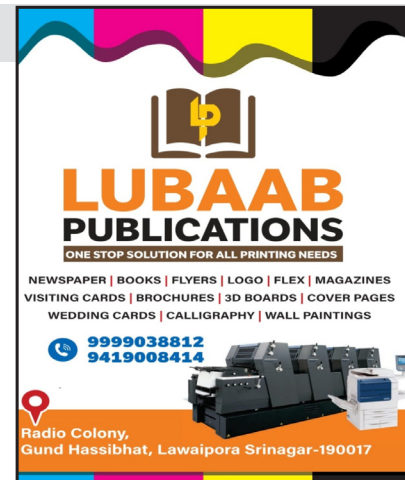


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Supreme Sacrifice in the Line of Duty: 10 Army Personnel Died as Casspir Plunges Into Gorge in Doda

11 Soldiers Injured, Nation Grieves As Anti-Terror Deployment Turns Tragic at 9,000-ft Khanni Top



■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

BHADERWAH/JAMMU, JAN 22: In a heartbreaking tragedy during an operational movement, 10 soldiers of the Indian Army

● Turn on Page 2

“The Nation Stands United With the Bereaved Families”

Ten Army soldiers killed, Injured Airlifted, Leaders Express Deep Grief

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 22: The nation plunged into mourning on Thursday after ten Indian Army soldiers lost their lives in a tragic road accident in Doda district of Jammu and

● Turn on Page 2

Cabinet Approves Excise Policy 2026–27, Finalises Legislative and Development Agenda

No New Liquor Vends, ₹127 Crore Additional Revenue Projected. No New Liquor Vends, Focus on Infrastructure, Tourism and Social Inclusion

■ HT NEWS DESK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JAN 22: The Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet on Thursday approved the Excise Policy for 2026–27, projecting an additional revenue generation of ₹127 crore, while deciding against opening any new liquor vends, official sources said.

The Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat in Jammu, deliberated on a range of key administrative and policy matters ahead of the upcoming Budget Session of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

According to sources, the annual Excise Policy was cleared with a clear emphasis on revenue augmentation without expanding the existing footprint of liquor outlets, signalling a calibrated fiscal approach by the government.

The Cabinet also discussed the address to be delivered by the Lieutenant Governor on February 2, marking the commencement of the Budget Session. As mandated under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the Lieutenant Governor addresses the Assembly at the start of the first session each year.

In another significant decision, the Cabinet authorised the Tourism Department and the Public Works (Roads & Buildings) Department to sign an extended Memorandum of Understanding with the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Project Beacon, for the completion of pending works on the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra track—an infrastructure move aimed at strengthening pilgrimage-related facilities.

Further, the Cabinet gave its nod to the creation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)

● Turn on Page 2

Gusty Winds Hit J&K, Orange Alert Issued

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JAN 22: Strong and gusty winds swept through several parts of the Kashmir Valley on Thursday evening even as the Weather Department issued an orange alert for the next two hours, warning of thundershowers and lightning.

An official told news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the gusty winds caused widespread damage to property and also disrupted electricity supply across the Kashmir Valley and several parts of the Jammu region.

He said that the high-intensity winds uprooted trees, damaged rooftops of several residential houses in parts of the Kashmir Valley, including Srinagar, Anantnag,

● Turn on Page 2

Gusty winds disrupt over 80% of power supply in Kashmir

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JAN 22: Gusty winds across Kashmir valley on Thursday late evening disrupted power supply in more than 80 percent areas of the region.

An official informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the power supply was affected in more than 80 percent of the valley due to gusty winds.

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CM Omar continues pre-budget consultations with departments

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 22: On the third straight day today, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired series of pre-budget consultation meetings of Jal Shakti, Agriculture, Rural Development, Forest, Food & Civil Supplies, Youth Services and Sports, other key sectors to finalise the priorities and developmental plans in view of the forthcoming Budget Session of J&K Legislative Assembly.

Deputy CM, Surinder Kumar Choudhary; Ministers Javid Ahmad Rana, Javid Ahmad Dar and Satish Sharma; Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; ACS Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra; ACS to Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta; ACS Agriculture, Shailendra Kumar; Administrative Secretaries of other concerned departments, senior officers of finance



department and other concerned departments attended the meeting.

During the deliberations, the Chief Minister reviewed sector-wise proposals, ongoing projects, and emerging challenges, while seeking focused inputs aimed at strengthening service delivery and devel-

opment outcomes. “Budgetary allocations must move beyond routine exercises and should firmly be rooted in practicality, efficiency and measurable impact on the ground”, he asserted.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah

● Turn on Page 2

Jitendra Singh Reviews Udhampur Airport Flight Ops

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 22: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Thursday reviewed the progress of a project to start air services from Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur, and announced that civilian flights will commence within the next seven months from an interim terminal building at the Air Force station.

Chairing a high-level review meeting in Udhampur, the minister said a proposal for the acquisition of additional land is being pursued with the support of the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led government to enable the development of a full-fledged airport at Udhampur in the coming years.

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Nearly 3,700 Killed In Over 20,000 Road Accidents In J&K Since June 2022

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 22: Nearly 3,700 people have died and over 29,000 others were injured in more than 20,000 road accidents across Jammu and Kashmir since June 2022, a senior government official said here on Thursday.

The majority of these fatalities and accidents occurred on major highways, in Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur and Rajouri districts, the official said.

These details were shared during a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo to assess the implementation of road safety measures recommended by the Supreme Court.

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Sunil Sharma Meets Union Home Minister in New Delhi

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI, JAN 22: Leader of Opposition, Sunil Sharma, today met Hon'ble Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi and held a detailed discussion on the upcoming Assembly session, the prevailing political scenario, the security situation, and developmental priorities of Jammu & Kashmir.

During the meeting, Sunil Sharma apprised the Home Minister of the ground-level political dynamics in J&K and conveyed the expectations and aspirations of the people from the forthcoming Assembly session. He emphasized the need for meaningful and constructive deliberations aimed at strengthening democratic institutions, ensuring effective governance, and promoting

people-centric policymaking in the Union Territory.

The security scenario in J&K was discussed at length, with a focus on maintaining peace, countering terrorism, safeguarding civilian lives, and ensuring the safety and morale of security forces. Sunil Sharma lauded the sustained efforts of the Ministry of Home Affairs and security agencies for their decisive role in improving the overall security environment and restoring normalcy across the Jammu & Kashmir.

The discussions also covered key developmental issues, including infrastructure development, employment generation, youth empowerment, revival of tourism, healthcare, education, and the timely implementation of central

● Turn on Page 2

JKPSC Ensures Fair, Bias-Free Exams

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 22: In response to recent media and social media news items regarding fairness of the J&K Civil Services Judicial (Main) 2025 Examination, the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (J&K PSC) puts on record that the examinations are conducted in completely fair manner with no scope for bias, manipulation, or external influence.

In a statement issued here, the JKPSC said that the selection and recruitment

● Turn on Page 2

Sub-zero temperatures in Valley as snow, rain loom over J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JAN 22: Minimum temperatures across Jammu and Kashmir dipped further on Thursday, with most places in the Kashmir Valley recording sub-zero night temperatures, while Ladakh continued to reel under intense cold conditions, officials said.

According to data obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of minus 3.4 degrees Celsius, down from minus 2.4 degrees Celsius the previous day.

Several parts of south Kashmir witnessed sharper drops, with Pulwama emerging as one of the coldest places at minus 5.8 degrees Celsius, compared to minus 4.9 degrees Celsius on Wednesday.

Anantnag settled at minus 5.3 degrees Celsius, while Shopian recorded minus 5.4 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam, a key tourist destination, recorded a minimum of minus 4.4 degrees Celsius, slightly lower than Wednesday's minus 3.8 degrees. Sonamarg remained cold at minus 6.1 degrees Celsius, compared to minus 5.5 degrees a day earlier.

Awantipora and Pampore also saw notable

● Turn on Page 2

CS calls for GIS-based, data-driven road safety interventions

Reviews implementation of SC mandated road safety directives in J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 22: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today while assessing the implementation of road safety measures as recommended by the Supreme Court underscored the need for extensive use of GIS-based data to identify vulnerable and accident-prone road stretches across districts.

He emphasized that such data-driven identification would enable

focused technological and physical interventions to significantly reduce road accidents in the UT.

The meeting was attended by Administrative Secretaries of concerned departments, senior officers of the Traffic Police, and Heads of Departments, while Deputy Commissioners participated through video conferencing from their respective districts.

The Chief Secretary sought a detailed account of the Supreme

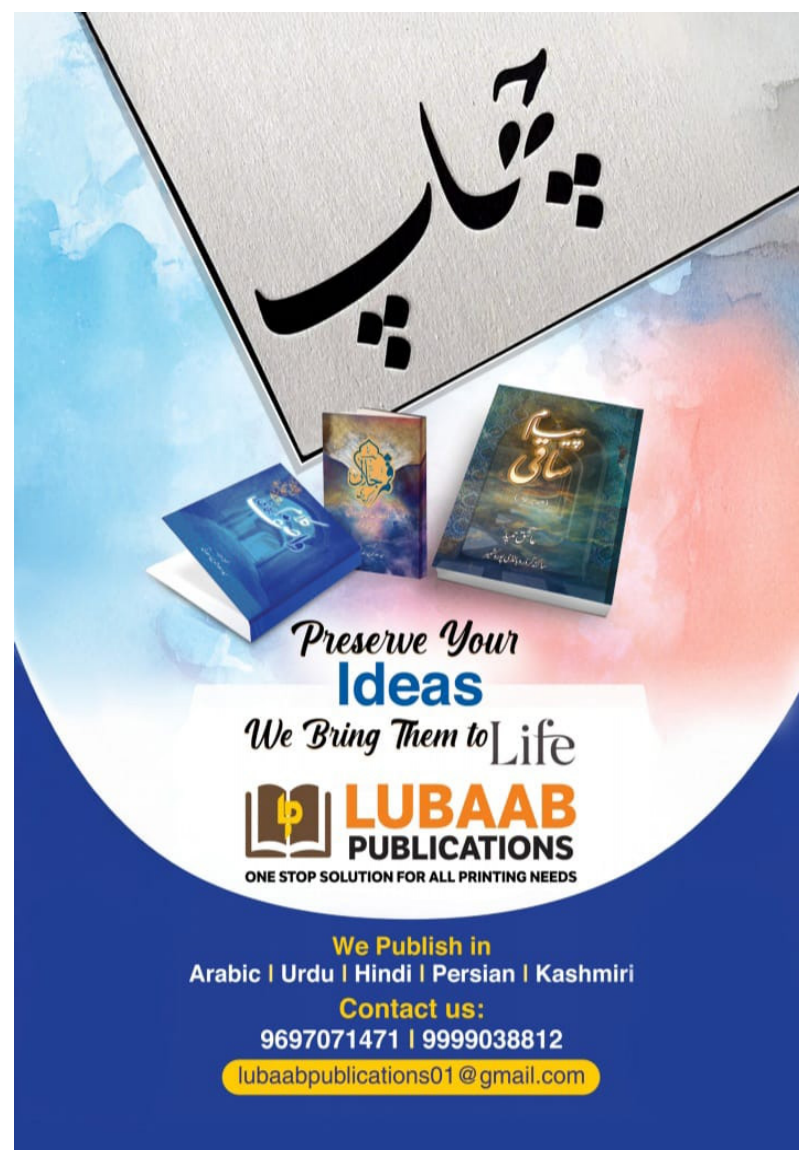
Court directions on road safety and the status of compliance by the concerned departments. He stressed that a clear-cut and time-bound roadmap for implementation of each directive must be prepared without delay.

He called for leveraging available transport and traffic data to guide interventions such as targeted safety measures, strategic deployment of traffic police, and engineering corrections on road patches

identified for frequent accidents.

Emphasizing deterrence as a key component of road safety, the Chief Secretary directed the authorities to strictly enforce punitive measures against habitual and serious traffic violators. These include cancellation of driving licences, registration certificates, and other statutory actions against offenders involved in rash driving and non-compliance with

● Turn on Page 2



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Div Com Inspects Preparations for Republic Day Celebrations at Bakshi Stadium

Directs all concerned officers to ensure top-notch preparedness

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JAN 22: In preparation for the forthcoming Republic Day celebrations, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today visited Bakshi Stadium, the main venue for the event, to review the status of arrangements and ensure final readiness.

During the inspection, the Divisional Commissioner assessed key arrangements including the podium, sound systems, seating, sanitation facilities, and other logistical aspects. He directed all concerned officers to ensure top-notch preparedness and emphasized glitch-free functioning of sound systems managed by the Information Department, Police, and R&B, given the significance of the national event.

Keeping in view the prevailing inclement weather conditions, the Divisional Commissioner instructed for the installation of waterproof canopies over the stands and directed concerned agencies to ensure adequate manpower readiness for snow clear-



ance from the ground, if required.

The Chief Engineers of KPDC, MED, R&B, and PHE briefed the Divisional Commissioner on the progress and preparedness of their respective departments. He also inspected the video walls installed around the stadium to ensure clear visibility of the programme for participants and attendees.

Also, the Divisional Commissioner reiterated instructions regarding timely distribution of refreshments, proper sanitation of bathrooms and green rooms, strict adherence to the National Flag unfurling protocol, and compliance with prescribed timelines for cultural programmes.

