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Manoj Sinha Reviews Security Grid at
PCR Kashmir, Calls for Heightened Vigil

LG Urges Officers to Ensure Public Peace; Appeals to Citizens to Uphold Harmony

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, MAR 03: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting of senior police and civil administration officials at the Police Control Room (PCR) in Kashmir to assess the prevailing law and order situation.

The review meeting was attended by Director General of Police Nalin Prabhakar, Special DG (Coordination) S. J. M. Gillani, ADGP Armed Anand Jain, ADGP CID Nitish Kumar, IGP Kashmir V. K. Birdi,

● Turn on Page 2

PM Modi Rallies Gulf
Support as West Asia Erupts

PM speaks to Oman, Kuwait leaders; focus on regional security and safety of Indian diaspora

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAR 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday reached out to key Gulf leaders amid the spiralling conflict in West Asia, expressing concern over attacks targeting their countries and stressing the safety of Indian nationals in the region.

In separate telephonic conversations, Modi spoke with Sultan Haitham bin Tarik of Oman and Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Crown

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PM Calls for Investment
Surge, R&D Push to Make India
Global Manufacturing Hub

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAR 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday exhorted industry leaders to

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India Secures Energy
Shield Amid Gulf TurmoilGovt Says Crude, Fuel Stocks Can Meet Demand for Up
to Two Months Despite Hormuz Disruptions

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAR 3: India has adequate crude oil and petroleum product inventories to withstand supply disruptions for six to eight weeks, senior government sources said Tuesday, as tensions escalate in West Asia following US-Israel military strikes on Iran.

Nearly half of India's crude and LPG imports pass through

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Inclusive Growth Key to 'Viksit Bharat', Says CM at Jammu Conference

Chief Minister pitches bottom-up governance and tech-driven reforms to transform districts into engines of national progress



■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 03: Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the

dream of a developed India — Viksit Bharat — can only be realised when every state and region progresses together,

asserting that growth limited to a few pockets would leave the national vision incomplete.

● Turn on Page 2

Raabita Outreach: Omar Abdullah Engages
Cross-Section of Society in Jammu

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 03: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday met a series of delegations and individuals at the Public Outreach Office Raabita here, listening to a broad range of public, developmental and sector-specific concerns and assuring timely redressal of genuine issues.

● Turn on Page 2

J&K Records 17 Lakh Kanals Of State Land Encroached; 75,000 Kanals Transferred Since 2019

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 3: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded encroachment of over 17 lakh kanals of state land, with corresponding entries expunged from revenue records, while more than 75,000 kanals have been transferred to various government departments and agencies since 2019, according to official data.

"There are 1,00,06,163.9 kanals of total state land in Jammu and Kashmir, of which 17,27,246.5 kanals of state land is under encroachment," the data revealed.

The government shared division-wise details of state, government and JDA land under encroachment, the steps taken for retrieval and regularisation, and land allotted to institutions and government departments,

including central agencies, after 2019.

In the Kashmir division, a total of 16,54,709.9 kanals of state land have been recorded, out of which 3,27,198.5 kanals were under encroachment, the data said. It said entries pertaining to 3,27,199 kanals have been expunged from revenue records.

Baramulla district accounts for the highest encroached land at 81,327.65 kanals, followed by Kupwara (52,698.1

kanals), Pulwama (42,730.8 kanals) and Anantnag (36,984 kanals).

Srinagar district reported 13,862.95 kanals under encroachment, it said.

In the Jammu division, against a total of 83,51,454 kanals and 61 marlas of state land, 14,00,048 kanals and 65 marlas were reported under encroachment, it said. The same quantum of land has corresponding

● Turn on Page 2

LG, CM, Dy CM and
Ministers greetings on the
auspicious occasion of Holi

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR/JAMMU, MAR 03: Manoj Sinha, Omar Abdullah, Surinder Choudhary and other members of the Council of Ministers have extended warm and heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Holi, which will be celebrated on March 04 across the Union Territory with enthusiasm and traditional fervour.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, in his message, conveyed his heartiest greetings and said that Holi, the vibrant festival of colours, reflects India's rich cultural heritage and the spirit of unity in diversity.

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Manoj Sinha.....

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, DIG CKR Rajiv Pandey and Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, among other senior officials.

During the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor directed officers to remain on heightened alert and to take all necessary measures to safeguard public peace and tranquillity. He emphasized close coordination between the police and civil administration to effectively respond to any emerging situation.

Appealing to citizens and community leaders, the Lieutenant Governor called upon them to uphold harmony and contribute towards maintaining an atmosphere of calm and goodwill.

“Preserving peace and sustaining the progress of society is a shared responsibility that rests equally upon each one of us,” he said.

In a post on X, Manoj Sinha reiterated the need for vigilance and collective responsibility to ensure stability across the Valley.

Modi Rallies.....

Prince of Kuwait, as tensions escalated across the Gulf following recent military developments.

Officials said the Prime Minister conveyed his deep concern over the attacks reported in their respective territories and discussed measures to ensure the welfare and security of the sizeable Indian community residing there.

The diplomatic outreach comes after a coordinated offensive against Iran by the United States and Israel, which reportedly resulted in the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. In retaliation, Iran is said to have launched drones and missiles targeting Israel and US military facilities across the Gulf region.

Over the past two days, Modi has also spoken to Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain and Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia, condemning attacks that violate sovereignty and reiterating India's solidarity during the crisis.

He further held discussions with Abdullah II of Jordan and Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, besides speaking with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, as New Delhi closely monitors the rapidly evolving situation.

India has maintained that dialogue and restraint remain crucial to restoring peace and stability in the region, even as it steps up diplomatic engagement to safeguard its strategic and diaspora interests. (Agencies)

PM Calls for.....

significantly enhance investments, adopt cutting-edge technologies and prioritise research and development to enable India to fully capitalise on opportunities created by free trade agreements (FTAs) with various countries.

