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## Amit Shah—CM Omar Meeting in New Delhi Puts J&K Security, on Centre Stage

CM Flags Attacks on Kashmiris Outside UT, Seeks Budget Push and Faster Development

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI, JAN 19:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday held crucial talks with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi, placing internal security, recent attacks on Kashmiris outside the Union Territory, and budgetary support for J&K at the centre of discussions.

The meeting, confirmed by the Office of the Chief Minister on social media platform X, comes amid heightened focus on governance and stability in Jammu and Kashmir following the restoration of an elected government. The two

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## Healthcare Is the Bedrock of a Prosperous Society: LG Sinha

LG Lays Foundation Stone of 180-Bed Meerz Health Care Super Specialty Hospital in Srinagar

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JAN 19:** Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Monday laid the foundation stone of the Meerz Health Care Hospital in Srinagar, underscoring that strong healthcare infrastructure is fundamental to building a stable, vibrant, and prosperous society.

The upcoming Meerz Health Care Hospital, a 180-bed super specialty facility, is set to significantly strengthen medical infrastructure in Srinagar and improve access to advanced healthcare services for residents



of the city and nearby districts. Addressing the gathering, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated the Meerz Group and

extended his best wishes to all those associated with the project. He emphasized that

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## Cold eases as mercury rises across J&K, higher reaches receive fresh snowfall

HT NEWS DESK / KNO

**SRINAGAR, JAN 19:** Minimum temperatures across most parts of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh rose on Monday compared to the previous day, bringing partial relief from the intense cold conditions that prevailed on Sunday, even as higher reaches received fresh snowfall.

According to the details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), several higher reaches of the Valley, including Gulmarg and Razdan Pass, received fresh snowfall, while snow was continuing in many hilly areas of north Kashmir at the time of filing this report. Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature

of minus 1.2 degrees Celsius, a sharp rise from Sunday's minus 4.7 degrees Celsius.

Similar trends were observed across several districts. Qazigund settled at minus 2.4 degrees Celsius, up from minus 4.8 degrees, while Pahalgam recorded minus 1.8 degrees Celsius compared to minus 6.0 degrees a day earlier.

Pulwama, which had recorded minus 6.1 degrees Celsius on Sunday, saw a significant increase to minus 5.1 degrees Celsius, while Shopian rose from minus 6.7 degrees to minus 4.7 degrees.

Gulmarg registered a minimum of minus 3.5 degrees Celsius, up from minus 5.6 degrees, ● Turn on Page 2

## “Marching History Forward”: J&K Woman Officer to Lead All-Male CRPF Contingent on Republic Day

Simran Bala Becomes The First Woman to Command a 140-Plus Male CRPF Marching Unit at Kartavya Path

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI, JAN 19:** In a historic first for the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), a young woman officer from Jammu and Kashmir will command an all-male marching contingent during the Republic Day parade at Kartavya Path on January 26.



Assistant Commandant Simran Bala (26), a native of Rajouri district in Jammu and Kashmir, will lead a contingent comprising more than 140 male CRPF personnel. Officials said this is the first time a woman officer will command such a large all-male unit at the country's foremost national samaroh.

While women officers of the CRPF have previously led contingents at Republic Day parades, this occasion stands out for both the scale of the formation and its symbolic significance, underscoring the expanding leadership role of women ● Turn on Page 2

## One Soldier Martyred, 7 Injured in Kishtwar Encounter

HT NEWS DESK / KNO

**KISHTWAR, JAN 19:** An Army soldier, who was injured during the ongoing encounter with terrorists in Singpora area area Kishtwar district, succumbed to his injuries on Monday even as sniffer dogs, drones and helicopters have been roped in to flush out the hiding terrorists, officials said.

Army's White Knight Corps, in a post on X, per news agency—Kashmir News

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## DGP Reviews Security Ahead of Republic Day

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JAN 19:** The Director General of Police (DGP) Jammu and Kashmir, Nalin Prabhat (IPS), presided over a high-level security review meeting here on Monday to assess preparations for the Republic Day celebrations.

Senior officers briefed the DGP on current intelligence inputs, existing security deployments, and operational readiness. The discus-

sions focused on comprehensive measures to fortify security protocols, protect public spaces, and ensure the seamless execution of events at all designated venues across the Valley.

During the meeting, DGP Prabhat assigned specific responsibilities to officers, issuing strict directives for their precise implementation. Key areas of deliberation included crowd management, traffic regulation, ● Turn on Page 2

## IGP Stresses Coordination for Smooth R-Day in Jammu

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, JAN 19:** Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti, on Monday, chaired a high-level security coordination meeting here, emphasising the importance of meticulous planning and close coordination to

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## Mission YUVA Sees Rapid Growth Across J&K

CS lead Apex Committee assesses progress of implementation across J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, JAN 19:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of the Apex Committee of Mission YUVA, during which he reviewed the district-wise and panchayat-level performance of the flagship self-employment initiative across the Union Territory.

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## CS Sets Timelines for Next Gen EoDB Reforms in J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, JAN 19:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting of Administrative Secretaries to

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## CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

### Amit Shah–CM.....

leaders reviewed the overall political and administrative situation, sources said.

According to officials familiar with the deliberations, Omar Abdullah raised concerns over incidents of harassment and violence against Kashmiris in different parts of the country, urging stronger coordination between the Centre and states to ensure their safety and protection.

Budgetary issues and central assistance for infrastructure and welfare projects also figured prominently, with discussions on accelerating development works, improving service delivery, and boosting employment opportunities in the Union Territory.

Security preparedness and law-and-order mechanisms were reviewed as part of efforts to consolidate peace and maintain normalcy in the region. The Union Home Ministry's role in internal security and Union Territory administration lends added significance to the engagement.

Political observers view the meeting as a key step in strengthening Centre–UT coordination and aligning policy priorities on issues unique to Jammu and Kashmir, including economic revival, youth engagement, and long-term peace-building. (AGENCIES)

### Healthcare Is.....

private investment in healthcare plays a critical role in sustainable national development and serves as a vital lifeline for society.

“Healthcare is the bedrock for building a stable, vibrant and prosperous society. Industry leaders in the healthcare sector must focus on creating world-class infrastructure to ensure a resilient and healthy society,” Shri Manoj Sinha said.

He noted that the expansion of quality healthcare facilities not only enhances public well-being but also contributes to long-term social and economic growth by reducing the burden on existing medical institutions and improving treatment outcomes.

The foundation-laying ceremony was attended by Shri Farooq Mir, Managing Director of Meerz Group; Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr G.V. Sundeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, along with senior officials, medical professionals, and prominent citizens from various walks of life.

Once completed, the hospital is expected to emerge as a major healthcare hub, offering specialized medical services and reinforcing the region's healthcare ecosystem.

### Cold eases as.....

while Sonamarg remained the coldest place in the Valley at minus 8.3 degrees Celsius, slightly higher than Sunday's minus 8.9 degrees.

Srinagar Airport recorded a minimum of minus 3.8 degrees Celsius against minus 5.4 degrees the previous day. Pampore, Awantipora and Anantnag also witnessed a rise of around 1 to 2 degrees Celsius compared to Sunday.

In the Jammu region, minimum temperatures also showed an upward trend in most areas. Jammu city recorded 7.3 degrees Celsius, up from 5.5 degrees, while Jammu Airport settled at 8.2 degrees Celsius compared to 5.7 degrees on Sunday.

Banihal recorded a minimum of 0.7 degrees Celsius, rising from minus 2.4 degrees a day earlier.

Rajouri and Samba, which had dipped below freezing on Sunday, recorded minimum temperatures of 1.8 degrees Celsius and 1.2 degrees Celsius, respectively. Bhaderwah, however, continued to remain below freezing at minus 0.5 degrees Celsius.

In Ladakh, Leh recorded a minimum of minus 8.0 degrees Celsius, marginally higher than Sunday's minus 8.2 degrees, while Hanle witnessed a sharp drop, recording minus 14.5 degrees Celsius compared to minus 10.9 degrees a day earlier.

Meanwhile, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar has issued a weather advisory warning that two Western Disturbances are likely to affect Jammu and Kashmir and adjoining areas between January 22 and 28, bringing widespread light to moderate rain and snowfall, with heavy precipitation at isolated places.

According to the advisory, the first system is expected to impact the region from January 22 to 24, with peak activity on January 23, while the second system is likely from the night of January 26 till the forenoon of January 28, with peak activity on January 27.

The Met office said heavy rain or snowfall is likely over the Pir Panjal range, including the Chenab valley in Jammu division and middle and higher reaches of south Kashmir, which may lead to disruption of surface and air transport, including the Jammu–Srinagar national highway.

It also warned of the possibility of landslides, mudslides and gusty winds at vulnerable locations and advised travellers to plan accordingly, people in snow-bound areas to avoid avalanche-prone slopes, and farmers to suspend irrigation and spraying activities during the period—(KNO)

### Marching History.....

in India's uniformed forces.

Simran Bala is the first woman from Rajouri to join the CRPF at the officer rank. A political science graduate from the Government College for Women, Gandhinagar, Jammu, she was commissioned into the force in April 2025 after clearing the UPSC-conducted CAPF Assistant Commandants examination.

Her first posting was with the CRPF's 'Bastariya' battalion in Chhattisgarh, where she was deployed in anti-Naxal operations. During her training at the CRPF Academy in Gurugram, she was adjudged the best officer in training and also excelled in public speaking.

The CRPF, with a strength of about 3.25 lakh personnel, remains India's largest paramilitary force and plays a crucial role in internal security, including counter-Naxal operations, counter-terrorism duties in Jammu and Kashmir, and counter-insurgency operations in the Northeast.

This year's Republic Day parade will also feature a joint women 'daredevils' motorcycle team from the CRPF and the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), a feat earlier showcased in 2020. The Central Industrial Security Force will present a marching and band contingent, while the Border Security Force will be represented by its camel-mounted troops and band.

A joint tableau by the National Disaster Response Force and the Bureau of Police Research and Development is also expected to be part of the Union Home Ministry's presentation during the parade.

As Assistant Commandant Simran Bala steps onto Kartavya Path in command, her role will stand as a defining moment for representation, professionalism, and the evolving face of leadership in India's security forces. (AGENCIES)

### One Soldier....

Observer (KNO), said that the General Officer Commanding and all ranks pay tribute to Havaladar Gajendra Singh of the Special Forces, who made the supreme sacrifice while gallantly executing a counter terrorism operation in the Singpora area.

“We honour his indomitable courage, valour and selfless devotion to duty and stand firmly with the bereaved family in this hour of profound grief,” it said.

Earlier on Sunday, a fierce gunfight broke out between security forces and terrorists in the Singpora area following inputs about the presence of Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorists.

Officials said that during the encounter, terrorists lobbed a grenade and resorted to heavy firing towards the security forces, leaving eight soldiers injured. “Of the eight injured soldiers, three were airlifted to an Army hospital for specialised treatment. Havaladar Gajendra Singh succumbed to his injuries during the treatment,” they said.

Meanwhile, security forces also busted a terrorist hideout in the Chatroo forest area. “A significant quantity of food and daily-use supplies was recovered, indicating the terrorists' prolonged presence in the region,” officials said.

A high-alert has also been sounded in the Kishtwar and adjoining areas following the fierce encounter, with cordon and search operation extended to nearby areas.

They said that the security forces have also deployed drones, sniffer dogs and helicopters to track and flush out the hiding terrorists in the forested area. “Senior officials of the Army, Police and CRPF are also present at the site to monitor the ongoing operation, while security forces have been maintaining a strict surveillance in the area to ensure terrorists don't escape or regroup,” they said—(KNO)

### DGP Reviews.....

actionable intelligence, strategic force deployment, and the security of vulnerable installations.

The DGP underscored the imperative for foolproof arrangements. He directed district police chiefs to maintain vigilant monitoring of social media platforms to curb the spread of misinformation that could threaten public order and safety.

Officers were also instructed to intensify surveillance on anti-national elements and enhance area domination exercises. The Traffic Police Wing was tasked with formulating a detailed and effective traffic management plan to facilitate the smooth movement of the general public and protected persons.

Security provisions for national highways, lateral roads, railway tracks, and stations throughout the Valley were also thoroughly reviewed.

The Senior Superintendent of Police (Security) for Kashmir was directed to implement a robust security blueprint for the main Republic Day function venue, accounting for all potential contingencies.

The meeting added with a unanimous resolve from all attending agencies and departments to work in close coordination to ensure peaceful and secure Republic Day celebrations across Jammu and Kashmir. (KNS)

### IGP Stresses.....

ensure smooth conduct of Republic Day celebrations.

Jammu will host the main Republic Day function on January 26 at M A Stadium, where Lt Governor Manoj Sinha is scheduled to take the salute and unfurl the tricolour.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will be the chief guest at the event.

In connection with the security and coordination arrangements for Republic Day, the IGP chaired a meeting at the Police Control Room (PCR), Jammu, which was among others attended by senior officers of the Police, Army, Central Armed Police Forces, and intelligence agencies, a police spokesperson said.

He said the primary agenda of the meeting was to ensure the smooth, peaceful, and secure conduct of Republic Day events across Jammu.

Detailed discussions were held on law and order management, security protocols, traffic regulation, inter-agency coordination, and measures to ensure the safety of participants as well as spectators during the celebrations, the spokesperson said.

Addressing the officers, Tuti emphasised the importance of meticulous planning, close coordination, and seamless information sharing among all stakeholder agencies to ensure the smooth and safe conduct of Republic Day celebrations.

He stressed maintaining a high level of alertness, robust security posture, and readiness of all the law enforcement and emergency response units.

The IGP directed SSP Jammu, SSP Traffic City, and all supervisory officers to identify and create adequate parking arrangements, ensure effective traffic regulation, and maintain a heightened state of vigilance in their respective jurisdictions.

### Mission YUVA.....

The meeting besides Additional Chief Secretary, Planning; Principal Secretary, Finance; Managing Director, J&K Bank; and Director, IIM Jammu was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Education; Secretary, Rural Development Department; Secretary in I&C Department; Managing Director, JKRLM, along with representatives from IIT Jammu, Universities, SKUAST, NABARD, and other key stakeholders.

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

Commending the Labour & Employment Department for its meticulous monitoring and data-driven analysis of the Mission's implementation, the Chief Secretary appreciated the innovative approach adopted to generate insightful performance indicators down to the Panchayat level across J&K. He emphasized that such analytical inputs must be effectively utilised for targeted interventions.

The Chief Secretary directed Deputy Commissioners to focus special attention on the weakest performing blocks, as identified in the department's analysis, and ensure corrective measures on priority. He also instructed them to ensure that the Single Business Development Units (SBDUs) and Block Handholding Desks (BHDs) in each district are fully operational by the end of the month, with adequate infrastructure, manpower, and empanelment of motivators.

Highlighting the potential of 'Lakhpati Didis' under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), the Chief Secretary advised the department to enhance their capacities, upgrade their enterprises, and empanel them as motivators under Mission YUVA. He suggested adopting successful models from states such as Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Bihar, and called for exposure visits and specialised training at reputed institutions to further empower these Self-Help Groups.

Stressing sustained outreach, the Chief Secretary underscored the need to continue 'UdyamJagriti' campaigns in both online and offline modes. He called for intensified IEC activities in colleges and emphasized improving the efficiency of Incubation Centres and Innovation Hubs established under the Mission.

Reviewing the performance of banks, particularly with regard to loan sanctions and disbursements, the Chief Secretary asked them to achieve a target of 1,200 disbursements per week. He expressed satisfaction over the commitment shown by banks to accelerate disbursement momentum. He also stressed the importance of post-sanction mentoring and handholding, observing that capital infusion alone does not ensure success unless complemented by training and sustained support.

During the presentation, Secretary, Labour & Employment, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, informed the meeting that Mission YUVA has received responses from nearly 95 percent of over 4,300 panchayats across the UT. He revealed that loans amounting to ₹847 crore have been sanctioned to 14,887 applicants, with around 76 percent disbursed so far. The average loan size stands at ₹6.64 lakh, with a target of reaching ₹1,500 crore by the end of the current financial year.

Managing Director, Mission YUVA,

Shahzad Alam, highlighted that all established units are being tracked for productivity and outcomes through a dedicated digital dashboard, ensuring that each disbursement translates into a viable and sustainable enterprise.

The meeting was also briefed on detailed performance analytics covering block- and district-wise loan applications, verification and approval timelines, and comparative performance of bank branches across districts. Updates were also shared on the establishment of Innovation Hubs and Incubation Centres, including the proposed signing of MoUs with premier institutions such as T-Hub, IIT Madras, IIM Bangalore, and IIM Jammu.

