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# Crown at Last: J&K Create History with Maiden Ranji Trophy Triumph

First-innings blitz downs Karnataka in drawn Hubballi final as 66-year wait ends in glory

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, FEB 28: Jammu & Kashmir etched their name in the annals of Indian domestic cricket by clinching their maiden Ranji Trophy title, overpowering the Karnataka cricket team in a one-sided final at Hubballi to end a 66-year wait for the coveted crown.

The historic triumph, secured on the basis of a massive first-innings lead in a drawn final, sparked celebrations across the Union Territory, with fans and cricketing circles hailing it as a defining moment for the region's sporting journey.

After winning the toss, skipper Paras Dogra opted to bat first — a decision that proved decisive. J&K piled up an imposing 584 in 173.1 overs, built on a disciplined and



collective batting effort. Shubham Pundir led the charge with a fluent 121, while Yawer Hassan (88) [Turn on Page 2](#)

## J&K Clinch Ranji Crown; Omar Announces ₹2 Cr Reward

HT NEWS NETWORK

HUBBALLI (KARNATAKA), FEB 28: In a moment that will be etched in the sporting history of Jammu and Kashmir, the J&K cricket team lifted their maiden Ranji Trophy title, prompting Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to announce a ₹2 crore cash reward for the players and support staff.

Describing the triumph as a defining chapter for J&K cricket, the Chief Minister said the victory has ignited celebrations across the region and inspired a new [Turn on Page 2](#)



## PM Modi Applauds J&K's Maiden Ranji Trophy Triumph

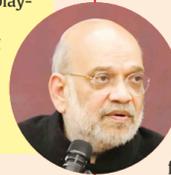
HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, FEB 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday congratulated the Jammu and Kashmir cricket team on securing their first-ever Ranji Trophy title, describing the feat as a reflection of the squad's grit, discipline and [Turn on Page 2](#)

## 'New J&K' on the Rise: Shah Hails Historic Ranji Trophy Triumph

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

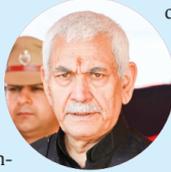
SRINAGAR, FEB 28: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday congratulated Jammu & Kashmir for winning the Ranji Trophy for the first time in history, terming the achievement [Turn on Page 2](#)



## Finest Hour' for J&K: LG Sinha Salutes Historic Ranji Triumph

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, FEB 28: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday hailed Jammu and Kash-



mir's maiden Ranji Trophy triumph as a defining moment in the Union Territory's sporting history, congratulating the cricket team for scripting an unprecedented chapter in domestic cricket.

Describing the victory as J&K's "finest hour," Sinha praised the players and coaching staff for their grit, discipline and consistent performance throughout the tournament. In a post on X, the Lieutenant [Turn on Page 2](#)

## Cusp of Glory: Omar in Hubballi for J&K's Ranji Dream

HT NEWS NETWORK

HUBBALLI, FEB 28: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is in Hubballi, Karnataka, to witness the final day of the Ranji Trophy Final, as the Jammu & Kashmir cricket team stands on the brink of scripting history. Calling it a defining moment for J&K [Turn on Page 2](#)



## Politicians, former cricketers, Jay Shah, others congratulate J&K cricket team for Ranji trophy win

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, FEB 28: Cutting across the lines, every section of the society, including former cricketers, [Turn on Page 2](#)

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**TEAM JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
 FOR THE MAIDEN AND HISTORIC WIN OF  
**Ranji Trophy 2025-26**

**Jammu and Kashmir Government announces Rs. 2 Crore for Winning Team**

DIPK: 11440/25 | Dated: 28-02-2026

# J&K targets 100% business reform compliance in next three months

CS directs for holding stakeholder conference for smooth rollout

**HT NEWS NETWORK**

**JAMMU, FEB 28:** JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28, 2026: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today stressed the need for holding a comprehensive stakeholders' conference to ensure smooth, time-bound and effective implementation of reform-oriented deregulations introduced under the 'Reduction of Compliance Burden' initiative aimed at strengthening Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) across Jammu & Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary was chairing a high-level review meeting to assess the progress achieved under Phase-II of the Ease of Doing Business reforms and subsequently reviewed the District Business Reforms Action Plan (D-BRAP) in a separate session. These reforms are being implemented under the guidance of the Government of India's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

(DPIIT).

The meeting, coordinated by the Industries & Commerce Department, was attended by the Administrative Secretaries and senior officers including ACS, Power Development Department; ACS, Agriculture Production Department and Tourism; ACS, Finance; Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretaries of FCS&CA, Forests, Housing & Urban Development, Industries & Commerce and Law; Secretary, Labour & Employment; Secretary, Transport; Director, Industries, Jammu; and other concerned officers.

Taking a comprehensive department-wise review of services and reform parameters mandated under EoDB-II and D-BRAP, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of bringing all public and private stakeholders on board.

He directed the Industries & Commerce Department to con-

vene a stakeholders' conference at the earliest to sensitize entrepreneurs, industry representatives, district officials and service providers about their roles and responsibilities under the revised framework.

He observed that significant progress has been made in notifying designated services under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA), with clearly defined timelines for delivery. He stressed that all such services had been made available strictly through online mode, as envisaged under the D-BRAP framework, ensuring transparency, accountability and reduced physical interface.

The Chief Secretary further advised the department to draw upon the successful model of Mission YUVA, where a Single Business Development Unit (SBDU) is already operational. He suggested upgrading this mechanism into a more robust institutional support system to create

a conducive ecosystem for innovation, entrepreneurship and investment across the Union Territory.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to reform-driven governance, the Chief Secretary directed all departments to ensure complete implementation of the prescribed reforms within the next three months without fail. He emphasized that the pace of reform must not slacken and that tangible results must be achieved under all circumstances.

Calling for seamless coordination from the grassroots to the highest administrative level, he stressed that the reforms must translate into real benefits for businesses and citizens by simplifying procedures, minimizing compliance requirements and enhancing service delivery standards.

Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikram-

jit Singh, presented the overall framework of D-BRAP and informed the meeting that 46 services have been identified by DPIIT for mandatory digitization.

He further added that these services have already been notified under the PSGA, are being delivered through online platforms and are being monitored through a real-time dashboard by the concerned authorities in accordance with the scheme's requirements.

Director, Industries, Jammu, Arun Manhas, apprised the meeting of the department-wise categorization of services and outlined the specific responsibilities of departments and district administrations for their effective implementation. He presented the current online status of each service along with their PSGA notification status.

It was informed that a real-time monitoring dashboard, developed in compliance with

DPIIT guidelines, showcases key components of both e-services and inspection modules, enabling effective oversight and performance tracking.

The meeting was also informed that DPIIT has launched D-BRAP 2025 comprising 154 reform points to be implemented by all States and Union Territories. All concerned departments in J&K have been tasked with developing new or modifying existing services to ensure 100 per cent compliance by March 31, 2026.

The D-BRAP framework encompasses a broad spectrum of citizen-centric and business-related services. These include land demarcation and boundary verification, change in land use permissions, property registration and mutation, digitization of land records, approvals and registrations for setting up play schools and private educational institutions, and issuance of Mandi licenses (APMC).

The reforms also mandate online issuance of licenses and permissions for establishment of health clinics and diagnostic centres, goods and passenger transport permits, new electricity connections, building plan approvals, demolition and reconstruction permissions, certificates of vending for street vendors, parking licenses, No Objection Certificates for hotels, restaurants and entertainment establishments, water supply connections, and shop and establishment registrations, among others. In addition, the action plan seeks to strengthen District Industries Centres and promote development of industrial parks to attract sector-specific investments. The overarching objective is to create an enabling, investor-friendly ecosystem at the district level, fostering sustainable economic growth and employment generation across Jammu & Kashmir.

## CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

### Crown at Last.....

and Dogra (70) provided solidity at the top. Valuable contributions from Abdul Samad (61), Kanhaiya Wadhawan (70) and Sahil Lotra (72) further stretched Karnataka's attack, which struggled despite a five-wicket haul by Prasad Krishna.

In reply, Karnataka were bowled out for 293, conceding a daunting 291-run deficit. Captain Mayank Agarwal fought valiantly with 160, but J&K's bowlers maintained relentless pressure. Auqib Nabi Dar starred with a brilliant 5/54 — his seventh five-wicket haul of the season — while Sunil Kumar and Yudhvir Singh Charak ensured Karnataka never recovered.

J&K tightened their grip in the second innings as Qamran Iqbal struck an unbeaten 160 and Sahil Lotra followed with an unbeaten 101, extinguishing any faint hopes of a Karnataka comeback.

Though the final ended in a draw, the overwhelming first-innings advantage handed J&K the title under tournament rules.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who witnessed the historic occasion, lauded the team's achievement, calling it a proud moment for Jammu & Kashmir.

J&K's path to glory included a resilient turnaround after an early setback against the Mumbai cricket team. They rebounded with a strong win over the Rajasthan cricket team, before outclassing the Madhya Pradesh cricket team in the quarterfinal and overcoming the Bengal cricket team in the semifinal.

Guided by coach Ajay Sharma and inspired by collective belief, Jammu & Kashmir transformed from contenders into champions, scripting a golden chapter that promises to inspire generations to come.

### J&K Clinch.....

generation of young sportspersons. He further declared that members of the title-winning squad would be eligible for government appointments under the newly notified policy for outstanding athletes.

Facing eight-time champions Karnataka on their home ground, J&K showcased grit and composure to secure the trophy on the strength of a commanding 291-run first-innings lead. The team tightened its grip on the contest by piling up 342/4 in the second innings, stretching the overall advantage to 633 runs by the end of the fifth and final day at the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium in Hubballi.

Opener Qamran Iqbal led from the front with an unbeaten 160 — his second century in first-class cricket — while Sahil Lotra struck a fluent maiden hundred (101 not out), ensuring J&K remained firmly in control.

With the ball, Auqib Nabi once again proved decisive.

The pacer claimed a five-wicket haul for the seventh time this season, underlining his consistency and impact throughout the campaign. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who was present at the stadium to witness the historic occasion, met the players after the match and congratulated them personally.

He applauded Qamran Iqbal and Sahil Lotra for their remarkable innings and commended Auqib Nabi for his match-winning spells, noting that his disciplined bowling was instrumental in steering the team to the title. Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq and Members of JKCA accompanied the Chief Minister.

Jammu and Kashmir made their debut in India's premier domestic competition 67 years ago. Despite reaching the quarterfinals in previous seasons, the elusive championship had remained out of reach — until now.

### PM Modi Applauds.....

passion. In a message posted on X, the Prime Minister

said the landmark victory was a proud moment for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and underscored the growing sporting talent emerging from the Union Territory.

"Congratulations to the Jammu and Kashmir team for their first ever Ranji Trophy win! This historic triumph reflects remarkable grit, discipline and passion of the team. It is a proud moment for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and it highlights the growing sporting passion and talent there. May this feat inspire many young athletes to dream big and play more," he wrote.

Jammu and Kashmir created history by defeating eight-time champions Karnataka cricket team in a dominant Ranji Trophy final, marking a watershed moment in the region's cricketing journey.

The victory has sparked widespread celebrations across the Union Territory, with fans and sports circles hailing the team's determination and resilience throughout the tournament.

### 'New J&K' on the.....

a reflection of the region's ongoing transformation.

In a post on X, Shah extended his heartfelt congratulations to the youth of the Union Territory and particularly to Team J&K for scripting history on the domestic cricket stage.

"It is a moment that fills every citizen with immense pride and mirrors the reality that the new changes that have swept Jammu and Kashmir are the new identity of its youth," he said.

Emphasising the broader significance of the victory, the Home Minister said the mantras of peace, progress and prosperity are driving the vision of a "New Jammu and Kashmir," adding that the triumph stands as a testament to the aspirations and potential of its young generation.

### Finest Hour'.....

Governor said emotions were "beyond words" as he watched the team lift the prestigious trophy. "To every fierce player who carved history through sheer grit, thank you from the entire UT beaming with pride. You have immortalised history—embrace it with honour," he wrote.

Sinha observed that a sporting transformation has gathered pace in the Union Territory in recent years and urged the youth to take inspiration from the landmark achievement.

Jammu and Kashmir had made their debut in India's premier domestic cricket competition 67 years ago. Despite reaching the quarterfinal stage in previous seasons, the coveted championship had remained elusive until this breakthrough victory.

### Cusp of Glory.....

cricket, the Chief Minister said he travelled to Hubballi to personally cheer the team as they move towards sealing a historic victory. "I am in Hubballi to cheer the J&K cricket team as they seal a historic win. There hasn't been a single day in this five-day final when the team has not dominated the opposition," he remarked.

The Chief Minister arrived in Karnataka on Friday evening to lend his support to the team in what is being hailed as a landmark chapter in the sporting history of Jammu & Kashmir. With hopes, prayers, and unwavering support from across the region, the team is poised to clinch the prestigious title in their maiden appearance in the final of India's premier domestic cricket championship.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq, and the Administrator J&K Cricket Association accompanied the Chief Minister.

If victorious, it will mark Jammu & Kashmir's first-ever Ranji Trophy triumph, a monumental achievement that reflects the growing stature and resilience of cricketing talent from the region.

### Politicians, former.....

politicians and others congratulated Jammu

and Kashmir cricket team for winning its maiden Ranji Trophy title by defeating eight-time champions Karnataka on Saturday.

The victory not only ended a 66-year wait but also triggered celebrations across the Union Territory, marking a defining chapter in J&K's sporting journey.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), ICC Chairperson Jay Shah wrote on X: "Congratulations to the Jammu & Kashmir team in India for scripting a remarkable story of grit and perseverance. While the players are fully deserving of the adulation they receive, one must also remember the contribution of the coaching staff, management and administrators from J&K who have toiled behind the scenes to fashion this landmark achievement. I am sure that this win will ignite belief in the hearts of the current generation from the region and drive the next one to pick up a bat or ball. Our sport is rich with such stories of inspiration from around the world and I hope this one also receives its fair share of admiration."

"Heartiest Congratulations to J&K Cricket Team for winning its maiden Ranji Trophy at Hubli today...it is a classic instance of how well the game of cricket is spread across India despite challenging conditions. Relentless efforts of BCCI & its former Secretary & present ICC Chair Mr @JayShah's vision laid the roadmap, through a 3- members Sub- Committee in place since June, 21 till date to manage cricket activities, has made the glorious success possible... Indian Cricket continues to flourish!" Devajit LON Saikia secretary BCCI said in a post on 'X'.

Legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar described the journey as "beautiful," highlighting the team's consistency and resilience, and singling out Auqib Nabi's standout performance.

"The Kashmir willows have been a part of many champions' kits. To see Jammu & Kashmir's journey from being an enabler of champions, to becoming champions themselves, is beautiful.

The season was built on consistency, resilience, and season-long excellence. Auqib Nabi's impact with the ball stood out in a demanding campaign. A historic moment for the team, coaches, and support staff. Journeys like these define the beauty of domestic cricket," said Tendulkar on 'X'.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh and several other leaders also extended their congratulations, calling the victory a proud moment for the entire nation. "You made it boys! You've made history!

Heartiest congratulations to the #JammuAndKashmir cricket team for this remarkable Ranji Trophy victory. You have not only made everyone proud but also vindicated the trust reposed in you by your selectors and vindicated also the departure from the past considerations that determined the earlier selections," he said in a post on 'X'.

Jammu and Kashmir Police in its congratulatory message said,

"J&K cricket team has made everyone proud."