Meanwhile, the Div Com extended open invitation to general public for the participation and celebration of National Festival at Bakshi Stadium.

The Divisional Commissioner was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, Commissioner SMC, SSP Srinagar, SSP Security, and other senior officers from civil and security departments.

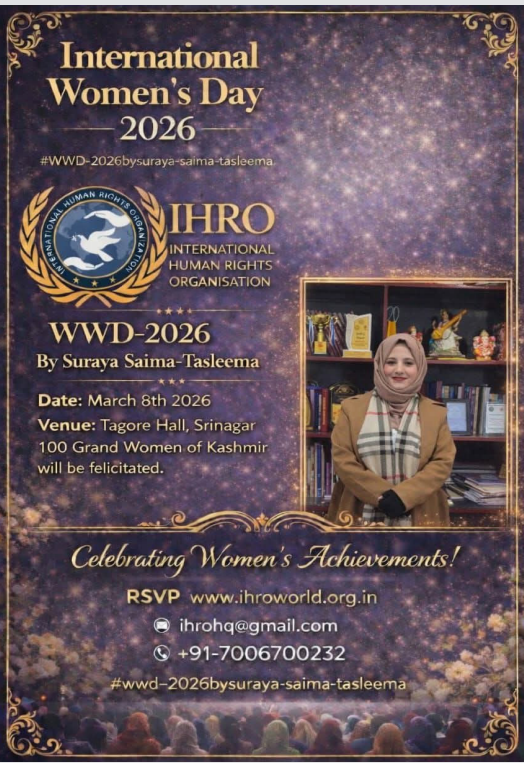
International Women's Day 2026

HONOURING STRENGTH •
CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE •
EMPOWERING WOMEN

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JAN 22: On 8th March 2026, as the world commemorates International Women's Day, the International Human Rights Organization – Jammu & Kashmir Chapter (IHRO) proudly marks this global occasion on the historic land of Kashmir, reaffirming its unwavering commitment to women's empowerment, gender equality, human dignity, and social justice.

On this significant day, IHRO Jammu & Kashmir Chapter will honour 100 exceptional women from across the Kashmir Division with Hosla Afzai (Encouragement) Awards, recognizing their outstanding contributions in diverse fields. Among these distinguished honourees, will also be felicitated by IHRO – an honour that is Rozy Gull matter of immense pride



for our organization.

Spotlight on Rozy Gull

Rozy Gull is a dedicated academician and medical professional specializing in Medical Radioimaging Technology, with strong expertise in both clinical practice and teaching. She holds a Master's degree in Medical Radioimaging Technology (2022–2024) from Rayat Bahra University, Kharar, Punjab, and a Bachelor's degree in Medical Radioimaging Technology (2018–2021) with distinction (80%). She completed her higher secondary education from JKBOSE with a science background (PCBM).

With a rich blend of academic leadership and hands-on clinical experience, Rozy Gull has served as the Head of the Paramedical Department at Doaba Group of Colleges, Kharar, Punjab, and is currently working as an Assistant Professor at Rayat Bahra University, Kharar, Mohali, Punjab. She has also worked as Assistant Professor-cum-Coordinator at SVIET College, Banur, Freelance writer Of Kashmir based news papers Greater Kashmir and Brighter Kashmir as well, and gained valuable clinical exposure at Mukta Hospital Heart Institute, Chandigarh, and Apollo Diagnostic Centre, Chandigarh. Her professional training includes hands-on experience at District Hospital Pulwama.

Her core medical competencies include Computed Tomography (CT), Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Digital and Conventional Radiography, and Interventional Radiography. Alongside teaching and clinical practice, she has contributed to research, with a Scopus-indexed publication titled "Addressing Communication Difficulties in MRI: Radiographers' Approaches for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Patients", and a dissertation focused on comprehensive hepatic assessment through CT scan analysis.

Rozy Gull has been recognized with multiple Awards of Appreciation from institutions such as GE Healthcare, Khalsa College Amritsar, and Swami Vivekananda Institute, and has completed several Faculty Development Programs (FDPs) on modern teaching methodologies. She actively organizes academic seminars, expert talks, career-orientation programs, and participates in free medical and blood donation camps in collaboration with leading healthcare institutions.

Beyond academics, she is a state-level sports player, an article writer on socio-political issues, women's concerns, and unemployment, and possesses strong leadership, communication, and mentoring skills. Her professional objective is to contribute meaningfully to academic institutions and healthcare organizations through dedicated teaching, ethical practice, continuous learning, and student-centered development.

She firmly believes that success is built on commitment, hard work, and unwavering dedication.

Through this initiative, the International Human Rights Organization – Jammu & Kashmir Chapter (IHRO) strongly reaffirms its mission to promote human rights, gender equality, women's leadership, and an empowered society.

Dr. Ibrar Bashir Honoured by Ehsaas Foundation for Service to Humanity

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR JAN 22: Ehsaas Foundation honored renowned medical professional Dr. Ibrar Bashir, General Physician, and Public Health Specialist, in appreciation of his unending services for humanity with a kind and compassionate approach.

The Foundation appreciated Dr. Ibrar for his steadfast commitment to serving the underprivileged class of society and for providing absolutely free medical services to economically weaker sections of the society. The community respects him a lot for his commitment to community health and patient care.



All these events have been organized to honor Dr. Ibrar Bashir, who has been an inspiration to many people in terms of humanitarian medical services. Speaking during this event, Vice Chairman Ehsaas Foundation Burhan Nazir appreciated Dr. Ibrar Bashir's humanitarian approach to life. He has personally seen that Dr. Ibrar Bashir has been offering free services to many poor patients.

According to the Ehsaas Foundation, awarding such persons as Dr. Ibrar Bashir is one of the aims of their mission to spread the spirit of compassion, services, and responsibility in the community to inspire others to make a positive impact in their society.

MSME-Sponsored Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme Conducted by SKUAST-K FOA in Kupwara

HT NEWS DESK

KUPWARA, JAN 22: The Division of Agricultural Extension & Communication, Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), organised a one-day Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India.

The programme, titled "Entrepreneurship through Agro-Eco Enterprises: Skill Development in Bio-Inputs, Organic Farming and Green Solutions," was held at Panchayat Ghar, Kachari, Kupwara and witnessed enthusiastic participation of tribal farmers from the said panchayat.

The objective of the programme was to sensitize participants about entrepreneurship opportunities in agro-eco enterprises, with special emphasis on bio-inputs, organic farming practices, and environmentally sustainable agricultural solutions. Experts highlighted how such enterprises can generate sustainable income while ensuring soil health, ecological balance, and long-term environmental sustainability.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Syed Shafat Kubrevi, Assistant Professor, who ensured the smooth conduct of the event and facilitated meaningful interaction between experts and participants.

Syed Mubashir, Branch Head, J&K Bank Wavoor, Kupwara, participated in the programme along with Dr. Quadri Javed Ahmad Peer, Assis-



tant Professor, and Dr. M.H. Chesti, Professor, Division of Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science. The speakers shared valuable insights on entrepreneurship development, financial support mechanisms, and capacity building in the agri-entrepreneurship sector.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. M.H. Chesti emphasized the scientific importance of soil health management and underscored the crucial role of bio-inputs and bio-fertilizers in enhancing crop productivity and achieving sustainable agriculture.

Officials and field functionaries of the Agriculture Department Kupwara were also present and assured technical guidance and institutional support to farmers and youth interested in establishing agro-eco and bio-input-based enterprises.

The programme concluded successfully, reaffirming SKUAST-K's commitment to promoting rural entrepreneurship, sustainable agriculture, and livelihood generation in Kupwara district.

90 BN CRPF Celebrates Collective Singing of National Song 'Vande Mataram' at Uranhal

FAROOQ RATHER

ANANTNAG, JAN 22: In a vibrant display of patriotism and national pride, 90 Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on Wednesday organised a mass collective singing of the National Song 'Vande Mataram' at Unit Headquarters, 90 BN CRPF, Uranhal, Bijbehara, in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme was organised to commemorate the spirit of India's freedom struggle and to reinforce the values of unity, devotion and national integrity

among the force and the younger generation.

The event commenced at 11:00 AM with officers and subordinate staff of the battalion joining together in the full rendition of Vande Mataram, creating an atmosphere filled with patriotic fervour. Adding colour and enthusiasm to the occasion, students of Tesla Speedlabs, Anantnag, including boys and girls, actively participated in the programme. Their presence alongside the disciplined ranks of CRPF personnel made the event both inspiring and memorable.

Addressing the gathering,



Commandant 90 BN CRPF, Shri Kamalendra Pratap Singh, highlighted the historical and emotional significance of Vande Mataram, describing it as a timeless symbol of India's freedom struggle and national unity. He stressed

the importance of inculcating patriotic values among the youth and urged everyone to remain committed to the ideals of discipline, selfless service and nation-building.

The students of Tesla Speed-

labs also presented short patriotic recitations and expressed their gratitude to the CRPF for providing them an opportunity to be part of the event. Their participation reflected deep respect and admiration for the armed forces and their unwavering service to the nation. At the conclusion of the programme, students were offered sweets, cakes and beverages, which they thoroughly enjoyed. The event concluded on a high note, reinforcing the bond between the security forces and civil society while celebrating the shared spirit of patriotism.

DC Srinagar leads District level event to mark Phase-II of 150 Years of “Vande Mataram” at GCoE Srinagar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 22: To mark the Phase II of commemoration of 150 years of the national song “Vande Mataram”, a district level event was held today at the Government College of Education (GCoE), Srinagar.

The programme organized by District Administration Srinagar in collaboration with Government College of Education, Srinagar was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo.

Among those present on the occasion were Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aadil Fareed; SDM East, Zubair Ahmad; Principal, GCoE, Prof. Seema Naaz, along with faculty members and students from various degree Colleges of the district.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the timeless relevance of “Vande Mataram”, noting that the song not only inspired India's freedom struggle but also continues to serve as a powerful symbol of unity, harmony and national pride. He further observed that the national song evokes deep reverence for



the nation's natural landscape, its mountains, rivers and land regarded as life-giving and sacred elements that shape India.

The DC emphasized that such programmes aim to instil a sense of patriotism while encouraging them to understand rich cultural and historical legacy.

The DC added that the 150-year commemoration provides an opportunity to reflect on the values of unity, sacrifice and freedom inspiring younger generations to uphold the ideals of patriotism.

The Deputy Commissioner lauded the organizers and participants for conducting the event in an effective and meaningful manner. He also felicitated the participants of the event.

During the programme, students from various City Colleges presented patriotic and national songs, adding cultural vibrancy to the event.

Earlier, Principal GCoE Prof. Seema Naaz welcomed the participants and highlighted the role of educational institutions in commemorating the 150 years of the national song “Vande Mataram”.

SDM Gool reviews progress of PWD (R&B) Works

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN, JANUARY 22: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Gool, Imtiaz today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of developmental works being executed by the Public Works Department (PWD-R&B) in the Sub-Division.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) Taraq Ahmed, Junior Engineers and other concerned officials of the department. The SDM reviewed the status of roads, building and infrastructure projects being implemented under the PWD. The SDM also reviewed the preparedness



of the department for snow clearance operations. He directed the PWD authorities to ensure timely and efficient snow clearance on all major and interior roads to maintain uninterrupted connectivity. Adequate machinery, manpower and materials were directed to be kept in readiness. The meeting concluded with assurances from the concerned officers that all directions would be implemented efficiently within the prescribed timelines.

Bhaderwah: Ice-Boxes provided to fisher folk under JKCIIP Scheme

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BHADERWAH, JANUARY 22: Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah, Sunil Bhutyal today gave away ice-boxes to local fishermen under “Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project in Jammu and Kashmir (JKCIIP). The initiative aims to connect fishermen directly from the field to markets, ensuring safe handling of fish and the supply of hygienic fish to consumers.



The distribution of ice-boxes will significantly strengthen post-harvest management by helping fishermen preserve the freshness and quality of fish during storage and transportation. This facility is expected to reduce spoilage, improve shelf life and enhance the market value of fish, thereby benefiting both producers and consumers.

The scheme primarily focuses on empowering vulnerable fisher folk and fisherwomen by providing essential equipment to improve preservation, transportation and marketing practices. By facilitating better market access and reducing post-harvest losses, the initiative supports income enhancement and sustainable livelihoods in the fisheries sector.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC highlighted the Government's commitment to inclusive development and modernization of agriculture and allied sectors.

Vishal Torch Rally taken out in Kathua under National Pride – Vande Mataram Campaign

Thousands join district Admin to celebrate patriotism, National Unity

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA, JANUARY 22: As part of the ongoing National Pride – Vande Mataram Campaign, the District Administration Kathua organised a grand and iconic Vishal Torch Rally last evening at the Sports Stadium, attracting thousands of people and reflecting unprecedented public enthusiasm and deep-rooted patriotic spirit.

Students, government employees and members of civil society assembled in unison to express their collective commitment to national unity and pride. Holding torches, the participants marched a complete lap of the Sports Stadium while collectively reciting Vande Mataram, transforming the venue into a vibrant spectacle of patriotism and national fervour.

The Torch Rally was led by Deputy Commissioner, Rajesh Sharma along with Additional Deputy Commissioner, Vishavjeet Singh, district officers and officials. The leadership presence of the district administration added to the significance of the event and reinforced the message of collective



responsibility towards upholding national ideals and constitutional values. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner hailed the massive public participation and observed that such large-scale outreach activities play a pivotal role in strengthening patriotism, unity and constitutional consciousness, particularly among the youth. “The Vishal Torch Rally symbolised the enduring spirit of nationalism and the shared resolve of the people to contribute towards a strong, united and progressive India,” he noted.

