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'Veterans Are the Silent Shield of the Nation': LG Sinha

- Leads Armed Forces Veterans Day Tributes in Rajouri
- LG Hails ex-servicemen Inaugurates Wall of Fame and Launches Dedicated Helpline for Veterans

HT NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI, JAN 14: Observing the 10th Armed Forces Veterans Day, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday paid glowing tributes to ex-servicemen, Veer Naris and their families at a commemorative function held at ALG Rajouri, calling veterans the silent strength and backbone of India's national security.

Addressing a large gathering, the Lieutenant Governor said the sacrifices of armed



forces personnel often remain unseen but form the foundation of the nation's peace and freedom. "While the nation sleeps in peace, our soldiers stand alert at the borders. They do not speak about sacrifice; they live it every moment," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor noted that service in the armed forces is not merely a profession but a lifelong commitment that continues well beyond retirement. He added that the

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J&K Backbone of India's Security Might: Northern Army Commander

Strong Military Ethos, Rich Regimental Legacy and Veteran Strength Make The UT a Cornerstone of National Defence

HT NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI/JAMMU, JAN 14: Jammu and Kashmir is a vital pillar of India's national-security architecture, owing not only to its strategic geography but also to its deep-rooted military ethos and human resources, Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma said on Wednesday.

Addressing the concluding ceremony of the 10th Veterans' Day celebrations in Rajouri, Lt Gen Sharma highlighted the region's outsized contribution to the armed forces. With a population of about 1.5 crore, Jammu and Kashmir accounts for nearly 4-5 per cent of India's border security forces, a significant

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Education Reforms Boost Govt School Results

Minister Sakeena Itoo commends teachers, schools for remarkable feat

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 14: The sustained efforts of the Government to strengthen the education sector

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Senior Journalist Nisar Peerzada Passes Away After Prolonged Illness

Headlines Today Expresses Deep Sorrow Over the Demise, Tributes paid to the Departed Soul

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR JAN 14: Senior journalist Nisar Peerzada, a resident of Tral, passed away after a prolonged illness, leaving behind a legacy of professional integrity and commitment to journalism. His demise has cast a pall of gloom over the media

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Operation Pawan Veterans Deserve Honour and Recognition: Rajnath Singh

HT News Desk / Agencies

NEW DELHI, JAN 14: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday asserted that the sacrifices made by Indian soldiers during Operation Pawan in Sri Lanka nearly four decades ago must be fully respected and formally acknowledged, stressing that their bravery should never be overlooked.

Speaking at an event marking Armed Forces Veterans' Day, Singh recalled the role of the

Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) deployed in Sri Lanka between 1987 and 1990, and noted that around 1,200 Indian soldiers laid down their lives during the mission.

Without directly naming past administrations, the defence minister indicated that the contributions of IPKF personnel were not adequately recognised for many years. He said the present government is committed to correcting that omission.

"While the decision taken at



that time to send Indian forces to Sri Lanka can be debated, there can be no debate over the courage, valour and supreme sacrifice of our soldiers who took part in Operation Pawan," Singh said, adding that their service deserves the nation's highest respect.

Singh said the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is acknowledging the role of IPKF soldiers "with an open heart" and is working to ensure their contribution is recognised at every level. He noted that IPKF person-

nel are now being honoured at the National War Memorial in New Delhi.

The defence minister also recalled Modi's visits to the IPKF memorial in Colombo, where the Prime Minister paid tributes to fallen Indian soldiers during his visits to Sri Lanka in 2015 and again last year.

India deployed the IPKF following the signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Accord on July 29, 1987, with the objective of

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CS Reviews Progress of Social Welfare Schemes

Stresses on universal social protection and care for the vulnerable sections in J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 14: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Social Welfare Department, during which the Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, presented a detailed overview of the Department's performance, implementation of the flagship schemes, financial status, infrastructure development and future priorities of the Department.

The meeting was attended by senior officers including Secretaries, Mission Directors of Mission Poshan, Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya, Directors of Social Welfare Jammu and Kashmir, Chairpersons of Advisory Boards and other concerned officials.

The review encompassed the functioning of Directorates, Mission Directorates, Advisory Boards, Corporations and statutory bodies under the Social Welfare

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CS Reviews Wool & Dairy Value Addition Plans

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 14: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today reviewed a series of proposals presented by the Agriculture Production Department aimed at enhancing the production of wool, milk and meat in Jammu and Kashmir through value chain strengthening, genetic upgradation

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Asiya Andrabi Convicted Under UAPA for Conspiracy to Wage War Against India

Court Holds Andrabi, Two Associates Guilty of Terror Conspiracy ; Sentencing on January 17

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JAN 14: In a major verdict in a long-running terror case, a special Delhi court on Wednesday convicted Kashmiri separatist leader Asiya Andrabi and her two associates for conspiring to wage war against India and for being members of a banned terrorist organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Pronouncing the judgement, Additional Sessions

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Rather chairs Apex Committee meeting on NeVA, asks for early project completion

JAMMU, JAN 14: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today chaired a high level Apex Committee meeting constituted for monitoring and proper implementation of National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) Project at both the Assembly Complexes in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Members of the Committee, MLAs, Nizam Ud Din Bhat; Hasnain Masoodi; Tanvir Sadiq; Arjun Singh Raju; Waheed Ur Rehman Para; Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj; Dr. Bharat Bhushan besides Secretary, J&K Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandit were present in the meeting.

Threadbare discussion was held on various issues including procurement of Apple iPad for NeVA, procurement of Network Equipment, procurement of All-



in-One Desktops, release of additional amount for NeVA, setting up of NeVA SEWA Kendra and execution of NeVA.

The Committee also reviewed various aspects and ongoing progress of NeVA project. It focused on expediting implementation of the NeVA project, which aims to make the Assembly paperless.

Members of the Committee gave their valuable suggestions and stressed on senior concerned officers to speed up the process of implementation of NeVA project in both Assembly Complexes in Jammu as well as Srinagar.

The Chairman of the Apex Committee emphasized upon the concerned authorities for timely completion of the project while

adhering to the set quality parameters. The NeVA project is part of efforts to modernize the Assembly's functioning with the goal of making it paperless.

The Chairman of the Committee said that a team comprising members of the Apex Committee and senior officers of concerned departments will be deputed to the States where NeVA has been

implemented successfully. He also directed the Law department to ensure the appointment of Nodal officers in all the departments for NeVA project at the earliest.

During the meeting, the senior officers of concerned departments briefed the Committee about the status and other physical and financial activities of NeVA project.

Among others, DG Finance (Budget), Mohammed Sultan Malik; Special Secretary ITD, Shokat Mahmood; GM NCSI, Sudhir K Sharma; Senior Director NIC NeVA Coordination, Anil K Sharma; Deputy Director, General/SIO, Jaskaran Singh Modi; Nodal Officer NeVA, Vishal Sharma besides other senior officers of the concerned departments and Assembly Secretariat attended the meeting.

Indian Army Strengthens Veteran Outreach with ESM Rally at Langate

■ DR. AB QAYOOM

LANGATE, JAN 14: The Indian Army organised an Ex-Servicemen (ESM) Rally at Langate Army camp in sub-district Handwara to commemorate Defence Forces Veterans Day. The rally was held to address welfare-related issues of veterans and to strengthen the bond between the Army and its former soldiers. A large number of ex-servicemen, Veer Naris, widows and their dependents from various parts of Kashmir participated in the event. The rally provided a single-window facility where veterans could seek solutions to problems related to pensions, medical facilities, resettlement, documentation and other welfare schemes. Representa-



tives from Record Offices, Zila Sainik Welfare Office (ZSWO), ECHS, banks, Social Welfare Department, Skill Development Department, Agriculture Horticulture, Fisheries and other government departments also installed many stalls regarding services and benefits of different schemes for ex-servicemen, Veer Naris and widows. Many grievances, including pension anomalies, service record corrections and ECHS card issues, were resolved on the spot. Senior Army officers interacted with the veterans and assured them of continued support and care. The participants expressed satisfaction over the arrangements and appreciated the Army's efforts to promptly address their concerns. The successful conduct of the rally reflected the Indian Army's continued commitment towards the welfare of its veterans and their families, recognising their invaluable service and sacrifices for the nation.

J&K secures 'Leader' status in Export Preparedness Index 2024

Jumps 15 ranks to claim 2nd spot in EPI 2024

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 14: Jammu and Kashmir has achieved a significant milestone in its export development journey by securing the second rank among Small States, North Eastern States and Union Territories in the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2024, released by NITI Aayog.

The Union Territory scored an impressive 51.08 points and has been categorised as a "Leader" in the EPI 2024 classification.

The achievement reflects a remarkable improvement over previous years, with Jammu and Kashmir making a substantial leap from 17th rank in EPI 2022 to 2nd position in EPI 2024. This sharp upward movement highlights the focused, consistent and outcome-oriented efforts undertaken to strengthen the export ecosystem in the Union Territory.

The Export Preparedness Index is a comprehensive, data-driven framework that assesses the export readiness of States and UTs across key pillars including policy, business ecosystem, export ecosystem and export performance. J&K's strong performance underscores the success of targeted interventions such as preparation of district export plans, promotion of One District One Product (ODOP) initiatives, exporter outreach and capacity-building programmes, strengthening of institutional mechanisms and enhanced facilitation for exporters.

This achievement is yet another feather in the cap of the Industries & Commerce Department, Jammu & Kashmir. It is a testament to the visionary guidance and leadership of Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, under whose direction sustained and focused efforts have been undertaken to strengthen the export ecosystem of the Union Territory. The milestone reflects the Department's commitment to export-led growth, achieved through coordinated action, institutional strengthening and the active participation of all stakeholders, including line departments, field functionaries and the exporter community.

Jammu and Kashmir remains committed to further enhancing its export competitiveness and leveraging its unique strengths to expand its footprint in national and global markets.

Chief Secretary flags off J&K Tableau contingent for Republic Day 2026

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 14: Chief Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir, Atal Dulloo today flagged off the contingent of artists of the Jammu & Kashmir Tableau who will perform at Kartavya Path, New Delhi, during the Republic Day Parade-2026. The artists will be part of the J&K Tableau representing the Union Territory on the national stage. The flag-off ceremony was held today at K. L. Saigal Hall, Jammu.

The event was held in the presence of Principal Secretary, Culture Department, Brij Mohan Sharma; Secretary, JKAACL, Harvinder Kour; Additional Secretary, JKAACL, Sonali Arun Gupta; Additional Secretary, JKAACL, Lal Chand, besides other senior officers of JKAACL.

The Jammu & Kashmir tableau at the Republic Day Parade 2026 presents a vibrant fusion of the Union Territory's renowned handicrafts and folk traditions. It showcases iconic crafts such as Pashmina weaving, walnut wood carving, carpet weaving,



papier-mâché, copperware and Basohli miniature paintings, reflecting generations of refined craftsmanship.

The visual narrative opens with a grand engraved Samovar symbolising Kashmiri hospitality, flowing through traditional wooden architecture and houseboat imagery. At the centre, the Dogra Chhajja performance on a village Thadda represents community life and cultural continuity, while spirited folk dances—Rouf, Kud, Jag-

arna, Pahari, Gojri and Dumhal—add rhythm and movement. The tableau concludes with colourful papier-mâché artefacts in a willow basket, presenting Jammu & Kashmir as a living canvas of art, tradition and creativity.

The flag-off ceremony marked a moment of pride as the artists prepared to showcase the rich cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir before the nation on Republic Day 2026.

Union Home Secy Reviews Jammu Security

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 14: Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan chaired a meeting here on Wednesday to review security arrangements for the upcoming Republic Day celebrations as well as assess the ongoing anti-terror operations and drone incursions along the borders.

This came a week after Union Home Minister Amit Shah, on January 8, directed security forces to continue with their operations targeting terrorist infrastructure and terror



financing in a "mission mode".

Accompanied by a central team of officers, Mohan reached Jammu in the afternoon on a two-day visit and straightaway headed for the convention centre to chair the high-level meeting, officials said.

It was attended by Intelligence Bureau Director Tapan Deka, BSF Director General Praveen Kumar, CRPF chief G P Singh and Jammu and Kashmir DGP Nalin Prabhat, as well as senior military, police, civil and intelligence officers. Security forces are engaged

in massive anti-terror operations, especially in the high altitude areas and forest belts across Jammu, where nearly three dozen terrorists, including Pakistani nationals, are believed to be hiding after managing to infiltrate into the region more than two years ago.

There has also been a spurt in drone activities along the International Border and Line of Control, with intelligence reports suggesting the presence of terrorists waiting to infiltrate under the cover of dense fog, the officials said.

Parts Of Dal Lake Freezes As Kashmir Reels Under Severe Cold

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JAN 14: Parts of the famous Dal Lake here and several water bodies in Kashmir froze on Wednesday as sub-zero minimum temperatures across the Valley dropped further.

The Kashmir Valley is in the midst of 'Chilla-i-Kalan' — a 40-day period of extreme cold, when the chances of snowfall are the highest. It began on December 21 and will end on January 30.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 5.2 degrees Celsius on Tuesday night, down from the

minus 4.9 degrees Celsius recorded the previous night, weather department officials said. Shopian in south Kashmir was the coldest place in the Valley, where the mercury settled at minus 7.5 degrees Celsius.

Parts of several water bodies, including the interiors of the Dal Lake, froze due to severe cold. Pahalgam, a popular tourist spot in south Kashmir, which also serves as one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 6 degrees Celsius.

The night temperature in Gulmarg in north Kashmir's

Baramulla district settled at a low of minus 3.8 degrees Celsius, and in central Kashmir's Sonamarg it was minus 2.2 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature in Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley, settled at minus 5.3 degrees Celsius. Kokernag recorded a low of minus 2.3 degrees Celsius, and Kupwara minus 6.2 degrees Celsius.