The Awami Ithihaad Party (AIP), through its Chief Spokesperson Inam Un Nabi, termed the achievement a "defining moment" for J&K's youth. The party noted that the victory reflects the resilience and talent of young cricketers and called for further investment in sports infrastructure and grassroots development.

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCC&I) also hailed the triumph as a moment of immense pride. The Chamber stressed that the success demonstrates the importance of merit-based selection and professional governance in sports.

KCC&I urged authorities to upgrade key sporting venues such as Sher-i-Kashmir Stadium, Polo Ground, Bakshi Stadium, and other district-level facilities, emphasizing the need for world-class infrastructure to nurture emerging talent.

Former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti

described the triumph as a "rare moment of joy" and a powerful symbol of unity, noting that the team's diverse composition reflects the strength of collective effort.

"Today's stupendous success of the Jammu & Kashmir in the Ranji Trophy has given the people a rare moment of joy after a long time. This victory is also a powerful reply to those forces that seek to divide our society on religious lines. The triumph was made possible by the united effort of a team made up of both Hindu and Muslim players proving once again that unity is our greatest strength. Together we rise, together we succeed, and today's win is a reminder to the world that the spirit of J&K can never be broken." Mehbooba said in a post on 'X'.

Other political leaders, including Sajad Lone and Altaf Bukhari, also congratulated the team, calling the victory a long-awaited achievement and a source of pride for every citizen of Jammu & Kashmir.

"Jammu and Kashmir finally are the champions of cricket in the country. Congratulations to the team. Congratulations to the team management. And congratulations to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. What a long wait it has been." Said PC president Sajad Lone on 'X'.

"Heartfelt greetings to Team J&K for winning their first-ever Ranji Trophy title. This remarkable triumph marks a historic milestone not only for the team but for the entire people of the Union Territory. This is truly a moment of celebration and pride, representing a historic achievement. I congratulate each and every member of the team, as well as everyone who played a role in this tremendous victory.

May this historic accomplishment be the beginning of many more successes in the years to come." Said Altaf Bukhari, President Apni Party on X

Heartiest Congratulations to our Jammu & Kashmir team on winning the Ranji Trophy Final. Our team has made the entire Jammu Kashmir proud with their hard work and determination. This historic victory belongs to every citizen of J&K. Proud moment for all of us!" said LOP Sunil Sharma in a post on 'X'.

Having made their debut in India's premier domestic competition nearly seven decades ago, Jammu & Kashmir had come close to glory in previous seasons but never crossed the final hurdle—until now.

This historic win not only places J&K firmly on India's cricketing map but also serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for thousands of aspiring sportspersons across the region.

Hakeem Yaseen President of the People's Democratic Front (PDF) congratulated the Jammu and Kashmir cricket team for scripting history by lifting the Ranji Trophy title for the first time in the Union Territory's history.

In a statement issued here, Hakeem Yaseen termed the victory as a "landmark moment" for Jammu and Kashmir's sporting fraternity and said the triumph would inspire generations of young cricketers across the region.

Former J&K Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad in his congratulatory message wrote on X: "A triumph of talent, grit and discipline that makes the entire nation proud. May this be the first of many such achievements."—(KNO)



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CMYK



## ₹666 Cr worth claims receives approval under PMJAY-SEHAT

Chief Secy favours robust claim scrutiny for swift disbursements

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, FEB 28:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired the 11th Governing Council Meeting of the State Health Agency (SHA) to review the progress and performance registered under PMJAY-Sehat under the current Policy Stage which commenced on April 17, 2025.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, H&ME; Secretary, IT; Secretary, RDD; Secretary, L&E; DG, Codes; CEO, SHA; Principal, GMC Jammu and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for putting in place a robust and foolproof mechanism to weed out fake or fraudulent claims received by the State Health Agency. He stressed that safeguarding the integrity of the scheme is paramount to ensuring that the benefits reach genuine beneficiaries.

The Chief Secretary further underscored the importance of instituting an effective third-party monitoring mechanism to strengthen oversight and accountability. He observed that



such independent scrutiny would play a vital role in ensuring that only genuine claims under PMJAY-SEHAT are processed and disbursed by the agency in a timely and transparent manner.

While highlighting the performance of SHA the CEO, Ananth Dwivedi informed that the scheme has registered substantial utilisation across public and private healthcare institutions, reflecting enhanced access to cashless treatment for beneficiaries across Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the details presented during the meeting, it was revealed that from April 17, 2025 to February 25, 2026, a total of 3,52,563 pre-authorizations have

been approved under this policy term. Of these, 2,43,967 approvals were accorded to public hospitals and 1,08,596 approvals to private hospitals, demonstrating significant participation from both sectors.

In financial terms, the total amount of pre-authorizations approved during the period stands at Rs. 666.34 Cr, with Rs. 444.75 Cr accounted for by public institutions and Rs. 221.59 Cr by private hospitals.

The Governing Council was further apprised that 3,23,468 claims have been submitted so far, including 2,21,642 claims from public hospitals and 1,01,826 claims from private hospitals. The

total value of claims submitted amounts to Rs. 604.46 crore, with public sector claims accounting for Rs. 395.36 Cr and private sector claims for Rs. 209.10 Cr.

In terms of claim settlement, 1,16,667 claims have been paid to date including 85,570 claims in the public sector and 31,097 claims in the private sector thereby translating into a total disbursement of Rs. 183.09 Cr. Of this, Rs. 123.86 Cr has been released to public hospitals and Rs. 59.23 Cr to private healthcare providers.

The meeting was also informed that 28,631 claims have been rejected after due scrutiny, comprising 27,110 claims from public

institutions and 1,521 claims from private hospitals. The total amount associated with rejected claims stands at Rs. 55.58 crore, including Rs. 52.19 crore in the public sector and Rs. 3.39 crore in the private sector.

It was highlighted that the total pre-authorization amount of Rs. 666.34 crore has been achieved over a period of 315 days (April 17, 2025 to February 16, 2026). On a pro-rata basis, the projected pre-authorization outgo for the full 365-day policy period is estimated to reach approximately Rs. 772 crore, indicating sustained demand and growing trust in the scheme.

The Governing Council underscored the importance of timely claim processing, strengthened monitoring mechanisms, and enhanced coordination between public and private healthcare institutions to ensure seamless delivery of benefits to eligible beneficiaries. The performance under the current policy period reflects the continued commitment of the State Health Agency towards providing financial risk protection and expanding quality healthcare access across Jammu and Kashmir.

## Major Drive Against Encroachments on NH-444 in Kulgam

■ FAROOQ RATHER

**KULGAM, FEB 28:** The District Administration Kulgam on Saturday carried out a major anti-encroachment-cum-demolition drive along the busy National Highway-444 at the Pahloo area of the district, removing several illegal structures raised on government land.

The drive was conducted under the directions of



the Collector NH-444 (Additional Deputy Commissioner) Kulgam and was spearheaded by the Tehsildar Pahloo Showkat Ahmad (JKAS). The operation was executed with active assistance from the Station House Officer (SHO) Devsar Masood Ahmad and officials of the Revenue Department, Police Department, and other concerned line departments.

During the enforcement action, multiple unauthorized encroachments along the highway stretch were dismantled. Authorities also demolished a residential structure constructed on the roadside, which officials said had been raised in violation of land norms.

Officials stated that the encroachments were obstructing public land, causing inconvenience to commuters and local residents, and posing potential safety risks along the highway corridor. The clearance of the encroachments is expected to improve traffic movement and ensure better management of public property. Adequate police deployment was made at the site to maintain law and order during the operation. The drive was carried out in a planned and coordinated manner to prevent any untoward incident and ensure smooth execution of the demolition process.

Meanwhile, the district administration has issued a stern appeal to individuals who have illegally occupied government land to voluntarily remove all unauthorized structures without delay. Officials warned that strict legal action, including demolition and penalties as per law, will be initiated against those who fail to comply with the directives.

The administration further informed that anti-encroachment drives will continue across various parts of the district with full intensity in the coming days, reiterating its commitment to safeguarding public property, maintaining transparency in land management, and upholding the rule of law.

## Bihar-Based Cyber Fraudster Charge-Sheeted for ₹41,000 NOC Scam in Srinagar

Crime Branch Kashmir tracks accused through digital trail, recovers defrauded amount

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, FEB 28:** The Cyber Crime Investigation Centre for Excellence (CICE) of Crime Branch Kashmir has filed a charge-sheet against a Bihar-based cyber fraudster for allegedly duping a Srinagar resident of Rs. 41,000 on the pretext of arranging a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Haryana for re-registration of a private vehicle.

Officials said the case was registered as FIR No. 01/2023 at Police Station CICE following a complaint that the victim had been cheated after okbeing promised facilitation of the required NOC. The accused allegedly convinced the complainant that he could secure the document and demanded Rs. 41,000, which was subsequently transferred to his bank account.

During investigation, the accused was identified as Anil Kumar, son of Indal Singh, a resident of village Patanwan Samardihan, Sasaram, Bihar. Investigators found that he had fabricated Know Your Customer (KYC) documents to open a bank account in Delhi and procure a SIM card, projecting a false Delhi address to evade law enforcement.

Despite initial difficulties in tracing him at the



address reflected in the documents, Crime Branch officials said technical surveillance and digital analysis established that he was actually residing in Bihar and had intentionally forged his credentials to escape detection.

The defrauded amount of Rs. 41,000 was successfully recovered and refunded to the victim.

On February 28, 2026, the charge-sheet was presented before the Court of 2nd Additional Munsif, Srinagar, for judicial determination.

Reiterating its commitment to curb cybercrime, CICE said it remains determined to identify and prosecute fraudsters, even when they attempt to conceal their identities through fabricated documentation and digital manipulation.

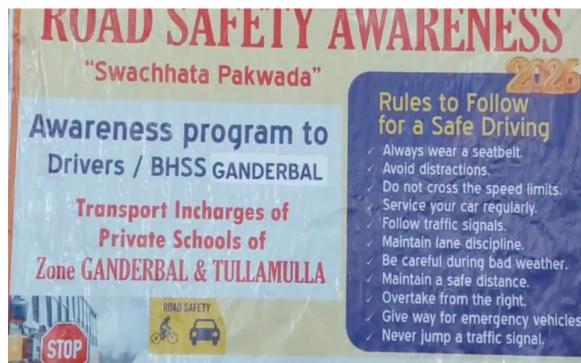
## A one-day Awareness program for Transport In-Charges and Drivers of Private schools of Ganderbal held at BHSS Ganderbal

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL, FEB 28:** A One-Day Awareness Programme for "Transport In-charges and Drivers of Private Schools of Zone Ganderbal and Tullamulla" was organized by the "Chief Education Office Ganderbal" under the recommendations of the "Honourable Supreme Court of India and the approved Road Safety Activity Schedule.

The programme commenced with a warm welcome and insightful keynote address by "Mr. Gulzar Ahmad Khan, Principal BHSS Ganderbal", who philosophically emphasized that the safety of children on roads is not merely a statutory obligation but a moral responsibility shared by every stakeholder in the education ecosystem.

The technical session was addressed by "Mr. Syed Arif, ARTO Ganderbal", who deliberated in detail on motor vehicle rules, safety standards, and compliance mechanisms. The latest circulars and directions issued by the "Directorate of School Education Kashmir" were comprehensively briefed by the well-versed resource person "Mr. Gh. Rasool Dar, Principal BHSS Khalmulla", enabling partici-



pants to clearly understand their legal and ethical responsibilities.

The proceedings were eloquently anchored by the renowned Anchor "Mohammad Lateef Khan", ensuring a coherent and engaging flow of deliberations. The programme witnessed active participation of officers and officials from the Motor Vehicles Department, along with "transport in-charges and drivers of private schools from Zones Ganderbal and Tullamulla."

A dedicated interactive session was

held at the end, wherein participants raised pertinent questions and registered their genuine demands and suggestions, reflecting collective concern for student safety and disciplined transport management.

The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks presented by "Mr. Nazir Ahmad, District Coordinator CEW", who expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, resource persons, and participants for their meaningful contributions towards nurturing a culture of road safety and responsibility.

## Tehsil Office Budgam Bids Farewell to Bashir Ahmad Parray senior assistant on Retirement

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM, FEB 28:** The Tehsil Office Budgam today bid a warm and respectful farewell to Mr. Bashir Ahmad Parray, Senior Assistant, on the occasion of his superannuation after rendering long and dedicated service in the Revenue Department. His retirement marks the conclusion of a remarkable career defined by honesty, punctuality, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to public service.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Parray earned a reputation as a sincere and hardworking official who discharged his duties with utmost responsibility and integrity. Known for his disciplined work ethic, he maintained exemplary punctuality and professionalism, setting a high standard for colleagues and junior staff alike. His dedication towards office responsibilities and his calm approach to administrative matters made him an invaluable asset to the Tehsil Office Budgam.

One of the most appreciated aspects of his service was his



ability to handle sensitive land-related family disputes with patience and wisdom. Many citizens approached him with complex issues, and through his balanced judgment and empathetic understanding, he helped resolve numerous matters amicably within the office framework. His fair and impartial

approach earned him immense respect among the public as well as officials.

Colleagues describe Mr. Parray as a humble and cooperative person who always extended guidance and support to others. His positive attitude and willingness to assist made him not only a dependable officer but also a

respected mentor within the department. His presence fostered harmony in the workplace, and he remained approachable to everyone regardless of rank or position.

On this occasion, Tehsildar Budgam, Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad Badoo, along with officers and staff members, extended heartfelt

appreciation for Mr. Parray's dedicated services. They acknowledged his valuable contribution to the functioning of the office and praised his honesty, humility, and commitment towards resolving public grievances efficiently.

In his farewell message, the Tehsildar wished Mr. Parray good health, happiness, and a peaceful post-retirement life, expressing confidence that his legacy of sincerity and service will continue to inspire future generations of employees.

The staff members also conveyed their warm regards and best wishes, stating that his guidance, wisdom, and friendly nature will be deeply missed. His retirement leaves behind a legacy of integrity, mutual respect, and devoted public service that will long be remembered in the Tehsil Office Budgam.

The gathering concluded with collective prayers and best wishes for a happy, healthy, and fulfilling life ahead for Mr. Bashir Ahmad Parray as he begins a new chapter after decades of commendable service.

# Div Com Kashmir conducts City Tour; Inspects E-Bus Charging Stations

## Reviews Riverfront Proposal at Habakadal

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, FEB 28:** Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Saturday undertook an extensive tour of Srinagar city to review the progress of ongoing developmental works at various locations.

He was accompanied by Commissioner SMC/CEO SSCL, General Manager SRTC, Deputy Director Planning (DDP), and other senior revenue officers.

During the visit, the Divisional Commissioner inspected the e-bus charging station at Zoonimar, Soura, and assessed the status of the ongoing works. He was informed that the facility is expected to be commissioned by March 15.

He directed the concerned officers to evaluate the operational impact of the charging station, particularly in terms of service efficiency, traffic decongestion, circulation management, and public convenience.

The Divisional Commissioner



also reviewed the construction of residential houses being developed for eight families from Habakadal at a nearby site and stressed timely completion of the project.

While visiting the proposed site for an additional e-bus charging station at Hazratbal, he instructed the CEO, Srinagar Smart City, to prepare detailed site drawings and examine the feasibility of the project in consultation with the Vice Chairman, LCMA.

Taking note of the deteriorating condition of the Habakadal Foot Bridge, the Divisional Commissioner directed the CEO SSCL to consult local representatives and expedite necessary renovation measures.

He further inspected the proposed riverfront development project at Habakadal near the ghat, which aims to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the area and facilitate water transport infrastructure.

