of the area. Further, the PWD Engineers were directed to expedite ongoing road construction works to provide connectivity to the people. The Executive Engineer concerned and the Tehsildar were instructed to visit Kanthi market to arrange parking space on the already acquired land for the proposed road project.

Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner directed the AYUSH Department to shift the AYUSH Wellness Centre to the newly constructed building for its effective functioning.

Earlier, officers from different departments sensitised the public about ongoing welfare and developmental schemes and provided necessary guidance and handholding to eligible beneficiaries for availing benefits.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner also inspected the ongoing developmental works in the area and addressed bottlenecks to ensure smooth and timely execution of the same.

## Mission Vatsalya Bandipora Continues Awareness Drive Under 'Child Marriage Mukht Bharat' Campaign

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**BANDIPORA, DECEMBER 31:** As part of the nationwide Child Marriage Mukht Bharat campaign, Mission Vatsalya Bandipora today organized an awareness and outreach programme in Bankoot Block of the district to sensitize the public about the ill effects of child marriage.

The programme was held with the objective of creating mass awareness regarding the harmful social, legal and psychological consequences of child marriage and to ensure strict compliance with child protection laws.

Officials from the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Child Helpline (CHL) and Child Helpdesk (CHD) Bandipora addressed the participants and informed them that the law strictly prohibits marriage below the age of 18 years for girls and 21 years for boys under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006. They emphasized that child marriage is a punishable offence and a serious violation of Child Rights.

Reiterating the commitment of the administration to safeguard the rights of children, the officials stressed the importance of ensuring a safe, healthy and dignified childhood for every child in the district.



Speaking on the occasion, Supervisor CHL Bandipora, urged participants to remain vigilant and actively report any information or cases related to child marriage to the Child Helpline 1098 or to the concerned authorities, so that timely intervention can be ensured.

As part of the outreach activity, officials also pasted awareness posters at prominent locations across the block

and distributed IEC (Information, Education and Communication) material among participants and members of the general public to further strengthen community awareness.

The programme witnessed active participation from students, staff members, and local residents, reflecting a collective resolve to eliminate the social evil of child marriage from the district.

## DC Pulwama presides over Mega Block Diwas at Kakapora

Planning at Panchayat level should reflect people's aspirations: DC

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**PULWAMA, DECEMBER 31:**

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today presided over a Mega Block Diwas at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Kakapora, aimed at on-the-spot grievance redressal and awareness, registration and saturation under various social security and financial inclusion schemes.

The outreach camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from youth, senior citizens and local residents, including members of the Trade Association, Kakapora Development Forum, Sanitation Committee and civil society. Several developmental and public welfare related issues were raised during the interaction.

The issues highlighted by the public pertained mainly to transport connectivity, healthcare services, road construction and upgradation, water supply, flood-related damages and other civic amenities. Key demands included completion of SDH Kakapora, availability of essential medicines, posting of USG and X-ray technicians at PHC Kakapora, construction of an additional

storey for the Higher Secondary School building, sanctioning of an additional overhead water tank, removal of encroachments along Jhelum, Romshi and Lathi Kol, repair of roads and bunds damaged during recent floods, and mitigation of waterlogging problems.

The Deputy Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the grievances and sought on-the-spot responses from the concerned officers. He directed the Chief Medical Officer, Pulwama to visit PHC Kakapora to assess the situation and address the healthcare-related concerns.

Regarding the demand for an additional overhead tank, the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti informed that the proposal has already been included in the plan and work will commence immediately after approval.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Basharat Qayoom appreciated the large public participation and said that seeking accountability through such forums strengthens democratic governance. He directed officers to carefully note all grievances for time-bound redressal and stated that a follow-up meeting would be held with



concerned departments and local representatives to review progress on the issues raised.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed that Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GDPs) must truly reflect the aspirations of the people, underscoring the importance of decentralised planning. He directed officers to ensure their presence in Gram Sabhas for effective participatory planning.

He also highlighted various pension and social security

schemes, including PM-SYM, PM-KMY, PMJDY, PMJJBY, PMSBY and Atal Pension Yojana, and urged eligible beneficiaries to enrol in these schemes.

Furthermore, the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti was directed to increase the frequency of water tanker supply, especially during the winter season, while the Chief Agriculture Officer was asked to devise an action plan to ensure saturation of crop insurance schemes like PMFBY in Kakapora zone, which is prone to flooding.

Earlier, officers from departments including Agriculture, ICDS and Labour briefed the gathering on government schemes and initiatives. A CSC counter was established at the venue to facilitate on-the-spot registration under various pension and social security schemes.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner also distributed sanction letters and assets under different schemes, including tractors under HADP, motorised vending carts, commercial vermicompost units and other entitlements to beneficiaries.

Among others, the programme was attended by Chief Planning Officer Pulwama Aashiq Hussain Khanday; Executive Engineers of R&B and Jal Shakti, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Pulwama, Chief Education Officer, Pulwama; Chief Medical Officer, Pulwama; Chief Agriculture Officer, Pulwama; District Social Welfare Officer, Assistant Labour Commissioner, Pulwama; Block Development Officer and Tehsildar Kakapora, DMO Pulwama besides officers from various line departments.

HT EDITORIAL

GOI approves package for disaster affected people of J&K

In a major relief for the people affected by the disasters in the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir the central government has approved a comprehensive allocation of over Rs. 1,430 crores for the reconstruction of damaged public infrastructure and implementation of disaster mitigation measures. This significant development came to light during a high-level review meeting chaired by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo. The package has been approved on the recommendations of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

The meeting was convened to assess the progress of key reform-oriented financial initiatives such as Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) and SNA SPARSH, being monitored by the Finance Department and implemented across various departments of the UT government. During the meeting it was informed that following the recent natural disasters, including cloudbursts in parts of the UT, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) had visited Jammu and Kashmir. Based on its assessment, the Ministry of Home Affairs recommended the declaration of these calamities as "severe" in nature, paving the way for the package.

During the meeting directions were issued to government departments particularly the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRR&R) and the School Education Department, to promptly identify mitigation works eligible under the approved funding and ensure their completion by August 2026, in accordance with scheme guidelines. It was impressed upon all departments to fully utilise the first instalment of Rs. 944 crores released under SASCI by January 7, 2026 and the Finance Department has been tasked to monitor progress on a daily basis.

It was informed that 222 works across 27 departments had been approved, including 162 ongoing projects and 60 new works. Out of the approved allocation, Rs 944. crores have been released as the first instalment, against which an expenditure of Rs. 758 crores have already been recorded. Departments have been urged to fast-track implementation so as to ensure full utilisation of funds within stipulated timelines. The Government of India approved additional allocation under SASCI 2025-26 based on the progress made by J&K in utilizing the initial loan of Rs. 1431 crores.

It was stressed that for claiming this additional allocation expediting ongoing capital investments and infrastructure works, progress in implementation of CSS in SPARSH mode and initiating Aadhar based payments for CSS, DBT schemes are essential. Jammu and Kashmir has been covered under the Unity Mall initiative, applicable to Union Territories with legislatures. The Government of India has approved special assistance of up to Rs. 200 crores for establishment of unity malls in Srinagar and Jammu.

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# Resilience and Rebirth: Lessons for the Future

2026 arrives with a blank page—write it with courage, kindness, and clarity



■ MUZAMIL ARIF

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026. May this year bring us vibrant health, inner peace, and countless quiet joys shared together. Let our home remain filled with laughter, warmth, and unbreakable love. Wishing our family deeper togetherness, greater understanding, and beautiful memories to treasure forever. May 2026 grant us calm hearts, renewed strength for any challenge, and the grace to celebrate life's blessings while supporting one another. Here's to a prosperous, peaceful year full of gratitude and growth as a family, always.

Every year leaves behind a trace, but some leave a mark. The year that has just passed was not gentle, nor was it forgiving. It demanded patience, resilience, and honesty—often at moments when strength felt exhausted. Yet, in its quiet way, it also offered clarity. It taught that endurance is not about avoiding hardship, but about moving through it with awareness and purpose.

There were days when uncertainty dominated thought and direction seemed blurred. Personal struggles, difficult decisions, and emotional fatigue became familiar companions. Progress felt slow, and at times invisible. Still, life continued to move forward. Each sunrise brought with it a subtle reminder that continuation itself is a form of courage. Even when confidence wavered, the act of standing up again carried meaning.

Courage revealed itself not in dramatic acts, but in ordinary persistence. It appeared in choosing responsibility over escape, honesty over comfort, and patience over frustration. The year demanded difficult endings—relationships that no longer aligned with growth, habits that hindered progress, and beliefs that limited potential. Letting go was



painful, but necessary. In that release, space was created for something new to emerge.

Renewal did not arrive instantly. It unfolded gradually through self-reflection and acceptance. Understanding personal limitations became as important as recognising strengths. Instead of resisting vulnerability, embracing it became a source of stability. Mistakes were no longer seen as failures, but as instructors shaping better judgment and resilience.

One of the most important lessons was the rediscovery of self-trust. Depending less on external approval and more on internal conviction changed perspective. Independence was no longer defined by isolation, but by confidence in one's decisions. With this shift came a quieter strength—less reactive, more grounded.

Beyond personal experiences, the wider world mirrored similar challenges. Global uncertainty, conflict, and instability reminded us that struggle is universal. Yet, even amid disruption, examples of compassion, cooperation, and perseverance continued to surface. Communities supported one another, and individuals stepped forward in moments of need. These instances reinforced the belief that resilience is not rare—it is deeply human.

The year also clarified priorities. It taught that time and energy are valuable and must be invested with intention. Not every battle deserves attention,

and not every opinion requires response. Protecting inner peace became an act of wisdom rather than withdrawal.

As a new year begins, it does not promise ease. What it offers instead is opportunity—the opportunity to apply lessons learned, to act with greater clarity, and to move forward without carrying unnecessary weight from the past. Renewal does not erase experience; it transforms it into guidance.

Looking ahead, the path forward is shaped by awareness rather than expectation. There is an understanding that challenges will continue, but so will the capacity to overcome them. Strength is no longer measured by perfection, but by persistence. In reflection, the year was not defined by what was lost, but by what was gained—perspective, resilience, and self-belief. These lessons now move forward, shaping the next chapter with intention and resolve.