The India Meteorological Department has said a western disturbance is approaching Kashmir and is likely to affect the Valley's weather from January 16. (Agencies)

Air, Rail Service Hit As Dense Fog Throws Life Out Of Gear In Jammu

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 14: The air and rail operation remained hit as a dense blanket of fog on Wednesday hit normal life in Jammu. "Due to dense fog, the flight operation remained affected since morning in view of poor visibility," said an

official. Meanwhile a senior railway official said that the trains are arriving 3 to 4 hours late from their scheduled time as the rail operation is also badly affected due to dense fog in northern parts of the country.

The foggy weather conditions will remain for a few more days while the chilling weather conditions continue, a Met official said. He however, said that the minimum temperature recorded on the intervening night of Jan 13-14 in Jammu was 4.0C, Banihal 5.3C, Batote 4.5C, Katra 5.5C, Bhaderwah 0.5C, Kathua 4.2C, Jammu Airport 4.8C, Udhampur 1.0C, Ramban 2.8C, Samba 1.5C, Rajouri

0.6C, Kishtwar 4.3C, Reasi 2.6C and Doda 4.3C. Due to prevailing harsh cold conditions, the administration has extended the winter vacations in schools till January 14 while many schools are conducting online classes for primary wings.

People in plains of Jammu especially the roadside vendors were seen burning firewood to protect themselves from chilly weather while the business houses have installed warmers and electric heaters to provide respite to the visitors from the harsh weather.

Vehicles moved at snail's pace on the road with headlights on to avoid accidents due to thick fog.

DC Srinagar inspects under-construction ST PG Boys Hostel, Tulsibagh & proposed Tribal Girls Hostel site

Stresses inter-departmental coordination for project execution

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 14: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Wednesday conducted an inspection of the ongoing construction works of the ST PG Boys Hostel at Tulsibagh and also carried out an on-site inspection of the proposed site for construction of a Tribal Girls Hostel at Chattabal area of the district.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Superintending Engineer, R&B, Shabir Ahmad; SDM West, Irfan Bahadur; Executive Engineer R&B Division Rajbagh, Khalid Mehmood; Executive Engineer, R&B Karan Nagar, Abdul Qayoom; Deputy Director, Tribal Affairs, Tehsildar South, Tehsildar Central Shalteng, Warden Gujjar & Bakermal Hostel and other concerned.

At the ST PG Boys Hostel, Tulsibagh, the DC reviewed the pace and quality of the construction works completed so far. He directed the R&B Department to submit a plan immediately for the remaining works so that the hostel building is completed in all respects under



phase-I and made functional for utilisation. He also instructed the department to prepare a plan for Phase-II of the hostel project to enhance the accommodation capacity.

The DC emphasized the importance of timely completion of the project to ensure adequate residential facilities for students belonging to the Scheduled Tribes. He instructed the executing agencies to strictly adhere to quality standards and prescribed timelines while ensuring that all required amenities are provided as per norms.

Earlier, the DC inspected the proposed site for the Tribal Girls Hostel at Chattabal area of the district and reviewed the feasibility and planning aspects of the project. He directed the R&B Department to prepare a detailed Project Report (DPR) for the construction of the Girls Hostel and stressed the need to provide safe and well-equipped accommodation for tribal girls.

During the visit, the DC emphasized the importance of effective inter-departmental coordination to ensure smooth and timely execution of both the developmental projects.

DC Pulwama chairs DLTC Meeting to revise Scale of Finance for Crops

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, JANUARY 14: Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today chaired a meeting of the District Level Technical Committee (DLTC) at the District Administrative Complex, Pulwama, to revise the Scale of Finance (SoF) for various crops and allied sectors for the year 2026-27.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held on revising crop-wise financial norms in view of prevailing input costs and other agricultural requirements.



The Deputy Commissioner sought detailed inputs from concerned officers regarding increases in costs related to fertilisers, fodder, manure, labour, and other essential inputs impacting agricultural and allied activities.

While reviewing the sector-wise proposed Scale of Finance, the Deputy Commissioner stressed that the revised SoF must be realistic and farmer-centric, so that it effectively supports credit planning and benefits cultivators across the district.

Officers representing Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Sericulture, Fisheries, along with representatives from NABARD, banking institutions, and other allied departments participated in the meeting and presented sector-wise assessments for rationalisation of the proposed Scale of Finance.

Subsequently, the committee finalised the proposed Scale of Finance for sectors including Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Sericulture, and Floriculture, which will be forwarded to the State Level Technical Committee (SLTC) for further consideration and approval.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Pulwama, Aashiq Hussain Khanday; Chief Agriculture Officer; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer; General Manager, ACCB Anantnag; District Development Manager, NABARD Pulwama, and other members of the committee.

DC Baramulla reviews implementation of Foundational First Programme in Uri Block

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 14: Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today chaired a review-cum-dissemination meeting for the implementation of the Foundational First Programme in Uri Block, aligned with the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) goals under NEP 2020.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Education Officer, Baramulla; Deputy Chief Education Officer; concerned officers of the Education Department; and representatives of the Pratham Education Foundation.



Through a detailed presentation the progress, outcomes, and key findings of the programme were highlighted to the chair.

During the meeting, in-depth and productive deliberations were held on various assessment and monitoring frameworks, including the ASER Report, PARAKH Framework, and the Endline Report of the Foundational First Programme. These reports were reviewed to assess learning outcomes, implementation progress, and the overall impact of the programme in Uri Block. The DC emphasized the need for evidence-based planning, regular monitoring, and effective inter-departmental coordination to further strengthen foundational learning.

He appreciated the collaborative efforts of the Education Department and the Pratham Education Foundation, stressing the importance of scaling up successful practices to improve early-grade learning outcomes across Baramulla district.

DC Baramulla reviews progress of projects under NABARD

Directs timely submission of completion reports

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 14: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Minga Sherpa today reviewed the progress of ongoing projects under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) during a meeting held in the office Chamber.

The review was conducted through a detailed presentation by the concerned departments and executing agencies.

During the meeting, the DC directed all concerned departments to submit project completion certificates along with detailed project completion reports in a timely manner to ensure proper documentation and accountability.

Emphasizing adherence to timelines, the DC instructed the executive agencies to accord top priority to NABARD-funded projects, particularly those scheduled for completion by June and September 2026, and ensure that works are completed within the stipulated time frame without compromising



quality.

The DC also directed the engineers to expedite preparations for upcoming NABARD projects, including completion of all requisite technical and administrative formalities, so that new projects can be taken up without delay.

The DC stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among all stakeholders for effective implementation of NABARD projects, which play a vital role in strengthening rural infrastructure and improving public service delivery.

DC Pulwama chairs District Level Telecom Committee Meeting

Reviews status of telecom infrastructure and network connectivity in the district

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, JANUARY 14: Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today chaired a meeting of the District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) here at the Administrative Complex, to review the status of telecom infrastructure and network connectivity in the district.

During the meeting, discussions focused on mobile tower saturation, augmentation of signals, phase-wise coverage network status, Right of Way (RoW) issues, and the progress of the BharatNet project.

The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the project-wise status of mobile

tower installations and progress of the BSNL 4G Saturation Project across the district while status of signal augmentation, operational 4G sites improving coverage in rural and shadow areas and status of the proposed 5G rollout was reviewed.

The progress of the BharatNet project was also reviewed, wherein it was informed that fibre rollout to Gram Panchayats is underway. It was further informed that work is in progress in various blocks of the district and will be completed within the stipulated timelines.

Dr. Qayoom also sought details from the Superintending Engineer, KPDCL, regarding the status of power extension to the constructed towers and directed



him to ensure timely power extension to all constructed and planned towers.

Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of close coordination among all stakeholders to ensure timely completion of telecom and digital connectivity projects in the district.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Pulwama; Superintending Engineer, KPDCL Circle Pulwama; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Pulwama; Executive Engineers of R&B and PMGSY; SDO BSNL, Pulwama; representatives of BSNL, Airtel, Jio, BharatNet, and other concerned members of the committee.

Awareness-cum-Capacity Building Program on Child Protection held in Bandipora

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 14: An Awareness-cum-Capacity Building Programme focusing on Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCPP) and Children in Conflict with Law (CCL) was successfully organized by the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Mission Vatsalya, Bandipora, in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Bandipora.

The programme witnessed active participation from officials and functionaries of various line departments, reflecting a coordinated approach towards child protection and juvenile justice.

The programme aimed to sensitize stakeholders on the legal, institutional, and procedural frameworks governing child protection, with special emphasis on effective implementation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and

Protection of Children) Act, 2015. Speaking on the occasion, Protection Officer, District Child Protection Unit, Bandipora sensitized the participants about the Mission Vatsalya Scheme, its objectives, target groups, and the importance of non-institutional care mechanisms. He elaborated on the district-level structures under Mission Vatsalya and highlighted the crucial role of different departments in ensuring the smooth and effective



implementation of child protection services. He stressed the need for inter-departmental coordination to safeguard the rights and well-being of vulnerable children.

Member CWC and Member JJB provided an in-depth overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Child Welfare Committee and the Juvenile Justice Board. They explained the legal procedures and institutional mechanisms

for dealing with children in need of care and protection as well as children in conflict with law, emphasizing child-friendly approaches and timely interventions in accordance with the JJ Act, 2015.

Adding a legal perspective, Resource Persons from the DLSA highlighted the vital services provided by the District Legal Services Authority for children falling under the categories of CNCPP and CCL. They discussed

the availability of free legal aid, counseling, legal awareness programmes, and support services aimed at ensuring access to justice for children and safeguarding their legal rights.

The event was appreciated by participants, who acknowledged the importance of such awareness programmes in enhancing their understanding and capacity to effectively address issues related to child care, protection, and juvenile justice.



DC Srinagar reviews progress of revenue record digitization in the district

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 14: In order to review the progress of digitization of revenue record in district, a meeting of senior Officers was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, here at Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed; SDM West, Irfan Bahadur; SDM East, Zubair Ahmad; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, and all Tehsildars of Srinagar District.

At the outset, the DC conducted Tehsil wise progress achieved in the digitization of revenue records of the district aimed to enhance transparency and efficiency in land records management.



The DC assessed the status of digitization of land records, including data entry, verification, and updation processes and emphasized the need for timely completion of the digitization process.

He stressed that accurate and comprehensive digitization would significantly improve land records and streamline revenue-related services.

Emphasizing the importance of quality checks, the DC directed the officers to maintain close coordination among field functionaries to expedite the process while ensuring accuracy. He said that the digitization of revenue records is a key reform initiative of the government aimed at ensuring ease of access to land-related information for citizens.

Preparations for celebrations of Mehraj-ul-Alam 2026 reviewed at Budgam

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, JANUARY 14: A meeting was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Mehraj-ud-din Shah, to finalise arrangements for the ensuing auspicious occasion of Mehraj-ul-Alam 2026 in the district.

The meeting discussed threadbare preparations to be made for the celebrations of Shab-i-Mehraj and responsibilities were assigned to different departments.

At the outset, the ADC directed District police to ensure security at the places such as Peth Makhama, Charar-i-sharief, Pakherpora shrine and other major shrines of the District during the celebrations of the festival.

Further, the ADC directed KPDC Budgam for un-interrupted power supply and ensuring functioning of street lights at all significant places.

He instructed EOs of concerned Municipal Committees to carry out special cleanliness drives and proactive measures for proper sanitation in all areas.

Health authorities were instructed to ensure availability of staff and ambulances at all sub centers and ensure medical assistance at all designated places.

With regard to availability of ration, the ADC directed AD Food to ensure timely supply and distribution of food grains, besides ensuring availability of essential commodities to the general public.

The ADC also directed the ARTO to ensure hassle free availability of transport facility on the auspicious days and directed him to coordinate with the traffic department so that bottlenecks in smooth flow of traffic



are removed.

During the meeting, the ADC directed the Department of Jal Shakti to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply. They were also directed to provide additional water tankers at identified locations to augment the capacity.

To check illegal profiteering and hoarding in the markets, the ADC directed SDMs to constitute squads who will monitor and conduct market checking drives to ensure sale of quality food items and check any hoarding or overpricing.

Besides, CPO Budgam Javaid Ahmad Najar, all SDMs, DFO, CMO, Executive engineer PDD, Jal Shakti, AD FCS&CA, AD Fisheries, DSP HQ, Budgam; EOs of Municipal Committees, representatives from Animal and Sheep Husbandry, and Cooperatives were present in the meeting

Preparations for celebration of Republic Day finalised at Bandipora

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 14: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a meeting of concerned officers at the Conference Hall to finalise preparations for the forthcoming Republic Day celebrations in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner assessed the preparedness for the main function at S.K. Stadium, Bandipora, as well as celebrations planned at Sub-Divisions Gurez and Sumbal and other notified venues. While the concerned officers apprised the chair that preparations were progressing satisfactorily, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the need for continuous improvement to make the celebrations more engaging and inspiring.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed departments to ensure seamless arrangements for flag unfurling, Shahnai Vadan, march-past by contingents, cultural programmes, and proper seating and dais arrangements, keeping in view the seating capacity and prevailing weather conditions.

Emphasis was laid on theme-based cultural performances involving educational institutions, NSS volunteers, Scouts & Guides, musicians, and local artists. A District-level Committee was mandated to scrutinise and finalise all cultural items. The Deputy Commissioner further directed the R&B and Municipal authorities to ensure proper illumination of government buildings, bridges, and roundabouts. Stress was also laid on ensuring adequate transport facilities for school children, availability of medical and fire services, drinking water supply, heating arrangements, and effective waste minimisation measures.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed that prominent individuals and institutions working in Bandipora should be invited and honoured on Republic Day. These include representatives from the Geological and Archaeological Surveys, EPFO, Cooperative Societies, FPOs, FRA Committees, Forest Demarcation Office, Principal KFT Chitternaar, Civil Defence Wardens, and veterans through the Sainik Board.