Divisional-level Training Programme on digital crop survey concludes at Jammu

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JANUARY 22: The Divisional-level Training and Capacity Building Programme on Digital Crop Survey (DCS) concluded today at the Conference Hall, Directorate of Agriculture Jammu. The programme was organized under the directions of Director Agriculture, Anil Gupta and under the supervision of Joint Director Agriculture (Extension, Sanjay Anand.

On the concluding day, the programme witnessed active participation from 60 district-level, sub-divisional-level and field officers from Kishtwar and Doda districts. The training programme, which commenced on January 2, 2026, recorded participation of about 600 officers from the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments, representing all districts of Jammu Division.

During the programme, Subject Matter Specialist (RL), Dharmesh Vaid and Technical Officer DCS AgriStack, (DoAJ), Sandeep Dogra, imparted hands-on training on the Digital Crop Survey mobile application. The sessions covered key aspects of the Digital Crop Survey including digital data collection,



validation processes and integration with the AgriStack framework.

The programme aimed at strengthening the capacity of field functionaries for effective implementation of the Digital Crop Survey, ensuring generation of accurate crop data and facilitating improved planning, monitoring and delivery of agriculture-related services across the Jammu Division.

Deputy Commissioner flags off Awareness-cum-Bike Rally at Doda

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, JANUARY 22: To mark National Road Safety Month 2026, an Awareness-cum-Bike Rally was today organised by the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) in collaboration with a local Two-Wheeler Showroom. The rally flagged off by the Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh from the DC Office Complex was organised to sensitise road users to the importance of following traffic rules, wearing helmet, avoiding over-speeding and drunken driving and promoting responsible driving habits. Participants carried placards and banners highlighting key road safety messages and traffic symbols under the theme “Sadak Suraksha, Jeevan Raksha.”

ARTO, Kapil Deol; DySP Headquarters, Krishan Rattan, officials from the District Administration, Motor Vehicles Department and civil society members attended the flag off event. A large number of bike riders participated in the rally, strictly adhering to all prescribed safety measures.

The Deputy Commissioner appealed to citizens to be responsible road users,



emphasising that road safety is a shared responsibility, while strict adherence to traffic rules can significantly minimize road accidents and fatalities.

DLSA Reasi generates legal awareness about public welfare, social issues

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

REASI, JANUARY 22: Under the visionary leadership of Chairman Khalil Choudhary, Chairman (also Pr. District and Sessions Judge Reasi) and Secretary Pooja Gupta, District Legal Services Authority Reasi on Thursday organised multiple awareness programs in different parts of the district.

An awareness session on “Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment at Workplace (POSH) Act” was held at village Akhli for the members of a local Self Help Group. Assistant LADC, Bhumika Rajput was the resource person. She elaborated the provisions and legal framework of the POSH Act. The participants were apprised of what constitutes sexual harassment, the rights and duties of employees and

employers, the role of the internal Complaint Committee and the procedure for filing complaints under the Act. Incharge Self Help Group, Meenakshi Verma and members of the group attended the program.

An awareness program on “Patriotism” was held at Government High School-Garn Katra by PLVs of TLSC. The PLVs highlighted the importance of duties of citizens, constitutional principles and the role of individuals in strengthening the nation. Emphasis was laid on promoting harmony, social responsibility and awareness about the legal rights and duties as responsible citizens of the country. Awareness programs on Prohibition of Child Marriage Act was also organised at Govt. Higher Secondary School Reasi, GHSS Bhomag and GHSS

Pouni. The participants were made aware about the social and legal consequences of child marriage, provisions of the Prohibition of child Marriage Act, 2006 and the importance of ensuring education, health and overall development of children. They were also informed about free Legal Aid services available through DLSA Reasi and the role of Legal Services Authorities in safeguarding the rights of women and children. Further, a series of awareness programs in Mahore, focusing on the Government Schemes related to women empowerment, welfare of senior citizens, children and persons with disabilities.

The PLVs sensitized the participants about important welfare schemes related to social security, health, education, women & child welfare.

Poonch: DLC approves orphan care cases under Mission Vatsalya

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

POONCH, JANUARY 22: The District Level Committee today reviewed the Sponsorship cum Foster Care cases under Mission Vatsalya initiative here at a meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner, Ashok Kumar Sharma.

As many as 109 cases of orphan children were placed before the Committee. After detailed discussion, scrutiny and deliberation the cases were approved. The District Child Protection Officer, Khalil A Bandy presented a comprehensive briefing on the cases, highlighting the background, eligibility and need based assessment of the beneficiaries under the scheme. The meeting was attended by the Chairman, Child Welfare Committee, PONIC and other concerned



officers and stakeholders, who actively participated in the deliberations and offered valuable inputs. The Deputy

Commissioner emphasized the significance of ensuring timely care, protection.

DC Budgam chairs DLAC on Food Safety

Says regular inspections and mandatory registration of vendors must be ensured

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, JANUARY 22: A meeting of the District Level Advisory Committee (DLAC) on Food Safety was convened today under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat.

The meeting was called to review the overall status of food safety enforcement and hygiene standards across the district.

During the meeting, a detailed presentation on the functioning and implementation of food safety measures was delivered by the Assistant Commissioner Food Safety, Budgam, Yameen Ul Nabi wherein the current regulatory framework, inspection mechanisms, and compliance levels were apprised to the Chair.

The DC emphasised that strict adherence to food safety norms must be ensured at all levels and that public health protection should remain the foremost priority of the administration. He underscored that regular and surprise inspections of food establishments and street food vendors shall be intensified to ensure the quality and safety of food being



served to the public.

Directions were issued that all street food vendors must be mandatorily registered under the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, and compliance in this regard

shall be monitored closely.

The DC stressed that unregistered vendors shall be sensitized and proceeded against as per norms, wherever required. It was stressed that evening

inspections shall be conducted by Food Safety Officers across all zones of the district and shall particularly focus on fast food outlets, barbeque units, and food being prepared and sold during late hours, so that any compromise on hygiene and quality is promptly detected and addressed.

The DC also directed that samples of fish and chicken shall be collected from the main markets of all blocks in Budgam within a stipulated timeframe and sent for analytical testing to ascertain quality standards. It was emphasized that timely sampling, testing, and follow-up action must be ensured without delay.

The DC impressed upon all concerned departments to maintain close inter-departmental coordination and ensure effective implementation of food safety regulations in letter and spirit. It was reiterated that any lapse compromising public health shall be viewed seriously.

Among others, PO ICDS Budgam, GM DIC, CPO Budgam, ASP Budgam, CEO, CMO, CAO, other AC Food safety Budgam and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

DC Kupwara reviews performance of Education Department

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, JANUARY 22: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today chaired a meeting of concerned officers to review the overall functioning and performance of the Education Department in the district.

During the meeting, Chief Education Officer Kupwara, Manzoor Ahmad, presented a comprehensive presentation highlighting the progress and achievements of the department. It was informed that a total of 1376 government schools are currently operational in the district, including 155 High/Higher Secondary Schools, 655 Middle Schools, and 566 Primary Schools. In addition, 316 private schools are also functioning across the district.

The meeting was apprised that during the current academic year, government schools in Kupwara district achieved a pass percentage of 85.26% in Class 12th and 79% in Class 10th examinations. It was further announced that the top five position holders each from Classes 10th and 12th will be felicitated by the District Administration during the Republic Day celebrations.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the heads of institutions that have recorded poor academic performance to hold consultations with teachers and parents and make concerted efforts to improve



academic outcomes.

It was also informed that under District CAPEX 2024-25, Robotic Labs have been established in five Higher Secondary Schools located at Kupwara, Handwara, Tangdar, Keran, and Machil.

The DC also reviewed the progress under various other sectors, including Smart Classrooms, Composite Schools, Aspirational District indicators, AMFs, Samagra Shiksha, KGBVs, PM POSHAN, and Scholarship schemes. He stressed the need for enhanced dedication and coordinated efforts from all concerned officers to achieve the prescribed targets, with special emphasis on the Aspirational District Programme.

The meeting was attended by CPO Kupwara Parvaiz Ahmad Lone; CEO DEPO, ZEOs and other concerned officers.

Training Programme on National Pest Surveillance System conducted at Srinagar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 22: A training programme on the National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS) was organized by the Chief Agriculture Officer, Srinagar, in collaboration with the Central Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMC), Srinagar, at the Meeting Hall of the Directorate of Agriculture, Lal Mandi, Srinagar.

The programme was aimed at strengthening the technical knowledge and practical skills of field officials involved in pest surveillance and management.

Field officials of the Agriculture Department from District Srinagar participated in the programme.

The training focused on the importance of systematic pest surveillance, timely data reporting, and the use of modern tools for effective pest management under the NPSS.



Dr. Haroon Rashid Hakla, Assistant Plant Protection Officer, CIPMC Srinagar, DPPQ&S, Faridabad, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare, conducted the hands-on training session. He demonstrated practical methods of pest identification, surveillance techniques, and digital data entry under the NPSS platform, emphasizing its role in early warning and advisory services.

The programme was held in the presence of Syed Gulzar Ahmad Shah, District Agriculture Officer (Extension)/District Nodal Officer NPSS, Srinagar, who highlighted the role of trained field staff in protecting crops and supporting farmers.

The programme concluded with active interaction, and participants appreciated the practical orientation of the training, which is expected to improve pest surveillance and crop protection efforts in the district.

Director Colleges reviews Academic Preparedness, Student-Centric Initiatives of Kashmir Division Colleges

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 22: Director Colleges, Prof. (Dr.) Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, convened a comprehensive meeting of Principals of all Government Degree Colleges of the Kashmir Division to assess academic preparedness, reinforcing governance mechanisms and strengthening student-focused institutional practices across the Division, at Government Degree College Baramulla.

In his address, the Director Colleges emphasised institutional cohesion, academic discipline and outcome-oriented governance as the foundational pillars for improving the quality of higher education.

A detailed review of the Department's digital governance was undertaken, reiterating the Planning & Development Portal of the Directorate of Colleges as the sole authenticated platform for institutional data, real-time reporting and delivery of online staff services. Principals were advised to ensure accuracy, regular updating and verification of institutional data to enable

informed policy planning.

It was also highlighted that the Department's digital interventions, particularly the engagement of need-based Academic Arrangements during the current academic session, have been widely observed across colleges to significantly enhance operational efficiency, simplify processes and strengthen transparency.

The meeting reviewed college-wise performance under the Connect with Policy Planning & Development Initiative, with emphasis on timely data submission and institutional responsiveness. Principals were informed that sustained engagement in data-driven governance will continue to play a critical role in development and administrative decision-making.

Institutional development initiatives were deliberated in detail, including the functioning of Institutional Innovation Councils, the expansion of eYantra Labs, the implementation of SWAYAM Local Chapters for the promotion of blended education.

The Action Taken Report (ATR) on eYantra was reviewed



specifically, during which the Director Colleges directed all eYantra-enabled colleges to constitute one or more student teams for participation in the UT-level Hackathon proposed to be rolled out shortly, and participation of student teams trained by colleges in the national eYantra competitions organised and conducted by IIT Bombay.

Student welfare and engagement mechanisms received focused attention, particularly the strengthening of the Mentor-Mentee Programme for academic and psychosocial support, structured sports and co-curricular inclusive framework, and the Department's institutional strategy

for countering substance abuse through awareness, vigilance and early identification of vulnerabilities.

The SIGMA (Student Integrated Grievance and Messaging Application) Portal was reviewed comprehensively, with college-wise registration performance shared. Principals were encouraged to further enhance student onboarding and effective utilisation of the platform to ensure secure and time-bound Messaging to students and timely grievance redressal.

The Director Colleges informed the meeting about the rollout of the SCALE (Student Connect for Academic Leverage

and Excellence) initiative, envisioned as a comprehensive student outreach programme to offer continuous guidance on NEP-2020, academic mobility, progression pathways and career planning in all Government Degree Colleges.

The meeting also reviewed the status of ongoing developmental works being executed under various budget heads. Principals were advised to maintain close coordination with executing agencies and ensure regular monitoring of project timelines and quality parameters.

Concluding the deliberations, the Director Colleges reiterated that teaching and non-teaching staff are the primary drivers of institutional quality and urged Principals to cultivate a supportive and motivated work environment. He called upon all institutions to collectively advance the Department's mission through transparency, accountability and student-centric governance, so that Government Degree Colleges of Jammu & Kashmir continue to emerge as vibrant centres of academic excellence and societal transformation.

DC Baramulla lays Foundation Stone of Transit Accommodation at Dak Bungalow

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 22: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today laid the foundation stone of a Transit Accommodation facility at Dak Bungalow, Baramulla, with an estimated allotted cost of 135.85 lakh.

The project is aimed at strengthening accommodation infrastructure for visiting officers and officials, thereby enhancing administrative efficiency and facilitating smooth conduct of official activities in the district. The Deputy Commissioner informed that the project has a stipulated completion



period of one year.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC emphasized the importance of timely execution and maintaining high-quality construction standards. He directed the executing agency to adhere strictly to technical specifications and ensure judicious utilization of funds. The Deputy Commissioner also instructed concerned officers to closely monitor the progress of work so that the project is completed within the prescribed timeframe.