May 2026 bring peace to your mind, strength to your steps, and purpose to your days.

Written by POET AND AUTHOR MUZAMIL ARIF BHALESSI A WELL KNOWN WRITER whose work delves into the complexities of human nature and society. With a keen eye for detail and an inquisitive mind, he tackle(s) the issues that matter most in today's world.

## Birth Anniversary of Hazrat Ali (RA): An Eternal Symbol of Knowledge, Justice, Courage, and Spirituality



■ SHAHNAWAZ NAZIR

In Islamic history, there are certain personalities who transcend the limits of time, geography, and sect, becoming a shared heritage of all humanity. Hazrat Ali ibn Abi Talib (RA) is one such universal and complete personality. The 13th of Rajab is the blessed day on which Ameer-ul-Momineen Hazrat Ali (RA) was born inside the Holy Kaaba. This honor has never been bestowed upon anyone else in human history, and this event itself is a clear sign that the axis of Hazrat Ali's (RA) life was Allah, His House, and His religion.

Hazrat Ali (RA) was the cousin, son-in-law, and among the closest companions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ). He accepted Islam at a very young age and devoted his entire life to the mission of the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ). Whether it was sleeping on the Prophet's (ﷺ) bed on the night of Hijrah or defending Islam on the battlefield, Hazrat Ali (RA) stood firm as a guardian of the faith at every stage.

The most prominent quality of Hazrat Ali (RA) was his knowledge. The saying of the Holy Prophet (ﷺ): "I am the city of knowledge, and Ali is its gate"

is a clear testimony to Hazrat Ali's (RA) scholarly status. He held a unique position in the understanding of the Qur'an, jurisprudence, exegesis, judiciary matters, and wisdom. During the era of the Rightly Guided Caliphs,



complex issues were referred to Hazrat Ali (RA), and his decisions became exemplary models of justice and insight.

The collection of his sermons, sayings, and letters—Nahj al-Balagha—is still counted among the greatest intellectual and moral works in the world. It offers profound guidance on politics, justice, ethics, worship, human nature, and spirituality, remaining relevant for people of every age.

In the chapter of courage, Hazrat Ali (RA) has no equal. His bravery in the battles of Badr, Uhud, Khandaq, Khaybar, and other campaigns infused Islam with new life. Uprooting the gate of Khaybar was not merely a display of physical strength, but a symbol of faith, certainty, and complete trust in Allah. Despite this, Hazrat Ali (RA) never abandoned moral principles even in warfare. Before striking an enemy, he would invite them to the truth, and he would grant

protection even to a wounded opponent.

Alongside his bravery, Hazrat Ali's (RA) humility and compassion were unparalleled. On one hand, he was the lion of the battlefield; on the other, a father to orphans and the needy. Delivering food to the poor in the darkness of night without revealing his identity, enduring hunger himself—these were integral parts of his character.

When Hazrat Ali (RA) became Caliph, the circumstances were extremely challenging. Despite turmoil, political unrest, and internal conflicts, he made justice the foundation of his rule. For him, the law was equal for all, even for close relatives. He would not tolerate any special privilege for himself from the public treasury. He famously said:

"Even if this wealth were my personal property, I would still distribute it equally—how then, when it is the wealth of Allah?"

This is the justice of Ali (RA), which remains a ray of hope for the oppressed even today. Hazrat Ali (RA) taught us that the purpose of authority is not to rule, but to serve.

In the realm of spirituality and Sufism, Hazrat Ali (RA) holds a central position. Almost all major Sufi orders trace their spiritual lineage back to him. His sayings turn a person inward, toward the soul:

"He who recognizes himself has recognized his Lord."

This thought leads a human being toward purification of the self, patience, gratitude, and divine love.

The birth anniversary of Hazrat Ali (RA) is not merely a day to remember a great personality, but a day to reflect upon our own character. In today's world, where power, wealth, and self-interest are considered everything, Hazrat Ali (RA) reminds us that true greatness lies in morality, true success lies in truth, and true religiosity lies in serving humanity.

Hazrat Ali (RA) does not belong to any one sect or group. He is a guide for every human being who seeks truth, justice, knowledge, and love. The 13th of Rajab invites us to follow in the footsteps of Hazrat Ali (RA) and strive to cleanse our society of oppression, hatred, and injustice.

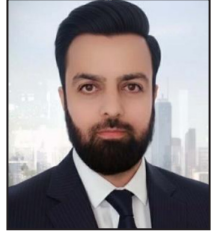
In conclusion, it can be said that Hazrat Ali (RA) is not merely a chapter of history, but the voice of the conscience of humanity. As long as the struggle between truth and falsehood continues in the world, the name of Hazrat Ali (RA) will remain illuminated alongside truth.

Peace be upon the one born in the Kaaba,

Peace be upon the scale of justice,  
Peace be upon the lamp of guidance.  
Peace be upon Hazrat Ali (RA).

The author from Zagipora, Chrar-e-Sharif

# The new face of Entrepreneurship in J&K: Rising against all odds



■ **MOHAMMAD HANIEF**

Entrepreneurship in Jammu & Kashmir is undergoing a quiet yet remarkable transformation, reshaping the economic landscape and expanding the imagination of what the region's youth can achieve. Once dominated by aspirations of government employment and traditional livelihoods, the economic narrative is now being rewritten by determined young individuals eager to build their own ventures. This shift, however, is not the result of ideal conditions—it is emerging despite persistent challenges and structural barriers that continue to test the resolve of new entrepreneurs.

The past few years have witnessed a welcome rise in enterprise-led thinking. Improved connectivity, targeted government schemes, and wider market exposure have opened new possibilities. E-commerce has enabled local products—from handicrafts to gourmet foods—to reach customers across India and beyond. Increased digital literacy has also helped young people explore new ideas and build relevant skills. Yet these opportunities coexist with a series of ground realities that often make entrepreneurial journeys far more demanding in J&K compared to many other parts of the country.

A major difficulty lies in the unpredictability of the region's business environment. Frequent disruptions—whether due to weather, road blockades, communication issues, or political sensitivities—can halt operations abruptly, affecting supply chains and customer commitments. Entrepreneurs working with perishable goods, transport-based services, or tourism bear the brunt of these uncertainties. The absence of a stable operational rhythm often discourages investors and limits long-term planning.

High logistics and transportation costs remain another formidable barrier. For many businesses, raw materials must be



shipped from outside the region, pushing up input expenses. Meanwhile, sending finished goods to outside markets can be equally expensive, eroding profit margins. This imbalance is especially challenging for startups still trying to achieve scale. For entrepreneurs dealing in handicrafts or agricultural products, transportation delays can lead to missed orders, damaged goods, and reduced competitiveness.

Infrastructural bottlenecks also continue to impede growth. While internet connectivity has improved overall, many areas still experience inconsistent speeds or sudden breakdowns. These disruptions affect online stores, digital payments, remote services, and social media marketing—now essential tools for modern businesses. Similarly, inadequate warehousing facilities, limited cold-storage units, and insufficient packaging standards restrict the ability of entrepreneurs to expand into

larger markets.

Another ground-level difficulty is the complexity of navigating official processes. Despite progress, many entrepreneurs still struggle with licensing procedures, approvals, tax registrations, and compliance requirements. For a first-time entrepreneur, especially one from a rural or semi-urban background, these processes can feel overwhelming. Lack of guidance at crucial stages often leads to delays, errors, or abandonment of promising ideas. Additionally, many schemes meant to support entrepreneurs remain underutilized due to insufficient awareness or procedural hurdles.

Access to finance is improving, but challenges persist. While small loans and subsidy-based programs exist, funding often remains difficult for ventures lacking collateral, credit history, or a clear guarantor. Many young entrepreneurs depend on

personal savings or family support to begin their ventures, which restricts scale and increases financial vulnerability. Delayed loan approvals, high interest rates on certain credit lines, and lengthy documentation processes add further strain.

The region also faces a scarcity of skilled labour, particularly in specialized fields such as digital marketing, advanced manufacturing, product design, and hospitality management. Startups frequently report difficulty in hiring competent staff, which affects professionalism, service quality, and operational efficiency. For many, training employees becomes an additional cost and responsibility.

Market linkages, though improving, remain limited for sectors like handicrafts, agribusiness, and tourism. Entrepreneurs often struggle to secure long-term buyers, institutional contracts, or partnerships with established brands. The absence of

large-scale industries means fewer opportunities for collaboration, mentorship, or supply-chain integration—factors that can accelerate growth in other regions.

Women entrepreneurs, despite their commendable rise, face unique challenges. Many operate from home due to mobility constraints or cultural expectations, which limits visibility and networking opportunities. Access to capital, digital training, and market exposure remains uneven. Yet, despite these barriers, women-led ventures continue to grow steadily, driven by determination and community support.

Against this backdrop, the resilience demonstrated by young entrepreneurs in Jammu & Kashmir is extraordinary. Their persistence reflects not only creativity and ambition but also a deeper desire to transform their communities. Many ventures prioritise social impact—supporting local artisans, promoting sustainable agriculture, preserving cultural heritage, or generating rural employment. This community-centred mindset has gradually shifted perceptions, encouraging families to support entrepreneurial risk-taking more than before.

The rise of cafés, boutique homestays, cloud kitchens, digital agencies, agribusiness ventures, and service-based startups shows that innovation is thriving in the region. Yet the real story lies in the perseverance behind these successes—the ability to survive disruptions, handle inconsistent infrastructure, absorb financial setbacks, and navigate a complex administrative landscape.

As J&K progresses along its developmental trajectory, entrepreneurship remains one of its strongest pillars for inclusive and sustainable economic growth. With improved infrastructure, consistent digital connectivity, easier market access, and more responsive support systems, the region has the potential to unlock even greater entrepreneurial energy. Until then, the quiet determination of its youth continues to redefine possibility—proving that growth is achievable even in challenging terrains.