The committee further discussed the establishment of an Overseas Recruitment Agency and onboarding of local enterprises on the ONDC platform, disclosing that 102 stores have been onboarded and 1,393 SKUs added across districts so far.

Reiterating the bank's commitment, Managing Director, J&K Bank informed that around 2,600 cases are scheduled for disbursement by January 26, while nearly 30,000 cases are targeted to be completed by the end of the financial year.

Other stakeholders, including representatives from IIM Jammu, IIT Jammu, Universities, SKUAST, and NABARD, shared their inputs and reaffirmed their commitment to support Mission YUVA by providing institutional infrastructure, technical expertise, and training support for entrepreneurs as well as the implementation staff.

### CS Sets.....

finalise timelines for implementation of the identified deregulation measures under the next phase of the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) programme across the Union Territory.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary impressed upon all concerned departments to prepare their detailed action plans by the end of the current month and ensure that the entire implementation process is strictly completed within the next six months.

He underscored that all procedural reforms, including amendments to relevant Acts, Rules, and Regulations, must be carried out within the stipu-

lated timeframe without deviation, as envisaged under this phase of compliance reduction and deregulation.

Highlighting the importance of timely execution, the Chief Secretary observed that effective implementation of these reforms is crucial to creating a business-friendly regulatory environment and strengthening investor confidence in Jammu and Kashmir.

Providing an overview of the initiative, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, informed the meeting that the second phase of compliance reduction and deregulation, commonly referred to as Deregulation 2.0 or Phase-II of EoDB, is aligned with the national framework and is aimed at launching 30 new priority reform areas across seven key sectors in 2026.

He stated that while the first phase focused largely on digitisation, Phase-II EoDB seeks to bring about deep structural reforms, with particular emphasis on reducing the compliance burden on MSMEs and startups. The objective, he added, is to further simplify regulatory frameworks, reduce procedural redundancies, and promote sustainable economic growth.

Elaborating on the core components of Deregulation 2.0, Director, Industries & Commerce, Jammu, Arun Manhas, apprised the meeting that the initiative targets seven major focus sectors encompassing 30 priority reform areas, including several domains that were not extensively covered earlier.

He informed that these reforms include five priority areas each in Education and Utilities/Permissions, three categories of land-related compliances, and two focus areas each in Environment, Health, and Building & Construction.

In addition, high-impact reforms in Labour, Fire Services, and Tourism sectors have also been identified to ensure that these sectors receive a significant boost through minimal governmental compliances and reduced regulatory hurdles.

The meeting concluded with a commitment on maintaining close inter-departmental coordination to ensure time-bound implementation of the reforms for making Jammu and Kashmir a progressive, transparent, and investor-friendly destination.

## Healing Touch: CRPF, TSWOOI, AIPWS, Health Dept, Ayush dept hold massive medical outreach in remote Bhadarwah hamlets

■ AMIR IQBAL KHAN

**BHADARWAH, JAN 19:**

In a significant collaborative effort to bridge the healthcare gap in inaccessible terrains, the 33rd Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Sub District Hospital (SDH) Bhadarwah and the Department of AYUSH joined hands with prominent NGOs to organize a free medical camp in the remote Bihani village here on Monday. The outreach programme, organized under the aegis of the 'All India People's Welfare Society' (AIPWS) and 'The Social Welfare Organisation Of India' (TSWOOI), was held at the UPS in Behani Katyara.

Officials said the initiative specifically targeted residents from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) living in the hard-to-reach hamlets of Behani, Katyara and Shera-khi in Additional District Bhadarwah.

Over 250 patients suffering from various ailments were diagnosed during the camp. Organizers confirmed that free medicines worth thousands of rupees were distributed to needy villagers while patients diagnosed with critical conditions were referred to specialized centers for advanced treatment.



cialist doctors here,” said Ghulam Mohd, a septuagenarian resident of Katyara. Local women particularly appreciated the presence of the AYUSH department and the security forces.

“It is reassuring to see the CRPF not just protecting us but caring for our health. The free Ayurvedic medicines provided by the AYUSH doctors are a blessing for families who cannot afford expensive treatments. The BMO and the administration have shown they care for the last man in the line,” said Shameema Bano, a local beneficiary.

Speaking on the occasion, Block Medical Officer (BMO) Bhadarwah, Dr Varsha, lauded the synergy between civil society and security forces. “The steps taken by AIPWS and TSWOOI to serve humanity and ameliorate the lot of the poor are appreciable. The department assures every possible support for such public welfare activities in the future,” Dr Varsha said.

Zaffar Hussain Wani, State President of AIPWS and TSWOOI, termed the camp a part of a broader “civic action programme,” reiterating the organizations’ com-

mitment to serving humanity across all geographical barriers and increasing awareness about civic responsibilities.

The event was attended by key officials including Deputy Commandant 33Bn CRPF Sapan Suman under the supervision of Commanding Officer Arun Kumar Singh, NGO General Secretary Umar Farooq Tak and Managing Organiser Anikait Sharma.

A team of medical experts, including Dr Shahista Malik, Dr Javed Ahmed Parry, Dr Kamal Deep Kotwal, Dr Shenum Shakir Rafiqi and AYUSH Medical Officer Dr Saima Khateeb, conducted the check-ups. They were assisted by pharmacists and volunteers, including Gaurav Bist, Abhishek Chauhan, Balram Singh Tomar, Jaya Chandra KV (33 Bn CRPF) and Tariq Ahmed Ganai (AYUSH).

Prominent citizens, including Treasurer Mohd Saleem Butt and Secretary Badri Nath, Nazir Ahmed Shah alongside Asha workers Shahista Begum and San-geeta Kumari, facilitated the smooth conduct of the camp.

# Div Com Kashmir Finalizes Arrangements for Republic Day Celebrations

Directs for befitting arrangements, sensitization of participants regarding significance of National Event

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JAN 19:** Ensure meticulous and befitting arrangements for the celebration of national festival, directed Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg to officers while finalizing arrangements for the forthcoming Republic Day in a meeting held at TRC, Srinagar.

Emphasizing the significance of Republic Day, The Divisional Commissioner stressed the need for maximum participation and directed officers to sensitize all participants about adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) and proper protocol during the unfurling of the National Flag and the singing of the National Anthem.

In view of the forecast of inclement weather, officers of UEDD and Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) were instructed to keep dewatering pumps ready at the venue to prevent waterlogging. The Chief Engineer, R&B, was directed to install a waterproof canopy over the

stands. R&B was also tasked with installing video walls for live streaming of the event, arranging adequate seating, and ensuring proper heating arrangements.

To ensure the smooth conduct of the programme, the Divisional Commissioner directed that all participants must be seated by 9:30 am. He also called for earmarking a specific area for victims of terrorism at the venue. The SSP Security was instructed to facilitate hassle-free entry by augmenting the number of scanning machines.

The Chief Engineer, KPDCL, was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply with adequate backup arrangements. The Health Department was instructed to set up medical kiosks equipped with medical teams and essential medicines, deployment of critical ambulances near the venue, and coordinate with nearby hospitals.

Information Department was directed to complete selection of National Anthem singing competition, nomination of a com-



mentator, installation of public address systems, issuance of media passes, and facilitation of media coverage of the event.

SSP Traffic was directed to chalkout detailed traffic arrangements to ensure smooth movement of VIPs and the general public. It was informed that parking for VIPs has been designated at the Indoor Stadium, while parking for other officers has been earmarked at Amar Singh College.

To facilitate transportation, the Divisional Commissioner directed SRTC and SSCL to provide an adequate number of buses for ferrying participants and officers from their respective locations.

Other departments were also issued directions in accordance with their assigned responsibilities to ensure the successful conduct of the Republic Day celebrations.

Besides, Commissioner SMC, Additional Commissioner Kashmir, SSP Traffic, SSP Security and SSP Control Room, the meeting was attended by HoDs and officers of all the civil departments.

## Kulgam/Qazigund Traffic Police Mark Major Safety Gains in 2025

■ FAROOQ RATHER

**KULGAM, JAN 19:** The Traffic Police Sector Kulgam/Qazigund, under the leadership of DySP Traffic Mohd Aslam (JKPS) and functioning under the direct supervision of SSP Traffic Rural Kashmir, Shri S. Ravinder Pal Singh (JKPS) achieved significant milestones in traffic enforcement, road safety and public awareness during the year 2025.

During the year, the Traffic Police issued a total of 36,492 challans, realizing a fine amount of ₹1,59,07,900, while 186 vehicles were seized for serious traffic violations. These enforcement measures played a vital role in improving traffic discipline across the district. A major highlight of the year was a 20 percent reduction in road accidents compared to the previous year, reflecting the effectiveness of sustained enforcement, preventive strategies and awareness campaigns.

To promote road safety awareness, the Traffic Police conducted 269 awareness programmes at bus stands, schools, colleges and other public places, sensitizing drivers, students and the general public about traffic laws and safe driving practices. Additionally, 1,197 special drives were conducted against violations such as rash and stunt driving, non-wearing of helmets, triple riding, juvenile driving, overloading of public service vehicles and operation of vehicles without fitness.

Traffic Management During Amarnath Yatra and Fruit Season

During the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra and the peak fruit season, traffic management remained a top priority to ensure smooth movement of pilgrims and fruit-laden vehicles. Several measures were implemented along NH-44 and within town areas to maintain safety and uninterrupted traffic flow. Barricades were installed from Nowyug Tunnel to Alstop Crossing on NH-44, as well as in Khudawani and Kulgam towns, particularly from Gantagar to Sangus Crossing and along Hospital Road, to regulate traffic and prevent congestion. Traffic personnel were equipped with reflective jackets and hand-held signaling devices during evening hours to enhance visibility.

Crash barriers were erected at accident-prone locations, enforcement was intensified in vulnerable zones, and parking facilities were created in Kulgam town with the support of the Municipal Committee and other concerned departments. Removal of vendors and encroachments from roads and footpaths across towns of the district also emerged as a major achievement, ensuring free movement of traffic. The Traffic Police acknowledged strong cooperation from the general public, transporters, drivers, civil society, media fraternity, District Police and District Administration, which contributed significantly to the success of traffic regulation and awareness efforts.

Reiterating a zero-tolerance policy against visible traffic offences, the Traffic Police Sector Kulgam/Qazigund has committed to further strengthening traffic management and building a traffic-violation-free and hassle-free road environment in 2026, covering both urban and rural areas of District Kulgam.

## India Post opens 2nd N-Gen Post Office of J&K Circle at Kashmir University

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JAN 19:** Jammu & Kashmir Postal Circle today inaugurated its first N-Gen Post Office in Kashmir at the University of Kashmir campus. This is the second N-Gen Post Office in the J&K Circle, after AIIMS Vijaypur.

The N-Gen Post Office was dedicated by Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice-Chancellor, University of Kashmir, and Shri D. S. V. R. Murthy, Chief Postmaster General, Jammu & Kashmir Circle, in the presence of Shri Adam Mohi-ud-Din, Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Srinagar Postal Division. The N-Gen



initiative is part of the Department of Posts' programme to modernise campus post offices and provide technology-enabled services.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Nilofer Khan said that the initiative aligns postal services with the requirements of students and reflects the Department of Posts' focus on service delivery in educational institutions.

Shri D. S. V. R. Murthy said that the initiative is in line with the vision of the Union Minister of Communications, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, to strengthen India Post as a logistics and financial services organisation. He said that the N-Gen Post Office integrates postal, banking, insurance, and e-commerce services and provides digital payment facilities and simplified service processes.

The Chief Postmaster General said that the N-Gen Post Office will help create awareness about postal savings schemes, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) services, and other services among students and the university community.

The Post Office has been redesigned as part of the N-Gen initiative. Students of the University of Kashmir participated in the redesign process and were awarded certificates and an honorarium. Wall art at the Post Office was created by students of the School of Fine Arts. Facilities introduced at the Post Office include Aadhaar updation services, Wi-Fi, a coffee machine, and board games. A decorative pen installation has been placed next to the letter box.

Senior postal officers, faculty members, staff, and students of the University of Kashmir were present on the occasion.

## Kulgam Police Hold Joint Counter-Terror Mock Drill at Qazigund Railway Station

■ FAROOQ RATHER

**KULGAM, JAN 19:** In a significant step towards strengthening preparedness against terror-related incidents and other emergencies, Kulgam Police, in coordination with the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), Government Railway Police Force (GRP), and Fire & Emergency Services, conducted a comprehensive mock drill at the Railway Station Qazigund on Monday.

The exercise was aimed at assessing and enhancing the emergency response mechanism of field forces in the event of any untoward incident, particularly those of a terrorist nature. The mock drill focused on evaluating response time, inter-agency coordination, operational

efficiency, and the overall effectiveness of the existing security framework at a vital public installation.

During the drill, various emergency scenarios were simulated to test the preparedness of the security and emergency response agencies. The exercise also helped in identifying operational gaps, if any, and provided an opportunity to streamline standard operating procedures for swift and safe handling of critical situations.

A team of specialist officers from Kulgam Police, including the SDPO Qazigund, along with personnel from CAPF, GRP, and Fire & Emergency Services actively participated in the drill, demonstrating coordinated action and prompt response.

The mock drill was conducted

under the supervision of SSP Kulgam, Shri Anayat Ali Chowdhary (IPS), who closely monitored the exercise. He appreciated the efforts, professionalism, and coordination displayed by all participating forces and emphasized the importance of regular drills to remain prepared for any eventuality.

Kulgam Police reiterated its firm commitment to ensuring public safety and maintaining a high level of security across the district. Officials stated that such mock drills form an integral part of ongoing efforts to strengthen emergency response mechanisms and ensure effective, timely services to the community, particularly at sensitive and high-footfall locations like railway stations.

## 500 Blankets Distributed to Patients at SMHS Hospital Srinagar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JAN 19:** In the evening of 18 Jan 2026 around 11 pm Director /chairman of Kashmir valley college of pharmacy Mirgund Srinagar and Green valley college of pharmacy pulwama distributed 500 blankets to the patients in SMHS { shri maharaja hari singh hos-



pital } Karan nagar Srinagar. Those patients don't have any blankets around them in the corridors and in the outside campus of the hospital, parking place etc.

Both Green valley and Kashmir valley college of pharmacy comes under Shivalik Research and Medical Education society which is always for the help of needful people and does this type of charity in every winter.

## Ehsaas Foundation Organises Grand Mehfil-e-Shah-e-Mehraj ﷺ at Rajbagh, Srinagar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JAN 19:** Ehsaas Foundation organised a spiritually enriching Mehfil-e-Shah-e-Mehraj ﷺ at The Black Vintage, Radio Colony Rajbagh, Srinagar, drawing scholars, dignitaries, poets and devotees who gathered to commemorate the sacred night of Isra and Mehraj with devotion and reverence.

The programme was graced by SSP APCR Kashmir Mr. Tariq Ahmad Wani as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, he described Mehraj as a timeless lesson in faith, patience and obedience, urging the youth to draw moral and spiritual strength from the life of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. He emphasised unity, compassion and social responsibility, appreciating Ehsaas Foundation for consistently organising programmes that promote spiritual awareness and positive societal values. He stated that such gatherings play a vital role in guiding the younger generation toward peace, discipline and ethical living.

Among the Guests of Honour were Mr. Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Wani, Joint Director Fisheries, who lauded the Foundation's efforts in nurturing moral and spiritual culture in society and highlighted the importance of community-driven initiatives that harmonise faith with social service.

Renowned Kashmiri spiritual Sufi poet Suhail Ahmad (Raj Saeb) attended as Guest of Honour. Through his soulful expressions, he reflected on



the divine ascension of the Prophet ﷺ, conveying the message of humility, love and nearness to Allah, adding an emotional and poetic depth to the Mehfil.

On behalf of Ehsaas Foundation, General Secretary Ms. Abida Rashid delivered a heartfelt message, stating that Mehfil-e-Mehraj is not merely remembrance but a call toward self-purification and spiritual awakening. She reaffirmed the Foundation's commitment to organising faith-based programmes that inspire moral growth, unity and service to humanity.

The Mehfil featured Na'at recitations, spiritual discourses and reflections on the significance of the blessed

night. A large number of people participated, making the event a serene and memorable spiritual gathering in the heart of Srinagar.

At the conclusion, General Secretary Ms. Abida Rashid extended her sincere gratitude to the Chief Guest, Guests of Honour, poets, Na'at Khwans and all participants for making the event successful. She also expressed special thanks to Faizan Mohammad, Director Samzan Foods, for his continued support to Ehsaas Foundation events, and acknowledged the cooperation of Imtiyaz Ahmad. The Foundation further conveyed appreciation to sponsors Paristaan and Media Line Advertising Agency for their valuable support.

