

Srinagar

Friday

January 30 | 2026

11 Shaban 1447 AH

Issue No: 26

Volume: 16

Pages: 12

Price: Rs 02/-

16TH
YEAR OF
PUBLICATION

HEADLINES TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



**LUBAAB
PUBLICATIONS**

ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS

NEWSPAPER | BOOKS | FLYERS | LOGO | FLEX | MAGAZINES
VISITING CARDS | BROCHURES | 3D BOARDS | COVER PAGES
WEDDING CARDS | CALLIGRAPHY | WALL PAINTINGS

9999038812
9419008414

Radio Colony,
Gund Hassibhat, Lawaipora Srinagar-190017

Tech to Empower, Not Replace Humans; Budget to Script India's Next 25 Years: PM Modi

Sets Reform-Driven Tone Ahead of Budget Session 2026,
Hails Roadmap to Developed India by 2047

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JAN 29: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday set an ambitious and reform-oriented tone for the Budget Session of Parliament, asserting that technology will be harnessed to empower citizens and strengthen governance, without compromising India's human-centric systems.

Addressing the media before the start of the session, Modi said the President's address reflected the confidence, hard work, and aspirations of 140 crore Indians, especially the youth. He underlined that this Budget marks the beginning of the second quarter of the 21st century, with the next 25 years being crucial for achiev-



ing the goal of a developed India by 2047.

Describing the session as historic, the Prime Minister noted that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget for the ninth consecutive time, calling it a proud moment in parliamentary history. He said the Budget would lay the foundation for long-term growth, reforms, and inclusive development.

Highlighting the recently concluded Free Trade Agreement between India and the European Union, Modi termed it the "Mother of All Deals," opening vast opportunities for Indian manufacturers, farmers, fishermen, youth, and service-sector professionals. He urged industries to focus on quality and competitiveness, stating

● Turn on Page 2



Beating Retreat Ceremony Brings Curtain Down on 77th Republic Day Celebrations in Jammu

LG Manoj Sinha Graces Grand Finale at MA Stadium as Stirring Musical Performances and Fireworks Captivate Audience

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 29: The customary Beating Retreat Ceremony on Thursday marked the

grand culmination of the four-day-long celebrations of the 77th Republic Day at the MA Stadium here, with Lieutenant

● Turn on Page 2

Post-Snowfall Review

Ensuring Swift Restoration: Dy CM

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JAN 29: Continuing outreach to snow-affected areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today undertook an extensive tour of the snow-bound areas of Ramban district to assess the post-snowfall situation and review the progress of ongoing restoration works.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister chaired detailed review meetings with the heads of concerned departments at Ramban. He reviewed snow clearance operations, restoration of road connectivity, essential services, and the status of ongoing development works across the

district.

The Deputy Chief Minister was accompanied by MLA Banihal Sajjad Shaheen, MLA Ramban Arjun Singh Raju, and other public representatives. Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan, SSP Ramban Arun Gupta, SSP Traffic NHW Raja Adil Hameed, Chief Engineers of PWD, PMGSY and Mechanical Department, along with senior district and sectoral officers, attended the meetings.

The Deputy Chief Minister visited several snow-affected areas including Banihal, Batote, Patnitop and adjoining localities to assess ground conditions and ongoing restoration efforts.

● Turn on Page 2

Start-Ups Key to Jobs, Growth in J&K: CM Omar Abdullah

CM Unveils Major Push to Strengthen Entrepreneurship Ecosystem at JKEDI Annual Start-up Mela

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SAMBA, JAN 29: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursdaysaid that fostering a vibrant start-up culture and a strong entrepreneurship ecosystem is central to tackling unemployment and driving sustainable economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the Annual Start-up Mela of the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) at Bari Brahmana, the

● Turn on Page 2



Lays foundation stone of 10 MVA Receiving Station

Inaugurates Bus Terminal at Thandi Khui

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SAMBA, JAN 29: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday visited Samba district, laying foundation stone for 10 MVA Receiving Station at Harminder and also inaugurated bus stand at Thandi

● Turn on Page 2

Haj-2026: Self - Booking Portal Launched for Pilgrim Flights, 4-Day Window Opens

■ HT NEWS DESK / KNS

SRINAGAR, JAN 29: In a significant push towards digitisation and passenger convenience, the Haj Committee of India (HCoI) on Thursday introduced a self-service online facility enabling Haj-2026 pilgrims to book their own flight tickets, marking a major reform in the pilgrimage management process.

Official sources told Kashmir News Service (KNS) that the new system allows pilgrims to directly select and confirm

● Turn on Page 2

Vande Bharat, Key Long-Route Trains to Return in April; 20 Services Remain Cancelled

Railways Announce Phased Restoration as Weather Hit Sections Undergo Safety Review

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, JAN 29: Four long-distance passenger trains, including two premium Vande Bharat Express services between New Delhi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (SMVD) Katra, will resume operations from April, while the suspension of 20 other trains has been extended for another two to three months, Northern Railway officials said on Thursday.

In a statement, the Jammu division of Northern Railway said that 14 additional trains will con-

tinue to run with short termination or short origination owing to operational constraints. The phased restoration plan is part of ongoing efforts to ensure passenger safety following extensive damage to railway infrastructure caused by heavy rainfall last year.

The Vande Bharat Express services operating in both directions between New Delhi and SMVD Katra are scheduled to resume from April 2. Meanwhile, the Bhagat Ki Kothi (Rajasthan)-Jammu

● Turn on Page 2

India's Space Sector Poised To Drive Next Big Economic Surge: Jitendra Singh

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JAN 29: Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh on Thursday said that India's rapidly expanding space sector is set to become a key engine of the country's future economic growth, driven by policy reforms, rising private investment and increasing global demand for satellite launch services.

Replying to supplementary questions during the Question Hour in the Rajya Sabha, Singh highlighted the sharp rise in revenue from the launch of foreign satellites by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). He said that out of the 434

● Turn on Page 2

CS reviews progress of digital connectivity projects

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 29: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired the 10th State Broadband Committee (SBC) Meeting to review the status of key digital infrastructure initiatives, including 4G Saturation Project, Amended BharatNet Programme (ABP), 5G Readiness, Call Before You Dig (CBuD) and other allied telecom projects being implemented across J&K.

The meeting, convened by the Information Technology Department was attended by ACS, PWD; Commissioner Secretary, Forests; DDG, LSA, J&K; Secretary, Information; Secretary, RDD; Representatives from BSNL and other concerned officers from different departments here.

Deputy Commissioners attended through video conferencing from their respective offices.

During this meeting a detailed presentation was made by the Secretary, IT, Dr Piyush Singla on the incremental progress achieved since the last SBC meeting held in October. The Chief Secretary took note of the

● Turn on Page 2

Govt Announces 15% Syllabus Relief for Summer Zone Exams

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 29: The J&K Government today announced 15% syllabus relaxation for class 10th, 11th, and 12th students of summer zone in annual regular exams of Jammu Division, keeping in view the disruptions caused due to long spells of inclement weather and war-like situation last year.

Announcing the decision, the Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo said that the department was well aware of all these factors and the

● Turn on Page 2

Bringing Better Health Closer To Home

Revive Care

Complete Approach to your Well being

Chemists & Druggists , Polyclinic , Clinical Lab

AVAILABLE SERVICES

- ✓ Minor Surgical Procedures Including,
- ➔ Post Operative Dressing
- ➔ All Types Of Wound Dressing
- ➔ Immediate First Aid

Lab Facilities (Collection Centre of Global Diagnostic & Imaging centre)

AVAILABLE CONSULTATIONS

✓ General Medicine	✓ Orthopedics
✓ Chest Medicine	✓ Paediatrics
✓ Braces & Dental Care	✓ Clinical Psychology
✓ Speech Therapy & Audiology	✓ Neurosurgery

Contact Us At  9906215683

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT

A day prior to your visit : (First Come, First Served)

9 NATIONAL HIGHWAY KANISPORA NEAR PETROL PUMP

پیشاپ

Preserve Your Ideas

We Bring Them to Life

 **LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS**

ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS

We Publish in
Arabic | Urdu | Hindi | Persian | Kashmiri

Contact us:
9697071471 | 9999038812
lubaabpublications01@gmail.com

Poetry promotes unity, harmony, cultural exchange: Speaker LA

Addresses All India Urdu Mushaira at Jammu

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 29: "Poetry plays a vital role in promoting unity, harmony and cultural exchange in a multilingual nation like India", stated Speaker J&K Legislative Assembly Abdul Rahim Rather while addressing the prestigious All India Urdu Mushaira at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu, as chief guest.

The Mushaira was organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL) in which a galaxy of writers, poets and intellectuals representing diverse languages and regions from across the country participated.

The Speaker said that the primary objective of the Mushaira is to celebrate India's rich diversity through the universal language of poetry, which serves as a bridge connecting people from varied backgrounds and regions.

Highlighting the role of Urdu poetry in fostering social harmony, brotherhood and cultural unity, the Speaker said that such events promote art and literature, strengthening the community's cultural fabric and creating shared, joyous experiences.



Lauding the efforts of JKAACL, the Speaker said they offer a platform for both the established and emerging poets to present poetry that resonates with the public, often emphasizing love, humanity and unity.

Rather exhorted that the All India Urdu Mushaira has emerged

as a significant cultural platform for nurturing literary excellence and strengthening the country's composite cultural ethos.

The Mushaira was organized as part of the 77th Republic Day celebrations bringing together the renowned poets from Jammu and Kashmir as well as other

States and Union Territories.

Eminent poets from across the country who enthralled the audience with their captivating poetic renditions were Moin Shadab (Delhi), Jyoti Azad (Gwalior), Imran Faiz (Nagpur), Ismail Nazar (Indore), Asrar Chanderi (Madhya Pradesh), Kaleem Kaiser (Gora-

khpur), Mohan Muntazir (Nagpur), Dr. Ana Dehlavi (Delhi), Dr. Majid Deobandi (Delhi), and Khushbir Singh Shaad (Jalandhar).

Local poets also enriched the Mushaira with evocative and thought-provoking verses. Notable participants included Pritpal Singh Betaab (Jammu), Amir Sambri (Bhaderwah), Dr. Daleep Kumar Sharma (Jammu), Liyakat Ali Jaffri (Jammu), Ahmad Shinas (Jammu), Parvaiz Gulshan (Anantnag), Dr. Ahmad Manzoor (Baramulla), Dr. Nazir Azad (Pulwama) and Ruksana Jabeen (Srinagar).

Each poet mesmerized the audience with soulful poetry, blending classical traditions with contemporary sensibilities and reaffirming the timeless relevance of Urdu literature.

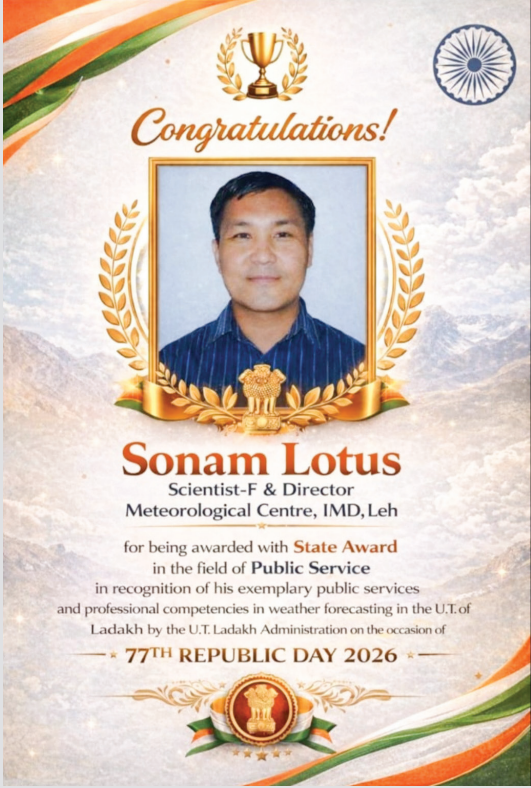
Principal Secretary Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma, presenting welcome address, said that the event underscored the importance of literary gatherings in fostering creativity, encouraging fresh ideas and preserving India's rich cultural and linguistic heritage.

Additional Secretary, JKAACL, Lal Chand presented the vote of thanks.

Sonam Lotus Conferred State Award for Public Service on Republic Day 2026

DR. AB QAYOOM

SRINAGAR, JAN 29: Scientist-F and Director, Meteorological Centre, IMD Leh, Sonam Lotus has been conferred the prestigious State Award in the field of Public Service by the U.T. Ladakh Administration on the occasion of the 77th Republic Day, 2026, in recognition of his exemplary public service and outstanding professional competence in weather forecasting across the region. Widely known as the "Weatherman of Ladakh and Kashmir", Sonam Lotus has earned legendary status among the people for his precise and reliable weather predictions. Fondly referred to as "Saint Lotus," "Peet Lotus," and the "Weatherman of All Seasons," his forecasts have



become an essential part of daily life for thousands, helping citizens plan weddings, road travel, air journeys, and even regulate highway traffic in the challenging Himalayan terrain. For decades, his scientific expertise has played a crucial role in averting disasters and minimizing losses caused by extreme weather conditions, especially in high-altitude and snowbound regions. His work has significantly enhanced disaster preparedness and public safety in Ladakh and Kashmir. Earlier, his exceptional contribution was also recognized by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India, which honoured him with the Best Employee Award for 2017-2018 for his dedicated service in the field of meteorology. Born in the remote Shara village, about 60 kilometres from Leh, Sonam Lotus rose through sheer dedication and academic excellence. He holds a Master's degree in Physics from the University of Jammu. In 2005, he qualified the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) examination and subsequently underwent specialized training in meteorology and weather forecasting at the India Meteorological Department Training School, Pune. Before taking charge in Ladakh, he also served as the longest-serving Director of the Meteorological Department in Jammu and Kashmir, where his accurate forecasts earned him widespread public trust and admiration. The award stands as a tribute to his lifelong commitment to public service, scientific excellence, and his tireless efforts to safeguard lives and livelihoods in one of the world's most challenging climatic regions.

Snowfall blocks water schemes in south and north Kashmir, restoration underway: Chief Engineer PHE

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JAN 29: Several water supply schemes in Shopian, Kupwara, Baramulla and Kulgam have been temporarily disrupted due to massive snowfall, with restoration work currently underway, Chief Engineer Public Health Engineering Rakesh Kumar said on Thursday. Chief Engineer said snowfall has blocked a number of water schemes, affecting supply in various areas. "Efforts are on to restore water supply. In most areas it will take at least 24 hours, while in upper reaches restoration may take up to 72 hours," he said.

Rakesh Kumar said that in Shopian, two additional water tankers have been dispatched from Srinagar to provide immediate relief to inhabitants facing supply disruption. He said similar contingency measures are being taken wherever required to minimise inconvenience to the public.

He said the snowfall, while causing temporary disruption, is important for long term water security. "Snowfall is crucial for water charging and will have good results, especially in districts like Shopian, Kupwara, Baramulla and Kulgam. There will be no water shortage problem in the coming months," he said.

The Chief Engineer said the current issues are short term and are mainly due to heavy snowfall affecting infrastructure. He added that freezing related problems have been comparatively less this season.

Appealing to the public, Rakesh Kumar urged people to avoid wastage of potable water and use it judiciously, particularly during the restoration phase.

