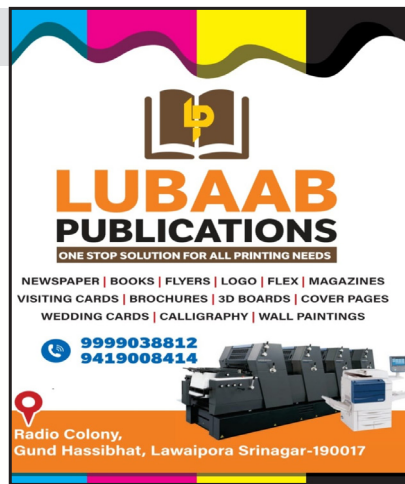


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Voice To The Voiceless



Amit Shah in J&K Today for Three-Day Visit, Key Security, Development Reviews on Agenda

Home Minister to Visit Border Outposts, Meet Martyrs' Families; Leaders Voice Hope For Faster Development, Statehood Restoration

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, FEB 5: Union Home Minister Amit Shah is arriving in Jammu and Kashmir today on a three-day visit, during which he will chair high-level review meetings on security and development, visit forward border posts, and interact with families of fallen soldiers.

During the visit, Shah will preside over crucial security review meetings with top civil and police officials to assess the prevailing situation and evaluate the implementation of development schemes funded by the Central Government. He is also scheduled to visit the Border Security Force's Bobia and Gurnam Border Outposts, besides meeting the families of martyrs and handing over

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Wheel of Change: Amit Shah Launches Bharat Taxi, India's First Cooperative Cab Service

Driver-Owners to Get Higher Income, Zero Commission, Social Security ;

■ HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, FEB 5: In a landmark move aimed at empowering taxi drivers and transforming the gig economy, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah on Thursday formally launched 'Bharat Taxi', India's first cooperative-based taxi service,

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World Entering New Global Order, India at the Centre: PM Modi

Prime Minister tells Rajya Sabha India has become the strongest voice of Global South; highlights major trade breakthroughs

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, FEB 5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday declared that the world is undergoing a historic shift towards a new global order, with India emerging as a central force shaping international discourse and economic partnerships.

Replying to the debate on the President's Address in the Rajya Sabha, Modi said the post-pandemic era has accelerated changes in global power dynamics. "After the Second World War, a global order was established. Today, the world is again transitioning into a new order, and this transformation is clearly tilting in India's favour," he said.

Emphasising India's growing leadership role, the Prime Minister said the country has become a powerful and credible voice of the Global South. "The world is now listening to the concerns and aspirations of developing nations, and India is leading

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J&K Economy Set for Strong Surge, 5.82% Growth Projected in 2025-26 : Survey

GSDP, per capita income, tourism and industry show robust momentum; inflation, unemployment decline

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, FEB 5: Jammu and Kashmir's economy is poised for a robust expansion, with the Economic Survey 2025-26 projecting a growth rate of 5.82 per cent, underscoring strong post-pandemic recovery and sustained development across key sectors.

Tabled in the Legislative Assembly by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the report estimates the Union Territory's nominal Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at Rs 2.86 lakh crore and real GSDP at Rs 1.50 lakh crore. It notes a compound annual growth rate of 4.47 per cent during 2019-20 to 2024-25, higher than Delhi and Himachal Pradesh and marginally above Haryana.

Per capita income is projected to rise to Rs 1,68,243 in 2025-26, reflecting faster growth than several northern states and Union Territories. Jammu and Kashmir contributes nearly 0.8 per cent to the national GDP, the survey said.

The services sector continues to dominate,

● Turn on Page 2

J&K Govt to Bring Tough Drug Abuse Law, 49,276 Cases Shock Assembly

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, FEB 05: In a major move to combat the growing drug menace, the Jammu and Kashmir Government on Thursday announced that it will introduce a stringent Drug Abuse Prevention Bill during the ongoing session of the Legislative Assembly, as alarming official data revealed

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India's Spiritual Power Steering Global Peace: LG Manoj Sinha

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

HARIDWAR, FEB 05: Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha, on Thursday said that India's growing spiritual strength, cultural revival and unity are shaping a new global consciousness and positioning the nation to guide the world towards peace and harmony.

Addressing a large gathering at the Idol Installation Ceremony of Swami Satyamintranand Giri Ji Maharaj in Haridwar, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the country's profound economic, cultural and



spiritual renaissance, calling it a defining moment in India's civilisational journey.

"With the blessings of revered saints, people are moving resolutely towards building a modern and transformed India. Our ancient values of unity, compassion and universal welfare are now being embraced globally through the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — the world is one family," LG Sinha said.

He stressed that India's spiritual heritage has never promoted division but has consistently championed harmony,

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Tourism Gets Reform Push: CM Assures 30-Day Clearance, Simple Online Registration

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, FEB 05: In a major policy announcement aimed at revitalising Jammu and Kashmir's tourism sector, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday unveiled sweeping reforms to ensure a simplified, transparent and strictly time-bound registration and renewal process for all tourism-related establishments, promising



approvals within 30 days.

Replying during Question Hour in the ongoing Budget Session 2026-27 of the J&K Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister said the Government is comprehensively revising the Jammu and Kashmir Tourist Trade Rules, framed in 1978, to remove procedural hurdles, enhance transparency and significantly improve ease of doing business.

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CS consults NITI Aayog for stronger food safety regime in J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, FEB 05: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today held high-level consultative meeting with Member, NITI Aayog, Dr. V.K. Paul, along with senior experts and advisors from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), to deliberate on a comprehensive strategy for strengthening and augmenting food safety mechanisms across the districts of J&K.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Health &

● Turn on Page 2

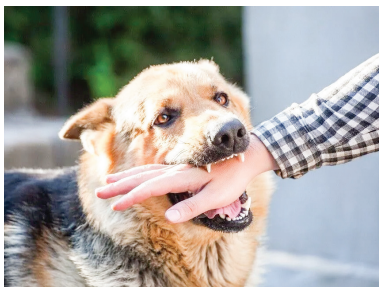
Over 2 Lakh Dog Bite Cases Reported In J&K In 2024-25; Jammu District Tops List

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, FEB 5: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday said that more than two lakh dog bite cases were reported across the Union Territory in 2024 and 2025, with the Jammu district recording the highest number of over 1.26 lakh incidents. This was revealed in the Jammu

and Kashmir Assembly by Minister for Health Sakina Itoo in a written reply to a question by NC member Mubarak Gul.

Sharing district-wise figures, the minister said that 2,06,460 dog bite cases were reported in the Union Territory during the two-year period, including 93,765 cases in 2024 and 1,12,695 cases in 2025.



In the Jammu division, 1,26,844 cases were recorded in 2024-25, with 54,863 cases in 2024 and 71,981 cases in 2025, Dara revealed.

The Jammu district alone accounted for 76,824 cases, followed by Kathua with 17,129 cases and Udhampur with 8,179 cases.

Other districts in the division

● Turn on Page 2

23000 jobs outsourced in J&K in 2-years: Govt

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, FEB 05: Nearly 23000 jobs were outsourced in Jammu and Kashmir in the past two years, Govt informed the Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

In a written reply to the question of MLA Sajad Ahmad Lone, the Finance Minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), stated that around 22,886 jobs were outsourced. "The government follows the procedures as laid down in GFR-2017 for selection of outsourcing agencies," he said, adding, "All outsourcing is carried out through approved mechanisms such as e-tendering, GeM Portal

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J&K Assembly passes Motion of Thanks on LG's address

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 05: Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Thursday adopted the Motion of Thanks on the Lieutenant Governor's address, delivered on February 2 in the Legislative Assembly.

The Motion of Thanks was moved by MLA Showkat Hussain Ganie and seconded by MLA Dr. Rameshwar Singh.

Leader of Opposition in the House, Sunil Kumar Sharma, while participating in the discussion on the Motion of Thanks, said that it is the collective duty of all members to work for the progress and development of people of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that people have high expectations from the government and these aspirations must be respected and addressed sincerely.

Participating in the discussion, Legislator Engineer Khurshid Ahmed appreciated the government's development works across various sectors. He also urged the government to allocate five marlas of land to flood victims.

Legislator, Mir Saifullah, while speaking on Motion, highlighted various achievements of the Government.

Legislator, Rajiv Jasrotia in his



speech raised various issues of public importance. He also raised issue of daily wagers and compensation to the families of flood victims, besides fund allocation to the Legislators.

Participating in the debate, Legislator, Sajjad Gani Lone raised issues concerning the youth. He spoke about wide range of issues including reservation and unemployment, saying that youth of J&K are suffering due to unemployment and reservation.

Speaking on the Motion of

Thanks, Legislator, Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurezi) highlighted various initiatives of government which led to development of Jammu and Kashmir. He remarked that people of Jammu and Kashmir have given lot of sacrifices for the sake and sovereignty of the country.

Legislator, Shabir Ahmad Kullay in his address, urged the government to allocate more funds to horticulture sector in budget. He also asked for snow clearance from the roads in higher region of his

constituency.

While participating in the debate, Legislator, Pawan Kumar Gupta raised the issues of unemployment and timely filling up of vacant post in government departments. He urged the government to set up two skill development centres besides revising the minimum wages of the daily wagers and contractual employees.

Speaking in support of Motion, Legislator Tanvir Sadiq said that the present government has

amplified the developmental activities across Jammu and Kashmir, including in his constituency. He also appreciated the government for restoration of Darbar Move, adding that this step has boosted economic activities in Jammu city.

He asserted that no discrimination was made in allocation of funds provided to the Legislators.

Participating in the debate, Legislator, Tariq Hamed Karra urged the government for rationalisation of reservation for the benefit of youth.

Legislator, Khurshed Ahmed Sheikh raised the issue of cabinet expansion. He also highlighted the long pending demand for compassionate appointments, urging the government to take concrete steps to provide relief to the deserving families.

Legislators Balwant Singh Mankotia and Sajad Gani Lone had moved amendments on the Motion of Thanks. The amendments were put to voting and both amendments were defeated through voice vote.

Legislator Muhammad Yousuf Rather (Tarigami) withdrew the amendment after assurance by the Chief Minister.

Later, the Motion was adopted through voice vote.

DLSA Anantnag organizes awareness Programme on Mediation 2.0

HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, FEBRUARY 05: District Legal Services Authority Anantnag organized a special awareness programme on mediation under the theme "Mediation for the Nation 2.0" today at District Court Complex Anantnag, to promote awareness on Mediation as an effective mode of dispute resolution.

Principal District And Sessions Judge (Chairman District Legal Services Authority) Anantnag, Tahir Khurshid Raina and other Judicial Officers of the District Court Anantnag, laid emphasis on mediation. They said that the Mediation can play an effective role in disposal of cases and is flexible



in nature.

All the trained mediators were directed to give their best to make mediation process an effective for disposal of cases. All the judicial officers of District Anantnag were directed to identify and refer maximum number of cases for mediation and actively participate and coordinate to make this campaign successful.

"The 90 day Mediation Drive is the justice at the door step. Mediation not only saves time and resources but also preserves relationships" said Ld. Principal District Judge. He also appealed to the lawyers, litigants and general public to come forward and take advantage of this initiative.

He also highlighted how disputes, especially matrimonial matters, MACT and recovery suits can be resolved effectively through mediation.

Direction was given to staff members and legal aid functionaries to actively reach-out and extend support to such litigants in mediation process.

The programme was attended by all the judicial officers, legal aid defense counsels, the Learned Advocates, PLVs and general public".

District Admin Bandipora closes inner Link Road at Naninara for Traffic Movement ; Public advised to follow alternate route

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 05: The District Administration Bandipora today issued the diversion and closure of the Sumbal-Chewa/Naninara inner link road in view of the ongoing construction of a new bridge at Naninara.

As per the advisory, the Srinagar-Bandipora road had earlier been restricted to one-way traffic due to bridge construction works. Officials informed that the foundation and substructure work on the Sumbal side had been completed, while further excavation on the Safapora side was set to commence.

The executing agency reported that due to loose soil conditions and ongoing construction activities, there was a strong likelihood of road caving, posing a serious risk to commuters.

It was further stated that the excavation work would leave no space for traffic movement, making it unsafe to allow vehicular movement on the inner link road.

In order to ensure public safety and facilitate smooth execution of construction works, the administration has decided to close the inner link road at Naninara on both sides for all vehicular traffic with effect from 7:00 AM, February 06, until further orders.

The public is advised to strictly adhere to the alternate traffic plan via Barsoo, Ganderbal, already notified by the authorities. Concerned departments were directed to ensure proper diversion, barricading, and installation of signage at the site to avoid inconvenience and ensure safety.

The District Administration sought cooperation from the general public in the larger interest of safety and development.