Speaking at the second webinar on Budget 2026–27, the Prime Minister underscored that the era of minimal investment in research was over and called for a decisive shift towards innovation-driven growth.

“The days of cutting corners in research are over. We must now make substantial investments in research and development and ensure that our products meet global quality standards. We should have only one mantra — Quality, Quality, Quality,” he said.

Highlighting that India has signed multiple FTAs in recent years, Modi said these agreements have opened a wide spectrum of export possibilities. However, he stressed that Indian manufacturers must ensure global standards are met without compromise.

As global supply chains undergo rapid transformation, he said the world is seeking dependable and resilient manufacturing partners, presenting a significant opportunity for India.

“Our direction is clear. Our resolve is clear. Build more, produce more, connect more — and now the need is to export more,” he asserted.

Pointing to the evolving global economic landscape, the Prime Minister noted that competitiveness is no longer judged solely on cost, with sustainability emerging as a key determinant. Referring to the Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) Mission, he described it as a crucial initiative steering industry towards cleaner growth.

“Incorporating sustainability into core business strategies is now essential. Industries that invest early in clean technologies will gain better access to emerging markets in the years ahead,” he said.

Emphasising the critical role of infrastructure and logistics, Modi said the Union Budget has earmarked record capital expenditure to strengthen these foundational sectors.

As India positions itself as a growth engine amid global uncertainties, he said accelerated economic development will remain central to realising the vision of ‘Viksit Bharat’. (AGENCIES)

India Secures.....

the strategic Strait of Hormuz, which has witnessed disruptions after Iran warned

vessels to avoid the route and insurers reportedly withdrew coverage, slowing tanker traffic.

A top oil ministry official said the situation is being monitored “on a daily and hourly basis,” expressing confidence that India can navigate any short-term crisis. “At present, the government is reasonably comfortable in terms of stocks,” the official noted.

Strategic Buffers in Place

India holds crude stocks sufficient for about 25 days, alongside refined fuel inventories — including petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel — that can meet demand for a similar period. In addition, underground strategic reserves and commercial inventories together amount to roughly 100 million barrels.

Key storage facilities are located at Mangalore, Padur and Visakhapatnam.

Officials said that even if crude shipments through Hormuz were fully disrupted — currently averaging about 2.5 million barrels per day for India — combined reserves and alternate sourcing could cover 40–45 days of imports. Additional refined product inventories would extend coverage further.

Diversification Strategy Pays Off

The government underscored that India has diversified its crude basket in recent years, securing supplies from the United States, Russia, West Africa and Latin America to reduce dependence on any single route.

While over 50 per cent of imports this year have transited through Hormuz — partly due to a decline in Russian cargoes — the two-year average exposure has been closer to 40 per cent, officials said.

A 24x7 control room has been set up to track petroleum stocks nationwide, ensuring swift response if required.

Prices May Bite

Though immediate shortages appear unlikely, rising crude prices could strain India's import bill. Brent crude crossed USD 80 per barrel, roughly 10 per cent higher since the crisis intensified.

India spent USD 137 billion on crude imports in FY25. Between April 2025 and January 2026 alone, crude imports of 206.3 million tonnes cost USD 100.4 billion.

The present escalation follows military strikes by the United States and Israel on Iranian facilities and Tehran's retaliatory missile and drone attacks targeting Israel and countries hosting US forces.

With nearly one-third of global seaborne crude exports passing through the Strait of Hormuz, the unfolding conflict has rattled energy markets worldwide. However, Indian officials maintain that strategic reserves, diversified sourcing and constant monitoring have positioned the country to weather any short-term shock.

Inclusive Growth.....

Addressing the National Governance Conference on “Holistic Development of Districts: Transforming Governance for Viksit Bharat” in Jammu, the Chief Minister stressed that balanced and equitable development across the country is essential to achieve the 2047 goal.

“A developed India will not become a reality if that development is confined only to a handful of states or regions,” he said, underlining that from Jammu and Kashmir to Assam, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, tangible progress must reach every corner of the nation.

The conference was organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh, Lok Sabha MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo and senior civil servants from across the country were present.

Advocating a bottom-up governance model, Abdullah said national transformation must begin at the district level. “If our districts perform, our states and Union Territories perform. If our states perform, our country performs,” he said, expressing optimism that the 2047 target could be achieved ahead of schedule through effective grassroots governance.

Highlighting the importance of collaborative policymaking, he said such forums help administrators share best practices and avoid “reinventing the wheel,” while cautioning that governance challenges rarely have one-size-fits-all solutions.

“What works in one state may not work in another, but we can adapt successful practices to suit local conditions,” he said.

The Chief Minister also underscored the transformative impact of technology in governance, pointing to the successful implementation of the e-office system. “Paper files have virtually disappeared. Every file is now time-stamped,” he noted, adding that digitisation has enhanced both efficiency and transparency.

He further stressed that citizen-centric initiatives must be implemented in spirit and not merely in form. Referring to single-window systems, he remarked that they should genuinely function as a single access point rather than leading citizens through multiple

bureaucratic hurdles.

Emphasising that elected representatives and administrators share a common objective, Abdullah said people expect delivery in education, healthcare, infrastructure and other essential sectors, and governments must rise to meet those expectations.

He also thanked the Union Minister for choosing Jammu as the venue and invited organisers to consider Srinagar for future editions of the conference.

Raabita Outreach:....

Former Minister Raman Bhalla, accompanied by members of civil society, highlighted welfare-related matters and sought focused policy intervention to address pending concerns and ensure balanced development. Former Minister Jagjiwan Lal also called on the Chief Minister and discussed issues of public importance pertaining to his area and the wider region.

A delegation led by Dr. Parveen Akhter Lone, Principal of IG Government Dental College, briefed the Chief Minister about an upcoming national-level academic event, underlining its importance for strengthening dental education and research in Jammu and Kashmir.