## DC Srinagar kick starts free HPV vaccination campaign for Girls Aged 14-15 Years at UPHC Batamaloo

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 28:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroon Saturday launched Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for girls aged 14-15 Years as a part of nationwide campaign to prevent incidences of cervical cancer among young women here at UPHC Batamaloo.

Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tahir Sajad; District Health Officer, Dr Rubeena; Zonal Medical Officer, Batmaloo, Dr Sameena; ZMO SR Gunj, Dr Shafiq; Medical Superintendent Government Gousia Hospital, Dr Arshid, other senior health functionaries and other concerned were present on the occasion.



Speaking at the launch event, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of early vaccination in protecting adolescent girls against HPV infections, which are a leading cause of cervical cancer. He stated that cervical cancer remains one of the most preventable yet prevalent cancers affecting women, and that timely immunization can significantly reduce long-term health risks.

Emphasizing coordinated efforts, the DC urged parents, guardians, school authorities and healthcare workers to ensure maximum participation and coverage across the district. He directed health officials to meticulously follow the laid-down guidelines and adopt a systematic approach to identify and take awareness to all eligible girls in the target age group, ensuring effective and time-bound implementation of the campaign.

During the launch event, the DC was informed that about 13,700 HPV vaccine doses have been arranged for Srinagar district. They also apprised the DC of the arrangements regarding vaccine storage, logistics and cold chain management to ensure smooth implementation of the campaign.

## HPV Vaccination Drive launched at DH Bandipora

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 28:** The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Drive was today launched at District Hospital Bandipora as part of the nationwide campaign aimed at protecting adolescent girls against cervical cancer.

The drive was formally inaugurated by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zafar Husson Shawl, in the presence of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Bandipora, Dr. Nisar Ahmad Ganaie, Block Medical Officer (BMO) Bandipora.

Medical Superintendent District Hospital Bandipora and other health officials, doctors and paramedical staff. On the occasion, vaccination shots were administered to eligible girls by the health officials, marking the formal commencement of the drive in the district.



Speaking during the programme, the ADC highlighted the significance of the HPV vaccination in preventing cervical cancer and emphasized the importance of ensuring maximum coverage under the campaign.

He urged parents and guardians to cooperate with the Health Department and bring eligible girls to nearby health institutions to avail the free vaccination facility.

The CMO Bandipora informed that the vaccination drive targets girls aged 14 years but below 15 years and will be conducted across all health institutions in the district in a phased manner. He further stated that the drive is scheduled to continue for a period of three months to ensure coverage of all eligible beneficiaries.

The Health Department called upon the public to actively participate in the programme to safeguard the health of adolescent girls.

## HPV Vaccination Campaign kicks off in Budgam

### DC leads from Charar-i-Sharief area

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM, FEBRUARY 28:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan today launched the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Campaign against cervical cancer from Charar-i-sharief marking a major initiative toward safeguarding adolescent girls from cervical cancer in the district.

The initiative, launched under the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji aims to vaccinate girls up to the age of 14

years, thereby significantly reducing the risk of cervical cancer later in life.

The DC emphasised that the campaign reflects the administration's strong commitment to preventive healthcare and the promotion of women's health. He informed that a large number of beneficiaries will be covered across Budgam district through a well-coordinated mechanism involving multiple vaccination centres established at Government Medical Colleges, District Hospitals, Community Health Centres, and Primary Health

Centres to ensure smooth and effective implementation.

Highlighting the importance of early vaccination, the DC urged parents, teachers, and community leaders to actively support the initiative and ensure maximum participation.

He also stressed the vital role of the Education department and Anganwadi workers in spreading awareness and facilitating outreach at the grassroots level.

On the occasion, the DC also inspected the overall facilities SDH charar-i-sharief.

## DC Budgam chairs introductory sectoral meeting with officers of District Administration

### Emphasised timely completion of development works, prompt redressal of public grievances

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM, FEBRUARY 28:** After assuming charge as Deputy Commissioner of Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired an introductory sectoral meeting with all district and sectoral officers to take stock of ongoing developmental works and governance mechanisms across the district. Besides, ADC Budgam, CPO Budgam, ACR Budgam, CEO, CMO, SDMs, Tehsildars, BDOs, Executive Officers of Municipal Committees, and sectoral heads from departments including Rural Development, Health, Education, PDD, PHE, R&B, PMGSY, Irrigation & Flood Control, Social Welfare, Cooperatives, and NRLM were present in the meeting.

In a comprehensive sector-wise review, the DC held threadbare discussions on departmental performance, project progress, and implementation status of key

government schemes. He directed all executing agencies to strictly adhere to the set timelines for completion of projects and ensure quality standards are met.

Underscoring the significance of community involvement, the DC said that public participation in both planning and implementation of developmental initiatives is vital for achieving inclusive progress.

He directed that all eligible beneficiaries must receive benefits under government schemes within the stipulated timelines.

The DC stressed the need for real-time monitoring and regular structural reviews of major infrastructure projects to eliminate delays and bottlenecks.

Emphasizing e-governance, the DC directed concerned officers to ensure delivery of all online services within the timeframe specified under the Public Services



Guarantee Act.

He further instructed departments to organize special outreach camps to provide doorstep services and raise awareness about various welfare schemes.

The DC called upon officers to uphold transparency, accountability, and integrity in their official conduct, emphasizing that public trust is the cornerstone of good governance.

The DC stressed that effective coordination and cooperation among all departments is imperative to ensure efficient service delivery and successful implementation of developmental initiatives. He concluded with a strong message to all officials that "Work for the people, in whatever capacity you serve. Keep your office doors open, be accessible, so that prosperity reaches even the last individual in the remotest village of Budgam".

## DC Ganderbal launches HPV Vaccination Campaign at District Hospital

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 28:** The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Campaign was today formally launched at District Hospital Ganderbal by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore.

The campaign was launched as part of the nationwide rollout of the programme inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister from Rajasthan.

This program marks a significant step towards protecting adolescent girls from cervical cancer, which is the second most common cancer among women in India and is often caused by persistent infection with the Human Papillomavirus (HPV).

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the importance of preventive healthcare and said



that vaccination remains one of the most effective ways to safeguard the health and future of young girls. He urged parents, guardians and community leaders to actively support the campaign and ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive the vaccine within the stipulated timeframe.

Chief Medical Officer Ganderbal informed that all necessary preparatory measures have been completed to ensure smooth implementation of the programme. He stated that comprehensive line-listing of the target age group has been carried out, followed by block-wise verification to ensure accurate coverage.

He also informed that capacity building and orientation sessions for healthcare workers have also been conducted to equip them with the required knowledge and skills for effective service delivery.

CMO further apprised that adequate vaccine stocks have been arranged and proper cold chain mechanisms are in place to maintain vaccine safety and effectiveness. Regular monitoring and supervision will be undertaken throughout the campaign period to ensure

quality implementation and timely reporting.

A total of 11 vaccination sites have been identified across the district to facilitate easy access for beneficiaries. District Hospital Ganderbal will serve as the primary centre for the drive.

The DC appealed to all eligible girls in the target age group to come forward and get vaccinated within the campaign period. He stressed that collective community participation will be key to the success of the programme and to building a healthier future for women in the district.

Chief Medical Officer Ganderbal, Bashir Ahmad; Medical Superintendent District Hospital Ganderbal, Dr Farah; health department officials, doctors, paramedical staff and members of the public were present at the launch ceremony.

## ADDC reviews implementation of Mission YUVA in Kulgam District

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM, FEBRUARY 28:** A comprehensive review meeting of Mission YUVA was convened under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan today to assess the progress and strategize measures for further strengthening the implementation of the programme in the district.

The meeting was attended by the SDM DH Pora, Sub Registrar Kulgam, and other concerned district and sectoral officers.

A threadbare discussion was held regarding the physical and financial progress achieved so far under Mission YUVA, identification of bottlenecks, and measures required to accelerate the pace of implementation.

During the meeting, the ADDC emphasized the importance of coordinated

efforts among all departments to ensure effective outreach and timely disposal of cases under the scheme. Stress was laid on expediting verification processes, facilitating eligible beneficiaries, and enhancing awareness at the grassroots level so that maximum youth can avail benefits under the programme.

Officers were directed to intensify field-level monitoring, ensure prompt redressal of issues, and submit regular progress reports to this office.

The chair underscored that Mission YUVA is a vital initiative aimed at empowering youth through self-employment and entrepreneurship, and all stakeholders must work with dedication to achieve tangible outcomes.

The meeting concluded with a resolve to further streamline procedures and significantly improve the overall progress of Mission YUVA in the district.

# Sakeena Itoo inaugurates HDU at District Hospital Kulgam

Says roll-out of HDU a landmark development to improve critical care services across Kulgam district

HT NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM, FEBRUARY 28:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today inaugurated the High Dependency Unit (HDU) at District Hospital Kulgam reaffirming the government's commitment to enhancing accessible and quality healthcare services at the grassroots level.

Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, Shahzad Alam; CMO Kulgam, senior officers of district administration and other concerned officers were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Health Minister highlighted the Government's focused approach to upgrade district-level healthcare institutions with modern facilities and trained manpower. "Operationalisation of this HDU marks a major milestone in strengthening the secondary healthcare framework in Kulgam district and adjoining areas", she stated.

The Minister underlined that the HDU will act as an essential bridge between ICU and routine inpatient services, ensuring timely intervention and



improved patient outcomes. She added that this facility will provide enhanced monitoring and treatment for patients who require higher care.

"HDU facility will significantly strengthen emergency and critical care services at the hospital by reducing referrals to tertiary care institutions and ensuring

stabilization of critically ill patients within the district Kulgam", the Health Minister said.

Minister Sakeena further said that the establishment and functioning of HDU at District Hospital Kulgam reflects the commitment of Omar Abdullah led Government to enhance secondary healthcare services,

improve patient safety and provide accessible, quality care to people near their vicinities.

"Upgrading healthcare infrastructure in rural and semi-urban regions remains Government's top priority, with sustained investments being made to bridge gaps in service delivery", the Minister said.

The Minister, on the occasion, also interacted with the doctors and paramedical staff, and sought detailed and urgent requirements at the hospital. She also interacted with the patients and took feedback from them about the healthcare services being provided at the DH Kulgam.

Pertinently, the roll-out of HDU at DH Kulgam marks a landmark development in improving the critical care services across the district.

The HDU is equipped with advanced monitoring systems including multipara monitors, oxygen supply, suction apparatus, infusion pumps, defibrillator, and emergency resuscitation equipment.

The unit will cater to patients with serious medical and surgical conditions like severe infections, respiratory distress, cardiac ailments, post-operative cases requiring close observation, obstetric complications and other high-risk conditions.

The HDU is staffed by trained medical officers, nursing personnel, and paramedical staff who will provide round-the-clock monitoring and prompt management of patients requiring advanced care.

## ADDC Shopian reviews Mission YUVA in district

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 28:** On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta, a review-cum-interaction meeting under Mission YUVA was held here today at Mini-Secretariat Shopian under the chairmanship of the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone.

The meeting focused on reviewing the progress of ongoing activities under Mission YUVA at the subdivision level, identifying key challenges and discussing measures to enhance efficiency and coordination among stakeholders.



Officers briefed the chair on the status of implementation, highlighting achievements, pending cases at the bank level and field-level constraints.

The ADDC stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination and robust monitoring mechanisms to ensure that the intended benefits reach the public.

He assured full institutional support from the district administration and highlighted the need for youth-led development and community participation to build a strong entrepreneurship ecosystem in the district.

Directions were issued to the concerned bank representatives to prioritize the sanctioning and disbursement of cases.

Newly recruited SBDU and BHD members were welcomed and emphasized the critical role they play in the effective execution of Mission YUVA. The interaction session provided a platform for open discussion, during which participants shared suggestions and feedback aimed at enhancing grassroots outreach.

The meeting was attended by ACR, Shakoor Ahmed Dar; Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Zainapora, Bilal Ahmed, officers from the Employment Department, NRLM, bank representatives and newly recruited SBDU and BHD members.

## SWD Shopian organises awareness programme for senior citizens under AVAY at Keller

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 28:** Social Welfare Department (SWD) Shopian today organised sensitization and awareness programme for senior citizens under Atal Vayo abhyudaya yojna (AVAY) at Tehsil office, Keller.



Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Shopian, Naib Tehsildar Keller, Administrator, OSC, Shopian and Case Worker OSC, Shopian addressed the gathering and provided comprehensive awareness regarding the schemes and assistance extended by the Department of Social Welfare including all pension schemes for eligible beneficiaries.

Awareness session was conducted on the functioning of One Stop Centre (OSC) Shopian to disseminate information about OSC support services for women. Pamphlets of OSC were distributed among women participants for general awareness.

The programme concluded with an interactive session encouraging participants to avail themselves of the welfare measures implemented for the protection and empowerment of vulnerable sections of society including elderly.

## DC Baramulla holds introductory Media Interaction

HT NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 28:** Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, S. F. Hamid, today held an introductory interaction meeting with media persons from across the district here at the DC Office meeting hall.

Speaking during the meeting, the DC emphasized that the media and the administration must work hand in hand in the larger interest of society, with a shared objective of ensuring responsive and people-centric



governance. The DC underscored that the media fraternity shall act as partner in the developmental journey of the district

and suggested media fraternity to actively disseminate information regarding various government welfare schemes and flagship programmes so that the benefits reach the intended beneficiaries. Speaking during the interaction, the speakers appreciated the DC for initiating a direct dialogue with the media at the outset of his tenure and assured full cooperation to the district administration in highlighting issues faced by the public, promoting transparency and the overall betterment of society.

# 44th NCORD meeting held in Budgam

HT NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM, FEBRUARY 28:** The 44th District-Level NCORD (Narco Coordination) Committee Meeting was today convened at the DC Office Budgam under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Athar Aamir Khan, along with SSP Budgam Nikhil Borkar, to review ongoing measures against drug abuse and to formulate fresh strategies for a drug-free Budgam.

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

At the outset, action taken on previous NCORD decisions was reviewed.

The chair was also apprised that 13 cases have been registered under NDPS, 01 under PIT-NDPS, 19 peddlers were arrested so far in this month in the District.

The DC said that drug abuse is not only a law enforcement challenge but a serious social problem affecting families and

communities. He emphasised that the fight against drugs must remain strict and uncompromising toward peddlers, traffickers, and cultivators, while being supportive and compassionate toward victims who require treatment and rehabilitation.

He said that a multi-pronged approach involving deterrence, enforcement, treatment, and mass awareness is essential. It was stressed that all line departments need to intensify efforts to curb narcotics cultivation and peddling. It was further stated that roads, embankments, and panchayat areas must be kept free from cannabis and poppy cultivation through coordinated efforts.

The DC appreciated the progress made so far but said that continuous, proactive, and visible action is required so that the public retains confidence in the administration's resolve.

Regarding drug regulation, the DC underlined the importance of 100% CCTV coverage and Computerized Billing Systems (CBS) in all chemist shops. He said that frequent inspections must continue and strict action be taken for any



violations. He also said that the Drug Inspector shall ensure footage, CBS to be provided by pharmacies to increase transparency.

The DC said that the Excise Department shall work in close coordination with Agriculture, Revenue and Police authorities for destruction of illicit crops and registration of FIRs.

SDMs were asked to hold meetings with religious scholars

and community stakeholders to encourage sermons against substance abuse and promote "Nasha-Mukt Panchayats."

It was also stated that the Rural Development Department shall organise special Gram Sabhas on drug abuse awareness, while the DSWO shall conduct mega IEC campaigns across villages, towns, and educational institutions.