DC Ganderbal reviews progress on land identification, construction of RDD assets under SBM (G)

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 05:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today convened a meeting to discuss and review the progress on identification of suitable land and construction of assets including DEWATS, Segregation Sheds and Soakage Pits under the Rural Development Department (RDD) across the district.

The objective of the meeting was to expedite the process of

identification of appropriate land and construction of RDD-related developmental works to ensure their timely execution.

Emphasizing close coordination between the Revenue and Rural Development Departments, the DC directed all Tehsildars, in coordination with the concerned BDOs to identify suitable land feasible for setting up assets and expedite construction of the same.

During the meeting, the DC issued necessary directions for

resolving pending issues and accelerating implementation.

He stressed the need for timely compliance and concerted efforts by all stakeholders to strengthen rural infrastructure and advance developmental initiatives across the district.

Among others the meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Tehsildars, Block Development officers and others concerned.

Shaheed Mushtaq Ahmed Memorial Volleyball Tournament 2026 begins at Chanderkote

HT NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 05: The 84 Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) today inaugurated the Shaheed Mushtaq Ahmed Memorial Volleyball Tournament 2026 at Chanderkote, as part of its civic outreach initiative to promote sports and youth engagement in the district.

The CRPF, entrusted with maintaining internal security across the country, is actively deployed in Jammu & Kashmir. The 84 Bn CRPF secures over a 47 km stretch of National Highway-44 in Ramban, a vital lifeline to the Kashmir Valley. Alongside its security duties, the force regularly undertakes social outreach programmes to strengthen its bond with the local community.

Keeping in view the mountainous terrain of Ramban and limited sports infrastructure for youth, the tournament aims to encourage physical fitness, discipline, teamwork and

positive engagement through sports.

A total of eight teams from Chanderkote, Dalwas, Batote and Sanasar areas are participating in the knockout competition being organised under the aegis of Jammu Sector CRPF. The tournament was formally declared open by Commandant 84 Bn N. Ranbir Singh in the presence of Second-in-Command Vikram Singh, Second-in-Command Arvin Kumar Dixit, Assistant Commandants Roop Ram Meena and Rupesh Kumar, CRPF personnel, players and local youth. The Commandant highlighted the CRPF's contribution to nation-building and motivated participants to adopt sports for a healthy and disciplined lifestyle.

On the opening day, Chenab Warriors Chanderkote defeated Sama Brothers Batote (25-06, 25-08), while Team Chanderkote beat Team Dalwas (25-13, 25-21). Sports kits were also distributed among all participating teams.

ADDC Kathua reviews progress under HADP; stresses saturation of all components

HT NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA, FEBRUARY 05: Additional District Development Commissioner Kathua, Surinder Mohan Sharma today reviewed the progress under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) at a review meeting held here at DC office complex.

The ADDC assessed component-wise and department-wise performance under HADP with focus on beneficiary coverage, physical achievements and utilisation of the Kisan Sathi Portal. It was informed that Kathua district has secured third rank at the UT level under the Daksh Kisan initiative, registering notable progress in farmers' registration, skilling, course enrolment and completion.

The meeting acknowledged encouraging performance in major HADP components including seed and seed multiplication

chain, promotion of niche crops, vegetables and exotic vegetables, agricultural marketing, apiculture, sericulture, millets and nutri cereals, farm mechanization and automation and round-the-year mushroom production.

Progress under allied sectors such as dairy, poultry, fisheries, sheep and animal husbandry, floriculture, oilseeds, integrated farming systems, rainfed area development, alternate agriculture systems, soil and land resource management and fodder development was also reviewed.

The ADDC directed the stakeholder departments to ensure saturation of HADP components by covering all eligible farmers and areas.

He emphasised intensified field mobilisation, improved coordination, timely processing of cases and outcome-based monitoring to maximise the programme's impact on farm incomes.

DC inaugurates Vaccination Camp for Haj Pilgrims 2026 at GMC Doda

HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, FEBRUARY 05: Deputy Commissioner (DC), Harvinder Singh, today inaugurated the Haj Pilgrims Vaccination Camp-2026 at OPD Block of Government Medical College (GMC) Doda.

After the inauguration, the Deputy Commissioner Doda interacted with the Haj pilgrims, enquired about their preparedness for the pilgrimage and assessed the medical and other facilities being provided.

He emphasized the importance of timely vaccination and adherence to health protocols to safeguard pilgrims during the sacred journey.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur, also interacted with the pilgrims and extended his best wishes for a safe and comfortable

pilgrimage.

The Deputy Commissioner Doda reviewed the arrangements put in place by the Health Department. He directed the concerned officials to ensure that the requisite medical and logistical support is extended to the pilgrims in a timely and hassle-free manner.

A total of 90 Haj pilgrims were vaccinated at various designated centres across the district. These included 39 pilgrims at OPD block in GMC, 20 at CHC Bhaderwah and 31 at CHC Gandoh.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) informed that vaccines including OPV (Oral Polio Vaccine), QMMV (Quadrivalent Meningococcal Meningitis Vaccine) and SIV (Seasonal Influenza Vaccine) were administered to the pilgrims to safeguard them against communicable diseases during the pilgrimage.

Officers imparted training on PMFBY Implementation, Claims Process

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 05: A training programme on the implementation framework, scheme coverage and functioning of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was organised today at the Conference Hall, Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo.

The programme, presided over by Director Agriculture Jammu, Anil Gupta, aimed at sensitizing officers to the use of digital platforms related to the scheme and its operational procedures for effective implementation of PMFBY.

The programme was attended by Joint Director Agriculture Jammu, Anand, SMS (RL) Krishan Kant; PMFBY Nodal Officer (Directorate of Agriculture Jammu) Anirudh Bhat, DAOs (Extension) from all districts, besides



district-level PMFBY users, officers and staff of the Agriculture Department. All Chief Officers joined the training through VC.

State Head, IndusInd General Insurance, Mahavir Singh Rawat, State Head, Bajaj General Insurance, Sonu Kashyap and other staff members were also present.

The Director Agriculture Jammu emphasised the need for capacity building, inter-departmental coordination and strict adherence to operational guidelines to ensure timely and effective implementation of PMFBY. Nodal Officer Anirudh Bhat delivered a detailed presentation on various aspects of the scheme,

including coverage under the scheme, Farmer Corner, risk coverage, functioning of the National Crop Insurance Portal (NCIP), operational procedures, and the role and responsibilities of district-level committees in ensuring effective implementation of the scheme.

Sonu Kashyap conducted a technical session on crop loss assessment through CLAP Portal, elaborating on the methodology and procedures for conducting crop loss surveys under PMFBY. He highlighted the importance of accurate field assessment and timely reporting to ensure transparency and efficiency in claim settlement.

The training programme concluded with an interactive discussion and a call for proactive engagement by all stakeholders to further improve implementation of PMFBY at the grassroots level.

DC Srinagar kick starts vaccination programme for Hajj pilgrims at Haj House Bemina

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR FEBRUARY 05: In connection with Hajj-2026, Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Thursday kick started 3 days immunization/vaccination programme for Hajj pilgrims of Srinagar District here at Bait-ul-Hujaj (Haj House), Bemina.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Executive Officer, J&K Hajj House, Dr Shujat, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tahir Sajad, Tehsildar Shalteng, Rayees Ahmad, Zonal Medical Officer Batamalo, Dr Sameena, District Immunization Officer and other officers of Haj House were present on the occasion.

During the visit, the DC took stock of the vaccination process and inspected the arrangements put in place to facilitate the pilgrims of district and to ensure smooth vaccination of pilgrims.

While interacting with the Hajj



Pilgrims, the DC greeted them for Holy pilgrimage of Hajj-2026.

On the occasion, the DC said that the vaccination is aimed to protect the Hajj pilgrims from various infections, ensure their health and safety, and protect them from any contagious diseases. He emphasized on ensuring seamless conduct of the vaccination process.

The DC was informed that the vaccinations process is scheduled for 3 days from Wednesday during which vaccine for Meningococcal Meningitis, Poliomyelitis and Seasonal Influenza (SIV) are being administered to the Hajj-2026 Pilgrims for which special counters have been setup for smooth conduct.

The CEO, J&K Hajj House, briefed the DC that a total of 1173 pilgrims from Srinagar district shall be taking their pilgrimage for Hajj-2026 and are being vaccinated at Bait-ul-Hujaj (Haj House), Bemina.

Director Agriculture Kashmir inaugurates Two-Day Training Programme for Krishi Udyamis

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 05: In a significant step towards strengthening agri-entrepreneurship and digital empowerment in the agriculture sector, Director Agriculture, Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, today inaugurated a comprehensive two-day training programme for Krishi Udyamis at the Directorate Hall, Lalmandi, Srinagar.

The training programme is designed to build the capacities of Krishi Udyamis (Agricultural Entrepreneurs) across the Kashmir Division with a focus on enhancing their skills in business management, digital tools, and sustainable practices to promote agri-based enterprises and ensure long-term income generation for rural youth and farmers.

Addressing the participants, the Director emphasized the critical role of the specially developed business module for Krishi Udyamis.

He highlighted how this module serves as a key driver for fostering agri-entrepreneurship, boosting productivity, and creating viable income opportunities in the agriculture sector.

The Director also underscored the importance of the Kisan Khidmat Ghar

(KKG) App in streamlining agricultural services and information delivery. He called for effective and seamless onboarding of all Krishi Udyamis onto Common Service Centre (CSC) platforms to enhance digital service delivery, improve accessibility to government schemes, and support farmers at the grassroots level.

This initiative aligns with the broader objectives of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the Kisan Khidmat Ghar scheme, which aim to empower local communities, create self-employment opportunities for youth, and transform agriculture into a more efficient, technology-driven, and profitable sector.

The two-day programme will cover essential topics including capacity building, digital empowerment, effective use of the KKG App, CSC integration, business planning, and sustainable growth strategies for agri-enterprises.

The inauguration event was attended by Ajaz Hussain Dar, Chief Agriculture Officer, Srinagar, along with his team; scientists from

Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs); Krishi Udyamis from Srinagar district, and representatives from the CSC team.

DC Ganderbal reviews arrangements for Maha Shivratri and Holy month of Ramadan

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 05: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today reviewed the preparedness for the upcoming Mahashivratri celebrations and the holy month of Ramadan, and issued necessary directions to ensure smooth and peaceful observance of both occasions.

During the meeting, the DC directed concerned departments to make comprehensive arrangements for the occasion of Mahashivratri.

He emphasized ensuring adequate availability of essential commodities including fish, fresh fruits and vegetables as well as adequate distribution of food grains.

He also stressed uninterrupted water and electricity supply in temples and Pandit colonies.



The Floriculture Department was directed to ensure adequate supply of flowers and proper decoration of temples.

Municipality and Rural Development Departments were asked to carry out special sanitation drives in and around temples and other congregation points.

The DC also directed to ensure adequate security, transport, fire safety and medical arrangements.

Reviewing arrangements for the holy month of Ramadan, the DC directed the KPDC to ensure uninterrupted power supply during Sehri and Iftari hours as well as the Jal Shakti Department to maintain regular water supply, especially to mosques and religious shrines.

He also emphasized adequate availability of quality meat, poultry, food grains, LPG cylinders and other essential commodities across the district.

The DC instructed concerned departments to conduct special market checking drives to curb hoarding, profiteering and overcharging, and to ensure quality and safety of essential items.

He further directed launching special cleanliness drives, particularly around mosques, shrines, markets, roads and drains, with regular lifting of waste to maintain a clean and hygienic environment.

The DC called upon all departments to work in close coordination to ensure smooth, safe and peaceful celebrations.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kangan, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Assistant Director Fisheries and other officers and officials from line departments.

DC Budgam launched Three-Day ‘Naqsh-e-Meeras’ workshop at NIFT

Initiative aims to reconnect younger generation with Kashmir’s handcrafted traditions

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, FEBRUARY 05: District Administration Budgam today inaugurated a three-day cultural and heritage workshop titled “Naqsh-e-Meeras”, aimed at promoting, preserving and reviving the rich and diverse traditional art and craft heritage of Jammu & Kashmir.

The workshop is being organised from 5th to 7th February, 2026 at the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Budgam.

The programme was formally inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, along with distinguished guests from the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), in the presence of senior district officers, artisans, students, Self Help Groups and members of the local community.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that Naqsh-e-Meeras is a significant initiative of the District Administration to reconnect the younger generation with the rich legacy of Kashmir’s handcrafted traditions, while also providing a strong platform for local artisans to showcase their skills, products and creativity.

The DC emphasized that such heritage-based programmes are vital for preserving traditional knowledge systems that have been passed down through generations. He stated that Kashmir’s handicrafts are not just economic activities

but are an important part of the region’s cultural identity, history and collective memory.