Industrial growth and economic revival featured prominently during a meeting with a delegation headed by Dr. M. A. Alim, Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) J&K. The delegation discussed investment promotion, employment generation and the need for continued government support to reinforce the industrial ecosystem.

Former Cabinet Minister Jugal Kishore Sharma, along with a delegation from Katra, apprised the Chief Minister of issues concerning their area, seeking intervention on matters of public importance.

A group of sportspersons selected under SO-12 (Outstanding Sportspersons) expressed gratitude for being recognised and facilitated in public service. Congratulating them, the Chief Minister encouraged the athletes to continue striving for excellence.

President of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Jammu, Arun Gupta, along with members, discussed trade and routine business matters, urging steps to ease procedural bottlenecks and strengthen the commercial climate in Jammu.

Assuring all delegations of a patient hearing and responsive governance, the Chief Minister reiterated that his government remains accessible to public representatives, industry leaders, professional bodies and citizens, adding that constructive dialogue will continue to guide policy decisions in the larger interest of Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K Records 17.....

entries expunged in revenue records.

Rajouri district recorded the highest encroachment at 2,73,848 kanals and 12 marlas, followed by Reasi (2,26,857 kanals and 6 marlas), Ramban (1,73,832 kanals), Jammu (1,45,487 kanals and 6 marlas) and Kathua (1,30,403 kanals and 1.5 marlas).

The overall grand total across both divisions stands at over 14 lakh kanals under encroachment in the Jammu division and over 3.27 lakh kanals in the Kashmir division.

Giving details about land transferred since 2019 to various government departments, the officials said that 68,190 kanals and 19 marlas of land have been transferred to state and UT government departments and agencies, without charging transfer value in accordance with delegated powers.

Additionally, 7,495 kanals and 10 marlas were transferred to Central government departments and agencies, fetching a transfer value of Rs 10,506.75 lakh, calculated as per prevailing stamp rates, they said.

The year-wise data shows that the Administrative Council approved the transfer of 44,130 kanals and 15 marlas to UT departments and 7,495 kanals and 10 marlas to Central departments between 2019 and 2024.

The Revenue Department transferred 8,103 kanals and 1 marla, divisional commissioners transferred 9,086 kanals and 19 marlas, and deputy commissioners transferred 6,870 kanals and 4 marlas under their respective delegated powers.

As per the data, the competent authorities include the Administrative Council for transfers beyond 500 kanals, the Revenue Department for 100 to 500 kanals, divisional commissioners for 10 to 100 kanals, and deputy commissioners for up to 10 kanals. (Agencies)

LG, CM, Dy CM.....

He expressed hope that the festival heralds happiness and success for all and strengthens the bonds of brotherhood and harmony among citizens. He prayed that the joyous occasion brings prosperity to every household and inspires people to work collectively for peace, progress and development of Jammu and Kashmir.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also extended his warm wishes, describing Holi as a celebration that symbolises togetherness, joy and the triumph of harmony over discord. He said festivals like Holi play a vital role in reinforcing communal harmony and nurturing mutual respect among different

communities. The Chief Minister expressed confidence that the “Festival of Colors” would deepen the enduring bonds of brotherhood and usher in renewed hope, happiness and optimism for the people. He prayed for sustained peace, prosperity and inclusive growth across Jammu and Kashmir.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, in his greetings, highlighted the deep religious and cultural significance of Holi and noted that it is celebrated with enthusiasm cutting across religious and social lines. He observed that Jammu and Kashmir has long stood as an example of communal harmony and shared traditions, where people participate wholeheartedly in each other's festivals. He wished that the festival fills lives with colours of joy, strength and good health, and further strengthens peace, unity and understanding among all sections of society.

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, said that Holi symbolises unity, harmony and the triumph of goodness over negativity. She remarked that cultural festivals strengthen the social fabric by promoting inclusiveness, compassion and brotherhood. The Minister prayed that the festival brings joy, prosperity and renewed positivity to every home, fills lives with optimism and reinforces the bonds of unity across regions. She also wished for peace, progress and well-

being of the entire Union Territory.

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, IT, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, extended his greetings and said that Holi represents the victory of truth over falsehood and good over evil. He noted that the festival strengthens the spirit of unity, love and compassion among communities and offers an opportunity to renew relationships and move forward with a sense of positivity and cooperation. Emphasising Jammu and Kashmir's composite culture, he called for collective efforts towards peace, prosperity and overall development. He also urged citizens, especially the youth, to celebrate the festival responsibly and in an eco-friendly manner, promoting water conservation and ensuring safety.

Other ministers and public representatives also joined in extending greetings, expressing hope that the festival of colours will foster harmony, deepen social bonds and inspire people to rise above divisions. They emphasised the importance of celebrating the occasion with mutual respect, kindness and care for the environment.

Collectively, the leaders conveyed their prayers for the happiness, health and success of the people and expressed hope that Holi would mark a renewed commitment towards unity, communal harmony and sustained progress in Jammu and Kashmir.

Army, Ladakh Administration Ink MoU To Preserve Fragile Ecology, Wildlife

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

LEH/JAMMU, MAR 3:

The Army's Fire and Fury Corps and the Ladakh administration on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to preserve the fragile high-altitude ecology of the region and conserve key wildlife species including the snow leopard, Himalayan wolf, ibex, marmot and black-necked crane.

The MoU was signed on the occasion of World Wildlife Day between the Army's Udhampur-based Fire and Fury Corps and the Forest, Ecology and Environment Department of Union territory administration under the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) programme, a defence spokesman said.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Lt General Hitesh Bhalla, General Officer Commanding (GOC), Fire and Fury Corps, and Ladakh Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra.

Describing the initiative as a “historic step towards wildlife conservation”, the spokesperson said the partnership seeks to promote sustainable development and environmental protection in Ladakh's high-altitude ecosystems and reaffirms the shared commitment to preserving its rich biodiversity and fragile ecology for future generations.