# Secretary Transport reviews progress on Institute of Driving Training, Research Kot Bhalwal

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, JANUARY 19:** Secretary, Transport Department, Avny Lavasa, today conducted a detailed review of the ongoing works at the Institute of Driving Training and Research (IDTR) located at Kot Bhalwal, Jammu.

The visit was part of the department's focused efforts to expedite the development of critical transport infrastructure in the Union Territory.

The Secretary was accompanied by a team of officers comprising Additional Transport Commissioner, Anju Gupta; Superintendent Engineer, PW (R&B) Jammu; Regional Transport Officer (RTO), Jammu, S. Jasmeet Singh; Joint Transport Commissioner; Executive Engineers PWD and Mechanical besides Assistant Engineers PWD and Mechanical Departments.

The Secretary was briefed about the key components of the institute,



including the Administrative Block, Hostel Block, various driving test track and other associated infrastructure being developed

to facilitate professional driver training.

During the inspection, the Secretary assessed the progress

of civil works and examined key training facilities such as driving simulators, classrooms, laboratories and other equipment essential for

modern driver education.

Expressing concern over delay in completion of the critical infrastructure, the Secretary issued firm instructions to the Executive Engineers PWD, Mechanical and Electrical to ensure timely execution of all pending works. She emphasized the importance of adhering to the stipulated timelines and directed that the balance works including the Administrative Block, Hostel Block and all tracks must be completed within next 15 days.

Avny Lavasa also reiterated the Transport Department's commitment towards developing state-of-the-art training and testing facilities in J&K to enhance road safety, reduce accidents and professionalize driver training standards.

The visit concluded with on-site deliberations among the officials regarding coordination, quality control and future operational planning of the IDTR.

## Mass Singing marks beginning of Phase-II of "Vande Mataram 150 Years" Commemoration Campaign in Anantnag

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG, JANUARY 19:** In accordance with the national-level calendar, Phase-II of the "Vande Mataram" 150 Years Commemoration Campaign commenced today across Anantnag with multiple mass singing programmes organised at prominent public venues and institutions throughout the district.

The main function was held at Town Hall, Anantnag, where the Deputy Commissioner, SF Hamid presided over the event.

On the occasion, participants recited the National Song "Vande Mataram" in unison, reaffirming the district's collective spirit of unity, pride and devotion to the Motherland.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the historic and inspirational significance of "Vande Mataram" in our Nation's freedom struggle and its enduring message of national unity and service. He called upon all stakeholders, especially youth and students, to uphold the values of discipline, dedication and constructive citizenship, and to contribute meaningfully towards the progress and well-being of society and the nation.

The Deputy Commissioner informed that Phase-II of the campaign will feature a series of patriotic and vibrant activities to be organised in a smooth, dignified and inclusive manner across educational institutions and public spaces of the district, culminating on Republic Day, January 26.

Appreciating Anantnag for its consistent and wholehearted participation in national and nation-building initiatives, the Deputy Commissioner expressed confidence that Phase-II will achieve greater impact through the active involvement of officials, students, youth volunteers, civil society organisations and the general public.

As part of the programme, documentaries and short films highlighting the genesis and significance of the National Song were screened to enhance public awareness and deepen understanding of its national importance.

Similar mass singing events and programmes were also organised in the sub-divisions and other public institutions of the district, where senior officers, students and civil society members participated with enthusiasm.

## Republic Day-2026 arrangements finalised in Budgam

DC stresses on smooth conduct of Function across District

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM, JANUARY 19:** Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a meeting of district officers and various security agencies for forseeing final preparedness for Republic Day-2026 celebrations.

It was given out that the main function of the Day shall be held at Sports Stadium Budgam while as similar functions would be held at sub-division and Tehsil levels also.

The meeting was informed that contingents of JKP, IRP, CRPF, NCC, students of various government and private schools will participate in the march past parade. Besides, various cultural programmes would also be part of the celebrations and a felicitation ceremony would also be held.

On the occasion, various committees like invitation cards committee, hospitality committee, stage management committee, selection committee which are formed already were directed to complete



formalities for the smooth conduct of the celebrations.

Different departments viz. Education, Jal Shakti, R&B, Information, Health, Sports, Traffic, Motor Vehicles, Police, Floriculture, PDD, Municipality and Paramilitary Forces were earmarked for looking after their respective assignments.

The decoration of the main venue, seating arrangements, uninterrupted power supply, drinking water/tanker service, barricading of venue, medical aid camp, availability of ambulance, deployment of fire tenders,

transportation facilities, adequate and separate vehicle parking, refreshment, invitations, PAS system, cleanliness and sanitation, illumination of main Buildings etc. measures were discussed threadbare in the meeting while as special emphasis was laid on refreshments, transportation, mobile toilets and change room facilities for participating students.

Security agencies were instructed to ensure security arrangements at all venues where functions in this regard will be held across the district.

The DC budgam stressed on smooth conduct of Function across District.

He also directed for coordination among various departments so as to ensure seamless celebrations.

Among others the meeting was attended by ADC Budgam, Mehraj-ud-din Shah, CPO budgam, POICDS, SE R&B circle budgam, CEO, CMO, ACP, SDMS, DYSP traffic budgam, DYSP Hq budgam, District officers, all BDOs, all Tehsildar's, representatives of security agencies and other concerned.

## DC Baramulla reviews status of KCC Cases in the district

Directs mega awareness drive across 402 Panchayats to achieve 100% saturation

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA, JANUARY 19:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today chaired a review meeting at the DC Office Meeting Hall to assess the status of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) cases in the district.

The meeting focused on evaluating progress, identifying gaps, and finalising strategies for achieving 100 percent saturation under the scheme.

During the meeting, the chair was apprised of comprehensive

details regarding the total number of KCC accounts in the district, including active accounts as well as zero-balance, inactive accounts and targeted interventions towards success of the scheme.

The meeting held an in-depth discussion on strategies to ensure complete coverage of eligible beneficiaries under the KCC scheme. Emphasis was laid on strengthening outreach mechanisms, improving coordination among stakeholders, and addressing issues leading to inactive and zero-balance



accounts.

During the meeting, the DC directed the concerned officers to organise a mega awareness drive across all 402 Panchayats of District Baramulla to reach out to eligible farmers, zero balance and left-out beneficiaries to ensure their enrollment under the KCC scheme.

The DC further instructed the departments to maintain a consolidated and updated branch wise database related to KCC applications received, processed, approved, and pending which

will serve as a key monitoring tool to track progress.

Meanwhile, Minga Sherpa directed the concerned authorities to personally reach out to zero-balance and inactive KCC account holders and take necessary steps to activate their accounts with an objective to enable these beneficiaries to fully avail the benefits of the KCC scheme.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Nisar Ahmad; Lead District Manager, Manzoor Ahmad and other district and bank officers.

## District Admin Kupwara holds patriotic function to commemorate 150 Years of 'Vande Mataram'

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA, JANUARY 19:** District Administration Kupwara today held a Grand function at Town Hall, Kupwara, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the iconic national song "Vande Mataram." The event witnessed active participation from civil administration, police, education department, students, teachers, and members of the general public, reflecting a strong sense of national pride and unity.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Khan; ASP Kupwara, Javaid Ahmad, besides, district officers and employees were present in the function. The programme commenced with a soul-stirring rendition of "Vande Mataram" by the Police Band, which filled the auditorium with patriotic spirit. The performance received wide appreciation from the audience and set a solemn and inspiring tone for the celebrations.



As part of the commemorative activities, an impressive pictorial presentation and exhibition of posters were displayed, highlighting India's freedom movement, the historical significance of "Vande Mataram," and the theme of national integrity. These posters were creatively prepared by students and teachers from various educational institutions of the district, showcasing their talent, historical understanding, and commitment to

the ideals of the nation.

A special documentary screening on the theme "Vande Mataram" was also organized during the function. The documentary traced the origin, historical relevance, and enduring impact of the song on India's freedom struggle and nation-building process.

The screening provided valuable insights and served as an educational and inspirational experience for the audience. On the occasion, the ADC highlighted the relevance of "Vande Mataram" in contemporary times, emphasizing its role in fostering patriotism, unity, and a sense of collective responsibility among citizens, especially the youth.

He lauded the efforts of students, teachers, and organizers for making the event meaningful and impactful.

Meanwhile, Certificates of Appreciation were distributed among school children, media persons and other participants for their efforts.

## 150 Years of National Song 'Vande Mataram' Phase-II Celebrated at Handwara

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA, JANUARY 19:** As part of the nationwide commemoration marking 150 years of the national song "Vande Mataram", Phase-II of the celebrations was held with great enthusiasm at the premises in Sub Division Handwara.

The event saw active participation from students of different schools, who showcased their talent through a Quiz competition and Patriotic Cultural Programmes, and police band, adding vibrancy and energy to the celebration.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi highlighted the significance of the day and the enduring spirit of patriotism that the National song "Vande Mataram" instills in every Indian.

As part of the event, certificates of appreciation were distributed among students and other participants to



recognize their efforts and contribution to making the celebration a success.

The celebration concluded on high note, reinforcing the values of national pride, unity, and love for the motherland among the young generation.

The Programme was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police SSP

Handwara, Sahil Sarangal, Deputy Chief Education Officer Kupwara, Zonal Education officer Handwara, Zonal Education officer Rajwar, besides officers from all line departments of Sub division level, reflecting a strong sense of community involvement and support for the celebration.

# Pulwama Admin Commences 2nd Phase of Vande Mataram Celebrations at Tral

Inauguration of High-Mast National Flag, unveiling of Preamble Plaque mark inaugural event

## HT NEWS NETWORK

**PULWAMA, JANUARY 19:** In alignment with the nationwide commemoration of 150 years of the national song "Vande Mataram", the District Administration Pulwama today commenced the second phase of year-long Vande Mataram celebrations with a grand inaugural event at Sub-Division Tral.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of the general public and was attended by

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom; Senior Superintendent of Police, Awantipora, Sajad Ahmad Bhat, along with senior officers from the civil administration, police, Armed forces and paramilitary forces.

Elected representatives, including Member of Legislative Assembly Tral, Rafiq Ahmad Naik, and DDC Members, were also present on the occasion.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner inaugurated a High-Mast National Flag and unveiled the Preamble Plaque at the Mini-Secretariat Tral. He also administered the Viksit Bharat



Pledge to the participants, reaffirming the collective commitment towards building a developed, inclusive and progressive nation.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Qayoom congratulated the people of Tral for the installation of the High-Mast National Flag and lauded the large public turnout. He said that the installation of the flag was a long-standing public demand, reflecting the patriotic spirit of

the people. He added that the High-Mast Flag would inspire citizens to contribute towards building a Viksit Bharat.

Highlighting the significance of the celebrations, the Deputy Commissioner said that "Vande Mataram" played a pivotal role in inspiring freedom fighters during India's struggle for independence. "The second phase will continue on similar lines with wider public participation," he added, while

appreciating the smooth and successful conduct of celebrations under the first phase.

Dr. Qayoom further added that the Vande Mataram celebrations are being conducted in convergence with benefit and saturation camps to ensure last-mile delivery of welfare initiatives. He said these camps also act as grievance redressal platforms, enabling citizens to access government services, scheme enrolments and

relevant information under one roof.

While addressing the gathering, he specifically emphasised the importance of social security and financial inclusion schemes, including PM-SYM, PM-KMY, PMJDY, PMJJBY, PMSBY and Atal Pension Yojana, and urged eligible citizens to avail benefits under these flagship initiatives, while also directing the concerned departments to utilise the celebrations to achieve saturation under these schemes.

Additionally, a vibrant Vande Mataram Concert, was organised by the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), Pulwama, which filled the atmosphere with energy and patriotic fervour through renditions of national and patriotic songs.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner, accompanying MLA Tral, inspected various departmental stalls established by departments including Revenue, Health, Industries, ICDS, Rural Development Department, Agriculture, Horticulture, Cooperatives, Handicrafts and Handloom, where various entitlements were distributed among the beneficiaries.

## JKEDI concludes Management Development Programme at Shopian

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN, JANUARY 19:** Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), District Centre Shopian, successfully concluded the Management Development Programme (MDP) Batch VI at Mother Miracle International School (MMIS), Heepora Batagund today, aimed at strengthening entrepreneurial and managerial capabilities among aspiring entrepreneurs of the district.

The programme witnessed active participation from 22 candidates, all of whom successfully completed the training. The batch comprised 19 male and 3 female participants, reflecting inclusive participation and a growing interest in entrepreneurship among the local youth.

The MDP-VI was structured to enhance participants understanding of key business and management concepts, including entrepreneurship development, business planning, financial management, marketing strategies, government schemes for entrepreneurs and essential soft skills required for running sustainable enterprises.



The sessions were delivered through interactive lectures, discussions, case studies and activity-based learning to ensure practical exposure.

On the concluding day, Nafia Nazir, Senior Manager, JKEDI, visited the venue and interacted with the participants, reviewed the training framework, and appreciated the overall conduct and outcomes of the MDP. She encouraged the trainees to convert their ideas into viable enterprises and to actively avail the benefits of various entrepreneurship promotion schemes of the Government.

During the interaction session, Sayeem Rafiq, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Shopian, highlighted the role of JKEDI in nurturing entrepreneurship at the grassroots level and assured continued guidance, mentoring and handholding support to the trainees in their entrepreneurial journey.

The participants expressed satisfaction over the quality of training and thanked JKEDI for providing a platform to enhance their entrepreneurial and managerial skills.

The programme concluded on a positive note with renewed motivation among the trainees to pursue self-employment and contribute towards economic growth and employment generation in the district.

JKEDI reaffirmed its commitment to promoting entrepreneurship in Jammu & Kashmir through capacity-building programmes, mentoring support, and facilitation under various government initiatives and policies.

## MVD Shopian organizes Road Safety Awareness Camp at Fruit Mandi Aglar

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN, JANUARY 19:** As part of National Road Safety Month 2026, the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD), Shopian today organized a Road Safety Awareness Camp at Mega Fruit Mandi Aglar, Shopian under the nationwide campaign "Sadak Suraksha Abhiyan", being observed from 01 January to 31 January 2026.

The programme was aimed at sensitizing the general public, drivers, riders, traders and other stakeholders about the importance of road safety and adherence to traffic rules.

Key messages highlighting avoidance of overspeeding, mandatory use of seat belts, and wearing of helmets while riding two-wheelers were disseminated among participants.

During the programme, the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), Shopian, Showkat Ahmad addressed the gathering and emphasized that road safety is a collective responsibility. He said that most road accidents occur due to human error, negligence and violation of traffic norms and urged the public to adopt safe driving practices, respect traffic laws and develop a responsible attitude while using roads.

The ARTO further highlighted that simple precautions such as wearing helmets and seat belts, avoiding mobile phone usage while driving, and maintaining prescribed speed limits can significantly reduce road accidents and save precious lives.

He appealed to parents, drivers and youth to act as road safety ambassadors and spread awareness within their families and communities.

The programme witnessed active participation from members of the public and officials of the Motor Vehicles Department.

## District Admin Shopian Observes Phase-II of 150 Years of Vande Mataram with Patriotic Fervour

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN, JANUARY 19:** District Administration Shopian today organized the inaugural function of Phase-II of the commemoration of 150 years of the National Song "Vande Mataram" at Auditorium Hall, Government Degree College (GDC) Shopian.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members, officers from various departments and civil society representatives.

Chief Education Officer (CEO), Shopian, Bashir Ahmed Shah, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO highlighted the historical importance of "Vande Mataram" and underscored its pivotal role in inspiring generations during India's freedom struggle.



He emphasized that the national song symbolizes unity, sacrifice and the collective spirit of the nation and continues to inspire patriotism among the youth.

The event featured a series of

cultural performances, including patriotic songs, speeches and other cultural items, which beautifully reflected the rich heritage and deep emotional significance of the national song.

The performances were well received and created an atmosphere of national pride and unity.

Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Shopian, Suhail Ahmed, Deputy Chief Education Officer, Ajaz Ahmed, officers from various line departments, teaching staff and prominent citizens of the district were present.

The programme witnessed overwhelming enthusiasm and active participation from students and faculty members, reaffirming the collective commitment towards fostering patriotism and national values.

## Second Phase of 150 Years of Vande Mataram Celebrations Commences in Budgam

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM, JANUARY 19:** The Second Phase of the nationwide celebrations marking 150 years of "Vande Mataram" commenced today across District Budgam with a series of awareness and patriotic activities aimed at fostering national pride and cultural consciousness.