The DC said that the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at District

Hospital Budgam must remain functional round-the-clock. He directed that the Drug De-Addiction Centre to be made fully functional for intake of patients requiring treatment.

The DC also said that all Degree Colleges in Budgam shall ensure installation of CCTV cameras within their campuses to strengthen preventive monitoring.

Reiterating the zero-tolerance stance, the DC said that the administration shall continue to act firmly against drug peddlers, cultivators, and traffickers, while extending full support to victims of addiction. He said that this campaign requires collective participation of government departments, civil society, community elders, teachers, parents, and religious scholars.

On the occasion, the SSP Budgam urged installation of CCTV cameras at identified hotspots in the district, including Nasrullapora, Chadoora, and Magam. He also emphasised close inter-departmental coordination and focused rehabilitation and counselling of drug addiction victims at the Drug De-Addiction Centre Budgam.

# Awareness Programs under PM Vishwakarma held in multiple districts

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 28:** Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, through the Branch MSME Development and Facilitation Office, Srinagar in association with the District Administration, organised one-day Awareness Programmes under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme across the districts of

Kulgam, Budgam, Srinagar, and Shopian for beneficiaries who had successfully completed third-stage verification. Officials from the District Administration, including Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian; Dr. Zahid Rashid Khan, Functional Manager, DIC Shopian; General Manager, DIC Budgam; Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Budgam; Assistant Commissioner

Panchayat Budgam; Principal, ITI Kulgam; IPO Kulgam; and other officials from the district administrations, underscored the significance of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme in empowering traditional artisans and crafts people by enhancing their skills, providing financial assistance, and facilitating market linkages. Mohammed Tariq Ishtiaq, IEDS, Assistant Director, Br. MSME DFO Srinagar, provided

insights into the objectives of the PM Vishwakarma Awareness Programme. He stated that the Ministry is committed to ensuring that the scheme's benefits reach every corner of the region and emphasized the capacity building of artisans through enhanced skills, modern tools, and improved market access. He highlighted that the scheme enables traditional artisans to transform their inherited skills into

sustainable enterprises and stressed the importance of digital empowerment and onboarding onto e-commerce platforms to enhance competitiveness.

An E-Commerce and Digital Marketing session was delivered by faculty members from Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST). The session focused on online marketing strategies, effective use of social media for brand promotion,

adoption of digital payment systems such as UPI, and onboarding onto various e-commerce platforms. The experts provided practical guidance to help participants expand their market reach, enhance customer outreach, and adopt technology-driven approaches for sustainable business growth. Financial Literacy sessions were conducted by the respective Cluster Heads

of the districts from Jammu & Kashmir Bank. They provided guidance on basic banking services, credit support available under the scheme, and responsible borrowing practices. They also emphasized the importance of secure digital transactions such as UPI and mobile banking, along with maintaining financial discipline and ensuring timely repayment for sustainable business growth. UNI

HT EDITORIAL

J&K cricket team achieves glory by winning Ranji Trophy

February 28, 2026 would go down as one of the glorious moments in the cricketing history of Jammu & Kashmir as the union territory team emerged victorious in the final of Ranji Trophy cricket tournament. It is for the first time that Jammu & Kashmir won the coveted Ranji Trophy cricket tourney. In the final match Jammu & Kashmir defeated Karnataka cricket team on the basis of first innings lead.

The Jammu & Kashmir victory was more significant since it came at Hubballi in Karnataka. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, chief minister Omar Abdullah, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Muffi and leaders across the political spectrum of Jammu & Kashmir congratulated the Jammu & Kashmir team for their great achievement in the Ranji Trophy cricket tournament. The Jammu & Kashmir cricket team was always looked upon as underdogs in the cricketing scenario of the country and nobody gave it a chance to win the coveted Ranji trophy.

It was a total team performance from the Jammu & Kashmir cricket team not only in the final match but throughout the tournament. The team performed exceptionally well both at the home and away venues. Some of the big heavyweights of Indian cricket were forced to bite the dust by the Jammu & Kashmir as the union territory team shocked one and all with their stupendous performance. The Jammu & Kashmir cricket team's great victory in the Ranji Trophy is likely to open fresh vistas in the cricketing scenario and more and youth would be inclined to take up cricket as a profession in their life.

In the final match players like Aquib Nabi, Qamran Iqbal, Yawar Hassan, Shubham Pundir, Abdul Samad, Kanhaiya Wadhawan, Sahil Lotra, Yudhvir Singh and Sunil Kumar played out of their skin so as to ensure that Jammu & Kashmir wins the Ranji Trophy for the first time around. The team captain Paras Dogra led from the front and braved all the odds while leading the team to cricketing glory. Despite suffering injuries on the first day, he came back to bat on the second day and posed a challenge to Karnataka.

Since the Jammu & Kashmir cricket team has won the Ranji Trophy for the first time it is imperative that the union territory government provides all the help to the members of the winning team. All the best to the cricket team for their future and one hopes that it would achieve greater heights in the years to come.

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Reopening of Schools



SAHIL MANZOOR

It is the moment to meet again what you left in the chilling cold of December. It is the moment to get back to school; it is the moment to get back to school. It is the time to meet again what you left in the chilling cold of December. It is the time to stick to the walls of the school. It is the time to make every missing friend joyful. It is the time to hear the bell ring and move out of the classes for the morning assembly. Every moment is different and joyful for you. Be ready for school.

Monday, 2nd March 2026, is going to be a day of witnessing when thousands of students will be seen on the roads and inside and outside the schools.

Reopening of Schools in the Kashmir Valley

Schools are places where the foundation of any nation is laid. A school is a garden where we can find all kinds of flowers with pleasant aromas. A school is a land where every blooming bud is nourished with love and care. A school is a home where every member enjoys and takes care of each other. A school is an orchard where fruits are grown with no expiration date. A school is a kitchen where a single dish is cooked for all colours, castes, and genders. A school is a place where no blooming bud has



any fear or threat. A school is like a tape recorder where the music is heart-touching and soothing to everyone. A school is a cafeteria where every child enjoys the coffee of success and happiness.

"School" is one of the most common words throughout the world. Every individual has affection for school, is well aware of their basic schooling, and remembers all the events that occurred during their school days. Every country emphasizes upgrading school buildings, infrastructure, staff, and everything that a full-fledged school should have. Today, every individual knows the importance of education. For me, there is no alternative to education. Education has changed the fate of nations. Where there is more literacy, there are more powerful and great personalities.

Actually, our mind is like a cotton ball, where every microscopic part has the potential to carry a gallery of

information. By getting educated, we know our potential, we know our value, we understand each other's standards, and we learn what is right and wrong. So, this is something interesting I have shared with you through this medium.

In this article, I am going to share some interesting facts about our schools in the valley and discuss important points regarding the resumption of school after winter vacation. As we know, the Kashmir Valley lies in the extreme northern part, so we experience cold and harsh winters here. However, I like all the seasons in the Kashmir Valley throughout the year.

With the arrival of autumn every year, the face of Kashmir changes due to the falling of leaves from the trees. With the arrival of December, the outlook of homes and people changes because of the cold wave. Every individual wants to cover themselves

from head to toe to avoid the cold wave and common colds, fevers, and coughs. With each passing day since December, we observe the addition of heating appliances in homes, offices, and other places.

It has always been a concern for the authorities to safeguard school-going children from the cold wave. They have to leave their homes early in the morning to go to school, and many schools do not have proper heating arrangements. In some areas of the Kashmir Valley, heating appliances are not sufficient due to the extremely chilly weather. Every parent, teacher, and government authority is concerned about the blooming buds and ensures all possible measures to tackle such situations.

Winter vacation in the Kashmir Valley remains from December to March for middle-level classes, and educational institutions close their classwork phase-wise. One interesting thing is that the government administration is taking impressive steps toward the education sector. Schools are opening from 2nd March 2026. Every student looks joyful while meeting friends again, with excitement on their faces.

The school administration made all necessary arrangements prior to the reopening of schools, such as snow clearance, cleaning the school surroundings and classrooms, decorating the school, and keeping everything ready to welcome the children with charming smiles.

I welcome all the students back to their schools and salute the entire teaching fraternity for their efforts.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Paradox of the Parent

Human life is a three-act play, yet the final act is increasingly defined by isolation. As modern priorities shift, the very parents who sacrificed everything often find themselves treated as secondary choices.



BY MOOL RAJ

The trajectory of human existence follows a predictable arc from the vulnerability of childhood to the vigor of youth and eventually into the fragility of old age. It is a biological certainty that we begin our lives in a state of absolute dependence, relying on the tireless devotion of parents who sacrifice their own comfort, health, and financial security to ensure our survival. Yet, as the wheels of time turn, a disturbing and heart-wrenching paradox has taken root in our modern social fabric. The very individuals who were once the center of their parents' universe often relegate those parents to the periphery of their lives once they reach adulthood. This shift in priorities represents one of the most pathetic issues thriving in contemporary society, where the transition from being a cherished child to a self-sufficient adult frequently results in the abandonment of filial responsibility.

When children marry and establish their own households, a visible transformation occurs in their hierarchy of needs. While it is natural for a new family to require focus, it is increasingly common for this change to result in the total displacement of the elderly. As each child moves away, the question of where and with whom the parents will live becomes a source of tension rather than a competition of love. We are witnessing a bleak reality where offspring show a pragmatic unwillingness to house the people who spent decades fulfilling their every whim. This reluctance is a deep betrayal of the unspoken contract of familial love. Parents who labored under the constraints of limited income to provide a limitless future for their children find themselves treated as burdens or strangers in the very homes they built.

The resulting loneliness is a quiet epidemic. In the twilight of their lives, when they have a wealth of experience to share and a desperate need for emotional connection, the elderly are often met with silence. Their children, consumed by the perceived "busyness" of modern life, offer excuses instead of presence. They claim that their careers and immediate families demand every waking second, yet the harsh truth is that no one is ever truly too busy; it is simply a matter of where parents rank on their list of priorities. It is a bitter irony that as toddlers, children will fight one another to claim



their parents' attention, but as adults, they fight to delegate the care of those same parents to someone else. This selfishness is often masked by the pace of the digital age, but the underlying neglect is a choice that reflects a profound moral decay.

We must also consider the cyclical nature of this behavior. By treating their parents as secondary choices, today's adults are effectively providing a masterclass in neglect for their own children. This world operates on the principle of retaliation; what you sow today, you will surely reap in the future. If a child grows up watching their father ignore their grandfather or seeing their mother treat a grandmother as an inconvenience, they are being programmed to replicate that same coldness. By the time today's "busy" professionals reach old age, they may find themselves on the receiving end of the same isolation they once imposed. It is a terrifying prospect that the current generation is architecting its own future loneliness through its present actions.

To address this crisis, there must be a fundamental return to the spiritual and ethical mandates that govern the parent-child relationship. In many faiths, and most explicitly in Islam, the status of parents is elevated to a level that demands absolute patience and reverence. Even when the dialogue of the elderly becomes repetitive or their needs become taxing, the

instruction is clear: do not utter a word of contempt, but remain quiet and listen with empathy. The promise of paradise is intrinsically linked to the treatment of one's parents, with the mother's feet serving as the gateway and the father as the door. This isn't merely religious dogma; it is a universal blueprint for a functional, compassionate society.

Conversely, history and daily observation show that success often follows those who honor their parents. Those who treat their elders with the dignity they deserve frequently witness a sense of peace and prosperity in their own lives. In contrast, those who treat their parents as disposable assets often face a different kind of destruction, characterized by internal unrest and a lack of true fulfillment. The prayers of a parent have a spiritual weight that can elevate a child's life to new heights, while their silent heartache can be a heavy anchor. True wellness in a society will only be achieved when children stop fighting over who has to take the parents and start fighting over the privilege of hosting them. We must foster a culture where there is always room in the heart, ensuring that the final segment of the human life cycle is defined by dignity rather than abandonment.

The author is a regular columnist and freelance writer

# The Magic of Modi Hug in Global Politics



■ DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

In Global Politics sometimes a gesture can change the whole political and diplomatic scenario. The phrase "Magical Modi Hug" became globally recognizable during the tenure of Narendra Modi, whose warm, spontaneous embraces of world leaders evolved into a distinctive gesture of Indian diplomacy. What might appear at first as a simple personal habit gradually assumed symbolic value in international relations. Unlike the restrained handshakes typical of formal diplomacy, Modi's hugs signaled emotional warmth, cultural confidence, and personal rapport. In India's civilizational ethos, physical gestures such as an embrace often signify trust, fraternity, and openness. Modi translated that cultural language onto the global stage. One of the earliest widely discussed moments occurred with Barack Obama during high-level bilateral meetings. The embrace communicated more than protocol—it suggested a shift from transactional engagement to personal camaraderie. Later, the gesture became even more talked about when Modi greeted Donald Trump with an enthusiastic hug during events like "Howdy Modi" in Houston. Trump publicly referred to him as a "friend," reinforcing the optics of personal chemistry between the two leaders.

In Israel, the hug diplomacy reached perhaps its most emotionally expressive form. Benjamin Netanyahu described Modi as "more than a friend, a brother." Their public embraces symbolized the historic deepening of ties between India and Israel, especially in defense, agriculture, and innovation sectors. The warmth between them suggested not merely strategic alignment but a narrative of shared democratic values and security concerns. Russia, too, witnessed the embrace. Vladimir Putin has shared visibly cordial moments with Modi. In a geopolitical climate often marked by tension, such gestures projected stability and long-term trust in Indo-Russian relations, especially in defense cooperation and energy partnerships. Critics sometimes dismissed the "Modi Hug" as theatrics. Diplomacy, they argue, rests on policy, not posture. Yet symbolism has always played a crucial role in statecraft. From Churchill's V-sign to Gandhi's spinning wheel, gestures often carry layered meaning. Modi's embrace became a visual shorthand for India's attempt to balance major powers while maintaining strategic autonomy.

The hug also humanized diplomacy in an era of rigid geopolitics. In a world frequently divided by ideological fault lines, images of leaders smiling and embracing created narratives of dialogue rather than discord. They projected India as confident, approachable, and emotionally expressive—qualities not traditionally associated with great-power diplomacy. At the same time, the gesture underscored Modi's personalized style of leadership. He often invests in leader-to-leader relationships, believing that personal trust can ease negotiations. Whether with American presidents, Israeli prime ministers, or Russian leadership, the embrace served as a bridge—symbolic but potent. The "Magical Modi Hug," therefore, is not merely about physical contact. It represents a larger diplomatic philosophy: warmth as strategy, symbolism as soft power, and personal rapport as an instrument of foreign policy. In a global arena frequently dominated by formal communiqués and strategic ambiguity, the hug became India's unmistakable visual signature—an emblem of friendship, fraternity, and geopolitical balancing.

Narendra Damodar Modi is a Best Friend to Putin in Russia. In America Trump called him "Friend," but Netanyahu in Israel called him "more than a friend, a Brother." He even praised the "Modi-Hug." These phrases, uttered in moments of diplomatic warmth and political theatre, encapsulate the curious phenomenon of personal diplomacy that has come to define much of Narendra Modi's global engagement. In an age marked by fractured alliances, ideo-



logical polarization, and geopolitical anxieties, Modi's relationships with leaders across rival power blocs reveal a distinctive strategy: to make friendship itself an instrument of statecraft. To understand the symbolism of these public declarations, one must first look to Russia, where Modi's rapport with Vladimir Putin has often been described in unusually personal terms. The Indo-Russian relationship predates Modi by decades, rooted in Cold War alignments when the Soviet Union stood by India on critical issues such as Kashmir and provided defense and technological assistance. Yet under Modi's tenure, the bond acquired a renewed intimacy. Putin has publicly referred to Modi as a "dear friend," and Modi has reciprocated with language that transcends bureaucratic diplomacy.