Chief Planning Officer Baramulla Nissar Ahmad, Engineers from R&B and others officials from the concerned departments were present on the occasion.

DC Kupwara reviews MED preparedness ahead of snowfall prediction

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, JANUARY 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, on Thursday evening paid a visit to the Mechanical Engineering Department (MED) Workshop at Bumhama to review the department's preparedness in view of the forecast of snowfall.



During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected snow clearance machinery, equipments and logistics arrangements put in place to ensure timely road clearance. He interacted with MED officials and staff, taking stock of the operational readiness of snow-cutters, loaders, and other essential machinery.

The DC emphasized the importance of maintaining all machinery in optimal working conditions and directed the concerned officers to ensure the availability of adequate manpower, fuel, and spare parts. He stressed the need for close coordination among line departments to respond promptly to any snowfall-related exigencies, particularly on vital road stretches.

ACR Kupwara and officers of Mechanical Engineering Department were present during the visit.

Pulwama Admin Organises Mega Commemoration Event at Awantipora

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, JANUARY 22: In alignment with the nationwide commemoration of 150 years of the National Song "Vande Mataram", the District Administration Pulwama today organised a mega commemoration event under Phase-II of the celebrations at Sub-Division Awantipora.

The celebrations commenced with the singing of the National Anthem, followed by a soulful rendition of "Vande Mataram",

patriotic songs and pledge-taking ceremonies, reflecting collective commitment towards the values of unity, integrity and nation-building. The event also featured exhibitions and departmental stalls, highlighting government services and grievance redressal mechanisms. The programme was presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Awantipora and witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers, students, and members of the public. The event aimed at



reinforcing the spirit of national unity through cultural and

educational engagements.

Furthermore, as part of the commemorative activities, the Education Department organised a series of student-centric programmes including film screenings, quiz competitions, essay writing contests and painting competitions providing a platform for young minds to express their feelings of patriotism and national heritage. Meanwhile, as part of the celebrations across the district, a programme was also organised by the Cooperative department.

The programme was attended by the members of various cooperative societies and focused on highlighting the importance and role of the National Song in strengthening national unity and patriotism.

Besides, District Youth Services and Sports Office Pulwama organised a mashaal rally on Wednesday at Pulwama as part of the celebrations. The rally saw enthusiastic participation of people from all walks of life including students from various schools.

HT EDITORIAL

People eagerly waiting for snowflakes to come down

With the meteorological department predicting that the Kashmir valley will witness moderate to heavy snowfall over the next few days, the people of the valley are eagerly waiting for the snowflakes to come down and bring joy among them. Ever since the winter season has started the valley residents are waiting for the day when they will be greeted by the snow and as such there would be an end to the drought.

Chillai Kalan, the harshest period of the winter season, has already completed one month and up to this moment of time there has hardly been any snow or rain in the valley. Not to talk of the Srinagar city and other important towns of Kashmir valley, negligible snowfall has been recorded in the higher reaches and far-flung areas of the valley. People across the length and breadth of the valley are eagerly waiting for snow and the latest forecast has rekindled hopes among the valley residents.

People as a whole opine and say that the beauty of Kashmir lies in the abundant snowfall it receives during the winter season. Given the fact that there has been virtually very little snowfall in the valley the people are somewhat skeptical about the future. It is imperative that there should be snowfall in the valley so that there are no woes for the people in the coming summer season. Snowfall has to be there so that there are no problems for the valley residents in the near future.

Once there is heavy snowfall in the higher reaches of the valley glaciers would be formed and those who are already there would get a new lease of life. The supply of drinking water to the valley residents is dependent on the accumulation of snow in the higher reaches. Once there is no snow then it is bound to lead to dire consequences for the people of the valley. In other words, we can say that snowfall is the lifeline of the people of Kashmir valley.

Agriculture, horticulture and irrigation activities are also very much dependent on snowfall and the subsequent rainfall during the later part of winter season and spring season. Once there is no or less snowfall it is bound to cause ripples among the people in general, especially among those involved with the agriculture and horticulture sectors. People are keeping their fingers crossed and pray that this time around there is good snowfall.

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Meet Bhat Sahil: A Young Voice Reviving Sufism in Kashmir

■ BURHAN NAZIR

While the world races ahead and young people drift further from their roots, Saahil Ahmad Bhat, better known as Bhat Sahil, is heading the other way. He's pouring his energy into bringing Sufism and old Kashmiri literary traditions back to life, using digital platforms to reach a new generation. Bhat Sahil comes from Turigam Devbough in Kulgam. For the last three years, he's run "Voice of Sufism," a project that's basically become a lifeline for this fading heritage. He interviews Sufi elders, poets, artists, and scholars—digging into their stories, their journeys, the ways they've shaped Kashmiri culture.

His family, especially his parents, set him on this path. Growing up, his home was always alive with poetry and Sufi wisdom. That's where he found his respect for Kashmiri poets, and that's what keeps him motivated. For him, it's all about giving people who protect Kashmir's culture and spirituality a real platform—somewhere their voices matter.

Through "Voice of Sufism," he's launched two main interview programs. There's Bazm-e-Mulakath, where he sits down with Sufi elders and poets, letting them share their spiritual journeys and the impact they've had. Then there's Bazm-e-Twareekh, which dives into the stories behind important places and shrines, recording their history and spiritual weight for the future. Bhat Sahil isn't just archiving old tales—he's



reaching out to young people, urging them to rediscover Sufism and steer clear of destructive choices like drug abuse. He knows Sufism stands for peace, tolerance, and really knowing yourself. He believes these values can help guide young

people into more meaningful lives.

Through it all, Bhat Sahil is building a bridge from Kashmir's Sufi past straight to today's youth. He's keeping the spirit of love, harmony, and pride in their culture very much alive.

Porn addiction and the history of Porn



■ RAQIF MAKHDOOM

The porn holds a place in day today schedule of many people. Especially the young people. For young people the porn has become important thing to "Watch". People watch porn like a normal thing nowadays. Porn has been linked to mental illness by Psychologists. This also leads to addiction with time. And then you won't be able to do without it. The porn addiction leads to low estimate. The one who watches the porn, starts comparing him to the performance of the guy in the video. When he feels he can't make it up like him. He starts having low estimate.

Porn addiction side effects include relationship problems (secrecy, infidelity, lack of intimacy), mental health issues (depression, anxiety, shame, low self-esteem), sexual dysfunctions (PIED – Porn-Induced Erectile Dysfunction, reduced arousal), cognitive impairment (poor focus, decision-making), social withdrawal, financial issues, and neglected responsibilities, stemming from brain changes that desensitize reward systems and distort expectations.

Le Couché de la Mariée (1896): A French film featuring nudity and often considered the first surviving pornographic motion picture.

Evolution: - The genre evolved from silent films (1920s) into the "Golden Age" of the 1970s, with major shifts to video and then digital distribution.

Pornographic films are generally classified into subgenres which describe the underlying theme or sexual fantasy which the film and actors attempt to create. Subgenres can also be classified into the characteristics of the performers or the type of sexual activity on which it concentrates and not necessarily on the market to which each subgenre appeals. The subgenres usually conform to certain conventions, and each may appeal to a particular audience.

Porn Economy

Globally, pornography is a large-scale business with revenues of nearly \$100 billion which includes the production of various media and associated products and services. The industry employs thousands of performers along with support and production staff. It is also followed by dedicated industry publications and



trade groups as well as the mainstream press, private organizations (watchdog groups), government agencies, and political organizations. According to a 2005 Reuters article, "The multi-billion-dollar industry releases about 11,000 titles on DVD each year." Pornographic films can be sold or rented out on DVD, shown through the Internet and special channels and pay-per-view on cable and satellite, and screened in adult theatres. However, by 2012, widespread availability of illegally copied content and other low-cost competition on the Internet had shrunk the pornographic film industry and reduced profitability.

The global pornographic film industry is dominated by the United States, with the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles being the heart of the industry.

In 1975, the total retail value of all the hard-core pornography in the United States was estimated at \$5–10 million. The 1979 Revision of the Federal Criminal Code stated that "in Los Angeles alone, the porno business does \$100 million a year in gross retain volume." According to the 1986 Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, American adult entertainment industry has grown considerably over the past thirty years by continually changing and expanding to appeal to new markets, though the production is considered to be low-profile and clandestine.

As of 2013 the total current income of the country's adult entertainment is often estimated at \$10–13 billion, of which \$4–6 billion are legal. The figure is often credited to a study by

Pornographic films are generally classified into subgenres which describe the underlying theme or sexual fantasy which the film and actors attempt to create. Subgenres can also be classified into the characteristics of the performers or the type of sexual activity on which it concentrates and not necessarily on the market to which each subgenre appeals

Forrester Research and was lowered in 1998. In 2007 The Observer newspaper also gave a figure of \$13 billion. Other sources, quoted by Forbes (Adams Media Research, Veronis Suhler Communications Industry Report, and IVD), even taking into consideration all possible means (video networks and pay-per-view movies on cable and satellite, websites, in-room hotel movies, phone sex, sex toys, and magazines) mention the \$2.6–3.9 billion figure (without the cell phone component). USA Today claimed in 2003 that websites such

as Danni's Hard Drive and Cybererotica.com generated \$2 billion in revenue in that year, which was allegedly about 10% of the overall domestic porn market at the time. The adult movies income (from sale and rent) was once estimated by AVN Publications at \$4.3 billion but the figure obtaining is unclear.

The world's largest adult movie studio Vivid Entertainment generates an estimated \$100 million a year in revenue, distributing 60 films annually and selling them in video stores, hotel rooms, on cable systems, and on the Internet. The Spanish-based studio Private Media Group was listed on the NASDAQ until November 2011. Video rentals soared from just under 80 million in 1985 to a half-billion by 1993. Some subsidiaries of major corporations are the largest pornography sellers, like News Corporation's DirecTV. Comcast, the nation's largest cable company, once pulled in \$50 million from adult programming. Revenues of companies such as Playboy and Hustler were small by comparison.

CONCLUSION

The porn addiction has made the society to rot. People becoming addicted to it must know. It's a well established industry. Your addiction is their business. They are using your addiction to flourish their business. Things happening in the video has nothing to do with "Reality". It's all scripted. Everything in those videos shouldn't be taken seriously.

Author is a law student and a regular columnist



■ **SHOIAB MOHAMMAD BHAT**

Kashmiri is more than a means of communication; it is a living archive of centuries of history, culture, literature, and collective memory. It carries the stories of generations through poetry, folklore, idioms, and everyday speech. For many, it remains the language of emotion, belonging, and identity. Yet its near absence from classrooms reveals a growing distance between the language spoken in homes and the language valued within formal education. When students are given academic choices, the mother tongue often stands at the margins.

This concern becomes sharper when recent figures are examined. Out of approximately 94,000 students who appeared in the Class 10 examinations, only 64 opted for Kashmiri as an additional subject. Such a small number highlights a serious imbalance within the education system. A language spoken by lakhs struggles to attract even a minimal presence in formal learning. This reality suggests that deeper cultural, social, and educational factors, rather than individual student preferences alone.

Kashmiri continues to exist strongly in daily life. It is spoken in homes, markets, and communities, and it remains deeply embedded in cultural traditions. Even so, survival in informal spaces does not automatically translate into academic strength. Educational institutions play a decisive role in shaping the status of a language. When a language receives limited attention in classrooms, examinations, and academic discourse, students gradually associate learning and success with subjects that enjoy stronger institutional support.

Institutional factors significantly shape student choices. Although Kashmiri is included in the curriculum, sometimes structural development in this area may be lacking. Schools have a natural tendency to focus on more developed fields of education because they have proper systems in place for their instruction. The shortage of qualified

Mother Tongue On Decline as Kashmiri Loses Space in Classrooms

How communities, classrooms, and cultural confidence can together revive Kashmiri as a language of learning and identity



Kashmiri teachers further weakens the subject's academic appeal. Strengthening teacher training and ensuring the availability of skilled educators are essential for restoring student interest.

Learning resources are another area in which improvement can be made. Modern and updated textbooks aligned with contemporary pedagogical methods remain scarce, and digital content is still at a developmental stage. With the rapid integration of technology in education, the development of more online material in Kashmiri can benefit teachers and students alike. Investing in both teaching staff and learning tools can significantly improve the subject's academic standing.

Assessment practices form another important dimension. Even in schools where Kashmiri is taught, examinations and evaluations often do not receive the

same academic seriousness as other subjects. Assessment sometimes appears procedural, which unintentionally signals to students that the subject carries less academic weight. Giving Kashmiri equal importance in evaluation and assessment can help restore confidence and reinforce its academic value.

The effects of these trends are visible among the present generation, often referred to as Gen Z. Many students struggle with reading and writing skills in both Urdu and Kashmiri, even though they speak these languages fluently at home. This gap highlights the need for stronger foundational language education rather than reduced exposure to the mother tongue during early learning stages.

Social perception also plays a powerful role, often beginning within families themselves. From the moment a child is born into a Kashmiri household, parents

frequently speak in Urdu or English. Using Kashmiri with children sometimes brings hesitation, shaped by fear of social judgment. Language becomes linked to status, and Kashmiri is occasionally viewed as less prestigious. Parents worry about how society may perceive them, fearing that speaking Kashmiri might be associated with a lack of education. Over time, children internalize these attitudes, associating confidence and success with other languages while their mother tongue gradually loses space at home and in school.