“We want our local art and crafts to flourish in a sustainable manner so that our younger generations understand the true value of handcrafted products and can clearly differentiate between machine-made and hand-made items. This understanding will help in preserving authenticity, quality and cultural heritage,” the DC said.

He further added that such seminars and workshops play a crucial role in boosting the morale of local artisans, craftsmen and children by giving them recognition, exposure and confidence.

“These platforms not only provide visibility to our artisans but also generate awareness among the masses to adopt and promote local products. This is fully aligned with the spirit of Vocal for Local, where people are encouraged to support indigenous crafts and local economies,” he said.

The DC also highlighted that showcasing traditional techniques and live demonstrations can significantly enhance the financial stability of artisans by opening new market avenues, increasing demand for authentic handmade products and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.

By demonstrating old and traditional crafts in a modern, organised setting, we are creating linkages between heritage and contemporary markets. This will



ultimately strengthen the economic position of our artisans and contribute to overall economic growth of the district and the region,” he added.

The DC stressed that the District Administration will continue to support such initiatives in collaboration with reputed national institutions to ensure that local craftsmanship receives the recognition, protection and promotion it truly deserves. He reiterated that District administration is committed to continue organising such heritage-focused programmes to promote

cultural preservation, artisan empowerment, youth engagement and sustainable economic development across the district.

The event witnessed the presence of several senior district officers including GM DIC Budgam Zahid Rashid, SDM Beerwah Taufeeq Gazi, Chief Planning Officer Budgam Javaid Ahmad Najar, CEO Municipal Council Budgam Bilal Ahmad, CEO Budgam Rifat Irfan, District Information Officer Budgam Iram Khan, EOM Municipal Committee Beerwah Zamir Lone, besides other senior officers of the district administration.

Large participation was also recorded from students of various schools and colleges, local youth, traditional artisans, Self Help Groups (SHGs), craftspersons and members of the general public, reflecting strong community engagement and interest in heritage preservation.

On the first day of the workshop, various competitions were organised including calligraphy, painting and sketching, aimed at nurturing creativity among students and young artists. Multiple stalls were set up showcasing a wide range of traditional crafts such as Paper Machie, Kani weaving, Sozni embroidery, cooper making, Kangri making, wood carving and other indigenous art forms.

An exclusive art gallery was also displayed featuring iconic paintings depicting old Jammu & Kashmir, offering visitors a glimpse into the region’s historical, cultural and artistic evolution.

Traditional activities such as yarn weaving and other heritage processes were also demonstrated live, giving participants a hands-on understanding of age-old techniques.

The workshop is being organised by District Administration Budgam in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Budgam, ensuring expert guidance, technical support and national-level exposure for local talent

JD Skill Development Kashmir reviews developmental activities at Govt ITI Bandipora

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 05: Joint Director (JD), Skill Development Department Kashmir, on Thursday visited Government ITI Bandipora to review developmental activities, including works completed and those under execution under the Capex Budget.

During the visit, he inspected various trades of the institute to assess ongoing academic and training activities and interacted with trainees and staff.

On the occasion, the Joint Director



convened a staff meeting and issued

directions to the Superintendent ITI Bandipora for further improvement in the quality of training and overall academic functioning of the institute. He emphasized enhanced efficiency, discipline, and outcome-based skill training to meet industry requirements.

The visit aimed at strengthening infrastructure development and ensuring effective implementation of Skill Development initiatives at Government ITI Bandipora.

Officials of the executing agency were also present during the visit.

Two-Day Krishi Udyami Training Programme commences at KVK Shopian

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 5: A two-day training programme for Krishi Udyamis commenced today at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Shopian.

The programme focuses on agri value chains, brand packaging and digital marketing strategies for agri-businesses, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), start-ups and rural enterprises. Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) from across the district participated in the

training.

The technical session was conducted by Dr. Shafi Ahmad, Scientist (Post-Harvest Technology), SKUAST-Kashmir, who deliberated on post-harvest management, value addition, branding and market linkage strategies to enhance farmers’ income.

Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Shopian, Mohd Rafiq, while speaking on the occasion, emphasized promotion of self-employment, strengthening Krishi Udyamis and achieving saturation



of schemes in every panchayat. He stressed the importance of identifying farmers’ issues and

addressing them in coordination with scientists. He called for honest work culture, systematic data collection and ensuring doorstep delivery of agricultural services under the “one door, one step” approach.

The CAO assured full support to Krishi Udyamis, including facilitation of inputs and services at every KKG level, and highlighted plans for milk packaging initiatives in the coming season. He also interacted with the Krishi Udyamis and encouraged them to actively

utilize available government schemes.

Head KVK Shopian, Dr. Zaffer Ahmad Badri, in his address, highlighted the objectives of the training programme and reiterated KVK’s commitment to capacity building, innovation and sustainable agri-entrepreneurship in the district.

Among others, the programme was attended by officers from the Agriculture Department, Scientists from KVK and Krishi Udyamis of the district.

Mission Vatsalya Bandipora organises Awareness Programme under “Child Marriage Free Bharat” Campaign

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 05 : Under the 4th spell of the “Child Marriage Free Bharat” Campaign, which focuses on Gram Panchayat-led community engagement, Gram Sabha action, and Panchayat resolutions to declare areas child-marriage-free, Mission Vatsalya (Child Protection Services) Bandipora organized an awareness and sensitization programme at Mantrigram Panchayat Halqa B, of District Bandipora, with active participation from various stakeholders. During the programme, a resolution was passed in line with Spell 4, reaffirming the Panchayat’s commitment to prevent child marriage, strengthen local vigilance, and promote community ownership in safeguarding children.

Village heads including Ex. Sarpanch, Chowkidars, Lumberdars, Ex. Ward Members, Auqaf Committee President, along with Anganwadi Workers, ASHA Workers, and local residents were sensitized about the harmful consequences of child marriage, legal provisions, and preventive strategies.

Emphasis was placed on the collective responsibility of families and community leaders to protect Child Rights and ensure education and overall well-being. Officials from DCPU, CWC, CHL and CHD highlighted the negative physical, mental, and social impacts of child marriage and urged participants to remain vigilant and report incidents.

The Child Helpline number 1098 was widely shared, and informative posters were displayed at schools and Gram Panchayats to enhance awareness.

HT EDITORIAL

Regulate functioning of private clinics

Hundreds of doctors are carrying out private practice at the different clinics in the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir, but it is quite surprising that there is no fixed consultation fee for the same. The doctors charge according to their own wish and they are least bothered about the affordability of a particular patient. At times the patients could be seen pleading with the owner of the clinic over this issue, but at the end of the day they fail to convince the other side.

Some years back the health & medical education department had fixed consultation fees for the different levels of medicos carrying out practice at the private clinics. However, it has been observed that the consultation fee charged by a doctor is according to the wish of that particular doctor. At times the consultation fee of a particular medico is decided by the owner of the clinic and the people are more than willing to pay for the consultation fee fixed by the clinic owner.

It seems that the health & medical education department has limited its mandate in this regard to the mere issuance of the order since no follow-up action was taken. No raid was carried out on any clinic and this inaction from the people at helm emboldened the doctors and the clinic owners to fix consultation fees of their own. At the end of the day, it is the common man who suffers and there are very few people who are concerned about the same.

It is very important that the consultation fee of a particular doctor is fixed according to his or her experience in that particular field of medicine. At the same time, it is important that strict vigil is carried out on the doctors working in the government sector. Many of such doctors usually leave the hospitals earlier and can be seen rushing towards their clinics in order to earn quick bucks. This is a serious matter and needs immediate action from the concerned authorities.

In places other than Jammu & Kashmir a medico has to choose between a government job and a private one. The union territory of Jammu & Kashmir has its own set of rules in each and every sphere of life and medicine is no exception. There is no harm in earning more but the doctors should remember that medicine is a noble profession and people consider a doctor no less than a God.

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Village Life Peaceful Life



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Before ten years, we could clearly differentiate between a city and a village. In the past, electricity was so weak that bulbs only gave dim light on the walls. It was very difficult to get clear visibility on the floor surface. Electric poles were very rare; most households used temporary and risky wiring for electricity and felt immense pleasure even when they got a dim light occasionally.

The roads were just sources of dust, and even a heavy bus would move on these roads with uneven jerks. Drivers kept the third and fourth gears at rest due to the dilapidated condition of the roads. The roads were risky and caused frequent accidents, especially when a driver made a wrong turn.

In the upper reaches, ten or more households would share a single water point. Womenfolk had to do labour work that was not exercise for them. During winters, when taps got frozen, our womenfolk rushed to nearby springs to bring drinking water and used it very carefully. That activity was so hectic that most households ended up in unhygienic conditions and severe health issues.

Alhamdulillah! Today every household in remote areas has sufficient water facilities. I salute those who sponsored schemes like the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and provided clean tap water to every home. This act definitely blessed the higher-ups. It is a great comfort to the underprivileged class, and people appreciate the scheme. But due to some selfish contractors and negligence of officials, this scheme faces issues in some areas where the public complains that the work was not done properly. Some contractors even engage household members for pipe digging without paying them labour charges.

Schemes like the Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) and other projects for better connectivity, protection bunds, and drainage systems have provided great relief to the population living in villages. Today, almost every village is connected to each other, roads are macadamized, and people feel great comfort and appreciate the government for these steps.

Today, around 90 percent of villages are electrified, and only a few areas still lack electricity. But one unfortunate thing is the hike in electricity charges. It is very difficult for the underprivileged class to pay electricity bills promptly; they should be given relaxation by the central government.

What came to my mind encouraged me to write this article for a renowned newspaper of the Kashmir Valley.

When I was in 7th class, I started bodybuilding. It was my passion to stay healthy and fit so that I would not feel exhausted and lethargic in school.



My school witnessed how much I contributed to a number of activities like scouting, cricket, bodybuilding, etc.

In Srinagar at that time, we had very few gym centres, and they were not equipped with advanced machines. Most players were passionate and did their best, always staying away from drugs and keeping their health a priority. Now, after every two kilometres in Srinagar, we have a gym centre. Unfortunately, today we are facing a severe drug menace. Even the government is very concerned and is applying stringent acts against drug peddlers. Drug peddlers deserve capital punishment, and every corner should be checked so that this curse is eliminated. Youth need proper counselling, education, and sports activities.

Today's youth demand a free zone, which means we should counsel them properly. Tell them, "Give your best, you are still in." Never discourage them when they fail to achieve their goals. Always encourage them and provide opportunities so that they get enough time to know themselves and overcome all odds in life.

I am residing in Bhatti Mohalla Raiyar-Ich, Khansahib, District Budgam, a beautiful and mesmerizing village in the Kashmir Valley. My village is known for noon chai and makki roti. Due to the famous tourist destination Doodhpathri, my village has gained identity as an emerging tourist village in Khansahib.

Just ten years ago, this village was backward in all respects road connectivity, electricity network, tap water facilities, and many more. Today, we have most facilities, but unfortunately, the road connectivity from my home to the main Doodhpathri Road has still not been taken up by the concerned authorities. Some miscreants are blocking the main

entrance and keeping us deprived of this basic facility. Still, I am blessed and thankful for many things. I appeal to the government authorities to kindly intervene and take up our road from High School Raiyar-Ich to Bhatti Mohalla. We are losing our dignity without a road. How is it possible that due to some selfish brokers, they can block our road? We have MSc students and civil service aspirants, and the area is purely inhabited by the Gujjar community.

Alhamdulillah, I am passionate about bodybuilding. I have set up a mini gym in a single room at my home.

One of my friends, Mohammad Yousuf, suggested that there is a gym at Yarikhah, just 2 kilometres from my home. A couple of days ago, I went there, got the key from the owner's family, opened the lock, and was surprised that we have such a great gym with imported machines near the shrine of Syed Yaqoob Balkhi. Alhamdulillah.

I talked to some people and the gym owner about their experience. They told me that people are not aware of such beneficial activities. I requested them to please spread the awareness among the general youth so that they visit the gym, get attracted, and explore the iron game world.

Suggestion: Our village is emerging in terms of development, education, business, and many more fields. So we have to keep in mind the mistakes we made while framing the master plan of cities like Srinagar, where we face flood threats and pollution issues. We must keep ample space for plantation, drainage, roads, and irrigation canals. We must stop illegal encroachment so that development becomes permanent, not temporary.