This closeness was tested after the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. As Western nations imposed sweeping sanctions on Moscow, India maintained a delicate balancing act. It neither endorsed Russia's military actions nor joined the sanctions regime. Instead, India emphasized dialogue and diplomacy, all while increasing purchases of discounted Russian oil to stabilize its own economy. Critics in the West questioned this stance, but from New Delhi's perspective, it was a pragmatic assertion of strategic autonomy. Modi's personal equation with Putin did not imply ideological alignment; rather, it allowed India to communicate candidly. The widely reported moment when Modi told Putin that "this is not an era of war" during a summit was emblematic of this approach—public candor rooted in private rapport. The defense dimension of the Indo-Russian partnership remains substantial. India continues to rely on Russian-origin military equipment, including advanced missile systems and fighter aircraft. Despite diversification efforts toward Western suppliers, the Russian connection remains critical. Here again, the friendship narrative provides a cushion against turbulence. In Moscow, Modi is seen not merely as a transactional partner but as a reliable interlocutor who respects Russia's historical contributions to India's security architecture.

Yet the Russian chapter is only one part of a broader story. If Putin symbolizes continuity with India's Cold War past, then Modi's relationship with Donald Trump signified a dramatic convergence with American populist nationalism. When Trump called Modi "friend," it was not casual rhetoric. The two leaders shared a performative style—mass rallies, emphatic nationalism, and a flair for spectacle. Events like the "Howdy Modi" gathering in Houston and the "Namaste Trump" rally in Ahmedabad showcased this chemistry before massive crowds. These spectacles were more than pageantry. They signaled the consolidation of a strategic partnership that has deepened steadily since the early 2000s. Under Modi and Trump, cooperation expanded in defense, intelligence sharing, and Indo-Pacific strat-

egy. The revival and strengthening of the Quad—bringing together India, the United States, Japan, and Australia—reflected shared concerns about China's assertiveness. Though the Quad's origins predated both leaders, its renewed vigor owed much to the alignment between New Delhi and Washington during this period. At the same time, Modi managed the inherent unpredictability of Trump's presidency. Trade tensions surfaced; disputes over tariffs and visa policies tested the relationship. Yet the personal warmth between the two leaders acted as a stabilizing force. Trump's public praise for Modi's leadership and popularity reinforced the perception that India had found not just a strategic partner in Washington, but an advocate in the White House.

With the transition to subsequent administrations in Washington, the personal dynamic inevitably shifted, but the structural partnership endured. This continuity underscores a crucial point: while Modi's friendships with leaders are highly visible, they are anchored in deeper institutional interests. The United States views India as a key counterweight to China and a democratic partner in the Indo-Pacific. India sees America as a source of technology, investment, and strategic leverage. Personal camaraderie amplifies these interests; it does not replace them.

If Russia represents legacy ties and America strategic convergence, Israel offers an example of emotional symbolism intertwined with realpolitik. Modi's bond with Benjamin Netanyahu has been particularly expressive. Netanyahu's description of Modi as "more than a friend—a brother" captured headlines. Their public embraces—the now-famous "Modi-Hug"—became visual shorthand for a transformed bilateral relationship. India's ties with Israel were historically cautious, shaped by solidarity with Palestine and domestic political considerations. Formal diplomatic relations were established only in 1992. Yet over the decades, cooperation quietly expanded in agriculture, water management, and defense technology. Under Modi, the relationship shed much of its earlier reticence. His 2017 visit to Israel—the first by an Indian Prime Minister—was deliberately de-hyphenated from Palestine, signaling a new confidence.

Netanyahu's effusive praise reflected not only personal warmth but also strategic convergence. Israel is a major supplier of defense equipment to India, including drones, missile systems, and surveillance technologies. Collaboration in innovation and cybersecurity has also intensified. For Israel, India represents a vast market and a friendly democracy in Asia. For India, Israel offers cutting-edge technology and a reliable security partner. Yet even here, Modi has maintained balance. India continues to support a two-state solution in international forums and has preserved relations with Arab nations. Indeed, Modi has simultaneously cultivated strong ties with Gulf states such as the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, securing ener-

gy supplies and investment commitments. The ability to be a "brother" to Netanyahu while also strengthening bonds with Israel's regional counterparts reflects a nuanced diplomacy that resists binary alignments.

The concept of friendship in Modi's diplomacy thus serves multiple purposes. It humanizes international relations in an era when institutions often appear distant and impersonal. It allows for candid conversations behind closed doors. It generates powerful imagery for domestic audiences, reinforcing the narrative of India's rising global stature. When foreign leaders publicly praise Modi, it resonates within India as validation of national pride. Critics argue that personal diplomacy can be precarious, especially when leadership changes occur. They caution against overreliance on individual chemistry at the expense of institutional depth. Yet Modi's record suggests an awareness of this risk. While cultivating personal bonds, his government has simultaneously embedded India in multilateral frameworks—from the Quad to BRICS and the G20. India's hosting of global summits and its emphasis on themes such as "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the world is one family) reflect an aspiration to transcend narrow alignments.

Moreover, Modi's friendships span ideological divides. Putin's centralized authority, Trump's populist conservatism, and Netanyahu's security-driven politics differ significantly from one another. That Modi has been able to maintain cordial relations with leaders across this spectrum indicates a pragmatic approach grounded in national interest rather than ideological affinity. India's foreign policy tradition, often described as strategic autonomy, finds contemporary expression in this network of personal ties. There is also a cultural dimension to consider. In Indian social life, personal relationships carry profound weight. Trust is often built not merely through contracts but through shared meals, gestures of respect, and symbolic acts. Modi's diplomatic style—embraces, first-name familiarity, references to shared heritage—translates this ethos onto the global stage. The "Modi-Hug," sometimes lampooned abroad, functions domestically as a metaphor for confidence and equality.

In Russia, America, and Israel, therefore, Modi's friendships represent more than episodic warmth. They symbolize India's attempt to navigate a multipolar world without being subsumed by any single pole. With Russia, India preserves a legacy partnership while urging restraint. With America, it advances a forward-looking strategic alignment. With Israel, it embraces technological collaboration while balancing regional sensitivities. The ultimate measure of these friendships lies not in rhetoric but in outcomes: sustained defense cooperation with Russia despite sanctions; expanding military exercises and technology transfers with the United States; deepening innovation and security ties with Israel. Each relationship has weathered

This closeness was tested after the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. As Western nations imposed sweeping sanctions on Moscow, India maintained a delicate balancing act. It neither endorsed Russia's military actions nor joined the sanctions regime. Instead, India emphasized dialogue and diplomacy, all while increasing purchases of discounted Russian oil to stabilize its own economy. Critics in the West questioned this stance, but from New Delhi's perspective, it was a pragmatic assertion of strategic autonomy. Modi's personal equation with Putin did not imply ideological alignment; rather, it allowed India to communicate candidly. The widely reported moment when Modi told Putin that "this is not an era of war" during a summit was emblematic of this approach—public candor rooted in private rapport.

challenges, suggesting resilience beyond personality alone. As global politics grow increasingly transactional and distrustful, the language of friendship may appear quaint. Yet in Modi's hands, it becomes a tool—flexible, symbolic, and strategic. To be called "friend" by Trump, "dear friend" by Putin, and "brother" by Netanyahu is not merely a matter of personal ego; it reflects India's centrality in contemporary geopolitics.

Narendra Damodar Modi's diplomacy thus invites both admiration and scrutiny. It demonstrates how personal rapport can coexist with strategic calculation. It shows that in the grand chessboard of nations, gestures matter alongside policies. And it suggests that in a fractured world, the vocabulary of friendship—when backed by national interest and institutional strength—can still shape the course of international relations. In Russia, in America, in Israel, the image of Modi as friend endures. Whether history ultimately judges these bonds as transformative or transient will depend on the unfolding currents of global power. But for now, the narrative stands: a leader who has made friendship a visible pillar of foreign policy, turning embraces into strategy and words of affection into instruments of statecraft.

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# Emotions and Mental Health

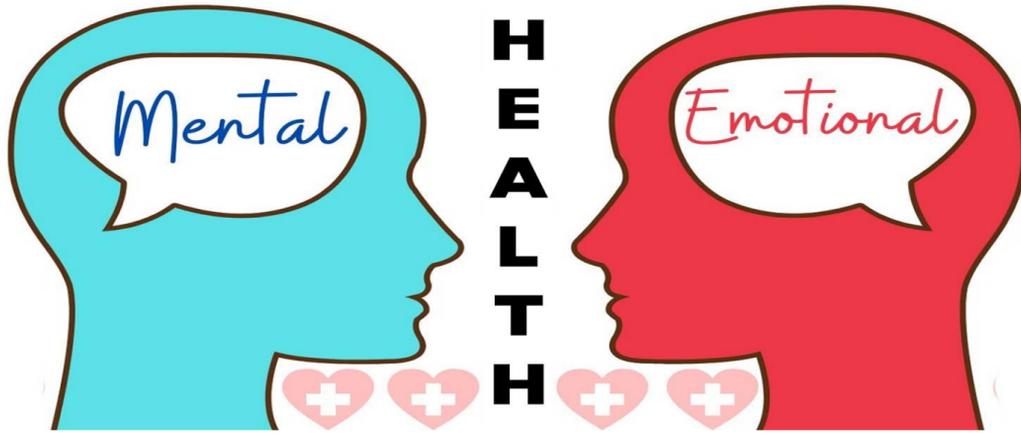


DR. SURINDERPAL SINGH

Emotions are fundamental biological and psychological responses that shape human behaviour, decision-making, relationships and overall well-being. Far from being merely feelings, emotions are complex processes involving the brain, nervous system, hormones and even immune responses. Modern medical science recognizes emotional health as an essential core component of mental health, equally important as physical health.

Emotions are coordinated reactions to internal thoughts or external events. They include subjective feelings such as happiness or fear, physiological changes like increased heart rate, and behavioural responses such as crying or smiling. Basic human emotions include joy, sadness, fear, anger, love, disgust and surprise. These emotions have evolved as survival tools. For example, fear prepares the body to escape danger, while love promotes bonding and social cooperation.

Biologically, emotions originate primarily in the brain and are closely linked with the body. Several key brain regions are involved in emotional processing. The limbic system acts as the emotional center. The amygdala processes fear and threat, while the hippocampus connects emotions with memory. The prefrontal cortex plays a crucial role in regulating emotional control and decision-making. When emotions arise, these areas communicate rapidly, producing both psychological experi-



ences and physical reactions.

Chemical messengers also play a significant role in emotional balance. Serotonin regulates mood and well-being. Dopamine is associated with pleasure and motivation. Adrenaline prepares the body for action, while cortisol serves as the primary stress hormone. Oxytocin promotes bonding and trust. Imbalances in these hormones and neurotransmitters can significantly affect emotional stability and mental health.

Mental health is deeply influenced by how emotions are experienced, expressed and regulated. Healthy emotional functioning involves recognizing one's feelings, expressing emotions appropriately, coping effectively with stress and maintaining emotional balance. When emotional regulation fails, psychological distress can develop. Unresolved negative emotions such as chronic anger, grief, guilt or fear can lead to persistent stress, sleep disturbances, poor concentration, social with-

drawal and a reduced quality of life. Over time, these issues may progress into clinical mental health disorders.

Emotions must be handled carefully because they are powerful forces that influence both mind and body. Chronic negative emotions continuously activate the stress response system. Prolonged elevation of cortisol can result in high blood pressure, weakened immunity, digestive problems, heart disease and chronic inflammation. Emotional mismanagement also affects relationships, leading to conflict, miscommunication, social isolation and loss of support systems. In contrast, healthy emotional expression strengthens social bonds, which serve as protective factors for mental health. Individuals who are unable to process emotions may resort to unhealthy coping mechanisms such as substance abuse, overeating or loss of appetite, aggression or self-harm.

Depression and anxiety are closely linked with emotional dysregulation. Depression

is characterized by persistent sadness and loss of interest in activities. Emotional features include hopelessness, feelings of worthlessness, emotional numbness, reduced pleasure and excessive guilt. Biologically, depression is associated with disturbances in serotonin, dopamine and stress hormones. Anxiety, on the other hand, involves excessive fear and worry disproportionate to actual threats. Emotional components include constant apprehension, irritability, restlessness, panic and difficulty relaxing. Physiologically, anxiety activates the body's fight-or-flight response even in the absence of real danger. These conditions often follow a self-reinforcing cycle in which negative emotions trigger a stress response, leading to biological changes and distorted thinking patterns that generate further negative emotions.

Scientific research highlights several strategies for maintaining emotional balance. Emotional awareness, or recognizing and naming one's feelings, reduces their

intensity and improves coping ability. Healthy expression through conversation, writing, art or prayer prevents emotional buildup. Cognitive regulation, which involves reframing negative thoughts, can alter emotional reactions. Social support from family, friends and community provides a protective buffer against stress. Additionally, regular sleep, exercise and balanced nutrition enhance emotional resilience by stabilizing brain chemistry.

Positive emotions are not merely pleasant experiences; they have measurable health benefits. They reduce stress hormones, strengthen immunity, improve cardiovascular health, enhance problem-solving ability and promote longevity. Gratitude, compassion and optimism are particularly associated with better mental health outcomes. Ignoring emotional health can lead to serious consequences, including major depressive disorder, anxiety disorders, burnout, psychosomatic illnesses and an increased risk of suicide. Public health experts now recognize emotional well-being as essential for societal health and collective stability.

Emotions are central to human life, influencing thoughts, behaviour, physical health and social functioning. They are biologically rooted yet shaped by personal experiences and environmental factors. Proper emotional regulation is essential for maintaining mental health, while persistent negative emotions can contribute to disorders such as depression and anxiety. Handling emotions carefully is not a sign of weakness but a scientific necessity for psychological stability and overall well-being. Cultivating emotional awareness, healthy expression and supportive relationships can protect individuals from mental illness and promote a balanced and fulfilling life.

The author is a Faculty, Science Department Sri Amritsar Sahib Punjab

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

# Kashmir records highest-ever February day temperatures across valley

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

**SRINAGAR, FEB 28:** Kashmir recorded its highest-ever maximum temperatures for February, with all major weather stations across the Valley registering new records.

According to data obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 15.6°C, surpassing the previous February record of 14.9°C set in 2016.

Qazigund recorded 15.2°C, exceeding its earlier record of 14.1°C from 2016.

In north Kashmir's Kupwara, the maximum temperature reached 14.8°C, crossing the previous high of 14.7°C recorded in 2016.

Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded 13.5°C, higher than its previous February record of 12.8°C set in 2016.

Pahalgam registered 12.1°C, surpassing its earlier record of 11.6°C from 2016.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 7.0°C, breaking its previous February record of 5.9°C set in 2006.

Kashmir Weather said the rise in daytime temperatures was recorded across plains and hill stations, marking the highest February maximums in the available records for these locations.

February in Kashmir is generally associated with winter conditions, but this year's data places the month among the warmest in terms of maximum temperatures recorded during the period, as per the figures shared by Kashmir Weather—(KNO)

## Public Notice

This is to notify the general public that the name recorded in the Aadhaar database is incorrect. Name shown in Aadhaar: Munaza Hassan

Correct name: Muneera Hassan, Father's Gulam Hassan Shiekh  
Address: Ananwan Kralgund Handwara Kupwara Jammu and Kashmir 193302. The above mentioned person (Munaza Hassan) hereby declares that the name printed on the Aadhaar is incorrect and that her correct and legal name is Muneera Hassan. Any objection to this correction should be brought to the attention of the UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra, Office Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the necessary correction procedures may be undertaken.