Orchardly Named Top Emerging Startup of J&K at J&K Startup Awards

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 29: Orchardly, an agritech platform working to empower farmers with data-driven solutions, has been selected as the Top Emerging Startup of Jammu & Kashmir at the prestigious J&K Startup Awards, held today at the Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI), Jammu.

The award was presented during the J&K Startup Mela by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Shri Omar Abdullah, who felicitated innovative startups contributing to the state's economic and technological growth. Orchardly was honoured with a cash prize of ₹50,000 along with a certificate of excellence.

Expressing gratitude on the occasion, Orchardly CEO Ehsan Qudusi said,

"This recognition is a proud moment not just for Orchardly, but for every farmer and innovator who believes that technology can transform agriculture. Our mission has always been to bridge the gap between innovation and the orchard, and this award strengthens our resolve to scale our impact across Jammu & Kashmir and beyond."



Founded with the vision of making agriculture smarter, more resilient, and profitable, Orchardly provides farmers with real-time weather advisories, crop insights, mandi price updates, and scientific recommendations. The platform works closely with thousands of growers, helping them adopt modern practices and improve productivity and income.

Orchardly's mission is to build a

technology-driven ecosystem that connects farmers with knowledge, markets, and sustainable agricultural solutions, while strengthening the value chain from farm to market.

The recognition at the J&K Startup Awards marks an important milestone in Orchardly's journey and highlights the growing role of agritech startups in driving rural innovation and economic development in the region.

Anant Class of 2025 Design Graduates Receive Strong Industry Recognition

GULFAM BARJI

AHMEDABAD, JAN 29: Design graduates from Anant National University, Ahmedabad, Class of 2025 have received strong recognition from various industries, reflecting the fact that design today is no longer limited to aesthetics, but has emerged as a strategic and problem-solving capability.

Anant's interdisciplinary and practice-based education model effectively prepares students to address uncertain and complex global challenges such as sustainability, technology and social change. As a result, graduates have secured diverse career opportunities across sectors in India and abroad.

Leading organisations including General Motors (via TCS Design Studio), IIT Kanpur, HCP Design and Swiggy have recruited from Anant,



particularly for roles that require critical thinking, design strategy and sustainability-driven solutions.

Dr Sanjeev Vidyarthi, Provost, Anant National University, said, "At Anant, we nurture designers who can think systemically and contribute meaningfully to society and nation-building."

He added that Anant students are progressing not only into jobs, but

also into research, higher education and entrepreneurship. Through the Aarambh Incubation Centre, more than 40 students have received mentorship and financial support for their entrepreneurial initiatives.

Admissions for the BDes Programme 2026 are currently open. Interested students can begin their journey at Anant National University by scanning the QR code.

Ashok Koul addresses VB-GRAM G workshop in Bandipora

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JAN 29: Bharatiya Janata Party J&K organised a district level meeting cum workshop in Bandipora. The Program was chaired by Ashok Koul General Secretary (Organization) where he addressed a Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-GRAM G) Workshop and later an organisational meeting with the district team at Bandipora, aimed at strengthening grassroots-level organisational functioning and ensuring effective outreach of government initiatives.

Koul was accompanied by BJP State General Secretary Anwar Khan, State Secretary Mudassir Wani, District President Bandipora Mudassir Jan and other senior party leaders and office bearers.

Addressing party leaders and workers, Ashok Koul elaborated on the VB

GRAM Act, describing it as a landmark initiative focused on employment generation, rural empowerment, and inclusive development. The workshop provided detailed insights into the G-RAM-G (Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission - Gramin) framework, explaining how the new structure would enhance employment opportunities and livelihood security for people in rural areas. He urged party leaders to actively convey the benefits of the Act to the people, especially in rural and far-flung areas, so that maximum citizens can take advantage of the schemes aimed at strengthening village economies and creating sustainable livelihoods. Party workers were briefed on the various provisions of the scheme and how it would directly benefit constituents across different villages and regions.

Following the workshop, a party

workers meeting was convened where the leadership emphasized the need for grassroots activism and responsiveness. Koul called upon BJP workers to remain vigilant and proactive in assisting people in their respective areas, constituencies, and districts, ensuring that government schemes and benefits reach the intended beneficiaries without delay and any discrimination.

During the meeting, Ashok Koul launched a sharp criticism of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, questioning his commitment to the people who voted for him. "CM should be available to his people who voted for him and granted a huge mandate to the National Conference," Koul stated. He expressed disappointment over what he described as the Chief Minister's indifference to the suffering of people across the Valley during these crisis times.

DC Srinagar, Principal GMC review infrastructure upgradation, developmental issues of GMC & Associated Hospitals

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 29: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo along with the Principal, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, Prof. Ifat Hassan Shah today reviewed infrastructure upgradation and developmental requirements of GMC & Associated Hospitals operating under GMC Srinagar.

The review was aimed at addressing several issues that require inter-departmental coordination for further strengthening of healthcare infrastructure, improving patient care, medical education and enhancing overall hospital facilities across the Associated Hospitals, including SMHS Hospital, Super Speciality Hospital-Shireen Bagh, LD Hospital, Bone & Joint Hospital, Chest Disease (CD) Hospital, Psychiatry Hospital and the Children's Hospital, Bemina.

Administrator GMC Srinagar, Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aadil Fareed, Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B North Division, Shabir Ahmad, Superintending Engineer R&B South Division, Tatheer Manzoor, Medical Superintendent



SMHS Hospital, Dr. Andleeb, Medical Superintendent Super Speciality Hospital, Shireen Bagh, Dr. Rubeena, Executive Engineers from R&B, Water Works and Master

Plan Division, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Traffic) and other senior officers of the District Administration and GMC Srinagar were present in the spot

review. During the review, the DC and the Principal GMC assessed ongoing projects and proposed works and deliberated on measures to complete ongoing projects in a time bound manner through multi-departmental coordination so as to enhance patient care, medical education and patient amenities at the associated hospitals.

On the occasion, the DC emphasized upon the concerned officers to work together cohesively in a coordinated manner to come up with practical and feasible solutions to the issues pertaining to GMC & its associated hospitals and directed them to conduct follow-up spot visits in the coming week.

He assured the GMC administration of all possible support from the District Administration to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and improve patient care and service delivery, with the objective of enhancing the functionality of all associated hospitals.

During the visit, the Officers also inspected the ongoing construction of the Multi Facility Centre (MFC) at GMC Srinagar, Additional Surgery Block at SMHS and other newly sanctioned projects aimed at improving patient convenience and healthcare services. The DC stressed the need

for coordinated efforts among all line departments to ensure timely execution of works undertaken for upgradation of healthcare infrastructure.

Earlier, in the meeting, the Principal GMC Srinagar highlighted priority areas of the Associated Hospitals requiring attention through multi departmental coordination to enhance healthcare facilities and improve patient-centric services and convenience. She also underlined measures to accommodate the increasing patient load and provide advanced treatment facilities.

Additionally, she highlighted the need for support from the District Administration in areas such as efficient traffic management, removal of encroachments, mitigation of waterlogging issues, macadamization of roads, construction of an Attendant Sarai, additional land for further expansion and newer projects.

The Deputy Commissioner assured all possible support, in a time bound manner, from the side of district administration for these projected issues and also said that a follow up meeting shall be conducted next month to take stock of the progress made in implementation of the decisions taken during today's meeting.

SKUAST-K SKIIE Centre bags 'Incubator of the Year' award at JK Startup Mela

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 29: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir's Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship (SKIIE) Centre has been recognised as 'Incubator of the Year' by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir at the Annual Startup Mela held in Jammu today.

The award was presented by Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah at the event organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) under the Industries and Commerce Department.

The recognition follows a rigorous evaluation process conducted by a Government-appointed committee, which assessed incubation centres across the Union Territory on parameters including innovation output, patents, startup performance, sustainability, governance, mentorship, industry linkages, and overall impact. The committee cited SKUAST-K's SKIIE Centre for its focused support to disruptive startups, particularly in agri-tech, artificial intelligence, deep-tech, food processing, biotechnology, and rural enterprise sectors, along with its strong mentor network and facilitation of market and investment access.

The award was received by the Chief Executive Officer of the SKIIE Centre Naveed Hamid and comprises a Certificate of Excellence, 50,000 as award money, and a 50 lakh capital seed fund to further strengthen incubation activities at the Centre.

In a major boost to the university's startup ecosystem, four startups mentored and incubated at SKUAST-K were also sanctioned seed grants of 20 lakh each, amounting to a total seed funding of 80 lakh. The startups include M/s Cashmir Carbozone Pvt. Ltd., founded by Owais Al Wani; M/s Alhamdan Crafts Pvt. Ltd., founded by Tahir Kalwal; M/s Safavi Organics LLP, founded by Syed Saqib; and M/s Innxu Innotech, founded by Sheikh Zubair. The grants are aimed at supporting product development, validation, and early market entry.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, congratulated the SKIIE team on the achievement, stating that the award is a testament to the vision, dedication, and collaborative efforts of the incubation team, faculty mentors, and student innovators. He described the SKIIE Centre as a place of hope for young innovators and startups and urged the team to use this recognition as a catalyst to achieve national and global visibility. He also congratulated Prof Haroon R Naik, Director Planning & Monitoring/Research, and CEO SKIIE Centre Naveed Hamid along with his team for the achievement.

Expressing gratitude for the recognition, Prof Haroon Rashid Naik said the honour reflects the credibility and impact of SKUAST-K's incubation efforts and reaffirmed the university's commitment to expanding support services and strengthening partnerships that enable startups to scale and create lasting local impact.

The SKIIE Centre plans to utilise the award and seed support to scale incubation capacity, strengthen industry collaborations, and deepen outreach across Jammu and Kashmir, with a focus on developing, validating, and scaling solutions to regional agricultural and rural challenges, contributing towards making J&K a model bio-economy in line with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

Handicraft Dept launches skill training under SAMARTH to revive carpet weaving in Kashmir

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 29 - Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Srinagar, under the aegis of Handicrafts and Handloom Department, has taken a major stride towards revival of the centuries-old craft of hand-knotted silk carpet weaving in Kashmir by commencing Skill Up-gradation Training for 160 candidates under the SAMARTH (Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector) initiative of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

The Central Silk Board (CSB) has sanctioned the project for training 320 candidates on 'Silk Handloom Weaver (Carpets)' during 2025-26 at a cost of 21,16,800.

In a press statement issued here today, Director, IICT, Srinagar, Zubair Ahmad, said that SAMARTH is a part of broader efforts to revitalise the carpet sector in Kashmir by enhancing skill levels, promoting design innovation, improving infrastructure, and reconnecting artisans with global markets, thereby preserving a cherished craft while boosting employment and export potential. "In the first phase, IICT has successfully registered 160 candidates and formed eight training batches of 20 trainees each across Srinagar, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Pulwama, Kulgam, Anantnag, Budgam and Baramulla districts.

In order to ensure decentralised and accessible training, Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, has established Advanced Carpet Training Centres in all eight districts by hiring suitable premises and equipping them with modern carpet looms and Aadhaar Enabled Biometric Attendance Machines.

Director IICT further stated that Innovative silk carpet designs, particularly for wall hangings, have been developed at the Institute, and required raw materials have been procured and dyed to high standards. "The training will conclude on March 11, later this year," he added.

Highlighting the significance of the trainings under SAMARTH, Zubair Ahmad described this as a vital step in reviving the traditional hand-knotted silk carpet weaving craft of Kashmir, which has been a symbol of our rich cultural heritage and exquisite artistry for centuries. "By imparting modern skills while preserving traditional techniques, we aim to empower local artisans, especially youth and women, and restore the glory of Kashmir's carpet industry," he said.

DDC Budgam reviews status of JJM in District

Calls for swift completion of all ongoing JJM projects

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, JANUARY 29: District Development commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat today conducted review of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the district.

The detailed review and status was put forth before the DDC touching various aspects of the scheme and progress made in various major and minor schemes approved under JJM.

The chair was apprised that there are a total of 164 projects in the District, out of which 108 stand physically completed. Recognizing the significance of JJM, the DDC along with key officials and stakeholders, undertook a detailed evaluation of the mission's progress and future plans within the district. He highlighted the importance of delivering safe drinking water to every household in the district. The DDC also emphasized the need to expedite the implementation process and ensure



that all eligible households receive tap water connections as per the mission's guidelines. The review meeting also discussed challenges faced during the implementation of the mission and explored possible solutions to overcome them. The DDC directed concerned officials to address any bottlenecks promptly and ensure the timely completion of ongoing projects. He emphasized on the importance of close coordination among all stakeholders to accomplish the mission's targets effectively and within

the stipulated timeline. Detailed review was conducted by the DDC on the progress of works approved under JJM, Har Ghar Jal Certification, Functional Household tap connections (FHTCs), Monitoring of Water Quality assessment and community mobilisation for participation in the mission.

Besides, ADC Budgam, SE Hydraulics Circle Budgam, CPO Budgam, all Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti department Budgam, ACP, ACD and other concerned officers and officials were present in the meeting.

Chief Justice releases Activity Calendar (Wall Calendar) of J&K Legal Services Authority for the Year 2026

A Collective Commitment to Strengthen Access to Justice and Legal Awareness

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JANUARY 29: In a significant step towards reinforcing access to justice and strengthening legal awareness across the Union Territory of J&K, Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority, today released the Activity Calendar (Wall Calendar) 2026 of the J&K Legal Services Authority in presence of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri and

Justice Sanjay Parihar, Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

The release of the Activity Calendar 2026 marks an important milestone in charting a structured and coordinated roadmap for legal services activities to be undertaken during the year across the UT of J&K. The calendar encapsulates key programmes and initiatives, including National and Special Lok Adalats, legal awareness and outreach activities, training programmes for legal aid stakeholders, helpline services for enhanced accessibility, and initiatives aimed at strengthening Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms.

While releasing the calendar, the Chief Justice appreciated the

sustained efforts of the J&K Legal Services Authority in ensuring that legal aid and justice delivery mechanisms effectively reach the marginalized, underprivileged and vulnerable sections of society. His Lordship emphasized that the Activity Calendar would serve as a guiding and monitoring tool for all legal services institutions and functionaries to ensure timely and effective implementation of legal aid initiatives in alignment with the constitutional mandate of access to justice.

On the occasion, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, highlighted the importance of systematic planning and coordinated execution of legal services programmes. His Lordship

underscored that the Activity Calendar would function as a strategic instrument for organizing legal literacy programmes, Lok Adalats, victim support initiatives, prison legal aid activities and pro bono legal services across the Union Territory.

The Activity Calendar 2026 lays special emphasis on priority areas such as legal assistance to prisoners, empowerment of women and children, awareness on cyber laws, environmental justice, rehabilitation of victims of crime, and implementation of special campaigns launched by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

The event was also attended by M. K. Sharma, Registrar General; Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary,

J&K Legal Services Authority; Naseer Ahmad Dar, Director, J&K Judicial Academy; Rajiv Gupta, Registrar Vigilance and other officers of the High Court Registry, who appreciated the comprehensive and forward-looking approach of the J&K Legal Services Authority in planning and execution of legal aid activities.

The unveiling of the Activity Calendar 2026 reaffirms the unwavering commitment of the J&K Legal Services Authority towards enhancing legal awareness, strengthening justice delivery mechanisms and ensuring that legal services remain accessible, inclusive and effective for every citizen, irrespective of socio-economic background.

Shopian Students win Second Prize at UT-Level Startup Mela-2026

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, JANUARY 29: Students from District Shopian brought laurels to the district by securing the Second Prize at the UT-level event "Idea to Impact: Annual Startup Mela 2026", held at the JKEDI Campus, Bari Brahmana, Samba.