Classroom experience provides important insight into this issue. As a teacher of Social Science, Urdu, and Kashmiri, I have consistently used the mother tongue to explain concepts. While this approach may not suit every context, it has produced encouraging results. Students show better comprehension,

improved academic performance, and increased interest when learning begins in a language they understand deeply.

Concepts will be understood better when they are connected to the mother tongue. Kashmiri in the classroom will help fill the understanding gap, especially among students reluctant to interact in English or Urdu. Experience suggests that confidence in one's mother tongue helps in learning more than one language rather than hindering the process. It seems the current generation will move further ahead in innovation, technology, and even coding, as their ability to be multilingual will be strengthened with clarity in understanding being developed from the early years.

These points largely resonate with the components of the National Education Policy (NEP) and its vision. The policy emphasizes the use of the 'mother tongue or regional language' as a medium of instruction, particularly during foundational years. It recognises that learners understand concepts best in their own languages and that a strong grounding in one's own language supports multilingual proficiency. NEP also highlighted the importance of qualified teachers, authentic assessment and regional language in the digital platform.

The long-term consequences of continued decline deserve serious reflection. When fewer students study Kashmiri formally, the number of future teachers reduces. Research, literary production, and academic engagement weaken. Cultural transmission becomes fragmented, relying mainly on informal practices rather than structured learning. Over time, the language risks losing its presence in intellectual and academic spaces.

The fact that only 64 students chose Kashmiri serves as a strong reminder of the work that lies ahead. Preserving a mother tongue requires continuous, sustained institutional support, proper assessment, and renewed social confidence. Curriculum development and digital resources in education and language policies can help restore Kashmiri's educational relevance.

A language that has sustained itself through centuries of transformations carries the experience and wisdom of each passing age. Ensuring its place in schools will allow it to remain a language of knowledge, dignity, and pride in the years to come.

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From the Frontlines to the Forgotten List: Why Poonch Still Waits for Its Share of Educational Development



■ **M S NAZKI**

In a country that prides itself on scientific achievement, digital transformation and expanding access to higher education, the continued educational deprivation of District Poonch stands out as a sobering contradiction. Nestled in the Pir Panjal range and bearing immense strategic and historical significance, Poonch remains conspicuously absent from the national higher-education landscape—a gap that raises serious questions about regional equity and policy intent.

For decades, the district has lived without a University, a Medical College or any premier institution that could anchor academic growth and social mobility. This absence is not merely infrastructural; it is generational. Thousands of students have been compelled to leave their homes in search of education, often at great financial and emotional cost. For many families, higher education has become a privilege contingent on distance and affordability rather than merit and aspiration.

The sense of neglect is heightened by the contrasting trajectory of Rajouri district. Once administratively linked to Poonch, Rajouri today hosts a University, a Medical College and multiple colleges. While no one begrudges progress elsewhere, development that advances selectively creates fault lines—particularly within a geographically and culturally cohesive region like Pir Panjal.

What makes this disparity harder to



reconcile is Poonch's longstanding contribution to the nation. The district has consistently supplied the armed forces, civil administration and public life with dedicated professionals who have served with distinction, often under extreme conditions. Its border communities have endured conflict, displacement and uncertainty, yet their resilience has rarely translated into sustained institutional investment.

Policy patterns over the years suggest a troubling centralisation of opportunity. Major national institutions and flagship projects overwhelmingly gravitate towards Jammu or the Kashmir Valley, leaving regions such as Pir Panjal and the Chenab Valley outside the mainstream of devel-

opmental planning. This repeated exclusion has fostered a growing perception of step-motherly treatment—one that erodes trust in governance and inclusivity.

The recent discourse on establishing a National Law University has once again brought these concerns to the surface. As competing claims emerge from Jammu and Kashmir, the near-total absence of Rajouri—Poonch from the debate has reignited public frustration. The issue, however, goes beyond a single university; it speaks to a broader failure to acknowledge the educational aspirations of an entire region.

The demand from Poonch is neither radical nor unreasonable. It is rooted in the

constitutional promise of equality and the belief that education is the most effective instrument of empowerment. Without local institutions to nurture talent, the region risks continued outmigration, intellectual drain and socio-economic stagnation.

Civil society organisations, educationists and community leaders have rightly called upon political representatives—both elected and appointed—to rise above partisan considerations and speak with one voice for Pir Panjal. Development, after all, cannot be selective without consequences.

As the nation charts its future as a knowledge-driven economy, it must confront an uncomfortable truth: progress that bypasses regions like Poonch is neither

Policy patterns over the years suggest a troubling centralisation of opportunity. Major national institutions and flagship projects overwhelmingly gravitate towards Jammu or the Kashmir Valley, leaving regions such as Pir Panjal and the Chenab Valley outside the mainstream of developmental planning. This repeated exclusion has fostered a growing perception of step-motherly treatment—one that erodes trust in governance and inclusivity

inclusive nor sustainable. Until educational equity becomes a policy priority rather than an afterthought, Poonch will remain a poignant reminder that some frontlines of the nation still wait on the margins of its development story.

Bodybuilding: One of the Most Addictive Sports Activities



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

According to biological science, human life passes through different stages, and each stage has its own importance. One of the most critical and sensitive stages of life is adolescence. During this period, many biological, physical, and psychological changes take place naturally in the human body. Adolescence is the stage when hormonal changes begin, and these hormones play a vital role in shaping the body structure of both males and females. Because of these changes, the body starts developing strength, height, muscle mass, and emotional maturity.

Adolescence usually starts at the age of 9 years in females and around 11 years in males. This stage is considered very crucial because teenagers are highly influenced by their surroundings. Their behavior, thinking pattern, and lifestyle choices are shaped during this time. If this stage is not handled properly, teenagers may get involved in negative activities such as drug abuse, smoking, alcohol consumption, aggressive behavior, arrogance, stubbornness, impatience, and other harmful habits. These issues not only damage their health but also affect society as a whole.

Therefore, teenagers need proper guidance, counseling, motivation, and positive engagement during this period. Parents, teachers, society, and government institutions must work together for the upliftment of young minds. Our society has produced many great personalities who have contributed enormously to the nation through discipline, dedication, and hard work. These role models should be introduced to the youth so that they can learn the value of a healthy and purposeful life.

Despite various efforts by the government and administration at different levels, we are still facing challenges like drug addiction, crime, and unhealthy lifestyles among the youth. Although many awareness programs are being conducted, the results are not fully satisfactory. This shows that we need stronger and more practical solutions to engage young people in positive activities.



One of the best and most effective solutions is promoting sports and physical fitness, especially bodybuilding.

Life is a mixture of positive and negative experiences. Every event in this world has its own story and lesson. Today, in this article, I want to motivate people of all age groups towards bodybuilding, which is one of the most trending and beneficial sports activities in the country. Bodybuilding is not just about developing muscles; it is about building discipline, confidence, and a healthy lifestyle.

India is among the countries that have a rich history of sports and physical culture. From ancient times, physical fitness has been given great importance. Today, India has good sports infrastructure and actively participates in international sports events. Bodybuilding has gained immense popularity in recent years, especially among the youth. Gyms are opening everywhere, and people are becoming more conscious about their health and appearance.

From my personal experience, bodybuilding is one of the best and most addictive sports activities. Once you start exercising regularly, you feel energetic,

confident, and mentally relaxed. Bodybuilding gives an attractive shape to the body and helps in maintaining overall fitness. It improves strength, stamina, flexibility, and endurance. More importantly, it keeps a person away from unhealthy habits.

There are many benefits of bodybuilding, some of which I would like to highlight based on my own experience:

Boosts Immunity and Keeps Diseases Away:

Regular bodybuilding exercises strengthen the immune system. A strong body can fight infections and diseases more effectively. People who exercise regularly fall sick less often and recover faster.

Helps in Temperature Regulation:

Bodybuilding keeps the body warm during winters by improving blood circulation. During summers, regular exercise helps the body stay relaxed and reduces stress levels.

Reduces Obesity and Burns Extra Fat:

Bodybuilding is very effective for obese people. It helps burn excess fat and brings the body weight to an optimal level. Regular workouts improve metabolism and reduce the risk of lifestyle diseases like diabetes and heart problems.

Reduces Belly Fat and Improves Digestion:

One of the major benefits of bodybuilding is the reduction of belly fat. Exercise improves digestion and increases appetite in a healthy way, which helps in maintaining a balanced diet.

Improves Mental Health:

Bodybuilding keeps the mind happy and relaxed. Exercise releases stress, anxiety, and depression. Whenever you feel low or stressed, a good workout can refresh your mood and improve mental clarity.

All these benefits have motivated me to adopt bodybuilding as a regular part of my life. First of all, one must develop a positive mindset and say to oneself: "I want to look good, stay disease-free, and live a healthy life. I will not fall into drug addiction. I will motivate my friends to engage in sports and fitness activities, and I will

remain fit and active."

Nowadays, gym centers are available almost everywhere. These gyms are equipped with modern machines, advanced equipment, music systems, and hygienic environments. Trained and experienced trainers are also available to guide beginners properly. This provides a great opportunity, especially during winter days, to burn extra fat and build strength.

However, joining a gym alone is not enough. One must follow discipline, consistency, and a balanced diet. Diet plays a very important role in bodybuilding. A healthy diet should include proteins, carbohydrates, healthy fats, fruits, vegetables, and sufficient water. Junk food, excessive sugar, and oily items should be avoided. Natural food is always better than artificial supplements.

Gym trainers should be followed sincerely to avoid muscle cramps, injuries, and bone-related problems. Beginners should start slowly and gradually increase the intensity of workouts. Proper warm-up and cool-down exercises are also very important.

I strongly suggest everyone, especially youth, to join gym centers or engage in some form of physical activity. It will not only improve physical fitness but also bring mental peace and self-confidence. A fit body leads to a fit mind, and a fit mind leads to a successful life.

The government and local administration should also take initiative by providing gym centers at the Panchayat and village levels. This will encourage more people to participate in fitness activities, especially those who cannot afford private gyms. Community fitness centers can play a vital role in building a healthy society.

One important suggestion I would like to share is to focus on machine exercises for at least six months in the beginning. This helps in giving proper shape and cutting to the body. People should believe in natural diets and avoid unnecessary supplements, as they may have side effects in the long run.

In conclusion, bodybuilding is not just a sport; it is a lifestyle. It keeps people physically fit, mentally strong, and socially responsible. It helps in fighting negative habits and promotes a positive approach towards life. If our youth adopts bodybuilding and fitness as a habit, we can build a healthier, stronger, and more disciplined society.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

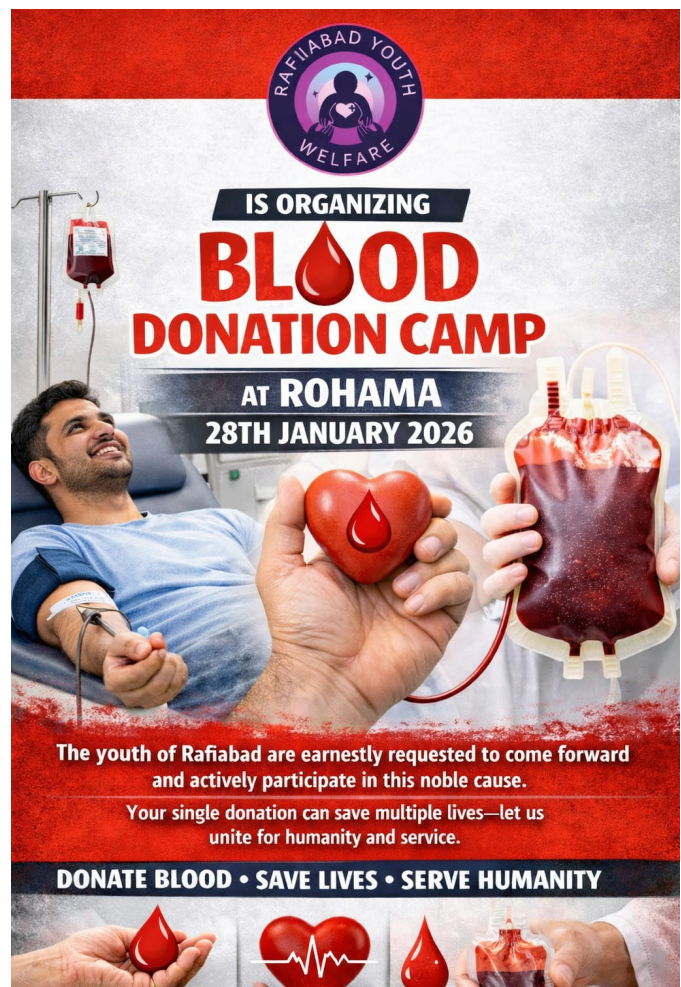
Rafiabad Youth Welfare to Organize Blood Donation Camp at SDH Rohama

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

RAFIABAD, JAN 22: Rafiabad Youth Welfare is organizing a Blood Donation Camp at Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Rohama on 28th January, in collaboration with Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla.

The initiative aims to promote voluntary blood donation and create awareness about its vital role in saving lives. The camp will be conducted under proper medical supervision, following all standard health and safety protocols, with the support of doctors and paramedical staff from GMC Baramulla and SDH Rohama.