## Public Notice

I, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, S/o Lala Dar R/o Kuhru, Langate, Kupwara, Jammu and Kashmir 193302, hereby declare that I am the father of Safoora Fayaz, Date of Birth: 11/11/2011. This is to inform the general public and concerned authorities that I am applying for the issuance/registration of Date of Birth certificate of my daughter Safoora Fayaz from the Block Office Langate. If any person has any objection regarding the above-mentioned particulars, he/she may submit the same before the concerned Block Office Langate within the stipulated period. Otherwise, no objection shall be entertained later.

## Public Notice

I, Mahjabeenah Akhter, D/o Ghulam Ahmad Lone, R/o Kultura, Langate, hereby state that there is a discrepancy in my Date of Birth recorded in my Aadhaar Card. My Date of Birth in Aadhaar Card is incorrectly mentioned as 10/06/1996, whereas my correct Date of Birth as per my School Records is 06/03/1996. I am now applying for issuance of my Birth Certificate at the BDO Office, Langate, with my correct Date of Birth as 06/03/1996. If anybody has any objection regarding this correction, they may submit their objection in writing to the BDO Office, Langate within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no claim or objection shall be entertained.

## Public Notice

I have change my name from (Old Name) SHOWKAT JAVEED to (New Name) SHOWKAT JAVEED HAKEEM. In future I will be know as (New Name) Showkat Javeed Hakeem. If anybody is having any objection he/ she may contact Passport Office Srinagar within (7) days. After 7 days no objection will be accepted.  
**Showkat Javeed Hakeem, Cell No:9906456777**

## Public Notice

I, Wali Mohd Peerzada, S/o Abdul Rehman Peerzada R/o Khonu Babagund, Langate, Kupwara, Jammu and Kashmir 193302, hereby declare that I am the father of Masrat Jan, Date of Birth: 03/03/1999. This is to inform the general public and concerned authorities that I am applying for the issuance/registration of Date of Birth certificate of my daughter Masrat Jan from the Block Office Langate. If any person has any objection regarding the above-mentioned particulars, he/she may submit the same before the concerned Block Office Langate within the stipulated period. Otherwise, no objection shall be entertained later.

## Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my Name has been wrongly mentioned in adhar regards bearing aadhar no 3467 5368 2054 Sarif Ahmad Mir instead of Sarif Farooq S/O Farooq Ahmad Mir as for School regards now I have applying for it's correction of the same if any person have any objection in this regards may file the same to the office adhar seva/concerned authority within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

**SARIF FAROOQ, S/O FAROOQ AHMAD MIR R/O, BATPORA MAGAM TEHSIL HANDWARA DISTRICT KUPWARA**

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

Subject: Application of NASREENA BEGUM W/O ISHFAQ AH DEADER for the issuance of ST ( SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar and Bakerwal ) in favour of self

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village BANDI BALLA and belongs to the ST caste and GOJER DEADER community, having annual income is 150000 the details of the family of the applicant are as follows

- 1...MOHD ASLAM DEADER Father in Law 59 years Labour
- 2... KHATOON BEGUM Mother in Law 58 years H/W
- 3...ISHFAQ AHMAD Husband 27 years Labour
- 4...NASREENA BEGUM self 25 years care giver in school
- 5...OSMAN ISHFAQ son 19 years infant
- 6...ISHEN ISHFAQ son 02 years infant
- 7...ARSHID ASLAM Brother in Law 04 years student

The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST ( SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal ) certificate in favour of Self  
If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

**NAIB TEHSILDAR KALANTRA**

## Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of FAHMEEDA BANO S/O BILAL AHMAD WANI R/O WARIPORA BALA for the issuance of Dependent certificate

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned .The report of patwari halqa concerned and the death certificate issued by competent Authority reveals that BILAL AHMAD WANI S/O AB AHAD WANI R/O WARIPORA Bala Tehsil kreeri has passed away on 04/12/2025

- Moreover family structure of the applicant is as under
- 1... FAHMEEDA BANO wife 38 years H/W widow
  - 2...ABRAR BILAL WANI son 15 years student unmarried
  - 3...MUZZAFAR BILAL son 09 years student minor

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Dependent certificate in favour of FAHMEEDA BANO if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate 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 BILAL MANSOOR WAR S/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD WAR R/O SHEIKHPORA for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of self Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of RBA in his own 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 WAR community having annual income 666792// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1..GH MOHD WAR self 63 years farmer income 144000
- 2.ZAINAB BAGUM wife 60 years H/W
- 3...BILAL MANSOOR WAR son 37 years Govt Employee 522792
- 4.MASRAT BEGUM daughter in Law 31 years s H/W
- 5...ALEEZA BILAL Grand daughter 07 years student

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

**Naib Tehsild Kreeri**

## Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written as IMRAN AHMAD TANTRAY R/O NAGBAL in my Aadhar card while my correct name is MOHAMMAD IMRAN TANTRAY R/O .NAGBAL Tehsil...kreeri which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file his /her objection in office of concerned aadhar authorities with in seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

**Name..MOHAMMAD IMRAN TANTRAY R/O ...NAGBAL**

## Public Notice

My daughter's name has been wrongly mentioned as AIYZAA JAN in her Date of Birth certificate bearing Id No 101002535055 issued by SDH kreeri while her correct name is AYESHA SARFARAZ 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... SARFARAZ AHMAD DAR F/O...AYESHA SARFARAZ R/O ...CHOORA, Tehsil.... KHOIE**

## Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill ) power connection is registered on the name GH QADIR CHOPAN S/O KHZIR MOHD CHOPAN R/O RANJEE Tehsil KHOIE Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040005254 wants to be permanent disconnection of the above mentioned electric connection .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...FAYAZ AHMAD CHOPAN S/O ...ABDUL AZIZ CHOPAN R/O ....RANJEE BARAMULLA**

## 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 Wagora)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of AFNAN MANZOOR HAJAM S/O MANZOOR AHMAD HAJAM R/O KREERI Tehsil KREERI Dist. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 01/11/2009 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

Subject: Application of SARA BEGUM W/O ABDUL RASHID AKHOON R/O KREERI for the issuance of Dependent certificate

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned .The report of patwari halqa concerned and the death certificate issued by competent Authority reveals that ABDUL RASHID AKHOON S/O ABDUL AHAD AKHOON R/O KREERI Tehsil kreeri has passed away on 23/02/2023

- Moreover family structure of the applicant is as under
- 1... SARA BAGUM wife 63 years H/W widow
  - 2...RIFAT BEGUM daughter 39 years H/W married
  - 3...ZUBIADA RASHID daughter 37 years H/W married
  - 4...RUQIYA RASHID daughter 35 years H/W Married

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Dependent certificate in favour of SARA BEGUM if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate 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 for information of general public that the (Electric bill ) power connection is registered on the name GH RASOOL GANIE S/O SUBLE GANIE R/O AUTHOORA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040006280 wants to be registered on my correct name MOHAMMAD YOUSUF GANIE S/O GH MOHAMMAD GANIE R/O AUTHOORA .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 YOUSUF GANIE S/O ...GH MOHAMMAD GANIE R/O ....AUTHOORA**

## Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill ) power connection is registered on my Fathers name Gh Mohi ud din Rather S/O Ab Khaliq Rather Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040003446 wants to be registered on my own name Irshad Ahmad Rather S/O Gh Mohi ud din Rather .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.

**IRSHAD AHMAD RATHER S/O GH MOHI UD DIN RATHER R/O WARIPORA BALA**

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR UT

# OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW(R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA

Near Tehsil Office Chadoora | E-mail: xenrbchd@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER | Single cover system

E-NIT No. 97/R&B/CHADOORA/ 6608-17 of 2025-26 | Dated: 28/02/2026

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

S. No	Nome of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	T.D Cost	Time (Days)	MHA	Class
1	Bonion Batwudder Road.	9.00	600	15	UT Capex Budget 2025-26	C/D
2	Checki Sursyar Road.	9.00	600	15	UT Capex Budget 2025-26	C/D
3	Check link road Qazipora.	12.00	600	15	UT Capex Budget 2025-26	B/C/D
4	Chowdrigund link.	10.00	600	15	UT Capex Budget 2025-26	C/D
5	Hafroo Grid Station link road.	6.92	300	15	UT Capex Budget 2025-26	C/D
6	Kutbal Thera Road.	3.00	200	10	UT Capex Budget 2025-26	DEE
7	Shahmud Khan Wadipora	9.78	600	15	UT Capex Budget 2025-26	C/D
8	Wangwass Road.	5.00	200	10	UT Capex Budget 2025-26	DEE

**Project Authority: PW(R&B) Central Kashmir**

**Position of Funds: Budgeted/Committed.**

**Position of AAA: Accorded**

**Position of TS: Sanctioned**

1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q.), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	28/02/2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	28/02/2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	28/02/2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	07/03/2026 upto 05.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	09/03/2026 at 10.30 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Chadoora (Tender Inviting Authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Tender Receiving Authority, i.e. Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Chadoora. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/ Maintenance Period.

4. The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Chadoora (Tender Receiving Authority).

5. Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

i) Bidders are advised to download the bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as the "Bidders Manual Kit" option on the website www.jktenders.gov.in to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process.

ii) In order to participate in the bidding process, bidders must obtain a "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" under the Information Technology Act of 2000. Any approved Vendor can provide bidders with a digital certificate.

iii) Bidders must submit their bids in electronic format with a digital signature online. No physical bids will be accepted.

iv) Bids will be opened online in accordance with the time schedule specified in Para-1.

v) Bidders must upload online scanned copy of all required documents (within the document upload limits) with their technical bid.

**NOTE:** Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

7. The department will not be held responsible for any delays in online submission due to unanticipated circumstances.

8. The original Treasury Challan (Cost of tender document) and other Uploaded bid documents shall have to be produced on demand by the successful bidder at the time of contract signing, and in the case of unsuccessful bidders, 2 percent EMD in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Tender Receiving Authority, i.e. Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Division Chadoora will be released only after production of Original Treasury Challan of uploaded Scanned copy (Cost of tender document).

9. Bidders are advised not to change the contents of the BOQ (Bill of Quantities). They should never attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

10. Bidders should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be fake/not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the Contractor/bidder will be blacklisted from participating in this Division/ Department for a period of three years, in addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited.

11. Price escalation and Taxes: -The bidder's percentage shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes up to the completion of the work. Taxes shall be deducted from the contractor's bills on the gross amount of the bill at the time of recovery at the rates in effect at the time of recovery.

12. Bidders are advised to use the "My Documents" area in their R&B e-Tendering portal user account to store any required documents.

13. All bidders must UPLOAD the following information and documents with their bids, in addition to the qualification criteria / qualification information, (All documents pertaining to the bid must be in English):

**No: 6608-17 | Dated: 28-02-2026**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Division Chadoora**

**DIPK: 11474/25 | Dated: 28-02-2026**

## Deputy Chief Minister calls for strict monitoring, quality execution of projects in J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28:** Reiterating government's zero-tolerance policy against quality compromise, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today cautioned of strict action against the use of substandard material or poor execution of works under the Public Works Department (PWD) across Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairing a high level review meeting held at the PWD Guest House, Jammu, the Deputy Chief Minister assessed the overall functioning, zone-wise physical and financial performance of the department in all districts of J&K.

During the comprehensive review, he underscored strict adherence to quality benchmarks in all ongoing and upcoming projects, asserting that there would be no tolerance for substandard execution, delays or administrative lapses. "There is no room for quality compromise. Accountability must be visible at every level," he stated, directing the officers to ensure close supervision and timely completion of works.

He emphasized that the government is committed to ensure seamless road connectivity to all habitations and is executing a wide range of road, bridge and infrastructure projects under the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF), NABARD RIDF, R&B and Cities & Towns initiatives to accelerate the developmental transformation of J&K.

"Officers must adhere to stipulated timelines and financial



discipline. Delays in completion will invite strict action, including blacklisting of contractors and accountability of the concerned officers responsible for lapses," he warned.

Expressing concern over slow tendering and low expenditure in certain sectors, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the officers to ensure 100 percent utilization of allocated funds by the end of March, cautioning that negligence would be viewed seriously. He strongly discouraged abnormally low bidding and subletting of contracts, terming such practices detrimental to quality, transparency and timely execution of projects.

He further instructed that fresh tendering should not be undertaken without proper justification and prior approval from the competent authority.

"Contractors securing multiple projects through low bids must be

closely monitored to ensure adherence to quality standards and progress timelines," he added.

To enhance accountability and transparency, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the field officers to maintain proper movement registers and conduct regular site inspections.

The officers posted in far-flung areas were instructed to mark attendance through geo-tagging to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and work culture.

Among key projects, he directed for ensuring expeditious completion of Seerbagh-Chadoora Bridge, Ramban Bridge, Inderpati-Paragwal Bridge, Dak Bungalow-cum-Conference Hall Hyderpora and Dak Bungalow Rajouri.

The Commissioners were also asked to submit detailed proposals for beautification works in Jammu and Srinagar, with specific instructions to ensure completion

of works in Srinagar well before the Darbar Move to the summer capital.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner SMC/JMC and senior engineering officers, including Chief Engineers of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Jammu/Kashmir, R&B Jammu, Pir Panjal, Chenab, Central, North and South Kashmir, Design Inspection and Quality Control J&K (DIQC), and Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department J&K (MHED) besides Superintending and Executive Engineers from all Circles and Divisions.

The chair was informed that during FY 2025-26, the Road Sector recorded substantial financial progress, with expenditure reaching 62 percent under CRIF projects and 45 percent under NABARD RIDF works. Region-wise performance remained steady, with South Kashmir achieving 64 percent expenditure, Chenab Zone 57 percent, Central Kashmir 56 percent, and Jammu Zone 55 percent, reflecting balanced infrastructure development across the Union Territory.

Under PMGSY, 99.7 percent of targeted habitations under Phase-I have been connected, with 18,009 km of road length completed. PMGSY-IV aims to provide connectivity to 2,513 additional eligible habitations, further strengthening rural road infrastructure.

It was further informed that 697 permanent restoration works have recently been approved, reaffirming the government's commitment to build resilient, durable and high-quality public infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

## Judicial Academy holds workshop on court management & dowry offence awareness

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28:** Under the patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), Arun Palli and guidance of Chairperson and Members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy organized a one day Integrated Workshop (A-059/25) on "Court Management, Mediation and Legal, Social & Psychological Dimensions of Dowry-Related Offences" for Judicial Officers of Jammu Province today at its Jammu campus.

The programme commenced with registration, followed by an introduction and welcome address by Naseer Ahmad Dar, Director, J&K Judicial Academy. He underscored the importance of judicial leadership, effective court administration and sensitivity while dealing with socially complex offences.

The first session on Judicial Leadership & Court Management was delivered by Pawan Dev Kotwal, Former District & Sessions Judge, High Court of J&K. It focused on the role of a Judge as an institutional leader, court and case management principles, control of docket flow, time management techniques and best practices including the use of technology to enhance efficiency in the justice delivery system.

The second session on Role of Judges in Mediation & Drafting of Referral/Settlement Orders was conducted by M.S. Parihar, Former District & Sessions Judge, High Court of J&K. He elaborated on the statutory framework under Section 89 CPC and relevant rules, identification of cases fit for mediation, stage and manner of referral, components and ethics of mediation, drafting of effective referral and settlement orders and



practical challenges faced in mediation proceedings.