The students-Mantasha Nazir, Eliza Bhat, Hurain Farooq and Pakeeza Hilal, representing NIPS (National Innovative Public School), Zainapora, were honoured under the Startup Idea

Challenge for their innovative startup concept titled "Cotton Comfort", which impressed the jury with its practicality, sustainability, and social relevance.

In recognition of their achievement, a cash reward of Rs 70,000 was presented to the students by the Chief Minister, Shri Omar Abdullah.

This notable achievement reflects the consistent efforts of JKEDI District Centre Shopian in promoting startup awareness and entrepreneurial skills at the grassroots level. Through



regular sensitisation programmes, mentoring initiatives, innovation workshops, and startup boot camps, students are encouraged to develop innovative solutions and explore entrepreneurship as a viable career path.

The success of these young innovators highlights the growing culture of creativity, confidence, and problem-solving among school-level students in Shopian.

Officials from JKEDI District Centre Shopian expressed satisfaction over

the achievement and reiterated their commitment to further strengthening the startup ecosystem in the district. Such initiatives aim to empower youth, promote self-employment, and contribute to sustainable economic development in the region.

The recognition of the "Cotton Comfort" startup idea at a prestigious UT-level platform not only brings pride to Shopian district but also reinforces its growing stature as a centre of innovation and emerging young talent in Jammu & Kashmir.

Deputy CM reviews post-snowfall situation in Kashmir; ensures uninterrupted essential services

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 29: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today convened a review meeting at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, to assess the post-snowfall situation across Kashmir region besides reviewing the availability of essential services in the region.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, deliberated on the overall progress of snow clearance measures and restoration of essential services in the affected areas.

The Deputy Chief Minister stressed that a coordinated and proactive approach among all departments is essential to effectively manage the post-snowfall situation. He directed the Deputy Commissioners to

remain on their toes and ensure unhindered availability of essential services, including power, water supply, healthcare, food supplies and road connectivity.

He instructed that snow clearance operations be intensified, with priority given towards ensuring two-lane road clearance wherever possible, particularly on major roads and the National Highway, to facilitate smooth to-and-fro traffic and normal public movement. He assessed the district-wise status of snow clearance and directed the officers to strictly follow the directions issued by the MLAs, MPs, the Divisional Commissioner and district administrations.

Reviewing the power sector, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the KPDCCL to maintain



adequate buffer stock of transformers and ensure prompt restoration of electricity in affected areas. He also emphasized that adequate water supply be maintained, with water tankers deployed in vulnerable and affected localities.

On food and health services, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the concerned departments to plug any loopholes in supply chains and ensure sufficient availability of essentials. He asked for maintaining cleanliness in hospitals and

ensuring uninterrupted medical services.

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation was directed to remain fully prepared for sanitation and allied services.

The Director, Airport Authority of India, informed the

meeting that the Srinagar Airport was made functional within eight hours and around 11,200 tourists have arrived in the Valley yesterday.

The BRO informed that snow clearance operations are underway in various areas including Pahalgam.

The Deputy Chief Minister emphasized the need for continuous inter-departmental communication, improvement in tanker services wherever required with timely updates to the concerned ministries.

He appreciated the collective efforts of all the departments and called for sustained coordination to facilitate early restoration of normal life across the Kashmir region.

The meeting was attended by MLA Lolab, Qaysar Jamshaid

Lone, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone; Deputy Commissioners of Kashmir; Brigadier Chirag from BRO, Managing Director, KPDCCL (through VC); SSP Traffic, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation; Chief Engineers KPDCCL, Jal Shakti, PMGSY, MED and PWD (R&B); Directors of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Health Services, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Tourism and Urban Local Bodies besides Director Airport Authority of India, Srinagar.

Besides, Regional Officers of NHAI/NHIDCL; Chief Engineer, BRO; Chief Area Manager, Northern Railways and other senior officers and officials also attended the meeting.

DC Baramulla felicitates District Level Winners of DIPR Competitions

HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 29: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, in presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Altaf Hussain Musvi and District Information Officer Baramulla, Iftikhar Naseem, today felicitated the district level winners of the Vande Mataram Singing and Essay Writing Competitions from Baramulla district.

The competitions were organised by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu and Kashmir, on the occasion of the 77th Republic Day.



The felicitation ceremony was held in the office chamber of the DC Baramulla, where the participants were handed over the winner certificates, celebrating the spirit of patriotism and national pride among the youth.

Students from across the district participated showcasing their talent and creativity, reflecting a deep sense of respect and love for the nation through music and literary expression.

While interacting with the winners, the DC congratulated them for their commendable performances and emphasized the importance of involving young minds in activities that promote constitutional values, unity, and patriotism.

DC Kulgam chairs monthly District-Level NCORD meeting,

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JANUARY 29: The monthly meeting of the District-Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) Committee was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, to review measures aimed at curbing substance abuse and narcotic trafficking in the district.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kulgam, Viqar Ahmed Giri, Tehsildars, ARTO, DySP, and other members of the NCORD Committee.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed the implementation of decisions taken in previous NCORD meetings and assessed the actions

initiated by enforcement agencies to tackle the drug menace.

It was informed that during the current month, 7 drug peddlers were arrested and 7 FIRs registered.

The DC also reviewed activities carried out under the second phase of the IEC (Information, Education and Communication) campaign, aimed at strengthening awareness and enhancing community participation in the fight against drug abuse.

The meeting was informed that the district has already achieved 100% installation of CCTV cameras by medical shops.

Additionally, 77 inspections were conducted across pharmacies



during December, resulting in four medical shops being disallowed/suspended for violations related

to the maintenance of sale and purchase records.

The DC directed all stakeholders

to continue and intensify the second phase of the IEC campaign to further spread awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse and strengthen community participation in prevention efforts.

He stressed the need for close inter-departmental coordination to ensure effective eradication of the drug menace from the district.

During the meeting the DC also reviewed status of cancellation of driving licenses involved in NDPS and bovine smuggling cases.

He instructed the concerned authorities to expedite the cancellation of such licenses and ensure suspension of Registration Certificates (RCs) of all vehicles involved in illegal activities.

DC Baramulla reviews Snowfall Response Mechanism in Tangmarg

Directs for smooth winter services

HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JANUARY 29: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a review meeting at Tangmarg to assess preparedness and address issues related to snowfall and winter service delivery in the sub-division.

The meeting was attended by the SDM Gulmarg, Chief Executive Officer, Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA), ARTO, ASP and officers from various engineering departments.

A comprehensive review of snow clearance operations was undertaken. Officers discussed the challenges faced during recent snowfall episodes and deliberated on measures to overcome these issues more effectively in the future.

During the meeting, the DC stressed the need for improved coordination



among departments to ensure timely and efficient snow clearance.

Meanwhile, DC Baramulla directed the concerned departments to ensure adequate salting of roads to prevent the formation and accumulation of ice, particularly on critical and high-traffic routes.

The meeting also reviewed the status of essential services, including the functioning of hospitals, power supply, and water services.

The DC instructed the departments to remain alert and ensure restoration of essential services on a war footing in the event of snowfall.

Issues related to parking management during winter and the mandatory chaining of vehicles during snowfall were also discussed, with emphasis on strict enforcement to ensure smooth traffic movement and public safety.

Later, Minga Sherpa inspected the Snow Clearance Control Room at Tangmarg to assess its functioning and interacted with anti-skid chain vendors, issuing necessary directions to ensure uninterrupted availability of services and regulation of rates during winter time.

Javid Dar chairs JKAIDCL's 70th BoDs meeting; reviews performance, asks for strengthening agri infrastructure

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JANUARY 29: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today chaired the 70th meeting of the Board of Directors of Jammu and Kashmir Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited (JKAIDCL) at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu.



The meeting was attended by Financial Commissioner and Additional Chief Secretary Shailendra Kumar, Managing Director JKAIDCL, Directors of Agriculture and Horticulture Jammu and Kashmir besides representatives of the concerned departments.

The Managing Director presented a review of the Corporation's performance for 2023-24.

The Board approved three major projects for 2026-27, including establishment of an Aloe vera processing and value addition unit at Samba and construction of modern warehouses at Bari Brahmana and Khunmoh. Besides, collaboration between JKAIDCL and the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments for setting up and optimal utilisation of Centres of Excellence and allied infrastructure was also given a nod.

The Minister directed for expeditious completion of the ongoing infrastructure projects. He stressed the need for optimal utilisation of warehouses, cold chains and controlled atmosphere storage facilities to reduce post-harvest losses. He called for stronger convergence with the line departments to make Centres of Excellence fully functional and outcome-oriented. He emphasised promotion of value addition, processing and agri-based entrepreneurship to enhance farmers' income and strengthen the agri-economy of Jammu and Kashmir.

LMD intensifies enforcement drive; Penalises leading firms for violations

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JANUARY 29: The Legal Metrology Department has intensified enforcement across the Union Territory, including strict action on e-commerce and digital platforms.

Focused inspections and regulatory checks have led to the detection of multiple violations under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009, resulting in penalties amounting to lakhs of rupees and reinforcing strong consumer protection and fair trade practices.

The Department adopted a dual-track enforcement strategy covering both offline markets and online/e-commerce platforms. Violations were detected, booked and disposed of strictly in accordance with the law, reaffirming the Department's firm commitment to transparency, accuracy and consumer protection.

In Samba district, a major cosmetic seller operating through a leading e-commerce platform was booked for misleading and contradictory net quantity



declarations on an online-listed product; the entity admitted the lapse and the case was compounded at the departmental level on payment of 1,00,000, with the product delisted and listings corrected. Two additional cases involving leading distilleries were also compounded on payment of 35,000 each.

Similarly, enforcement action was taken against two major healthcare companies in Kulgam district and the cases were compounded on payment of 2,75,000 and 50,000 respectively, underlining strict scrutiny in sectors affecting public health.

Likewise, in Udhampur district,

a leading hardware manufacturer based in New Delhi was booked under various relevant Sections of the Act and the case was compounded on payment of 1,00,000. The Department has reiterated that enforcement drives will continue across both physical and digital marketplaces and all manufacturers, packers, importers, distributors and sellers are advised to ensure strict statutory compliance, failing which legal action shall follow.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Chamber of Commerce Jammu led by its President, Arun Gupta, met the Controller and raised issues concerning small traders, particularly challenges arising from imported products, violations of Packaged Commodities Rules and cases where liability falls upon shopkeepers due to improper importer address and incomplete statutory declarations.

The delegation emphasized the need for structured awareness programmes for trader stakeholders in Jammu. The Controller heard the delegation in detail and assured

full cooperation and coordinated action going forward. He stated that collaborative engagement between the Department and trade bodies will be strengthened in the best interest of consumers while also supporting genuine traders. Other officers of the Department, including Joint Controller Legal Metrology Jammu and Assistant Controller Legal Metrology Samba, were also present during the interaction.

The Controller reiterated that such enforcement drives will continue in the future and that any deviation or non-compliance with statutory provisions will invite strict legal action.

He emphasized that the Department remains fully committed to safeguarding consumer interests and addressing genuine, consumer-centric complaints in a prompt and transparent manner. Sustained enforcement, awareness initiatives and stakeholder coordination will remain a priority to ensure fair trade practices across the Union Territory.

HT EDITORIAL

Need to work in coordination for improving health infrastructure

The health sector is one of the pivotal sectors of human life and it is important that all steps are taken to develop this sector in the Kashmir valley. It is important to improve the health infrastructure so that the people are not pushed to the wall and have access to world class health facilities at their door-steps. There should not be any compromise in this regard and action should be taken against the erring officials.

Over the years it has been observed that departments work in different directions in this regard and there is no coordination whatsoever in this regard. However, a change was witnessed as Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo along with the Principal, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, Prof. Iffat Hassan Shah on Thursday reviewed the infrastructure upgradation and developmental requirements of GMC and its associated hospitals. The review meeting was aimed at addressing several issues that require inter-departmental coordination.

The meeting was held to envisage further strengthening of healthcare infrastructure, improving patient care, medical education and enhancing overall hospital facilities across the associated hospitals. During the meeting the DC and Principal GMC assessed ongoing projects and proposed works and deliberated on measures to complete ongoing projects in a time bound manner through multi-departmental coordination so as to enhance patient care, medical education and patient amenities at the associated hospitals. The DC emphasized upon the concerned officers to work together in a coordinated manner.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the GMC administration of all possible support from the district administration to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and improve patient care and service delivery, with the objective of enhancing the functionality of all associated hospitals. The officers inspected the ongoing construction of the multi facility centre at GMC Srinagar, additional surgery block at SMHS and other newly sanctioned projects aimed at improving patient convenience and healthcare services. The DC stressed the need for coordinated efforts among all line departments to ensure timely execution of works undertaken for upgradation of healthcare infrastructure.

The Principal GMC Srinagar highlighted priority areas of the associated hospitals requiring attention through multi departmental coordination to enhance healthcare facilities and improve patient-centric services and convenience. She also underlined measures to accommodate the increasing patient load and provide advanced treatment facilities. She highlighted the need for support from the district administration in areas such as efficient traffic management, removal of encroachments, mitigation of waterlogging issues, macadamisation of roads and construction of an attendant sarai.

Chief Patron Of Lubaab Publications Group:
Syed Sad Ud Din Bukhari (Saidi),
Printer Publisher, Owner And Editor:
Syed Jahangir Bukhari,
Printed At: Lubaab Publications, Radio
Colony Gund Hassibhat Lawaipora
Srinagar -190017,
Gen. Manager: Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmad
Cell No - 9697071471,
Editorial Section: 7006846797,
Multimedia Section: 9419008414,
Advertisement Section: 9697071471
RNI No: Jkeng/2011/39231
dailyheadlinestoday@gmail.com
headlinestoday2024@gmail.com

Martyrs' Day Inspiring Partioris and Civic Responsibility

Celebrating the Sacrifices that Shaped India and Strengthening National Unity Across Generations



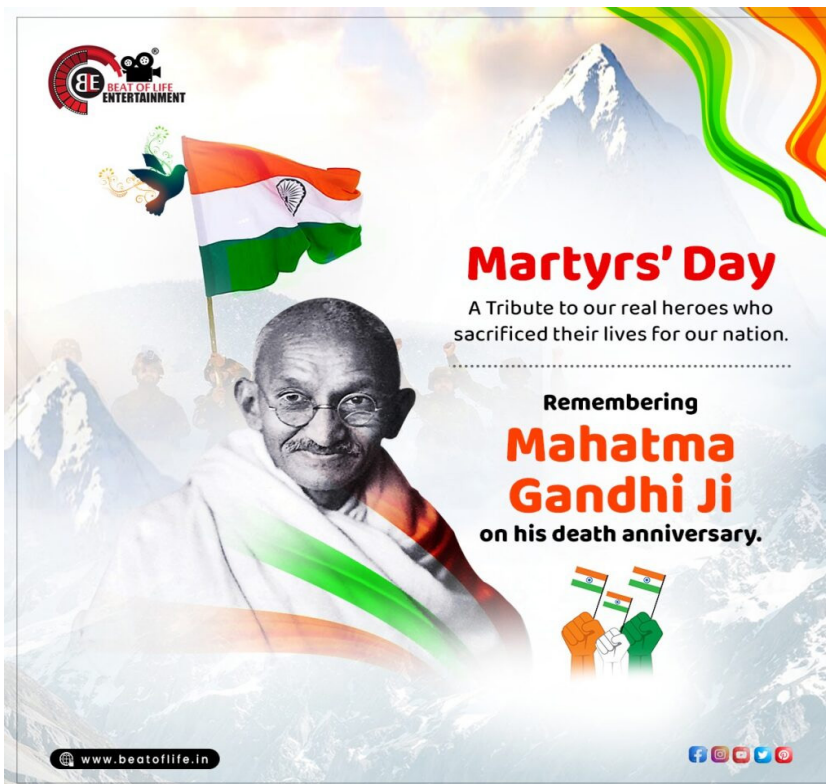
■ SHOIB MOHAMMAD BHAT

In India, 30 January is observed as Martyrs' Day or Shaheed Diwas to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of Mahatma Gandhi and all those fearless individuals who laid down their lives for the country. It is a very important day in terms of emotions and history of the country because it is the day when the Father of the Nation was assassinated in 1948. In addition to the memory, the day is an effective reminder of the traditions of peace, bravery, service, and self-sacrifice, which continue to guide the spirit of India.