The meeting was attended by the Senior Superintendent of Police Bandipora, Commanding Officers of 14 RR, 13 RR, 27 RR and CRPF; Commandant, 3rd Battalion CRPF; Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora; Assistant Commissioner Revenue; Programme Officer ICDS, ACD, ACP, besides other concerned district and sectoral officers.

ADC NOWSHERA CELEBRATES LOHRI WITH PLASH CHILDREN

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

NOWSHERA, JANUARY 14: In a heartwarming gesture, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Nowshera, accompanied by a team of officials, paid a visit to PLASH (Bal Ashram) to celebrate the auspicious

Lohri festival with the children residing there. The ADC interacted with the children and emphasized the importance of festivals in spreading joy, unity and cultural values. The ADC also distributed sweets among the Children, bringing smiles and cheer to their faces.

District Admin Budgam gears up to celebrate Phase-2 of 150 years of “Vande Mataram”

ADC chairs meeting to finalize activity plan for year-long event.

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, JANUARY 14: District Administration Budgam is all set to commemorate 150 years of the national song “Vande Mataram” with grandeur and patriotic fervour.

In this regard, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Mehraj-ud-din Shah today chaired a meeting of officers from all line departments in the sheikh-ul-Alam hall of the DC Office Complex to finalize the activity plan for the second phase of the year-long celebration.

At the outset, Chief planning officer budgam, Javaid Ahmad Najar briefed the meeting about the objectives, framework, and schedule of events planned for the celebration. He informed that the campaign, inaugurated in November 2025, is being implemented in four phases. He added that Phase-I has already been completed, while Phase-II will commence from January

19, 2026. He further informed that Phase-II will include flag hoisting, invocation of “Vande Mataram,” cultural

performances, screening of short films, and participation of all officers, offices across district.

The week-long celebration will further include essay and quiz competitions, exhibitions on the freedom struggle and “Vande Mataram,” police band performances, mural and wall paintings, cleanliness drives, youth rallies, mini-marathons, and documentary screenings to be organized by various departments.

The ADC said that the celebration of 150 years of “Vande Mataram” would serve as a tribute to India's rich cultural heritage and the spirit of patriotism that binds the nation together. He said that the celebrations are envisioned as a platform to rekindle national pride and to remind the younger generation of the sacrifices made by freedom fighters in shaping



the nation.

He further said that the celebrations should reflect the diversity, unity, and cultural vibrancy of Budgam district, ensuring that every citizen feels connected to the spirit of the event.

He stressed that departments must work in close coordination to guarantee widespread public involvement, particularly from students, youth, and community groups. The ADC emphasised that all activities should be executed in an inclusive, innovative, and people-centric manner, making the celebrations a district-wide movement of patriotic expression and cultural pride.

The meeting was attended by CPO Budgam, all SDMs, ACD Budgam, CEO Budgam, CMO Budgam, District Information Officer, District Informatics Officer, Dysp HQ, representatives from traffic police budgam and other senior officers of the district administration.

28,000 imposed as fine during food safety inspection drive in Bandipora

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 14: On the eve of the ensuing Shab-e-Miraj, a team of Food Safety Officers comprising officials from the Intelligence-cum-Legal Cell, along with the Food Safety team Bandipora, conducted an extensive inspection drive in the main town of Bandipora. The inspection was carried out under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner Food Safety, Kashmir.

During the drive, various Food Business Operators (FBOs), including bakers, butchers, restaurants, and grocery shops, were inspected. Several FBOs were found violating the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Consequently, a cumulative fine of n 28,000 was imposed on them. In addition, around 60 kilograms of prepared food, found unfit for human consumption, was destroyed on the spot.

All butchers operating in the area were strictly instructed to install glass frames outside their premises to ensure hygienic display of meat, failing which stern action shall be initiated against the defaulters under the relevant rules. The Food Business Operators were also sensitized about the importance of maintaining proper hygienic and sanitary conditions in their establishments. Meanwhile, Commissioner, Food and Drugs Administration, Samita Sethi, has emphasized upon all enforcement officers of the Food Safety Department to further intensify inspection drives across the UT. She has also urged consumers to remain vigilant and report any food-related complaints on the toll-free helpline number 104. The Food Safety Department reiterated its commitment to safeguarding public health and ensuring the availability of safe and wholesome food to consumers.

ADC Shopian leads Swachhata Pledge at Mini Secretariat

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, JANUARY 14: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz today led the Swachhata Pledge at the Mini Secretariat (near Helipad) as part of the ongoing Swachhata Campaign.

The pledge, administered by CEO, MC, Shopian, Suhail Ahmed, was attended by officers and staff from various departments, reaffirming their commitment to cleanliness, hygiene and responsible civic behaviour.

On the occasion, The ADC emphasized the importance of collective responsibility in maintaining clean workplaces and public spaces and urged all officers to act as ambassadors of cleanliness in their respective jurisdictions.

The pledge highlighted sustained efforts towards sanitation, waste management



and public awareness to ensure a clean and healthy environment.

The campaign witnessed active participation, reflecting the administration's resolve to promote cleanliness as a continuous movement rather than a one-time activity.

DC Doda distributes ice boxes to fishermen under JKCIP

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, JANUARY 14: Ice boxes were today provided to fishermen of the Doda district under the Jammu and Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP). Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh gave away the Boxes to the fishermen at the DC Office

Complex. The initiative aims to facilitate hygienic and scientific preservation of fish, reducing post-harvest losses and enhancing market value. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner urged the fishermen to enroll for Vishwakarma Scheme to procure fishing nets and other allied support. “These schemes are meant for livelihood enhancement,



skill development and promoting self-reliance among traditional occupational groups, including vulnerable fishermen and

fisherwomen,” he added.

The DC also sensitized the fishermen to safety protocols, advising them to avoid fishing in flood-prone and landslide-prone zones, particularly during adverse weather conditions. Highlighting the utility of the ice boxes, he informed that these would help maintain freshness and hygiene of fish during storage and transportation.

The Deputy Commissioner also listened to the issues and suggestions of Fishermen and assured them of continued support from the District Administration for the overall development of the fisheries sector in the district.

The programme was attended by ACR, Ashraf Pervez; CPO, Manesh Kumar Manhas; Assistant Director Fisheries and other concerned officers and staff.



HT EDITORIAL

Protect interests of tourist transporters of Kashmir

For ages together we have been listening that Kashmir is a tourist destination with thousands of people visiting the different places of the valley year after year. Given this scenario it is important that all the necessary things are in place and there is no discomfort to the tourists. At the same time, it is important that the interests of all the tourism players are safeguarded so that they too are not at the receiving end.

It has been observed that the entry of vehicles coming from different places of the country to the places of tourist importance is regulated and they are stopped at a particular place. Once the outside vehicles are stopped then the tourists are expected to board local vehicles in order to reach the different health resorts of that particular tourist destination. For reasons best known to the people at helm this provision has not been extended to the Kashmir valley.

There is a free entry to both the non-commercial and commercial vehicles coming from different parts of the country to the Kashmir valley. These vehicles can move to any place in the valley and no restrictions are imposed on the movement of such vehicles. As a result of this the local drivers get dejected and at the end of the day there is no solution to their problems. Despite approaching the authorities in this respect, the government has not been able to solve this issue.

Over the years scores of youths have taken loans from the banks and other financial institutions and purchased vehicles of different types. These youth had purchased vehicles so as to ferry the tourists from the city centre to the different health resorts of the Kashmir valley. Given the fact that the outside vehicles have free access to all the places of Kashmir most of the youth are cursing the luck of availing the loan facility and then purchasing the vehicles.

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCC&I) and other tourism bodies have raised this issue multiple times with the successive governments both in Jammu & Kashmir and at the centre. Up to this moment of time the governments have done nothing in this regard with the transporters associated with the tourism sector being pushed to the wall. Need of the hour is that immediate steps are taken in this regard so that tourism flourishes in the real sense in Kashmir.

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A Silent Village, A Loud Result

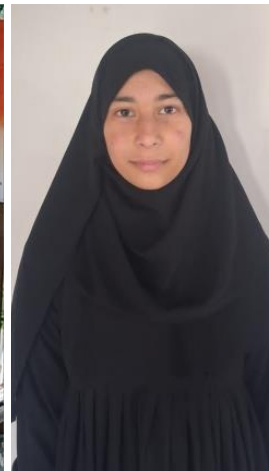
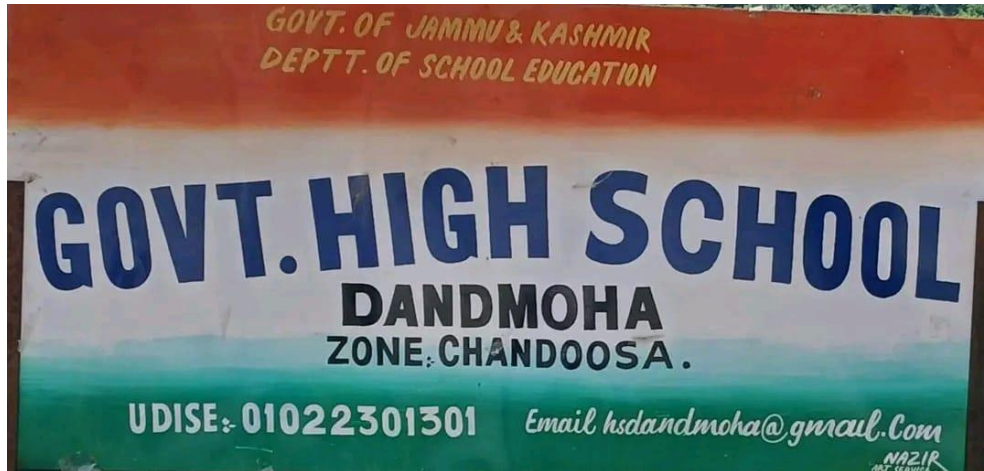
10th Class Success Leaves Everyone Surprised



■ MUDASIR AHMAD NAJAR

Dandmoha is a small and quiet village that has lived for many years far away from basic necessities as well as modern education. Life here moves slowly and often with difficulty. Roads are uneven, facilities are limited, and many services that are common in cities are only dreams for the people of this village. Education, especially modern education, has always been a challenge. Yet, despite these limitations, Dandmoha holds within it a deep strength, a silent patience and an unbreakable belief in the power of learning. The village may seem unnoticed to the outside world, but it carries stories of struggle, hope and determination. The village of Dandmoha is surrounded by green trees and protected by a heavy mountains that stands like a natural guardian. The beauty of nature gives peace to the people, even when life becomes heavy. The fresh air, the calm surroundings, and the green landscape offer comfort to tired minds. These trees and mountains have seen generations grow up with limited opportunities but unlimited dreams. Nature has silently supported the village when development did not.

Poverty is a shared reality in Dandmoha. Almost every family struggles to meet daily needs. Parents work as laborers, farmers, or daily wage earners, often earning just enough to survive. Despite this, every parent carries a powerful dream in their heart. They dream of seeing their children become doctors, teachers, engineers, or officers. Many parents never went to school themselves, but they strongly believe that education can change the future of their children. Their sacrifices are quiet but meaningful. In the center of this village stands Government High School Dandmoha, the only strong source of formal education for



the children of this area. The school building is simple and lacks modern facilities, but its importance is beyond measure. For the people of Dandmoha, this school is not just a place to study; it is a symbol of hope and progress. It is where dreams take shape and young minds begin to see a future beyond poverty.

The students of Government High School Dandmoha face many difficulties in their daily lives. Most of them do not have proper study rooms or learning tools at home. Electricity is often unreliable, and many students study late at night under weak light. Some students help their parents in fields or household work before and after school. Yet, they never complain. They understand that education is their only path to a better life, and they hold on to it with determination. The role of teachers in this school is truly remarkable. The teachers of Government High School Dandmoha are not just educators; they are builders of the future. With limited resources, they put in unlimited effort. They stay after school hours, explain lessons repeatedly, and guide students with patience and care. They motivate students who feel tired or doubtful and remind them of their potential. Their dedication goes beyond duty.

These teachers teach more than subjects. They teach values, discipline, honesty and self confidence. They help students believe in themselves, even when circumstances try to break them. In a village where opportunities are few teachers become the strongest

support system. They prove that true teaching comes from the heart. For the students of Dandmoha, the 10th class examination is a turning point in life. It is not just an exam; it is a test of hope and hard work. It carries the expectations of parents, teachers, and the entire village. Stress is heavy, and fear is natural. The days before the results are filled with silent prayers and anxious waiting. The whole village waits together, sharing one hope.

When the 10th class results will be announced, the silence of Dandmoha turned into pride and joy. The results surprised everyone. Students from a village known for lack of facilities performed with excellence. One name that shone brightly was Zulikhah Ashraf, who secured an outstanding 489 marks. Her achievement became a symbol of determination, hard work and belief. Along with her, other toppers also performed remarkably well, proving that talent knows no boundaries.

Zulikhah Ashraf's success is not just her personal achievement; it is the success of the entire village. It represents the sacrifices of her parents, the guidance of her teachers and the strength of her own efforts. Her marks became a message for every child in Dandmoha that dreams can come true, even in difficult conditions. The joy spread quickly throughout the village. Parents smiled with tears in their eyes, teachers felt rewarded for their efforts and students felt proud of themselves. There were no grand celebra-

tions, but there was deep happiness. For the first time, Dandmoha was known not for its struggles but for its success.