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## Serene Beauty of Winters in Kashmir



■ **SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI**

The Kashmir Valley has many beautiful faces throughout the year. Every season brings its own charm and attraction, but winters hold a special place in the hearts of the people of Kashmir. During winter, the entire valley turns white and looks like a paradise on earth. Snowfall covers the mountains, trees, fields, and rooftops, creating a magical and peaceful environment. The serene beauty of winters in Kashmir attracts tourists from all over the world and fills the hearts of locals with joy and hope.

During winters, the Kashmir Valley looks completely different from other seasons. The lofty snow-clad mountains look extremely charming and majestic. These mountains stand tall like guardians of nature and enhance the beauty of the valley. The white blanket of snow makes everything look pure and peaceful. Roads, houses, gardens, and forests appear as if they are painted with white color. This natural beauty cannot be compared with any other place in the world.

Winters are quite special in Kashmir because this is the season when tourists visit the valley in large numbers to witness snowfall. People from different countries come to enjoy the cold weather, snow games, skiing, and snow-covered landscapes. Popular tourist destinations like Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg, and Doodhpathri become more attractive during winter. Snow is truly the soul of Kashmir in winters. Without snow, Kashmir looks incomplete and deserted. Although Kashmir is beautiful in every season, snow adds an extra charm that makes it unique across the globe.

Snow is not only important for beauty and tourism but also has many benefits for nature and human life. Today, both literate and illiterate people understand the value of snow. People are now aware of environmental changes, climatic conditions, and the seriousness of prolonged droughts. Snowfall plays a vital role



in maintaining ecological balance. This is why every Kashmiri eagerly waits for snowfall and prays for it. Fresh snowfall brings happiness, hope, and relief to the people of the valley.

### Importance of Snow in Kashmir

Snow is extremely important for Kashmir. Scientifically, snow is the solid form of water and acts as a natural reservoir. Countries located in the northern parts of the world receive snowfall, and Kashmir is one of those blessed regions. The valley has many rivers, canals, and waterfalls that depend mainly on snow and glaciers.

Some of the important rivers include the Lidder River in Pahalgam, Shaliganga in Doodhpathri, and Doodhganga in Yousmarg. The main source of these rivers is glaciers. Glaciers are snow-covered mountains that slowly release water during warmer months. This water is used for drinking, irrigation, and other daily needs. Without adequate snowfall, glaciers shrink, and water resources become scarce.

Snow also helps in maintaining soil moisture. When snow melts slowly, it seeps into the soil and keeps it fertile. This is very beneficial for agriculture and horticulture. Crops, orchards, and forests depend heavily on snowfall for healthy growth. Snow also keeps the environment cool during summers and maintains

pleasant weather conditions in the valley.

### Best Season for Snowfall in Kashmir

The winter season in Kashmir starts from late November and continues till mid-March. The harsh cold period known as Chillai Kalan begins on 21st December and lasts until 31st January. During this time, temperatures drop significantly, and heavy snowfall usually highlights this period.

Snowfall during early January is considered very beneficial because it stays longer and provides maximum advantages. However, snowfall can vary every year due to changing climatic patterns. Despite uncertainties, people should never lose hope. The Almighty Allah knows what is best for humanity. While we discuss snowfall based on scientific facts and predictions, faith and patience remain equally important.

Snow is not important only for winters; it plays a crucial role throughout all four seasons in Kashmir. It supports water supply, agriculture, tourism, and overall climate stability. Because of snow, Kashmir attracts thousands of tourists every year, which helps the local economy and provides employment to many people.

### Spring: A Gift After Winter

After the long and cold winter, spring arrives as a blessing. Spring in Kashmir is one of the most beautiful seasons. The valley turns lush green, and colorful

flowers bloom everywhere. Gardens, meadows, and fields come alive with fresh life and fragrance. Spring usually starts from 21st March and continues till 21st June.

The Tulip Garden in Srinagar becomes a major attraction during spring. It draws local and international tourists who come to see thousands of tulips blooming in different colors. Mughal gardens such as Nishat, Shalimar, Harwan, Pari Mahal, Cheshma Shahi, and the Botanical Garden look mesmerizing, charming, and refreshing. These gardens reflect the rich cultural and natural heritage of Kashmir.

### Hope, Prayer, and Environmental Concerns

Despite changing weather patterns, we have not lost everything. Hope is still alive. Let us pray together and believe that Almighty Allah will bless us with favorable and beneficial snowfall. Prayers are powerful and valuable, and we should never lose hope. Snowfall covers the entire valley and makes it look like a heavenly painting created by nature itself.

However, over the last few decades, the impact of environmental issues has become visible in the Kashmir Valley. Rising temperatures, increased rainfall during June and July, dry winters, and reduced rainfall in March and April are alarming signs. These changes indicate the effects of climate change and environmental degradation.

Forests play a very important role in maintaining climate balance. They regulate temperature, attract rainfall, and preserve biodiversity. It is our responsibility to protect forests and natural resources. When forests are healthy and well-preserved, seasons remain balanced and favorable. Sustainable practices and environmental awareness are essential for the future of Kashmir.

### Conclusion

The serene beauty of winters in Kashmir is a blessing that combines natural beauty, ecological importance, and cultural identity. Snow is not just a season; it is life for Kashmir. It supports rivers, agriculture, tourism, and climate balance. While enjoying the beauty of winter, we must also protect nature and respect the environment. With hope, prayer, and responsibility, we can preserve the charm of Kashmir for generations to come.

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# Adopting a healthy lifestyle, ensuring timely medical attention key to prevent heart diseases and stroke: Dr Itoo

Eminent physician Dr Tasaduk Hussain Itoo Wednesday said that adopting a healthy lifestyle and ensuring timely medical attention is key to prevention of heart diseases and stroke.

In a statement issued today, he said that this year's World Heart Day theme "Don't miss a beat" encourages individuals and the global community to prioritize heart health by recognizing the importance of every heartbeat and taking action to prevent cardiovascular disease.

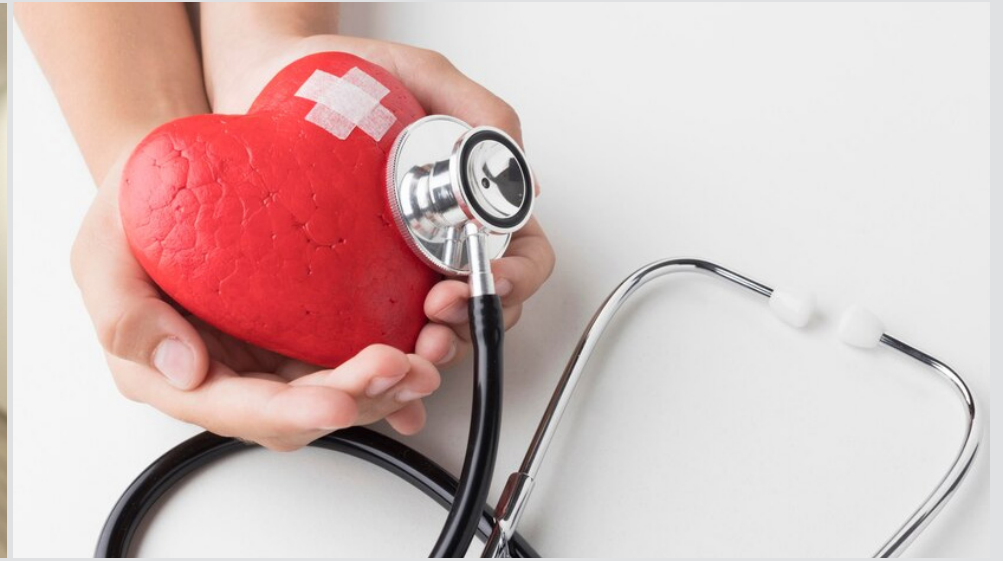
He cautioned that adopting unhealthy routines like eating poorly, exercising less, or leaning more heavily on substances such as alcohol, smoking and drug abuse, could increase the potential risks of heart diseases in general and heart attacks and stroke in particular.

Dr Itoo said that there are many modifiable risk factors responsible for heart diseases that can be modified well in healthy ways to prevent the latter from occurring.

"Controlling your blood pressure and blood sugar levels, maintaining a healthy weight, eating a healthy diet, exercising regularly, and monitoring your cholesterol and triglyceride levels and keeping them under control are crucial hallmarks in prevention of heart diseases and stroke", he said

In addition he said that controlling one's lifestyle choices such as avoiding smoking and alcohol consumption are too important to help in prevention of heart diseases and stroke.

He said that cardiac death is largely preventable if patients with a heart attack come to hospital in time to get treatment. "If you think



you are having any heart issue, it is really important to come to hospital and get evaluated so you can get

the problem taken care of early", Dr Itoo said.

He further added that people

should also avoid unnecessary stress in their lives by following a good health routine as research has

shown that the inflammation caused by depression can increase a person's risk for a heart attack.

## Fight Dry Winter Skin with Homemade Scrubs



SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

Has winter left your skin dry and scaly?

With fluctuating temperatures between indoor heating and freezing outdoors, it only takes a few days for your skin to become dry, dull, and rough.

Winter skin woes are a part of the cold season that you can't ignore, but what you can do is ensure your skin doesn't fall victim to these issues this winter.

Making a hydrating body scrub for winter does not need to be complicated. Gentle ingredients, light pressure and patience matter more than anything else. When done properly, skin feels softer, less itchy and more comfortable, which is really all winter care needs to aim for.

Instead of reaching for expensive exfoliators, pamper your skin for winter does not need to be complicated. Gentle ingredients, light pressure and patience matter more than anything else. When done properly, skin feels softer, less itchy and more comfortable, which is really all winter care needs to aim for.

**Honey and sugar** Scrub Honey and sugar are a winning combination to beautify skin.

The warm, soothing ingredients are ideal for winter months.

Honey, a natural humectant, helps to remove dead skin cells and improve circulation while sugar gently exfoliates.

Together they make a great exfoliator that is helpful in getting rid of dead skin.

Mix 1/4 cup Raw Honey, 1/2 cup Granulated White Sugar, 1/4 cup Sweet Almond Oil, 1 teaspoon Vitamin E Oil (optional), 10 drops Lavender Oils in a glass jar. Make sure to tighten the jar lid. It is best to use it within one month.