The life of Mahatma Gandhi was an ideal of truth, minimalism and virtue. His ideology of non-violence has transformed the freedom movement into a mass movement based on moral values. Gandhi led millions of people through peaceful protest, civil disobedience and undying faith in humanity, proving that moral strength can achieve political freedom. The assassination on 30 January 1948 was a stunning jolt to the country, which had just gotten out of the colonial regime and was trying to create a united, democratic society.

Martyrs' Day honours the legacy of Gandhi and the millions of freedom fighters whose sacrifices led to the achievement of independence. Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev, Rani Lakshmi Bai, Subhas Chandra Bose, Chandrashekhar Azad, and countless other heroes who gave their lives in the name of freedom. Their lives were full of heroism and undying devotion to justice, dignity and self-respect. Their contributions encourage generations of people to appreciate the freedom and safeguard the principles enshrined in the Constitution.

Educational institutions such as



schools and colleges play a significant role in keeping the Shaheed Diwas spirit alive. Students actively participate in debates, speeches, essay competitions, and cultural programmes organised around the themes of patriotism and national values. These activities expose young minds to the vision of the freedom movement and instil in them respect for the sacrifices made by previous generations to achieve freedom. Such awareness enhances civic consciousness and encourages young people get involved in benefiting society.

The Day of Martyrs is also an occasion that highlights the value of unity and social harmony. Gandhi did not confine his vision to political liberation, but he also included social equality, communal harmony, and respect for the dignity of human beings. His teachings were based on compassion, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence. They are quite applicable in a multicultural country such as India. Shaheed Diwas is a reminds citizens

that unity and mutual understanding are the strongest foundation for national development.

The day holds special significance for the families of martyrs, particularly those who lost their loved ones in wars, internal security operations, and peacekeeping operations. Soldiers, police personnel, and people living in the country have remained courageous and selfless to serve the nation even after independence. Martyrs Day recognises their valuable contributions and assures families that the nation will always honour and remember their sacrifices.

Beyond remembrance, Shaheed Diwas encourages introspection, urging citizens to reflect on their roles and responsibilities in a democratic society. True freedom attains meaning when it is accompanied by integrity, respect for the law, social responsibility and service to national development. The ideals of martyrs offer guidance for daily life, whether through honesty at work, ser-

vices to society, or care for the environment.

Today, Martyrs' Day connects the lessons of history with the challenges of the present. The issues faced by the nation require collaboration, strength, and moral leadership. The significance of dialogue, patience, and moral behaviour as discussed by Gandhi will always be useful in conflict resolution and plural development. His faith in the strength of common individuals remains an enduring inspiration for those working towards social reform, education, health and sustainable development.

Shaheed Diwas bridges generations, linking past sacrifices with present aspirations and future hopes. By honouring martyrs, citizens demonstrate their commitment to defending freedom and democracy. This sense of continuity strengthens national identity and responsibility.

The importance of Martyrs' Day lies in its call to action as much as in remembrance. It encourages citizens to give back to the country through professional excellence, serving society, creative expression or leadership. Patriotism becomes meaningful when translated into efforts that improve society and foster peace.

The memory of martyrs lights the path of India, guiding its journey of development and progress. Citizens are reminded that the sacrifices of those who achieved freedom were made through struggle, discipline, and moral courage. Martyrs' Day enhances appreciation for history and inspires the present and future generations to work towards a peaceful and prosperous nation.

Essentially, 30 January is a day of solemnity and hope in the national calendar. Martyrs' Day, or Shaheed Diwas, celebrates lives devoted to the country and reaffirms the ideals that form the soul of India. Reflection, remembrance, and renewed commitment continue to unite the nation and serve as a source of inspiration for all citizens.

shoaibhat2018@gmail.com

Publicizing your sin, Is also a sin



■ RAQIF MAKHDOOMI

Everyone sins and Allah shall forgive every sin except of Shirk. Shirk is the only sin that shall not be forgiven without seeking forgiveness for it. There are people who feel bad for their sins but unfortunately there are people who publicize their sins. They feel so proud of their sins. They speak about them as if it's their achievement. The most bragged sin is "Pre marriage Intercourse" Pre marriage intercourse is considered one of the most serious sins mentioned in Quran . When I say "Pre marriage intercourse" I mean all the sexual intercourse with woman who you aren't married to. Allah Says in Quran "And don't even go near to Zinah. Indeed it's the worst of sins". But unfortunately people brag about it and consider it to be an achievement. A Hadith in Shahi Al Bukhari explains about the sins which are publicized.

Narrated Abu Huraira: I heard Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) saying, "All the sins of my followers will be forgiven except those of the Mujahirin (those who commit a sin openly or disclose their sins to the people). An example of such disclosure is that a person commits a sin at night and though Allah screens it from the public, then he comes in the morning, and says, 'O so-and-so, I did such-and-such (evil) deed yesterday,' though he spent his night screened by his Lord (none knowing about his sin) and in the morning he removes Allah's screen from himself."

The problem with people is that they think bragging about their sins makes them look cool. But they don't know they are putting themselves to trouble. Because to those who you disclose your sins to, shall become the witness for the sin

on the day of Judgement.

In Islamic tradition, sins committed or exposed in public (known as mujaharah) are considered severe because they spread immorality, normalize evil, and show a lack of shame before God. While Allah may forgive private sins, those who flaunt their transgressions openly, or boast about hidden sins, forfeit this immediate forgiveness. When someone speaks publicly about his/her sins it removes the screen that Allah had put between your sins and the people. And the problem with making your sins public is. When you turn away from the sins and take the path of Guidance. People start taunting you about it and make it difficult for you to work on yourself. Because they keep reminding you of it. It's better to keep sins under cover which are committed behind the closed door.

Not just committing the act publicly, but also disclosing private sins—such as posting about them on social media—after Allah has concealed them. Such actions destroy personal reputation, foster an environment of disobedience, and make the sin worse than if done in private.

There another Hadith in sahih Muslim which says

"Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) as saying: All the people of my Ummah would get pardon for their sins except those who publicise them. And (it means) that a servant should do a deed during the night and tell the people in the morning that he has done so and so, whereas Allah has concealed it. And he does a deed during the day and when it is night he tells the people, whereas Allah has concealed it. Zuhair has used the word hijar for publicising"

People need to understand The Quran is full of asking people not to sin. All the sins have their own punishments but Allah mentions about forgiving the sins after one seeks forgiveness. But the unfortunate thing is that people now have started to brag about their sins without knowing the Consequences of making sins public. While you are bragging about the sin everyone hears you and laughs. When you tell people that you have repented and chosen the right path. They

start making fun of you and remind you about your sins that you have disclosed to them.

Everyone of us is a sinner but we start judging others for the sin that we don't do or haven't done till now. We try to justify our sin and hold others responsible for the sins that they do.

We often preach others of what we don't do. And Islam calls it out as "Hypocrisy". Both Quran and Hadith have called out such action and asks people to refrain from it .

The Quran highlights this issue, stating it is "most hateful" to Allah to say what you do not do. Verses like Surah As-Saff (61:2-3) question those who speak without acting, and Surah Al-Baqarah (2:44) asks if people order righteousness while forgetting themselves.

According to the sayings and actions of the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ), those who instruct others to do good but fail to do so themselves will face consequences. The description of a hypocrite often includes dishonesty and breaking promises, which can apply to preaching righteousness without following it.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) described a severe punishment in the hereafter for those who do not practice what they preach. He mentioned a person being punished in Hellfire and admitting, "I used to order you to do good, but I did not do it myself, and I used to forbid you to do evil, but I used to do it myself." (Sahih al-Bukhari 3094, Sahih Muslim).

We must be very well aware that we are Humans and we are those who will commit sin. Look at Quran it doesn't say that you won't commit sin. But it says you will be punished for doing committing sin. It stops you from doing. You are stopped from doing what you may end up doing. And then it speaks of forgiving the sins, when you ask for forgiveness. But things turn ugly when you are proud of committing sin and keep telling people about it. When things remain between Allah and you. You don't have to worry about it. But when a third person enters the space it changes the whole senior. We are all sinners but we must focus on improving ourselves and seeking forgiveness.

Parvaaz-i-Shaoor by Majeed Masroor

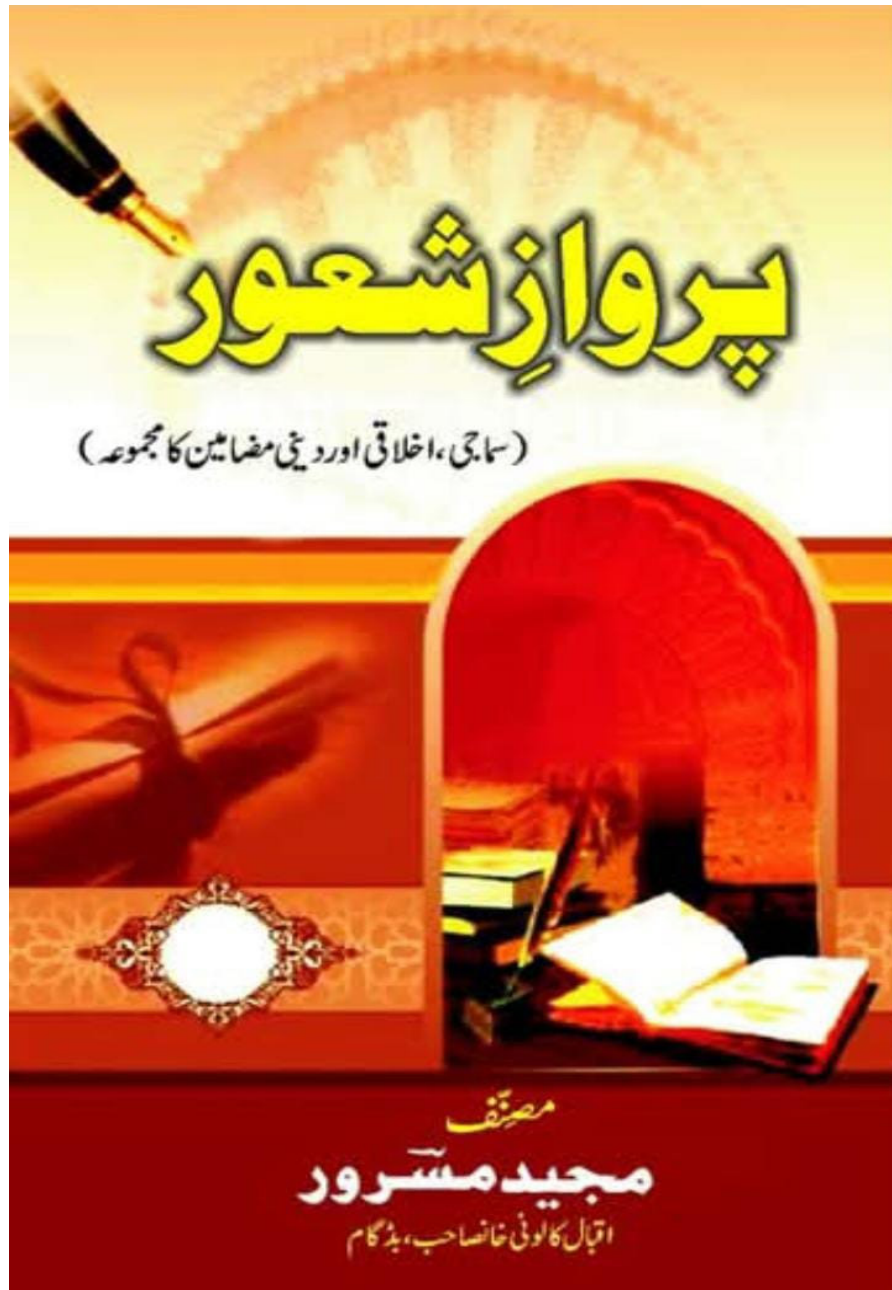


■ **RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR**

Back in the 1990s, during my early childhood, I fondly remember my grandfather often listening to popular Kashmiri songs such as

"Madeeni ki lali iss chie Intizarass",
"Az ti Roodus Intizarass Aakh maa" and

*Keal Watakh Meanis Mazras Peath Waai hay Pata Fearl", aired frequently on Radio Kashmir's Yuvawani service. At that time, I was too young to know much about their origin, but only a few years ago I discovered that the soul behind these timeless lyrics was the renowned poet, writer, and broadcaster Majeed Masroor. Belonging to the Iqbal Colony Khan Sahab area of Budgam district, Majeed Masroor has carved a special place in Kashmiri literature and music. He has penned hundreds of poems and ghazals, many of which have been brought to life by celebrated singers and veteran vocalists of the valley. His contribution continues to enrich the cultural and artistic heritage of Kashmir. At times, he writes articles and essays that are published in leading local and national newspapers. His primary focus remains on education, social evils, rising immorality, and culture. In 2022, his first collection of articles, titled Parvaaz-i-Shaoor, was published by Taj Printing Service, New Delhi. The book comprises 31 articles across 127 pages and is dedicated to the youth of the valley as well as to men and women committed to propagating the message of the Prophet (PBUH). Pictures of Majeed Masroor with his mother, grandson, and friend adorn this book, reflecting his deep attachment to them. The author has written the foreword himself, wherein he states that his sole motive is to serve society through his pen. He also highlights the multidimensional aspects of human personality and society. Maulana Mohd Muzaffar Qadri, Imam of Khanqah Moula Sopore, has penned some thought-provoking remarks about the book and its author. According to him, Majeed Masroor is



diligently working to eradicate social evils and promote community well-being by writing comprehensive articles on the social, moral, and cultural dimensions of society. Similarly, Ishfaq Gouhar observes that Majeed Masroor is deeply sensitive to the wrongdoings prevalent in society. His writings, Gouhar notes, are aimed at guiding the youth towards a positive direction, with the ultimate intention of building a crime-free society. "Ikhlāq: Ek Azim Niyamat" is the opening article of this book, which highlights the importance of noble virtues and

exemplary character as the foundation of a morally upright society. The author has cited some well-known sayings of the Prophet (PBUH), who strongly emphasized good conduct and decent behavior in interactions with fellow human beings. "Ye Kashmir Hai" is another article in this book, beautifully sketching the charm and grandeur of Kashmir—the paradise on earth. The author describes the valley as a land blessed with lofty snow-clad peaks, sprawling green meadows, and crystal-clear water bodies, while also being the