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SAINT VALENTINE AND THE STORY BEHIND 14TH FEBRUARY



■ RAQIF MAKHDOOMI

Everyone is so excited about "Valentine's Day". Some are waiting for the day to come, so that they get excuse to spend time with their Loved ones. This day especially excites the unmarried young boys and young girls who are into relationship. For married couples this doesn't mean that much. While some are excited to spend this day with loved ones on the other hand some are waiting for the day so that they can express their feelings to the person they have love for but haven't opened up about it. But this practice of expressing love for each other began in the 14th century. Poets like Geoffrey Chaucer, Chaucer and others Romanticized the day. Till 14th century nothing romantic about valentines was there. The event of Valentine's goes back to 3rd century. Valentine's Day has dark roots in the violent Roman festival of Lupercalia, a pagan fertility ritu-

al involving animal sacrifice and fertility rites, which was later linked by the Church to the martyrdom of St. Valentine, a priest executed for secretly marrying soldiers against Emperor Claudius II's decree. Pope Gelasius I outlawed this pagan festival in the late 5th century, replacing it with St. Valentine's Day. Some historians link Valentine's Day to the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia, a pagan fertility celebration held in mid-February, though the connection is debated.

This is the other side of the Valentine's day. But what actually happened that led to the beginning of the Valentine's day? Emperor Claudius II banned the marriages of soldiers because the king believe that "Unmarried" Men made better soldiers than the married one. In those days there was a saint who's name was St. Valentine who defied the decree by marrying young unmarried soldiers. When the king came to know about his he got him executed on 14th of February. The day of Valentine has nothing to do with expressing love. It's a day when a Saint was hanged who rebelled against his ruler. The saint went against the decree. The Valentine's day is nothing about expressing love, going on long drives, spending time together or

whatever the practice has been going on which began in the 14th century. The tradition of sending handwritten notes and cards ("valentines") began in the 1400s, with the earliest known example being a letter from the Duke of Orléans to his wife while imprisoned. The Industrial Revolution led to mass-produced cards (Hallmark started in 1913), and flowers, chocolates, and tokens of affection became common ways to express love on February 14th.

You have been taught fairy tales about the Valentine's day. It's a day of martyrdom, standing for the principles and not bowing before the ruler. While imprisoned for his defiance, Valentine supposedly healed the jailer's blind daughter and wrote her a farewell note, "from your Valentine," before his execution, merging faith with love. The Valentine's day is full of "Sacrifices" there's nothing romantic about it.

All these events like Rose day, Chocolate day, Teddy bear day, Promise day and propose day came as an innovative after or was romanticized by the poets in the middle age.

Another flaw in the celebrations is that when Valentine was a man and he was executed for defying the decree of King. Why do women on this day get Rose from a man, Teddy from a man,

Chocolate from a man and also gets proposed from a man? In the honour of what Valentine did in the 3rd century for what he got executed on 14th February all these things should be done by a woman for a man. The logic also says the same but what happens is completely opposite.

We all have understood the day the way it never was. We have inserted innovations in the day and now it has been "Monetized" shopkeepers, hotels, cafes and gift shops boom profit over it. And the young love birds spend time together. Without even knowing the real event behind it. Who shall tell them that this day is the day of "Martyrdom" not celebration. The fun part of the Valentine's day is many people cheat on their partners to express love to others. I completely fail to understand how does this even work. Deceiving one for another, the illogical thing that one can ever do. And they call it "Love".

Let it be very much clear the Valentine's Day is not the way we are treating it. It's way more different. The Valentine's Day is a Day with it's roots to ancient Rome. To actually know how they should see the day. They should know how things used to be in ancient Rome. Rome was full of lawlessness and brutality was common.

Dalai Lama's Grammy: A Cultural Milestone Expanding Boundaries



■ DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

"I receive this recognition with gratitude and humility. I do not see it as something personal, but as a recognition of our shared universal responsibility" the office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama posted on X accepting the award. In a moment that captured the world's attention and stirred conversation across cultures, religions, and geopolitical arenas, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism, has won his first Grammy Award at the age of 90 — marking a singular achievement in the history of both spiritual leadership and the global arts scene. The award, presented at the 68th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on February 1, 2026, was bestowed in the category of Best Audio Book, Narration, and Storytelling Recording for the spoken-word project Meditations: The Reflections of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Hosted in the celebrated Crypto.com Arena and broadcast to millions, this year's Grammy ceremony showcased an eclectic mix of musical excellence — from chart-topping artists to creative innovators — but none captured global headlines quite like the Dalai Lama's win. The audiobook 'Meditations: The Reflections of His Holiness the Dalai Lama' explores themes of peace, compassion, environmental stewardship, and the oneness of humanity. These timeless messages are delivered alongside soothing musical textures, creating a reflective listening experience. The focus is on accessible spiritual messages rather than conventional musical structures, making it unique among audiobooks.

While the Grammy stage is traditionally dominated by mainstream artists, composers, and performers, this unexpected and profound intersection of spirituality and contemporary arts underscores a larger cultural shift — one where messages of inner peace, universal compassion, and shared human responsibility resonate universally and beyond conventional genre boundaries. Rather than focusing on entertainment alone, Meditations aims to transform listening into a contemplative experience — one that invites audiences to engage with questions of purpose, interpersonal kindness, and shared responsibility for the planet and future generations. The collaboration reflects an ambitious vision: bridging centuries-old spiritual insight with living world music traditions. In doing so, it creates an accessible space in which listeners from all backgrounds can explore powerful human values. The 2026 Grammy Awards itself was marked by a series of milestone achievements. The

Grammy category he won has increasingly recognized works that blur the line between literature, autobiography, and spoken art. Past recipients have included political figures, authors, activists, and artists who translate life experience into narrative form. The Dalai Lama's inclusion in this few exemplifies how the Grammys are evolving, honoring not just performance and production, but the human stories and messages behind recorded voices.

Born Lhamo Thondup on July 6, 1935, in the small village of Taktser in northeastern Tibet, Tenzin Gyatso was recognized as the 14th Dalai Lama at the age of two. For nearly seven decades, he has been a symbol of compassion, nonviolence, and the pursuit of peace. Over the course of his long life, he has received numerous global honours, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 for his steadfast commitment to nonviolent resistance and cross-cultural understanding. That a figure best known for spiritual leadership and ethical teachings would receive one of the world's most prestigious entertainment awards might have seemed improbable just a few decades ago. Yet this achievement reflects the Dalai Lama's extraordinary ability to engage with global audiences and extend his influence beyond religious circles into the broader landscape of human expression.

Accepting the Grammy he emphasized that the messages conveyed on the album — themes such as peace, compassion, environmental care, and the interdependence of humanity — are fundamental to global well-being and the survival of the human family. Meditations: The Reflections of His Holiness the Dalai Lama is not merely an audiobook in the conventional sense. The work interweaves the Dalai Lama's spoken reflections with a rich musical tapestry crafted by a group of international artists and collaborators. These include contributions from celebrated artists such as Canadian-American musician Rufus Wainwright, alongside American soul singer Andra Day, jazz saxophonist Ted Nash, singer-songwriters Maggie Rogers, and percussionist Tony Succar.

The musical component reflects a deep engagement with classical traditions. Indian classical maestro Amjad Ali Khan, accompanied by his sons Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash, provided a Hindustani classical foundation that complements the Dalai Lama's meditative narratives. This fusion of spiritual discourse with classical and contemporary sounds turns the recording into an immersive journey through reflection and introspection.

The Dalai Lama's Grammy victory sparked an outpouring of global reactions, from admiration and joy to geopolitical debate. Supporters, especially within the global Tibetan and Buddhist communities, viewed the award as a long-overdue recognition of the Dalai Lama's lifelong contributions to humanity. Many saw the honour as reaffirmation of the enduring



relevance of his teachings in a world increasingly fraught with conflict, division, and anxiety.

In India, where the Dalai Lama has lived in exile since 1959 and where he established the Tibetan government-in-exile, cultural and political figures lauded the Grammy achievement as a testament to universal values transcending national borders. Voices in the arts and spiritual communities highlighted how the accomplishments of Tibetan exile communities — often overshadowed in mainstream narratives — are gaining recognition on extraordinary global platforms. Yet the award also stirred controversy. The government of China, which regards the Dalai Lama as a separatist threat and has long opposed his recognition on the global stage, issued sharp criticism of the Grammy decision. Chinese state media and officials labeled the honour as a politically motivated act, asserting that it served as an instrument of anti-China sentiment and interference. This reaction underscores the deep and unresolved tensions between the Chinese gov-

ernment and the Tibetan Buddhist community — tensions that have persisted for over six decades. At the heart of this conflict are disputes over Tibetan autonomy, human rights, and the future succession of the Dalai Lama — a matter Beijing insists must be controlled by the Communist Party, while the Dalai Lama and his supporters maintain it will arise outside Chinese authority.

For observers, the juxtaposition of artistic celebration and geopolitical friction highlights a poignant truth: in today's interconnected world, cultural honours such as a Grammy Award can carry meanings that extend far beyond their original intent. To appreciate the full significance of the Dalai Lama's Grammy win, one must consider not just the accolade itself but what it represents in the broader sweep of his life and work. For decades, the Dalai Lama has served as a global ambassador of peace, advocating for nonviolence, mutual understanding, and universal responsibility. His public voice has reached millions through books, speeches, dia-

logues with scientists and scholars, and interfaith engagements. The Grammy acknowledges this reach — not merely as endorsement, but as confirmation that his message continues to find resonance in new forms and new audiences. Listeners of Meditations are invited into an intimate encounter with ideas that many may find familiar in their essence — compassion, mindful awareness, humility, and interconnectedness — yet rarely presented in such a richly textured fusion of sound and reflection. This work doesn't demand allegiance to any particular religion or worldview; rather, it invites listeners of all backgrounds to reflect inwardly and explore their own sense of shared humanity.

In choosing to see this honour as "shared universal responsibility," the Dalai Lama reframed the Grammy from individual recognition to collective invitation — a call for listeners around the globe to embrace values that transcend borders, languages, and ideologies. The Dalai Lama's Grammy win is unmistakably a cultural milestone — one that reflects the expanding boundaries of how recorded art is defined, celebrated, and experienced. At a time when the world grapples with rising geopolitical tensions, climate anxiety, and social fragmentation, this recognition of a spiritual leader on one of the most visible stages of popular culture serves as a reminder: art, narrative, and shared reflection remain powerful forces for connection. Whether this moment will lead to deeper engagement with cross-disciplinary work — where spirituality, art, and global dialogue intersect — is yet to be seen. But the fact that a 90-year-old spiritual teacher could stand shoulder-to-shoulder, in spirit, with celebrated musicians and creators speaks volumes about the evolving terrain of cultural recognition.

In winning a Grammy Award, the Dalai Lama has not only added a unique honour to his extraordinary life but also bridged worlds that are often seen as distant: spirituality and popular culture, ancient teachings and contemporary mediums, personal reflection and collective celebration. As reactions continue to unfold — whether in celebration, contemplation or controversy — one truth remains clear: the resonance of his message has never been confined to religious enclaves, nor will it be limited to traditional platforms. Through Meditations, and through this historic Grammy win, the Dalai Lama's voice finds a new echo in the global chorus — urging all who listen to pause, reflect, and embrace a shared responsibility for peace in an uncertain world.

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Beauty Of Gool Valley Is To See Not To Touch



■ MOOL RAJ

Gool is a village in Ramban district with a population of over 50,000. It is situated 52 km from Ramban. Gool pies in the lap of nature. Its greenery is magical, attractive, and eye-pleasing.

My heart is filled with green love as I gaze in awe at the trees sharing grace from above.

As per the record of rights (ROR) 1965-1966, Bikarmi, Gool was first inhabited and owned by ancestors of Thakurs named Cheri Pal, who had originally migrated from Ayodya. The ancestors of Chari Pal cut the dense forest cover and enabled it for cultivation. Chari Pal constructed a small house for living at Rooskote, presently known as Dachan, which was laden with dense forest at that time. The Thakurs family no longer resides in Dachan, but some religious sites (Devas than) can still be found in their original locations. The



religious spots have been reduced to debris and stones. The land around these sports has been made fully cultivable. During the reign of Akbar, the Bhatl region, which includes present day Dheeda, Ind, Chachwa, Kalimasta, Bhim dassa, Sangaldan, Bada kund, Mahakund, and Dharam, was also granted to Jal Pal as jagir, and thus all adjoining areas remained in the possession of descendants of Jai Pal. The descendants

of Jai Pal are said to have built three kote — Ding kote, Karlog, and Dharam Shed — as a result of their permanent possession of the areas. Later on, these three kote became three separate villages. Gool's initial name was Karlog, and Gool was given keeping in view of its round topography. From every side, Gool appears round in shape. Mor Singh is considered the last Raja of Gool. In 1947, Gool became part of Niabat Arnas

of tehsil Reasi. Earlier, it had also remained under the control of Kulgam, Doda, and Kishtwar. When Niabat was established at Arnas, its office was made functional for six months in the summer at Gool and for the remaining six months in the winter at Arnas. At that time, due to the unavailability of motorable roads from Arnas to Gool, the revenue record was shifted to horses or laborers. In 1966, an independent tehsil office was made functional at Mohore. Gulabgarh and Gool became separate Niabats. The office of agrarian tehsildar was also shifted to Gool from Mohore. A Tehsil level judicial magistrate's office was also opened for the first time at Gool.