**Besan and Turmeric Scrub** Besan, is a popular natural ingredient that can be used as a base for homemade scrubs to promote healthy and glowing skin. It has the ability to lighten up the skin.

A traditional Indian remedy that brightens skin and improves texture.

It is recommended for those who want to treat their pimples or acne, as Haldi is a



vigorous antioxidant, boasting antibacterial qualities that can reduce pimples and acne, whereas besan has the ability to lighten the skin

Combine 2 tablespoons of besan with 1/2 teaspoon of turmeric. Add enough milk or yogurt to form a paste. Apply and scrub, then rinse with water

Combine 1 tablespoon of Besan, 1 tablespoon of turmeric, 1 teaspoon of lemon juice, and 1 teaspoon of raw honey and mix them well to make paste. Apply to the face, covering every part, and leave it on for ten minutes. Rinse off with warm water

**Oatmeal and sugar scrub**

For dry skin in winter, an Oatmeal and Sugar Scrub is perfect. Oats help with gentle exfoliation, and sugar adds a deeper texture.

This homemade scrub helps combat dryness, leaving your skin feeling soft and nourished.

Take 1 cup oatmeal, 1 tablespoon brown/white refined sugar, 1 teaspoon olive/coconut or sweet almond oil, 2 tablespoons regular milk and the whites of one egg.

Place all the ingredients in a bowl and mix them. Apply in a circular motion to the face and neck

Blend oatmeal and sugar into a coarse powder, then mix it with water to form a paste. Gently massage the scrub onto your skin and rinse off.

Ground oats help in gentle exfoliation and sugar for deeper texture.

**Almond And Honey Scrub** for Oily Skin in Winter

Almonds protect the skin from free radical damage as well as the sun's harmful UV rays. Argan oil repairs the skin barrier function, increasing moisture and leaving your skin soft and plump.

Take 4 tablespoons of Almonds, 1 Tablespoon of Honey and a few drops of argan oil. Firstly, grind almonds into a fine powder. Add honey and argan oil and mix until you get a paste. Store in a glass jar in a refrigerator

Dampen your skin with a little water, then apply this paste to your skin in a circular motion. Rinse it off with normal water and use this recipe once a week for optimal results.

Mix in 2 tablespoons of fine almond powder and yoghurt each, and 2 teaspoons of honey together with a pinch of ground clove. Slather some of the mixture all over a damp face and

gently massage it into your skin for a few minutes to exfoliate it before rinsing off with cold water. It will nourish your skin, leaving it soft, supple and hydrated

Mix 3 tablespoons of powdered almonds, 3 teaspoons of honey, and 3 tablespoons of orange flower water in a glass jar and immediately apply the paste to your face without massaging it on. Let it dry for 10-15 minutes and then gently scrub with your fingertips, using small circular movements. Rinse with warm water.

Use the scrub only on damp skin. A luke warm shower softens the skin and makes exfoliating gentler. Take a small amount and massage it lightly. No pressure. If the skin turns red, you are doing too much. Focus on areas that usually feel rough, like elbows, knees and legs. Rinse with lukewarm water, not hot.

Apply moisturiser while your skin is still slightly damp to lock in the hydration, or else you may not get the desired results.

Once a week, exfoliation is enough for most skin types. If your skin handles it well, twice a week is fine. More than that usually causes irritation and dryness.

Avoid scrubbing too hard.

Avoid exfoliating daily. Use lukewarm, not hot water. Always use moisturiser afterwards.

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

## Dr. Tasaduk admitted as Trainee Member (Fellow) of the American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM), USA

Eminent J & K doctor, public health expert, medical educator, and writer Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo has been admitted as a Trainee Member (Fellow) of the American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM), USA.

The American Academy of Pain Medicine is a premier professional organization committed to advancing the science, educa-



tion, and practice of pain medicine through interdisciplinary collaboration, research, and evidence-based care. Admission as a Trainee Member (Fellow) reflects recognition of a physician's engagement in advanced academic or professional development in the field of pain medicine.

Pertinently, Dr. Itoo holds multiple prestigious international distinctions, including Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health (FRSPH, UK), Fellow of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF Fellow Belgium), International Practitioner of the UK Faculty of Public Health (IPFP, UK), Member of the Academy of Medical Educators (MACadMED, UK), and Member of the Royal Society of Biology (MRSB, UK). He is also a member of American College of Physicians (ACP, USA) and Academic Life Member of Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI).

## DR. JIBRAN BASHIR

Orthopedic Surgeon

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# Police Poonch Registers Major Security, Anti-Drug Gains In 2025

■ M S NAZKI

**POONCH, DEC 31:** District Police Poonch registered significant operational and enforcement achievements during 2025, marking major gains across counter-terrorism, narcotics control, crime disposal and public outreach, officials said.

A senior police officer told HT that intelligence-led operations, close coordination with sister security agencies and active public cooperation contributed to improved security and law and order across the district.

On counter-terrorism and security, they said, two police-generated intelligence-based operations, along with five JAKLI-led operations, resulted in the neutralisation of four Pakistani terrorists during the year.

As many as six terrorist hideouts were busted, an increase from four in 2024, he said. Police also effected large recoveries of arms, ammunition, grenades, UBGLs, mortar shells and IEDs.

Cordon and Search Operations (CASOs) rose sharply to 4,192 in 2025 from 1,122 in 2024. Seven cases under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) were registered, and eight properties worth Rs 1.04 crore were attached to curb terror financing. Preventive action against terror networks also intensified, with 176 such actions taken during the year, he said.



The senior police officer said that the establishment of new Special Operations Group (SOG) camps and strengthening of Border Police Posts (BPPs) enhanced response capability and area domination in sensitive and vulnerable zones.

Regarding NDPS and Organised Crime, he said, the district witnessed a sharp increase in action against drug trafficking. NDPS cases rose from 26 in 2024 to 41 in 2025, with 57 arrests made. Five PIT-NDPS cases were invoked, 16 bank accounts frozen and drug-linked properties worth Rs 1.40 crore attached. Drug awareness programmes also saw a major rise, increasing from 86 to 331, including extensive outreach in forward villages across the fence, they said.

In a major crackdown on illegal mining, he said, over 300 vehicles were seized in 2025, compared to 74 in 2024, with fines exceeding Rs 37 lakh. Police also registered 161 bovine smuggling cases and rescued 669 bovines, reflecting strict enforcement against organised smuggling networks.

On crime control and disposal, he said, the total registered cases increased to 1,579, indicating improved public confidence in the police. Case disposal improved significantly from 62.44 per cent to 75.15 per cent, attributed to strict implementation of new criminal laws. Additionally, he said, 45 absconders were apprehended during focused drives.

"The year 2025 marked decisive operational success and institutional strengthening for District Police Poonch," the officer said, adding, "The police reaffirmed their commitment to sustained professionalism, strong public partnership and coordinated action to ensure a safe, secure, drug-free, terror-free and crime-controlled district."

## Public Notice

I, Arshid Ahmad Pala, S/o Mohd Ahsan Pala, R/o Manigam (Hablihi), Tehsil Devsar, District Kulgam, intend to change my name and address in Driving Licence No. JK1920110001617 issued by ARTO Ramban.

If anyone has any objection, he/she may contact ARTO Ramban within two (02) days from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, no objection shall be entertained.

Arshid Ahmad Pala

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

## Office of the Naib Tehsildar, Pahalgam

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Application of Hazim Ashraf Mir, S/o Mohammad Ashraf Mir, R/o Mandlana, Pahalgam, Tehsil Pahalgam, District Anantnag for issuance of RBA (Backward Area) Certificate.

Whereas the above-named applicant has applied in this office for issuance of RBA Certificate in his favour. In this connection, report from the concerned Patwari Halqa has been sought, which reveals that the applicant is a resident of Mandlana, Pahalgam, Tehsil Pahalgam, District Anantnag and belongs to a notified Backward Area (RBA).

Now, therefore, any person having any objection with regard to the issuance of the said certificate in favour of the applicant may present his/her objection along with documentary proof in this office within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.

Issued under my hand and seal of this office.

Naib Tehsildar  
Pahalgam

## Public Notice

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that Bilal Ahmad Rather, S/o Nazir Ahmad Rather, R/o Brah, District Anantnag, has applied for Pesticides License under the name and style M/S Green Gold Pesticides, Khullchohar, District Anantnag.

If any person has any objection in this regard, he/she may submit the objection in writing to the office of the Plant Protection Officer, Lal Bazar, Srinagar, within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.

Bilal Ahmad Rather  
S/o Nazir Ahmad Rather  
R/o Brah, District Anantnag

## In the Court of Executive Magistrate 1st Class Pantha Chowk

In the case of: Feroz Ahmad Laway son of Mohammad Sultan Laway resident of Zaffron Colony Zewan. (Applicant).

Registrar Births & Deaths, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (Non-Applciant).

Notice to Public At Large  
Whereas, the above titled petition is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applciant for registration of Date of Birth particulars of the applicant namely Feroz Ahmad Laway son of Mohammad Sultan Laway resident of Zaffron Colony Zewan as 14.04.1985 at Home at Zaffron Colony Zewan.

Whereas, through the medium of this proclamation, the public at large is informed that in case, any one has any objection in issuance of direction with respect to the registration of Birth particulars of the applicant, he shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 07 days from the date of the registration of issuance of this publication. If the date fixed is declared holiday, the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Given under my hand and seal of this office on 29.12.2025

Executive Magistrate 1st Class  
Pantha Chowk

## Public Notice

My Son's Mother's Name Has been wrongly written in School Records as Mohammad Umaan Rather S/O Gh Hassan Rather Mother's Name Fatima While His actual Name is Mohammad Umaan Rather S/O Gh Hassan Rather Mother's Name Shabeena. Now I want to correct it.

If any, may contact Principal Linton Hall School Rajbagh, Srinagar within a period of seven days. After That No objection will be entertained.