As part of the celebrations, special morning assemblies

were organized in schools across the district, where students were sensitized about the historical significance and patriotic essence of "Vande Mataram." The assemblies highlighted the role of the iconic song in India's freedom movement and its enduring relevance in nurturing unity and nationalism.

To encourage creative expression among students,



painting competitions were organized at various educational institutions, providing young participants an opportunity to depict themes of patriotism, national unity, and devotion to the motherland.

Further extending the outreach at the grassroots level, awareness programmes were conducted in ICDS centres across Budgam. These programmes focused on

spreading awareness about the cultural and national importance of "Vande Mataram," ensuring community-level participation in the celebrations.

The district administration is committed towards actively implementing national initiatives and promoting values of patriotism, unity, and respect for India's rich heritage through such inclusive programmes.

## SDRF Jammu celebrates 14th Raising Day

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, JANUARY 19:** The 14th Annual Raising Day of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) Jammu was celebrated with enthusiasm today at the headquarters of SDRF 2nd Battalion, Gulshan Ground.

A.G. Mir, Director General of Police and Commandant General, Home Guards/Civil Defence & SDRF J&K, was the chief guest on the occasion. While congratulating the officers and personnel of SDRF J&K, he lauded their exemplary service over the past year. He highlighted the force's outstanding contribution in rescue and relief operations during disasters, stating that SDRF personnel have saved numerous lives in challenging circumstances.

Zahid Naseem Manhas, Commandant SDRF 2nd Battalion Jammu, presented a detailed account of the achievements and operational performance of the battalion during 2025. He highlighted major rescue



operations, including the response following the massive cloudburst in village Chashoti in Kishtwar district and rescue efforts in several flash-flood affected areas across the Jammu region during August 2025. He also outlined future plans aimed at further strengthening the capacity and preparedness of SDRF personnel.

Earlier, Lalit Kumar, Dy. SP SDRF 2nd Battalion Jammu welcomed the chief guest, officers from the

civil administration and other dignitaries.

The programme featured live demonstrations of high-value equipment and a photo exhibition showcasing the commendable work carried out by SDRF.

Senior officers present on the occasion included Mohammad Arshad, DIG HG/CD & SDRF Jammu; Ramesh Kumar Angral, DIG and Director HG Kashmir; Mohammad Rafi Giri, SO to Commandant

General HG/CD & SDRF J&K, along with other officers of the organization.

On the occasion, the SDRF acknowledged the unwavering support extended during the August 2025 disaster by Ansuya Jamwal, ADC Jammu; Vishavjeet Singh, ADC Kathua; Athar Amin Zargar, then Sub-Divisional Magistrate Marh (Jammu); Prem Singh Chib, ADC Udhampur; Mohammad Muslim Wani, Principal, Boys Model Higher Secondary School Rajouri; and Chief Warden and Deputy Chief Warden of Civil Defence Jammu.

The chief guest presented mementos and commendation certificates to officers from the civil administration. Five SDRF personnel were also felicitated with commendation certificates for their outstanding performance.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Zia-ul-Haq, Dy. SP and Deputy Controller Civil Defence Jammu who expressed gratitude to all guests and participants for making the programme a memorable one.

## Frontline Workers imparted training in Rajouri to strengthen community-driven awareness

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**RAJOURI, JANUARY 19:** Social Welfare Department Rajouri today organized a series of structured training programmes to strengthen community-based awareness campaign against drug abuse and substance addiction—a key initiative of the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA).

The training programmes were conducted for Teachers/Masters, Anganwadi Workers and members of Self Help Groups drawn from different blocks of the District. The initiative aimed to equip grassroots level functionaries with the necessary knowledge and skills to sensitize the general public—particularly women, youth and vulnerable sections of society—about the ill effects of drug abuse and to promote a drug-free and healthy society. The Resource Persons from the Health Department, including Medical Officers, BMOs and specialists from GMC & AH Rajouri shared expert technical and medical inputs at the designated training venues. The participants were sensitized to the early signs of addiction, preventive measures, community-level counselling and the importance of early intervention. Detailed information regarding government



schemes, available de-addiction and rehabilitation services and helpline channels was also shared with the trainees.

The District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), Rajouri highlighted the socio-psychological aspects of substance abuse and stressed the critical role of community institutions, frontline workers and local leadership in prevention, early identification and rehabilitation of persons affected by substance addiction. The trainings witnessed active participation from the functionaries from blocks including Budhal Old, Budhal New, Thanamandi, Planger, Rajouri, Nowshera, Manjakote, Panjgrain, Dhangri, Lamberi, Kalakote, Sunderbani, Siot and Seri, reflecting effective inter-departmental coordination and strong community engagement in the fight against drug abuse.

HT EDITORIAL

## Take concerted steps to save Markhor

Over the past few days, media reports have been circulating about the killing of a Markhor in a wildlife sanctuary in North Kashmir. People associated with the different environmental groups have raised concern over the issue and lambasted the concerned department for the same. On its part the wildlife protection department referred to the incident saying the episode related to the killing of the Markhor is an old one and there is nothing new.

The clarification given by the department has not gone well with the environmental and civil society groups and they have demanded a probe in the killing of the Markhor. It is an established fact that Markhor is a critically endangered animal and extra steps need to be taken in order to save this animal from poaching. However, the killing of this animal whether in the recent past or distant past needs to be viewed with all seriousness.

Once the government is serious in saving this animal then the unfortunate incidents can be stopped once for all. There is a notion among the environmentalists and conservationists that the construction of Mughal Road has disturbed the natural habitat of Markhor and as such this animal has lost its home. The department of wildlife protection has not come out with any statement about the loss of habitat for this animal. It is important that the things are made clear so that there is no more confusion among the masses in general and the sensitive ones in particular.

It is imperative that practical and long lasting steps are taken to protect animals like Hangul and Markhor. As both these animals are associated with the identity of Kashmir immediate steps should be taken to protect both these animals. The need of the hour is that the environmentalists are roped in by the government so that the protection of Markhor takes a practical shape. All the stakeholders need to come under a single roof so that the conservation of this animal is done in the real sense.

Criticism for the sake of criticism does not work and criticism should be there for the sake of construction in a positive manner. Since all the people want the protection of Markhor it is important that the differences are kept apart and the work is done as a team. There is an old saying that union is strength. The same diktat should be followed by the people who want to protect Markhor.

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# A Life Rooted in Learning: Syed Nazir Hussain Bukhari's Enduring Contribution to Kashmiri Literature



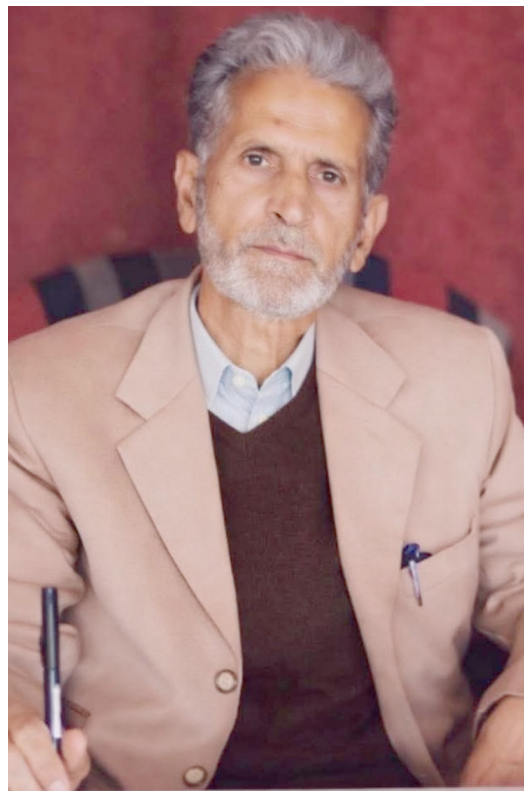
■ DR SYED VAKAS-UL-HAQ BUKHARI

In an age dominated by instant opinions and disposable words, the life and work of Syed Nazir Hussain (Hussain) known in literary circles as Nazir Hussain Hussain, affirm a quieter truth: that knowledge, when pursued with patience and integrity, leaves a deeper and more lasting imprint. His journey as an educationist, poet, and cultural custodian reflects a tradition in Kashmir where learning was lived before it was proclaimed.

Born on June 13, 1948, in the Kashmir Valley, Bukhari emerged from an environment steeped in scholarship and spiritual refinement. He belongs to the distinguished Gohar Bukhari family, whose lineage traces back to Hazrat Syed Muhammad Murad al-Bukhari (RA)—a household long associated with religious learning, moral leadership, and public service. His ancestral links to Allama Syed Ameer Shah Bukhari of Kreeri, preserved in authoritative genealogical records, further situate him within Kashmir's enduring scholarly continuum.

Formally trained in the classical languages of the region, Bukhari earned Master's degrees in Persian and Urdu, along with a Bachelor of Education degree. After securing First Division in his matriculation examination in 1964, he entered government service the same year. What followed was a 42-year career in education department, during which he served as a teacher, master, and headmaster, roles he approached with discipline, fairness, and a deep sense of responsibility.

His professional integrity and pedagogical com-



mitment were recognised in 2003, when he received the Best Teacher Award. Retiring in 2006 as a headmaster, Bukhari did not withdraw from the classroom. For over a decade thereafter, he continued teaching in private schools across north Kashmir, guided by the belief that education is a lifelong obligation rather than a salaried duty.

Running parallel to his educational vocation is his sustained engagement with literature. Beginning in 1978, Hussain's poetic and prose writings have contributed meaningfully to both Kashmiri and Urdu literary traditions. His Kashmiri poetry collections, Gah Chon Pivaan Ghatte and Sehra-e-Safar,

reflect lyrical restraint and cultural depth. His forthcoming Urdu collection, Dasht-e-Ilm, alongside the prose works Khutoot-e-Ahbab and Maqalaat-e-Hussain, further attest to his measured yet consistent literary presence.

Nazir Hussain Hussain's commitment to culture has extended beyond the written word. Through his long association with the Kruhen Cultural Forum, Kreeri, where he served in leadership roles including president, he contributed to sustaining literary dialogue and nurturing local cultural expression during uncertain times.

His intellectual formation was profoundly shaped by his family's scholarly legacy. His uncle, Syed Ali Shah Gohar Bukhari, a respected author and poet, documented this lineage in the classical manuscript Shajrat al-Murad, an important source on the genealogical and intellectual history of the Bukhari family. This inheritance of learning, rooted in classical texts and ethical scholarship, informs much of Bukhari's own outlook.

His stature has been recognised by contemporary religious and intellectual figures, including Mufti Syed Sharif-ul-Haq Bukhari, Mirwaiz of Khanqah-e-Muradiya, who publicly praised him as a scholar and poet of rare balance and refinement—an endorsement reflecting the esteem he commands across intellectual circles.

In his personal life, Syed Nazir Hussain Hussain, known for simplicity, moral discipline, and religious commitment. Married into a family of distinguished scholars, he embodies the values of restraint, dignity, and humility that once defined Kashmir's learned classes.

At a time when cultural continuity in Kashmir often appears fragile, Bukhari's life stands as a testament to the power of steady, principled engagement with knowledge. His influence—shaped in classrooms, refined in verse, and sustained through cultural service—reminds us that the most lasting legacies are not announced loudly; they are lived, patiently and well.

## Maulana Imran Reza Ansari: Legacy of Scholarship, Dialogue and Social Engagement



■ SYED SAHRAAN HUSSAIN AL-NAQVI

### Introduction

Maulana Imran Reza Ansari is a respected religious and social figure from Jammu & Kashmir, known for his scholarship, thoughtful public engagement, and efforts toward nurturing ethical and socially responsible communities. Over the years, he has emerged as a voice that connects Islamic teachings with contemporary realities, especially among the youth.

### Early Life and Religious Formation

Born into a family with strong religious and scholarly traditions, Maulana Imran Reza Ansari pursued Islamic education with dedication and sincerity. His grounding in Qur'anic studies, Hadith, Fiqh, and Islamic thought shaped his approach to religion as both a spiritual and intellectual discipline.

### Religious Scholarship and Teaching

Maulana Imran Ansari's sermons and lectures are marked by clarity, balance, and relevance. He emphasises the teachings of the Ahlul Bayt(a.s), moral responsibility, and the role of faith in shaping character.

His ability to explain complex ideas in a relatable manner has made his message accessible to people from diverse backgrounds.

### Social Engagement and Public Role

Beyond religious platforms, Maulana Imran Reza Ansari has actively engaged with social issues, advocating peace, dialogue, and ethical conduct. He has consistently highlighted the importance of unity, awareness, and constructive participation in society, especially during times of social and moral challenge.

### Connection with the Youth

One of his most notable contributions is his connection with young people. At a time when many youth struggle with identity and direction, Maulana Imran Reza Ansari's guidance offers clarity rooted in faith, reason, and responsibility. His



emphasis on education, self-discipline, and service continues to influence and motivate many.

He once said:

"A strong believer is one who thinks, questions, and improves – without losing values."

### Legacy and Continuing Influence

Maulana Imran Reza Ansari's legacy is reflected not only in his words but in the values he encourages – knowledge over ignorance, dialogue over division, and service over self-interest. His influence continues to shape religious discourse and community consciousness in meaningful ways.

He once said:

"Real Leadership is service, and real service begins with sincerity."

### Conclusion

In an era that demands thoughtful and principled leadership, Maulana Imran Reza Ansari stands as a figure who bridges tradition with modern understanding. His work serves as a reminder that religious

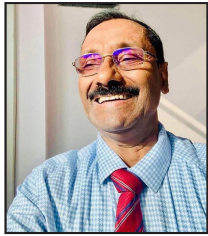
leadership, when grounded in sincerity and wisdom, can inspire positive change in society.

### Author's Note

This article is written with deep respect and personal admiration. Maulana Imran Reza Ansari inspires me profoundly, not only through his knowledge but through his balanced approach to religion and society. His ability to speak with clarity, address real issues, and guide the youth with wisdom has influenced my own understanding of faith, responsibility, and service.

As a student and admirer of the teachings of the Ahlul Bayt(a.s), I find his work motivating and meaningful. This piece is a humble attempt to acknowledge his contribution and the inspiration he continues to provide to many, including myself.  
(Researcher and a Humble Servant of the Ahlul Bayt(a.s))

# Women Empowerment in Kashmiri Literature: A Quiet Revolution



■ DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

Kashmiri literature, shaped by centuries of mysticism, conflict, and cultural resilience, has long been a mirror to the region's soul. Within this literary tradition, the theme of women empowerment has emerged not as a loud proclamation but as a quiet, persistent revolution. From the mystical verses of Lal Ded to the contemporary poetry of Naseem Shafaie, Kashmiri women have used literature to assert identity, challenge patriarchy, and articulate the complexities of their lived experience. Their voices, often forged in silence and suffering, have become instruments of empowerment, reshaping the narrative of Kashmiri society from within. The journey begins with Lal Ded, the 14th-century mystic poet whose vakhs (verses) remain foundational to Kashmiri spiritual and literary heritage. Lal Ded's poetry transcended religious boundaries and questioned societal norms. She rejected the constraints of orthodox rituals and male-dominated religious authority, choosing instead a path of spiritual introspection and personal liberation. Her verses, composed in the vernacular, gave voice to a woman's inner world at a time when female expression was rare. Lal Ded's legacy is not merely literary—it is symbolic of a woman's right to think, speak, and lead. Her presence in Kashmiri literature is a testament to the power of poetic resistance and remains a source of inspiration for generations of women writers.

Centuries later, the echoes of Lal Ded's defiance can be heard in the works of modern Kashmiri women poets and authors. Naseem Shafaie, often hailed as the first prominent female voice in contemporary Kashmiri poetry, writes with a clarity and emotional depth that captures the anguish and resilience of Kashmiri women. Her collection *Neither a Shadow Nor a Reflection* explores themes of identity, loss, and survival in a conflict-ridden landscape. Shafaie's poetry does not romanticize suffering; it confronts it. Her verses speak of mothers waiting for sons who never return, of daughters growing up amidst curfews and silence, of women who carry the weight of memory and mourning. Through her work, Shafaie reclaims the Kashmiri woman's narrative from the margins and places it at the center of literary discourse. Kashmiri literature has also seen the emergence of women novelists and short story writers who delve into the socio-political realities of the region. Their stories often portray women not as passive victims but as complex individuals navigating a world of restrictions and possibilities. These narratives challenge the traditional portrayal of Kashmiri women as silent sufferers and instead highlight their agency, intellect, and emotional strength. The literature becomes a space where women articulate their desires, fears, and resistance, often in subtle but powerful ways.