Our Gool Gulabgarh is a very beautiful name and God has made it very beautiful with valleys, mountains, springs, streams, and rivers, and every corner is pleasant smelling. Right now, Gool is with Ramban District and Gulabgarh is with Reasi. The people of Gool and Gulabgarh oppose the separation because their culture, language, and traditions are the same. Language is mostly spoken; after Kashmiri, Gori and Urdu are also spoken.

Famous health resorts such as Dhagan-top and Ramakund are where you will find people from Mohar, Reasi and other areas to enjoy the beauty of nature. Gool Gulabgarh is the beautiful name of our area,

which is not only known in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir but also throughout the country. This name has a historical origin. The mountains here have a healing effect on the hearts of tourists, but it was unfortunate that Gool was separated from Gulabgarh for administrative purposes, so that the historic bond between Gool and Gulabgarh was broken. But still, people use the names "Gool Gulabgarh" together.

Chenab Valley Travel
If we turn the pages of history, we find that this area was named Dangbatal during the reign of Akbar. This name continued till Gulab Singh ascended the throne. But still, the name of Dangbatal is used by our elderly people. Gool is a village surrounded by mountains all around, which adds to its beauty. It has a famous ancient site called Danggam, presently known as Gohra Galli, which is believed to be from the time of the Mahabharata. This unique ancient site is the new tourist attraction, with giant sculptures and horses personally carved by Pandavas out of monolithic stones. It is recognised by the state archaeological department, but further excavation is needed. Thus, you have to visit Gool and see how beautiful Gool is.

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Easy Tips To Get Glowing Skin On Valentine's Day



■ SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

Looking to go glam on Feb. 14?

For couples in love and hopeful singles, February is the Paris of all months. Valentine's day is the most awaited time of the year, whether you've been together three months or three decades. Valentine day is the perfect opportunity for you to bond and reconnect with your partner, girlfriend, boyfriend, husband, or wife.

It doesn't matter if you are going on special date for a romantic night out, looking for one or just a walk with friends and family. It brings the biggest date night of the year and the restlessness that comes along to look one's best on the special day. If you can't be with your sweetie in person this year, then you might as well send them something sweet through online store/e-commerce websites. There are a lot of valentine gift packs in the market containing chocolate truffle flavours: milk chocolate, milk chocolate caramel, and dark chocolate strawberry. You may choose desi Ladoo/mithai depending on the taste of your sweetie.

Especially impressive if you live apart, a surprise gift might be the perfect way to share the love this year. Not sure what to buy? Keep it classic – paintings, art objects and flowers like roses will always be well-received and create a sense of occasion. Twinned with a scented candle, Valentine's Day will be truly wrapped up.

Take advantage of sweater weather and escape into the wilderness, where you can relax by the fire and enjoy some hot chocolate. Take a scenic hike together and enjoy all the beautiful sights and the fresh air – it's a great way to bond while getting

some much-needed time to unplug, too.

If you've got a new boyfriend, a hot date, or a tried-and-true love, Valentine day gives you the perfect excuse to pamper yourself to look romantic, sweet, presentable, attractive with flawless looking radiant skin with youthful glow.

Water based moisture is key for glowing skin. Moisturizers provide a good base before applying any makeup. Moisturizers which are formulated with shea butter, dimethicone, ceramides, hyaluronic acid and aloe vera water help provide long-lasting hydration. Hydrate and nourish your skin every night before sleeping.

If your skin is clear, leave out foundation during the day. Use baby powder, or compact powder. Pay more attention to the oily areas of the face, like nose, forehead and chin. Press the powder all over the face and neck, with a slightly damp sponge. This helps it to set and last longer.

If you want to use foundation at night, choose a water-based one. Add a drop of water for a lighter coverage. Before applying foundation, apply astringent lotion if your skin is oily, or moisturizing lotion for dry skin. Wait for a few minutes to allow the skin to absorb it. Next, use concealer to cover up pimples and scars, if any. Or, use two shades of foundation. One shade should be as close to your skin colour as possible. The other should be a shade lighter if the blemishes are dark. Take a little light coloured foundation and apply it directly on the pimple or pimple scar. Avoid rubbing or smearing. Pat it into the skin. Then apply your normal foundation on the face and using a moist sponge, spread it evenly, going outwards. Remember the neck too. Blending is important to achieve a smooth finish then apply tinted loose powder on top to "set" the foundation. Or, use compact powder.

Blusher comes next, or you can apply it at the end. Use powder blusher. Pink or peach blusher would suit most skin tones. Apply on the cheekbones and slightly below it. Use your finger tips to dot the area with



blusher. Then, blend with the brush, outwards and slightly upwards. Apply highlighter on the cheekbones. Highlighters should not be white. Choose from ivory or pale pink. Blend well.

For the eyes, use a brown eye shadow on the eyelids. Use the same brown shadow under the lower lashes, instead of eyeliner or kajal. Take a darker brown eye

shadow and apply it on the upper lid, close to the upper lashes. The entire effect will be natural. If you want to line the eyes, use an eye pencil. Give your eyes a light touch of mascara. Make sure the lashes do not stick together. Brush them with an eyelash comb.

Wear a sun block for outdoor events during the day, this acts as a shield and

also works as a good under base for your foundation accelerating its performance.

Take proper sleep for at least eight hours during night. Lack of sleep will show on your face no matter how well you fashion your appearance. Put a drop or two of lavender oil on your pillowcase and try to relax. Sandalwood and Clary Sage are other good options.

For the night and for a more dramatic effect, use a dark brown, or dark grey eye shadow on the eyelids close to the lashes and stroke it upwards and outwards. For the smoky eyed look, line the eyes with eyeliner close to the lashes and then smudge the eyeliner slightly with a sponge tipped applicator. It should not be a harsh line.

Who ever heard of a Valentine's Day date ending without a goodnight kiss? Go with a soft pink or berry hue that are no more than two shades darker than your natural lip color is a good way to keep your lips colored without going overboard.

Exfoliate your lips the night before date night with a gentle lip scrub to remove dead skin cells to soften your pucker and improve the look and application of your date night lipstick.

For the buttery soft and smooth lips, plain gloss can be enough for the day, or add a touch of gloss over light pink or mauve lipstick. Coloured gloss is also available. Avoid using lip liners and just brush the lips with lipstick, going for shades of pink, from pale pink, to rose or tawny pink. At night, go for rose, coral or bronze, or just stick to pink. Just don't forget to hydrate your lips with your favourite lip balm, salve, or conditioner after exfoliating.

Wear a light flowery or lemony fragrance, nothing too overpowering. Always be kind and confident. I think these two traits together make someone beautiful.

As the last step, touch up your nails, smooth your strands, and spritz on some perfume. You're ready to go!

The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called Herbal Queen of India

KU Scientist Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Mir Bags National Award for Trailblazing Breast Cancer Research and Public Outreach

Honoured at 7th Cancer Summit Awards in New Delhi for excellence in science, innovation, and community service

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, FEB 5: Bringing laurels to Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Mir, Associate Professor at the Department of Bioresources, University of Kashmir, has been conferred the prestigious Breast Cancer Awareness & Care Excellence Award 2025 for his outstanding contributions to breast cancer research and sustained public health outreach.

The national honour was presented at the 7th Cancer Summit Awards ceremony held in New Delhi, attended by Union Health Minister Ashwani Kumar Chaubey, Joint Health Secretary Sujaya Krishnan, and Indian Health and Wellness (IHW) Director Kamal N. Omer.

Dr. Mir has carved a niche in breast cancer research, particularly in the study of Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC)—an aggressive form of the disease with limited treatment options. His research focuses on drug repurpos-



ing, understanding molecular pathways of drug resistance, and developing innovative strategies to improve therapeutic outcomes.

A globally recognised scientist, Dr. Mir has been ranked among the top two percent of researchers worldwide by Stanford University for 2023 and

2024. Over the last 15 years, he has authored more than 75 peer-reviewed research papers and over 15 scholarly books spanning cancer biology, immunotherapy, and translational medicine.

Beyond the laboratory, Dr. Mir has led extensive awareness drives, screen-

ing camps, and training programmes across the Kashmir Valley, addressing the rising incidence of breast cancer and advocating early diagnosis and preventive healthcare.

In a landmark academic initiative, he organised the first-ever J&K International Conference on Breast Cancer in October 2024, followed by its second successful edition in December 2025, drawing experts from India and abroad to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Termining the award a collective achievement, Dr. Mir credited his research team, academic colleagues, and supporters, and reiterated the urgent need to strengthen awareness, early detection, and collaborative research to curb breast cancer-related morbidity and mortality.

The honour places Dr. Mir among the country's leading scientists and healthcare advocates shaping the future of cancer research and care.

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)

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



Massive Security Deployment Along Jammu–Srinagar NH-44 Ahead of Union Home Minister’s Visit

■ FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, FEB 5: Security arrangements were significantly beefed up along the Jammu–Srinagar National Highway (NH-44), especially in and around the strategically important Navyug Tunnel at Qazigund, ahead of the visit of the Union Home Minister to Jammu and Kashmir.

According to officials, the heightened security measures are being implemented as a precautionary step to ensure smooth, secure, and uninterrupted movement during the high-profile visit. The entire operation is being carried out under the close supervision of the Additional Superintendent of Police (NHW) Qazigund, Mumtaz Ali Bhatti (JKPS) who is personally monitoring the situation on the ground. The security deployment along the highway is being led by the SDPO Qazigund, SHO Qazigund, and the Duty Officer of the Navyug Tunnel. Additional contingents of police and security forces have been stationed at strategic points along the

highway, with special focus on sensitive stretches and entry and exit points of the tunnel to prevent any untoward incident.

In addition to increased manpower, authorities have also deployed advanced surveillance and monitoring technology to strengthen security. Wall Radars systems and thermal screening equipment have been installed at the Navyug Tunnel to enhance real-time surveillance, improve visibility in low-light conditions, and bolster threat detection capabilities. These technological measures are aimed at providing an additional layer of security and enabling swift response to any potential risk.

Officials further said that the intensified security exercise is being carried out in strict compliance with the directions of SSP Kulgam, Anayat Ali Chowdhury (IPS). Regular checks, area domination, and surveillance patrols are also being conducted to ensure overall law and order in the region.

Authorities have reiterated that the security

arrangements are purely precautionary in nature and are meant to safeguard commuters, local residents, and VIP movement during the visit. Meanwhile, motorists traveling along NH-44 have been advised to cooperate with security personnel and follow traf-

fic advisories to avoid inconvenience.

The administration has expressed confidence that the robust security framework in place will ensure a safe and incident-free visit while maintaining smooth traffic flow on this vital national highway.

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

Subject: Application BISMA SHABAN D/O MOHD SHABAN NAJAR R/O KALANTRA PAYEEN Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward classes in favor of self

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of KALANTRA PAYEEN of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the NAJAR community having annual income 250000 // (five lack thirty four thousand) the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1...MOHD SHABAN Father 57 shopkeeper
- 2...ATTIQA BEGAM Mother 54 years Housewife
- 3... AQIB AHMAD NAJAR Brother 31 years Labour
- 4...UMAR SHABAN Brother sister in Law 27 years
- 5...BISMA SHABAN self 25 years student

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

This is to notify the general public that the name recorded in the Aadhaar database is incorrect. Name shown in Aadhaar: Rozia Bano, Correct name: Rosya Bano, Fathers name: Ghulam Nabi Hajam Address: Pohrupeth Langate Handwara Kupwara Jammu and Kashmir 193302. The above-mentioned person (Rozia Bano) hereby declares that the name printed on the Aadhaar is incorrect and that her correct and legal name is Rosya Bano. Any objection to this correction should be brought to the attention of the UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra, Office Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the necessary correction procedures may be undertaken.