Name:- Gh Hassan Rather  
F/O :- Mohammad Umaan Rather  
Mother's Name :- Shabeena  
R/O:- Sheikh Hamza Coloney Iddgah Srinagar

## Public Notice

I have lost my Driving Licence bearing registration number- JK0720180000142. I want to apply for its duplicate. If anyone has any objections may contact ARTO Kargil within the 7 days of this notice.

Khadim Hussain Khan  
S/O- Mohd Ali Khan  
R/O- Karkit Kargil

## 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/O ....ABDUL RASHID RATHER  
R/O TAKIYA YOUSUF SHAH  
BLOCK.... WAGOORA

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

## Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeer

Subject: Application of AJAZ AHMAD BHAT S/O GH MOHD BHAT R/O DOLIPORA for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that GH MOHD BHAT S/O ABDUL KHALIQ BHAT has passed away on 02/11/2025. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... , SHAMEEMA BEGUM wife ,63 pensioner
- 2... , AJAZ AHMAD BHAT SON 42 years Govt employee
- 3...MUMTAZA BEGUM daughter 45 years H/W
- 4..IMTIYAZ AHMAD BHAT Son 37 years private job
- 5...TAWHEED AHMAD Son 32 shopkeeper

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsildar Kreeer

## Public Notice

I have changed my name from (Old name) Majid Amin to (New name) - Majid Amin Dar. In future I will be known as (New Name)...

Majid Amin Dar  
If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinager within & 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

## 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

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

## Office Of The Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Srinagar Near J&K Bank, "Zaldagar

Telefax No. 0194-2503195 e-mail ID: to-exenmidsrinagar@jk.gov.in

### CORRIGENDUM / ADDENDUM

Name of Work: Lift Irrigation Scheme Chountwaliwar (Stage 1st & 2nd).  
Ref to NIT: Executive Engineer, MID Srinagar's e-NIT. No. 31 of 2025-26, dated: 08.12.2025

S.No.	Clause No.:	For	Read
1	Experience Criteria ( Instruction to bidders, Clause XI):	Experience certificate of having successfully completed or substantially complete similar works (in the same name and style with which the bidder is applying for this bid) either as Prime contractor or as a JV entity. Similar works during last seven years ending last day of the month previous to the one in which tenders are invited.	Experience certificate of having successfully completed or substantially complete similar works either as Prime contractor or as a JV entity. Similar works during last seven years ending last day of the month previous to the one in which tenders are invited.
2	Annexure B & BOQ, Item No. 44	The panel should be free standing, floor mounted, compartmentalized and have design housing for all the equipment fabricated out of 8 mm thick sheet.	The panel should be free standing, floor mounted, compartmentalized and have design housing for all the equipment fabricated out of 4 mm thick sheet.
3	Annexure C & BOQ, Item No. 86	----	Rate to be Quoted (RTQ) for Item No. 86 of BOQ & Annexure C.
4	Experience Criteria (Instruction to bidders, Clause XI):	Similar work experience	Relaxation of 50% in the similar works eligibility criteria
5	Appendix A, clause 9	Before dispatch from the works of the OEM, the electro-mechanical equipment such as (pump, motor and piping) shall be inspected by a third-party inspection agency i.e. CEIL/ RITES/ ERDA/ CPRI/NTH/TUV NORD/JKPDD.	Before dispatch from the works of the OEM, the electro-mechanical equipment such as (pump, motor, piping and valves) shall be inspected by a third-party inspection agency i.e. CEIL/ RITES/ ERDA/ CPRI/NTH/TUV NORD/ JKPDD/EIL.
6	Instruction for Bidders	ADDENDUM	Upto date PF certificate to be uploaded with the tender documents without which tender shall not be accepted.
7	Instruction for Bidders	ADDENDUM	Upto date ESI certificate to be uploaded with the tender documents without which tender shall not be accepted.

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.  
No: MIDS/Ts/4739-41 | Dated: 30-12-2025

Sd/- Executive Enigneer  
Mechanical Irrigation Division Srinagar

DIPK: 9497/25 | Dated: 31-12-2025

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

## Directorate of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Kashmir

Sub: Tentative seniority list of Junior Assistants carrying substantive pay level Rs.25500-81100 (L-4) of FCS&CA Department Kashmir as on 30.11.2025.

### Notification

Whereas, the updated seniority list of Junior Assistants carrying substantive pay level of Rs.25500-81100/- (L-4) was last issued by this department in the year 2022 vide Order No.501-DFCS&CAK of 2022 dated 06.09.2022 issued under endorsement No. DFCS&CAK/Adm/B-X-306/J.A dated 06.09.2022;

Whereas, in the updated seniority list of Junior Assistants so issued in the year 2022 one of the official has been promoted to next higher grade who has been accordingly deleted in the notified tentative seniority list of Junior Assistants;

Now, therefore, in view of above, a fresh tentative seniority list of the officials carrying substantive pay level of Rs.25500-81100/- (L-4) is hereby framed detailed below and issued for inviting objections from the interested officials, if any, within a period of fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notification and thereafter no objection shall be entertained.

S.No.	Name of the official	R.No.	Qualification	Date of Birth	Date of Apptt.
1	Ghulam Nabi	5811	10+2	22-07-1983	21-09-2013
2	Munir Ahmad	5830	Matric	02-03-1987	21-09-2013

No: DFCS&CA-ADM/952/2025-07/E-7818292 | Dated: 31-12-2025

Sd/- Joint Director  
Food, Civil Supplies & CA Deptt. Kashmir

DIPK: 9530/25 | Dated: 31-12-2025

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## Div Com reviews progress of SMRDA Projects, Calls for Timely Completion

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 31:** Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Wednesday directed executing agencies to expedite the completion of projects under the Srinagar Metropolitan Region Development Authority (SMRDA) scheme and ensure that all pending works are completed before the end of the current financial year.

Emphasizing adherence to timelines, the Divisional Commissioner urged agencies to fast-track projects that are nearing completion, keeping in view the expenditure cap of the allotted funds.

During the review meeting, the Divisional Commissioner assessed the physical and financial progress of several projects, including Transport Nagar at Parimpora;



community facilities at Bemina, Chattabal, and Noorbagh; development of Bairam Hills; and the Shopping Complex-cum-Marriage Hall at Nowhatta.

He also reviewed a few projects in Bandipora and Ganderbal, which, as informed by the concerned authorities, are being taken forward for completion with revised expenditure approvals.

He further directed the concerned departments to formally close projects that could not be taken up due to feasibility constraints.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo; Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation; Chief Engineer R&B, Chief Town Planner, officers of SDA and SMRDA.

## Dy Accountant General visits SPS Library

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 31:** Deputy Accountant General, J&K, Mr Ankush Kumar (IA&AS), visited SPS Library Complex today, as a part of the general audit process, for on spot assessment of the library infrastructure there. He was accompanied by Mr Khurshid Ahmad Qazi, Sr Audit Officer, Mr Vinay Bhalothia, Assistant Audit Officer & Mr Khalid Mukhtar Bhat, Supervisor.

The Deputy Accountant General visited various sections of the library including Senior Citizens section, Children's Section, Manuscript section, Book Stacks section and the General Reading Halls.

He was informed that established in 1898, SPS Library has a collection of around 80000 books and the library is witnessing regularly a huge footfall of library users while its Reading Halls remain jampacked.

During his visit to the Manuscript section, the Deputy Accountant General was informed that the Oriental Research Library established in 1904, is a repository of around 6000 centuries old manuscripts and rare books in 17 languages encompassing varied fields.

He was informed that the manuscript collection of ORL is a treasure-trove of religious, philosophical, historical, literary and scientific writings in classical languages like Persian, Sanskrit and Arabic.

While interacting with the students present in the Reading Halls of the library, the Deputy Accountant General called for augmenting reading spaces with adequate facilities to facilitate mentoring of students for various competitive examinations as a part of the overall Youth Development Initiative.

Mr Kumar expressed great satisfaction over a large number of students using the centrally located and well-maintained library facility to prepare for various competitive exams.

Termining Public Libraries as key social institutions, Mr Kumar said the libraries have the potential to make a dramatic difference in the empowerment of people, especially the youth. "In the fast-changing

knowledge scenario, there is a pressing need for implementing a new vision through technological intervention for public library revitalization to transform them from collection-oriented institutions to service-based institutions," he said and asked the Department to make continuous efforts towards improvement of library services for every section of the society including youth, senior citizens, women and children.

The Deputy Accountant General was informed that during the past 4 years, the reading space in SPS Library has been increased from 90 seats to the existing 350 seats with a dedicated reading hall being established for the girls and free study material made available in Public Libraries to help students prepare for various competitive examinations like Civil Services, NEET, JEE, CAT and CLAT etc.

He was informed that new library buildings have been constructed during this period for District Library Baramulla, Tehsil Library Aishmuqam & Tehsil Library Kreeri while additional accommodation has been constructed for existing libraries including District Library Pulwama, District Library Budgam, District Library Kupwara, Tehsil Library Charar-e-Sharief, Tehsil Library Kulgam and Tehsil Library Handwara.

New library buildings are under construction for Gani Memorial UT Central Library at Rajouri Kadal, Srinagar; Tehsil Library Ganderbal, Tehsil Library Bandipora; Tehsil Library Tral; Tehsil Library Bijbehara; Tehsil Library Gurez & Tehsil Library Tangdar.

After visiting various sections of the SPS Library Complex and interacting with the students present in the Reading Halls of the Library, the Deputy Accountant General held a marathon meeting with the officers and officials of the Department of Libraries & Research to discuss issues like physical infrastructure, financial matters, new initiatives and need for digital transformation of public libraries in J&K.

The Deputy Accountant General expressed satisfaction over the facilities available in the SPS Library for the library users.

## Commissioner SMC reviews NCAP and SBM Projects amid rising Air Quality Concerns

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 31:** In view of air quality levels in Srinagar remaining higher than normal despite the city being surrounded by lush green forests, the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, conducted an extensive inspection of various parts of the city to review the implementation of projects under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

The inspection also covered works being executed under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM).

The inspection was aimed at strengthening on-ground interventions to address rising air pollution levels and improve overall urban environmental conditions.