Rafiabad Youth Welfare has appealed to the youth and general public of the area to actively participate in this noble cause



and contribute towards strengthening emergency healthcare services.

The organization remains committed to serving society through health, awareness, and youth empowerment initiatives.

Health Deptt. Shopian conducts Awareness-cum-Trainig Programme at DH

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, JAN 22: A 3 days Awareness-cum-Training Programme under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan was conducted today by Health Department (District Surveillance Unit) Shopian under the Chairmanship of Chief Medical officer, Shopian, Dr. Arshid Hussain Tak, here at District Hospital (DH) Shopian, aimed at strengthening institutional and community response against substance abuse.

On the occasion, CMO laid



emphasis on imparting the training at grassroots level to ensure wider outreach. He stressed proactive involvement of trained stakeholders in creating a drug-free environment and called for sustained awareness activities under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan to safeguard the future of the younger generation.

During the programme, training was imparted to Nodal Officers, Assistant Professors and teachers to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills for

effective awareness generation and early intervention. The sessions focused on understanding substance use disorders, identifying early warning signs among youth, counselling approaches, referral mechanisms, and the role of educational institutions in prevention.

The doctors sensitised the participants about government initiatives, treatment and de-addiction facilities, and the importance of coordinated efforts between health and education departments.

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8:00PM On January 18th , Sunday

DC Srinagar, SMC Commissioner review snow clearance plan; Gears up Admin for Winter Preparedness

OFFICERS DIRECTED TO ENSURE SWIFT ACTION IN FACILITATING PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR JAN 22: In order to gear up the District Administration and allied machinery to effectively deal prevailing winter conditions and the current weather advisory, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, along with Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb today convened a meeting of District and Sectoral Officers here at the Conference Hall, Kashmir Haat.

The meeting was attended by Commandant SDRF, Masroor Ahmad, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner/CEODDMA, Aadil Fareed, SP Headquarter, Umar Shah, Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Director IMD, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, SDM East, SDM West, Executive Engineers of KPDC, PHE, R&B, MED, SMC, Chief Medical Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, BDOs, AC Food Safety, AD FS&CA, besides other senior officers from Traffic Police and Civil Administration.

At the outset, the DC and SMC Commissioner reviewed and finalized the arrangements for timely snow clearance across the district to ensure uninterrupted vehicular movement. A comprehensive review of winter preparedness was also conducted including healthcare facilities, power and water supply, availability of medicines, ration, fuel, LPG, and other essential services.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed on taking measures well in advance so that routine functioning at all essential installations, besides trade, transport, essential supplies and other public services remains unaffected during snowfall.

Special instructions were issued to ensure adequate arrangements for the observance of Friday following Shab-e-Meraj at major shrines, including Dargah Hazratbal, as well as for the smooth conduct of Republic Day celebrations in the district.

All the line departments were asked to keep men and machinery on standby to promptly address any possible issues in water supply, electricity, and road connectivity caused by snowfall. Directions were also given on fully making functional control rooms across the district to ensure swift redressal of winter-



related public grievances. In addition, the stress was laid to ensure a prompt response system in place to ensure hassle-free supply of essential services to the people.

The meeting was informed that sufficient hi-tech snow clearance machinery has been deployed by R&B, SMC, and the Mechanical Engineering Department at vital installations, with additional machines kept in reserve for emergencies. Permanent and mobile dewatering stations operated by SMC, along with UEED pumps, are also functional to tackle waterlogging and to meet any exigency during

heavy snowfall.

The Chief Medical Officer was directed to ensure availability of medical staff, medicines, ambulances, and proper functioning of central heating systems in all hospitals. Engineers of KPDC were asked to maintain uninterrupted power supply, especially at essential installations, and ensure quick restoration in case of outages.

It was further informed that Jal Shakti schemes are functioning smoothly, with adequate backup arrangements to maintain uninterrupted water supply.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for general information that Rahil Ahmad Bhat, S/o Nazir Ahmad Bhat, R/o Kawari Gam, Tehsil Achabal, District Anantnag has applied for issuance of RBA Certificate.

Any person having any objection in this regard may submit the same along with documentary proof in the office of the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.

By Order
Naib Tehsildar, Achabal

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written as RAFIQ AHMAD DAR S/O MOHD SHABAN in my Aadhar card bearing Aadhar No...9465 9546 5668 while my correct name is MOHD RAFIQ DAR S/O MOHD SUBHAN which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his /her objection in office of concerned aadhar authorities with in seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name..MOHD RAFIQ DAR
S/OMOHD SUBHAN DAR
R/O ...WAGUB SOPORE

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Fathers name ABDUL RAHMAN LONE S/L ..ABDUL GANI PARRAY R/O HAIL THINDIMA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040001262 wants to be registered on my TARIQ AHMAD LONE S/O ABDUL REHMAN LONE R/O HAIL THINDIMA .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name..TARIQ AHMAD LONE
S/O ... ABDUL RAHMAN
R/O .HAIL

Public Notice

It is hereby notified for general information that the electric connection bearing Consumer ID No. 0212040001410 installed at Thindima stands in the name of Late Abdul Reheem Lone S/o Abdul Ahad Lone.

Due to his demise, the said electric connection is proposed to be transferred in favour of his son Abdul Ahad Lone S/o Late Abdul Reheem Lone, resident of Thindima, Sub Division Wagoora, District Baramulla.

If any person has any objection to this transfer, he/she may submit the same in writing to the office of Assistant Executive Engineer, KPDC Sub Division Wagoora, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the transfer shall be effected without any further reference.

Dated: 21/01/2026
Place: THINDIMA

Applicant:
Abdul Ahad Lone
S/o Late Abdul Reheem Lone
R/o Thindima

Public Notice

My Son's name has been wrongly written as ZOHIN ZAHOOR bearing id no 101002091124 in his date of Birth certificate issued by SDH KREERI while his correct name is ZOHAN ZAHOOR 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....ZAHOOR AHMAD GANIE , F/O ZOHAN ZAHOOR , R/O LALAD SOPORE , TEHSIL...BARAMULLA

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Fathers name MOHAMMAD RAMZAN SHAH S/O ..MOHAMMAD SADIQ SHAH R/O BURZAWACHAN WAGOORA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040002742 wants to be registered on my ABDUL RASHID SHAH S/O MOHAMMAD RAMZAN SHAH R/O BURZAWACHA. .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name..ABDUL RASHID SHAH
S/O ... MOHAMMAD RAMZAN SHAH
R/O .BURZAWACHAN WAGOORA

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on the name of MOHD AKBAR NAJAR S/O GH RASOOL NAJAR R/O...HAIL JAGIR Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040001258 wants to be registered on my MOHD IQBAL NAJAR S/O GH AHMAD NAJAR R/O HAIL JAGIR .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/ She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name..MOHD IQBAL NAJAR
S/O ... GH AHMAD NAJAR
R/O ..HAIL JAGIR

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

This notice is to inform the general public that my date of birth has been incorrectly recorded in my school records as 12-08-2013 instead of 21-08-2013. I hereby request that my school records be amended accordingly. If anyone has any objections, they may contact the Principal's Office at Army Public School, Badami Bagh, Srinagar, within seven days from the publication of this notice. After this period, no objections will be considered.

Syed Hafs Bukhari, S/O:- Mubbasher Hussain.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE SHOPIAN PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Launch of SHE-Box Portal and Constitution of Internal Complaints Committees (ICC).

The Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, has launched the SHE-Box Portal on 29th August 2024. This portal is designed to function as a centralised repository for monitoring complaints and data related to sexual harassment of women at the workplace, in accordance with the provisions of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

In light of the above, all Government and Private Offices/Establishments in district Shopian including educational institutions, are hereby requested to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) at their respective workplaces as mandated under the Act.

Further, the complete details of the constituted ICC (including names, contact details, date of constitution/reconstitution) may be shared at admshopianjk@jk.gov.in within a period of one week from the issuance of this Notice.

This initiative is aimed at ensuring a safe and dignified work environment for women.

Dated: 21.01-2026

Sd/- Dr Zakir Hussain, JKAS
Addl. District Magistrate Shopian

DIPK: 10286/25 | Dated: 22-01-2026

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

No: EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/CS/11096-11101 | Dated: 21-01-2026

Sub: Invitation of tenders for the work "Restoration / Construction / Development of Historical masjid Hama and allied works at Malsha Masjid Malshahi Bagh District Ganderbal.

Ref: This office NIT No: 87 of 2025-26 issued under endorsement No. 10388-93 dated: 08-01-2026.

Extension

The Bid submission end date for the subject work floated for tenders vide this office NIT No. referred to above which were scheduled to be on 21-01-2026 upto 04:00 PM is hereby extended in view of the representation made by the contractors, the details where of are given as under:

1	Date of issue of tender Notice	08-01-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	08-01-2026 from 4:00 PM to 28-01-2026 at 04:00 PM
3	Bid Submission Start Date	08-01-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	28-01-2026 at 04:00 PM
5	Date & Time of opening of technical Bids	29-01-2026 at 11:00 AM in the Office of Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Ganderbal
6	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bids	To be notified after Technical Bid Evaluation is completed

The other terms and conditions of the aforesaid NIT shall remain un-altered.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
(R&B) Division Ganderbal

DIPK: 10295/25 | Dated: 22-01-2026

Public Notice

Whereas, I/We Nissar ahmad wani S/O Manzoor ahmad wani Proprietor of the Excursion Agency/Travel Agency have applied in Tourism Department for change in location of my Excursion Agency/Travel Agency under the name and style SUNWAY KASHMIR TOUR AND TRAVELS from Alustang Hazratbal to Burzahama Shalimar Srinagar as per Section 39 of the J&K Registration of Tourist trade act 1978/2011 Whereas, the said excursion agency/ travel agency is registered with the Department of Tourism, Kashmir under the name and style" SUNWAY KASHMIR TOUR AND TRAVELS in the name of Mr./Mrs./Ms NISSAR AHMAD WANI S/O Manzoor ahmad wani R/O MULPHAQ BURZAHAMA SRINAGAR bearing registration No. JKEA00002289 and the same is renewed upto 31-12-2025 Whereas, I/We have submitted photographs of office both inside and outside and Photocopy of Registration Certificate; Before considering my request for change in location of my Excursion Agency/Travel Agency SUNWAY KASHMIR TOUR AND TRAVELS FROM ALUSTANG HAZRATBAL TO BURZAHAMA SHALIMAR SRINAGAR is considered, the matter is hereby notified for information of General Public/Financial Institutions/ Banks/ Development Authorities/ PHE Department/ Electric Department that in case of any objection, the same should reach the office of Deputy Director Tourism, Registration within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections beyond a period of 07 days will be entertained and my request for the same will be considered under rules, after submission of requisite documents.

Dated 22/01/2026

Public Notice

My daughters Name has been wrongly written on her D.O.B certificate as Muneera Jan D/O Parvez Ahmad Gojjar while her actual name is Muneera Jan D/O Parvaiz Ahmad Gojjar. Now i want to correct it .

If any body has any objection regarding this . They will contact BDO office Tral within a period of seven days . After completion of said period , No objection will be accepted.

Parvaiz Ahmad Gojjar
F/O Muneera Jan
R/o Brenpathri Machama
Tehsil Tral District. Pulwama

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District Admin Bandipora organises participatory activities to Marks 150 Years of 'Vande Mataram at Wular Lake

DC calls for Environmental Stewardship

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JANUARY 22: To commemorate 150 Years of National Pride, "Vande Mataram", the District Administration Bandipora organised a series of awareness and participatory activities at Wular Vantage Park, bringing together patriotism, youth engagement, and environmental responsibility.

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, along with senior district officers, visited the exhibition area and interacted with participants. The thematic exhibition, installed by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Bandipora and presented by students of Government Degree College (GDC) Bandipora, highlighted the historical evolution, national significance, and enduring relevance of Vande Mataram in India's freedom movement. The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the clarity and student-led presentation of the exhibits.

The programme featured a Birding and Binocular Exhibition to sensitise participants about the rich avian biodiversity of Wular



Lake and its importance as a critical wetland and habitat for migratory birds. A Painting Competition was also organised, wherein students

expressed themes of Vande Mataram, patriotism, national

unity, and environmental conservation through their creative works.

To promote environmental awareness and public participation, a Walkathon was organised along

the Wular Pathway, with participants carrying messages advocating cleanliness, responsible waste management, and biodiversity protection.

Addressing the gathering, the

Deputy Commissioner remarked, "Respect for nature is respect for Bharat. Vande Mataram is not merely a song but an emotion that binds us to our land, our history, and our responsibility towards the nation." She noted that holding the programme at Wular Lake carried special significance, as the lake is central to the identity of Bandipora, and stressed the need to actively involve youth in protecting the lake from pollution and ecological degradation.

The programme also included the collective listening of the National Song Vande Mataram, followed by a pledge by participants to uphold national unity and harmony. Winners of the Birding Awareness Activity, Painting Competition, and Walkathon were felicitated by the Deputy Commissioner for their enthusiasm and performance.

The event concluded with a strong sense of pride and collective resolve, reinforcing the message of national unity and environmental stewardship. The programme witnessed active participation from senior district officers, students, youth, officials, and members of the public.

DC Ganderbal reviews Winter, Snow preparedness ahead of predicted snowfall

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, JANUARY 22: In view of the forecast of snowfall, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired a meeting of officers from various departments to review the preparedness and arrangements for snow clearance and other related arrangements across the district.