The collaboration will focus on conserving flagship species such as the snow leopard, Himalayan wolf, ‘bharal’

(blue sheep), ibex, marmot and black-necked crane, along with protection of their natural habitats.

Officials said the Army has consistently worked towards balancing the twin responsibilities of safeguarding the nation's borders and protecting the region's flora and fauna.

As part of the initiative, a joint Snow Leopard Conservation Cell will be established to monitor conservation efforts and further the objectives of species protection in the ecologically sensitive region, they said, adding that the partnership would create a framework for adopting eco-friendly practices and strengthening coordinated conservation measures in Ladakh.



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CMYK

Deputy Chief Minister calls for skilling J&K youth for local, national, international job markets

Stresses introduction of innovative, job-oriented trades, enrolling underprivileged for skill trainings

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, FEB 03: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today called for a comprehensive study and exploration of emerging job opportunities at the local, national and international level to enhance employment prospects for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

He made these remarks while chairing a high-level review meeting of the Skill Development Department (SDD) held at PWD Guest House, Jammu.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, SDD, Rajiv Ranjan; Director, SDD, Owais Ahmad; MD, Skill Development Mission, Leena Padha; Principals, Superintendents of Polytechnics and ITIs, besides other senior officers while officers from the Kashmir region participated virtually.

Taking a comprehensive review of the department's functioning,



the Deputy Chief Minister directed the officers to conduct area-wise assessments of job markets and undertake detailed studies of employment trends at the national and international levels. He emphasized introducing latest, innovative and job-oriented trades across ITIs and Polytechnics to meet the local industry needs and tap employment avenues in Euro-

pean and Middle Eastern markets. He also called for roping in reputed job consultancies and strengthening placement cells to facilitate employment-driven training programmes.

The Deputy Chief Minister asked all the Principals to proactively share ideas for launching demand-based courses aligned with the industry requirements to effectively address unemployment.

Stressing the need to bring greater vibrancy and accountability in the department, he said that performance would determine postings and career progression, not recommendations. "You are nation builders. Work with dedication and ensure our youth are skilled and employable," he asserted.

While reviewing the functioning of Polytechnics and ITIs, he directed for seamless operations and saturation of enrolment across all trades. He emphasized inclusive skilling, instructing the officers to "ensure that underprivileged, destitute and orphaned youth are identified and enrolled in various courses and trades being offered by skill institutions."

The Deputy Chief Minister further stressed for strengthening infrastructure across all districts and fast-tracking recruitment and promotions to address staff shortages within the department.

Earlier, Secretary SDD briefed the Deputy Chief Minister on the proposed Mission Skill Plan aimed at strengthening knowledge and training from the school level. He stated that the department seeks to create a future-ready, industry-responsive workforce through integrated and outcome-based skilling interventions.

Rana reviews PHE & I&FC schemes in Kashmir Division; calls for timely, quality execution

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 03: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, today reviewed the progress of ongoing Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) schemes being executed across Kashmir division.

The meeting, which was convened virtually, focused on a comprehensive assessment of the physical and financial progress of key drinking water supply and irrigation projects currently under execution.



The Minister underscored the importance of adhering to the set timelines and maintaining complete transparency and accountability in project implementation. He directed the officers to ensure strict compliance with the prescribed quality standards at every stage, from planning to execution, so that durable and sustainable infrastructure is created for the public.

Expressing concern over reports of water supply disruptions in certain areas, the Minister instructed the officials to immediately address the grievances related to potable water availability. He emphasized the need for prompt complaint redressal, strengthening of distribution networks and close monitoring of supply systems to guarantee uninterrupted access to safe drinking water for all the households.

With the upcoming cropping season approaching, the Minister called for proactive measures to ensure that irrigation infrastructure is fully operational. He directed the officers to expedite desiltation of canals, repair and replacement of worn-out plant and machinery besides removal of bottlenecks that could hamper water flow.

Special emphasis was laid on restoration and maintenance of traditional irrigation channels, including kuls, to support the farmers and safeguard agricultural productivity.

Reviewing flood control preparedness, the Minister stressed the urgency of completing protective works at the identified vulnerable and flood-prone locations within the stipulated timelines. He called for coordinated planning and swift execution of mitigation measures to protect the lives, property and farmland from potential flood threats, particularly in view of the changing weather patterns.

Senior officials including the Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Kashmir, Chief Engineer, I&FC Kashmir and other departmental officers briefed the Minister on the current status of various projects and outlined the steps being taken to accelerate their completion and resolve existing challenges.

The Minister directed the officers to maintain rigorous field-level monitoring and ensure that the intended benefits of these schemes reach the people efficiently and without delay.

Dry conditions to prevail in J&K till March 6: IMD

Cloudy skies with isolated rain, snow forecast after March 7

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR MAR 03: The India Meteorological Department on Tuesday said weather in Jammu and Kashmir will remain largely dry till March 6, with chances of light rain and snow at isolated places thereafter.

According to the Meteorological Centre in Srinagar, the region is expected to witness partly cloudy weather from March 3 to 6, with a brief spell of light snow over isolated higher reaches on March 4.

From March 7 to 9, the weather department, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), has forecast generally cloudy conditions with light rain and snow over higher reaches at isolated to scattered places.

Similar conditions are likely on March 10 and 11. The weather is expected to remain generally dry from March 12 to 14, while March 15 and 16 may see generally cloudy skies.

The Met office advised farmers to continue farm operations. It said day temperatures are likely to rise by 1-2 degrees Celsius at most places over the next four days, followed by a fall of 2-4 degrees Celsius at many places.

During the past 24 hours, maximum temperatures remained above normal in several parts of the Union Territory. Srinagar recorded a maximum of 21.4 degrees Celsius, against a normal of 13.0 degrees, while the minimum settled at 2.1 degrees.