This success carries a deep philosophical message. Silence does not mean weakness, and poverty does not mean lack of talent. Often, the strongest efforts grow quietly in the hardest conditions. Education does not need luxury; it needs belief, guidance, and hard work. When these come together, even a silent village can produce a loud result. The story of Government High School Dandmoha is a lesson for society and authorities. If such results are possible with limited facilities, imagine what could be achieved with proper support. Better infrastructure, learning tools and resources can help many more villages shine like Dandmoha. Education has become the greatest wealth of Dandmoha. It has given children confidence and parents hope. The success of the 10th class students has shown that education is the strongest tool to break the cycle of poverty. Dandmoha may still struggle with basic needs, but its voice has been heard.

Today, Dandmoha stands as an example of what determination, guidance and belief can achieve. A village once silent has spoken loudly through results. Its story reminds us that true success is born not from comfort, but from courage, patience and faith in education.

The author from Dandmoha,
Kreei, Baramulla

10th Results Declared by JKBOSE



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

The declaration of the 10th class results by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) has brought relief, happiness, and excitement to thousands of students and their families across the Kashmir Valley. This year, the overall pass percentage stands at 84.4% which is truly a positive and encouraging sign for the education system in Kashmir. It clearly indicates that students are showing more interest in their educational goals than ever before.

Education is gradually gaining importance among the youth of Kashmir. The increasing pass percentage reflects the dedication, hard work, and seriousness of students towards their studies. It also highlights the role of teachers, parents, and the improved academic environment that supports learners in achieving success.

■ Girls Outshine Boys in Secondary Results

As seen in previous years, girls have once again outperformed boys in the secondary school examination. This achievement deserves special appreciation because it shows that girls are excelling academically and contributing positively to the overall literacy and educational development of the region. Their success is a strong message that girls are equally capable and determined to achieve their dreams.

On 14th January, JKBOSE officially declared the Class 10th results, bringing an end to the long wait and anxiety of students who had been patiently waiting for the last couple of months. Every year, JKBOSE conducts examinations for Class 10th and 12th students, and the result day always remains one of the most memorable moments in a student's life.

Students of Class 10th and 12th are extremely



curious and eager to know their results. For many, this day becomes one of the happiest moments of their lives, as it marks the reward for months of hard work, dedication, and perseverance.

■ Past and Present: A Changing Educational Scenario

In the past, the declaration of the 10th class result was celebrated with great enthusiasm. Families used to treat it as a major achievement when their children passed the matriculation examination. Parents, relatives, and neighbors would celebrate wholeheartedly, especially because the pass percentage was comparatively low in earlier times.

There was a time when passing the 10th class in the first attempt was considered a remarkable success. Parents would distribute sweets, and shireen (a traditional whitish round sweet among relatives and neighbors to celebrate the achievement). Such celebrations reflected the pride and happiness parents felt when their children successfully completed matriculation.

Earlier, the educational facilities in Kashmir were limited. There were fewer schools, less academic guidance, and minimal access to quality study material. Students had to travel long distances to attend tuition classes, which often left them tired

and exhausted. Due to these limitations, achieving good results was challenging for many learners.

In contrast, the present era is enriched with modern facilities. Today's students have access to the internet, digital learning platforms, online lectures, and a wide variety of study materials. These resources have made learning easier, more engaging, and more effective. Learners now have countless opportunities to achieve their academic goals.

■ Why Do Students Score 500 Out of 500?

Scoring 500 out of 500 is no longer considered impossible, and this is a very positive development. Our students are intelligent, capable, and hardworking. With the availability of the internet, learners can find answers to almost any question from the comfort of their homes. They have access to the best study materials and guidance for examinations.

Unlike the past, students today do not rely on rote learning. They understand the importance of conceptual clarity. They focus on learning, understanding concepts deeply, and explaining answers in their own words with suitable examples. This approach has significantly improved academic performance and overall understanding.

The achievement of full marks reflects the potential of our learners. It shows that with proper guidance, resources, and determination, students can turn the impossible into possible. Their success is a sign of hope and progress for the future of education in Kashmir.

■ Congratulations

Achieving excellent results brings happiness not only to students but also to their parents. A child's success is the greatest reward for any parent. Qualifying an examination brings pride and joy to families, and many parents proudly share their children's achievements on social media platforms like Facebook.

I congratulate all the successful students and extend my heartfelt best wishes to their parents. May this success be the foundation for greater achievements in their future lives.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Reclaiming Kashmir's Intellectual and Cultural Legacy

"Kashmir is not merely a piece of land; it is a civilization shaped by faith, poetry, and tolerance"



■ DR. MOHIUDIN ZORE KASHMIRI

Jammu and Kashmir occupies a distinctive and strategically significant position on the globe, located between 32.15° and 37.05° north latitude and 72.35° and 83.20° east longitude. Historically, it was not merely a geographical region but a vast political, cultural, and civilizational entity with a strong and independent identity. Before the mid-twentieth century, Jammu and Kashmir functioned as a coherent and culturally unified land. However, the political developments of 1947 altered its territorial integrity, resulting in its division among India, Pakistan, and China. Despite these changes and the ongoing debates regarding nomenclature and political status, the historical and cultural reality of Kashmir remains unchanged: its past was remarkably glorious and intellectually rich.

Kashmir's civilizational legacy is deeply rooted in learning, scholarship, and cultural production. Ancient historical sources and literary traditions affirm that Sharda Peeth (now in Neelam valley of POK) once considered one of the greatest centers of higher learning in the ancient world, was located in Kashmir. This institution attracted scholars from distant regions and played a crucial role in shaping intellectual traditions in South Asia. Kashmir also served as a major center of Buddhism, contributing significantly to its philosophical and spiritual development. Furthermore, the region is credited with producing nearly half of the total corpus of Sanskrit literature (Raja Trangni of 12th century worth mentioned), a testament to its extraordinary scholarly environment. In later centuries, Kashmir emerged as a prominent center of Persian learning and literary creativity, (Gani Kashmiri 1630-1669) earning the title "Iran-e-Sagheer" (Little Iran). In the modern period, the tradition of literary excellence continued through Urdu, with Kashmir becoming one of its major centers, comparable to

Delhi, Lucknow, Deccan, and Lahore. These achievements collectively demonstrate that Kashmir's intellectual contributions span multiple languages, religions, and historical periods.

Kashmir's excellence has never been limited to literature alone. The region has produced notable achievements in art, philosophy, administration, spirituality, and social organization. Human life, unlike animal existence, is not confined merely to physical survival through food and labor. Human beings are distinguished by intellect, consciousness, moral reasoning, and the capacity for social organization. Recognized as Ashraf-ul-Makhluk, human beings possess the ability to reflect upon the past, engage with the present, and envision the future. From this intellectual capacity arise belief systems, customs, traditions, and organized religions. Most world religions emphasize belief in one supreme divine power, and religious life provides ethical discipline, spiritual fulfillment, and a framework for social harmony. Thus, religion plays an essential role in shaping civilized societies.

Jammu and Kashmir stands as a living example of unity in diversity. Its geographical landscape, rich biodiversity, cultural expressions, and social structures reflect extraordinary variety and coexistence. Although contemporary global representations of Kashmir often focus on political conflict and unrest, particularly over the last three to four decades, such portrayals offer only a partial and often distorted picture. These challenges, while deeply impactful, have not destroyed the essence of Kashmiriyat, a composite culture rooted in tolerance, coexistence, and shared values. Geographic isolation, mountainous terrain, harsh winters, and limited connectivity have historically posed serious challenges, yet the people of Kashmir have consistently demonstrated resilience and adaptability, preserving their cultural and social heritage across centuries.

A decisive turning point in the history of Kashmir was the peaceful introduction and spread of Islam, particularly through the efforts of Mir Syed Ali Hamdani (1314-1384) and his companions. Unlike narratives that associate religious expansion with force, the spread of Islam in Kashmir was largely characterized by spiritual influence, moral persuasion, and social



reform. Mir Syed Ali Hamdani not only introduced religious teachings but also played a transformative role in reshaping Kashmiri society. He and his followers trained people in various vocational skills, encouraged craftsmanship, and promoted the utilization of local raw materials for the production of goods. These initiatives significantly improved livelihoods, stimulated trade, and integrated Kashmir into broader economic networks. As a result, daily life became more organized and economically secure, contributing to the overall development of society.

This era of transformation was further enriched by the spiritual and reformative contributions of Lal Ded (1320-1392), also known as Lalla Ishwari, and Sheikh Noorud-Din Wali (R.A.) (1377-1438). These revered figures transcended religious boundaries through their teachings and poetic expressions, emphasizing inner spirituality, human equality, and social harmony. Their ideas challenged rigid social divisions and promoted compassion, humility, and moral responsibility. The absence of religious discrimination in their teachings helped foster an inclusive social environment in which people of different faiths coexisted peacefully. This period is widely regarded as a golden age of Kashmiri civilization, marked by significant progress in social cohesion, cultural cre-

ativity, and economic stability.

The golden era of socio-cultural development reached its political and administrative peak during the reign of Sultan Zain-ul-Abideen (1395-1470), popularly known as Budshah. He is remembered as an enlightened and pragmatic ruler who prioritized justice, welfare, and inclusivity. His policies encouraged education, religious tolerance, and economic growth, further strengthening Kashmir's tradition of pluralism. Under his leadership, Kashmir flourished as a center of learning, craftsmanship, and peaceful coexistence, reinforcing the foundations of Kashmiriyat.

While Kashmir's history includes certain dark and turbulent phases, these episodes do not define its overall character. The region is more accurately described as a land of saints, Sufis, and spiritual harmony. Linguistic diversity has always been a defining feature of Kashmir, with several languages spoken across the region. Nevertheless, Urdu has emerged as a shared medium of communication, widely spoken and written by Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs alike. This linguistic unity reflects deeper cultural integration. Sacred spaces across Kashmir further illustrate this spirit of coexistence. Sites such as Dargah Hazratbal, Shankaracharya Temple, Martand Temple (Mattan), Amarnath Cave in Pahalgam, Hari Parbat, Ziyarat Makkdoom Sahib,

and Chatti Padshahi are revered by different communities. It is common for people to visit multiple sacred sites regardless of religious affiliation, reflecting mutual respect and shared spiritual heritage.

Jammu and Kashmir is also rich in educational institutions, spiritual centers, artistic talent, and skilled human resources. The region possesses immense potential to contribute meaningfully to society and to the wider world. Unfortunately, much of this potential has remained underutilized. Many capable minds have been diverted by misguided ideologies, political manipulation, or narrow personal interests. As a significant portion of the twenty-first century has already passed, there is an urgent need for intellectual openness and critical engagement with contemporary challenges. Education, innovation, and ethical leadership must replace stagnation and division.

Religion, in this context, should never be perceived as an obstacle to progress. Equally problematic is the tendency to reduce religion either to passive withdrawal from worldly responsibilities or to a tool for political exploitation. Both extremes distort the true purpose of faith. Religion constitutes the inner moral and spiritual life of individuals and societies, providing meaning, discipline, and ethical guidance. At the same time, active participation in social and economic life is essential for collective progress. A balanced approach where faith coexists with rational thought, social responsibility, and productive work offers the most sustainable path forward.

In conclusion, the future of Jammu and Kashmir depends on its ability to draw strength from its rich past while engaging constructively with present realities. By harmonizing spirituality with education, tradition with modernity, and faith with social responsibility, Kashmir can reclaim its historical role as a centre of knowledge, culture, and peaceful coexistence. Such a vision not only honours the legacy of the region but also lays the foundation for prosperity and dignity in the years to come.

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Results Doesn't mean the end of the journey



■ RAQIF MAKHDOOMI

While this Piece goes to publication. Results must have been already declared and many homes must be filled with the aroma of Khewa and Isband. With these things kitchens and stores must be filled with bakery items and sweets. Pocket must be filled with money. And the parents must be filled with pride. Writing all this makes me recall my own time. I passed my 10th back in year 2015. It has been 10 years since then but I still have those memories afresh. It was night time, my aunty screamed from her house "Raqif pass hogya Tu". I said marks bolo. She replied "Tu pass hogya wahie kafi". I have been so weak with my studies. No one ever knew that I'll every pass my 10th class. My passing of 10th was something that came as a miracle. My father offered two rakat of Namaz and ran to masjid to thank Allah for giving me success. It was a real miracle. My Maths was very weak, I was unable to remember those formulas. I always failed to understand why do we have to fill the full page with steps to find the value of X. The most irritating thing for me was "Prove that this is a triangle". Like what's the logical of proving a triangle is a triangle? The diagram is a triangle, so it's a triangle. To not to trigger the Math lovers. This is only my personal opinion. I don't want anyone to feel bounded by this opinion. Your love for Maths should continue.

10th and 12th results hold value because after 10th you go to choose your stream which shall shape his/her future. And after 12th you start putting bricks to your goal. No doubt these two classes are important but not more than life of your Son or daughter. Not everyone is enough strong to take the stress and they end up their life. Because for them the solution lies only on ending up from who it started. Some may not go far but they develop stress or depression. Here I have a request for Parents "Please don't make your child/children an object for bragging". Your child may not do good with medical subject but may be able to do with other subjects. A guy who may not be able to



become "Doctor" but may become "JUDGE". A Judge has more respect and responsibilities than doctor. And one can never become a judge by studying books related to medical science. One has to read subjects that one has to study in Arts stream. So what stops parents from letting his / her child/children to take up Arts? The thing that stops them from letting them do so is "Pride". They won't have anything to brag about during family functions. My father might have been told why did your son take up Arts. He really had nothing to brag about. But now my Father has everything to brag about. He with pride says my son is an "Advocate". And it actually ends the debate. Then they have nothing to speak about. Had I been forced into what wasn't my calibre. I would have either been in grave or a depressed guy with backlogs.