During the meeting, the DC took stock of the availability of snow clearance machinery, stock position of essential supplies, and the action plans put in place by concerned departments to ensure uninterrupted delivery of public services during snowfall.

Officers from R&B Ganderbal and Kangan, PMGSY, Mechanical Engineering, Municipal Council Ganderbal, BEACON, BRO, Health, Jal Shakti, KPDC, Traffic Department and other line departments briefed the



meeting on their level of preparedness.

Emphasising public convenience and safety, the DC directed the departments concerned to ensure timely deployment of men and machinery for immediate clearance of snow from main roads as well as interior link roads, stressing that no road should remain closed due to snow accumulation. He called for prompt and meticulous snow clearance operations to minimise inconvenience to the public.

He underscored the need for close coordination among departments, effective functioning of control rooms and uninterrupted supply of essential services such as electricity and water during adverse weather conditions.

The DC instructed KPDC for adherence to the electricity supply schedule and maintenance of adequate buffer stock of distribution transformers. He further directed the Chief Medical Officer to ensure timely deployment of ambulances at critical locations including Lar, Kangan, Gund and other vulnerable areas to cater to emergencies.

The DC asked Tehsildars to maintain close coordination with line departments and ensure timely redressal of public grievances. He also instructed all district officers to remain stationed within the district to ensure swift response to any situation arising due to weather vagaries.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner (Panchayat), Chief Medical Officer, Executive Engineers and other concerned officers.

DC Kupwara chairs District Level-Telecom Committee Meeting

HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, JANUARY 22: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse today chaired a meeting of the District Level Telecom Committee (DTC) at the Mini Meeting Hall, DC Office Complex, to review the status of telecom infrastructure development in the district, with special focus on 4G saturation and



BharatNet implementation across all Panchayats.

During the meeting, detailed discussions held on mobile tower saturation, augmentation of signals, pending land allocation for towers, Right of Way (RoW) issues, power connection status.

Emphasis was laid on expediting ongoing execution of works and ensuring smooth inter-departmental coordination.

Regarding Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP) progress report was shared by PIA/BSNL during the meeting. The DC stressed on hassle free RoW permissions, utilisation of existing infrastructure for BharatNet connectivity.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad, SE R&B, Executive Engineers of R&B/PMGSY, OC-Beacon and other senior Officers of concerned departments as well as telecom representatives.

DC Kulgam visits Mechanical Field Sub-Division

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JANUARY 22: In order to ensure timely snow clearance across the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, visited the Mechanical Field Sub-Division, Chawalgam, Kulgam.

During the visit, the DC took a detailed stock of the availability of snow clearance machines, the snow clearance plan, and the functioning of control rooms. AEE, Mechanical Engineering Department, briefed the DC about the availability of machinery and informed that 25 machines, including two snow cutters, are available with the department. He further informed that Snow Clearance Control



Rooms have been established at Chawalgam, Kulgam, and Bathipora. The contact numbers of the Mechanical Control Rooms are 01931-294167, 9622446646, 7006219884, and 7889390253. With regard to the positioning of machines, it was shared that machines have been stationed at the DH Pora Control Room for snow clearance in the Noorabad area.

DC Baramulla reviews Digitization, Minor Irrigation Census

Directs Completion of Digitization within 15 Days

HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 22: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a meeting of Revenue Officers to review the progress of the digitization of land records and the Minor Irrigation Census in the district.

During the meeting, the concerned officers briefed the DC on the current status of digitization and the coverage achieved under the Minor Irrigation Census.

Emphasizing the need for timely and accurate data, the DC

stated that digitization is a critical reform initiative aimed at enhancing transparency, efficiency, and improved public service delivery.

Expressing concern over delays in certain areas, Minga Sherpa directed all concerned departments to complete the remaining digitization process within 15 days. He further directed all tehsildars to immediately initiate the digitization of all villages of the district, ensuring comprehensive and uniform coverage.

The DC instructed officers to strengthen field-level coordination, promptly remove



bottlenecks, and maintain strict data accuracy. He also stressed that the Minor Irrigation Census is vital for planning sustainable water management and boosting agricultural development and must be completed within the stipulated timeline.

Officers were directed to submit regular progress reports to ensure strict compliance with the directions issued.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Baramulla and all tehsildars of district Baramulla.

Educational institutions across Jammu observe 150th Anniversary of 'Vande Mataram' with patriotic fervour

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JANUARY 22: In consonance with the nationwide celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of the National Song 'Vande Mataram', educational institutions across Jammu district organised a series of academic, cultural and awareness activities today. The programmes were part of a structured calendar being observed across districts of Jammu and Kashmir in the run-up to Republic Day, aimed at reinforcing national values, cultural heritage and civic consciousness among students.

Government Degree College (GDC) Marh organised debate and essay writing competitions focusing on the historical relevance and contemporary significance of Vande Mataram, besides screening a short film highlighting its inspirational role in India's freedom struggle. The principal lauded the initiative, stating



that such engagements help youth connect with the nation's legacy and democratic ideals.

At GDC Paloura, a documentary screening was held to sensitise students about the role of Vande

Mataram in mobilising masses during the freedom movement. Faculty members highlighted the literary and nationalist contributions of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and underscored the song's enduring

relevance in nation-building.

GDC Jourian conducted film screenings and earlier organised a patriotically wherein NSS volunteers carried placards and raised slogans promoting unity and national integration in surrounding areas. Similar documentary screenings were held at GDC Khour and Higher Secondary School Chakrohi, where students were acquainted with the song's origin and its emotional resonance in India's struggle for independence.

The School of Social Sciences, Cluster University of Jammu, marked the occasion with a slogan writing competition.

Several other schools, including GHSS Gharota and institutions in Zones Bhalwal, RS Pura and Satwari also participated enthusiastically through documentary screenings and allied activities, witnessing participation of hundreds of students and teaching staff.

DC Kupwara interacts with Martyrs' Families ahead of 77th Republic Day

HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, JANUARY 22: On the eve of the forthcoming 77th Republic Day, the Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today organised a tea party-cum-interaction with Veer Naris, Veer Mata and Veer Pita at Mini Meeting Hall of DC Office complex Kupwara.

The event was held as a mark of respect and remembrance for the families of the brave soldiers who laid down their lives in the service of the nation.

During the interaction, the DC personally met each family member, acknowledged the supreme sacrifice of their loved ones and reaffirmed the unwavering support of the District Administration towards their welfare.

On the occasion, the DC appealed to the families to avail benefits under various centrally sponsored welfare schemes meant for ex-servicemen and their dependents. He also facilitated their visit to the Centre of Excellence established at the DC Office Complex, Kupwara, aimed at improving



service delivery and public facilitation.

Col. S.S. Raja (Retd.), Zila Sainik Welfare Officer, expressed heartfelt gratitude on behalf of Veer Naris and ex-servicemen to the DC for his thoughtful initiative, valuable time and for organising the meaningful event in honour of the families of the fallen heroes.

The meeting was attended by ACR Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad, Veer Naris, Veer Mata, Veer Pita and Ex-servicemen.

Adani Group announces huge investment portfolio for India at WEF 2026

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI, JAN 22 : The Adani Group today officially announced a detailed view of its expanding investment portfolio for India, at the 56th World Economic Forum (WEF 2026) in Davos, Switzerland, spanning aviation, renewable energy, urban development, digital infrastructure as well as advanced manufacturing.

According to an official statement, "The projects outlined at WEF 2026 reflect the Adani Group's evolution from asset creation to ecosystem building, with a focus on scale, integration and sustainability. Collectively, these investments align closely with India's priorities around ease of doing business, energy transition, regional development and manufacturing self-reliance."

"The Adani Group will deepen its aviation footprint around Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (LGBIA) in Guwahati, whose new terminal was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2025 and is set to be operationalised next month. The airport-anchored investment plan extends well beyond passenger infrastructure," according to the statement.

Key initiatives include an integrated hospitality and retail complex, an aviation training academy equipped with Level-D full-flight simulators and trainer



aircraft, and comprehensive aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul facilities for both narrow-body and wide-body aircraft. Together, these projects aim to position Guwahati as a regional aviation and aerospace hub, supporting connectivity, skill development and self-reliance in aircraft operations and maintenance across the Northeast.

The Adani Group's renewable energy expansion in Assam focuses on large-scale solar power projects in Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao, two tribal-dominated hill districts bordering Nagaland and Meghalaya. "Together, these projects will add more than 2,700 megawatts (MW) of clean energy capacity, standing out not only for their scale but also for their geography. By committing capital to regions that have historically seen limited private industrial investment, the Adani Group is combining clean energy development with local employment,

infrastructure creation and long-term economic inclusion. Complementing this are investments in cement manufacturing and grinding units across Assam, including integrated clinker facilities and high-capacity grinding units, designed to strengthen construction supply chains in eastern and northeastern India," as per the statement.

In Maharashtra, the Adani Group has outlined a cluster of large-scale, future-oriented investments anchored by urban transformation, digital infrastructure and advanced energy systems. "Central to this is the Dharavi redevelopment project, one of India's most complex urban renewal initiatives, aimed at transforming Asia's largest informal settlement into a planned, inclusive and economically vibrant urban district.

This urban push is complemented by developments in Navi Mumbai,

anchored by Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA), one of India's largest greenfield airports, which commenced operations on 25 December," the statement mentioned.

Designed to significantly expand aviation capacity for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, the airport is envisioned as a multi-modal growth engine catalysing logistics, hospitality and commercial ecosystems. Alongside this, the Group has outlined plans for green integrated data centre parks with a combined capacity of 3,000 MW and an integrated one-of-its-kind arena district near the airport.

The Adani Group's Maharashtra portfolio also spans strategic sectors such as coal gasification, pumped storage hydropower projects totalling 8,700 MW, semiconductor and display fabrication facilities and a nuclear power project aligned with the government's evolving legislative framework for private participation, as per the statement.

Taken together, the proposed investments of over Rs 6 lakh crore across these three states and sectors position the Adani Group as a long-term partner in India's development journey. By combining infrastructure scale with energy transition, digitalisation and advanced manufacturing, the Group is aligning private capital with national priorities and global opportunity. UNI

Bank of India Q3 FY26 operating profit rises 13 per cent

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JAN 22 : Bank of India on Wednesday reported a 13 per cent year-on-year growth in operating profit for the third quarter of FY26, with the figure rising to Rs 4,193 crore, reflecting steady business expansion and improved asset quality.

For the nine-month period ended December 2025, the bank's operating profit increased 4 per cent year-on-year to Rs 12,023 crore. Net profit for Q3 FY26 grew 7 per cent to Rs 2,705 crore, while net profit for the first nine months of FY26 rose 14 per cent to Rs 7,511 crore.

The bank's profitability ratios showed notable improvement during the quarter. Return on Assets (ROA) increased to 0.96 per cent in Q3 FY26, while Return on Equity (ROE) improved to 15.34 per cent. For the nine-month period, ROA and ROE stood at 0.90 per cent and 14.49 per cent, respectively.

Net Interest Margin (NIM) remained stable, with global NIM at 2.57 per cent and domestic NIM at 2.80 per cent during the quarter. For the nine months of FY26, global and domestic NIM stood at 2.51 per cent and 2.76 per cent, respectively.

On the business front, domestic advances grew by 15.16 per cent year-on-year, while global advances increased by 13.63 per cent. The bank's global business crossed the Rs 16 lakh crore milestone during the quarter.

Retail advances recorded a strong growth of 20.64 per cent, followed by agriculture advances at 16.69 per cent, MSME advances at 15.77 per cent, and corporate advances at 11.32 per cent. The share of retail, agriculture and MSME (RAM) advances rose to 58.54 per cent.



Deposits grew by 11.64 per cent year-on-year, with domestic deposits rising by 12.80 per cent. CASA deposits increased by 4.48 per cent, and the CASA ratio stood at 37.97 per cent as of December 31, 2025.

Net Interest Income (NII) for Q3 FY26 stood at 6,461 crore, while for the nine-month period it reached Rs 18,442 crore. Non-interest income rose sharply by 30 per cent year-on-year to Rs 2,279 crore in the third quarter and increased by 20 per cent year-on-year to 6,665 crore during the nine-month period.

Asset quality continued to improve, with the gross non-performing asset (NPA) ratio declining to 2.26 per cent, an improvement of 143 basis points year-on-year. The net NPA ratio improved by 25 basis points to 0.60 per cent.

The provision coverage ratio strengthened to 93.60 per cent, while the slippage ratio for Q3 FY26 improved to 0.16 per cent. Credit cost for the nine-month period declined to 0.42 per cent, and for the third quarter it stood at 0.34 per cent.

The bank's capital adequacy ratio remained comfortable at 17.09 per cent. UNI

Rashmi Group signs MoU with Telangana for Rs 12,500-crore steel plant at Davos

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

DAVOS/HYDERABAD, JAN 22 : The Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy-led 'Telangana Rising' delegation on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rashmi Group for setting up a steel production unit in Telangana with an investment of Rs 12,500 crore and an employment potential of 12,000 direct and indirect jobs.