birthplace of globally acclaimed scholars. In this piece, he cites poetic couplets of Jahangir, Iqbal, Chakbast, and Prof. Aal Ahmad Saroor, all of whom have unanimously celebrated the valley's natural beauty as well as the warmth and hospitality of its people. Madri Zaban – Mother Tongue, in this article, the author presents a detailed account of the importance of the mother tongue. He emphasizes that when an individual or an entire community forgets their native language and develops an inferiority complex about it, they gradually move towards extinction. A nation or community continues to survive and thrive only as long as it preserves and communicates in its mother tongue. "Khidmat-i-Khalaq hi Insaniyat" — in this article, the author, while citing two popular poetic couplets of Iqbal and Ab Ahad Azad, has meticulously highlighted the significance of serving humanity. According to him, to serve humanity is to serve God. There can be no precedence or supremacy on the basis of colour, creed, caste, or tribe. True piety and nobility lie only in extending help to humanity, especially in times of hardship and adversity. Buzurgon ka Ehtram — Indeed, every religious scripture emphasizes the importance of respecting elders. In this article too, the author reiterates that today's children are tomorrow's youth, who will eventually grow old, weak, and dependent. Thus, by showing respect to our elders today, we not only uphold moral values but also ensure that we, in turn, receive honour and dignity in our own old age. Ustaad—The Teacher, there is no doubt that teachers are the true builders of a nation. They burn the midnight oil to shape individu-

als and, through them, the society at large. History bears witness that only those nations have achieved real progress and success which respected their teachers. Teaching is indeed a prophetic profession and the noblest of all callings. Therefore, it is imperative that we honour their contributions and accord them the respect they truly deserve. In this article, the author has cited numerous examples and quotes from great thinkers, all affirming the greatness and unmatched role of teachers. Maa— Mother, The author begins this write-up with an emotional line: the word "mother" is sweeter than honey. Among all the articles in this book, this one stands apart—it moved me to tears while reading. The inclusion of poetic couplets by Munawar Rana and Majeed Masroor has enhanced its beauty even further. Indeed, a mother is the most beautiful creation in this world, whose love for her children is immeasurable and purely selfless. Lala Ded not LD, Lala Ded was not only a pious woman but also an ace poetess and philanthropist. She is regarded as the first Kashmiri poetess, whose vakhs still remain on the lips of every Kashmiri. Her poetic genius and patience remain unmatched to this day. In Kashmiri culture, language, and literature, she stands as a towering figure and a source of identity. Unfortunately, the only tertiary care maternity hospital in Srinagar, named after her as "Lal Ded Hospital," has over time come to be casually referred to as "LD Hospital." This abbreviation is a grave injustice to such a great personality and must be corrected. My Village Khanshab — In this article, the author expresses his deep attachment to his native village. He sketches its historical background, narrating how the village got its name. According to him, Syed Ismail Khan once refused to give his pious son, Soleh Khan, to his brother. Over time, Soleh Khan grew into a saintly figure, and people thronged to his place. From this legacy, the village came to be known as Khanshab.

There are three numbers of books written by Majeed Masroor in Maulana Azad Library Aligarh Muslim University Aligarh (U P) India, Aligarh Muslim University 1:-Taashooq Chanay 2:- Waave Grayo Meanze Pokus 3:- Parvaaz-i-Shaoor.

Writer is a columnist based in Qazigund Kashmir.

Anganwadi Workers of J&K: The Invisible Pillars of Society Who Demand Justice



■ **WANI ARFAT**

The Jammu and Kashmir Anganwadi workers are the pillars of child health, maternal welfare, and early childhood education, but their tireless efforts remain unseen, underpaid, and ignored. Every day, they rise before dawn, walk miles in inclement weather, and dedicate themselves to ensuring that children are fed, mothers are advised, and villages remain healthy. Despite the fact that the work has a direct impact on the smooth running of the nation in the days to come, the employees are paid as little as ₹5,100 every month. This is alarmingly less compared to even the minimum requirements needed to lead a satisfactory life. Moreover, the majority of the women are graduates, with a few dedicating more than three decades to the development of the nation. Their hard work is being compensated at a mere fraction of the amount received by the junior employees in the government.

Anganwadi workers do work which decides the health and wellbeing of thousands of people. They weigh the children, monitor the growth chart, prepare diet charts, counsel the mothers on nutrition and health, monitor pregnancies, vaccinate in a timely manner, verify docu-

ments, and fill official reports with utmost care. It requires patience, precision, compassion, and one's vigilance at all times. But the compensation they receive barely covers their travel expense, forcing some of them to spend half of what they earn merely to reach their centers. Their losses are enormous, and their services to child survival and maternal health are priceless.

The injustice becomes more apparent when compared with other professions. A casual laborer could be earning ₹1,000 a day, earning him a figure of well over ₹30,000 a month, while a primary school teacher could earn above ₹80,000. While a worker in an Anganwadi, whose work ensures that children grow up healthy and mothers survive childbirth, gets less than a sixteenth of a teacher's remuneration, this is not economic abandonment alone but also deep gender inequality, signifying that caregiving, the cornerstone of society, is not being valued.

Despite all this, the women continue with persistence and determination. Many female health workers walk long distances every day, even in snow, to reach their centers. Some spend nearly half of their salary on transportation, yet they persevere because they believe in improving their neighborhoods. Others monitor pregnant women with severe anemia and ensure timely treatment, saving both mother and baby. There are thousands of such women in Kashmir—unspoken yet irreplaceable—working behind the scenes to shape the health and future of their communities.

Ignoring Anganwadi workers has consequences that extend far beyond indi-

vidual misery. If they did not work, children's malnutrition would rise, vaccination campaigns would fail, and early education would be lost. Anganwadi workers are not just workers—they are a lifeline to communities, families, and the future of Jammu and Kashmir. Acknowledgment is insufficient; proper wages, travel allowances, health allowances, and timely payment are needed to make their work worthwhile morally and economically.

It is also my humble opinion, after due consideration of the subject, that senior Anganwadi workers, who have dedicated their lives and decades of service to public service, should also be regularized with a view towards acknowledging their dedication and service. However, at the same time, the honorarium for junior Anganwadi workers should also be significantly elevated so that they may live with dignity. This suggestion is humbly offered by me with due recognition of the higher wisdom and vision that the government may have. Indeed, it is hoped that the policy framework that is adopted may be just and beneficial for each and every Anganwadi worker so as to ensure justice for every generation and lay strong foundations for this system as a whole.

It is up to the leadership of Jammu and Kashmir, which includes the Honourable Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Honourable Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, and Members of Parliament, but most importantly the Department of Social Welfare, which is responsible for ICDS and Anganwadi services. The Department, headed by the Minister for Social

Welfare Sakeena Masood Itoo, is key to introducing and implementing meaningful and long-overdue reforms. A structured and phased increase in wages, allowances, and timely monthly payments would not only restore the dignity and integrity of Anganwadi workers but would also vastly enhance child nutrition and education outcomes in the Union Territory.

Real development is not measured in terms of infrastructure. It can be measured in terms of society's willingness to treat with respect the guardians of its most vulnerable members. The abandonment of Anganwadi workers indicates misplaced priorities, and turning back is a moral, social, and economic imperative. These women are entitled to dignity, justice, and the right to earn their bread to work for society. Anything short is a betrayal of our collective conscience.

Empowering the Anganwadi employees is also to promote gender equality, empower women, and inspire girls to love education and hard work. By rewarding them with appropriate compensation and recognition, we are rewarding the community for being strong, persistent, and hardworking. By living an integral and participatory lives to provide nutrition to the growing babies, guidance to the mothers, and keep the babies alive, we are laying the foundations of strong and robust communities. If we fail to pay attention to the Anganwadi employees, we are jeopardizing the very existence of our babies.

Their stories are heartbreaking and inspiring. They save lives, drive educa-

tion, and strengthen families, but they are invisible heroes. They are the unsung heroes, without whom rates of child malnutrition would rise, vaccination rates would decline, and early childhood programs would collapse. Their work is critical but undervalued. To value their worth and provide fair pay is not only a moral responsibility—it is an urgent moral requirement.

In conclusion, the Jammu and Kashmir Anganwadi workers are silent pillars of society. They protect children, mothers, and the future. They demand only their rightful dues: justice, dignity, and recognition of their toil. Society, the government, and policymakers must move quickly. They must grant them just wages, prompt allowances, and social recognition. This is not only needed for their survival but for the welfare and prosperity of future generations. Anything less is a failure of conscience, a failure to honor those who quietly and with courage nurture life itself, and a failure of the society we hope to become. The time to act is now because the women who serve, contribute, and care for our society deserve justice, respect, and most of all, fairness.

The author is a writer, social activist, and nursing student from Kuchmulla, Tral. He is also a B.Sc. Nursing student at Ramzan College of Nursing & Paramedical Sciences, Galander Pampore. He writes on social issues, culture, and public concerns with the aim of raising awareness and inspiring positive change. Email: wania6817@gmail.com

Views, Opinions, facts etc Expressed by the Authors are their Own and Headlines Today doesn't acknowledge the viewpoint in any manner. And the claims made by the advertisers, promoters through their write-ups need to be ascertained by the readers and Headlines Today Shall not be held responsible for any misleading information in any manner...

Importance of Healthy Food and Benefits of Bananas



■ SAHIL MANZOOR

Our body needs plenty of healthy food. It includes rice, meat, fish, eggs, vegetables, fruits, and all foods that contain an adequate amount of balanced nutrients for proper growth and development. Nowadays, we are fortunate to be gaining enough knowledge to understand what is right and what is wrong for a healthy life. Besides food, our body also needs exercise, hygienic practices, regular medical check-ups, and fresh, nutritious meals.

For fitness purposes, we need different food items that must be fresh, healthy, and rich in nutrients. The Almighty has bestowed upon us unlimited delicious foods on this earth. Let us learn about a few benefits of bananas, one of the most delicious and healthy fruits that everyone should eat regularly.

■ Bananas May Improve Kidney Health

Potassium is essential for controlling blood pressure and maintaining healthy kidney function. As a good dietary source of potassium, bananas may be especially beneficial for keeping the kidneys healthy. Eating a banana several times a week may reduce the risk of kidney disease by up to 50%.

■ Bananas May Benefit Exercise Performance



cise Performance

Bananas are often referred to as the perfect food for athletes due to their mineral content and easily digestible carbohydrates. Eating bananas may help reduce exercise-related muscle cramps and soreness, which affect a large percentage of the population.

■ Bananas Support Heart Health

Bananas are a great dietary source of potassium. A potassium-rich diet can help lower blood pressure, and people who consume plenty of potassium have up to a 27% lower risk of heart disease. Furthermore, bananas contain a good amount of magnesium, which is also important for heart health.

■ Bananas May Help You Feel Full

Resistant starch is a type of indigestible carbohydrate found in unripe

bananas and other foods that functions like soluble fiber in the body. Yellow, ripe bananas contain lower amounts of resistant starch but higher proportions of soluble fiber. Both pectin and resistant starch help reduce appetite and increase the feeling of fullness after meals.

■ Unripe Bananas May Improve Insulin Sensitivity

Insulin resistance is a major risk factor for many serious diseases, including type 2 diabetes. Several studies suggest that consuming 15–30 grams of resistant starch per day may improve insulin sensitivity by 33–50% within four weeks. Since unripe bananas are a rich source of resistant starch, they may help improve insulin sensitivity. However, the exact reasons for these effects are not fully understood, and not all studies agree.

sahilmanzoor0401@gmail.com

THE NIPAH VIRUS



■ DR. SURINDERPAL SINGH

The Nipah virus (NiV) is an emerging pathogen of significant public health concern due to its high case-fatality rate, potential for human-to-human transmission and lack of specific antiviral treatment or vaccine. Since its first identification in the late 20th century, the virus has caused outbreaks in South and Southeast Asia, highlighting the growing risk of infectious diseases originating at the human-animal-environment interface.

Nipah virus belongs to the Henipavirus genus of the Paramyxoviridae family. Its natural reservoir is fruit bats of the genus Pteropus, which harbor the virus asymptotically. The virus was first recognized during an outbreak in Malaysia in 1998–1999, where transmission occurred from bats to pigs and subsequently to humans, primarily affecting pig farmers. Following this event, repeated outbreaks have been reported across the globe often associated with direct bat-to-human transmission or limited human-to-human spread.

Human infection occurs through multiple routes, including contact with infected animals consumption of food contaminated with bat secretions—most notably raw date palm sap—and close exposure to bodily fluids of infected individuals. Healthcare-associated transmission has been documented, emphasizing the virus's capacity to spread in clinical and household settings.

Clinically, Nipah virus infection presents with a wide spectrum of manifestations. Early symptoms resemble common viral illnesses and include fever, headache, myalgia and sore throat. As the disease progresses, patients may develop acute respi-

ratory distress and severe neurological complications such as encephalitis, seizures, altered consciousness, and coma. The incubation period typically ranges from 4 to 14 days, though longer latent periods have been reported. Mortality rates vary between outbreaks but commonly range from 40% to 75%, making NiV one of the deadliest known viral infections.

The public health impact of Nipah virus outbreaks is disproportionate to their size. Even limited clusters impose heavy burdens on healthcare systems, disrupt social and economic activities, and generate widespread fear due to the virus's severity and unpredictability. The absence of definitive treatment necessitates reliance on supportive care, early diagnosis, and strict infection prevention measures. Consequently, the health researches has designated Nipah virus as a priority pathogen requiring urgent research and development.

Preventive strategies remain the cornerstone of Nipah virus control. These include avoiding exposure to fruit bats and sick animals, refraining from consumption of unprocessed date palm sap or partially eaten fruits, and enforcing rigorous infection control practices in healthcare environments. Community awareness, surveillance, rapid isolation of suspected cases, and contact tracing are essential to limiting transmission during outbreaks.

From a broader perspective, Nipah virus serves as a critical reminder of the consequences of ecological disruption, deforestation and expanding human-animal interactions. It underscores the importance of the One Health approach, which integrates human, animal and environmental health to prevent and manage zoonotic diseases. Strengthening global surveillance systems, advancing vaccine and therapeutic research and fostering international collaboration are imperative to mitigate future risks posed by Nipah virus and similar emerging pathogens.

The Author Is A Faculty In Science Department Sri Amritsar Sahib Punjab.