The empowerment reflected in Kashmiri literature is deeply intertwined with the region's history of conflict. The prolonged political unrest has disproportionately affected women, turning them into widows, half-widows, and caretakers of broken households. Literature has become a means for these women to process trauma and assert their presence. Memoirs, autobiographical essays, and oral histories have emerged as vital forms of expression, allowing women to document their experiences and challenge the dominant narratives of victimhood. These writings are not only therapeutic but also political, as they demand recognition and justice. Language plays a crucial role in this literary empowerment. Many Kashmiri women writers choose to write in Kashmiri, Urdu, or English, depending on their audience and intent. Writing in Kashmiri connects them to their cultural roots and allows for intimate expression, while Urdu and English offer broader platforms for dissemination. This multilingualism reflects the adaptability and strategic agency of Kashmiri women writers, who navigate linguistic boundaries to amplify their voices. Their choice of language is itself an act of empowerment, asserting control over how their stories are told and received.

The representation of women in Kashmiri literature is not limited to contempo-

rary works. Even in the poetry of Ghulam Ahmad Mahjoor, a progressive poet of the early 20th century, women appear as symbols of strength and beauty. Mahjoor's verses often celebrate the Kashmiri woman's role in society, urging her to rise and participate in the building of a new Kashmir. While his portrayal may be idealized, it marks a shift from invisibility to visibility, from silence to song. Mahjoor's poetry laid the groundwork for a more inclusive literary tradition, one that recognized the importance of women's voices in shaping cultural identity. In recent years, academic scholarship has begun to explore the feminist dimensions of Kashmiri literature more rigorously. Researchers analyze how women's narratives intersect with themes of exile, displacement, and belonging. These studies highlight the gendered nature of conflict and the unique ways in which women experience and respond to political turmoil. By examining personal testimonies, fictional accounts, and poetic expressions, scholars uncover the layers of empowerment embedded in Kashmiri women's literature. This academic engagement not only validates the literary contributions of women but also situates them within broader discourses of gender and resistance.

The impact of Kashmiri women's literature extends beyond the written word. It influences social attitudes, inspires activism, and fosters dialogue. Literary festivals, book launches, and poetry readings provide platforms for women writers to engage with audiences and share their perspectives. These events become spaces of solidarity, where women connect, collaborate, and celebrate their creative agency. The visibility of women writers in public literary spaces challenges patriarchal norms and encourages younger generations to pursue literary expression as a form of empowerment. Social media has further amplified the reach of Kashmiri women's literature. Platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube allow poets and storytellers to share their work with global audiences. Online literary communities offer support, feedback, and visibility, enabling women to bypass traditional publishing barriers. This digital democratization of literature empowers women to write, publish, and engage on their own terms. It also facilitates cross-cultural exchange, as Kashmiri women's voices resonate with readers from diverse backgrounds who relate to themes of resilience, identity, and hope.

Despite these advances, challenges remain. Many Kashmiri women writers face societal pressure, censorship, and lack of institutional support. The conservative nature of certain communities can discourage women from pursuing literary careers or expressing dissenting views. Publishing opportunities are limited, and literary recognition often favors male voices. Yet, the persistence of women writers in the face of these obstacles is itself a form of empowerment. Their determination to write, to be heard, and to shape the literary landscape reflects a deep commitment to self-expression and social change. The future of women empowerment in Kashmiri literature lies in nurturing young voices. Educational institutions, literary organizations, and cultural bodies must create spaces for aspiring women writers to learn, grow, and publish. Workshops, mentorship programs, and scholarships can provide the necessary support. Encouraging girls to read and write from an early age fosters confidence and creativity. By investing in literary education, Kashmir can cultivate a new generation of empowered women who continue the legacy of Lal Ded and Naseem Shafaie.

The future of women empowerment in Kashmiri literature is poised to be both transformative and expansive, driven by a new generation of writers, digital platforms, and evolving societal consciousness. While the legacy of figures like Lal Ded and Naseem Shafaie has laid a powerful foundation, the coming years promise a broader, more inclusive literary landscape where Kashmiri women not only write but redefine the contours of identity, resistance, and cultural memory. One of the most promising developments is the rise of young Kashmiri women writers who are unafraid to explore themes once considered taboo—mental health, sexuality, political dissent, and intergenerational trauma. These voices are emerging from universities, workshops, and online forums, often blending poetry, prose, and memoir to articulate nuanced experiences. Unlike earlier generations who wrote within the constraints of tradition and censorship, these writers



are experimenting with form and language, using Kashmiri, Urdu, English, and even hybrid dialects to reach diverse audiences. Their work reflects a shift from survival to self-definition, from silence to storytelling.

Digital media is playing a catalytic role in this transformation. Social platforms like Instagram, YouTube, and Substack have become literary stages where Kashmiri women share poems, essays, and spoken word performances. These platforms democratize access, allowing voices from remote villages and urban centers alike to be heard. Online literary collectives and feminist zines are fostering collaboration, mentorship, and visibility. Through hashtags, reels, and virtual readings, Kashmiri literature is no longer confined to print—it is alive, interactive, and global. This digital turn empowers women to bypass traditional gatekeepers and engage directly with readers, critics, and fellow creators. Academic institutions and literary festivals are also beginning to recognize the importance of Kashmiri women's narratives. University syllabi are incorporating works by female authors, and conferences are hosting panels on gender and literature in conflict zones. This scholarly attention validates women's contributions and encourages deeper analysis of their themes, styles, and impact. It also opens doors for translation projects, bringing Kashmiri women's voices to international audiences. As more women pursue higher education in literature, journalism, and cultural studies, the intellectual infrastructure for empowerment continues to grow.

Thematically, the future of Kashmiri women's literature is likely to expand beyond the lens of victimhood. While conflict and suffering remain central, writers are increasingly exploring joy, desire, ambition, and humor. They are crafting characters who are teachers, entrepreneurs, artists, and activists—women who shape their destinies rather than endure them. This shift challenges stereotypes and offers readers a fuller, more complex portrait of Kashmiri womanhood. It also reflects broader societal changes, as women in Kashmir take on leadership roles in education, healthcare, and civil society. Intersectionality will be a key feature of future literary empowerment. Writers are beginning to explore how gender intersects with class, caste, religion, and geography. Stories of Dalit women, queer women, and rural women are gaining space, enriching the literary tapestry with diverse perspectives. This inclusivity ensures that empowerment is not limited to elite voices but embraces the multiplicity of Kashmiri experiences. It also fosters solidarity across communities, as literature becomes a tool for empathy and social change.

Translation and cross-cultural collaboration will further amplify Kashmiri wom-

en's literature. As more works are translated into Hindi, Bengali, French, and other languages, the reach and resonance of these narratives will grow. International publishers and literary agents are showing interest in South Asian women's writing, creating opportunities for Kashmiri authors to be part of global conversations on feminism, identity, and resistance. Collaborative anthologies, residencies, and exchange programs will nurture creative dialogue and mutual learning. Emerging Kashmiri women writers are redefining the literary landscape with bold, nuanced, and deeply personal narratives that reflect resilience, identity, and empowerment. Their work spans poetry, fiction, memoir, and digital storytelling, offering fresh perspectives on gender, conflict, and cultural continuity.

The writings of Mehvish Mushtaq who was selected under the Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors (PM-YUVA 3.0), blend personal memory with political insight. Her upcoming work explores the emotional cost of displacement and the quiet strength of Kashmiri women navigating exile. Insha Qayoom, is the Bal Sahitya Puraskar nominee whose lyrical storytelling for children introduces Kashmiri folklore through empowered female protagonists. Her work is helping shape a new generation's understanding of gender and tradition. Shazia Bashir is the Digital poet and spoken word artist whose viral poems on social media platforms tackle taboo subjects like depression, domestic violence, and self-worth. Her bilingual verses in Kashmiri and English resonate with youth and diaspora audiences alike. Ruqaya Mir's Short fiction and essays often published in online journals and anthologies, portray educated Kashmiri women navigating modernity and tradition. Her characters challenge stereotypes and offer layered portrayals of ambition and constraint. Tahira Jan is translating Lal Ded's vakhs and Habba Khatoon's poetry through a feminist lens, making these texts accessible and relevant to contemporary readers. Her work bridges historical voices with modern empowerment. These emerging writers exemplify the evolving face of Kashmiri literature—bold, diverse, and deeply rooted in lived experience. They are not just writing stories; they are reshaping narratives, challenging norms, and building a literary future where Kashmiri women are central, visible, and powerful. Despite these promising trends, challenges remain. Political instability, censorship, and societal conservatism can still stifle expression. Many women writers face backlash for addressing sensitive issues or challenging patriarchal norms. Economic constraints and lack of publishing infrastructure in Kashmir also limit access and sustainability. To ensure a thriving future, there must be systemic sup-

Despite these advances, challenges remain. Many Kashmiri women writers face societal pressure, censorship, and lack of institutional support. The conservative nature of certain communities can discourage women from pursuing literary careers or expressing dissenting views. Publishing opportunities are limited, and literary recognition often favors male voices. Yet, the persistence of women writers in the face of these obstacles is itself a form of empowerment. Their determination to write, to be heard, and to shape the literary landscape reflects a deep commitment to self-expression and social change. The future of women empowerment in Kashmiri literature lies in nurturing young voices. Educational institutions, literary organizations, and cultural bodies must create spaces for aspiring women writers to learn, grow, and publish. Workshops, mentorship programs, and scholarships can provide the necessary support. Encouraging girls to read and write from an early age fosters confidence and creativity

port—grants, mentorship, safe spaces, and policy reforms that protect artistic freedom and promote gender equity.

Ultimately, the future of women empowerment in Kashmiri literature is not just about more women writing—it is about reshaping the literary imagination itself. It is about creating narratives that honor complexity, challenge injustice, and celebrate resilience. It is about building a canon where women are not footnotes but protagonists, not metaphors but makers. As these voices grow louder and more diverse, Kashmiri literature will evolve into a richer, more inclusive reflection of its people—and women will be at its heart. In conclusion, women empowerment in Kashmiri literature is a multifaceted phenomenon rooted in history, shaped by conflict, and sustained by creativity. It is a quiet revolution that unfolds in verses, stories, and testimonies, challenging patriarchal norms and asserting female agency. From mystic poetry to modern narratives, Kashmiri women have used literature to reclaim their voices and redefine their roles. Their writings are acts of resistance, resilience, and renewal. As their stories continue to emerge and evolve, they illuminate the path toward a more inclusive and empowered Kashmiri society—one where women are not only subjects of literature but its authors, architects, and advocates.

The writer is an International Tagore Awardee multilingual writer and former Affiliate Faculty of Virginia Commonwealth University and Retd Head Post Graduate Dept of English Durn Dum Mofijheel College . Email [prftratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com](mailto:prftratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com)

# Cholesterol Could Power Tomorrow's Electronics



■ **MOHAMMAD HANIEF**

It may seem unlikely that a molecule most often discussed in health debates could one day be central to the devices that define our digital future. Yet cholesterol, a fat-like substance commonly linked to heart health, is emerging as a surprising candidate in the quest for energy-efficient electronics. Researchers are discovering that cholesterol's unique molecular structure enables it to control the spin of electrons—a quantum property that holds immense promise for the next generation of computing and memory technologies. This emerging field, known as spintronics, could pave the way for devices that operate faster, consume less energy, and work in harmony with biological systems in ways previously thought impossible.

The allure of cholesterol in this context lies in its intrinsic characteristics. At the nanoscale, the molecule exhibits chirality, a form of molecular handedness that allows it to interact differently with electrons based on the orientation of their spin. Combined with its structural flexibility, cholesterol forms ordered assemblies that can be precisely tuned, offering a platform for molecular control that traditional materials struggle to achieve. By integrating cholesterol with selected metal ions, scientists can manipulate how electrons with particular spin orientations move through these assemblies, effectively controlling the flow of quantum information with chemical precision.

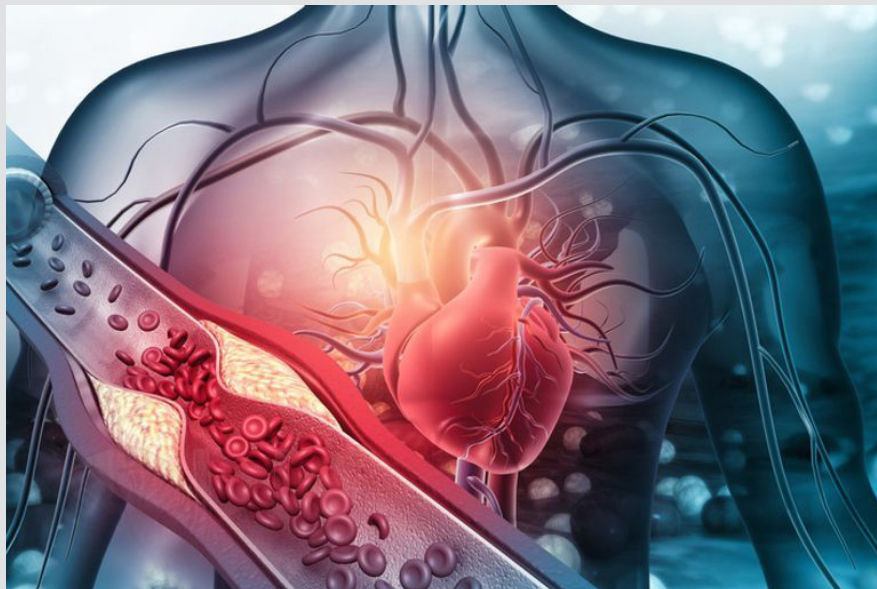
This potential has been demonstrated recently by scientists at the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST) in Mohali, an autonomous research institute under India's Department of Science and Technology. Led by Dr. Amit Kumar Mondal, the team has developed cholesterol-based nanomaterials capable of filtering electrons according to their spin

orientations by adjusting the type and concentration of embedded metal ions. Rather than relying on external magnetic fields or complex engineering structures, this approach uses chemical modifications to regulate spin behavior, marking a significant conceptual shift in materials design for spintronics.

The capability to control both spin "up" and spin "down" within a single material is particularly notable, because it allows for tunable spin information processing at the molecular level. This chemical tunability offers a simpler, more adaptable route to spin control compared to existing methods, which often require low temperatures or large magnetic fields to maintain performance. In effect, cholesterol transforms from a biological molecule into a customizable quantum material, bridging the worlds of biology and electronics.

The implications of this work extend far beyond laboratory curiosity. As digital infrastructure grows—driven by peak demand for artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and 5G connectivity—the energy cost of computing has become a central concern. Data centers alone are estimated to consume a significant share of global electricity, with some reports suggesting consumption levels approaching several percent of total power use. Traditional electronics, based on the movement of electron charge, inevitably lose energy as heat, driving up both operational costs and environmental impact. Spintronics offers a compelling alternative by relying on electron spin rather than charge, which leads to more energy-efficient data processing and storage.

The global market for spintronics reflects this growing interest. Various industry forecasts indicate that the spintronics sector is expanding rapidly, with market valuations projected to grow significantly in the coming decade. Some projections suggest a transformation from a market measured in the low billions today to tens of billions of dollars within the next decade, driven in large part by expanding demand for magnetoresistive random access memory (MRAM) and other spin-based technologies. These technologies promise non-volatile memory that retains data



without continuous power, faster access times, and reduced energy consumption compared to conventional memory solutions, making them attractive for data-intensive and edge computing applications.

Cholesterol's emergence as a spin-control material aligns with this broader technological shift. While MRAM and related devices are already gaining traction in commercial applications, the addition of biologically derived materials like cholesterol offers fresh opportunities for optimization. The capacity to regulate spin with simple chemical interventions could lead to new classes of devices that are not only more adaptable but also easier to manufacture at scale than some existing spintronic materials. Moreover, as industries increasingly prioritize sustainability, the naturally abundant and biocompatible nature of cholesterol fits well with broader efforts to reduce reliance on resource-intensive materials and processes.

Beyond energy efficiency and performance, cholesterol-based spintronics may also enable deeper integration between electronics and biological systems. Because cholesterol is fundamentally biocompatible, devices built from or incorporating these materials could interface more naturally with living tissue. This opens possibilities in bioelectronics, where flexible, low-power

researchers will need to address as they transition from proof-of-concept studies to real-world applications.