Rashmi Group Promoter Sajjan Kumar Patwari and Director Sanjib Kumar Patwari met the delegation during the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2026 and expressed readiness to establish the steel plant in the State. Established in 1966, the conglomerate is globally known for its ductile iron (DI) pipes used in water and sanitation projects and exports to over 40 countries across multiple continents.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy congratulated IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu for securing the investment, stating that the project would strengthen Telangana's growth trajectory.

The Minister said Telangana has emerged as an industrial powerhouse with progressive policies and a strong focus on manufacturing, and assured the company of all support required to set up the unit, including coal supply linkages.

Sanjib Kumar Patwari said the proposed steel plant would involve labour-intensive manufacturing and has the potential to generate large-scale employment. The two sides also discussed possible partnerships in green manufacturing and the circular economy, with the company expressing interest in energy-efficient steelmaking, waste heat recovery and slag utilisation in line with Telangana's sustainability goals, according to an official statement on Wednesday. UNI

BPCL launches national PNG & CNG Drive 2.0, promoting 'Non-Stop Zindagi' with cleaner energy

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI, JAN 22 : Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a Fortune Global 500 company and a Maharatna PSU, on Wednesday announced the national rollout of PNG & CNG Drive 2.0, aligned with India's clean energy transition and the Government of India's vision of enhancing the share of natural gas in the country's energy mix.

The event marked the national launch of television commercials under PNG Drive 2.0, being conducted on behalf of the PNGRB Industry Committee.

The newly-unveiled PNG and CNG TVCs featured actor and Member of Parliament Ravi Kishan endorsing Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), and actor Sakshi Tanwar promoting Piped Natural Gas (PNG), to highlight the safety, affordability,

convenience and environmental benefits of natural gas, while reinforcing the industry's collective commitment to India's clean energy transition, a release said.

The nationwide campaign, being conducted from January 1 to March 31, 2026, is being implemented under the guidance of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), with active participation from all City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities across the country. The initiative aims to accelerate adoption of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for households, commercial and industrial users, and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for mobility, reinforcing cleaner, safer and more reliable energy access. Subhankar Sen, Director (Marketing), BPCL, while addressing the press conference, said, "PNG



& CNG Drive 2.0 is a strong step towards nation-building and improving ease of living for citizens. Natural gas delivers safety, reliability and uninterrupted supply - right from kitchens to mobility, while significantly reducing carbon emissions. With India's rapid urbanisation and mobility growth, this transition supports cleaner air, modern living and the vision of a gas-based economy." The campaign theme 'Non-Stop

Zindagi' highlights the convenience of natural gas as 'gas on tap', a worry-free, continuous and safe fuel for homes, businesses and transportation. PNG eliminates the need for cylinder refills while ensuring controlled pressure and enhanced safety, whereas CNG enables cleaner mobility without compromising driving experience. Speaking at the event, Rahul Tandon, Business Head - Gas, said the initiative reflects a pan-India

collaboration among public and private CGD entities to position natural gas not merely as a utility, but as a life enabler, supporting households, mobility, commerce and industry while advancing India's climate commitments, including Net Zero by 2070.

Neera Asthana Phate, General Manager, Corporate Communications & CRM • Mahanagar Gas Limited, highlighted, that "PNG powers homes, offices and restaurants, while CNG fuels cars, buses and commercial transport." She emphasised that PNG and CNG remain constant companions throughout one's lifetime, enabling cleaner living and mobility. She added that reaching people is crucial and expressed confidence that this initiative will drive a nationwide clean energy movement for India. UNI

Cycle Agarbathis gifts 10 lakh fragrance packets on Driver's Day

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BENGALURU, JAN 22 : In a first-of-its-kind initiative to honour drivers on National Driver's Day, Cycle Agarbathis distributed 10 lakh eco-friendly fragrance packets across the country on Thursday aiming to make journeys more pleasant and stress-free for drivers and commuters alike.

The move, described as a tribute to the "silent warriors" of India's roads, involved partnerships with seven major institutions including Ola Cabs, MSRTC, KSRTC, DTC in Delhi, VRL, and the Indian Federation of App-Based Travel Operators. The fragrance packets, designed for use in cars, buses, and other enclosed spaces, release soothing aromas that enhance the travel experience. Cycle Agarbathis Chief Sales and Marketing Officer Amatnath Dutta emphasised that the initiative not only provides a refreshing journey for

commuters but also recognises the tireless contributions of drivers.

"This initiative ensures that every journey, whether city commute or long-distance travel, becomes calmer and more relaxed," he told reporters. "The packets are easy to use, eco-friendly, and last for about 25 days, keeping the air inside vehicles fresh throughout the day. In buses, multiple points are equipped to ensure the fragrance spreads evenly, including in sleeper coaches for overnight journeys."

The first phase of the programme features three fragrances: pineapple, pink blossom, and apple-cinnamon. The product was launched six months ago in a phased manner and has already achieved around 70 per cent distribution coverage nationwide. Today's free distribution is part of a corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative, separate from commercial sales.

Dutta explained that the packets can also be used in small enclosed spaces such as cupboards or bathrooms, helping neutralise odours while maintaining a pleasant environment. The fragrance works silently and effectively, and even first-time users can immediately notice the difference. Since the product launch, approximately one lakh fragrance packets have been sold, covering 40-50 per cent of outlets across India. Repeat purchase rates have been encouraging at 35-40 per cent, higher than typical for a new product in its initial months. To ensure wide availability, the initiative uses two brands distributed through multiple channels, including car accessory stores, housekeeping outlets, general merchandise outlets, and modern trade stores. This dual-brand strategy ensures that both urban and semi-urban markets are covered efficiently.

'India's deal-making ecosystem rises to USD 133 bln in 2025,' says Grant Thornton

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JAN 22 : India's deal-making ecosystem rises with total transactions volume reaching USD 133 billion across 2,658 deals during 2025, said Grant Thornton Bharat Annual Dealtracker 2025 in a statement released on Wednesday.

Deal volumes rose 21 per cent year-on-year, while deal values increased 13 per cent, reflecting growing investor confidence amid

global economic volatility.

Despite geopolitical tensions, trade disruptions, and policy uncertainty in major global economies, India continued to attract sustained capital flows, supported by strong economic growth and improving market sentiment.

The year was marked by the return of large strategic transactions alongside active mid-market and private capital activity, reinforcing India's position as a resilient and

long-term investment destination.

Mergers and acquisitions activity touched historic highs in 2025, recording 963 transactions the highest annual volume on record with total M&A value reaching USD 60.2 billion, the strongest level seen in the past three years. Fourteen mega deals valued at over USD 1 billion contributed USD 34.3 billion, accounting for 57 per cent of total M&A value and more than doubling the number of billion-dollar

transactions compared to 2024.

Commenting on the deal activity, Shanthi Vijetha, Partner Growth, Grant Thornton Bharat, said, "The deal landscape in 2025 marks a clear inflection point for India, where scale, strategy, and selectivity have converged. The resurgence of billion-dollar M&A transactions, record domestic consolidation, and value-led inbound investments reflecting growing confidence in India as a long-term strategic market rather

than a tactical allocation."

At the same time, steady PE and VC deployment, alongside a record-setting IPO market, reflects the depth and maturity of India's capital ecosystem. As we move into 2026, deal activity is likely to be driven less by cyclical recovery and more by policy continuity, sectoral transformation and disciplined capital allocation positioning India for sustained value creation despite global uncertainty" Vijetha added. UNI

Telangana Rising delegation meets Tata Chairman in Davos; sports infra, Musi rejuvenation, resorts in temple towns discussed

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

DAVOS/HYDERABAD, JAN 22 : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy-led 'Telangana Rising' delegation on Day-2 (Wednesday) of WEF 2026 held a breakfast meeting with Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran at the TCS Pavilion, extensively presenting the State's 'Telangana Rising 2047' vision, policies and growth ecosystem.

The Chief Minister pitched plans to upgrade major stadiums in Hyderabad with Tata support, to which Chandrasekaran agreed to engage. The discussions also covered scaling up skilling initiatives, including upgrading government polytechnic colleges, and the Young India Sports University vision aimed at building world-class public sports infrastructure.

The Tata Group also expressed interest in partnering Telangana's Musi River rejuvenation efforts and discussed opportunities to set up hotels and resorts, particularly in temple towns such as Medaram, Vemulawada and Bhadrachalam, besides exploring a resort project along the Srisailem highway.

Chandrasekaran indicated that Tata was positive about future investments in areas such as AI data centres, semiconductors, EVs and new manufacturing plants in Telangana. The meeting was attended by Minister D. Sridhar Babu, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and senior officials, according to an official statement. UNI



Mitchell Goes Past Kohli To Become Top Men's ODI Batter In The World

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

SYDNEY: Daryl Mitchell's scores of 131 not out and 137, both at a strike rate of over 100, in the second and third ODIs in the three-match series in India, have pushed him past Virat Kohli to the top spot in the ICC's men's ODI batters' rankings.

The century which clinched New Zealand's first series win in India, on Sunday, was Mitchell's ninth in ODIs, coming in his 54th innings. That made him the fourth-fastest to the mark after Imam-ul-Haq (48 innings), Hashim Amla (52) and Quinton de Kock (53). His series total (352 runs) is the highest for New Zealand in a three-match rubber and the third-highest of all time, behind Babar Azam (360 against West Indies in 2016) and Shubman Gill (360 against New Zealand in 2023).

Kohli, who recorded scores of 93, 23 and 124 in the series, had gone past Rohit Sharma to the top spot just the previous week, but slipped from the perch after the mediocre score in the second ODI. Last week, Kohli had 785 rating points to Mitchell's 784. The difference is now huge: Mitchell is at 845 and Kohli 795.

This is Mitchell's second time at the top of the ODI batters' table. His previous spell only lasted three days last November before he was overtaken by Rohit.

Behind them on the table are Ibrahim Zadran (764 points), Rohit (757) and Gill (723). Some way behind them, rising from No. 36 to No. 20, is Glenn Phillips, who scored 106 off 88 balls in that third ODI and put together a 219-run stand with Mitchell for the fourth wicket to set up New Zealand's 41-run win.

Brook Told to Regain Players' Trust

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HAMILTON: Harry Brook admits he was fortunate to keep his job as white-ball captain following a late-night altercation with a nightclub bouncer in New Zealand, and says he is in the process of regaining the trust of his team.

Brook, now in Sri Lanka for England's ODI series which gets underway on Thursday, was speaking for the first time since news broke that he had been disciplined for the incident in Wellington in



October, for which he was fined £30,000 and put on a final warning for his off-field conduct. "Obviously I made a terrible mistake," Brook said. "Not only as a player, but as a captain. It's very unprofessional and I should be leading from the front."

"I've learnt from my mistakes, I've reflected a lot on what's happened and I know it wasn't the right thing to do. I want to say sorry to my teammates, to all the fans that travel far and wide to watch, spend a lot of money on coming out to watch us play cricket and supporting us, and to the ECB for putting them in a tricky situation, and it'll never happen again. I'm extremely sorry."

Brook, along with a number of other England players, had been out drinking the night before the third ODI against New Zealand, with the match the final competitive fixture for England before the Ashes began three weeks later. Brook, who says he then went on his own to a nightclub, says he was "clocked" by a bouncer when attempting to get in.

"We went out for a couple of drinks beforehand and then I took it upon myself to go out for a few more and I was on my own there," Brook said. "I was trying to get into a club and the bouncer just clocked me, unfortunately. Like I said, I shouldn't have been in that situation from the start... I wasn't absolutely leathered, I'd had one too many drinks."

Brook reported his actions to the management mid-game the next day, and came close to being sacked from his position as captain as a result.

"It was definitely going through my mind," Brook said of the potential that he would lose his job, before adding that he had not at any stage considered resigning. "Never came into my mind. I left that decision to the hierarchy and, look, if they'd have sacked me from being captain, then I'd have been perfectly fine with it, as long as I was still playing cricket for England."

"Probably, yeah," he added, when asked if he felt lucky to keep his job. "I think I've got a little bit of work to do to try and regain the trust of the players. I said sorry to them yesterday. I felt like I needed to say sorry for my actions."

Dhananjaya de Silva returns to Sri Lanka's ODI squad for England series

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka Test captain Dhananjaya de Silva makes a return to the ODI squad for the series against England, with left-arm spinning allrounder Dunith Wellalage also named to the squad. Both had missed Sri Lanka's last ODI assignment - the three-match series in Pakistan, with de Silva having spent most of 2025 sidelined from the shorter formats.

Sri Lanka's three quickest limited-overs bowlers - Dushmantha Chameera, Matheesha Pathirana, and Dilshan Madushanka - have not been named, however. Chameera is being rested, Madushanka is out with injury, and Pathirana has not been picked for this format.

The pace contingent will instead comprise of Asitha



Fernando, Pramod Madushan, and Eshan Malinga. They will

also have allrounder Milan Rathnayake for support. Rath-

nayake has played one ODI - against Bangladesh last July.

But he has had some success against England in the Test format.

The spin department is more-or-less as expected. Jeffrey Vandersay reclaims the spot as the second legspinner after Wanindu Hasaranga, while Wellalage returns to provide another bowling option that also provides batting depth.

In general Sri Lanka have chosen a squad with an array of multi-skilled cricketers, with Janith Liyanage and Charith Asalanka also present. There is no room for T20I captain Dasun Shanaka. Opener Lahiru Udara, who had been in the squad for the Pakistan series, has not been named here.

The three-match ODI series will be played entirely at Khet-tarama in Colombo and begins on Thursday.

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