MS. JAASINDAH MIR

RCI-LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST | EFT MASTER PRACTITIONER | FLOWER ESSENCE PRACTITIONER | AUTHOR

TRAUMA-FOCUSED PSYCHOLOGIST

MA Applied Psychology (Clinical)-Jamia Millia Islamia Air 4-NIPCCD (RCI-Licensed)

SPECIALIZATIONS

- Anxiety & Depression
- Trauma & PTSD
- Emotional Dysregulation
- Chronic Stress
- Psychosomatic & Pain Disorders
- Parent-child Counselling
- Adolescent & Young Adult Mental Health

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

2000+ Therapy Sessions Delivered
20+ Workshops Conducted
Former Lead Psychologist At K.R. MANGALAM UNIVERSITY, GURUGRAM
Founder - Redeemer Heals Counselling & Wellness

THERAPY FOR

- Children And Adolescents
- Adults
- Individuals & Couples
- Parent-child Counselling
- People Requiring Subtle Help With Emotional Regulation

THERAPEUTIC EXPERTISE

EFT | REBT | CBT | FLOWER ESSENCE TREATMENTS | MR | ART & PLAY THERAPY

Available Post

9TH JANUARY AT **REVIVE CARE**
NATIONAL HIGHWAY KANISPORA NEAR PETROL PUMP
SATURDAY & SUNDAY

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT
A Day Prior To Your Visit
Contact Us At
9906215683

REVIVE CARE+

Dr. Pervaiz Majeed Zunga

CONSULTANT PHYSICIAN SPECIALIST

- ✓ MBBS, MD (MEDICINE) SKIMS
- ✓ EX REGISTRAR SMHS HOSPITAL
- ✓ Fellowship Diabetes
- ✓ Fellowship Gastroenterology, Hepatology

Expert in Thyroid Disorder
Diabetes, and Diabetic Neuropathy

Available Every
Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday Friday
Morning 9AM to 10 AM
Evening 5:30 PM onwards

Near **Petrol Pump** National Highway Kanispora Baramulla
9906215683

EXCELLENCE WITH PERFECTION

Branding • Designing • Printing • Web • Event • Advertising

LARGE SCALE PRINTING

ONE STOP SHOP FOR ALL YOUR BRANDING NEED

Check Out All of Our Services:

- Logo Design
- Business Card
- Letterhead
- Stationery
- Brochure
- Poster
- Billboard
- Website Design
- App Development
- SEO
- Social Media Marketing
- Video Production
- Event Management
- Corporate Identity
- Packaging Design
- Signage
- Photocopying
- Scanning
- Binding
- Lamination

TRANSFORM YOUR GROWING BUSINESS IN TO A LEADING BRAND

OUR SERVICES

- Large Format Printing
- Digital & Offset Printing
- Promotion Display Materials
- Printing
- Signage
- Graphic Design
- Embroidery
- Screen Printing
- Supply of Office Stationery
- Vinyl cutting
- Branding
- Printing
- Photocopying
- Scanning
- Binding
- Lamination

CALL OR WHATSAPP
7006618090 | 9858086898

Room No 12, Huda Ash Central Market, Abi Guzar Lalchowk, Srinagar
email: srpixels2021@gmail.com

REVIVE CARE+

DR. GURDEV SINGH BALI

(BDS, MDS ORTHODONTICS)
(Govt. Dental College Srinagar)

BOOK APPOINTMENT

Call To Schedule Your Visit

REVIVE CARE

NATIONAL HIGHWAY KANISPORA
NEAR PETROL PUMP
9906215683

Contact us : 9906215683

REVIVE CARE x MAX HOSPITALS

BRINGING WORLD-CLASS ENT CARE TO BARAMULLA!

Dr. SUMIT MRIG

Director & Head,
ENT & Cochlear implant surgery
Max Smart super speciality hospital Saket & Max Hospital Dwarka . NEW DELHI

Director Sankalp ENT & Cochlear Implant Centre NEW DELHI

@kifayatkifi

JOIN FACEBOOK LIVE
WITH Dr.SUMIT , Mr.TURAB, Former Sr. Audiologist at Max Hospital Saket ,Delhi)
@ Kifayatkifi
8:00PM On January 18th, Sunday

ICC Hosts “Rising Jammu & Kashmir 2026” to Chart Roadmap for Resilient, Inclusive Growth

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JAN 29: The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), marking 100 years of service to the nation, successfully organised ICC Rising Jammu & Kashmir 2026, a high-level multi-session conference aimed at reimagining economic growth and strengthening the development ecosystem of the Union Territory under the Chairmanship of Rahul Sahai Chairman ICC Jammu.

The day-long programme brought together policymakers, senior administrators, bankers, industry leaders, startup founders, professionals, academia, and students to deliberate on key growth drivers including MSMEs, startups, urban governance, IT & ITES, and the power sector.

The event was formally inaugurated by Shri Vikramjit Singh, IPS, Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, as the Chief Guest. The inaugural session was further graced by Mr. Rahul Yadav, IAS, Managing Director, J&K Power Development Corporation Limited, and Dr. Devansh Yadav, IAS, Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, as Special Guests in the presence of Rahul Sahai Chair ICC Jammu and Debmalya Banerjee Regional director ICC Northern region

Vikramjit Singh, IPS, Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Industries & Commerce as chief guest congratulated ICC for doing a conference on relevant topics on municipal byelaws , power , msme funding , startup ecosystems and IT/ITES industries scope



in J&K, he further reiterated that industrial ecosystem will improve day by day and obstacles will be removed and after deliberations a robust Ut industrial policy will be launched .

Addressing the gathering, ICC leadership highlighted that Rising Jammu & Kashmir reflects the region's evolving economic narrative—driven by policy reforms, infrastructure development, growing investor confidence, and a young, aspirational population. The focus on MSMEs, startups, IT & ITES, clean energy, and urban reforms underscores J&K's commitment to inclusive, sustainable, and future-ready growth.

The first technical session Building a Resilient J&K Economy featured a balanced panel representing banking, academia, startups, MSMEs, and government. Panelists included Sh. Sandeep

Sharma, Zonal Head – ICICI Bank (J&K & Ladakh); Prof. Alka Sharma, Dean – Business Studies & Director, SIIEDC, University of Jammu; Sh. Suhel Ahmad Lone, DGM, J&K Bank; Sh. Arush Mahajan, Vice President, J&K Startups Association; Sh. Vinu Jee Koul, Assistant Director, MSME-DFO Jammu (Gol); and Sh. Debmalya Banerjee, Regional Director, ICC Northern Region. Discussions focused on skill development, youth entrepreneurship, startup incubation, access to credit, digital banking, and policy support—key pillars for building a resilient and inclusive economy in Jammu & Kashmir.

The second session addressed “Understanding Municipal Bylaws in Jammu: Framework, Compliance & Opportunities”, a topic of direct relevance to businesses, professionals, and citizens

Dr. Devansh Yadav, IAS, Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, chaired the session as Chief Guest, joined by Sh. Manoj Gupta, Senior Town Planner, JMC, and Ar. Vishal Abrol, Founder & Chief Architect, TRIKONE, and Vice Chairman, Indian Institute of Architects (J&K Chapter). The session focused on building permissions, zoning, trade licensing, signage norms, digital governance initiatives, and simplifying compliance to improve ease of doing business and enable planned urban growth.

Session three highlighted the transformative potential of the IT & ITES sector in creating high-value jobs, retaining local talent, and positioning Jammu as a competitive services hub. Speakers included Mr. Sandeep Sharma, COO, RVS IT Limited (RVS Global), and Ms. Rimjhim Ray, Co-found-

er, Spotle AI & Heyo, and Partner, Goa Angel Network. The discussion covered the J&K IT/ITES Policy 2020, startup incentives, NCSS support, skill development, and future-ready domains such as AI, cloud computing, and cybersecurity.

The concluding session focused on Transforming the Power Landscape of Jammu & Kashmir, recognising reliable and affordable power as the backbone of industrial and economic growth. Mr. Rahul Yadav, IAS, MD, J&KPDCL, served as Session Chief Guest, joined by Dr. Sanjay Bansal, National Board Member, National Traders Welfare Board, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India. Discussions covered hydropower potential, generation and transmission upgrades, ease of doing business in the power sector, private participation, and possibilities of purchasing solar power from outside the Union Territory.

Across sessions, speakers emphasised the importance of collaboration between government, industry, financial institutions, startups, and academia to convert policy intent into on-ground outcomes. The conference concluded with optimism and actionable insights aimed at accelerating Jammu & Kashmir's journey towards sustainable and inclusive growth.

The event witnessed participation of 200 people, dignitaries on the dais, presidents of various trade and industry associations, prominent citizens, ICC members, the ICC secretariat, and representatives from print and electronic media.

Rana reviews development works, restoration of essential services in snow hit Rajouri

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI, JAN 29: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs and In-charge Minister for District Rajouri, Javed Ahmed Rana, today convened a review meeting with the district officers to assess restoration of essential services in snow-affected areas besides reviewing progress on road clearance operations across the district.

The Minister had a detailed assessment of the measures being undertaken to restore the water supply, electricity and road connectivity in areas impacted by the recent snowfall.

He emphasized the urgency of the situation, directing officers to intensify restoration measures and ensure no habitation is cut off or deprived of basic amenities. He instructed the district administration to deploy additional manpower, machinery and resources as needed, with minimizing public inconvenience as the top priority. He also stressed the importance of coordinated inter-departmental efforts to expedite the restoration work.

District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, briefed the Minister on the ongoing restoration activities, stating that teams from various departments are working round the clock to restore normalcy. He informed that the district administration is closely monitoring the situation to ensure uninterrupted supply of essential services. He added that clearance of tertiary and interior roads is being taken up on priority to improve the accessibility in remote areas. The Minister also reviewed the progress of developmental activities being executed during the current financial year.

Expressing concern over some delays, the Minister directed for expediting pace of execution of all ongoing projects, ensuring timely completion. He stressed that no funds should lapse and regular field inspections, strict monitoring and adherence to timelines is ensured to achieve both physical and financial targets. During the meeting, the Minister also issued specific direction to the District Development Commissioner to prepare a revised Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the Ans Canal as a multipurpose project, incorporating provisions for agriculture and irrigation use. He emphasized that the revised DPR should comprehensively address the irrigation requirements of the farming community and enhance the canal's utility for sustainable agricultural development in the district.

The District Development Commissioner assured that all projects are under continuous monitoring and clear instructions have been issued to executing agencies to ensure timely completion of works.

Chief Conservator of Forests, Satpal Pukhru, informed the meeting that firewood is being supplied as per the requirements of snow-affected areas. He further assured that the Forest Department will initiate protection and mitigation measures once weather conditions improve, particularly in vulnerable forest zones.

The meeting was attended by senior district officers, including the Chief Conservator of Forests, Superintending Engineer, Jal Shakti Rajouri Circle, DFO Rajouri, Ex-Engineer Jal Shakti and other concerned officials. Pertinently, the In-charge Minister convened the meeting as part of the government's public-centric governance approach, aimed at reviewing the prevailing situation on ground.

LG Manoj Sinha Interacts with Students Back from ITBP Bharat Darshan Tour

■ HT NEWS NETWORK



JAMMU, JAN 29: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Thursday interacted with the group of students who returned from the Bharat Darshan tour, organized by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) under its Civic Action Programme.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the initiative aimed at fostering a spirit of national integration, unity, and cultural understanding among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

The students also shared their firsthand experiences and insights from their meeting with the Hon'ble President of India.

The group comprised 26 students hailing from various districts, including Srinagar, Kishtwar, Baramulla, and Anantnag. The students undertook educational and cultural visits to major landmarks in Hyderabad and New Delhi.

Shri Ajay Nirmalkar, Commanding Officer, 21

Bn ITBP; Dr Suraj S.R., Assistant Commandant, ITBP; Shri Mukesh Kumar Ganesh and Ms Umaisa Farooq,

teachers and other officials who have accompanied the students were present during the interaction.

Office of the Executive Engineer City Drainage Civil Division SMC Regal Lane Lalchowk Srinagar

QUOTATION

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir/ Srinagar Municipal Corporation, sealed quotations affixed with revenue stamps of Rupees Ten are invited from Resourceful Construction Consultancy agencies for below mentioned work on the following terms and conditions:

S.No	Description	Estimated Cost	Time of Completion
1	Topographic survey to be carried out with the help of total station equipment at various sites for taking Cross Sections in an around Srinagar City.	Rs. 1.00 lacs	05 days

TERMS & CONDITIONS: -

- The quotations should reach the office of the undersigned on or before 02/02/2026 upto 2.00 PM, if the date of receipt of quotations is declared a holiday the quotations shall be received on next working day upto 2.00 PM. The quotations will be opened on the same date or any other date as convenient to the opening authority in presence of such quotations who may wish to be present at that time.
- The quotations should be supported by the GST Registration/PAN Card and Earnest Money Deposit in the shape of C.D.R pledged to the Executive Engineer City Drainage Civil Division SMC Srinagar amount to Rs.2000/- . Quotation with CDR/GST Registration/PAN Card received after expiry date and time will be treated as invalid quotation even though the rates offered in such case may be lowest.
- No cheque/F.D.R etc. shall be entertained as earnest money.
- The details can be had from the office of the undersigned on any working day during office hours before due date of receipt of quotations.
- The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason thereof.
- Rates should be written clearly and legibility both in words and figures.
- The Quotationer shall include in his quoted price the excise duty, GST and other taxes if applicable.
- Work if found unsatisfaction will not be accepted and will have to be replaced at the risk and cost of the Contractor.
- The successful Quotationer shall have to start the work/survey for taking cross section immediately after the issuance of allotment order failing which penalty upto 10% of total value of contract will be imposed on the Quotationer at the discretion of the high authorities besides enforcing other legal action against him that may be warranted under rules.
- Payment Clause: 100% payment shall be made only after successful completion of the work and subsequent verification from the concerned Asstt. Ex. Engineer.
- Performance Security: - 5% Performance Security of total value of contract shall be deposited by the successful contractor in the shape of Bank Guarantee/EMD before issuance of allotment order and shall be released after satisfactory report from the concerned Asstt. Ex. Engineer after expiry of DLP of 90 days from the date of Completion of Survey.
- In addition to above the contract shall be governed by the terms and conditions as laid down in the PWD form No.25.

No: CDC/8644-53 | Date: 29-01-2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer City Drainage
Civil Division SMC Srinagar

DIPK: 10447/25 | Dated: 29-01-2026

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

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 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

Expression of gratitude

We are deeply grateful to all our friends, relatives and neighbours, the residents of B.T.M. First Stage Bangalore, the residents of Gulposh Colony - Bypass near Amna Hospital, the residents of Chinar Lane Lal Bazaar, the Kashmir Traders Welfare Association, Putaparty Andhra Pradesh and all the leaders of Kashmir Welfare Association Bangalore who supported us in this hour of grief by calling us or coming to our house on the demise of Shahid Mehmood Shah. May Allah Almighty reward all those people.

(9492990916) Syed Mujahid Hussaini (9980001068), Tariq Mehmood Shah, Malik Ishtiaq (9149937564) Muhammad Faheem Shahdar and Qazi Sarwar.

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that Aaliza Naseer has applied for issuance of her Birth Certificate from the BDO Office, Langate.

It is hereby mentioned that her birth has taken place at Home. If any person has any objection regarding this matter, they may visit the BDO Office, Langate within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the said period, no objection shall be entertained.

Aaliza Naseer

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/O ...MOHD 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 PIR GHULAM HASSAN S/O ...SONAULLAH BABA R/O PETH SEER SOPORE Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0213020001832 wants to be registered on my PIR GHULAM AHMAD S/O PIR GHULAM HASSAN R/O PETH SEER SOPORE .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...PIR GHULAM AHMAD
S/O ... PIR GHULAM HASSAN
R/O .PETH SEER SOPORE

DC Srinagar reviews progress of digitization of Revenue records in the District

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JANUARY 29: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, today chaired a meeting of senior Revenue Officers at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the progress of digitization and modernization of revenue records in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; SDM West, Irfan Bahadur; SDM East, Zubair Ahmad; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar; and all Tehsildars of Srinagar district.

At the outset, the DC conducted a detailed review of the progress achieved in the digitization of revenue records across the district, aimed at enhancing transparency and efficiency in land records management.

Emphasizing the importance of public awareness, the DC directed Revenue Officers to visit revenue



villages to sensitize citizens about the contents of digitisation and

read out the digitised records in public to note their legitimate grievances, if any and also inform them about the significance of digitization and modernization of land records.

He stressed that landowners should be informed about the benefits of digitization, particularly ease of access to land-related information, improved accuracy, and greater accountability.