Qazigund recorded a high of 21.2 degrees and a low of 0.4 degrees. Pahalgam registered 17.5 degrees



as the maximum and minus 2.1 degrees as the minimum. Kupwara recorded a high of 21.1 degrees and a low of minus 0.2 degrees, while Kokernag settled at 19.0 and 4.0 degrees, respectively. Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 11.6 degrees and a minimum of minus 0.2 degrees.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum of 28.6 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 11.7 degrees. Banihal registered 21.1 and 10.4 degrees, Batote 21.7 and 10.6 degrees, Katra 26.6 and 14.6 degrees, Bhaderwah 22.7 and 3.4 degrees, and Kathua 27.8 and 12.8 degrees—(KNO)

February 2026 breaks all records: Jammu records zero rainfall, Srinagar logs lowest since 1960

Dry spell leaves plains, upper reaches grappling with uncertainty

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, MAR 03: February 2026 has emerged as one of the driest months on record across Jammu and Kashmir, with several meteorological stations reporting either their lowest-ever rainfall or figures close to historic lows, according to data.

According to independent weatherman Faizan Arif of Kashmir Weather, Srinagar recorded only 5.3 mm rainfall during February.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), with data available since 1901, this is the lowest February rainfall since 1960, when 5.8 mm was registered, placing this year among the driest Februaries in over a century for the summer capital.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded zero rainfall during the month. Records dating back to 1925 show that such a complete absence of rainfall in February has occurred only once before—in 1945—making 2026 only the second such instance in 101 years.

In North Kashmir's Kupwara, 17.7 mm rainfall was recorded, the lowest since records began in 1977. The previous lowest was 21.8 mm in 1997.

The ski resort of Gulmarg recorded 48.0 mm precipitation. While not an all-time low, it is the lowest February



rainfall there since 1985, when 24.8 mm was observed. Data for Gulmarg is available from 1967 onwards.

Qazigund in South Kashmir reported 13.0 mm rainfall, the lowest since records began in 1963, breaking the previous record low of 31.6 mm set in 2020. Pahalgam recorded 23.4 mm, marginally below its previous lowest of 23.6 mm in 2020, with data available since 1979.

Kokernag registered 13.0 mm rainfall, the second lowest since 1978, just above the all-time low of 11.8 mm recorded in 2020.

In the Chenab Valley region, Bani-

hal recorded 8.4 mm rainfall, the lowest since 1962, while Batote reported 18.8 mm, also the lowest since 1978. Bhaderwah recorded 49.0 mm, making it the third lowest February rainfall there since 1978.

In the Shivalik foothills, Katra recorded zero rainfall, the lowest February total since records began in 1981, surpassing the previous low of 5.0 mm in 2023.

Officials said the prolonged dry spell has raised concerns in both the plains and higher reaches, particularly in snow-dependent and agriculture-reliant areas—(KNO)

World Hearing Day: Experts flag rising hearing loss in J&K, 0.2% population affected

Link condition to ageing, noise exposure; call for early screening, awareness

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, MAR 03: Health experts in Jammu and Kashmir have raised concerns over the growing burden of hearing impairment, revealing that nearly 0.2 per cent of the population in the Union Territory is affected by hearing disabilities.

Medical professionals attribute this largely to ageing and chronic exposure to loud noise, cautioning that hearing loss is often gradual but largely preventable with timely care and awareness.

Dr Neelofar Jan, an ENT specialist, speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that hearing loss is broadly classified into three types—conductive, sensorineural, and mixed.

She explained that conductive hearing loss occurs due to problems in transmitting sound waves through the outer or middle ear. "This can result from issues like earwax buildup, fluid accumulation, infections, perforation of the

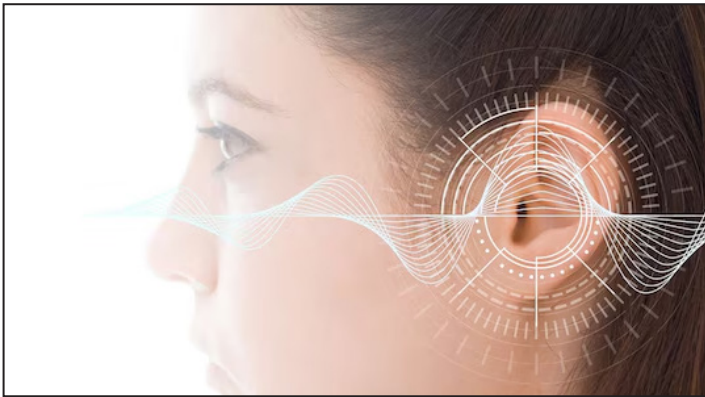
eardrum, or abnormalities in the ear bones," Dr Neelofar said, adding that many such cases are treatable.

On the other hand, sensorineural hearing loss is linked to damage in the inner ear or auditory nerve. "This type is commonly caused by prolonged exposure to loud noise or natural ageing, also known as presbycusis. It is usually managed with hearing aids," she said.

Dr Tabassum, another ENT specialist, said the World Hearing Day aims to promote ear and hearing care, early detection, and access to treatment, noting that many cases of hearing impairment can be prevented or effectively managed if diagnosed early.

"Good hearing is essential for communication, learning, and overall well-being. Our ears work closely with the brain to process sounds, helping us understand our surroundings," she said.

She added that hearing loss may be congenital or acquired,



with common acquired causes including noise exposure, ageing, viral infections such as meningitis, measles, and mumps, as well as autoimmune conditions.

Doctors also pointed out that symptoms of hearing loss often go unnoticed initially and may include muffled speech, difficulty understanding conversations in noisy environments, frequently asking others to repeat themselves, increasing volume levels of devices, and social withdrawal.

Another ENT specialist from Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar said that damage to delicate hair cells in the inner ear due to ageing or noise exposure is a major cause. "Once these cells are damaged, sound signals are not transmitted efficiently to the brain, leading to hearing impairment," he said.