We often compare our kids to others with the things others are good at. It's like asking Elephant to contest with monkey in tree climbing. Will Elephant be able to compete? No, it'll be a disaster. Someone's child may be good at drawing and someone's child with cricket. How do we expect them to do good with volleyball or

football? Or can we ask the guy with drawing skills to win against the guy skilled with Cricket? Or even the opposite? We can't, it's just wasting the talent and the workforce. It must be remembered doing good in exams doesn't mean being "Intelligent" it shows a person has a good "Memory power". Some other guy may not have same memory power. And the guy who has good memory power doesn't mean that the person is always intelligent.

The guy who invented bulb "Thomas Alva Edison" wasn't an intelligent person. While he was a kid he gave his house help to drink water which had crushed insects in it. He was doing some experiment. He believed that it will give her wings. Who would have thought he will end up discovering "BULB". Marks and future are never interconnected. Marks never makes future. Keep it engraved in brain "Marks shall never determine your future". You pass your class, your marks are remembered for few days and then forgotten. Then people wait for your another spot. The only spot that shall matter to you is "What profession you take up when your studies come to an end". And seriously no

We often compare our kids to others with the things others are good at. It's like asking Elephant to contest with monkey in tree climbing. Will Elephant be able to compete? No, it'll be a disaster. Someone's child may be good at drawing and someone's child with cricket. How do we expect them to do good with volleyball or football? Or can we ask the guy with drawing skills to win against the guy skilled with Cricket? Or even the opposite? We can't, it's just wasting the talent and the workforce. It must be remembered doing good in exams doesn't mean being "Intelligent" it shows a person has a good "Memory power"

one cares what you are upto. All they want is to interfere in your life for some time and then forget you and about it.

Remember "Don't take the talks about your results seriously. Listen them from one ear and let it out from another. Because those who give out opinions. Shall never ever come for real help. And those who shall actually help. Shall never make you feel low".

You have to do all the hard work and it's all your life. Don't let anyone influence your life in anyway. If you let anyone influence your life then you shall never be able to achieve what you want to.

Parents must stop letting "Relatives" interfere in the life decisions of their children. Results never mean the end. It's just the beginning of the journey.

The author is a law student.

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FOOT CARE TIPS DURING WINTER



■ SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

Struggling to keep your feet soft and comfortable during the chilly winter months?

As the chill of winter settles in, neglecting your feet during this time can lead to discomfort, pain, and even more serious health issues.

During colder months, blood vessels naturally constrict to preserve body heat. While this helps protect vital organs, it reduces circulation to your extremities—especially your feet and toes. Poor circulation can lead to cold feet, numbness, slower healing, and increased sensitivity to pressure or injury.

Winter presents unique challenges for foot health, from dry air, heavy footwear, and reduced circulation, all combining to create the perfect environment for foot discomfort, cracked skin, fungal infections, frostbite, and worsening chronic conditions.

Taking proactive steps during the winter months can help keep your feet comfortable, functional, and healthy

until spring arrives.

The skin of the feet is commonly thick and dry, and you need to take regular foot care regime dedicatedly for beautiful and glowing feet.

Moisturise Daily

Dry skin is one of the most common winter foot complaints. Daily moisturising helps maintain the skin barrier and prevents painful cracks.

Opt for a rich and hydrating foot cream or lotion that contains ingredients like shea butter, glycerin, or coconut oil. Apply the moisturiser generously, focusing on the heels and the ball of your feet.

If this isn't doing the job, try a urea-based heel balm. This will more actively hydrate your skin cells, creating better skin integrity. Most heel balms contain 25% urea, but the higher the percentage, the better it is.

Avoid lotion between the toes, as excess moisture there can encourage fungal growth.

For the best result, apply the moisturiser or petroleum jelly before bedtime and wear breathable cotton socks to allow better absorption.

Use proper socks and footwear

Proper footwear is essential during the winter months. The right winter socks insulate and protect your feet. Opt for socks made of breathable materials like cotton, wool or moisture-wicking synthetics to keep your feet dry. Look for socks that keep you both warm and dry.

You may opt for wearing thermal socks for extra insulation if you are living in snow-covered areas.

The type of footwear you choose can significantly impact the condition of your feet.

Opt for waterproof, insulated boots that keep your feet warm and dry. Avoid shoes that are too tight, which can cut off circulation, or too loose, which can cause blisters. Tight shoes restrict blood flow, increasing the risk of cold-related problems.

Pedicure

A pedicure is not just a beauty procedure. This is an excellent prevention of the development of fungal diseases.

Winter weather can also dry out your cuticles, leading to hangnails or painful cracks.

Winter pedicures aren't just about keeping your nails looking cute—they are essential for maintaining foot health during the colder months.

A professional pedicure begins with soaking your feet in warm water to soften hardened skin. After your foot bath, shorten your toenails using foot files and pumice tools that remove thick, dead skin safely. Well-groomed feet are not just a sign of hygiene, but they are also instant confidence boosters.

As a final touch, paint your toenails with a nail strengthener. This will further nourish the nail plate.

An organic pedicure uses natural oils and products containing natural substances. Nowadays, foot spa treatments have also gained in popularity. They can be combined with pedicures. Foot spa includes exfoliation and massage, to reduce fatigue, tone the muscles, improve blood circulation and induce relaxation.

For a home pedicure, you will need a nail brush, pumice stone or heel scrubber, nail clippers, emery board, cotton wool, cotton buds, massage cream, polish remover, nail polish and a small tub for soaking the feet.

First, remove old polish if necessary with the remover, using cotton wool.

Soak feet in warm (not hot) water with Epsom salts to soften skin, then exfoliate gently with a pumice stone.

Add some herbal shampoo and any vegetable oil, like sunflower oil or olive oil. You can also add coarse salt. Let the feet soak for 15 minutes. Then clean the nails with the brush. The brush should not be too hard. Use the pumice stone on the heels and sides of the soles. Avoid metal scrubbers. You can also scrub the entire feet with a rough towel or loofah. When this is done, wash the feet in clean water. Dry with a towel.

If your nails need cutting, better to use a nail clipper. Toenails should

be cut straight across. Avoid shaping toenails as it can lead to ingrown nails. Use the emery board to smooth them. Do not cut the cuticles of the toenails. Do not use sharp instruments to clean the nails. Apply almond oil and push back gently with a cotton bud.

Then, give feet a scrub treatment. Mix ground almonds with yoghurt and some sugar. Apply them to the feet. After 15 to 20 minutes, rub gently on the skin with circular movements. Pay attention to the heels. Wash off with water. Then massage the feet with olive oil or sunflower oil. Wipe off excess cream with a moist towel. Mix one tablespoon each of lemon juice and honey with 50 ml of rose water. Apply to the feet. Lie down and relax for half an hour. Wash it off with plain water.

Apply oil and massage on feet and nails. Pay special attention to the heels, applying more oil if needed. Use upward strokes for the massage, from the toes towards the ankles. Wipe the feet with a moist towel.

Mix a little lemon juice with honey and apply on the feet. Wash it off with plain water after 15 minutes. This moisturises and softens the skin.

If you wish to apply polish, put some cotton wool between the toes. Apply the nail varnish in broad strokes, from the base of the nail to the nail tips. After the first coat dries, apply the second coat of colour.

Study Finds Way to Help Teenagers Get More Sleep

Following a long summer of late nights and even later mornings, it can be hard for teenagers to readjust to a school schedule in the fall. A disturbed sleep schedule and lack of sleep can lead to fatigue, poor performance in school, and changes in mood and focus. Therefore, supporting teens and finding ways to help them get more sleep is crucial.

Although preliminary, the study's findings suggest that light therapy is a promising intervention for sleep problems in teenagers. It's also non-invasive, relatively low-cost, and could be easily implemented at home.

The importance of sleep

Restorative sleep is critical for health. During sleep, the body rests and repairs itself. It's also when the brain consolidates memories and new information.

The benefits of a good night's sleep are especially important for teenagers, who are still growing and developing. They need a minimum of 8 to 10 hours each night.

Without enough sleep, the risk of chronic health conditions issues increases. These include:



Heart disease;
Kidney problems;
High blood pressure;
Diabetes;
Stroke;
Obesity.

Sleep deficiency also contributes to mental health problems like anxiety and depression, moodiness and irritability, impaired judgment, and increased accidents and injuries.

Although getting enough sleep is critical, around 7 in 10 high school students in grades 9 to 12 don't get enough sleep on school nights.

Teenagers and sleep issues

The teenage years are a time of significant physical and emotional changes. Teens also experience changes in their sleep biology, meaning they tend to go to bed and wake up later.

The reason is a shift in the body's 24-hour circadian rhythm — the internal process that regulates the sleep-wake cycle. As a result, teens may develop delayed sleep phase syndrome (DSPS).

DSPS is a common condition that's accentuated during adolescence when there are two competing forces — the pressures of a school schedule and the need to go to bed early and the biological changes in the body. The result is that many teenagers are sleep-deprived.

How light therapy could help

The conflicting relationship between the shift in circadian rhythm and the need for an early night's sleep prompted researchers' interest in light therapy. In the Sleep study, they tested a 2-week intervention focusing on the circadian system and using various behavioral measures. The aim was to help teenagers maintain a better nighttime routine.

The researchers recruited adolescents who typically had late bedtimes and less than 7 hours of sleep each night. For 2 weeks, the participants followed their normal sleep pattern to

Courtesy Healthline



establish a baseline. Then, they received bright light therapy for 2.5 hours on the 2 weekend mornings.

Bright light therapy, also known as phototherapy, is similar to sunlight. Exposing the eyes to intense but safe amounts of light for a specific and regular length of time resets the internal clock and helps shift the circadian rhythm. The therapy involves sitting in front of a light box for a predetermined amount of time.

The participants gradually advanced their week-night bedtime to 1 hour earlier than baseline during the first week and 2 hours earlier during the second week. They also received personalized time management plans — Sleep RoulTeen — to help facilitate earlier bedtimes.

The control group who didn't follow the same light therapy protocol slept as usual and had no evening time management plan. The weekday sleep onset time and duration were measured with sensors.

Ultimately, the researchers shifted the teenagers' bedtime by 1.5 hours and increased total sleep time by 1 hour each night through the intervention. Plus, the teens felt less tired, irritable, and worried and had improved concentration and alertness.

The authors noted that the participants with late circadian clocks shifted their sleep by up to 2 hours earlier. However, those with an earlier circadian clock didn't shift their bedtime but benefited from the behavioral support of time management to increase sleep duration.

Changing sleeping patterns

The research findings suggest that it's possible to change the sleep patterns of young adults with DSPS by manipulating their exposure to light and providing time management strategies.

One significant advantage of light therapy is that it's safe and easy to administer at home. There are various personal light-therapy tools available. These include table-top light boxes that house several lighting tubes. They're popular because you only need to face the box, not look directly into the light, meaning you can do other activities during the session, like reading a book or working on a computer.

Alternatively, light visors, which are worn like a baseball cap, and lighted eyeglasses, which look like regular glasses but have small LED lights on the frames, are other options.

Besides light therapy, teens can improve their sleeping patterns with good sleep hygiene practices. This involves developing healthy habits and sleep behaviors, such as:

Maintaining a regular sleep schedule throughout the week.

Avoiding caffeine and alcohol before bedtime.

Establishing a relaxing bedtime routine, such as having a warm bath.

Exercising regularly.

Limiting computer and phone screen time before bed.

Creating a sleep-friendly environment in the bedroom, such as ensuring the room is dark and cool.

Preparing for the morning the night before to

Bright light therapy, also known as phototherapy, is similar to sunlight. Exposing the eyes to intense but safe amounts of light for a specific and regular length of time resets the internal clock and helps shift the circadian rhythm. The therapy involves sitting in front of a light box for a predetermined amount of time.

reduce stress.

Although sleeping difficulties are troublesome, it's possible to re-train the body's internal clock and improve sleep quality.

Sleep is critical for overall health and well-being, but it's something that many teenagers struggle with. However, bright-light therapy appears to be an effective treatment.

In addition, practicing good sleep hygiene and establishing a regular sleep schedule can help improve overall sleep quality. By making a few simple changes, teens can get the recommended 8 or more hours of restorative sleep.

Courtesy Healthline

Do Females Need to Sleep More Than Males?

But when it comes to the male and female differences in sleep, research has shown that women tend to need more sleep. Let's look into some possible reasons below.

How many hours should a female sleep?

There is a slight difference in the number of hours of sleep men and women need to get. On average, women need to sleep 12–13 minutes longer than men. It might seem like an arbitrary amount, but there are reasons why a woman's body requires a little a bit more rest than a man's.

Why women need more sleep than men

Did you know that over 70 million Americans suffer from sleep problems, but men and women don't suffer equally? Women are more likely to have sleep issues than men — creating the need to catch up on sleep. Women are also more prone to developing various sleep disorders such as insomnia and restless legs' syndrome. Let's review the most common sleep issues that tend to affect women more than men.

Pain

Pain makes it difficult to find a comfortable sleeping position and fall asleep. It also makes it challenging to stay asleep, as certain conditions may force you to turn and toss during the night to prevent waking up in pain.

Some illnesses associated with chronic pain are more typical among women. Cures for pain-related sleep problems may concentrate on targeting the area of pain, the sleeping difficulty, or both. Combining relaxation techniques, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), lifestyle changes, and over-the-counter and prescription medications may help.