**Name, Rosya Bano,
Fathers name: Ghulam Nabi Hajam Address:
Pohrupeth Langate Handwara Kupwara**

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application MUSHTAQ AHMAD SOFI S/O ABDUL GANI SOFI R/O SHEIKHPORA for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of self for the issuance of RBA in his /her / their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the SOFI community having annual income 560000// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1...MUSHTAQ AHMAD SOFI self 49 years Farmer
- 2...GULSHANA BEGUM wife 46 years H/W
- 3... SEERAT MUSHTAQ self applicant 16 years student
- 4...MOHSIN MUSHTAQ son 12 years student
- 5...MASROOR MUSHTAQ son 07 years student

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of. HAFEEZA BEGUM S/O Lt BASHIR AHMAD GANAIE R/O RESHIPORA for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that BASHIR AHMAD GANIE S/O MOHD RAMZAN GANIE has passed away on 23/09/2022 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

- 1... , HAFEEZA BEGUM 67 wife ,48 widow
- 2.... HILAL AHMAD GANIE son 32 years labour unmarried
- 3...TANVEER AHMAD son 23 years Labour unmarried
- 4...JABEENA daughter 35 years H/W married unsatate
- 5...NUSRAT daughter 25 years H/W married

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertainingto Birth of SADAF NASEER D/O NASEER AHMAD SHAH R/O PUSNAG Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 04/11/1999 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertainingto Birth of KHATEEJA BEGUM S/O MOHD SULTAN ALIE R/O WARIPORA PAYEEN Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 20/01/1998 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

I am applying for fresh Pesticide License situated at Dangerpora sopore In this regard if anybody is having any objection may file the same to PPO Lal Mandi Srinagar within the time period of 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

**TASLEEMA AKHTER , W/O....MOHD SADIQ DAR
Address.DANGERPIRA* SOPORE***

Public Notice

I, Ab Majeed Mir, S/o Ghulam Ahmad Mir, R/o Authoora Reshipora, Tehsil Kreeri, District Baramulla, ut of jk. That my name has been inadvertently recorded in my Driving Licence as "Ab Majeed Mir."

That my correct and full name is "Abdul Majeed Mir."

That both the names "Ab Majeed Mir" and "Abdul Majeed Mir" refer to one and the same person, i.e., myself. That I have applied before the RTO Baramulla for correction of my name in the Driving Licence from "Ab Majeed Mir" to "Abdul Majeed Mir."

If any person has any objection regarding the above said name correction, he/she may file the objection before the concerned authority within the stipulated period from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, the correction shall be treated as final.

**Abdul Majeed Mir, S/o Ghulam Ahmad Mir, R/o
Authoora Reshipora, Tehsil Kreeri, District Baramulla**

Public Notice

I have lost Registration certificate (RC) of my Vehicle ALTO K10 bearing registration number JK05N 4942. Now i am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/ She may contact ARTO Baramulla within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**MOHAMMAD RAMZAN MIR S/O GH RASOOL MIR
R/O KREERI BARAMULLA**

Public Notice

My daughter's name & her Mother's name has been wrongly written as KULSOOMA JAN & her Mother's name is SHERAZA BEGUM bearing id no 101002501928 in her Date of Birth certificate issued by SDH KREERI while her correct name is AIZA MAROOF & her Mother's correct name is SHEERAZA MAROOF 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...MAROOF AHMAD CHOPAN . F/O ...AIZA
MAROOF , Mother's...SHEERAZA MAROOF
R/O ...AUTHOORA RESHIPORA
TEHSIL....KREERI**

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Fathers name HABIBULLAH SIRAJ R/O WATERGAM Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040001003 wants to be registered on my MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH SIRAJ S/O HABIBULLAH SIRAJ R/O WATERGAM .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..MOHAMMAD HABIBULLAH
S/O ... HABIBULLAH SIRAJ , R/OWATERGAM**

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application MUSLIM SHAFI MIR S/O MOHD SHAFI MIR R/O SHEIKHPORA for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of self for the issuance of RBA in his /her / their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the MIR community having annual income 500000// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1..MOHD SHAFI MIR Father 51 years Labour
- 2..FARIDA BEGUM Mother 45 years H/W
- 3... TABASUM SHAFI sister ,22 years student
- 4...MASRAT SHAFI sister 20 years //

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application SAFI MANZOOR D/O MANZOOR AHMAD MIR R/O KAKOTHAL for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of self for the issuance of RBA in his /her / their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of KAKOTHAL of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the MIR community having annual income 450000// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1..MANZOOR AHMAD MIR Father 45 years driver
- 2..ZAINA BEGUM Mother 40 years H/W
- 3... SAFI MANZOOR self 17 years student
- 4...SAHIL MANZOOR Brother 18 years //
- 5...ZAIKA MANZOOR Sister 15 years //

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH

Office of the Registrar General at Jammu

Notification

No: 241 of2026/RG | Dated: 03.02.2026

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that, in furtherance of the "Mediation for the Nation 2. 0" initiative and with a view to strengthening the culture of mediation, ensuring effective functioning of mediation mechanisms, and achieving maximum disposal of cases through amicable settlement, the following Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the District Judiciary are hereby adopted in connection with the Mediation 2.0 Drive:

(i) All the pending cases viz. Matrimonial Disputes Cases, Accident Claims Cases, Domestic Violence Cases, Cheque Bounce Cases, Commercial Disputes Cases, Service Matters Cases, Consumer Disputes Cases, Debt Recovery Cases, Eviction Cases (Civil Revisions), Land Acquisition Cases, will be shown/listed under a new list type i.e. "For Referral to the Special Mediation Drive-"Mediation For the Nation 2.0" before all the Courts.

(ii) All the cases referred in clause (i) and pending in Ordinary motion cause list after 25.02.2026, can also be preponed and listed in the "For Referral to the Special Mediation Drive-"Mediation For the Nation 2.0" list.

(iii) All the cases which are not referred will be listed as per their last listing status.

(iv) The phone numbers of the Advocates and that of the parties shall be reflected in the referral order.

(v) In case, any Court finds it appropriate for referring any matter listed in the cause list to Mediation in which there is an element of settlement listed before that Court on a particular day can refer the same.

(vi) Ld. Advocates/ Party-in-person will also provide the details of cases in which there exists an element of settlement in the concerned Court, so that the same could also be listed in "For Referral to the Special Mediation Drive-"Mediation For the Nation 2.0" list.

(vii) In case no report is received within 90 days of referral and the time is not extended by the Court on request of the parties or otherwise, the mediation shall be treated as failed and the file shall be listed in due course and should not be kept awaiting report.

(viii) Judicial Officers may be requested to take up the settled matters on priority. For this, the settled cases will be listed atop the cause list or under a separate heading so that these cases are taken up before regular matters so as to avoid inconvenience to the parties who have already reached a settlement through Mediation ensuring a prompt disposal.

(ix) The Coordinator, District Mediation Centers shall be entitled to empanel temporary Mediator under Rule 3(b) of MCPC Rules, 2015 for the limited duration of Mediation for the Nation 2.0 Drive in the district headquarters as well as at taluka level.

(x) The honorarium to the Mediators already on the panel or empanelled under Rule 3(b) shall be paid accordance with Rule 26 of MCPC Mediation Rules, 2015 readwith MCPC resolution dated 15.12.2021 for the duration of Mediation For The Nation 2.0 Drive. (Reference- High Court Order No. 119 of2026/RG dated 30.01.2026).

No: 4944-73/RG/GS | Dated: 03-02-2026

Sd/- (M.K. Sharma) Registrar General

DIPK: 10630/25 | Dated: 05-02-2026

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SKUAST-K launches mushroom farming, digital soil mapping training at KVK Srinagar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 05: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Srinagar, SKUAST-Kashmir in collaboration with 41 Battalion BSF, launched two Skill Development Certificate Course on Hi-Tech Mushroom Farming and Digital Soil Mapping for precision Agriculture at KVK Campus today.

The Training Course was inaugurated by Prof Nazir A Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir in presence of Prof. R.H. Kanth, (Director Extension), Rifat Aftab Qureshi (Additional District Development Commissioner Srinagar) and Sanjai K. Singh (Commandant 41 Bn BSF Humhama) who presided as the Guests of honour.

The certificate course is being co-hosted by 41 Bn BSF and with technical support by MRTC, FOH SKUAST-K and IMDC Directorate of Agriculture Production, Lal Mandi.

In his inaugural address, the Vice Chancellor, exhorted the organisers and the participating youth to make said skill course purposeful and impact oriented



to establish their commercial mushroom enterprises for cultivation of high value medicinal mushroom strains to ensure their livelihood and economic security.

Prof. Ganai advised the PI. MRTC to submit a proposal for MoU with other Countries on Supply and

Value Chain system on mushroom cultivation.

The Director Extension in her remarks stress on the value addition of the mushroom products and their subsequent linkage with IBPR, SKUAST-K for branding and marketing of the products for higher market prices.

The Vice Chancellor had a word of appraisal for the KVK Team led by Dr. Simnani in bolstering the efforts to collaborate and strengthening the proactive linkage with all stakeholders and defence forces in particular besides upscaling the KVK activities.

Prof. Shamim A. Simnani, Head

KVK Srinagar, outlined the program's objective to nurture and foster entrepreneurial skills among the youth in line with the PM's Slogan of Skilling of Next Gen. is a national need and foundation of Atmanirbhar Bharat to bridge the gap between industry demand and skill requirement so as to reduce dependence on govt. jobs and to make youth self-reliant and self-employed.

On the occasion, Custom Hiring Farm Machinery Centre of the Kendra established under HADP Project-09 was also inaugurated by Vice Chancellor along with the other dignitaries.

Release of a booklet titled "Media Led Agriculture Extension Outreach Journey of the KVK Srinagar by Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K was the highlight of the event.

The event was attended by Rajesh K. Panday (Dy. CO 41 Bn), Dr. I.A. Mir, Dr. Hassebur Rehman, Dr. Showket, Dr. Owais, the coordinators of the programme, officers from Deptt. of Agriculture Production besides expert resource persons from IMDC & MRTC, representatives from HADPP. No: 09.

SKUAST-K kick starts fruit tree management training for FPOs

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 05: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) has commenced a seven-day Training Programme on "Fruit Tree Management" from 5th to 09th February 2026 at Directorate of Extension, Shalimar.

The programme is being organized by the Directorate of Research, SKUAST-Kashmir, in collaboration with the Directorate of Extension, SKUAST-K, under the IFAD-sponsored Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP).



The programme was inaugurated today by Chief Guest Prof Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension & Dean Faculty of Horticulture, SKUAST-K in presence of Prof Ashiq H Pandith Head Division of Fruit Science & Coordinator JKCIP SKUAST-K and Dr Mohammad Iqbal Bhat, Coordinator Upscaling collectivization JKCIP SKUAST-K, senior faculty.

The training programme is being designed to strengthen scientific orchard management practices among stakeholders, with a special focus on capacity building of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) under the Upscaling Collectivisation component of JKCIP. The initiative aligns with IFAD's strategic priorities of enhancing rural livelihoods, promoting climate resilience, gender equity, youth inclusion, and sustainable agricultural development in Jammu & Kashmir.

The training features an intensive schedule of expert lectures, field demonstrations, hands-on training sessions, and exposure visits. Renowned scientists and subject matter specialists from SKUAST-K, ICAR-CITH Srinagar, Punjab Agricultural University Ludhiana, NRC Grapes Pune, and other premier institutions would be delivering lectures on orchard planning, scientific training and pruning, irrigation and fertigation management, flowering and fruiting regulation, pollination management, rejuvenation of old orchards, canopy architecture, and climate-smart fruit production systems.

A key highlight of the programme is the exposure visit to ICAR-Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH), Srinagar, where participants are being trained on advanced concepts such as rootstock-scion interactions, precision pruning, high-density orchard systems, and long-term canopy sustainability.

J&K Bank hosts HNI Customer Meet in Kathua

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA, FEBRUARY 05: As part of its commitment to deepen customer engagement and garner direct feedback, J&K Bank today organised second High Net-Worth Individual (HNI) Customer Meet in Jammu at its Kathua Zonal Office. The interactive session witnessed active participation of the Bank's valued clients from the Kathua zone which extends from Samba to Batala, Mohali and other parts of Punjab.

The meeting was chaired by MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee, and was attended by Chief General Manager Sunit Kumar, General Manager & Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta, Zonal Head (Kathua) Suresh Kumar Choudhary and other senior officers.

During the interaction, the participating HNI customers lauded the Bank's recent Q3 financial performance and congratulated the management for posting strong growth numbers. They also shared valuable feedback and suggestions on the Bank's products, processes and service delivery.

Thanking the valued customers for their continued trust and support, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "In today's highly competitive banking landscape, customers actively shape products and services through their thoughtful inputs, and such engagements help us remain agile and responsive. The purpose of these HNI meets is to further deepen our relationship with our valued customers by listening to their feedback first-hand."

Emphasising the Bank's growth philosophy, he added, "We envisage the progress of our customers as a prerequisite to our own business growth. I urge you to scale up your businesses and assure you of complete financial support at every step of your commercial journey." He further stated that the Bank will continue to strengthen its digital platforms to offer customers best-in-class digital banking services.

Addressing the HNI clients, Chief General Manager Sunit Kumar remarked, "J&K Bank is focused on delivering comprehensive and customised financial solutions for businesses. Inputs received during such interactions play a crucial role in improving efficiency, turnaround time and overall customer experience."