The third session addressed the Legal, Social and Psychological Dimensions of Dowry-Related Crimes, in light of the recent Supreme Court Judgment dated 15.12.2025 in State of U.P. v. Ajmal Beg & Ors.

The session was conducted by Kamlesh Pandita, Former District & Sessions Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, along with Sumedha Sharma, Clinical Psychologist Associate. The deliberations covered relevant legal provisions and recent judicial directions, the social context and concerns of misuse, psychological impact on victims and families, judicial sensitivity in appreciation of evidence and the need to ensure a fair trial while preventing abuse of process.

The workshop witnessed active participation and interaction from the Judicial Officers, followed by a feedback session.

## Sakeena Itoo virtually participates in nationwide launch of HPV vaccination campaign

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**KULGAM, FEBRUARY 28:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today virtually participated in the launch of nationwide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination campaign for 14-year-old girls.

The campaign was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today from Ajmer, Rajasthan, marking a historic milestone in India's fight against cervical cancer.



Speaking on the sidelines of virtual launch ceremony at Kulgam, Minister Sakeena highlighted that this campaign is a significant step towards strengthening preventive healthcare services and safeguarding the health of young girls. "Cervical cancer remains one of the leading causes of cancer-related morbidity among women and this campaign can drastically reduce the incidence of the disease", she stated.

The Minister also said that the department has been asked to intensify Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities regarding the campaign across Jammu and Kashmir to encourage informed participation of young girls.

The Minister also reaffirmed the commitment of the Government to prioritize women's health and strengthen preventive healthcare systems, aligning with the broader vision of accessible and affordable healthcare for all.

## MC Kunzer strengthens field preparedness with Integrated ODF Resource Recovery Initiatives

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 28:** In a robust effort to bolster sanitation standards and field preparedness for the upcoming Swachh Survekshan 2025-26, the Municipal Committee (MC) Kunzer today executed a dual-track campaign focusing on sustained hygiene behaviours and the circular economy.

These activities, conducted under the umbrella of Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0, were held under the direct supervision of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the concerned Sanitary

Inspector, reflecting a committed approach to closing service-level benchmarks across the town.

The first phase of the day's activities involved a targeted community awareness campaign concerning "No Open Defecation" and "No Open Urination." In a strategic move to ensure the town's ODF status remains sustainable, the Municipal Committee partnered with the IEC Team of Baramulla to engage directly with local shopkeepers.

By bringing the message to the town's primary commercial hubs, the campaign successfully sensitized business owners and

visitors alike about the health hazards associated with poor sanitation practices. The outreach served as a significant push for public participation (Jan Andolan), encouraging every resident to take personal responsibility for the cleanliness of their immediate surroundings and commercial spaces.

Parallel to this, the Municipal Committee organized a high-impact donation drive at the town's permanent RRR (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Centre. With the Sanitary Inspector present on-ground to coordinate the collection, citizens were motivated to donate usable

items such as clothing, books, and household goods to support the needy members of the local community. This initiative is a vital component of the town's strategy to move toward a circular economy, effectively diverting functional waste from landfills and repurposing it for social good. By transforming the RRR Centre into a vibrant hub for community welfare, the Municipal Committee Kunzer is fostering a deeper sense of social responsibility among residents.

Through these integrated interventions, the Municipal Committee Kunzer is not only

meeting the goals set out in the month of February Action Plan but is also setting a benchmark for community-led sanitation.

The active collaboration between the administration, the IEC team, and the citizens demonstrates that sustainable urban management is built upon the twin pillars of infrastructure maintenance and shared civic values. As Kunzer prepares for the national assessment, these concerted efforts are paving the way for a cleaner, healthier, and more dignified environment for the people of Baramulla.

## Government College of Education organizes Nukad Natak at Lal Chowk to promote Road Safety Awareness

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 28:** A Nukad Natak (street play) was organized as a part of "Two Week Long Road Safety Awareness Program" by the College Cultural Committee of Government College of Education (IASE), Srinagar under the supervision of Dr. Irfat Ara Khan, Dean Students/Convener Cultural Committee, to spread awareness among the public about the importance of following traffic regulations.

The main objective of the play was to educate people about safe road

behaviour and to reduce the number of road accidents caused by negligence and carelessness.

The event was held at the central market of polo view area, Lalchowk, where a large number of local residents, shopkeepers, and passers-by gathered to watch the performance. The students enthusiastically presented the play using powerful dialogues, slogans, and realistic scenes to capture the attention of the audience.

The play opened with loud invitation by student performers of the college to all the people around to watch the

performance, followed by a lively introduction highlighting the alarming rise in road accidents.

The main focus of this Nukad Natak (street play) was to create awareness about road safety and the dangers of underage driving.

Through impactful dialogues, strong expressions, and realistic enactment, the performers conveyed an important message: "Road safety is everyone's responsibility and wealth and status cannot protect anyone from the consequences of breaking the law".

## Inter-College Poster Making, Slogan Writing Competition on Road Safety held at HKM GDC Bandipora

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 28:** An Inter-College Poster Making and Slogan Writing Competition on the theme "Sadak Suraksha-Jeevan Raksha" was today organized at HKM Government Degree College Bandipora as part of ongoing Road Safety Awareness initiatives aimed at sensitizing students about responsible road usage and preservation of human life.

The programme was held under the guidance of Principal HKM GDC Bandipora, Prof. Suresh Kumar Dogra. Students from various colleges including GDC Sumbal, GDC Ajas, GDC Hajin and the host

college participated enthusiastically in the competition, showcasing their creative skills and spreading awareness on the importance of road safety.

The event was jointly coordinated by Convener Road Safety Club, Dr. Mubashir Hamid Mir, along with the NSS units of the college. Participants presented thought-provoking posters and slogans highlighting key issues such as prevention of rash driving, use of helmets and seatbelts, adherence to traffic rules, pedestrian safety and collective civic responsibility.

The entries were evaluated by a panel of judges comprising Dr.



Mohammad Ashraf (GDC Ajas), Dr. Firdous Ahmad (GDC Hajin), Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Parrey and Dr. Ghulam Mohammad Khan (HKM

GDC Bandipora), who appreciated the participants for their creativity, originality and strong social messaging.

In the Poster Making category, Farkhanda Reyaz, a 4th Semester student of the host college, secured the first position, while Iqra Wani, a 6th Semester student of HKM GDC Bandipora, secured the first position in the Slogan Writing category. The winners will represent district colleges at the State-Level Competition scheduled to be held at IASE Srinagar on March 5, 2026. The programme concluded with appreciation for all participating colleges and reaffirmation of the commitment of educational institutions towards promoting road safety awareness through creative student engagement.

## GMC Srinagar bags Excellence Award at Medical Colleges Research Connect-2026

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 28:** Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar has been conferred the prestigious Excellence Award at the Third Medical Colleges Research Connect-2026, a national conference organized by the Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

Held at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, the conference brought together over 100 Medical Colleges Research Units (MRUs) from across the country, with a shared goal of strengthening biomedical research infrastructure in India.

GMC Srinagar's Medical Research Unit (MRU) was represented by Prof. Sabhiya Majid, Nodal Officer, and Dr. Younis Rather, Scientist C, who presented the institution's progress and achievements during the plenary session. Their presentation highlighted GMC Srinagar's remarkable journey in strengthening research protocols, advanced laboratory training, national collaborations, and enhancing funded research output.

The Excellence Award, secured with a perfect score of 10/10, is a testament to GMC Srinagar's unwavering dedication to biomedical research excellence. Prof. Ifat Hassan, Principal/Dean, GMC Srinagar, praised the collective efforts of the MRU team, reaffirming the institution's commitment to advancing translational and priority-driven biomedical research.

This national recognition marks a significant milestone in GMC Srinagar's pursuit of becoming a centre of excellence in biomedical research, paving the way for innovative solutions to address pressing health challenges in the region.

# Middleby launches smart kitchen innovation centre

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**BENGALURU, FEB 28:** Bengaluru is rapidly expanding its technological identity beyond software services into advanced food technology and smart manufacturing innovation, strengthening its position as a global innovation ecosystem.

The launch of South India's first Smart Kitchen Experience Centre by Middleby Corporation in Bengaluru marks a significant step in this transformation.

The development reflects the growing convergence of artificial intelligence, IoT engineering, and the commercial food service industry in India, highlighting how global technology companies are now directly entering emerging markets with advanced automation solutions.

The centre showcases the Houno Invoq Hybrid platform, an AI- and cloud-powered commercial cooking system designed to improve precision, consistency, and scalability in large-scale kitchen operations.

The platform integrates artificial intelligence, sensor-driven automation, and cloud connectivity



to assist chefs while preserving creative control over cooking styles and flavours.

With more than 1,500 programmable recipes supporting Indian regional cuisines as well as international dishes, the system allows standardisation across restaurant chains while maintaining culinary flexibility.

Features such as ClimateControl sensor intelligence regulate temperature, humidity, and airflow in real time, while SmartChef automation provides guided cooking support for complex menu preparation. The MenuPlanner interface enables multi-dish scheduling, making it useful for high-volume commercial food

production environments.

The platform also focuses on sustainability and business efficiency, using HybridSteam technology to improve energy efficiency and reduce water consumption during cooking processes.

Cloud-based connectivity allows restaurant operators to remotely monitor equipment performance, deploy standardised recipes across multiple locations, and maintain automated food safety documentation. This is especially important for India's rapidly expanding quick service restaurant and cloud kitchen sectors, where operational consistency and cost optimisation are critical.

The broader narrative behind this development is that artificial intelligence is not replacing chefs but acting as an assistive technology that enhances productivity and precision.

With this initiative, Bengaluru is further strengthening its reputation as not only India's software capital but also a rising global hub for smart kitchen technology, advanced manufacturing, and food-tech innovation.

## Centre approves Rs 797 crore green hydrogen jetty project at Odisha's Paradip Port

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**BHUBANESWAR, FEB 28:** The Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) has approved the development of a dedicated jetty with allied facilities for handling green hydrogen, ammonia and other liquid cargo at Paradip Port at an estimated cost of Rs 797.17 crores.

The project will be implemented by Paradip Port Authority on a build-operate-transfer (BOT) basis.

The proposed facility will have a handling capacity of 4.0 million tonnes per annum and is designed to strengthen Paradip Port's role as a hub for green energy cargo. The infrastructure will include a dedicated jetty, storage systems, pipelines, handling equipment and associated facilities.

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal said the approval reflects the Centre's commitment to building future-ready green infrastructure.

The jetty will have a centre-to-centre distance of 279 metres between extreme end dolphins and a dredged depth of 14.3 metres in front of the berth to enable safe handling of liquid cargo vessels.

Paradip Port Authority will provide capital support equivalent to 20 per cent of the project cost, amounting to Rs 159.43 crore, during the construction phase.

The project is expected to be completed within 24 months.

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said the dedicated green hydrogen jetty will play a critical role in strengthening export logistics and integrating Odisha's emerging green hydrogen production clusters with global markets.

"Guided by Prime Minister Modi ji's vision of an Atmanirbhar and environmentally responsible India, we are building world-class port infrastructure that supports the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

The Paradip project will not only enhance cargo capacity but also catalyse investment, generate employment and create a robust green energy ecosystem in eastern India," Sonowal added.

The facility will also include provisions for handling other liquid cargo to ensure optimal utilisation during the initial growth phase of the green hydrogen sector and to diversify Paradip Port's cargo profile.

Officials said the project is aligned with the objectives of the National Green Hydrogen Mission and is expected to support investments in green energy infrastructure in Odisha while strengthening port-based logistics for clean energy commodities.

The proposed jetty will incorporate specialised infrastructure and advanced safety systems for handling and storing green energy derivatives and other liquid cargo, supporting the development of an integrated green hydrogen ecosystem around Paradip Port. UNI

## Assam: 'Pipeline to Possibilities' programme enhances skills of youth in City Gas Distribution sector

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**MAJULI (ASSAM), FEB 28:** With huge employment opportunities emerging within India's City Gas Distribution (CGD) sector, a six-month residential training programme that concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony here on Thursday, provided over 60 trainees from districts across Assam with structured classroom instruction and practical skill training in gas plumbing.

The programme also handed out supervised on-the-job training (OJT) at six operational grid locations of Assam Gas Company Limited (AGCL) across five districts of Assam - Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Sivasagar, Jorhat and Golaghat.

The programme, headlined "Professional Skill and Capacity Development in Plumbing Trade" and operationally known as Pipeline to Possibilities, began from last September, a media release said.

The pilot project, a structured

skill development initiative, was supported under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL), Assam.

The programme was conceived, designed, and implemented by Media Management Group for Literacy and Development (MMGLD) as the lead implementing partner, with Government ITI Majuli serving as the logistics partner and Social Economic and Versatile Welfare Association (SEVWA) as the technical training partner.

'Pipeline to Possibilities' included foundational technical theory, hands-on practical sessions, and field exposure that bridged the gap between classroom learning and professional work

environments, the release said. These efforts have prepared trainees for meaningful participation in the CGD sector, a field that continues to expand rapidly in India's evolving energy ecosystem.

The Certificate Distribution Ceremony was attended by distinguished guests, including Dr.

Anil Kumar Jain, Chairperson of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB); Sachidananda Maharana, Director (Finance), NRL; Gokul Swargiyari, Managing Director of AGCL and other industry leaders and partners reaffirming multi-stakeholder support for youth skill development in the region.

Jain lauded the transformative initiative, underscoring the growing need for structured skill development programmes to meet the rising demand for trained plumbers in the CGD sector in the coming years.

In this context, he observed that the trainees who participated in the programme, supported by NRL and implemented by MMGLD, have taken a significant step towards securing their professional futures.

Gokul Swargiyari, Managing Director, AGCL, announced that the company would provide plumbing toolkits to all graduating trainees and indicated that AGCL would onboard candidates from the graduating cohort as per operational requirements.

Atul Dev Sarmah, Secretary-General, MMGLD, speaking on the occasion, expressed deep gratitude for NRL's CSR support and for the consistent guidance and partnership extended throughout the lifecycle of the project.

He also hoped that the industry would now step forward to absorb the trained manpower and translate this capacity-building effort into meaningful employment opportunities.

Dr. Mousumi Sharma, Project Director, MMGLD, spoke about the comprehensive planning and meticulous implementation of the project, expressing pride in its successful outcome and in the outstanding performance of the

students.

The City Gas Distribution sector - the network that supplies Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for transport and Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for households, commercial and industrial use - is one of the fastest-growing segments of the nation's energy landscape.

As of August 2025, the PNGRB reported that the CGD network spanned 784 districts across 34 states and union Territories, and the sector is advancing toward targets of 12.63 crore PNG connections and 18,336 CNG stations by 2034.

The minimum work programme (MWP) also includes 5.46 lakh inch-km of pipeline infrastructure by 2034. 307 Geographical Areas (GAs) have also been authorised, accounting for nearly the entire landmass of the country, reflecting both infrastructure growth and the increasing adoption of cleaner fuels. UNI

## Itineris opens Global Technology hub in Hyderabad, plans to hire 150 professionals

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**HYDERABAD, FEB 28:** Itineris, a global provider of SaaS solutions for utilities, on Thursday announced the launch of its Global Technology and Innovation Centre in Hyderabad, marking a major expansion of its India operations and reinforcing the city's role as a global technology hub.

The new facility will bring together the company's India-based workforce and support core product development for its UMAX Utility Suite and Verity platforms, which serve utility providers across North America and Europe, the IT company said in a statement.