Insomnia

Insomnia is a difficulty falling or staying asleep throughout the night. As a result, sufferers don't feel refreshed upon waking up and have difficulty getting through the day. Insomnia is a prevalent sleep disorder, but women are 40 percent more likely to suffer from it than men.

They are also more likely to experience

symptoms of daytime sleepiness. Women may be more prone to insomnia for several reasons:

Hormones. Hormonal changes associated with menstruation, pregnancy, and menopause can affect the sleep/wake cycle.

Mood disorders. Women are more likely to suffer from anxiety and depression than men, which can lead to insomnia and other sleep related issues.

Treatment for insomnia often begins with better sleep habits, such as following a regular sleep schedule, reducing caffeine and alcohol intake, and improving the sleep environment — like cooling down your room before sleep or using blackout blinds.

Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS)

Restless legs' syndrome (RLS) causes tingling sensations in the legs which occur when you lay down — making you want to move your legs to reduce the discomfort. Because symptoms occur when lying down and can only be relieved through movement, many women with RLS have difficulty sleeping.

Courtesy Healthline

LG Kavinder Gupta Hopeful Of Positive Outcome As MHA Calls Ladakh Groups For Talks

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 14: Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta on Wednesday expressed hope for a satisfactory outcome of the upcoming talks between the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Ladakh representatives, saying dialogue was the best way to address all issues.

The MHA has recently decided to convene a meeting of the High Powered Committee (HPC) on Ladakh headed by Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai in January end.

The Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) are jointly spearheading an agitation seeking statehood for Ladakh and the extension of constitutional safeguards under the Sixth

Schedule to the region, and have held several rounds of talks with the HPC in the past.

Last year, the talks hit a deadlock following violence in Leh on September 24 that left four civilians dead and scores of others injured. The violence erupted during a general strike called to press for preponing of talks with the centre slated for October 6.

However, the Ladakh representatives held talks with MHA's sub-committee on October 22 after the centre ordered judicial inquiry headed by a retired Supreme Court judge into the violence and also submitted a detailed document on their demands to the MHA as decided in the meeting.

"Such meetings were held from time to time... the MHA has called a meet-



ing of the committee later this month and I believe the members should understand that whatever is discussed must be within the framework of the Constitution and in the interest of the country," the Lt Governor told PTI Videos here.

He said the central government has taken special care of Ladakh since 2019

when the region was carved out from Jammu and Kashmir and granted the Union Territory status.

Gupta said the central government has already addressed the issues related to reservation and domicile last year.

On June 3, following a meeting of the HPC on May 27, the home ministry

announced new reservation and domicile policies for the Union Territory of Ladakh, reserving 85 per cent jobs for locals and one-third of the total number of seats in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils for women. Reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections continues to be 10 per cent. Under the new rules,

those who have resided for a period of 15 years in the UT or studied for a period of seven years and appeared in class 10 or 12 examination in an educational institution located in the UT shall be domicile of Ladakh for the purposes of appointment to any post under the UT or under a local or other authority other than cantonment board. (Agencies)

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my DOB has been wrongly mentioned in Birth certificate Municipal committee handwara 04/05/2000 instead of 04/05/2001 as for All regards now I have applying for it's correction of the same if any person have any objection in this regards may file the same to the office of Municipal committee handwara within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

GOWHER NAZIR TANTRAY DOB 04/05/2001
S/O NAZIR AHMAD TANTRAY
R/O KHANBAL TEHSIL HANDWARA
DISTRICT KUPWARA

Public Notice

I Waseem Ahmad Bhat wants to mention that my name spelling in my aadhar card bearing no. 6452 1444 9213 has been wrongly mentioned as Wasim Ahmad Butt instead of Waseem Ahmad Bhat Now i want to make correction in my aadhaar card.

Name : Waseem Ahmad Bhat
S/O: Gh Nabi Bhat
R/o: Badakot Machi Pora
Tehsil Handwara District Kupwara 193221

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Fathers name GH MOHI UD DIN SHAH S/O AB SAMAD SHAH R/O...CHANDKUT .Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 021204005220 wants to be registered on my GH MOHAMMAD SHAH S/O GH MOHI UD DIN SHAH R/O CHANDKUT .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 MOHAMMAD SHAH
S/O ... GH MOHI DIN SHAH
R/O ...CHANDKUT

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth/ Death of FAROOQ AHMAD RATHER S/O AB RASHID RATHER R/O TAKIYA YOUSUF SHAH Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth /death as 04/06/1993 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

My name wrongly mentioned in my driving licence under licence number JK05 200400,14625 as Gh Mohammad Lone instead of Ghulam Mohammad lone.Now I am applying for its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact ARTO Baramulla within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

GHULAM MOHAMMAD LONE S/O MOHAMMAD
SULTAN LONE R/O NOWPORA JAGIR BARAMULLA

Public Notice

I have lost my provisional cum character certificate at somewhere bearing registration No N17441720060 .Now i am applying for its duplicate certificate if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of JKBOSE srinagar / Govt Higher Secondary School KREERI. within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....ARBEENA TARIQ
D/O ...TARIQ AHMAD MIR
Session....Annual Regular 2020
R/O ...SALOOSA
District.... Baramulla

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Fathers name Late BASHIR AHMAD MIR S/O AB AHAD MIR R/O DOLIPORA WAGOORA .Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040011000 wants to be registered on my JAVID AHMAD MIR S/O BASHIR AHMAD MIR R/O DOLIPORA WAGOORA 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.....JAVID AHMAD MIR
S/O ... BASHIR AHMAD MIR
R/O ...DOLIPORA

DC Jammu reviews arrangements for Basant Panchami Mela at Mathwar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 14: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Dr Rakesh Minhas today conducted an on-the-spot inspection of the holy shrine of Baba Ballo Ji Maharaj at Mathwar to review the arrangements for the forthcoming Basant Panchami Mela.

He was accompanied by Additional District Development Commissioner, Sher Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ansuya Jamwal; besides other senior district officers during the visit.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner held a detailed meeting with officers of the concerned departments and representatives of the shrine management committee to assess preparedness for the annual religious event, which attracts a large number of devotees from different parts of the district and adjoining areas.

While reviewing the arrangements, the Deputy Commissioner laid particular emphasis on ensuring smooth road connectivity to the shrine. He directed the Public Works Department to expedite all necessary repair and patchwork works and ensure that the approach roads are maintained in proper condition so that pilgrims can reach the shrine without any inconvenience.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed traffic



management arrangements and directed to prepare a comprehensive traffic plan for the Mela days. He stressed the need for identifying designated parking areas and deploying adequate personnel at key locations to ensure smooth traffic flow.

Reviewing the security scenario, the Deputy Commissioner asked the police authorities to put in place adequate security arrangements with proper deployment of manpower around the shrine and adjoining areas to maintain peace and law and order during the religious congregation. Power Development and Jal Shakti departments were directed to ensure uninterrupted electricity and water supply at the shrine and surrounding areas throughout the festival period.

Regarding sanitation, he instructed the Rural Development Department and concerned agencies to maintain cleanliness in and around the Mela premises with proper waste disposal.

He also directed the Health Department to deploy a medical team on site along with an ambulance and essential medicines to handle any medical emergency during the Mela.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the shrine management of full administrative support and directed all departments to work in close coordination to ensure smooth and safe celebrations of the Basant Panchami Mela.

Women VDGs Guard Jammu's Remote Villages During Winters As Men Migrate For Livelihood

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BHADERWAH/JAMMU, JAN 14: Women Village Defence Guards (VDGs) are safeguarding remote villages of the Jammu region during the winter months, when many men migrate to other parts of the country in search of livelihood.

Equipped with .303 rifles after undergoing training provided by various security agencies, the women members of VDGs are deployed in difficult terrain, often in isolated and vulnerable areas, Superintendent of Police Bhaderwah Vinod Sharma said.

Training shoulder to shoulder with their male counterparts, these women remain resolute in defending their communities against terrorist threats, he said.

Their presence has significantly strengthened local security arrangements, particularly during periods when villages face reduced manpower, the officer said, admitting that women's participation in village defence is not a new phenomenon in the region.

In September 2009, Rukhsana Kausar, a Gujjar woman from Upper Kalsi in Rajouri district, displayed exemplary bravery and shot dead a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist, an act that earned her numerous national and state awards, including Kirti Chakra, the country's second-highest peacetime gallantry award, besides a job in Jammu and Kashmir Police.

"In the hilly Chenab region, particularly in Doda, harsh winters compel many men to migrate to states such as Uttarakhand, Delhi and Mumbai in search of livelihood. This seasonal migration leaves several villages without able-bodied male members, except for a few elderly residents, making them vulnerable to the activities of anti-national elements," Sharma said.

To address this gap, he said the state police has trained women as VDGs.

"They are equally committed to the security and sovereignty of the country, and we train them in tactics and strategies to counter terrorist threats. They have performed exceptionally well, and the results so far have been very encouraging," the officer said.

Dozens of armed women VDGs could be seen patrolling their villages in remote pockets of Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban districts, and they have proved their mettle and emerged as a reliable force to counter the insurgency and protect their respective villages in the absence of their male counterparts, the SP added.

They are actively participating in training being provided by the police and the Army in far-off villages and hamlets, most of them located in dense forests and vulnerable to possible terrorist activities, he said.

"We are trained to fight terrorists and all of us are ready to face the enemies of the nation," Shivani (21), a VDG from Civilli village, said.

Shivani, along with other women guards, is upbeat as they keep a close watch in their villages in the Gandoh tehsil of Doda, bordering Himachal Pradesh.

The Doda region has witnessed many massacres when terrorism was at its peak in the 1990s. The VDGs include both Hindu and Muslim members, including women, the officer said.

"When most of the males migrate to earn a livelihood, we shoulder the responsibility to keep our vulnerable villages safe," Shivani said.

Political representatives have also praised the bravery of women VDG members, crediting them with helping maintain a secure environment in remote and hilly areas.

"Women in our area lead a very tough life in these hills. Every day, they have to venture into dense forests to collect firewood and fodder for their cattle, as male members migrate to other cities and towns for work. In their absence, these brave women joined the Village Defence Groups and have successfully emerged as the protectors of what would otherwise be vulnerable to militant attacks," Bhaderwah MLA Daleep Singh Parihar said.

The BJP legislator said, "They have grown up listening to the stories of the bravery of Rani Lakshmi Bai, the Queen of Jhansi, and there are hundreds of such women in our hilly region." (Agencies)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Awantipora

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No: 156/EEA/R&B of 2025-26/9146-56 | Dated: 14-01-2026

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

S.No	Name of work	Advt. Cost	T.D Cost	E/M	Time	Class
1	Restoration of Foot Bridge at Seer Jageer	5.56	300/-	2% of Adv. Cost	20 Days	CEE, DEE

M.H of Account: 3054 (023- M&R) 2025-26
Project Authority: PWD (R&B)
Position Of AAA: Accorded vide No: Authorization No: ARD/CESK/202526/73 Dated: 22.11.2025. And TS No: CE/R&B/SK/TS/274 of 2025-26 Dated: 03.01.2026.
Position of funds: Committed.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents
3	Bid submission Start Date
4	Bid Submission End Date
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)

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

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

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

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

4. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority) as per rule-171 (1) of GFR 2017. The earnest money/ Bid security @ 2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period.

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

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

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

8. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-

- Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
- Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
- Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

No: 156/EEA/R&B / 2025-26/9146-56
Dated: 14-01-2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora

DIPK: 10048/25 | Dated: 14-01-2026

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DC Srinagar, SSP visit Hazratbal Shrine; finalize arrangements for observance of Shab-e-Miraj

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 14: In connection with observance of upcoming Shab-e-Miraj (1447 Hijri), the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo along with SSP Srinagar Sandeep Chakravarty on Wednesday visited Dargah Hazratbal to take on site review of the facilities and arrangements being made by all line Departments for smooth conduct of the auspicious religious occasion.

SSP Traffic Police, Aijaz Ahmad accompanied the DC during the visit. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner along with the Officers took a comprehensive department wise review of the arrangements being put in place during auspicious days of Shab-e-Miraj particularly with regard to electricity and water supply, sanitation and cleanliness measures, firefighting service, transport, parking and medical facilities etc.

The DC directed the Officers of all line Departments to ensure special arrangements for smooth observance of the religious occasion at the Shrine for the Devotees particularly during the intervening night (Shab) and on Friday Following.

The DC stressed the need for close coordination among all line departments to ensure peaceful, seamless and hassle-free observance of Shab-e-Miraj. He directed the concerned departments to ensure adequate arrangements for the convenience of devotees. Emphasis was laid on uninterrupted power and water supply, effective sanitation, efficient traffic



management, proper food safety measures, adequate healthcare facilities and elaborate security measures.

To ensure availability of adequate transport facility, the SRTC and RTO were instructed to make better transport arrangements particularly

during night and wee hours for the devotees during the auspicious days of religious occasion. It was emphasized to make availability of e-Rickshaws from parking slots to Shrine for elderly people.

With regard to power supply, the DC asked the PDD Engineers

to ensure uninterrupted power supply at the Shrine during the auspicious days of night prayers as well as on the day of display of Holy Relic and keep proper power backup to tackle any power breakdown.

Similarly, the DC directed the Jal Shakti authorities to ensure

adequate water supply at the Shrine so that devotees do not face any inconvenience. He instructed them to keep a sufficient number of water tankers at the premises to cater to the demand.

Likewise, the DC asked the SMC Officers to deploy sufficient men and machinery at the venue to ensure proper cleanliness in and around the Shrine. They were also instructed to take measures for establishment of mobile toilets besides a concrete mechanism to contain stray dog menace in and around the Shrine.