Earlier, welcoming the participants, GM & Divisional Head (Jammu) Ashok Gupta reiterated the Bank's commitment to providing convenient, responsive and state-of-the-art banking services. "We value this relationship and remain committed to enhancing service delivery standards through constant engagement and innovation," he said.

The participating customers expressed satisfaction over the Bank's overall services while offering constructive suggestions for further improvement. They particularly emphasised the need for creating more robust financial solutions for businesses and enhancing turnaround time (TAT), which they noted as a key differentiator in today's competitive financial services landscape.

DLSA Reasi educates girls, senior citizens about welfare schemes, legal rights

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

REASI, FEBRUARY 05: Under the visionary leadership of Chairman (also Pr. District and Sessions Judge Reasi) Khalil Choudhary and guidance of Secretary Pooja Gupta, District Legal Services Authority Reasi organized an awareness event at PMSHRI Government Higher Secondary School Aghar Jitto to promote "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" and other Welfare Schemes for girls.

Assistant Legal Defense Counsel (ALADC) Bumika Rajput sensitized the students and staff to the objectives of the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao"

scheme and other women centric government schemes meant for the welfare, education and empowerment of girls, including scholarships, health benefits and legal protections available to them.

Another legal awareness programme was organized in collaboration with Social Welfare Department at Panchayat Kotli Bhaga, Reasi to promote "Bal Vivah Mukhat Bharat" (Child Marriage Free India) campaign. The PLVs informed the participants about the legal provisions on prohibition of child marriage, the rights of children and the social, psychological and health consequences of early marriage.

Meanwhile, a door-to-door awareness campaign was conducted by TLSC Mahore at Shajroo Mahore and Bathioe Mahore to identify and educate the senior citizens about the Legal Services and Welfare Schemes.

The PLVs interacted with senior citizens, identified their legal and welfare-related issues and guided them about free legal aid services, maintenance rights, old age pension schemes, healthcare benefits and other government welfare schemes. Senior citizens were also informed about the procedure for approaching Legal Services Authorities for redressal of their grievances.

JKPDD organizes training on "Electrical Safety in Power Distribution Utilities" for Engineers

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 5: As part of its endeavours towards strengthening the capacity-building and training framework for power sector employees, under the guidance of Additional Chief Secretary PDD, Shailendra Kumar, the Power Development Department today organised a training programme on "Electrical Safety in Power Distribution Utilities" for the Engineers in Jammu.

Shailendra Kumar stressed that high-quality capacity-building programmes are essential not only for improving public service delivery but also for reducing losses in the sector. He emphasized that the safety of public and power sector personnel must remain paramount and training and capacity building should be institutionalized, structured and made mandatory for all the employees.

The ACS said that participation and performance of employees in training programmes must carry due weightage in their Annual

Performance Reports. It was further instructed that support from reputed training institutes should be sought to strengthen the training framework wherever required.

In line with the above, the Chief Electrical Inspectorate (CEI) J&K organized this three day training programme focusing on safety awareness and regulatory compliance, in collaboration with reputed national-level training institute of the Ministry of Power, RECIPMT, Hyderabad.

In his opening remarks, CEI, PDD, Sanjay Sharma, stated that over the past five years, the power sector in J&K has witnessed significant positive change across all domains, including infrastructure strengthening, system modernization, introduction of IT interventions and development of state-of-the-art GIS grid stations.

He further highlighted that, in smart metering implementation, J&K has taken a major leap by achieving over 50% coverage of its consumer base. In addition, unsafe bare overhead conductors are being replaced with insulated AB cables, resulting in better reliability of



power supply and enhanced public safety. He further stated that corporate functioning and contract management in the power sector have also improved substantially. While earlier the department was largely depending on CPSUs for execution of large-scale projects, the DISCOMs have now built sufficient capacity and capability to implement such projects independently, delivering works with competence and standards and the same has been demonstrated in implementation of RDSS Scheme. He emphasized that alongside

aforesaid reforms, safety has always remained top priority of the department which is further being strengthened by strategizing through providing hands-on training to the field employees by conducting training programmes in each and every district rather than in a centralized manner with special focus on strict adherence to SOPs.

The three day training programme, which commenced today, will provide a comprehensive in-depth understanding of the CEA (Measures relating to Safety and

Electric Supply) Regulations 2023, covering each regulation in detail. On the opening day, it was emphasised that the safety regulations are not merely advisory guidelines but are statutory in nature, legally binding and strict adherence to these regulations is mandatory for all stakeholders, whether consumers or the department.

The participants were apprised of the provisions of Section 146 of the Electricity Act, 2003, highlighting the accountability and the legal consequences for non-compliance with safety and technical standards.

It was advised that feedback on actual on-ground implementation of the safety regulations by the trainees shall also be obtained to ensure compliance and to foster a culture of safety and regulatory discipline across the power sector.

The trainees also took a safety pledge on the occasion.

The sessions are led by resource persons Ajit Prasad Ganguly and M L Gupta from RECIPMT, Hyderabad.

Enforcement Team foils tax evasion bid at Udhampur, recovers ₹8.96 lakh penalty for violation of the GST framework

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 05: In a decisive action, the State Taxes Enforcement Team, Udhampur today foiled a major Tax evasion bid by intercepting a vehicle carrying mixed scrap in violation of the GST framework.

The enforcement team recovered a fine of ₹8,96,128 for violations of GST provisions. The interception was made possible through data analysis of the e-Way Bill portal and RFID tracking, reflecting the department's increased use of technology-driven enforcement

measures. The enforcement action was executed by a team headed by GST Inspector Mohit Jamwal, assisted by Sub-Inspectors Rajesh Singh Batla, Rakesh Kharka, Mohsin Riaz and Guards, Barkat Ali and Sandesh Singh under the close supervision and guidance of Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes Enforcement, Jammu North, Anil Kumar Chandail. Preliminary verification revealed serious irregularities in the movement of goods, indicating deliberate attempts to evade tax and misuse the GST framework. Till the end of January 2026, the Udhampur Enforcement Team has realized



penalties totaling 2.55 crore and e-Way Bill verification for the period amounted to Rs 4.01

Lakh with a 38% increase of last year's performance, reflecting the team's sustained vigilance and proactive enforcement measures. The penalty actions particularly on big catches taken by the team were appreciated by the Commissioner, State Taxes Department, Jammu & Kashmir, P. K. Bhat who stated that the enforcement measures are balanced, fair and mature, as reflected by the negligible number of cases challenged before appellate authorities. Additional Commissioner, State Taxes (Administration & Enforcement), Jammu, Namrita Dogra also

lauded the team for their professional, focused and result-oriented approach.

The State Taxes Department has issued a stern warning to all tax violators, particularly in high-risk sectors such as the scrap trade, that any attempt to bypass statutory provisions will invite strict legal action, heavy penalties and prosecution wherever applicable. The department has intensified surveillance and intelligence-based enforcement to detect and deter such malpractices.

At the same time, the department has acknowledged

and appreciated the cooperation of honest and compliant taxpayers, whose voluntary compliance and timely support play a crucial role in strengthening the tax system and promoting fair trade practices.

The State Taxes Department reiterates its commitment to ensuring a transparent, fair and robust GST regime across Jammu & Kashmir and urges all taxpayers to strictly adhere to statutory provisions. Taxpayers are encouraged to approach their nearest tax office for guidance to remain compliant and avoid penal consequences.



Centre, Nagaland, ENPO Seal Historic Pact to Transform Eastern Nagaland

Landmark agreement clears way for Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority, devolution of 46 subjects, and accelerated development of six districts

■ HT NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI, FEB 5: In a major breakthrough for peace, stability and development in the Northeast, the Government of India, the Government of Nagaland and the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO) on Thursday signed a historic agreement paving the way for the creation of the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) for six eastern districts of the state.

The agreement, signed in New Delhi in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, will lead to the devolution of powers over 46 subjects to the FNTA, marking a decisive step towards fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a peaceful, dispute-free and prosperous Northeast.

The FNTA will cover Tuensang, Mon, Kiphire, Longleng, Noklak and Shamator districts, addressing long-standing aspirations of the people of Eastern Nagaland for greater autonomy, equitable development and effective governance.

Addressing the gathering, Amit Shah termed the day "a significant milestone for a dispute-free Northeast," asserting that the Modi government is committed to resolving every dispute through dialogue and democratic means. He said that since 2019, the Centre has



signed 12 major agreements in the region and has ensured their implementation in both letter and spirit.

The Home Minister assured comprehensive support for the development of Eastern Nagaland, stating that a fixed financial allocation will be provided annually, while the Ministry of Home Affairs will bear the initial establishment expenditure of the FNTA. He said the agreement would remove all obstacles in the path of development and usher in a new era of

progress and stability.

Shah lauded Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and his cabinet for their constructive role in taking the negotiations to a logical conclusion, and congratulated the ENPO and the people of Eastern Nagaland on the historic achievement.

The agreement also provides for the establishment of a mini-secretariat for the FNTA, headed by an Additional Chief Secretary or Principal Secretary, and for proportional sharing of development outlay based on population and

area. It, however, does not affect the special constitutional safeguards under Article 371(A).

Officials said the unique arrangement aims at financial autonomy, enhanced decision-making, accelerated infrastructure development, economic empowerment and optimal resource utilization, reflecting the Centre's resolve to fulfill the genuine aspirations of the people of the Northeast through dialogue, peace and inclusive growth. (With inputs from PIB)

LPL Financial Opens Global Capability Center in Hyderabad

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, FEB 5 : LPL Financial, a leading U.S.-based wealth management firm, on Wednesday announced the launch of its Global Capability Center (GCC) in Hyderabad and the appointment of Ramesh Kaza as head of the new operation.

The Hyderabad GCC will play a key role in expanding LPL Financial's global technology and operations capabilities, focusing on advanced financial technology platforms, product development, data and analytics, risk management, and AI-driven solutions, the company said in a release here..

The company said Hyderabad was chosen for its deep talent pool in financial services and technology, robust infrastructure, and strong business continuity ecosystem.

Over the next three to five years, LPL Financial plans to create hundreds of jobs at the center.

The GCC is currently hiring engineers and technologists across areas such as network security, core infrastructure, AI engineering, data platforms, middleware, and software development.

A Fortune 500 company, LPL Financial Holdings Inc. supports more than 32,000 financial advisors and about 1,200 financial institutions, managing nearly \$2.4 trillion in assets for approximately 8 million clients in the United States.

Kaza joins LPL Financial from State Street, where he most recently served as Chief Information Officer for India.

Earlier, he spent nearly 16 years at Bank of America in senior global technology leadership roles and has also held strategic positions at Fidelity Investments and GE Capital.

"The Hyderabad center will leverage the city's exceptional talent to build integrated teams focused on next-generation technology that sets new standards in financial services," said Greg Gates, Chief



Technology and Information Officer at LPL Financial.

"With Ramesh leading the Global Capability Center, we are well positioned to attract top talent and accelerate innovation critical to our long-term growth," Gates added.

An active community leader, Kaza has served as chairperson of United Way of Hyderabad and currently works with industry and law enforcement as Secretary General of the Society for Cyberabad Security Council.

"It's an honor to join LPL at this milestone moment," Kaza said. "The Hyderabad GCC will unlock new growth opportunities and help deliver faster, more sophisticated solutions for our advisors and their clients." UNI

Telangana: WE Hub signs MoUs with 20 Colleges to Launch 'Campus to Career' Program for Women Students

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, FEB 5 : In a major initiative aimed at strengthening employability and industry readiness among women students, WE Hub, India's first state-led nodal organisation for women entrepreneurs, signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with over 20 academic institutions across Telangana on Wednesday to roll out its Campus to Career programme.

The initiative will be implemented through WE enable, WE Hub's flagship student-focused intervention, and is designed to bridge the gap between higher education and workforce requirements..

The programme focuses on integrating industry exposure, mentorship, skill-based learning, and career guidance directly into campus ecosystems, ensuring students graduate with both academic credentials and career readiness.

The MoUs were signed here with a diverse set of institutions, including engineering colleges, universities, professional institutes, and women's colleges from Hyderabad and Rangareddy districts.

Among them are Methodist College of Engineering and Technology, RBVRR Women's College of Pharmacy, Veeranari Chakali Illamma Women's University, Vidya Jyothi Institute of Technology, Muffakham Jah College of Engineering and Technology, St. Joseph's Degree & PG College for Women (Toli Chowki), Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation-Hyderabad, St. Francis College for Women, G. Narayanamma Institute of Technology and Sciences, Stanley College of Engineering and Technology for Women, Woxsen University.