Under NCAP, emphasis is being laid on enhancing green cover and reducing dust generation through measures such as plantation on central verges and medians of major city roads, paving of earthen shoulders to prevent re-suspension of dust, and the creation of green spaces through mass plantation and landscaping along the Western Highway and adjoining areas.

At Tulsi Bagh and Bemina, the Commissioner inspected green landscaping and upgradation works being carried out under NCAP and reviewed the quality of execution on site. He directed the executing agencies to ensure timely completion while strictly adhering to prescribed standards.

During the visit to Bemina, the Commissioner also inspected the Children's Park developed by SMC, assessed the facilities created for safe recreation and community use, and emphasised that well-maintained public spaces are essential for promoting environmental health and urban livability.

The Commissioner further reviewed the construction and upgradation of Community Toilets/Public Toilets (CT/PT) at Bemina and the Parimpora Bus Stand under the Swachh Bharat Mission. He stressed the need for maintaining high standards of hygiene, functionality and regular upkeep, underscoring that clean, accessible and user-friendly sanitation infrastructure at high-footfall public places is vital for improving urban sanitation and enhancing commuter convenience.

The Commissioner was accompanied during the inspection by the Joint Commissioner (Administration), Joint Commissioner (Works), Superintending Engineer (Drainage), Executive Engineers, Divisional Forest Officer (SMC), and other senior officers of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

Concluding the tour, the Commissioner directed the concerned officers and executing agencies to expedite pending works, ensure strict quality control and adhere to approved timelines, reiterating SMC's commitment to addressing air quality concerns through focused NCAP interventions while simultaneously strengthening sanitation infrastructure under the Swachh Bharat Mission across Srinagar.

## Shree Hanumant Katha Concludes Successfully at Channi Himmat

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, DECEMBER 31:** The five-day sacred discourse Shree Hanumant Katha, organised by the youth of Channi Himmat, was held with great devotion and spiritual fervour from 27th to 31st December 2025. The event witnessed an overwhelming response from devotees and created an atmosphere filled with faith, discipline, and cultural consciousness.

The main days of the Katha—29th, 30th, and 31st December—were graced by several eminent dignitaries and respected guests. Prominent among them were Shri Shiv Kumar Ji (DIG, JSK Range), Ms. Nidhi Dogra

Ji (President, Dogra Trust), Shri Vikram Randhawa Ji (Hon'ble MLA, Bahu Constituency), Prof. Virender Ji, Shri Saujanya Ji (Retd. Commissioner), and Shri Tripti Shastri Ji of Sukrala Mata, along with many other distinguished personalities from social, administrative, spiritual, and academic fields.

The esteemed guests lauded the efforts of the youth of Channi Himmat for organising such a spiritually enriching and well-disciplined event. They emphasised the timeless relevance of Lord Hanuman's ideals—devotion, strength, service, and righteousness—especially for today's youth and society at large.

## Fire, Emergency Services record significant safety gains

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**JAMMU, DECEMBER 31:** The Fire and Emergency Services, Jammu and Kashmir has recorded a year of measurable progress in public safety and emergency management in 2025, reflecting the Department's sustained focus on prevention, professional response and community engagement across the Union Territory.

During this year, the department responded to 6,039 fire calls, 59 rescue calls and 53 false calls, deploying 322 fire tenders and Quick Response Vehicles (QRVs) with the support of 2,157 personnel. Timely and coordinated operations resulted in saving property worth 5000 crore (approximately), while losses were limited to 300 crore (approximately), underscoring the effectiveness of preparedness and rapid response mechanisms.

A major highlight of 2025 has been a reduction of 1,994 fire incidents compared to 2024, representing an approximate 25 percent decline from 8,033 incidents in the previous year. This notable decrease reflects the positive impact of sustained fire prevention initiatives and increased public awareness, contributing to safer communities. Public awareness continues to be a central pillar of the Department's strategy.

Under the special initiative of the Director Fire and Emergency Services, Alok Kumar, a comprehensive fire safety awareness campaign launched in August 2022 has been carried out regularly across diverse occupancies.

The core motive of this campaign is to promote the concept of "Har Ghar Fire fighter", envisaging that every household should have at least one trained and sensitized individual capable of responding effectively to a fire incident at the initial stage, thereby mitigating loss of life and property.

Up to December 2025, 9,887 awareness programmes were organized in educational institutions, hospitals, nursing homes and other establishments, reaching over 10.3 lakh participants, including students, staff, healthcare professionals and members of the general public. These programmes focus on fire prevention, life safety, practical fire safety measures, safe use of electrical and other appliances, and appropriate initial response during emergencies. In view of the heightened fire risk during severe weather conditions in Jammu and Kashmir, additional preventive measures were undertaken by strategically deploying fire tenders, QRVs and fire pumps at identified vulnerable locations across the Union Territory to ensure faster first response.

In far-flung and isolated areas, local volunteers and public representatives were trained in basic fire fighting and fire prevention techniques, strengthening community-level preparedness where immediate professional response may be constrained.

Institutional safety compliance also received sustained attention during the year. A total of 3,728 fire safety audits were conducted in hospitals,

hotels, nursing homes, educational institutions, government buildings and commercial establishments, with recommendations issued to enhance firefighting infrastructure, evacuation preparedness and overall safety standards. The Department played a crucial role during recent flood situations, particularly in Anantnag and Srinagar, where search, rescue and dewatering operations were carried out at more than 60 locations, providing significant relief to the affected population.

The Department also rendered vital support during "Operation Sindoor" by mobilizing fire tenders and trained crews particularly in Poonch, Uri, Sopore and Kupwara districts. In addition, comprehensive fire safety cover was provided during the Annual "Shri Amarnathji Yatra" (SANJY)-2025, with the establishment of over 30 temporary fire stations along the two yatra routes from the Baltal axis (Ganderbal) and the Pahalgam axis (Anantnag), ensuring the safety of pilgrims and seamless emergency response throughout the pilgrimage period.

To further strengthen capacity building, the Department, under the leadership of Director F&ES, has established a new "Fire Training Centre" (FTC) at Bari Brahmana. So far, two batches have successfully completed the Basic Firemanship Course, while six batches have completed refresher training programmes, enhancing professional competence and operational efficiency.

## DC Pulwama chairs 29th District NCORD meeting

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**PULWAMA, DECEMBER 31:** Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today chaired the District Level NCORD (Narco Coordination Centre) meeting to review the overall efforts being undertaken to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking in the district. During the meeting, Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. S. M. Ashraf gave a detailed presentation highlighting the initiatives taken under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, including IEC activities, treatment and rehabilitation measures, enforcement actions, and best practices adopted by various departments. Taking stock of the situation, the Deputy Commissioner directed all stakeholder departments to devise a comprehensive year-long action plan as the district heads into the new year, with special emphasis on identified hotspots. He stressed that efforts should be proactive, coordinated and outcome-



oriented. Dr. Qayoom appreciated the efforts of department in achieving saturation in CCTV coverage and implementation of Computerised Billing Systems (CBS) in chemist shops to ensure transparency, accountability and effective monitoring of the sale of scheduled medicines and directed to complete the CBS in remaining establishments.

While acknowledging and appreciating the concerted efforts put in by various departments during the current calendar year, the DC highlighted the importance of adopting a three-pronged strategy focusing on Information, Education and Communication (IEC), treatment and rehabilitation, and strict enforcement to effectively address the menace of drug abuse.

He further called for enhanced inter-departmental coordination and sustained community engagement to achieve the objectives of a drug-free Pulwama. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the status of NDPS cases in the district, including cases under investigation, prosecution and trial before the Special NDPS Court, Pulwama.

The DC directed the concerned agencies to strengthen coordination between investigation and prosecution to bridge procedural gaps and ensure effective legal follow-up in NDPS cases, with a view to improving conviction rates and deterrence.

Among others, the meeting was attended by SSP Pulwama, Tanushree; SSP Awantipora, Sajad Ahmad Bhat; Chief Medical Officer, Pulwama; Chief Education Officer, Pulwama and officers from other sectoral departments.

## 3 day "Conduct of Mediation- Advanced Course (Capsule Course)" for mediators, advocates concludes

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

**JAMMU/SRINAGAR, DECEMBER 31:** Under the visionary stewardship of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Arun Palli, the Mediation and Conciliation Committee of High Court of J&K and Ladakh, in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy and the J&K Legal Services Authority on Wednesday concluded three day "Conduct of Mediation- Advanced Course (Capsule Course)" for mediators/advocates in two batches simultaneously at Jammu and Srinagar campuses of J&K Judicial Academy.

The objective of 20-hour advanced mediation training course was to equip the mediators with the maxims of mediation.

The concluding day was presided over by Rita Das Mouzumdar, Advocate, Gauhati High Court, Assam, as the Resource Person at the Srinagar Campus and Suman Sharma, Advocate, Gauhati High Court, Assam, along

with Balbir Kour, Advocate, Punjab & Haryana High Court, as the Resource Persons at the Jammu Campus.

All the Resource Persons are accredited Mediation Trainers with the Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC) of the Supreme Court of India.

The three day advanced mediation training was segmented into multiple technical, role play and brain storming sessions, where the emphasis was laid on communication techniques for a skilled mediator, communication skills and bargaining. Furthermore, the topic of deliberation was negotiation to develop understanding of negotiation style of parties, impasse; understanding and management, stages of impasse and mediator's reflections, management and strategies, ethics and standard of conduct to be followed by mediators.

The programme was designed to build a robust cadre of expert mediators and trainers, furthering the mission of providing



speedy and effective justice. All the sessions remained very

interactive both in Jammu and Srinagar wings during which all the participants actively participated and shared their experiences, difficulties and also discussed various aspects of the subject topics. They also raised a number of queries which were answered satisfactorily by the worthy resource persons.

Faizanul Haq Iqbal, Coordinator Main Mediation Centre High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Sunil Kumar Secretary J&K and Ladakh High Court Legal Services committee conducted the programme from Jammu, Judicial Academy and Tabasum Qadir Parray, Secretary, DLSA, Srinagar and Sayeem Qayoom, Secretary, DLSA, Anantnag conducted the programme from Srinagar, Judicial Academy.