The DC also laid stress on making all dysfunctional Street/ Mass lights functional well before the commencement of the Holy religious occasion.

The Health authorities were asked to set up a Medical camp with adequate number of doctors and paramedics, besides an ambulance service and other first aid facilities in the premises of Hazratbal Shrine as per past practice to provide medical facilities at the Shrine.

SSP Srinagar and SSP Traffic also shared their views on the occasion with regard to smooth and peaceful conduct of the religious occasion.

Earlier, the DC was apprised by the Executive Magistrate, J&K Wakf Board about the arrangements being made by the Wakf Board for smooth observance of the Holy religious occasion during which thousands of people are expected to visit to take a glimpse of the Holy Relic and offer special prayers.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner also stressed on making elaborate arrangements at Jenab Sahab Soura.

DLSA Kupwara holds awareness Programme on Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat, Child Right, NALSA Schemes

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, JANUARY 14: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kupwara today conducted an awareness programme at Right Way Public School, Braripora, under the national initiative "Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat", with the objective of sensitizing students, teachers, and the general public about prevention of child marriage, protection of child rights, and the role and functioning of Legal Services Authorities.

During the programme, comprehensive awareness was imparted regarding the harmful social and legal consequences of child marriage and the importance of safeguarding child rights, including the right to education, health, protection, and dignity. The participants were also sensitized about the role of the legal services system in providing free legal aid and child-friendly legal services.

Special emphasis was laid on key NALSA schemes, including Legal Services to Underprivileged Children (LSUC), Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (LSUM), and NALSA DAWN (Drug Awareness and Wellness Navigation for a Drug Free India) Scheme. Awareness was created regarding substance abuse, its impact on children and society, and the preventive and rehabilitative support available under the DAWN scheme.

Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC), and Para Legal Volunteer (Adhikar Mitra), elaborated upon the objectives and benefits of the NALSA schemes.

The programme also witnessed addresses by the Principal, Right Way Public School, who emphasized the collective responsibility of parents, teachers, and community leaders in preventing child marriage, protecting children's rights, and creating awareness against drug abuse.

The programme saw active participation from school staff, students, local teachers, and members of the public. The initiative was widely appreciated for promoting legal awareness and community participation.

The District Legal Services Authority, Kupwara reiterated its commitment to continue such awareness and outreach programmes to strengthen child protection mechanisms and ensure access to justice for all.

District Anantnag to observe Phase-II of "Vande Mataram" celebrations with Patriotic activities from January 19 to 26, 2026

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JANUARY 14: In accordance with the national calendar, District Anantnag has geared up to observe Phase II of the National Song "Vande Mataram" Celebrations from January 19 to 26, 2026, culminating on Republic Day, January 26, 2026, with a series of patriotic and vibrant programmes across the district. To review and finalise the preparations for the week-long celebrations, the Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag, S. F. Hamid today chaired a comprehensive meeting of concerned officers at Dak Bungalow, Khanabal. Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the historic



and inspirational significance of "Vande Mataram" in Nation's freedom struggle and its enduring message of unity, pride and devotion to the Motherland. He underscored the need for disciplined coordination and effective field-level execution to ensure that Phase-II of the campaign is conducted in a smooth, dignified and impactful manner across all institutions and public spaces of the district. It was informed that the district will organise multiple patriotic activities during this phase, including Tiranga Rallies, Torch Relays, mass singing of the National Song, and public events reflecting the spirit of national unity and constitutional values. These programmes will build momentum throughout the week and culminate on January 26, 2026, coinciding with the celebration of Republic Day-2026.

The events shall be conducted at Sub-Divisions, Tehsils, Colleges, Blocks, Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and other public institutions, with active participation of senior officers, officials, students, youth volunteers and civil society members, to ensure wide public outreach and enthusiastic community engagement in the patriotic celebrations.

ADC Kupwara reviews arrangements for observance of Shab-e-Mehraj-2026

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, JANUARY 14: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, the Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Gulzar Ahmad Khan, today chaired a review meeting of officers at the DC Office Complex here to finalize the arrangements being made by all line departments for the smooth conduct of the auspicious religious occasion of Shab-e-Mehraj 2026.

During the meeting, the ADC Kupwara sought feedback from the concerned officers regarding the arrangements related to electricity, water supply, sanitation, fire services, transport, parking, and medical facilities being put in place for the observance of Shab-e-Mehraj.

The ADC directed all line departments to ensure special arrangements for the smooth observance of the pious occasion at prominent religious places, particularly during the intervening

night (Shab) and the following Friday.

With regard to the adequate supply of drinking water, the ADC directed the Jal Shakti Department to ensure sufficient water supply at all prominent religious places so that devotees do not face any inconvenience.

Similarly, the Executive Engineer PDD was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the auspicious occasion. The Municipal Committee officials were directed to ensure proper cleanliness in and around mosques and shrines falling within the municipal limits of Kupwara, Handwara and Langate.

Likewise, the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat was directed to ensure cleanliness in rural areas where large congregations of devotees are expected.

The Tehsildars were directed to intensify market checking in all major markets of the district to ensure that no illegal hoarding



or overcharging takes place.

The OC Beacon, Executive Engineers of R&B and PMGSY were asked to make advance

arrangements for snow clearance, if required, on roads leading to prominent religious places.

The CMO Kupwara was asked

to ensure round the clock functioning of hospitals.

Regarding traffic regulation and parking facilities, the ADC directed the ARTO Kupwara and Traffic Police authorities to ensure hassle-free movement of devotees besides making adequate arrangements at designated parking spots.

The Tehsildars were further directed to ask Imams and Khateeb to deliver special sermons highlighting the ill effects and serious consequences of drug abuse under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

The ADC emphasized that drug addiction is a major social evil which destroys families, affects mental and physical health of youth, leads to crime, unemployment and social instability.

Tehsildar Kupwara, Executive Engineers of PDD and Jal Shakti and other concerned officers attended the meeting, besides outstation officers attended meeting virtually.

DC Anantnag holds Block Diwas at Khiram

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JANUARY 14: To address the concerns of the local community and ensure effective public service delivery, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, SF Hamid presided over the outreach and grievance redressal programme, Block Diwas today at Khiram.

The program was attended by SDM Bibihara, ACD, Tehsildar Srigufwara, BMO, BDO, concerned officers from various departments, members of civil society, ex PRI members and the local public.

During the program, the DC gave a patient hearing to the residents who raised issues pertaining to road and telecom connectivity, healthcare services, lift irrigation and borewell schemes, provision of electric poles, solar lights and other amenities, school upgradation, creation of new government institutions, land compensation, among others.

Addressing the gathering, the DC reiterated the district administration's commitment to the time-bound resolution of all genuine grievances, assuring that issues would be taken up with the suitable authorities for effective redressal. He issued on-spot directions to the concerned officers to ensure prompt and efficient resolution of genuine concerns raised by the public.

On the occasion, the representatives of



line departments imparted awareness to the participants about respective beneficiary oriented schemes, online services and welfare initiatives.

Lastly, the DC issued directions to the departments to conduct special beneficiary registration and enrollment camps in the area during the next week for saturation of all Centrally Sponsored and Welfare Schemes.

Ensure necessary arrangements for smooth observance of Shab-e-Miraj: DC Anantnag

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JANUARY 14: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, SF Hamid today directed the concerned officers to ensure all necessary arrangements for smooth observance of the forthcoming Shab-e-Miraj (S.A.W) and Friday following.

The DC issued these directions during a comprehensive meeting held at Dak Bungalow Khanabal.

The meeting was attended by ADC, SDMs, ACR, CMO, Exens PDD and Jal Shakti, AC Food Safety, Dy Director Fisheries, Dy Director F&E Services, representative of SSP, Tehsildar Anantnag, ARTO, DySP Traffic, CAHO, AD FC&CA, DSHO, CEO MCA and EOs of MCs, representative of Waqf Board and other officers. During the proceedings, the DC called for providing all the requisite facilities to the devotees visiting Khiram Dargah Shareef, Kabamarg, Reshmool, Aishmuqam, Seer Hamdan and other shrines and mosques during these days. He directed the concerned departments for ensuring adequate supply of water and essential commodities along with uninterrupted electricity during the



holy days. Instructions were also issued regarding seamless transport management, medicare, sanitation facilities besides proper security and deployment of fire and emergency tenders especially around the shrines and mosques.

Underscoring the need for close coordination and synergy among line departments, the DC further directed that special market checking drives be conducted by the designated teams in their jurisdiction during the holy days.

On the occasion, SDMs were instructed to closely monitor and facilitate the seamless observance of Shab-e-Miraj in their respective subdivisions.



India set for 7.4 per cent growth in FY26 as inflation eases: SBI Caps

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JAN 14 : India is poised for a relatively stable growth trajectory in FY26, supported by resilient domestic demand, government-led capital expenditure, and easing inflationary pressures, even as global uncertainties continue to cloud the outlook, according to SBI Capital Markets' latest EcoCapsule report.

It projects India's real GDP growth at 7.4 per cent year-on-year in FY26, driven by strong consumption and sustained public capex.

The rural demand has received a boost from favourable monsoons and tax reforms, while government capital spending has risen sharply up 28 percent year-on-year in the first eight months of FY26, with roads and railways leading the push.

Globally, growth has proven more resilient than initially feared despite heightened trade tensions.

While tariff announcements by



the US had earlier triggered sharp downgrades to global growth forecasts, expectations have since stabilised, with global output projected to expand by 3.2% in calendar year 2025, supported by steady growth in the US, China, and India.

On the policy front, easing inflation has allowed central banks to cut rates, though long-term bond yields remain elevated. In India,

inflation slipping below the Reserve Bank of India's comfort band prompted a surprise rate cut in December 2025, capping a year marked by aggressive monetary easing.

Food and energy prices have been key contributors to the disinflation trend, while core inflation remains relatively sticky.

Financial markets, however, reflected mixed signals. Foreign

portfolio investors recorded net equity outflows during the year, even as domestic institutional investors stepped in, helping capital markets deliver a resilient performance.

Equity IPO fundraising rose 8% year-on-year to Rs 1.72 trillion, while infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) and REITs attracted record inflows.

Looking ahead, SBI Caps cautions that FY27 could test growth momentum as fiscal constraints tighten for both the Centre and states.

The report underscores the need for a stronger pickup in private sector capital expenditure to sustain medium-term growth, especially in emerging and technology-led sectors, as public finances face increasing pressure.

The outlook for 2026 is described as one of "tempered optimism," less volatile than recent years, but still vulnerable to global shocks ranging from geopolitics to commodity price swings. UNI

Reliance denies bottlenecks, confirms that Battery Manufacturing on track

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI, JAN 14 : Reliance Industries has officially announced that its plans to manufacture lithium-ion battery cell storage in India remain unchanged and are progressing in line with target timelines, in response to reports in a section of the media that the company has backtracked from plans announced earlier after it failed to secure Chinese technology. The Mukesh Ambani-led group, which planned to begin cell manufacturing in 2026, was in discussions with Chinese firm Xiamen Hithium Energy Storage Technology to license battery cell technology, but a recent report had claimed that these plans were put on hold after the talks failed. The report had suggested that negotiations came to a standstill after Xiamen withdrew from the proposed partnership in response to China's restrictions on knowledge transfers abroad in important areas. However, it has now emerged that Reliance is in a position to draw upon the expertise of its US subsidiary Lithium Werks, which is well versed in LFP (lithium-iron-phosphate) batteries, as well as its UK subsidiary Faradion, to manufacture higher-performance lithium-ion automotive batteries. "We would like to categorically affirm that there has been no change in

our plans for creating a world-leading battery storage manufacturing ecosystem from cell to containerised ESS, and they are progressing well in line with our target timelines," according to a statement issued by a company spokesperson. Previously, Reliance had indicated 2026 as the target when it would begin manufacturing battery cells in India. Reliance Industries Chairman & Managing Director Mukesh Ambani told shareholders in August last year that Reliance's battery giga factory would start in 2026, beginning with a 40 GWh per year capacity and then expanding it to 100 GWh per year. "You will note that BESS manufacturing, battery pack manufacturing and cell manufacturing have always been part of our energy storage plans, and we are progressing well in their execution, as already shared earlier," according to the Reliance spokesperson. Reliance has committed Rs 75,000 crore to establish an integrated manufacturing ecosystem for the solar value chain, battery energy storage systems (BESS) and electrolyzers at Jamnagar, Gujarat at its Dhirubhai Ambani Green Energy Giga Manufacturing Complex. The facility is what Reliance says is the world's largest, most modern, modular and integrated manufacturing ecosystem at a single site. UNI

Heritage Foods seeks policy support for organised dairy in upcoming union Budget

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JAN 14 : Ahead of the union Budget 2026, Heritage Foods Ltd Executive Director Brahmani Nara on Tuesday called for targeted policy support to accelerate growth in India's organised dairy sector, citing favourable market conditions following the September 2025 GST rationalisation.

In a statement, Brahmani said the GST changes have boosted organised dairy players, with consumers increasingly shifting toward high-protein and health-focused products such as paneer, cheese, ghee and butter. She said government-led initiatives, including the Rashtriya Gokul Mission and the National Digital Livestock Mission, are helping to integrate more than 300,000 farmers associated with Heritage Foods into the organised dairy ecosystem.



Outlining expectations from the upcoming Budget, she highlighted three key priorities including subsidised access to quality cattle feed and chromosome-sorted semen to improve animal productivity, expansion of veterinary education infrastructure to address the shortage of veterinarians, and higher capital subsidies for mini-dairy units, particularly those led by women entrepreneurs.

India currently has around 68,000 registered veterinarians against an estimated requirement of 1.1 to 1.2 lakh, she noted, stressing that addressing this gap is critical for sustaining the government's aggressive dairy expansion plans.