The hub is expected to scale up to around 150 professionals over the next 18 to 24 months.

The inauguration was attended by senior officials from the Telangana government and Itineris leadership, who reviewed the engineering capabilities being developed at the centre and discussed Hyderabad's role in supporting global utilities through advanced technology platforms.

The centre is being established in partnership with ANSR, which will support talent acquisition, workspace design and operational setup to align the facility with Itineris' global engineering and innovation strategy.

Itineris CEO Edgard Vermeersch said strengthening the Hyderabad hub would enhance the company's ability to deliver reliable, AI-driven platforms for utilities worldwide, particularly in clean-energy and water-infrastructure systems.

With over 550 employees across the US, Belgium, the UK and India, the company said the Hyderabad expansion reflects its long-term commitment to India and its confidence in the region's engineering talent and innovation ecosystem. UNI

## Optimum Solutions, ABeam Launch GCC in Hyderabad, Plan 2,000 Tech Jobs

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**HYDERABAD, FEB 28:** Singapore-based Optimum Solutions and Japan-based ABeam Consulting on Thursday inaugurated a jointly operated Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Hyderabad to support global digital transformation programmes and expand their technology workforce.

The companies said the new IT centre, focused on artificial intelligence, cloud computing, data engineering and enterprise platforms, is expected to grow to a workforce of 2,000 employees by 2030, strengthening Hyderabad's role in their global delivery network.

The facility will provide services in application engineering, digital solutions and business operations, integrating Singapore-based engineering capabilities with Japanese consulting expertise to deliver end-to-end enterprise transformation for global clients.

Telangana IT and Industries Department Chief Strategy Officer Sreekanth Lanka, who attended the inauguration, said Hyderabad has emerged as a preferred destination for global capability centres due to its strong talent pool, reliable infrastructure and stable policy environment.

Company officials said the GCC would strengthen partnerships with universities and skilling institutions to build advanced capabilities in AI, cloud and digital platforms while supporting global enterprises.

Nanda Appanaboyina, GM - GCC said, "Hyderabad offers an engineering talent pool that is ready for complex, high-value technology work. The centre gives us a strong foundation to build advanced capabilities in AI, cloud and digital platforms".

ABeam India Head Yasuhisa Omura said, "Hyderabad centre would enhance the company's ability to deliver enterprise transformation services worldwide and reinforce the city's position as a major global technology hub". UNI

## NITI Aayog Panel meets at Singareni, stresses self-Reliance in Critical Minerals

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**HYDERABAD, FEB 28:** The National Critical and Strategic Minerals Committee, constituted by NITI Aayog, on Thursday stressed the need for coordinated efforts by public and private mining companies to strengthen India's self-reliance in critical minerals essential for clean energy and advanced technologies. The Committee held its second meeting at Singareni Bhavan here under the chairmanship of Dr. D.K. Singh, where members highlighted

the strategic importance of minerals such as lithium, rare earth elements, cobalt and nickel for sectors including renewable energy, electric vehicles, electronics, defence and advanced manufacturing. Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti, a member of the Committee, reaffirmed the company's commitment to the National Critical Mineral Mission and said the panel would play a key role in identifying and developing domestic mineral

resources to reduce import dependence. He said Singareni has initiated efforts to extract rare earth elements from overburden and clay in its open cast mines and is also exploring recovery of valuable minerals from fly ash and bottom ash generated at its thermal power plant, reflecting its focus on sustainable mining and resource utilisation.

The Committee reviewed the current demand-supply scenario, exploration opportunities across various states, technological requirements,

## Trade pacts to spur premiumisation; IMWA seeks level playing field for Indian brands

P KRISHNA KUMAR

**NEW DELHI, FEB 28:** Welcoming India's recent trade agreements with the UK, EU and the US, the Indian Malt Whiskey Association (IMWA), the association of premium Indian malt whiskey brands, has said the pacts will widen consumer choice and accelerate premiumisation in the alcohol beverage segment, even as it cautioned policymakers against unfair practices and tax distortions that could hurt domestic producers.

Speaking to UNI, IMWA Director General, Maj Gen (Rtd.) Rajesh Chopra said most trade agreements follow a similar tariff-reduction pattern, with an immediate 50 per cent cut in basic customs duty, followed by phased reductions to

around 40 per cent over seven to 10 years. However, he underlined that the overall impact on the domestic whiskey market would be limited.

Chopra explained that basic customs duty currently accounts for roughly 18-20 per cent of the maximum retail price. Even if it is halved, the reduction at retail may translate to only about 7-10 per cent. And that too depends on state excise structures, duties, etc.

He added that varying excise frameworks across states, coupled with distribution margins and additional levies, make it "premature to gauge how much benefit will actually be passed on to consumers." As far as the current volumes and share of these markets are concerned, Chopra said that

US has 0.1 per cent of total whiskey volume in India, Scotch commands about 3 per cent share and Irish around 0.2 per cent.

When asked about the impact of the new import policy on Indian premium brands and products, Chopra said that Indian premium whiskeys, particularly single malts, are already well entrenched in the domestic market and globally recognised and resonate strongly with local palates.

However, he felt that the new market dynamics will spur innovation and drive premiumisation. According to Chopra, Indian consumers are increasingly exploring varied whiskey styles, leading to greater demand for high-quality expressions.

competitiveness will push our industry towards better practices and help us stay abreast internationally," he said, adding that Indian malts are winning accolades at global events.

While supporting trade liberalisation in principle, IMWA has flagged concerns over what it terms a "double whammy" for domestic producers. "Simultaneous reduction in customs duty along with excise concessions extended to imported liquor puts us at a disadvantage," Chopra said.

He urged state governments to withdraw excise concessions granted to imported spirits to ensure a "fair and level playing field." He also pointed out disparities in brand registration charges and tax structures in some states, where

bottled-in-origin imports enjoy relatively favourable treatment compared to Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL) brands.

Another area of concern is the classification of Indian whiskeys in certain international markets. "They term Indian whiskeys as 'spirits' rather than whiskey, citing maturation norms or raw material issues," he said, describing it as discriminatory. "It should be mutually and equitably beneficial for both nations."

Chopra further called for strict enforcement of rules of origin and vigilance against under-invoicing. "We have conveyed to the government the need to guard against under-invoicing and misuse of country-of-origin norms," he said. UNI

# LG Manoj Sinha Inaugurates 2nd Sikh Cricket Premier League in Jammu

**Emphasises discipline, unity and sports as a forge for nation-building at University of Jammu**

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Manoj Sinha on Saturday inaugurated the second edition of the Sikh Cricket Premier League (SCPL) at the Cricket Ground of University of Jammu, urging youth to channel their energy with discipline and unity for nation-building.

Addressing players and attendees at the inaugural ceremony, the Lieutenant Governor described the younger generation as "the embodiment of possibility," asserting that youth are the solution to every challenge if provided with the right opportunities, platforms and mentorship.

"The energy of our youth is like a river. When guided with purpose, it becomes a source of life and progress," he said, calling

upon players to train with "ferocious discipline" and compete with "unbreakable unity" both on and off the field.

Highlighting the role of sports in character-building, Sinha said the Sikh Cricket Premier League is shaping multifaceted personalities and will instill discipline, leadership, teamwork, patience and self-belief among the younger generation. He stressed that sporting events must encourage youth to see sports not merely as a pastime but as a forge for enduring life values.

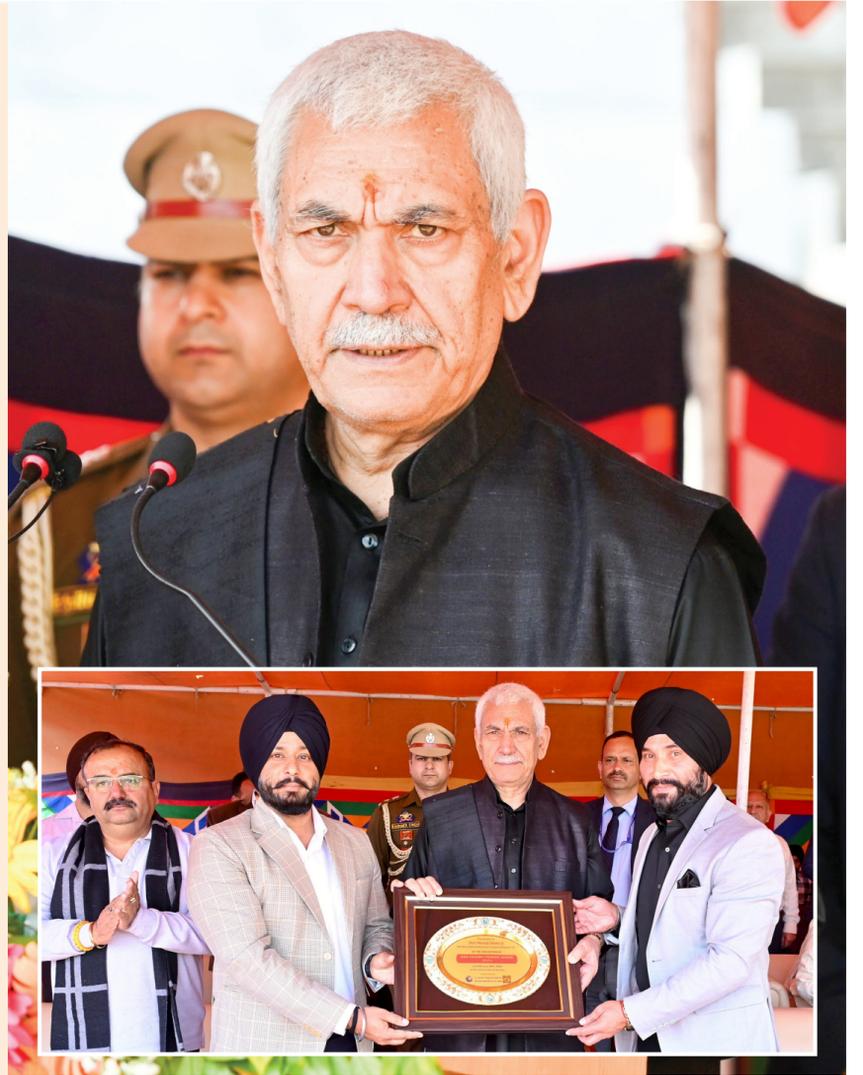
The Lieutenant Governor lauded the initiative of the All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee and the Hari Singh Nalwa Cricket Club, Jammu, describing it as a declaration of brotherhood and social harmony. To promote inclusivity, each participating team includes youth from other communities, organisers said.

"True societal wealth and strength reside not in bricks and mortar, but in fresh ideas," Sinha remarked, expressing confidence that the youth will remain steady

fast in the journey of nation-building.

He further highlighted the transformation of the sports ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir under the leadership of Narendra Modi, citing significant financial support under the Prime Minister's Development Programme (PMDP). Referring to the recent visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the Lieutenant Governor noted the assurance of ₹200 crore assistance for sports development in the Union Territory, with support from national and international sporting bodies.

The event was attended by S. Ajit Singh, Chairman of the All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee, heads of Sikh organisations, prominent citizens, players, coaches and a large number of youth. MLA Bahu Vikram Randhawa, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, IGP Jammu Bhim Sen Tuti, Director Anti-Corruption Bureau Shakti Pathak and other senior officials were also present.



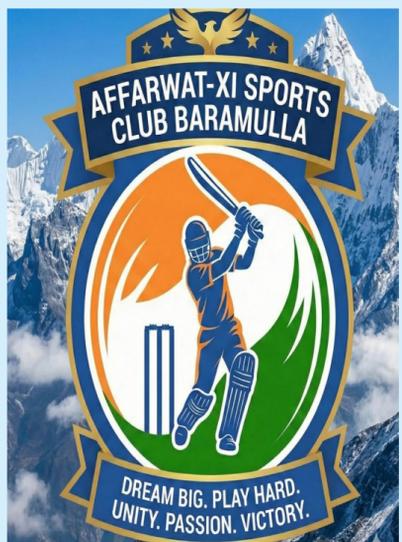
## Affarwat-XI Sports Club Congratulates J&K on Maiden Ranji Title

■ HT SPORTS DESK

**BARAMULLA:** Affarwat-XI Sports Club, Baramulla, extends its heartfelt congratulations to the Jammu and Kashmir cricket team for creating history by lifting the prestigious Ranji Trophy for the first time.

This historic achievement is a moment of immense pride for Jammu and Kashmir and stands as a testament to the hard work, unity, and resilience of the entire team. The victory has not only elevated the status of cricket in the Union Territory but has also inspired thousands of young sportspersons to dream big.

Affarwat-XI Sports Club also congratulates Aujib Nabi Dar, the Man of the Series, for his outstanding and match-winning performances. Hail-



ing from Sheeri, Narvaw, District Baramulla, his success is a shining example of how talent from grassroots and rural areas can excel at the highest national level.

This triumph sends a strong message of hope, belief, and opportunity to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. Affarwat-XI Sports Club salutes the entire team and wishes them continued success in future national and international assignments.

## Still sixty: West Indies lose but retain that 2016 feeling

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**AHMEDABAD:** A hip-high short ball from Corbin Bosch, an effortless shovel-pull from Romario Shepherd, a landmark moment in the history of the T20 World Cup. This six, in the 16th over of Thursday afternoon's Super Eight game in Ahmedabad, was the 63rd of West Indies' tournament.

This six took West Indies past their own previous record, from 2024, for the most sixes hit by any team at a T20 World Cup.

West Indies feature four times in the top 11 six-hitting campaigns of all time: this one (66, with at least one match to go),

2024 (62), and their title-winning runs in 2012 (49) and 2016 (43).

This, of course, will be to no one's surprise. West Indies haven't just produced some of the greatest six-hitters of the T20 era; they've shown the world how to turn it into a science at both individual and team level.

The last time they won the T20 World Cup, in 2016, was probably when the wider world cottoned on to the calculation that went into West Indies' team construction and style of play. Their captain Daren Sammy was one of five seam-bowling all-rounders in their squad, and usually one of four in their XI. He was renowned for his six-

hitting but was probably the least accomplished six-hitter of the four, and his bowling - at that stage of his career - was almost redundant. He batted three times in six matches in that tournament, facing just 13 balls, and bowled a grand total of three overs.

He played an important role, however, simply by being in the line-up, and being one of many possible players who could do a job - six-hitting being a key part of it - if required. The man whose six-hitting won West Indies the final, Carlos Brathwaite, was another player in the same mould. He bowled 18 overs in six games, but he was primarily in the team

for his batting, which he did not do all that much of: 28 balls over three innings (two not-outs).

One of those innings, of course, was that unbeaten 34 off 10 balls, with one four and four sixes. Limited opportunity, maximum impact. Ten years on, Sammy is West Indies' head coach, and his team is built along similar lines. They hit a lot of sixes. They bat incredibly deep, with all-rounders - three bowling seam, one bowling spin - lined up from Nos. 6 to 9. And the six-hitting and the depth go hand-in-hand. One could exist without the other, but it often wouldn't, because of the inherent risk of dismissal that comes with launching the

ball in the air. The depth helps even the odds, so to speak.

On Thursday, against South Africa, West Indies experienced both sides of the probabilistic coin in one of the most unusual T20 innings you'll see. They hit 15 fours and 11 sixes, scoring 126 runs in boundaries. It was the 35th T20I innings, and 163rd in all T20s, to include exactly 126 boundary runs. Their 176 for 8 was the lowest total of all those innings.

The innings included a T20I record eighth-wicket stand of 89 between Shepherd and Jason Holder, which rescued West Indies from the depths of 83 for 7.

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