The programme concluded with vote of thanks by Naseer Ahmad Dar, Director J&K Judicial Academy to one and all more particularly to the Resource Persons for spearheading their valuable time for all round success of the programme.

# 2025 : The Great Reset—How India's Reform Surge Rewrote the Rules of Growth

From Historic Tax Relief, Labour Codes to Nuclear Energy, Education and Trade Breakthroughs, The Year Marked India's Bold Leap Toward a Trust-Based, Future-Ready Economy

■ **HT NEWS DESK**

**NEW DELHI :** The year 2025 will be remembered as a defining chapter in India's development journey—a year when reforms ceased to be episodic announcements and became a continuous national mission. Riding on the confidence of its people and the energy of a young demographic, India emerged as a global focal point, drawing attention for the speed, scale and depth of its transformation.

Often described as the moment India boarded the "Reform Express," 2025 built decisively on the groundwork laid over the past eleven years. Institutions were modernised, governance simplified and policy frameworks reshaped to support long-term, inclusive and sustainable growth. The guiding principle was clear: empower citizens, enable enterprise and strengthen trust in public institutions.

**Reimagining Taxation and Consumption**

At the core of the reform drive was a sweeping overhaul of the tax system. A simplified two-slab Goods and Services Tax structure—5 per cent and 18 per cent—was introduced, easing pressure on households, MSMEs, farmers and labour-intensive sectors. Designed to reduce disputes and improve compliance, the reform lifted consumer sentiment and spurred demand, particularly during the festive season.

For the middle class, 2025 delivered unprecedented relief. For the first time, individuals earning up to ₹12 lakh annually paid no income tax. In a parallel move, the outdated Income Tax Act of 1961 was replaced with the streamlined Income Tax Act, 2025, marking a decisive shift toward transparency, digitisation and ease of compliance.

**Strengthening Business and Capital Markets**

Small and medium enterprises—India's economic backbone—received a significant boost as the definition of "small companies" was expanded to include firms with turnovers of up to ₹100 crore. The move substantially reduced compliance costs and freed up capital for growth and innovation.

Capital markets also entered a new phase with the introduction of the Securities Market Code Bill in Parliament. The



legislation aims to strengthen governance at SEBI, enhance investor protection, cut procedural burdens and promote a technology-driven securities ecosystem aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat.

**Opening the Economy to Global Opportunities**

A landmark decision allowing 100 per cent foreign direct investment in the insurance sector underscored India's intent to deepen financial inclusion and attract global capital. The reform is expected to expand insurance coverage, improve service delivery and offer wider choices to consumers.

India also broadened its global economic engagement by concluding trade agreements with New Zealand, Oman and the United Kingdom, while operationalising a free trade agreement with the European Free Trade Association—India's first such pact with developed European economies. These deals are set to boost exports, investments and job creation, while reinforcing India's reputation as a reliable global partner.

**Logistics, Labour and Ease of Doing Business**

In a historic legislative push, Parliament passed five landmark maritime laws in a single session, replacing colonial-era statutes dating back more than a century. The reforms simplified documentation, reduced logistics costs and strengthened India's maritime and blue economy ambitions.

Ease of doing business was further



enhanced by the revocation and suspension of several Quality Control Orders across textiles, metals, plastics and consumer goods. The measures lowered input costs, boosted competitiveness in exports such as apparel and footwear, and translated into lower prices for domestic consumers.

Equally transformative were labour reforms that consolidated 29 fragmented laws into four modern labour codes. The new framework balances worker welfare with enterprise flexibility, ensuring fair wages, timely payments, improved industrial relations, safer workplaces and expanded social security coverage, including for unorganised and contract workers. The reforms also aim to increase women's participation in the workforce.

**Jan Vishwas and the Shift to Trust-Based Governance**

Under the Jan Vishwas initiative, the government dismantled the legacy of

over-criminalisation by scrapping hundreds of outdated provisions and repealing 71 Acts through the Repealing and Amendment Bill, 2025. The effort marked a fundamental shift toward trust-based governance, reducing fear of prosecution and encouraging compliance.

**Powering the Future: Energy, Rural Jobs and Education**

The SHANTI Act emerged as a cornerstone of India's clean energy transition, providing a robust framework for the safe and responsible expansion of nuclear technology. The reform positions nuclear energy as a key enabler for meeting the rising power demands of the AI era, data centres, green hydrogen and advanced manufacturing, while opening doors for private participation, innovation and skill development.

Rural livelihoods received a major boost with the enactment of the Viksit Bharat-

GRAM G Act, 2025, which increased guaranteed employment under the rural jobs programme from 100 to 125 days. The move is expected to strengthen village infrastructure, enhance incomes and create durable assets in rural areas.

In education, a far-reaching reform was set in motion with the introduction of a Bill to establish a single unified higher education regulator the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan—replacing multiple overlapping bodies. The reform seeks to enhance institutional autonomy, promote research and innovation, and improve academic outcomes.

**A Defining Moment for Viksit Bharat**

What truly distinguished the reforms of 2025 was their underlying philosophy. Policy-making emphasised collaboration over control and facilitation over regulation. Shaped through consultation, guided by data and anchored in constitutional values, the reforms recognised the lived realities of farmers, workers, small businesses, young professionals and the middle class.

As India advances toward the goal of becoming a developed nation, 2025 stands out as the year when reform became a way of governance rather than a series of announcements. With confidence high and foundations strengthened, the India growth story now invites investors, innovators and institutions across the world to deepen their engagement and be partners in building a resilient, self-reliant and future-ready nation.

## DFS holds national colloquium to strengthen debt recovery tribunal system

■ **UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

**NEW DELHI, DEC 31 :** The Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, on Tuesday organised a national-level colloquium of Chairpersons of Debt Recovery Appellate Tribunals (DRATs) and Presiding Officers of Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) with the objective of strengthening India's debt recovery framework and improving the effectiveness of tribunal-based resolution mechanisms.

The meeting brought together senior officials from the Department of Financial Services, representatives from public and private sector banks, and officials from the Indian Banks' Association.

## Kajra Solar Project powers ahead as Bihar switches on critical transmission link

■ **UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

**NEW DELHI, DEC 31 :** Bihar's renewable energy ambitions received a major shot in the arm with the successful energisation of a crucial 132 kV transmission line linked to the Kajra Solar Power Project -- one of the country's largest solar plants backed by battery energy storage.

The move brings the Rs 2,800-crore project a decisive step closer to delivering round-the-clock green power to the state.

The newly energised transmission line, along with a 100 MVA, 33/132 kV power transformer installed at the Kajra site in Lakhisarai district, will

now carry solar power from the plant to the state grid.

With this backbone in place, Bihar has strengthened its ability to absorb large volumes of renewable energy without compromising supply stability.

State Energy Department Secretary and Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Bihar State Power Holding Company Limited, Manoj Kumar Singh, said the milestone was achieved under continuous, close monitoring by Bihar State Power Generation Company Limited and Bihar State Power Transmission Company Limited. He described the energisation as a critical operational breakthrough for the

project.

To enable seamless evacuation of power, a new transmission line was built to connect the Kajra Solar Power Plant with grid substations at Haveli Kharagpur and Lakhisarai. With both ends now live, the plant is technically ready to feed clean electricity into the network, ensuring uninterrupted supply to consumers across the region.

What makes the Kajra project stand out is its ability to go beyond daylight-only solar generation. Manoj Kumar Singh said the integrated battery energy storage system will allow the plant to supply uninterrupted power during peak demand hours for four to five hours, even after sunset.UNI

## Mazagon Dock OFS, rising dividends underscore DIPAM's market-driven strategy in 2025

■ **UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

**NEW DELHI, DEC 31 :** The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) continued to play a key role in strengthening public finances and enhancing value creation in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) during 2025 through higher dividend receipts, successful market-based disinvestment, and focused capacity building initiatives.

Despite progressive dilution of the government's shareholding in CPSEs through disinvestment, dividend payouts have shown a steady increase since FY 2020-21. The rise has been attributed to improved capital management practices, stronger accountability mechanisms, and calibrated spacing of disinvestment transactions, as per the Year-End note shared by the Ministry of Finance.

Dividends from CPSEs remain an important source of non-tax revenue for the Centre. Dividend payouts are deliberated through an inter-ministerial forum, the Committee for Monitoring of Capital Management and Dividends by CPSEs (CMCDC).

Over the past five years, dividend receipts have consistently exceeded the Revised Estimates (RE), reflecting improved financial performance of CPSEs.

According to data released by the Ministry of Finance, dividend receipts rose from Rs 39,750 crore in 2020-21 against an RE of Rs 34,717 crore to Rs 74,017 crore in 2024-25, surpassing the revised estimate of Rs 55,000 crore. The trend underscores significant improvement in dividend performance across CPSEs.

In 2025, DIPAM also leveraged market mechanisms for value creation through the Offer for Sale (OFS) route. A 3.61 per cent stake in Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) was divested from the government's holding of 84.83 per cent. The OFS was launched on April 4, 2025, for non-retail investors and on April 7, 2025, for retail investors.

Following oversubscription, a green shoe option was exercised in the non-retail category, enabling the government to realise Rs 3,673.42 crore. Post-OFS, MDL's stock price witnessed an upward trend, contributing to capital gains for investors.

As part of its broader value creation agenda, DIPAM also focused on leadership and capacity building within CPSEs. In collaboration with the Capacity Building Commission (CBC), it organised a workshop on enhancing leadership communication skills in New Delhi on January 17, 2025.

The programme targeted CPSE executives working in finance, business development, strategy, and communications, with an emphasis on improving engagement with investors and financial analysts.UNI

## Cement sector set for solid run as ICRA sees 6-7 per cent volume growth in FY2026-27

■ **UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

**NEW DELHI, DEC 31 :** India's cement industry is heading into another year of steady expansion, riding on sustained demand from housing and infrastructure projects, even as capacity additions accelerate and cost pressures begin to resurface.

Rating agency ICRA has projected cement volumes to grow by 6-7 per cent in FY2027, following a strong 6.5-7.5 per cent expansion expected in FY2026.