They further added that earwax blockage, infections, sudden loud blasts, pressure changes, or injury to the eardrum can also impair hearing, while conditions

like tinnitus and Meniere's disease may additionally affect ear health.

Experts stressed that while some forms of hearing loss—especially conductive types—can be medically or surgically treated, others may require assistive devices such as hearing aids. In severe cases, cochlear implants can offer significant improvement.

Raising concern over the broader impact, Dr Tabassum said, "Globally, nearly one in four individuals experiences some degree of hearing loss. In our communities, too, every third or fourth person may have some level of hearing difficulty, often ignored."

She urged people to prioritise regular ENT check-ups, avoid prolonged exposure to loud sounds, and seek medical advice at the early signs of hearing issues. "Protecting hearing today is essential to ensuring better communication, social inclusion, and quality of life tomorrow," she added—(KNO)

DDC Kulgam chairs DLRC Meeting

Reviews performance under ACP for quarter ended December 2025

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, MARCH 03: District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting for the quarter ended December 2025 of FY 2025-26 was held today under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kulgam, Shahzad Alam today chaired the DLRC meeting to review the performance of banks under the Annual Credit Plan (ACP) and the progress achieved under various Government-sponsored schemes for the quarter ended December 2025 of FY 2025-26.

At the outset, Iftikhar Ahmad Padder, Lead District Manager, Lead Bank Kulgam, informed the house that different banks operating in District Kulgam have achieved a total business of Rs 4491.54 crore, out of which, Deposits in the district have risen from Rs 2219.58 crore as on 31 December 2024 to Rs 2361.77 crore as on 31 December 2025, registering a YoY growth of 7.23 percent.

Advances have increased from Rs 1830.76 crore as on 31 December 2024 to Rs 2129.77 crore as on 31 December 2025, reflecting a YoY growth of 13.86 percent.

The CD ratio of the district stands at 87.89 percent as on 31.12.2025.

Regarding credit disbursement under the Annual Credit Plan for FY 2025-26 upto 31.12.2025, banks operating in the district have made total credit disbursement of Rs 1598.94 crore against an annual target of Rs 2330.93 crore, thereby achieving 69 percent of the target.



Out of the total disbursement, Rs 1116.95 crore was disbursed under the Priority Sector against a target of Rs 1674.29 crore, achieving 67 percent of the target, while Rs 481.99 crore was disbursed under the Non-Priority Sector against a target of Rs 656.64 crore, achieving 73 percent of the target.

The Chairman directed all stakeholders to improve priority

sector lending under various Government-sponsored schemes like Mission YUVA so that unemployed youth can attain self-sufficiency through self-employment initiatives of the Central and UT Governments.

He also instructed all sponsoring agencies and lending institutions to enhance performance under the priority sector.

The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli

Yojana was also discussed, and the Chair directed banks to increase lending under the scheme to boost rooftop solar power generation and achieve the objective of providing free electricity benefits.

Further, social security schemes including PM Suraksha Bima Yojana, PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana were reviewed, with directions to ensure wider

coverage of eligible beneficiaries across the district.

The chair directed all banks to improve the CD ratio and financial literacy in the district, accelerate priority sector lending, and ensure timely achievement of ACP targets by March 2026.

The District Development Commissioner also instructed all concerned departments and banking institutions to undertake intensified awareness programmes across the district to ensure that eligible beneficiaries are fully informed about various government-sponsored and social security schemes. He further emphasized the need to initiate regular capacity-building sessions for field functionaries and stakeholders to enhance their understanding, improve coordination, and ensure effective implementation of schemes on the ground.

Joint Director Planning, Malik Suhail; ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Kulgam, District Sheep Husbandry Officer Kulgam, Chief Agriculture Officer Kulgam; Executive Engineer DUDA Kulgam; Fisheries Development Officer Kulgam; DPM NRLM Kulgam; District Officer KVIB Kulgam; district officer Handicrafts and Handloom Department Kulgam; Lead District Officer, RBI Jammu, DDM NABARD, Cluster Head J&K Bank Kulgam, District Coordinators of all banks and other, Regional Manager, Grameen Bank; Director RSETI J&K Bank Kulgam and other officers attended the meeting.

Market Checking Drive conducted in Handwara to ensure fair pricing during Ramadan

HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, MARCH 3: In a concerted efforts to regulate market prices and prevent hoarding during the holy month of Ramadan, the Tehsil Administration Handwara, under the directives of Deputy Commissioner, (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse and in supervision of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, conducted an extensive market checking drive in Handwara Town today.



The drive was led by Tehsildar Handwara, Zeeshan Khan in collaboration with the SDPO Handwara and officials from Revenue department.

The inspection covered various markets in Handwara town to ensure that essential commodities were being sold at fair prices and in adequate supply.

During the inspection, officials assessed the pricing of staple food items, vegetables, dairy products to government regulations. The team also checked for any instances of hoarding, overpricing, and the sale of substandard goods.

Speaking on the occasion, Tehsildar Handwara emphasized the importance of the drive stating the primary objective of this initiative is to regulate the availability of fresh and hygienic products for the people during Ramadan. The Administration has urged local shopkeepers and vendors to strictly adhere to the prescribed price lists and maintain transparency in their trade practices.

The officials have assured that similar inspections will continue in the coming days to safeguard consumer interests and prevent any unfair trade practices.

President of Traders Federation Handwara appreciated the administration's proactive approach in ensuring that essential commodities remain affordable and available throughout the month of fasting.

Authorities have also issued a warning that strict action will be taken against violators found indulging in profiteering or black marketing, as ensuring fair trade practices remains a top priority for the district administration.

DC Budgam chairs meeting on selection of beneficiaries under PMMSY for 2025-26

HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, MARCH 03: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan today chaired a meeting at the District Headquarters to review and finalize the selection of beneficiaries under various components of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) for the year 2025-26.