Enhanced support for small and decentralised dairy units, she added, would also help generate rural employment and strengthen milk procurement networks. UNI

Venezuela developments unlikely to impact Indian companies: Crisil Ratings

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JAN 14 : The recent developments in Venezuela are unlikely to have any material impact on India's global trade or the credit quality of Indian corporates, said Crisil Ratings citing the country's limited role in global oil supply and India's minimal trade exposure.

In a credit alert, the rating agency noted that even if the situation in Venezuela escalates and disrupts crude oil production, the impact on global oil prices is expected to be muted, as Venezuela accounts for only about 1.5 percent of global crude oil supply.

Brent crude prices have remained largely stable in recent days, hovering slightly above USD

60 per barrel, it noted.

India's direct trade exposure to Venezuela is also insignificant, with imports from the South American nation accounting for less than 0.25 pc of India's total imports. Crude oil is the primary import, with India sourcing around 1 pc of its crude oil requirements from Venezuela.

In fiscal 2025, crude oil and related products made up over 90 pc of India's total imports of approximately Rs 14,000 crore from the country.

While India imports nearly 85 pc of its crude oil needs and remains sensitive to global price movements, Crisil Ratings said it does not anticipate any near-term impact from the Venezuela situation on



oil prices.

Over the medium to long term, increased investments in Venezuela's vast untapped crude oil reserves could potentially boost

global supply and lead to softer crude prices, which would be beneficial for India.

On the exports front, India's shipments to Venezuela were below

Rs 2,000 crore in fiscal 2025, accounting for less than 0.1 pc of total exports.

These exports are diversified across sectors such as pharmaceuticals, ceramics, textiles and two-wheelers.

Pharmaceutical products led exports at around Rs 900 crore but still constituted less than 0.5 pc of India's total pharmaceutical exports.

Given the modest exposure, Crisil Ratings does not expect any material impact on the credit profiles of Indian companies engaged with Venezuelan customers. However, the agency said it would continue to closely monitor developments in the region. UNI

As US tariff threat looms, officials say India-Iran trade 'minuscule'

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JAN 14 : India's trade with Iran is minuscule and primarily involves supplies of food and pharmaceuticals essential for inflation-ravaged Iranian citizens, people aware of the matter said, adding that any implication of new American tariffs for those who export to Iran will depend on the specifics of Washington's decisions. India's external affairs minister S. Jaishankar separately said he discussed trade, critical minerals, nuclear cooperation, defence and energy with his US counterpart Marco Rubio during a phone call on Tuesday. "Just concluded a good conversation with @SecRubio. Discussed trade, critical minerals, nuclear cooperation, defence and energy. Agreed to remain in touch on these and other issues," Jaishankar wrote in a post on X.

People familiar with the matter, who asked not to be named, said the specifics of any US executive order over such a tariff would clarify the status of the bulk of India's exports to Iran, which overall make for a minuscule proportion of India's overall merchandise

exports. If any additional levies are to kick in, they would apply on exports to America, where Indian goods are already subject to 50% duties, including a 25% punitive levy over Russian energy purchases. One of these people said the levies over Iran are expected to have "minimal impact" on India. Iran doesn't figure among India's top 50 global trading partners. India's total trade with Iran during 2024-25 was worth \$1.68 billion, or about 0.15% of the country's total trade, with imports from Iran amounting to \$0.44 billion. "India's trade value with Iran is expected to go down further in the current financial year due to external economic factors," this person said. India stopped importing oil from Iran—once the main commodity in two-way trade—in May 2019 because of sanctions imposed by Trump in his first term. This resulted in two-way trade plummeting from \$17.03 billion in 2018-19 to the current low levels. India's exports to Iran are progressively falling, official trade data shows. In the first eight months of the current financial year (April-November 2025), exports fell over 6% to \$764.51 million compared to \$813.37 million

in the same period the previous year. Rice constituted the bulk of these shipments, worth \$471 million.

Key items exported to Iran in April-November 2025 included buffalo meat (\$7.99 million), bulk drugs (\$4.38 million), coffee (\$4.43 million), drug formulations (\$41.93 million), essential oil (\$12.11 million), fresh fruits (\$37.65 million), groundnuts (\$8.42 million), pulses (\$22.94 million), basmati rice (\$468.10 million), non-basmati rice (\$2.52 million), spices (\$21.73 million), sugar (\$12.84 million) and tea (\$38.84 million). Imports from Iran fell to \$224.42 million in April-November 2025, an 11.77% dip compared to \$254.35 million in the year-ago period. Key items India imported during this period included fresh fruits (\$89.21 million) and some non-sanctioned petroleum products (\$104.51 million).

"Imports are the only way to continue supplying essentials such as food items and medicines to Iran because of payment problems. Indian exports are expected to fall further sharply as buyers are unable to purchase Indian goods due to growing inflation in Iran. UNI

Wholesale Inflation rises to 0.83 pc in Dec on higher manufactured goods prices

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JAN 14 : India's wholesale price inflation edged higher in December 2025, with the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation rising to 0.83 per cent year-on-year, reflecting increased prices in manufactured goods and select primary articles, according to official data released on Tuesday.

On a monthly basis, wholesale prices increased by 0.71 per cent in December compared to November, indicating a mild build-up in price pressures at the producer level. The overall WPI stood at 157.0 during



the month, based on the 2011-12 base year.

Manufactured products, which carry the highest weight in the WPI basket, recorded an annual inflation of 1.82 per cent, driven by higher prices of machinery and equipment, textiles, food products, chemicals, and transport equipment. The rise in manufactured goods inflation suggests firm demand conditions and higher input costs across industrial segments.

Primary articles showed mixed price movements, with moderation in some food items even as prices of minerals and non-food articles registered increases. Fuel and power prices remained largely stable, offering some relief to overall wholesale inflation during the month.

The food index, which includes food articles and food products, recorded zero inflation on a year-on-year basis in December, indicating stable food prices compared to the same period last year. Prices of cereals such as wheat and paddy showed varied trends, helping contain food-related inflationary pressures. UNI

Telecom sector urges sharp cut in licence fee ahead of budget

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JAN 14 : The telecom industry has urged the finance ministry to sharply cut licence fees and temporarily pause mandatory contributions to the Digital Bharat Nidhi in the upcoming Union Budget, saying the current regulatory levies are limiting its capacity to invest in next-generation networks.

According to recommendations submitted ahead of the Budget, the industry wants the licence fee, currently at 3% of adjusted gross revenue (AGR), to be between 0.5% and 1%, and the 5% AGR contribution to the Digital Bharat Nidhi to be temporarily halted.

"The License Fee, which is a combination of the License (3% of AGR) and Digital Bharat Nidhi Contribution (5% of AGR), is a huge financial burden for the Licensed Telcos," as per a



submission by the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), the industry body

representing private telecom operators, including Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone

Idea.

It added that the Digital Bharat Nidhi contribution "should be

paused for the time till the unused corpus has been completely utilized by the Department of Telecommunications," as per the statement by COAI director general Lt Gen Dr SP Kochhar.

The association said the sector has been advocating measures that would "reduce the sector's financial burden, thereby enabling further expansion and rollout of next-generation connectivity to achieve the goal of a Viksit Bharat".

The industry body has also flagged persistent goods and services tax (GST) issues, particularly the accumulation of input tax credit (ITC). "With a vast sum of money being accumulated in the ecosystem," COAI recommended special relief under GST, including exemption of GST on regulatory payments such as licence fees (LF), spectrum usage charges (SUC) and auctioned spectrum. UNI





RAHUL, INDIA'S MR DEPENDABLE IN THE MIDDLE

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI: There were a few familiar, comforting sights for India during the course of their run-chase against New Zealand in the first ODI on Sunday. Rohit Sharma going over the top in the powerplay. Virat Kohli reminding the world about his amazing record while chasing targets. Shreyas Iyer's front-footed approach irrespective of the situation.

And, then, there was KL Rahul, whose quite rearguard took India home. It's been difficult to box Rahul in one position since he made his debut as an opener in 2016. Over the last decade, he has featured in every position from 1 till 7. As an opener, he did have trouble to pace his innings (strike rate of 79.7).

Even as the BCCI tried to find a permanent slot for him, the numbers told its own story. When they finally listened to the numbers, they could no longer ignore the evidence. In 26 innings as an opener or No. 3 from 2016 to 2022, his career strike rate of a shade below 80 was well below the average of the times. It suggested a clear problem.

But when he was initially crowbarred in the middle-order, he found a natural tempo. These days, his slot as a finisher at either No. 5 or No. 6 is pretty much set in stone. When his employer will sit down to start their final preparations for the World Cup in South Africa, Rahul will likely find a place there, irrespective of what they decide to do with the likes of Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer, the players currently competing for a spot in said

middle-order.

In the middle order, he becomes a different beast. Why's that the case? He's an outstanding white-ball player against spin through the middle overs both sides of the wicket. With spread out fields in the middle overs, he knows he has the shots in his arsenal to access different areas of the ground. One only needs to go back and watch a tape of his match-winning innings against Australia at the 2023 World Cup in Chennai. On a difficult, two-paced track, he showed different facets of his game.

When Rahul walked in after the fall of Jadeja's wicket on Sunday, the hosts were very well placed at 239/4. They needed 62 off 60 but it very quickly went downhill thanks to a couple of quiet overs apart from a wicket. But Rahul's experience meant he was always in control of the situation even if Harshit Rana was playing a bit of poker at the other end.

Once Rana's fun was cut short, Rahul assumed centre stage as he took down Kristian Clarke for 4, 4, 6 off consecutive deliveries to take India home with six balls to spare. He's well adept at rotating strike as well as find the boundaries in the death overs. He also ensures that when he remains not out, India often win the game.

Out of the 19 times India have won since the beginning of 2023 with Rahul as a middle-order batter, he has remained unbeaten 10 from 13 innings for an average of 177 and a strike rate of 85. The four times India have lost in this time period while chasing with Rahul as a middle-order batter, he averages 19.



Healy's push to open 'was a real turning point' in her career

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

SYDNEY: It was a decision that shaped a cricket team and defined a career. Alyssa Healy had already been a part of four World Cup wins, but a tactical shift in 2017 took her game - and Australia - to new levels. After the 2017 ODI World Cup semi-final loss to India the then-coach Matthew Mott made the call to permanently put Healy up to open the batting in both limited-overs formats. She had done it on and off during the first phase of her career and given glimpses of how it could work, most notably 90 off 61 balls against India in 2012 when she did the role for two years before slipping down the order.

Prior to October 2017 when the full-time move was made, Healy's batting returns in the two white-ball formats read: 495 runs in 41 ODI innings at 15.96 striking at 92.00, and 811 runs in 58 T20Is innings at 17.63

JKCA Under-16s Scripts History with Commanding Vijay Merchant Trophy Triumph

J&K's Young Cricketers Combine Discipline, Collective Resolve to Claim Landmark National Title

■ HT SPORTS DESK

JAMMU: In a defining moment for cricket in the Union Territory, the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association's (JKCA) Under-16 men's team clinched the Vijay Merchant Trophy (Plate Group), underlining the region's growing stature on the national age-group cricket stage.

The title capped a campaign built on rigorous preparation, tactical clarity and remarkable composure. From the league phase to the final, the JKCA youngsters displayed maturity beyond their years, handling pressure situations with confidence and consistently prioritising team

success over individual glory.

Head Coach Sameer Khajuria attributed the achievement to a process-oriented approach and the players' willingness to embrace challenges. He noted that discipline and adaptability were central to the team's success. Coach Muzaffar Mattoo highlighted the strong bond within the squad, describing it as a united group that converted potential into performance.

The on-field excellence was reinforced by a comprehensive support system. Strength and Conditioning Coach Amit Bargotra emphasised the importance of fitness and endurance, while Physiotherapist Karan Nayyar



credited open communication and timely recovery protocols for keeping the squad injury-free and

consistent throughout the tournament.

Strategic preparation also

proved decisive, with Performance Analyst Sheikh Suhail guiding the players through detailed match analysis and situational planning. Team Manager Shashi Kumar praised the professionalism and focus of the young cricketers, acknowledging the smooth logistical support extended by JKCA officials.

More than just a title win, the Vijay Merchant Trophy triumph stands as a marker of progress for Jammu and Kashmir cricket. It reflects the success of structured grassroots development and offers inspiration to aspiring players across the region, signalling that sustained national success is now well within reach.

All-time great
Alyssa Healy's major trophies

YEAR	TOURNAMENTS
2010	T20 World Cup Australia
2012	T20 World Cup Australia
2013	ODI World Cup Australia
2014	T20 World Cup Australia
2016-17	WBBL Sydney Sixers
2017-18	WBBL Sydney Sixers
2018	T20 World Cup Australia
2020	T20 World Cup Australia
2022	ODI World Cup Australia
2022	CWG Gold Australia
2023	T20 World Cup Australia

striking at 111.24. After the move the comparative numbers, for which there's a handful of ODIs remaining, read: 3068 ODI runs at 45.11, strike-rate 101.08, and 2243 T20I runs at 30.31, strike-rate 138.11.

"I didn't feel comfortable probably for the first eight years of my career. I was looking for where I fit in, looking for a spot," Healy said on the Willow Talk podcast where she broke the news of her retirement, having kept the timing of the decision under wraps, so much so that even senior Cricket Australia figures were unaware until Monday.

"I remember standing down one end and they gave me a crack opening the batting early in my career and I couldn't hit 'em off the square. Meg [Lanning] made a hundred off about 60 balls in that same game and I was just like, 'oh, I'm not cut out for this'. This young kid's come in and just doing this and I can't even hit it off the square.

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