The outlook reflects continued momentum in construction activity across the country. Cement demand has remained robust so far, with volumes rising sharply by 8.5 per cent during the first eight months of FY2026.

With construction activity typically picking up after the monsoon, ICRA expects demand to improve further in the second half of the fiscal year.

The agency also expects policy

support to play a key role. A potential reduction in GST on cement, combined with the government's sustained focus on infrastructure spending, is likely to support demand through FY2026 and FY2027, keeping the sector on a stable growth path.

Buoyed by healthy demand prospects, cement companies are moving aggressively to expand capacity, both organically and through acquisitions.

According to ICRA, the industry is set to add 43-45 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of capacity in FY2026, followed by another 42-44 million MTPA in FY2027. This would translate into total capacity additions of around 85-90 million MTPA over the two-year period.

These expansions are aimed at strengthening market share and improving regional presence, particularly as competition intensifies among large players.

On the profitability front,

FY2026 is expected to be a strong year. ICRA projects operating profitability, measured as OPBIDTA per tonne, to improve significantly to Rs 900-950 per tonne in FY2026, up from a low of around Rs 810 per tonne in FY2025. This improvement is being driven by better pricing and higher volumes.

However, margins are expected to moderate slightly in FY2027. ICRA estimates OPBIDTA per tonne to ease to Rs 880-930 in FY2027, as input costs begin to rise.

Key inputs such as pet coke and freight remain linked to global crude oil prices, which are vulnerable to geopolitical tensions and commodity market volatility.

Cement prices are expected to remain supportive of earnings despite cost pressures. ICRA forecasts an average price increase of 2-4 per cent in FY2027, following a stronger 3-5 per cent rise expected in FY2026.

This comes after a sharp 7 per

cent decline in FY2025, which was largely due to muted construction activity in the first half of that year.

Blended realisations have already improved by around 5 per cent year-on-year during the first eight months of FY2026, with price hikes seen across most regions, barring the western market.

Regionally, North and Central India are expected to operate at higher-than-average capacity utilisation levels, supported by strong infrastructure and housing demand. In contrast, southern India may continue to see relatively lower utilisation due to excess capacity.

Recent merger and acquisition activity is also reshaping the competitive landscape in the South. Acquisitions such as Penna Cement and Orient Cement by the Adani Group, and India Cements by UltraTech, have strengthened the regional as well

as pan-India presence of large players.

Despite ongoing capacity additions, ICRA expects overall industry capacity utilisation to remain stable at around 70-71 per cent in FY2027, broadly in line with FY2026, albeit on a much larger capacity base.

ICRA has maintained a stable outlook for the cement sector. The agency believes that large cement producers will continue to benefit from healthy growth in operating income, steady margins, and comfortable balance sheets, even as profitability moderates marginally in FY2027.

Overall, with infrastructure spending holding firm, housing demand remaining resilient, and consolidation strengthening large players, the cement industry appears well placed for steady growth over the next two years—cementing its role as a key pillar of India's construction and infrastructure story.UNI

# Archer, Tongue in England's T20 WC Squad

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**PERTH:** Jofra Archer has been named in England's provisional squad for the 2026 T20I World Cup despite still nursing a left side strain that ruled him out of the Ashes after the third Test.

The 15-man squad also includes Josh Tongue, uncapped in international limited-overs cricket. Tongue has been drafted in by head coach Brendon McCullum and white-ball captain skipper Harry Brook as a strike bowler they believe will thrive on the flatter pitches expected for the tournament in India and Sri Lanka.

Jamie Smith has been axed completely from the limited-overs set-up, which begins the new year with a pre-tournament tour of Sri Lanka, after a failed experiment at the top of the order. Ben Duckett returns after missing the three T20Is in New Zealand ahead of the ongoing tour of Australia.

Archer was England's standout player of the Ashes before he picked up his injury during the third Test in Adelaide, which Australia won to secure the urn in just 11 days. The fast bowler registered nine wickets at 27.11, including 5 for 53 - his fourth five-wicket haul - in the first innings at Adelaide Oval. He also contributed with the bat, striking a maiden half-century in the same game as part of 102 runs at 25.50.

Archer left Australia on Boxing Day evening, after day one of the fourth Test in Melbourne, and is currently recovering in Barbados under the supervision of the ECB's medical team. He will miss the three ODIs and three T20Is in Sri Lanka, which starts from January 22, with Brydon Carse staying on after the 50-over matches to fill in. Archer is likely to join the squad in India ahead of their opening Group C match against Nepal in Mumbai on February 8.

Tongue, though relatively inexperienced in T20 cricket with just 21 matches under his belt, has come to the fore with a string of impressive performances this year. He was the leading wicket-

taker in this year's men's Hundred with 14 wickets and has impressed in the two Ashes Tests, with 12 at 18.58. That includes 5 for 45 at the MCG, as part of match figures of 7 for 89 which earned him the Mullagh Medal as Player of the Match in England's first Test win in Australia since January 2011.

Meanwhile, allrounder Will Jacks is back in both squads after missing the New Zealand tour, and Zak Crawley returns to the ODI set-up for the first time since 2023, looking to add to his eight caps. There is no place for Jordan Cox, or seamer Saqib Mahmood, who is still recovering from a knee injury that required minor surgery at the end of the 2025 home season.

Despite the tight turnaround after the Ashes - the group will leave the UK for Sri Lanka on January 18, ten days after the scheduled finish of the fifth Test in Sydney - England have decided not to rest their Test stars. Seven of the ODI squad have been out in Australia for the duration, including Joe Root, who turned 35 on Tuesday.

Leaning on experience speaks to the importance of correcting England's ailing white-ball fortunes, and the need for McCullum to restate his worth after a demoralising Ashes tour.

Since assuming control of the limited-overs team at the start of 2025 alongside his Test head coach role, McCullum has overseen six wins and five defeats in 13 T20Is - he skipped the Ireland tour which England won 2-0 - and lost 11 of 15 ODI matches in charge. The latter means automatic qualification for 2027's 50-over World Cup is not a foregone conclusion, with the top-eight-ranked sides progressing to the main tournament. England are eighth as it stands, ahead of West Indies and Bangladesh.

Success in the T20 World Cup would no doubt ease the pressure on McCullum. England finished as semi-finalists in 2024's edition, losing to eventual winners India, which ultimately cost former white-ball coach Matthew Mott his job as head coach. England previously won the tournament in 2010 and 2022.



## BPL: Tuesday games postponed following former PM Khaleda Zia's death

UNITED NEWS INDIA

**DHAKA:** The BCB has called off both Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) matches scheduled for Tuesday, December 30, after Khaleda Zia, the country's former prime minister, died in the morning. The announcement came not long after the news of Zia's death and just a couple of hours before the toss at the first match of the day, between Sylhet Titans and Chattogram Royals at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium.

Zia, whose death was announced at 6.00am local time on Tuesday, served two terms as the country's prime minister, from 1991 to 1996 and from 2001 to 2006. She was Bangladesh's first female prime minister, and the wife of Ziaur Rah-



man, former president of Bangladesh. She had been the chairperson and leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), founded by her husband, since 1984.

"The BCB recalls with gratitude her [Zia's] constant blessings and good wishes for the progress of cricket in this country," a BCB statement said. "During her tenure as Prime Minister, she provided outstanding support for the development of cricket in Bangladesh, significantly contributing to improvements in cricket infrastructure and the sport's growth nationwide. Her vision and encouragement helped pave the way for many of the advancements the game enjoys today."

"In respect of the nation's mourning and in honour of Begum Khaleda Zia's legacy, the BCB announces that today's scheduled Bangladesh Premier League matches have been cancelled and will be rescheduled. Further details on the revised fixtures will be communicated in due course."

The BPL's 2025-26 season began on December 26, and three matchdays have already been completed. Dhaka Capitals and Rangpur Riders were scheduled to contest the second match on Tuesday. With several breaks between matchdays, the schedule is unlikely to be affected significantly by the postponement.

Elsewhere, the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan has also postponed nine matches of the Dhaka First Division Cricket League, scheduled to be held from December 30 to January 1. "The postponed matches will be rescheduled and a revised itinerary will be issued in due course," CDDM said.

## Unemployed Physical Education Degree Holders in J&K Demand Creation of Rehbar-e-Khel Posts to Fill Vacancies in YSS Department

LONE MUSAIB

**SRINAGAR/JAMMU, DEC 31:**

A large number of unemployed Physical Education degree holders from various districts of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir have appealed to the government to immediately revive and create Rehbar-e-Khel (ReK) posts against the hundreds of existing vacancies in the Department of Youth Services & Sports (YSS). The aspirants expressed deep concern over the rising unemployment among skilled sports profes-

sionals in the region.

The unemployed candidates said that despite possessing B.P.Ed, M.P.Ed and other sports qualifications, they are struggling without employment opportunities for years. They highlighted that the Youth Services & Sports Department is facing a severe shortage of manpower at the school and zonal levels, which has hindered the promotion of sports activities at the grassroots.

They stressed that the Rehbar-e-Khel scheme was introduced to strengthen sports infrastructure and

ensure trained staff at the school level, but the recruitment process has been on halt for a long time. "Hundreds of posts are lying vacant across the UT. The government must advertise Rehbar-e-Khel posts immediately so that qualified youth can contribute to the growth of sports," one of the aspirants said.

The aggrieved youth urged the administration to consider their demand on humanitarian grounds, stating that many among them are over-aged and unable to participate in future recruitment drives if further

delays occur. They said that while the government is working tirelessly to uplift the sports sector, the absence of qualified Physical Education personnel contradicts that vision.

"Under NEP-2020, sports and fitness have been recognized as a key component of school education. Without trained Physical Education staff, how will schools promote sports talent and implement sports-related activities?" the group questioned.

They appealed to Hon'ble Chief Minister Jinab Omar

Abdullah, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Sports Minister Satish Sharma Ji, Principal Secretary YSS, and Director YSS to personally intervene and formulate a policy for the timely recruitment of Rehbar-e-Khel employees.

The unemployed Physical Education degree holders expressed hope that the UT administration will take swift action to ensure that sports education does not suffer and qualified youth are provided dignified employment opportunities.

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