The meeting was convened by the office of the Assistant Director Fisheries, Budgam, to deliberate upon the applications received for establishment of fisheries-related units in the private sector under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The department of Fisheries is providing financial assistance under PMMSY to promote entrepreneurship, enhance fish production, generate employment, and strengthen the fisheries sector in the district. It was informed in the meeting that wide publicity was ensured through advertisement notices published in leading local dailies and uploaded on the district website to invite applications from eligible and interested unemployed youth and individuals intending to avail incentives under the scheme. 220 Applications were received in the office of Assistant Director Fisheries Budgam within the stipulated timeline, out of which 106 are feasible. All the feasible 106 applications were approved in the meeting. The meeting reviewed the tentative



targets allocated by the Directorate for various components and examined the applications received under different activities. Detailed discussions were held regarding feasibility, eligibility criteria, and government share admissible under the scheme guidelines. The DC emphasized transparency, merit-based selection, and timely processing of cases to ensure that genuine beneficiaries receive support. He directed the concerned officers to strictly adhere to scheme norms and ensure that the benefits reach deserving applicants, particularly unemployed youth, to boost self-employment and livelihood generation in the district. The DC further reiterated the administration's commitment to strengthening the fisheries sector as a viable source of income and directed the department to provide necessary handholding and technical guidance to selected beneficiaries for successful implementation of their projects. The meeting was attended by ADC Budgam, PO ICDS, JD planning, SE Hydraulics Circle Budgam, ACD Budgam, CAO Budgam, AD fisheries, representative from KVK, concerned district officers and officials of the Fisheries department.

DC Ganderbal chairs DLIC on Mission Yuva, approves 224 cases

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, MARCH 03: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) to review and approve cases under Mission Yuva in the district.

During the meeting, the committee deliberated in detail on the applications received. After thorough scrutiny, a total of 224 cases including 223 Nano cases and 01 MSME case were approved to enable aspiring entrepreneurs to establish and expand their ventures

across diverse sectors.

Addressing the meeting, the DC stressed the importance of timely processing and disposal of cases to ensure that eligible youth receive financial assistance without delay.

He directed the concerned officers and banking institutions to expedite sanction and disbursement of cases so that the beneficiaries can commence their activities at the earliest.

The DC further instructed the Lead District Manager and other officers to maintain close coordination and ensure that all formalities are completed in a time-

bound manner.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to youth empowerment, the DC urged officers to provide handholding support to beneficiaries, including guidance on project formulation, market linkage and follow-up support to ensure the sustainability of the units established under Mission Yuva.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Lead District Manager, Functional Manager DIC, officials from Employment Department and other concerned officers and officials.

DC Kulgam inspects multiple Government Offices, visits Libraries & Reading Rooms

Instructs establishment of SBDU Cell at Employment & Counselling Campus

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, MARCH 03: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today conducted an extensive inspection of several key government offices across the district, including the Employment & Counselling Centre, Tehsil Office Kulgam, and various district and tehsil libraries and reading rooms.

During his visit to the Employment & Counselling Centre,

the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to establish a Self Business Development Unit (SBDU) Cell within the campus to strengthen self-employment opportunities and facilitate aspiring entrepreneurs.

He emphasized the need for structured career guidance, professional counselling, and skill development support for unemployed youth to enhance their employability and entrepreneurial capacities.

Highlighting the importance of constructive youth engagement, the DC further instructed that the Youth Engagement Centre be developed into a centre of excellence aimed at channelizing the energy of young people into productive and skill-oriented activities.

He noted that such initiatives would help create a supportive ecosystem for career growth, innovation, and sustainable livelihood generation in the district.

At the Tehsil Office Kulgam, the Deputy Commissioner inspected mutation registers and Jamabandi records to assess the efficiency of revenue administration. He also reviewed the delivery of services under Revenue Plus and the issuance of certificates through Jan-Sugam. Stressing transparency, accountability, and efficiency in public service delivery, he directed officials to ensure the timely disposal of pending cases and the

seamless provision of services to the public.

While inspecting the district and tehsil libraries and reading rooms, the DC instructed the concerned authorities to maintain proper cleanliness, upgrade infrastructure, and ensure a conducive academic atmosphere for students and readers.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Riyaz Ahmad Shah accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit.

DDC Doda reviews implementation of District Capex Budget 2025-26

HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, MARCH 03: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda, Krishan Lal today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of works being executed under the District Capex Budget 2025-26.

At the outset, a detailed sector-wise PowerPoint presentation was given, highlighting the physical and financial progress achieved so far across different departments.

The DDC undertook a thorough sector-wise review covering Irrigation, PWD (R&B), Health, Education, Jal Shakti, PDD, Rural Development Department (RDD), Municipal bodies and other key sectors.

Further, the meeting reviewed the constituency-wise physical and financial status of works under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF). Additionally, the physical and financial progress of projects under SASCI, Heritage and DAJGUA schemes was also assessed in detail to ensure timely implementation and effective utilization



of resources.

The works being implemented under the Area Development Plan (DDC Grants, BDC Grants and PRI Grants), besides the Aspirational Block Development Programme and Aspirational Panchayat Development Programme were also reviewed.

The meeting was attended by the CPO, SE Jal Shakti/Hydraulic, SE PWD (R&B), ACD, ACP, CEO, CMO, AD Planning, Executive Engineers of R&B, Gandoh and Bhaderwah, Municipality, besides other concerned officers and officials.

Nukkad Natak promotes "Hearing Care for All Children" at Govt. Hospital Gandhi Nagar on World Hearing Day

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MARCH 03: The World Hearing Day was observed today by the Health Department in collaboration with the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR). A Nukkad Natak was presented at Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar to spread awareness on this year's theme: "Communities to Classrooms - Hearing Care for All Children."

The programme focused on educating people about the common symptoms of hearing loss and ear diseases among children, along with the crucial steps required to detect hearing impairment early—before it affects a child's cognition, speech and language development.