Yet the progress made so far underscores the importance of interdisciplinary innovation. Cholesterol's transformation from a molecule studied primarily in biochemistry and medicine to a potential cornerstone of advanced electronic systems exemplifies how crossing traditional boundaries can yield unexpected insights. As researchers meld principles from biology, materials science, and quantum physics, they are redefining what is possible in electronics and computing.

Looking forward, cholesterol-based spintronic materials hold promise across a wide range of technologies. In computing and memory storage, they could underpin devices that operate with greater speed and lower energy requirements than today's standards. In quantum information systems, their chemical tunability could help overcome some of the stability challenges that currently limit practical quantum computing. In bioelectronics, their biocompatibility could facilitate new forms of human-machine interaction. At the same time, the continued growth of the global spintronics market—driven by demand for energy-efficient memory, sensing, and logic devices—suggests a fertile landscape for these innovations to take root.

In a world increasingly defined by the need for sustainability and performance, cholesterol's unexpected technological potential serves as a reminder that solutions can emerge from the most surprising places. A molecule once known mainly for its role in human health may soon help drive the next generation of electronics, enabling devices that are not only faster and more efficient but also more closely connected with the biological world. As research progresses and new applications are explored, cholesterol could move from being a subject of medical concern to a key ingredient in powering the technologies of tomorrow.

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X/Twitter: @haniefmha

## ADVERSE IMPACTS OF TOBACCO CONSUMPTION

# SMOKING CAUSES LETHAL HEALTH ISSUES IN SOCIETY



■ **SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI**

Tobacco belongs to the nightshade family and is cultivated for its dried leaves. Tobacco plants grow 1 to 3 metres tall and produce more than ten broad leaves. The leaves of the tobacco plant are dried, processed, and used to manufacture cigars, cigarettes, etc., which are lethal to human health and pose immense health hazards.

Cigarettes contain about 4,000 chemicals, of which 43 are carcinogenic (cancer-causing). These include polycyclic hydrocarbons, ammonia (which causes cellular irritation), formaldehyde, and oxides of nitrogen. Carbon monoxide is one of the most dangerous and poisonous gases, as it reduces the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood in smokers and seriously affects their lives worldwide.

It is believed that in 1492, when Christopher Columbus landed on Tobago Island, he observed that the natives were using dried tobacco leaves for pleasure. Since then, tobacco has spread throughout the world in different forms such as chewing tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes.

Nicotine is present in tobacco leaves and is the major active component. It has harmful effects on human health, as it can cause heart attacks and damage the nervous system. Nicotine also has some uses, such as being used as an agricultural insecticide and in certain gastrointestinal treatments. However, nicotine is highly addictive and makes a person dependent, unhealthy, arrogant, unhygienic, and short-tempered.

Tobacco contains tar, which causes lung cancer and is responsible for many diseases among active smokers. Active smokers are ten times more likely to die from lung cancer than passive smokers. The combination of carbon monoxide and nicotine temporarily increases heart rate and blood pressure and can lead to strokes. Carbon monoxide also reduces the oxygen-carrying capacity of muscles and the brain, making them stressed organs.

Consuming tobacco products in different forms can trigger IBS (irritable bowel syndrome), which is common worldwide nowadays. Smoking can infect the stomach and disturb digestion, leading to intestinal irritation.

Smoking is not only a concern for active smokers; it also affects passive smokers. It causes irritation among children, coughing, sneezing, and greatly pollutes the environment.

Every year on 31st May, Anti-Smoking Day is celebrated across the globe. Seminars and anti-tobacco campaigns are organised in colleges, schools, and public places. In this article, I have highlighted the lethal health hazards caused by cigarette smoking.

As responsible citizens, we must take steps to understand the factors that lead our youth to drugs at an early age. Our young generation is losing health and wealth in a very cheap way.

### Major Health Hazards of Smoking Heart disease:

Smoking damages the heart, blood vessels, and blood cells. Chemicals and tar increase the risk of atherosclerosis, which is the buildup of plaque in blood vessels. This restricts blood flow and can lead to dangerous blockages. Smoking also increases the risk of peripheral artery disease (PAD). Even former smokers face a higher risk than those who never smoked.

**Damaged lungs:**  
Smoking exposes the lungs to nicotine

and many harmful chemicals. It greatly increases the risk of lung cancer—25 times higher in men and 25.7 times higher in women. According to the CDC, about 9 out of 10 lung cancer deaths are linked to smoking. Smoking also causes chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), accounting for nearly 80% of COPD deaths. It can also lead to emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and worsen asthma.

**Fertility problems:**  
Smoking damages the female reproductive system and makes pregnancy difficult by disturbing hormone levels. In males, long-term smoking increases the risk of erectile dysfunction and reduces sperm quality, thereby lowering fertility.

**Weakened immune system:**  
Smoking weakens the immune system, making people more vulnerable to infections and illnesses.

**Vision problems:**  
Smoking increases the risk of cataracts and age-related macular degeneration. Other issues include dry eyes, glaucoma, and diabetic retinopathy.

**Poor oral hygiene:**  
Smokers have double the risk of gum disease. Symptoms include swollen gums, bleeding while brushing, loose teeth, and sensitivity. Smoking also reduces taste and smell and stains teeth yellow or brown.

**Unhealthy skin and hair:**  
Smoking causes premature ageing and wrinkled skin. It increases the risk of skin cancer, especially on the lips, and can lead to hair loss and an unpleasant tobacco smell.

**Risk of other cancers:**  
Apart from lung cancer, smoking contributes to pancreatic, bladder, stomach, mouth, throat, laryngeal, oesophageal, kidney, cervical, liver, colon cancers, and acute myeloid leukaemia.

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### JOIN FACEBOOK LIVE

WITH Dr.SUMIT , Mr.TURAB, Former Sr. Audiologist  
at Max Hospital Saket ,Delhi)

@ Kifayatkifi

8:00PM On January 18<sup>th</sup> , Sunday



# IGNOU Starts Admission Process for January 2026 Session

## HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, JAN 19:** Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has commenced the admission process for more than 350 academic programmes for the January 2026 session. Applicants can access the admission portal through the University's website. The admissions are open for Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Certificate, Diploma and PG Diploma programmes offered in distance learning and online modes.

Before filling the online appli-

cation form, candidates are required to create a User ID and Password on the SAMARTH portal. Applicants must have an active mobile number, email ID, scanned copies of academic documents, photograph and access to debit card, credit card or net banking for payment of fees. Creation of a DEB ID is mandatory prior to submission of the application.

IGNOU has launched around 60 new programmes, including Four-Year Undergraduate Programmes (FYUP) in disciplines such as Commerce, Economics,

History, Political Science, Public Administration, Sociology, Anthropology, Hindi, Sanskrit, Urdu, Social Work, Philosophy, Biochemistry, and Facilities and Service Management. New post-graduate and professional programmes include MBA (Health Care and Hospital Management), MA (Environment and Occupational Health), PG Diploma in Geriatric Medicine, PG Diploma in Environment and Occupational Health, PG Certificate in Medical Management of CBRNe Disasters, Certificate in Health Care Waste Management, Cer-

tificate in Health and Care, MBA (Agribusiness Management), B.Sc. (Food Safety and Quality Management), Certificate in Geriatric Health and Care, Certificate in Smart City Development and Management, Diploma in Agricultural Cost Management, PG Diploma in Urban Planning and Development, M.Sc. Data Science and Analytics, M.Sc. Geography, Geo Informatics, Applied Statistics and Renewable Energy.

Dr. Mohd Abdullah, Assistant Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Srinagar,

advised aspirants to apply only through the official IGNOU portal and cautioned them against fraudulent calls or requests seeking payment of admission fees through QR codes, WhatsApp or other social media platforms, clarifying that IGNOU does not seek payments through such modes.

The last date for submission of online admission applications for the January 2026 session is January 31, 2026. Re-registration for the January 2026 session is also open till January 31, 2026.

## Bhat Family of Tarzoo Bereaved, Haji Mohammad Subhan Bhat Passed away

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**SOPORE, JAN 19:** With deep grief and sorrow, we express our heartfelt condolences on the passing of Haji Abdul Subhan Bhat Sahib, a respected teacher, social activist and senior citizen, who expired yesterday on 18 January 2026.

Haji Abdul Subhan Bhat Sahib was a noble and kind hearted personality, known for his simplicity,



wisdom and lifelong service to society. As a teacher, he shaped generations with knowledge and strong values. As a social activist, he worked selflessly for the welfare of the community and remained a source of guidance and inspiration for many.

The Sports Association Tarzoo pays its sincere tributes to the departed soul. He always encouraged sports and youth activities and graciously attended several final ceremonies of the Wular Premier League as Chief Guest. His presence, blessings and words of encouragement will always be remembered with respect and gratitude.

His demise is an irreparable loss to society. He will be remembered for his compassion, integrity and commitment to the betterment of others.

May Almighty Allah grant him eternal peace and the highest place in Jannah, and give patience and strength to his bereaved family, relatives and all those mourning this great loss.

Ameen.

## Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Naib Tehsildar, Achabal

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Application of Faizan Ahmad Shah, S/o Nazir Ahmad Shah, R/o Kwarigam, Tehsil Achabal, District Anantnag for issuance of RBA / OBC Certificate.

Whereas the above-named applicant has applied in this office for issuance of RBA / OBC Certificate in his favour. In this connection, report from the concerned Patwari Halqa has been obtained, which reveals that the applicant is a resident of village Kwarigam, Tehsil Achabal, District Anantnag.

The annual income of the family as per records is within the prescribed limits and the family details stand verified.

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

Issued under my hand and seal of this office.

By Order  
Naib Tehsildar, Achabal

## Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Naib Tehsildar, Achabal

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Application of the following applicants for issuance of RBA / OBC Certificate: Zahid Nazir Baba S/o Nazir Ahmad Baba Mohammad Sayeem Baba S/o Nazir Ahmad Baba Shafkat Nazir Baba S/o Nazir Ahmad Baba All residents of Village Kwarigam, Tehsil Anantnag, District Anantnag.

Whereas the above-named applicants have applied in this office for issuance of RBA / OBC Certificate in their favour. In this connection, report from the concerned Patwari Halqa has been obtained, which reveals that the applicants are permanent residents of village Kwarigam, Tehsil Anantnag, District Anantnag.

The annual income of the families as per records is within the prescribed limits and the family particulars stand verified as per revenue records.

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

Issued under my hand and seal of this office.

By Order  
Naib Tehsildar, Achabal

## Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Assistant Director Tourism, Pahalgam

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Application of Burhan Amin Ganie, S/o Mohammad Amin Ganie, Proprietor of Kashmir N Crown, Resident of Near Rafting Point, Movera, Pahalgam, Contact No.: 9103829091, for registration of Travel Business.

Whereas, the above-named applicant has applied in this office for registration of his travel business with the Tourism Department, Pahalgam. Now, therefore, any person having any objection with regard to the said registration may present his/her objection along with documentary proof in the office of the Assistant Director Tourism, Pahalgam within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.

Issued under my hand and seal of this office.

Assistant Director Tourism Pahalgam

## Public Notice

It is hereby informed to the general public that Burhan Amin Ganie S/o Mohammad Amin Ganie Travel Name: Kashmir N Crown Address: Near Rafting Point, Movera, Pahalgam Contact No.: 9103829091 has applied for registration of his travel business with the Tourism Department, Pahalgam.

If any person has any objection regarding the said registration, he/she may submit the objection in writing along with documentary proof within 07 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice to the office of the Assistant Director Tourism, Pahalgam.

After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained.

Burhan Amin Ganie

## Public Notice

I have changed my name from old name (Roof jan) to new name Syed Rauf Jan in future I will be Known as Syed Rauf jan if anybody have any objection he/she may contact Regional Passport office Srinagar with in 7days after that no objection will be Accepted.

## Public Notice

This is to notify the general public that the name recorded in the Aadhaar database is incorrect.

Name shown in Aadhaar: Haider Mushtaq Sheikh  
Correct name: Mohammad Hamaad Sheikh  
Fathers name: Sheikh Mohd Mushtaq  
Address: Shanoo Langate Kupwara Jammu and Kashmir 193302

The above-mentioned person(Haider Mushtaq Sheikh) hereby declares that the name printed on the Aadhaar is incorrect and that his correct and legal name is Mohammad Hamaad Sheikh. Any objection to this correction should be brought to the attention of the UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra, Office Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.

If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the necessary correction procedures may be undertaken.

## Public Notice

This is to notify the general public that the name recorded in the Aadhaar database is incorrect.

Name shown in Aadhaar: Bushra Uzma

Correct name: Asma Jaan

Fathers name: Sheikh Mohd Mushtaq

Address: Shanoo Langate Kupwara Jammu and Kashmir 193302

The above-mentioned person( Bushra Uzma) hereby declares that the name printed on the Aadhaar is incorrect and that his correct and legal name is Asma Jaan. Any objection to this correction should be brought to the attention of the UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra, Office Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.

If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the necessary correction procedures may be undertaken.

## Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Naib Tehsildar, Achabal

Subject: Application of Muneeb Ah Hagam, S/o Late Khursheed Ahmad Hagam, R/o Kwarigam, Tehsil Achabal, District Anantnag and Zamir Ahmad Hajam, S/o Late Khursheed Ahmad Hajam, R/o Kwarigam, Tehsil Achabal, District Anantnag for issuance of OBC Certificate.

Whereas the above-named applicants have applied in this office for issuance of OBC Certificates in their favour. In this connection, report from the concerned Patwari Halqa has been obtained, which reveals that the applicants are residents of village Kwarigam, Tehsil Achabal, District Anantnag.

The annual income of the family as per records is within the prescribed limits and the family details stand verified.

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

Issued under my hand and seal of this office.

By Order  
Naib Tehsildar, Achabal

## Public Notice

My daughter's name & her Mother's has been wrongly written as AINOOR and mother name REHANA in her Date Birth certificate bearing id no 101002560529 issued by SDH Kreeri while her correct name is AINOOR JAFFAR & mothers name is REHANA TABASUM which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file his/her objection in the office of BMO / SDH KREERI within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....JAFFAR AHMAD LONE  
F/O ...AINOOR JAFFAR  
R/O... DOLIPORA  
TEHSIL....KREERI

## Public Notice

I am applying for fresh fertilizers license if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file in the office of CHIEF AGRICULTURE OFFICER BARAMULLA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name.... DAR SHAFI UL NASEEM  
S/O MOHAMMAD RAMZAN DAR  
R/O ...KHISIPORA KREERI  
Dstt ....BARAMULLA

## Public Notice

I MOHAMMAD ASHRAF MALIK S/O ABDUL RASHID MALIK R/O WAGILA WAGOORA . Here by inform to general public that I am applying for pesticides & Fertilizer License if anybody has any objection in this regard he/ she may contact with Head office HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT LAL MANDI SRINAGAR within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....MOHAMMAD ASHRAF MALIK  
S/O...ABDUL RASHID MALIK  
R/O...WAGILA WAGOORA

## 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 of YARBASH AHMAD KHAN S/O ABDUL MAJEED KHAN R/O SALOOSA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 15/03/1992and 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 claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

## Government Of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREERI

Subject: Application of FAROOQ AHMAD BOKARA S/O GH MOHD BOKARA for the issuance of R/O..BANDIBALA ( SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar and Bakerwal )in favour of MUDASIR FAROOQ ,FARHAT FAROOQ & SAHIL FAROOQ

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village BANDI BALLA and belongs to the ST caste and BOKRA community, having annual income is 1110408 the details of the family of the applicant are as follows

- 1...FAROOQ AH BOKRA self 51 years Govt Employee
- 2.... NASEEMA BEGUM wife 49 years H/W
- 3....MUDASIR FAROOQ son 24 years student
- 4....FARHAT FAROOQ daughter 22 years student
- 5...SAHIL FAROOQ son 16 years student

The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST ( SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal ) certificate in favour of Self.

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

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

## 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 0212040005220 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 ofthis 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 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 BARAMULLLA

## Public Notice

I have lost my provisional com 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



# Legal Metrology–OMCs Meet held at Jammu

Focuses on accurate fuel delivery, better consumer facilities in J&K

## HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, JANUARY 19:** A coordination meeting of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and the Legal Metrology Department was held today at the Jammu Divisional Office of Indian Oil-Bahu Plaza, under the chairmanship of Controller, Legal Metrology, J&K, Shiv Kumar Gupta.

The meeting aimed at strengthening inter-departmental coordination and ensuring smooth and timely conduct of inspection, verification and calibration of petrol pump dispensing units across the Union Territory with the larger objective of ensuring correct quantity, transparency and consumer confidence at retail fuel outlets.