The DC also underscored the need for maintaining high standards of quality and accuracy in the digitization process, calling for efficient and professional execution. He emphasized robust quality checks and close coordination among field functionaries to expedite the process.

Highlighting that digitization of revenue records is pivotal for transparent governance and improved service delivery, the DC urged Revenue Officers to work with added zeal and dedication to ensure timely and quality services to the public.

Tawi Boating festival concludes

“Regular riverfront activities likely soon”

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JANUARY 29: The first-ever Tawi Boating Festival concluded on Thursday at the Artificial Lake developed under the Jammu Smart City project, marking a significant step towards revitalising the Tawi Riverfront and boosting urban tourism in the winter capital.

The two-day festival held for the first time in the heart of the city introduced boating activities on the Tawi and drew large crowds of residents, families and visitors. Member Legislative Assembly Bahu, Vikram Randhawa was present on the concluding day. Around 4,000 to 5,000 people availed boating facilities during the two-day festival. The initiative received an enthusiastic response, underlining the growing demand for organised recreational spaces in Jammu. Many visitors described the riverfront as a long-awaited addition to the city's social and tourism landscape, with the area emerging as a new hub for leisure and community engagement.

Jammu Municipal Corporation Commissioner and CEO of Jammu Smart City Limited, Dr Devansh Yadav said the festival has successfully met its objectives. “The overwhelming public response shows the vision behind rejuvenating the Tawi

riverfront. This project aims to create vibrant, safe and accessible public spaces for citizens,” he said. “The festival helped us test boating operations and safety mechanisms and based on the experience, we will soon float tenders to start regular boating and allied recreational activities on a permanent basis engaging local tourism entrepreneurs,” he added. Adequate safety arrangements were made during the festival, including trained personnel, life jackets and rescue infrastructure, to ensure smooth and secure operations. The riverfront remained lively throughout the event, with illuminated embankments, cultural performances by local bands and stalls offering traditional Dogra cuisine. The Irrigation & Flood Control department has played a crucial role in the project by achieving water pondage through Tawi barrage at the site.

Meanwhile, in a powerful continuation of the 77th Republic Day celebrations, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) organized a massive human chain across the Tawi Bridge and River Front.

The event was held under the banner of Swachh Bharat Mission Urban (SBM-U) 2.0, a flagship initiative aimed at weaving the spirit of patriotism with environmental stewardship, directly supporting the goals of the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban (SBM-U) 2.0.

DC reviews Draft Master Plans for Ramban, Banihal Townships

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN, JANUARY 29: Ahead of the finalisation of the Master Plans for Ramban and Banihal towns, the Deputy Commissioner, Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a meeting of concerned officers and officials to review the draft proposals and issued necessary directions for incorporating locally identified aspects before submission for final approval.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather; ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo; SDM Banihal Mohammad Naseeb Bajran; Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council Ramban Surdeshan Jamwal; Tehsildars, Executive Officer Municipal Committee Banihal and other concerned officers.



The Deputy Commissioner discussed the objectives, methodology and salient features of the draft Master Plans. He stated that the plans aim to make Ramban and Banihal vibrant and future-ready towns by rationalising land use, curbing haphazard growth, addressing infrastructure gaps and promoting sustainable and systematic urban development. “Parnote land subsidence area and the likely impact of the upcoming Sawalkote Hydro Power Project on low-lying areas identified under the Ramban Master Plan be carefully factored into the plan proposals,” the Deputy Commissioner directed.

Emphasising inclusive and realistic planning, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the Town Planning Organisation to consider all genuine suggestions and inputs of concerned stakeholders so that the final Master Plans truly reflect local aspirations and set a strong foundation for sustainable growth and improved quality of life in both towns.

Jammu administration conducts extensive drug abuse awareness programmes under Phase-II of Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JANUARY 29: Under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, a series of awareness and sensitisation programmes on drug abuse were conducted in schools and colleges across Jammu district under Phase-II of the Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan.

The programmes were organised as part of the district-wide Information, Education and Communication campaign with the objective of educating the youth and masses about the harmful effects of substance abuse and strengthening collective efforts towards achieving a drug-free society.

Among the major activities, Government Degree College Bishnah organised a comprehensive awareness programme wherein expert speakers from the Health, Police, Social Welfare and Education



Department deliberated upon the physical, psychological, social and legal consequences of drug abuse. Students were sensitised about the provisions of the NDPS Act, the role of NCORD, early intervention, counselling and

rehabilitation facilities. The programme concluded with a pledge ceremony, reaffirming the commitment of students and faculty towards a drug-free campus.

At Government Degree College

Jourian, an extensive anti-drug awareness campaign was conducted under the Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan, featuring lectures by medical officers, police officials, social welfare representatives and teachers. The speakers highlighted health risks, legal ramifications, social impact and the importance of positive coping mechanisms. Active participation of NSS volunteers and students marked the programme's success.

Government Degree College Kunjwani/Sainik Colony Jammu organised an awareness programme, in which more than 150 students participated. Resource persons from the Health Department, Social Welfare Department and School Education Department provided multi-dimensional perspectives on substance abuse, while the Principal emphasised the role of educational institutions in nurturing responsible and resilient citizens.

Similarly, awareness

programmes were organised at PPS Government College for Women Gandhinagar, Government College for Women Parade Ground, GDC Akhnoor, GDC Marh, GDC Sidhra and GGM Science College Jammu, focusing on prevention strategies, counselling support and youth engagement under the IEC campaign.

Outreach activities were also conducted at GHSS Ghou Manhasan, Boys Hostel GCET Jammu and Govt. ICT/Model Higher Secondary School Sai Kalan, R.S. Pura, involving rallies, slogan-raising, community interaction and expert talks to extend awareness beyond campuses.

It was informed that such programmes will continue to be organised in the coming days to ensure wider awareness and community participation in urban local bodies as well as panchayats, thereby strengthening the ongoing fight against drug abuse under the Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan.

DDC Reasi chairs DLTC meeting to approve Scale of Finance for FY 2026-27

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

REASI, JANUARY 29: District Development Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik today convened a meeting at the DC Office Complex to approve the proposed Scale of Finance for Agriculture, Horticulture and allied sectors for the financial year 2026-27.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on various components related to the cost of cultivation of different agricultural crops, horticultural produce, animal rearing and other allied activities. The approved Scale of Finance will serve as the basis for disbursement of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans by banks during FY 2026-27.

She emphasized the importance of ensuring a fair and realistic calculation of the Scale of Finance, keeping in view the inflation rate, high cost of cultivation in hilly areas



and the need to promote remunerative crops for the overall development of the farming community. She stressed that farmers in Reasi must receive equitable financial support at par with those of other districts.

She also stressed close coordination among all stakeholders, including banks and agriculture and allied departments, to ensure timely and adequate flow of institutional credit to farmers. She directed the banks to accord due preference for prompt disbursement of KCC loans, particularly to farmers who are yet to be covered under the scheme.

The meeting was attended by Manager JCC Bank Reasi Munish Kumar Sharma, Member secretary Chief Agriculture officer Reasi Harbans Singh, DDM NABARD Reasi Adarsh Gupta, Lead Bank Officer Reasi Raman Vikas, EDB Reasi Keshav.

DHS Jammu reviews healthcare facilities at SDH Kandi

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI, JANUARY 29: Director Health Services, Jammu (DHSJ) Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar, along with the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Rajouri, today visited various health institutions in the Kandi area to review healthcare facilities and assess the progress of infrastructure development.



During the visit to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Kandi, the Director held a review meeting with medical and paramedical staff to assess the functioning of the hospital. Key issues, including availability of manpower, patient care services, implementation of national health programmes and overall hospital performance were discussed.

The DHSJ also met public delegations and listened to their demands. The Director emphasized the need to ensure quality healthcare delivery, patient-friendly services and strict adherence to prescribed norms.

The Director, accompanied by the CMO, also inspected the completed building at Community Health Centre (CHC) Kandi. The quality of construction and readiness of the infrastructure were reviewed. The concerned authorities were asked to make optimal use of the newly developed facilities for the benefit of the public.

Later, the Director visited Buddal Block to take stock of healthcare services in the area. He interacted with healthcare staff and stressed the importance of strengthening outreach services, particularly in remote and hilly regions, to ensure accessible and timely medical care to the population.

The visit highlighted the Health Department's continued focus on strengthening health infrastructure and improving service delivery at all.

Sampoornata Abhiyaan 2.0 being rolled out in Aspirational Block Marwah

DC reviews preparedness for campaign launch

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR, JANUARY 29: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the preparedness for the launch of Sampoornata Abhiyaan 2.0 in the Aspirational Block Marwah, scheduled on February 2, 2026. The nationwide Sampoornata Abhiyaan 2.0 aims at achieving saturation of all six key performance indicators across priority sectors and bringing about a transformative change in the lives of the people of the block.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized coordinated efforts among all line departments to ensure the successful launch and effective implementation of the programme within the stipulated three-month timeframe. He directed Health, Education, Animal Husbandry, Agriculture and other stakeholder departments to work in mission mode to achieve the assigned targets.

Block Development Officer Marwah was asked to convene “Gram Sabhas” for passing resolutions for the saturation of the six key performance indicators



in the Health and Nutrition Sector-supplementary nutrition coverage for children aged 6 months to 6 years; measurement of nutritional efficiency of children enrolled at Anganwadi Centres (AWCs); provisioning of functional toilets

and drinking water facilities in the AWCs. For the Education Sector, emphasis was laid on improving the percentage of schools with functional toilets for girls, while in the Agriculture and Allied Sector, focus was placed on achieving full coverage of bovine animal vaccination as per indicators notified under the Abhiyaan.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned HODs of the line departments to organize health camps, screening programmes, nutrition- and education-related activities as per the guidelines shared by NITI Aayog

to ensure comprehensive outreach and impact. The meeting concluded with a resolve to make Sampoornata Abhiyaan 2.0 a grand success through collective efforts, ensuring inclusive development and improved service delivery in the Aspirational Block Marwah.

The meeting was attended by CEO KDA, Kaiser Bhawani, CPO Akhil Thakur, CEO Municipal Council Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal, CDPO Marwah Dr. Kuldeep Kumar, BDO Hqrs. Chandan Manhas, CAO, Kushal Chandel, CHO Sajid Mustafa, DSHO, Ex-En Marwah, BMO Kishtwar and other concerned officers and staff.

India's fiscal performance reflects balance of growth imperatives and prudence: Eco Survey

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JAN 29 : India's fiscal trajectory continues to stand out for balancing consolidation with sustained public investment, the Economic Survey 2025-26 said on Thursday, underlining that prudent fiscal management has gone hand-in-hand with asset creation and growth support in the post-pandemic period.

The survey said the government's calibrated fiscal strategy and decisive reorientation of spending towards capital formation have strengthened macroeconomic stability while preserving growth momentum.

This rebalancing has been supported by a steady improvement in revenue mobilisation and a conscious effort to improve the quality of expenditure.

The Centre's revenue receipts strengthened in the post-pandemic period, rising from 8.5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the pre-pandemic years (FY16-FY20) to about 9.1 per cent during FY22-FY25.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections recorded multiple all-time highs in absolute terms during FY26 so far, with growth broadly aligned with nominal GDP. The survey noted that recent GST rationalisation measures have also helped support demand while improving price competitiveness.

Alongside higher revenues, the government has focused on non-debt capital receipts through calibrated asset and equity monetisation. During FY26 up to December 2025, disinvestment



activity remained centred on market-based transactions aligned with valuation discipline and minimum public shareholding norms.

Offer-for-sale transactions in select public sector enterprises mobilised over Rs 7,700 crore, while remittances from the Specified Undertaking of Unit Trust of India added over Rs 1,000 crore. Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)-based monetisation emerged as a key pillar, yielding close to Rs 18,800 crore during the year.

Strategic disinvestment has also progressed steadily, with approvals accorded over recent years for several central public sector enterprises, supported by governance reforms that empower CPSE boards to undertake restructuring, mergers or closures.

The survey observed that going forward, equity monetisation could be strengthened further through selective reduction of government shareholding, while recycling a portion of disinvestment proceeds into future-oriented sectors and

infrastructure.

On the expenditure front, the survey said fiscal consolidation has been achieved alongside a marked improvement in expenditure quality. Revenue expenditure moderated from 13.6 per cent of GDP in FY22 to 10.9 per cent in FY25, lower than the pre-pandemic average, creating fiscal space for more productive capital spending.

A key contributor to this adjustment has been the rationalisation of subsidies, with major subsidies declining from 1.9 per cent of GDP in FY22 to 1.2 per cent in FY25, even as the government continued its commitment to food security, benefiting nearly 79 crore people.

Capital expenditure was scaled up sharply, rising from an average of 1.7 per cent of GDP in the pre-pandemic period to around 3 per cent in the years following the pandemic. Effective capital expenditure, which includes grants-in-aid for asset creation, increased further, reflecting a deliberate shift

towards asset-creating outlays.

Road transport and highways, along with railways, continued to account for over half of the Centre's capital expenditure, while transfers to States, telecommunications, and housing and urban affairs recorded strong double-digit growth.

The Centre's Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure has played a critical role in sustaining investment at the sub-national level, helping states maintain capital expenditure at around 2.4 per cent of GDP in FY25.

In parallel, total fiscal transfers from the Centre to states have expanded significantly over recent years, more than doubling in absolute terms between FY20 and FY26, strengthening states' fiscal capacity for development spending.

During FY26 so far, capital expenditure showed a strong rebound, growing by 28 per cent year-on-year up to November 2025, while revenue expenditure growth remained muted, underscoring the continued focus on consolidation.

As of November, both the revenue deficit and fiscal deficit were progressing in line with budget estimates, indicating that the Centre remains on track to meet its fiscal targets for the year.

Overall, the survey concluded that India's fiscal strategy reflects a careful balance between discipline and growth, with a sustained emphasis on public investment, asset creation and cooperative federalism forming the cornerstone of its medium-term fiscal framework. UNI

Govt faces tightrope between fiscal discipline and fuel relief

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

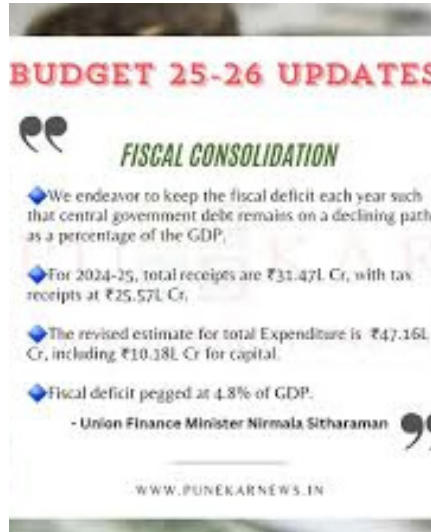
NEW DELHI, JAN 29 : As the union Budget approaches, fuel prices and cooking gas subsidies have once again emerged as a silent but decisive factor in the public mood, even as official discourse remains cautious on the subject. Any signal on petrol, diesel or LPG pricing has the potential to travel faster than budget documents themselves, for few issues cut as directly into household finances.

Petrol and diesel prices have remained largely unchanged in recent months, yet they continue to hover at levels that influence transport costs, food prices and urban inflation. Economists note that while fuel taxes have helped shore up government revenues in recent years, they have also acted as a regressive burden, disproportionately affecting middle- and lower-income households whose spending on essentials leaves little room for adjustment.