Tata Renewable commissions 198 MW wind energy plant in Tamil Nadu

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI, FEB 5 : Tata Power Renewable Energy (TPREL), a subsidiary of The Tata Power Company (Tata Power), officially announced here today that it has successfully commissioned a 198 MW wind energy project for Tata Steel in Karur, Tamil Nadu.

According to an official statement, the wind energy project comprises 55 wind turbine generators of 3.6 MW each and is designed to generate 31 million units of clean electricity annually, further advancing Tata Steel's decarbonization journey and strengthening TPREL's contribution to India's renewable energy capacity.

A key highlight of this project is the strategic unbundling of the scope into multiple packages, all of which were executed directly by TPREL. Rather than relying on OEMs for Balance of Plant (BOP), Civil BOP, Engineering & Construction, Transmission Lines, 33 kV systems, and SY, the project was delivered through a self-EPC model underscoring TPREL's strong in-house capabilities, engineering excellence and its successful execution of a mega scale wind project, according to the statement.

According to the statement, the partnership reinforces TPREL's



position as a leader in India's renewable energy transition, playing a vital role in advancing the country's target of reaching 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030. It also reflects TPREL's focus on scaling up wind-led clean energy projects that are reliable, dispatchable, and economically viable.

TPREL has a wind energy portfolio exceeding 3.7 GW, with over 1.2 GW operational and the remainder under various stages of development across Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil

Nadu.

After commissioning the Karur project, TPREL's total renewable utility capacity has reached 11.6 GW. Currently, 6.2 GW of this capacity is operational, comprising 5 GW of solar and 1.2 GW of wind energy. Additionally, 5.8 GW is under various stages of implementation, evenly split between 3 GW of solar and 2.8 GW of wind projects. These ongoing projects are expected to be completed in phases over the next 6 to 24 months in a staggered manner, according to the statement. UNI

Boeing to cut around 300 defense supply chain jobs

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DEHLI, FEB 5 : Boeing Co. is eliminating about 300 supply chain jobs from its defense division, and is notifying affected workers this week, according to a person familiar with the move.

The job cuts are spread across a number of sites around the country, said the person, who asked not to be identified as the matter is confidential. The workforce reduction comes at a time when companies like Amazon.com Inc. and United Parcel Service Inc.



are paring jobs and closely monitoring headcount.

Workforce changes are also under way at Boeing's commercial airplanes division. Seattle-area engineers were notified Jan. 30 that all remaining work on the 787 Dreamliner program will be shifted to South Carolina, where Boeing earlier consolidated manufacturing of its widebody jet, union officials said. About 250 to 300 workers will be affected.

"Boeing regularly evaluates and adjusts its workforce to stay aligned to our commitments to our customers and communities," the company said in an emailed statement, responding to a query on the defense layoffs. Boeing is still in hiring mode, with more than 1,300 job openings, and is working to help affected defense employees find other positions at the company, the person said.

The planemaker's headcount stood at 182,000 people at the end of 2025, rising by about 10,000 workers from a year earlier, according to federal filings. Boeing has been hiring as it integrates newly acquired Spirit AeroSystems Holdings Inc., steps up commercial jet production and begins work on the stealthy F-47 fighter jet for the Pentagon.

The latest employment adjustments are rattling some employees and angering union officials at a time when Boeing leaders are trying to rebuild the company's culture and return it to sound financial footing. The largest US exporter is preparing for labor negotiations with the Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace, which represents around 16,000 engineers and technical workers whose contract expires in October. The 787 announcement blindsided union officials, who say they'd been assured a day earlier that there "were no company decisions in the foreseeable future" that might impact employment levels for SPEEA members, said Ray Goforth, the union's executive director.

The company's handling of the matter and treatment of workers worried about losing their jobs "casts a pall over upcoming contract negotiations," he said. Boeing's plans to trim its defense staff were reported earlier by a Seattle NBC affiliate but did not include the specific number of jobs, among other details. UNI

Wired Wisdom: Telecom's NUF debate, Stuffcool ChargeCube 65, and a near miss

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, FEB 5 : Opening thoughts. The first bullish communication from Vodafone Idea, in many years, regarding a future roadmap of investment. And more to the point, an intent to not just stay around, but compete. The government's help has, well, helped.

The company confirms a 45,000 crore infusion focused on capital expenditure over the next three years. Network upgrades are essential, and imperative. I had pointed out in my Tech Tonic column last year that letting Vi fail would be detrimental to consumers. I'm glad it was heard, in the corridors of power.

The Department of Telecommunications' recent decision to defer Vi's AGR (Adjusted Gross Revenue) dues for four years is the basis for the brighter outlook, one that the telecom company

needed to compete with its rivals Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel. That said, even before Vi can talk of competing, they first need to ensure coverage (map and quality) matches rivals across telecom sectors, and fix the 5G gaps that still exist. It is only then they can hope to attract customers—particularly the premium base—into their fold.

I'll lay this out clearly—a network usage fee (NUF) is never a good idea if the stated intention is to reduce the cost of accessing a service, for the customer.

Some of you may be young enough to not remember when the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India introduced the Network Capacity Fee (NCF) for direct to home (DTH) services in the country. In an instant, the mess that it created between the computation of pricing for bouquets, add-on packs and individual channels in a subscription meant that an all-channel inclusive package, which would cost

anywhere between 500 to 700 per month, started to be priced upwards of 1,000 per month.

Which is why when the New Delhi-based technology think-tank Eysa Centre sent its latest report my way, I was only too interested in this otherwise complex matter.

At the core of this conversation is that the Cellular Operators Association of India petitioned before the Department of Telecom as far back as in November 2022, suggesting that content and application services (CAPs, think of these as anything from Netflix to Spotify and YouTube) should bear part of the network infrastructure costs. For this, COAI suggested CAPs contribute through a network usage fee (NUF) computed based on the data traffic generated by them on telecom networks.

The report authored by Eysa Centre's Director Meghna Bal, along

with Adjunct Fellow Vikash Gautam, and economic researcher Kunal Tyagi, makes three things very clear.

First, charging a network usage fee to OTTs is detrimental for consumers since it will undoubtedly increase subscription costs.

Secondly, any NUF will have an impact on freedom of expression for creators and users because not only does it represent a barrier to entry for smaller platforms, but it can potentially limit any ability of larger platforms to invest in content, which directly impacts creators who wish to distribute their content.

Third, there is an understanding that NUF will not deliver any significant efficiency gains for India's telecom and internet services. In fact, according to the report, "A compelling 79% of experts predict a moderate to extreme decline in efficiency in the CAP industry."

For a global context, just last month, the European Union announced it will not require Big Tech to pay telecom operators for infrastructure costs, despite increasing industry pressure. This was part of its broader Digital Networks Act proposal, and in line with what was agreed as part of the tariff deal with the United States. This should be seen as a rejection of calls for any "fair share" fees, while regulators nevertheless progress with network modernisation plans.

We also circle back to the age-old debate of net neutrality, and views depend on who you ask. But the moment an NUF element is introduced, based on data consumption on a telecom network, there is the very likelihood of financial incentivisation of service providers to favour or disfavour certain types of internet traffic, depending on who is willing to, and indeed the volume of the fees.



Dhoni: India a Dangerous World Cup Side

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: India are the defending champions and enter the tournament with a 51-8 win-loss record in T20Is since October 2023. Their batting line-up is packed with some of the biggest six-hitters in the world, and in Jasprit Bumrah and Varun Chakravathy, they have two of the best bowlers around.

"What all is needed in a good team, everything is there," Dhoni said at an event. "They have the experience, especially when it comes to this format, the experience is vast. They have played under pressure. Whoever is playing whatever roles they are playing in the team, they have been in that situation for a considerable period of time."

One thing that worries Dhoni is dew, which can tilt the balance in favour of the chasing team during a night game.

"What worries me, again, I hate dew,"

he said. "Dew changes a lot of things. Even when I was playing, something that really scared me was dew, where the toss becomes crucial and all of that."

Apart from that, there is the inherent uncertainty of the format: anyone can beat anyone on a given day.

"If we are playing ten matches against some of the best teams, we will come out as winners more often than not, if the conditions are neutral and all of that."

"The problem is when some of your players have a day off and somebody from the opposition has a brilliant day, and it can happen in T20 cricket. So that's the time - whether in the league stage or the knockout stage, that's where all the praying is needed. You know, nobody should get injured. Whatever roles are given, people should accomplish their roles for the team. And if that's the case, I don't want to jinx it, but it's one of the most dangerous teams."

Heavyweights England look to put off-field troubles behind them

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

PALLEKELE: England's dismal Ashes tour left Brendon McCullum's position as head coach under significant scrutiny and this T20 World Cup could dictate his future. Six players who featured in the 4-1 Test series defeat to Australia are in the squad for this event including Harry Brook, who took over the white-ball captaincy last year and was lucky to keep it after a late-night altercation with a bouncer outside a nightclub in New Zealand. Brook's latest public apology only managed to turn the spotlight onto England's management and their attempted cover-up.

The off-field doom and gloom threatens to obscure the fact that England have consistently been among the world's best T20 teams over the past decade. They are the only team to have reached at least the semi-finals of the last four World Cups, one of three teams to have won the tournament twice, and their recent results are hugely impressive. Under Brook's leadership, they have stuck to



a simple formula - a deep batting line-up and a spin-heavy bowling attack - with success, most notably when romping to a record-breaking 304 for 2 against South Africa in September.

They should cruise through the group stages easily enough in India, but the Super 8s will be a much tougher challenge. They are seeded to play in Sri Lanka in the second round, and their semi-final hopes will rely on them playing spin in a far more convincing manner than they did throughout their 4-1 thrashing in India 12 months ago - and in Tuesday night's comeback win in Pallekele. From there? Anything is possible.

Ten wins and a single defeat in their last 11 completed games leading into Sunday's game against Nepal in Mumbai - and the loss was a rain-reduced farce on a miserable night in Cardiff.

Phil Salt has taken his T20 game to a new level in recent years and forms half of a consistent, destructive opening partnership with Jos Buttler, England's greatest-ever in this format. Both players have extensive IPL experience - Buttler in particular - and it is hard to see England going deep in this World Cup without at least one of them having a strong run of form.

Jacob Bethell underlined his prodigious talent with a maiden Test century at the SCG in early January and will have a vital role to play in the middle order at what is his first senior ICC event, after he missed last year's Champions Trophy through injury. Liam Dawson, by contrast, has been to plenty of World Cups before as an unused squad member or a reserve, but will finally get a chance to play this time around as England pack their side with spin options.

Chance for Rodrigues to script another memorable chapter

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

VADODARA: Exactly a week ago, Delhi Capitals' campaign was teetering on the brink after a three-run loss to Gujarat Giants. Jemimah Rodrigues, their captain, was bowled attempting a scoop off Sophie Devine, leading to a middle-order collapse. She had to drag herself off the field.

Tuesday night's Eliminator against Giants revealed a different Rodrigues. She crackled with energy, she was up and about in the dugout, slapping her bat in delight as Shafa-Lee - the nickname earned by their fearless opening combination - kept finding the boundary in an exhilarating powerplay. She sprinted across the outfield to pat her young bowlers, Shree Charani and Nandani Sharma. There was an intensity to everything she did.

Not that it had been missing earlier, but it perhaps felt even more amplified because of the magnitude of what was at stake. She possessed a kind of magnetic charge that pulled everyone in. Which is perhaps why a target of 169, which did seem a



lad intimidating at the halfway stage in a knockout, never quite felt that way once Capitals began their chase. Six overs in, the contest was all but decided.

Capitals were acutely aware of letting things slip by if they

looked to take this deep. Three days earlier, in a must-win league game, they nearly tripped over while letting a chase drift longer than they should have. This time, there was no such indulgence.

From ball one, the message

was unmistakable: finish it early, finish it on our terms. And for Shafa-Lee, this was precisely their terrain. Lizelle Lee switched on with the certainty of someone who had already made peace with risk, noncha-

lantly planting forward and lofting length balls on the up, hacking across the line to the spinners and carving deliveries through a packed off-side ring.

Shafali was bludgeoning the ball straighter, using her strong bottom hand, shovelling them and muscling it to the ropes. Even after the two were dismissed, there was hardly any respite for Giants. Rodrigues took centre stage, and killed them softly - guiding balls into the gaps, picking her spots, getting to the pitch and oozing class and confidence playing her trademark inside-out drives. This was full-blown intent on display without meaning to hit the ball hard.

Before you realised, she'd hit 41 off 23 balls. And this time, she didn't need to be dragged off when she miscued a lofted hit to mid-off with Capitals needing nine runs for victory. It came with the realisation that this was a job well done. Capitals were through to their fourth final, having taken the stairs, not the elevator. The assuredness felt hard-earned, having come after several hits and misses.

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