The meeting was organised by Indian Oil Corporation, led by Himanshu Sharma (SLC) and was attended by officers of IOCL, HPCL and BPCL including the Area Sales Manager, J&K (GVR & GEMS), State Head, Punjab & J&K (GVR & GEMS) and the Regional Head (North).

The Joint Controller Legal



Metrology, Jammu and Assistant Controller Legal Metrology, Samba were also present.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on streamlining verification schedules and ensuring compliance with prescribed Legal Metrology standards to safeguard consumer interest and promote fair fuel dispensing practices across J&K.

Reviewing the departmental and company-wise dispensing infrastructure, the meeting noted that there are 1,163 dispensing units, comprising 3,977 nozzles across OMC retail outlets, including BPCL (463 machines / 1,792 nozzles), HPCL (146 machines / 285 nozzles) and IOCL (554 machines / 1,900 nozzles).

The break-up also reflected availability of 1,118 Tokheim machines with 3,797 nozzles and 45 Dresser Wayne machines with 180 nozzles, highlighting the scale of verification and calibration work being undertaken in the Union Territory.

The general operational concerns affecting timely verification and calibration activities were discussed so that the process remains smooth and uninterrupted in the interest of consumers. It was mutually agreed that closer coordination among OMCs, retail outlets and the Legal Metrology Department will help resolve such issues promptly and improve overall service delivery at fuel stations.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of ensuring consumer-friendly facilities at every retail outlet, including availability of the right fuel options, hygienic washrooms, functional air filling facility and other basic amenities. The Controller stressed that these welfare measures directly enhance consumer convenience while supporting effective enforcement of Legal Metrology provisions.

The Controller stressed that these issues impact consumer convenience, transparency, safety and smooth departmental functioning and directed all concerned stakeholders to ensure timely redressal and improved compliance.

The meeting concluded with assurance from Oil Marketing Companies and outlet representatives for better coordination and immediate corrective measures.

Later, the Controller inaugurated a Blood Donation Camp organised at the Indian Oil office and appreciated the initiative as a meaningful contribution towards public welfare and community service.

## DEO Kishtwar reviews arrangements for National Voters' Day-2026 celebration

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**KISHTWAR, JANUARY 19:** District Election Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the National Voters' Day (NVD) celebrations.

Comprehensive discussions were held regarding the arrangements and the activities to be held on the NVD, scheduled for January 25.

It was decided that the main celebration shall be held at GDC Kishtwar (District Hqrs.). Awareness activities would also be held in Villages, Higher Secondary Schools, ERO HQ and other institutions to mobilize citizens' participation in the electoral process and to encourage newly eligible voters.

The meeting decided to organise pre-National Voters' Day (NVD) activities to promote the theme, "My India My Vote (Citizens at the heart of Indian Democracy)" by installing thematic banners, posting awareness videos by Youth Icons and influencers on the social media, felicitating new voters and incorporating NVD logos into office stationery, media content, websites and election-related presentations. Events featuring pledge ceremonies, quiz competitions, drawing competitions, seminars, awareness and interactive sessions for labourers at HEP project sites, awareness programmes for transporters and drivers and nukkad natak would also be held across the District.

The DEO also directed wide publicity



of the programme through social media platforms, as well as electronic and print media.

Booth Level Officers (BLOs), along with Booth Awareness Groups (BAGs) were directed to organise public awareness activities at each polling station in the district.

The meeting was attended by ADC/ ERO 49-Kishtwar, Pawan Kotwal; ACD, Manoj Kumar; ACR /ERO 48-Kishtwar Idrees Lone; Dy. DEO, Shahzada Noor-ul-Keen; SDM, Dr. Mohd Ashraf; ACP, Neeraj Sharma; DSWO, Tariq Parvaiz Qazi; CDPO Inderwal, Dr. Kuldeep Kumar; ARTO, Tasleem Wani; Dy. CEO, Masood Ahmed Qazi; DIO NIC, Faizal Khan; Tehsildar Mughal Maidan, officials of the Election Cell, representatives of Degree Colleges and other concerned officers.

## Sanjeev Verma inaugurates 3-Day Painting camp on "My India, My Vote" at Kala Kendra Jammu

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, JANUARY 19:** Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Sanjeev Verma, today inaugurated a three-day painting camp on the theme "My India, My Vote" at Kala Kendra, Jammu.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Dr. Nirupa Rai, Special Secretary, Office of the Chief Electoral Officer; Harvinder Kour, Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL); Sonali Arun Gupta, Additional Secretary, JKAACL; Dr. Javaid Rahi, Secretary, Kala Kendra and other senior officers from JKAACL and the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K.

The Painting camp is being organised by the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages in collaboration with the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K from January 19 to January 21, 2026. The initiative aims to encourage creative expression among the artists while simultaneously strengthening public awareness about democratic participation through the powerful medium of art.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Electoral Officer said that Jammu & Kashmir is a vibrant hub of art and culture, endowed with some of the finest sculptures and paintings in the country. He highlighted the region's rich cultural heritage and expressed gratitude to the participating artists for their enthusiastic involvement, appreciating their efforts in promoting democratic values and voter awareness through artistic expression.

A blend of senior and young artists are participating in the camp including K. K. Gandhi, Vijay Anand, Gokal Dembi, Akram Khan, Jang S. Verman, Shivani Khajuria, Shakti Kumari, Rakesh Sharma, Ankush Kesar, Sunil Dutt, Rakesh Kumar, Surpal Singh Salathia, Mahua Gupta, Anjali Bharti, Narindar Kumar, Parveen Kumar, Monia Kapoor, Nidhi Jain, Sunita Gandhi and Mahesh Sharma.

The paintings created during the camp will reflect the spirit of democracy and the importance of voting, reinforcing the message of active civic participation among the public.

## Enforcement, Awareness and Rehabilitation key for Drug-Free Budgam: DC Chairs 43rd District-Level NCORD Meeting

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM, JANUARY 19:** The 43rd District-Level NCORD (Narco Coordination Committee) meeting was today convened at the DC Office Budgam under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, to review ongoing measures against drug abuse and to formulate fresh strategies for achieving a drug-free Budgam.

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

At the outset, the action taken on previous NCORD decisions was reviewed. The chair was also apprised that 11 cases have been registered under the NDPS Act and 11 detentions made so far in the district in this month.

Addressing the meeting, the DC said that drug abuse is not merely a law-and-order issue but

a grave social challenge impacting families, youth and the overall fabric of society.

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

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

While appreciating the progress achieved so far, the DC remarked that continuous, visible and proactive enforcement is essential to sustain public confidence and deter offenders. He further stated that community participation and

timely intelligence sharing are critical pillars in breaking the drug supply chain.

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

He further instructed the Drug Inspector to ensure wide publicity of enforcement actions, including cancellation of licences, to promote transparency and deterrence.

It was informed that 113 calls have been received on the Tele-MANAS mental health helpline, reflecting its growing role in providing psychological support. The DC directed that such facilities be widely publicised to enable people to seek confidential and timely assistance.

The DC directed the Excise Department to work in close coordination with Revenue and

Police authorities for destruction of illicit crops and prompt registration of FIRs.

SDMs were directed to provide the details of all courier service centres in their respective jurisdictions, so that a committee can be constituted for proper monitoring.

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

The chair was apprised by ARTO budgam that 6 licenses of the drivers involved in narcotic drug trafficking have been suspended in the district.

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

CMO and DSWO were instructed for joint visit to drug de-addiction

centre budgam and ensure proper linkage of patients from ATF to DDAC.

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

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

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

The DC emphasised strong inter-agency coordination and focused rehabilitation and counselling of drug-affected persons at the District Drug De-Addiction Centre.

## DC Kupwara finalizes arrangements for Republic Day Celebrations

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA, JANUARY 19:** In order to ensure seamless Republic Day celebrations, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, chaired a comprehensive meeting today at DPL Kupwara with officers from all concerned departments.

Attendees included SSP Kupwara Syed Tahir Al Geelani, ADCC Kupwara,

ADC Kupwara, SE R&B, CPO, CEO, DIO DIPR Kupwara, and senior officials from line departments.

Discussions covered critical areas such as security, parade coordination, seating, traffic management, sanitation, power supply, medical facilities, and logistics.

The DC underscored the need for robust inter-departmental coordination to complete all preparations in time.

He directed departments to uphold discipline, punctuality, and readiness, emphasizing dedicated execution of duties for a safe, dignified event.

SSP Kupwara outlined security protocols, assuring full coordination with agencies for smooth proceedings.

Later, the DC along with SSP inspected the DPL ground, the main venue, to review on ground arrangements.

## Weeklong 'Vande Mataram' celebrations commence across Ramban district

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**RAMBAN, JANUARY 19:** The District Administration Ramban under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner, Mohammad Alyas Khan today launched the Phase-II celebration campaign to commemorate the 150th anniversary of India's national song "Vande Mataram."

At the District Headquarters, the Deputy Commissioner presided over the inaugural function.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Varunjeet Singh Charak; Chief Planning Officer, Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather; Assistant Commissioner Development, Sheraz Ahmed and other district officers participated in the ceremony held at the Conference Hall, District



Administrative Complex.

The event featured screening of patriotic videos and cultural programmes under the theme "Vande Mataram". Students, officials and people from all walks of life joined the celebrations, collectively expressing their love and respect for the national song.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the historical significance of "Vande Mataram," written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee which served as a powerful freedom mantra during India's struggle for independence. He said the weeklong celebrations aim to rekindle patriotic spirit among citizens and inspire the younger generation to uphold the values of unity, nationalism and national integration.

"The commemoration events

will be held across all Sub-Divisions, Tehsils, Blocks, educational institutions and colleges in the district, featuring patriotic songs, cultural performances, debates and awareness activities aimed at promoting national integration and celebrating India's rich heritage," he added.

The participants joined the collective recitation of the National Anthem and the National Song, symbolising harmony and national pride.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner, who is also the District Nodal Officer for the "Vande Mataram" celebrations, briefed the participants about the weeklong schedule. Similar functions were also held at Sub-Division, Tehsil, Block and institutions levels.

## DC Poonch reviews telecom services, mobile tower installations at DLC meeting

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**POONCH, JANUARY 19:** Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting of the District Telecom Committee (DTC) to review telecommunication services, network connectivity issues and the progress of mobile tower installations across the district. The Deputy Commissioner conducted a project-wise review of mobile tower installations being executed under various saturation projects aimed at enhancing mobile and broadband coverage, particularly in remote and underserved areas.

Detailed deliberations were held on the Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP), with progress updates presented by PIA/BSNL. Key issues discussed included Right of Way (RoW) permissions, utilization of local street furniture for BharatNet connectivity and the need for centralised application and billing mechanisms for electricity connections in Gram Panchayats.

The committee also reviewed the availability of space for BharatNet equipment in Panchayat Bhawans or alternative locations, along with matters related to the safety and security of installed infrastructure. Local rollout challenges highlighted by PIA/BSNL, maintenance support issues and the importance of adopting CBuD (Call Before You Dig) protocols were also discussed. Emphasis was laid on ensuring broadband connectivity to village-level government institutions through BharatNet. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Tahir Mustafa Malik, SE PWD (R&B), DIO NIC, Parvinder Singh, Dysp Hqr. Neeraj Sharma, CMO, Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan, Executive Engineer JPCL, Aftab Ahmed, DFO(T), Mushtaq Ahmed, CEO Municipality, Khalil Ahmed Bandy, District Pollution Control Board Officer, SDO BSNL besides others.



# KONE India inaugurates its Central Regional office in Hyderabad

## UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**HYDERABAD, JAN 19 :** KONE, a global leader in the elevator and escalator industry, on Monday inaugurated its Central Regional Office in Hyderabad, marking a major step in strengthening its presence across some of India's fastest-growing urban markets.

With this, the Central Region becomes KONE India's fifth operational region, joining the North, South, East and West regions. From its Hyderabad headquarters, the new office will cater to a rapidly expanding market spread across Telangana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, including key cities such as Hyderabad and Warangal, Nagpur and Amravati, Bhopal and Indore, and Raipur.

Speaking to reporters on the occasion, Philippe Delorme, President and CEO of KONE, said the company



is the first elevator manufacturer in India to create a fifth region and base it in Hyderabad to provide faster support and stronger customer proximity in a promising market. He said around 120 people will be working from the Hyderabad regional office to serve customers in the Central zone.

Delorme said KONE's growth strategy in India continues to be built around local proximity and

customer service. He noted that the company has a large manufacturing facility in Chennai and is expanding its service and delivery workforce through the new regional structure to ensure quicker installation and better maintenance support across Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

Amit Gossain, Managing Director, KONE India & South Asia, said India remains a high-growth market and KONE has invested heavily to

strengthen its operations. He said KONE has over 6,000 employees and around 2,500 subcontractors across India, apart from having five training centres to continuously upskill its workforce.

Highlighting innovation, Gossain said KONE's 24/7 connected services enable digital monitoring and predictive maintenance, helping detect elevator issues before failures occur and improving safety and customer satisfaction. He added that the Hyderabad regional office will also include a training centre as part of the company's focus on employee development.

During the interaction, the leadership also stressed KONE's push towards digitisation, modernisation of ageing elevators, a wide product range for residential and commercial buildings, and sustainability initiatives aligned with long-term carbon reduction goals. UNI

## Moody's projects 7.3 pc India growth, sees strong boost for insurance sector

### UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, JAN 19 :** Moody's Ratings on Monday projected India's economy to grow by 7.3 percent in the current fiscal year, saying the strong expansion will support average household incomes and boost demand for insurance protection.

In a report on India's insurance sector, the global ratings agency said the industry is poised to benefit from sustained premium growth driven by robust economic momentum, rising digitisation, tax reforms, and planned restructuring of the state-owned insurance sector.

The higher premium growth is expected to improve the industry's currently weak profitability. Moody's noted that in FY 2024-25, India's GDP per capita rose 8.2 percent year-on-year to USD 11,176, while headline GDP growth stood at 6.5 percent.

The agency said strong economic growth helped drive a 17 per cent increase in total insurance premium revenue to Rs 10.9 lakh crore during the first eight months of FY 2025-26 (April-November). During the period, health insurance premiums rose 14 per cent, while new business premiums in the life insurance segment climbed 20

per cent.

This marked a sharp acceleration compared with FY 2024-25, when total premiums grew by 7 per cent to Rs 11.9 lakh crore. According to Moody's, the rise in premium revenue also reflects growing risk awareness among Indian consumers and the steady digitisation of the economy. Digitisation has improved the distribution and sale of insurance products, making them more accessible and supporting the insurance regulator's long-term goal of achieving "Insurance for All" by 2047.

The report also highlighted government efforts to improve the profitability of state-owned insurers, which play a dominant role in the market. Measures include the sale of a minority stake in Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), proposals to recapitalise select public sector insurers subject to improved underwriting performance, and potential mergers or privatisation of state-owned companies.

Moody's added that the increase in the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in insurance companies to 100 per cent from 74 per cent would provide insurers with greater financial flexibility and support future growth. UNI

## PSBs clear over Rs 52,300 cr loans to MSMEs via digital credit model: Ministry

### UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, JAN 19 :** Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have sanctioned loans worth more than Rs 52,300 crore to nearly 3.96 lakh Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) during the period from April 1 to December 31, 2025, under the newly introduced digital credit assessment model, an official statement said on Monday here.

The digital model marks a major shift in the way MSME loans are processed, replacing traditional manual evaluation with a technology-driven system that relies on verified digital data.

The initiative aims to improve speed, transparency and reach of credit delivery to small businesses across the country.

Under this framework, banks assess loan applications using digital footprints such as GST filings, income tax data, bank transaction history and credit bureau information.

This has significantly reduced paperwork and shortened turnaround time, enabling faster-in-principle approvals and quicker disbursement of funds.

The digital credit model allows MSMEs to apply for loans through an end-to-end online process, eliminating the need for repeated branch visits.

It also supports both existing borrowers and new-to-bank enterprises, helping first-time borrowers gain easier access to formal credit channels.

A key feature of the model is its linkage with government-backed credit guarantee mechanisms, which reduces lending risk for banks and encourages higher loan sanctions to small and micro enterprises.

This has helped widen credit penetration, especially among smaller businesses that often face challenges in meeting conventional collateral requirements.

MSMEs play a crucial role in employment generation, exports and overall economic growth. Improved access to timely and affordable finance is expected to strengthen business expansion, technology adoption and capacity building in the sector.