The sharper anxiety, however, centres on LPG. Cooking gas has shifted from being a welfare issue alone to a middle-class concern, as repeated price increases have narrowed the gap between subsidised and market rates. While targeted subsidies under schemes such as Ujjwala continue for poorer households, a growing segment of salaried families now finds itself paying near-commercial prices for a basic household necessity.

Media commentary ahead of the Budget has therefore focused on whether the government will use fiscal instruments to moderate LPG prices or expand compensation to oil marketing companies to contain further hikes. Analysts point out that without budgetary support, oil companies may be forced to pass on higher costs to consumers, especially if global energy prices remain volatile.

The government's dilemma is evident.



Any broad-based subsidy expansion risks unsettling fiscal consolidation targets at a time when policymakers have committed to discipline and credibility. Yet ignoring fuel-linked inflation carries its own risks, as rising input costs quietly ripple through the economy, pushing up prices far beyond the fuel pump or the kitchen stove.

Observers note that past Budgets have often addressed fuel concerns indirectly — through calibrated excise adjustments, compensation mechanisms or delayed price revisions — rather than headline-grabbing announcements. A similar approach is expected this year, with incremental measures favoured over dramatic rollbacks.

In the final analysis, fuel pricing remains one of the Budget's most politically sensitive levers, precisely because it is rarely announced loudly. Whether through silence, subtle arithmetic or selective relief, what the Finance Minister chooses not to say on petrol, diesel and LPG may matter as much as what she does. UNI

Wipro under Govt scrutiny for prolonged fresher onboarding delays

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BENGALURU, JAN 29 : In a move underscoring growing concerns over hiring practices in the IT sector, the Labour and Employment Ministry has officially taken note of a complaint against Wipro Limited over prolonged onboarding delays affecting fresh graduates.

The Ministry has referred the matter to the Principal Secretary of the Karnataka Labour Department for review and appropriate action, formally bringing the issue under the state government's jurisdiction.

The complaint, filed by the Nascent Information Technology Employees Senate (NITES), concerns more than 250 young professionals who received Letters of Intent and completed all background verifications, but have been kept waiting for months without joining, rejection, or clarity.

Harpreet Singh Saluja, President of NITES, said, "The central Ministry's action confirms that this grievance is being taken seriously. The prolonged delays have caused significant uncertainty and distress among young professionals eager to start their careers, and we hope the state government will now take swift and appropriate action."

The issue first came to public attention when NITES approached the Labour Ministry, highlighting that onboarding delays affected over 200 fresh graduates amid Wipro scaling back its fresher hiring plans. Some candidates, who received Letters of Intent as early as May 2025, remain in limbo, with Wipro responses described as vague or automated.

Industry analysts note that these delays are not isolated, reflecting a broader trend of caution in hiring across IT firms, with similar onboarding uncertainties reported at other companies. UNI

BASF to establish Global Digital Hub in Hyderabad

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JAN 29 : BASF announced plans to open a Global Digital Hub in Hyderabad, India, in the first quarter of 2026, further strengthening its Global Digital Services Division and expanding its worldwide digital footprint.

The new hub will complement BASF's existing Digital Hubs in Europe (Ludwigshafen and Madrid) and Asia Pacific (Kuala Lumpur), the company said in a release on Wednesday.

BASF Digital Hubs serve as centers of digital expertise, delivering standardized, scalable

digital services to BASF businesses globally.

The Hyderabad Digital Hub will consolidate key digital capabilities at a cost-efficient location, enabling faster, leaner, and more competitive service delivery while reinforcing BASF's global digital operating model.

"With this next step in value creation within BASF's back-end organization, we ensure digital service delivery on competitive terms," said Dr. Dirk Elvermann, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Digital Officer, BASF SE.

"Hyderabad offers all the attributes required of a state-of-

the-art Digital Hub with global reach. Seamless collaboration between the new hub in India and our existing Digital Hubs, along with excellent service delivery to our businesses, will be our top priorities," he added.

As part of its broader digital transformation strategy, BASF aims to reduce complexity and costs by standardizing its digital portfolio and focusing on areas that generate the greatest value for its core businesses.

These efforts will be accompanied by structural adjustments within the Global Digital Services Division, including

a planned reduction of the global workforce by 2030 and a decrease in the number of digital specialist locations worldwide. These measures will be implemented responsibly and in full compliance with existing co-determination rights.

Preparations for the Hyderabad Digital Hub are already underway. Hiring and operational activities will commence immediately under the newly established Indian entity, BASF Digital Solutions Private Limited.

We can launch the Hyderabad hub so quickly and scale it sustainably," said Dietrich Spandau,

President, Global Digital Services.

"Our goal is to create an attractive workplace that reflects BASF's Winning Culture and enables high-performing, globally connected teams," he added.

The Hyderabad Digital Hub will build on BASF's long-standing presence in India, which includes manufacturing and research and development operations. "The new Digital Hub strengthens BASF's commitment to India and supports our ambition to work faster, leaner, and focus on what creates the most value," said Alexander Gerding, Head of BASF Group Companies in India. UNI

FLY91, Timetooth Technologies sign MoU at Wings India to advance indigenous aircraft seat manufacturing

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JAN 29 : Regional airline FLY91 has entered into a strategic partnership with Timetooth Technologies, an Indian aerospace engineering firm, to develop and supply indigenously designed and DGCA-certified aircraft passenger seats for its fleet, marking a step towards strengthening domestic aviation manufacturing.

The two companies signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Wings India 2026 in Hyderabad on Wednesday. The agreement brings together FLY91's regional airline

operations and Timetooth's aerospace engineering capabilities to support India's Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives. Under the MoU, Timetooth Technologies will lead the design, prototyping, testing and certification of customised seating solutions for FLY91's ATR 72-600 aircraft. The collaboration will also explore the use of lightweight materials and smart seat features aimed at improving fuel efficiency and passenger comfort, along with potential long-term maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) support.

FLY91 said the partnership would help build domestic capability across

the commercial aviation value chain, particularly in aircraft interiors, an area largely dependent on imports.

Timetooth Technologies is the developer of India's first DGCA-certified indigenous aircraft passenger seats.

FLY91 currently operates four ATR 72-600 aircraft, with two more aircraft expected shortly, and serves nine destinations. The airline is preparing for further network expansion, including Rajahmundry, Hubballi, Nanded, Vijayawada and Goa (Dabolim).

"This MoU reflects our intent to build critical aviation capabilities within India," said Manoj Chacko, Managing Director and CEO, FLY91. UNI

HAL showcases indigenous civil aviation platforms at Wings India 2026; SJ-100 to make debut

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JAN 29 : Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) showcased its expanding civil aviation portfolio at the four-day Wings India 2026 event, which began at Begumpet Airport, here, on Wednesday. The highlight of HAL's participation would be the formal debut of the Super Jet (SJ)-100 regional aircraft, alongside the H-228 commuter aircraft and the Dhruv New Generation (NG) helicopter.

According to Dr D K Sunil, Chairman and Managing Director, HAL, the display reflects the company's focused push toward strengthening regional connectivity, civil utility operations, and future-ready aircraft programmes, while reinforcing India's journey towards self-reliance in civil aviation.

HAL showcased scaled models of the Dhruv NG, H-228, H-228 Amphibian, SJ-100, LUH Civil, as well as Line Replaceable Units (LRUs) and accessories tailored for civil operators.

A major attraction at the HAL pavilion would be the static display of the Dhruv NG, H-228, SJ-100 and SJ-100 Aurus (business jet).

HAL is collaborating with United Aircraft Corporation (UAC), Russia, for manufacturing the SJ-100 to enhance India's "Make in India" capabilities.

Customer demonstration flights of the Dhruv NG and H-228 will also be conducted to showcase real-world performance, safety, and operational versatility.

HAL is also expected to sign MoUs with multiple industry partners during the event.

HAL's participation at Wings India 2026 underscores its role as a key partner in India's aviation ecosystem, supporting the UDAN regional connectivity scheme and the Make in India initiative, while inviting OEMs, operators, and industry stakeholders to explore collaboration opportunities. UNI

Budget 2026 likely to prioritise fiscal prudence amid global uncertainty: SBI Research

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JAN 29 : India's union Budget for 2026-27 is expected to strike a careful balance between fiscal consolidation and growth support, as heightened global uncertainty, volatile financial markets and rising commodity prices weigh on economic outlooks, according to a research report by State Bank of India (SBI).

SBI Research projects nominal GDP growth of around 10.5-11% for FY27, factoring in the potential spillover of higher global commodity prices into wholesale inflation.

Based on this assumption, the fiscal deficit is expected to be budgeted at about 4.2% of GDP, continuing the government's medium-term path of fiscal consolidation.

The report estimates net central government borrowing at Rs 11.7



lakh crore in FY27, with gross borrowing of Rs 16.3 lakh crore and repayments of about Rs 4.6 lakh crore.

State governments' gross borrowings are projected at Rs 12.6 lakh crore, underscoring the growing need for coordination between the Centre and states on

debt management and market borrowings.

Capital expenditure is expected to remain a key pillar of growth, with government capex likely to cross Rs 12 lakh crore in FY27, marking an annual increase of around 10%. SBI notes that sustained public investment will be critical

in supporting medium-term growth amid global headwinds.

On the revenue front, the contribution of direct taxes to total tax revenue is projected to remain high, with personal income tax collections continuing to outpace corporate tax receipts.

Non-tax revenue growth,

however, may remain modest and sensitive to market conditions, particularly in the context of disinvestment and dividend receipts from public sector entities.

The report also flags the rising importance of state finances, noting that while overall public debt levels have moderated from pandemic peaks, state debt remains above recommended thresholds.

SBI suggests that future budgets may emphasise clearer, scenario-based debt-to-GSDP trajectories for states to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability.

SBI Research describes India as an "ocean of certainty" in an increasingly fragmented global economy, with the FY27 Budget likely to reinforce macroeconomic stability while pushing incremental reforms across taxation, financial savings, insurance and pension sectors. UNI



UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

GUWAHATI: India's T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav's return to form has meant a rise for him in the ICC T20I batters' rankings. Following back-to-back half-centuries - 82* and 57* - in the second and third T20Is against New Zealand, respectively, Suryakumar has moved five places up to No. 7.

Hardik Pandya, meanwhile, gained one place to rise to third place in the allrounders' chart. Hardik has picked up four wickets in three matches against New Zealand, after scoring 142 runs in four games against South Africa. Fellow allrounder Shivam Dube is also up six places to No. 11. Dube has three wickets so far in the series against New Zealand, apart from smashing 36* in 18 deliveries in the second match.

Abhishek Sharma, meanwhile, has strengthened his position at the top of the batting rankings. After playing 84 off 35 balls and 68* in 20 deliveries against New Zealand - he fell for a duck in between - Abhishek has 929 rating points, 80 clear of second-placed Phil Salt. Tilak Varma, who will be missing the entire five-match series against New Zealand, is third.

Among bowlers, Jasprit Bumrah's Player-of-the-Match performance of 3 for 17 in the third T20I has helped him rise four spots to No. 13.

England's stars rise on ODI tables

In the ODI rankings, three England players have moved up following their 2-1 series win against Sri Lanka.

Centuries from Joe Root and Harry Brook took their side to victory in the decider on Tuesday. As a result of that, Root has climbed six places up to No. 17 while Brook has jumped from No. 28 to No. 11. Root ended the series with the most runs (247) across both sides, while Brook (184) finished second.

Adil Rashid, the highest wicket-taker of the series with seven wickets at an average of 19.85, moved up six places to No. 5 among bowlers.

Suryakumar Rises in ICC Rankings After Striking Purple Patch



UP Warriorz bring in Amy Jones after Phoebe Litchfield leaves with quad injury

■ ESPNCRICINFO

MUMBAI: UP Warriorz (UPW) have picked England wicketkeeper-batter Amy Jones as replacement for the injured Phoebe Litchfield for the remainder of WPL 2026.

Litchfield has a quad injury, a Cricket Australia spokesperson confirmed, and has returned home to rehab ahead of the Australia vs India series, which starts on February 15. Litchfield, who played all six matches for UPW this season, leaves as the third-highest run-getter across teams - and UPW's top scorer - with 243 runs.

Jones, who went unsold at the auction, has been picked at her auction base price of INR 50 lakh by UPW. She brings with her the experience of having played 125 T20Is for England - apart from 111 ODIs - and also stints at the WBBL and the Hundred.

At WBBL 2025-26, she was Melbourne Stars' second-highest run-getter with 234 runs in 11 matches at a strike rate of 125.80. Stars made it to the Knockout, where they lost to Perth Scorchers.



That match from early December 2025 remains Jones' last competitive outing.

UPW were last in action on January 22, when they lost to Gujarat Giants by 45 runs.

That left them at the bottom of the points table, and also with the poorest net run-rate of the five teams. As a result, not only do they need to win their two remaining games to qualify for the play-offs, but also have to boost their NRR. UPW are next in action on Thursday, when they play Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), and then on February 1, against Delhi Capitals (DC).

Gillespie named head coach of Hyderabad franchise in PSL 2026

Luke Ronchi has been named head coach of Islamabad United

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Former Pakistan Test head coach Jason Gillespie has been appointed coach of Hyderabad, one of two new franchises in the Pakistan Super League. Gillespie, whose previous coaching assignment was with Pakistan's red-ball side for a brief, eventful six-month stint in 2024, was unveiled as the Hyderabad coach via a post on social media.

"I'm very excited to be part of the Kingsmen team at Hyderabad," Gillespie told ESPNCRICINFO. "Lots to look forward to and I can't wait to get started!"

Gillespie's appointment comes

two weeks out from the PSL auction, where Hyderabad, alongside Sialkot, will have to build their squad from scratch.

"Vision clear. Direction locked. Entering a new era," the account for Kingsmen Cricket, part of the ownership group of the Hyderabad franchise, posted on X. "Jason Gillespie takes charge as head coach of Hyderabad in the HBL PSL. Welcome to the family, coach."

The appointment will be Gillespie's first involvement in coaching in Pakistan since an acrimonious falling out with the PCB leading to him quitting as Pakistan's red-ball coach days before the start of a two-Test series in South Africa.



Meanwhile, former New Zealand and Australia cricketer Luke Ronchi has been appointed Islamabad United's head coach.

Ronchi played for United between 2018 and 2020, helping them win the PSL in 2018. No batter in PSL history with at least 1000

runs has a higher strike rate than his 166.12. He has been involved in New Zealand's coaching set-up since his retirement.

"Islamabad United has always felt like home to me," Ronchi said in a statement. "The bond I share with this team, the owners, the fans, and the entire ISLU family is something genuinely special. I've always carried that connection with pride."

"To return now as head coach is a huge honour. Islamabad United stands for fearless cricket, character, and a winning mindset. I'm excited to carry that legacy forward and help develop the next group of leaders and match-winners for this great team."

HEADLINES TODAY INVITES CONTRIBUTIONS

Are you a writer, poet, storyteller, columnist, or feature writer with a passion for literature or health writings? Headlines Today offers a platform to share:

Literature Section: Well-crafted essays, literary articles, reflections, and creative writings.

Health Section: Well-researched articles, expert columns, and in-depth feature reports from professionals and specialists.

Send your contributions to:

Dr Basharat Khan

Honorary Editor: Literature & Health

Sections (HT) at

chogalwriter76@gmail.com

YOUR WORDS CAN INSPIRE, INFORM, AND IGNITE; LET THEM BE HEARD.