The strong loan sanction numbers achieved within a short period indicate growing acceptance of digital lending frameworks within the public banking system. UNI

## India likely to enter upper middle-income bracket by 2030: SBI report

### UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, JAN 19 :** India is set to transition into the upper middle-income country category by 2030, coinciding with its emergence as the world's third-largest economy by 2028, according to a research report released by SBI here on Monday.

The report highlights India's rapid economic ascent, placing it among the fastest-growing major economies globally over the past decade.

The analysis shows that India now stands at the 95th percentile in the global distribution of average real GDP growth for the decade ended 2024, an improvement from the 92nd percentile over a 25-year horizon.

This upward repositioning reflects a sustained acceleration in growth momentum, placing India deeper into the upper tail of global growth performers.

Tracing India's income transition, the report notes that the country took nearly six decades to move from a low-income economy to a lower middle-income economy in 2007, with per capita GNI rising from USD 90 in 1962 to USD 910.

Since then, the pace has significantly quickened. India achieved a per capita income of USD 1,000 in 2009, crossed USD 2,000 in 2019, and is projected to reach USD 3,000 by 2026.

By 2030, per capita GNI is expected to touch around USD 4,000, meeting the World Bank threshold for entry into the upper middle-income category and placing India alongside countries such as China and Indonesia at their current classification levels.

The report also highlights the sharp acceleration in India's overall economic scale. After taking 60 years to reach a USD 1 trillion economy, India added

the second trillion in just seven years by 2014, the third trillion by 2021, and the fourth trillion by 2025.

The economy is projected to reach the USD5 trillion mark in another two years, reflecting a steep compression in the time taken to add each successive trillion dollars to GDP.

In nominal GDP rankings, India has climbed from the 14th position in 1990 to the fourth-largest economy in 2025 and is projected to overtake Germany to become the third-largest economy globally by 2028, behind only the United States and China. Looking ahead, India is expected to become a USD10 trillion economy by 2035.

The report places India's progress in a global context, noting a broad shift in the World Bank's income classification over the past three decades. Between 1990 and 2024, the number of high-

income countries increased sharply, while the count of low-income countries nearly halved, reflecting widespread upward mobility across economies.

Comparisons with peer economies show that China and Indonesia successfully moved from low-income to upper middle-income status during this period. China's per capita GNI rose sharply after 1990, supported by high investment rates and a strong manufacturing base. India, while following a different growth path, has also begun strengthening its manufacturing value-added share in GDP, which the report identifies as a crucial lever for sustaining long-term income gains.

Looking further ahead, the report assesses India's prospects of becoming a high-income country by 2047, in line with long-term national development goals. To meet the current high-income threshold of around USD

13,900 per capita, India's per capita GNI would need to grow at a compound annual rate of about 7.5 per cent. UNI

This is considered achievable given that per capita GNI grew at an average annual rate of 8.3 per cent between 2001 and 2024.

However, if the high-income threshold rises to around USD 18,000 by that time, the required growth rate would increase to nearly 9 per cent.

Overall, the report concludes that India's transition to an upper middle-income economy is well within reach over the next few years. Sustained reforms, higher productivity, and continued momentum in manufacturing and investment are expected to play a critical role in ensuring that India not only climbs the income ladder but maintains its position among the world's fastest-growing major economies. UNI

## Hatsun Agro logs Rs.60.58 cr PAT

### UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**CHENNAI, JAN 19 :** Dairy major Hatsun Agro Product Ltd (HAP), on Monday said it had closed the quarter ended 31.12.2025 with a consolidated after tax profit of Rs.60.58 crore.

The company said during the quarter under review its revenue from operations stood at Rs.2,363.72 crore on consolidated basis, compared to Rs.2,009.75 crore in the corresponding period last year.

Profit after tax stood at 60.58 crore as against Rs. 40.94 crore in the same quarter of the previous year.

"We continued to strengthen our core dairy portfolio while expanding our presence across



priority markets. A consistent focus on efficiency across the value chain from farmer engagement to last-mile distribution has helped us maintain quality and freshness. Strong consumer demand drove volume growth across milk, yoghurt, and ice cream, supported by

encouraging traction in innovation-led dairy offerings aligned with evolving consumer preferences," R.G.Chandramogan, Chairman said.

For the nine month ended Hatsun Agro has earned a revenue of Rs.7,381.59 crore and an after tax profit of Rs.305.31 crore. UNI

## UP govt okays 7 CoE under its start-up policy

### UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**LUCKNOW, JAN 19 :** Under the 'Start in UP' policy, the Yogi Adityanath government has approved seven ultra-modern Centres of Excellence in the state, for which a total of Rs 27.18 crore has been released so far, officials said on Sunday.

With the support of these centres, innovation, research, technological development and employment generation are gaining new momentum across Uttar Pradesh.

The officials said that through these Centres of Excellence, hundreds of startups are receiving incubation, while thousands of youth are gaining skill development, new employment opportunities, and a boost to indigenous technology development.

The Centres of Excellence established in the state are focused on future-oriented areas such as blockchain technology, medical electronics and health informatics, artificial intelligence, 5G/6G telecom, additive manufacturing and drone technology. These centres not only provide technical support to startups but are also playing an important role in making them globally competitive.

These Centres of Excellence established in Gautam Buddha Nagar, Lucknow, Kanpur Nagar, Saharanpur and Ghaziabad are receiving support from prestigious institutions such as IIT Kanpur, IIT Roorkee, IIM Lucknow, STPI Lucknow and AKGEC Ghaziabad.

As a result, startups are gaining access to world-class labs, supercomputing, AI/ML (artificial intelligence/machine learning) platforms, testing facilities, mentorship and strong industry linkages.

Under the Uttar Pradesh government's startup policy, each Centre of Excellence is provisioned to receive grant-in-aid (including capital and operational expenses) of up to a maximum of 10 crore over a period of five years from the date of establishment.

The government's clear objective is for these centres to become self-reliant within five years and strengthen the state's startup ecosystem over the long term.

The Blockchain Technology Centre of Excellence established in Gautam Buddha Nagar is being operated by IIM Lucknow EIC in collaboration with Microsoft.

This centre will incubate 100 startups over the next five years on a 10,000-square-foot ultra-modern campus. Here, startups are being provided high-tech facilities along with seed funding of up to 75 lakh, expert mentorship, and access to angel and venture capital networks.

Through this initiative, a strong and sustainable blockchain ecosystem is being developed in the state.

The Medical Electronics and Health Informatics (MedTech) Center of Excellence established in Lucknow has been developed with support from STPI Lucknow, SGPGI, the IT and Electronics Department (Uttar Pradesh Government), AIMED, AMTZ and KIHT. UNI

## Thermal share in power generation to fall below 70 per cent next fiscal: Crisil

### UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI, JAN 19:** The share of thermal power in India's electricity generation is set to fall below 70 per cent for the first time in the next financial year, driven by slower growth in power demand and a sharp rise in renewable energy generation, according to Crisil Ratings report released here on Monday. Thermal power's share is expected to decline to about 72 per cent in the current fiscal from nearly 75 per cent in FY2025, before slipping further below the 70 per cent mark next fiscal.

As a result, plant load factors (PLFs) of thermal power plants are projected to moderate to 64-66 per cent in both the current and next fiscal, compared with 69 per cent in the previous year.

Manish Gupta, Deputy Chief Ratings Officer, Crisil Ratings, said, "Despite its declining share, thermal power remains crucial as grid absorption of RE is constrained by the intermittent nature of RE and the nascent adoption of energy storage solutions. This has sparked a revival in capex in the thermal

power sector." "Furthermore, distribution utilities have begun entering into long-term thermal PPAs to ensure round-the-clock power supply. Thus, almost 85% of the 60 GW operational capacity held by independent power producers (IPPs) is now tied up (vs 79% at the end of last fiscal) through PPAs, providing improved revenue visibility and reducing volatility associated with the merchant market," Gupta added.

Power demand growth is estimated to slow to 1-2 per cent in the current fiscal due to an early monsoon and a relatively cooler summer. However, demand is expected to recover to 4-6 per cent in the next fiscal on a low base. Despite this rebound, the compound annual growth rate in power demand over the two fiscals is expected to remain below 4 per cent, weaker than the 5.6 per cent growth recorded over the past five fiscals. In contrast, renewable energy generation is projected to grow at a strong compound annual rate of 18-20 per cent over the current and next fiscal years.

This growth will be supported

by renewable capacity additions of 75-85 gigawatts, backed by a robust pipeline of utility-scale projects and increased installations in the commercial, industrial and rooftop segments. Renewable energy is expected to meet most of the incremental power demand in the country during this period.

Despite the declining share of thermal power in the generation mix, the segment remains critical for grid stability due to the intermittent nature of renewable energy and the limited adoption of energy storage solutions.

This has led to a revival in capital expenditure in the thermal power sector, supported by a rise in long-term power purchase agreements (PPAs) signed by distribution utilities to ensure round-the-clock power supply. Nearly 85 per cent of the 60 gigawatts of operational capacity held by independent power producers is now tied up through PPAs, compared with 79 per cent at the end of the previous fiscal. These agreements provide improved revenue visibility and reduce exposure to volatility in the merchant power market.

The PPAs typically follow a two-part tariff structure comprising capacity charges and variable charges. Capacity charges are fully recoverable if the normative plant availability factor is met, insulating a portion of cash flows from fluctuations in PLFs.

Around 40 per cent of the tied-up capacity operates under a cost-plus bidding structure, allowing complete pass-through of coal costs. For the remaining capacity awarded through competitive bidding, the impact of lower PLFs on operating cash flows is expected to be limited, as variable charges form a smaller portion of total cash flows. An analysis of 26 independent power producers with a combined operational capacity of nearly 60 gigawatts—accounting for more than three-fourths of the country's private thermal power capacity—indicates that financial risk profiles will remain stable despite moderation in PLFs.

Healthy cash flows have helped reduce leverage among rated independent power producers, with debt-to-Ebitda declining from about seven times in FY2020 to

2.2 times in FY2025.

However, renewed investments in thermal capacity are expected to push leverage modestly higher, peaking at around three times by FY2029, before normalising as new capacities are commissioned and begin generating cash flows.

"Buoyed by healthy cash flows, IPPs in our rated portfolio saw debt-to-Ebitda (leverage) decline from a high of 7.0 times in fiscal 2020 to 2.2 times in fiscal 2025. However, the revival in thermal capex by select players will slightly increase leverage, peaking at 3.0 times by fiscal 2029. Thereafter, it will normalise once new thermal capacities get commissioned and start generating cash flows," said Dushyant Chauhan, Associate Director of Crisil Ratings.

Most of the planned expansions are being undertaken by established players as extensions of existing capacities and are supported by tied-up offtake arrangements, lowering execution and revenue risks. Sustained cash flows are expected to ensure that debt servicing capabilities remain unaffected. UNI



# Rashid Landmark Headlines Dubai T20Is

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**ABU DHABI:** Afghanistan and West Indies will tune up for the T20 World Cup, which will kick off on February 7 in India and Sri Lanka, with a three-match T20I series in Dubai where conditions are fairly comparable to the venues for the global tournament.

While Afghanistan have already announced their squad for the World Cup, West Indies are yet to lock in their side, which means there's a bit more incentive for some players to attract the attention of the selectors and team management in the absence of seniors, who are away at the SA20 or recovering from injuries. Here are some key things to watch out for in the three-match series, which will kick off on January 19.

Fast bowler Shamar Joseph and middle-order batter Shimron Hetmyer will look to prove their match fitness in this series, in the lead-up to the T20 World Cup. Shamar, 26, has not played any competitive cricket since September 2025, when he featured in the CPL, because of injury. With the other Joseph, Alzarri, still working his way back from injury, Shamar will be expected to shake off the rust quickly and lead West Indies' seam attack. While Shamar has established himself as West Indies' strike bowler in Test cricket, he is still finding his feet in white-ball cricket.

Hetmyer is also set to return to action after suffering a hamstring injury during his ILT20 stint with Desert Vipers. With Sherfane Rutherford away with Pretoria Capitals in the SA20, Hetmyer is likely to slot in as West Indies' finisher and make his first international appearance for West Indies since July last year. In the 2024 T20 World Cup, Hetmyer didn't play a single game, with Rutherford emerging as West Indies' first-choice finisher. Can Hetmyer move up the

hierarchy ahead of the 2026 T20 World Cup?

With Shai Hope in action at the SA20, Evian Lewis will have another crack at the opening slot, along with stand-in captain Brandon King, against Afghanistan. Lewis, now 34, was once regarded as Chris Gayle's successor, but his stocks have fallen in T20 cricket of late. He hasn't played for West Indies either since August 2025. His six-hitting ability - he has smashed 467 sixes in 251 innings - however has brought him back into the selection frame.

Then there's a top-order wildcard - the uncapped Quentin Sampson who has been picked on CPL form. Like Lewis, Sampson is a six-hitter and had a strike rate of 151.57 across nine innings in the CPL. Sampson hails from Caria Caria village, which is located on the shore of Essequibo River and isn't too far away from Saxacalli, Kemo Paul's village. He initially played softball cricket in his village before rising through the ranks and becoming a professional player for Guyana. Even Romario Shepherd was impressed with Sampson's ability to stay low and stable while meeting the ball during the CPL.

All of 27, Rashid Khan is on the cusp of another significant landmark - he's nine strikes away from becoming the first bowler to 700 T20 wickets. And he has a chance to get there against the team that produced T20 OGs.

After taking time off from the game, Rashid has put his body to test in franchise cricket in the lead-up to the T20 World Cup, participating in both the ILT20 and SA20 across the past two months. However, since the back injury that followed the 2023 ODI World Cup, he has lost some of his old fizz and has often missed his lengths. Afghanistan will hope that Rashid can get back to his peak form and fitness and be their spin ace at the T20 World Cup.



## Affarwat-XI Sports Club Holds Key Meeting at Hygam, Focus on Unity and Cricket Development

HT SPORTS DESK

**BARAMULLA, JAN 19:** Affarwat-XI Sports Club, Baramulla today convened an important meeting at Hygam, which witnessed active participation from club members and office bearers. The meeting was held in a cordial and positive atmosphere, with the primary focus on strengthening unity within the club and promoting the overall development of cricket in the area.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the future roadmap and strategic plans of Affarwat-XI Sports Club for the upcoming 2026 cricket season. Emphasis was laid on nurturing young talent and ensuring disciplined participation in future tournaments.

The President of Affarwat-XI Sports Club reiterated his unwavering commitment towards the team and assured full support to players and of-



ficials in all sporting and organizational matters. He highlighted that unity, discipline, and collective effort would remain the cornerstone of the club's progress.

The meeting concluded with a strong resolve to work together with renewed dedication to take Affarwat-XI Sports Club to greater heights and contribute positively to the cricketing culture of the area.

## Mandhana completes RCB's takeover of Navi Mumbai

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**BENGALURU:** Outside the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai, among the replica merchandise sold by roadside vendors, Smriti Mandhana's Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) jersey is the most visible. RCB flags are waved around to draw in buyers, often even on days when the team is not playing. More recently, jerseys with Richa Ghosh's name have joined the racks too.

Inside the stadium, the cheers for RCB at times drown out the support for the local side, Mumbai Indians. Through the Navi Mumbai leg of WPL 2026, RCB have not only enjoyed support that resembles a home crowd, but have also performed like a

team playing at their home ground, making the most of the conditions to win all four of their matches. In the last game at the venue this season, against Delhi Capitals (DC), they finished with authority, giving their passionate fans what they came for.

RCB have fielded a combination well-suited to a ground that has traditionally favoured batters. Having a line-up full of proven T20 hitters is one thing, but having them contribute as a unit has been the difference. It was Nadine de Klerk in the first game, Grace Harris in the second, and Ghosh and Radha Yadav in the third. On Saturday, it was Mandhana's turn. The conditions at the DY Patil Stadium suited the strengths of RCB's bowler too, with movement



available early on in the innings. Dew is usually a big factor at this venue, but in the one match where RCB had to defend a target, they struck early and then relied on

spinners and pace bowlers executing slower balls perfectly. They have also restricted oppositions to under 170 in three games where they bowled first.

Harris reflected on how RCB had combined skill and teamwork to find success in Navi Mumbai. "I think we have been pretty fortunate with the conditions, winning the toss here with the dew coming in late," she said. "Having said that, you still have to perform very well to get the most out of it. To be honest, it's been a pretty good team effort. There have been multiple people chipping in and we have just found a way at the moment to keep scoring runs when there is pressure applied, or we have taken wickets when it seems like other teams can't. "Skill-wise, we are going very well. So far, with the bat, we have had four or five different people stand up. You can't ask for much more, especially in this format."

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