The Nukkad Natak by artists of the Cultural Unit effectively conveyed the message in an engaging and impactful manner, drawing the attention of patients, attendants, medical staff and visitors at



the hospital. The programme was conducted under the direction of Joint Director Information, Deepak Dubey and under the supervision of Cultural Officer, Mohit Sharma.

The event was attended by Director Health, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar; Medical Superintendent Dr. Narinder Bhatiyal; senior officers from the Health Department and Nodal Officer national programme for prevention & control of deafness Dr. Mridula Singh. A large number of people and medical interns were also present on the occasion and participated in the awareness interactions.



Director Agriculture Kashmir inspects Key Schemes at Lalmandi

Reviews preparations for upcoming Agricultural Season

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MARCH 03: Director Agriculture Kashmir (DAK), Sartaj Ahmad Shah, today conducted a detailed inspection of several flagship schemes at the Lalmandi complex in Srinagar.

The visit focused on assessing progress under the Floriculture Development Scheme, Kitchen Garden Scheme, and Integrated Mushroom Development Centre (IMDC), while also reviewing overall preparations for the upcoming agricultural season.

During the inspection, the Director visited various sections of the Floriculture Development Scheme to evaluate infrastructure, nursery operations, and ongoing initiatives aimed at promoting commercial floriculture and allied activities in the region. He emphasized the importance of enhancing flower production, quality standards, and market linkages to boost farmers' income under government-supported programs.



At the Kitchen Garden Scheme facility, the Director reviewed seedling production, distribution mechanisms, and promotional efforts to encourage household and community-level vegetable cultivation. The scheme continues to play a vital role in promoting self-sufficiency in fresh vegetables,

nutritional security, and sustainable home gardening practices among rural and urban households.

The inspection also included the Integrated Mushroom Development Centre (IMDC), where the Director assessed spawn production, compost facilities, training programs, and technical support extended to

mushroom growers. He directed officials to strengthen extension services and ensure timely availability of quality inputs to farmers interested in mushroom cultivation as a high-value enterprise.

While interacting with officers and field staff, the Director reviewed the overall readiness for the forthcoming agricultural season, including input availability (seeds, fertilizers, and planting material), pest and disease management strategies, weather-adaptive practices, and farmer outreach programs. He stressed the need for coordinated efforts to maximize productivity, minimize post-harvest losses, and align departmental activities with the objectives of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and other schemes.

The Director commended the dedication of the staff at Lalmandi and called for sustained focus on innovation, quality, and farmer-centric service delivery to achieve the goals of sustainable agriculture in Kashmir division.

DC Budgam reviews "Youth Engagement and Empowerment Plan"

HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, MARCH 03: A meeting regarding the "Youth Engagement and Empowerment Plan" was today convened at the DC Office Complex Budgam under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan to deliberate upon structured initiatives aimed at channelizing the energy of youth towards constructive and nation-building activities.

The meeting was attended by the Joint director Planning Budgam, ACD Budgam, Chief Education Officer Budgam, District Youth Services & Sports Officer Budgam, Assistant Labour Commissioner Budgam, and District Information Officer Budgam, among other concerned officials.

At the outset, the DC emphasised the need for a coordinated and result-oriented approach among all departments to ensure holistic youth empowerment. Highlighting the importance of sports activities, the DC articulated a visionary concept of "One Sport for One Child." He underscored that every student in the district should be associated with at least one sport, so as to promote physical fitness, discipline, team spirit, and mental well-being among young learners.

He stated that sports are not merely extracurricular activities but essential components of overall education and youth development.

The DC directed Chief Education Officer Budgam to initiate the preparation of a separate and dedicated "Sports Card" for each student enrolled in government and private educational institutions across the district. He said, the Sports Card shall record the specific sport chosen by the student, level of participation, achievements, performance tracking, and progress over time.

The DC further said, this database will enable systematic monitoring and identification of talent at an early stage, facilitating targeted coaching and advanced training opportunities.

He directed that schools should encourage students to voluntarily select a sport based on their interest and aptitude.

The District Youth Services & Sports Officer was instructed to ensure availability of basic sports infrastructure and trained coaches, wherever feasible, and to organize regular inter-school and zone-level competitions to nurture competitive spirit among students.

The DC emphasized that youth empowerment must extend beyond sports and academics to include employability, entrepreneurship, and vocational skills.

The DC called for transforming Budgam into a model district in youth engagement, where every child is actively involved in at least one sport and is provided with the necessary support to excel in life.

Walkathon marks Day 2 of Women's Week celebrations in Kathua

District-wide activities generates awareness on rights, safety laws

HT NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA, MARCH 3: The second day of the Women's Week celebrations initiated by the District Administration Kathua to mark International Women's Day was marked by walkathons and awareness activities, celebrating the role and contribution of women in society. At the District Headquarters, a walkathon was flagged off by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma in the presence of Chief Education Officer Kewal Krishan, District Social Welfare



Officer Varun Chaudhary, District Education & Planning Officer Anjana Manyal and other officers. Women from different walks of life, including representatives from self-help groups, anganwadi workers, students and members of civil society, participated enthusiastically in the event.

Addressing the participants, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted that the multi-faceted week-long programme aims not only to celebrate the achievements of women but also to generate awareness about the numerous

opportunities available to them in diverse sectors.

Similar walkathons were also held at Hiranagar and Bani Sub divisions witnessing active participation from women, youth and officials. Sessions on Cyber Security and awareness on women-centric laws were also held across the sub-divisions to educate women about their rights and their vital role in the upliftment of society.

The Women's Week celebrations will continue with a series of thematic programmes and outreach activities across the district.

DC Kishtwar inaugurates "League of Classics" under Youth Engagement Programme 2026

HT NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR, MARCH 03: The Department of Youth Services & Sports Kishtwar today organized the Youth Engagement Inter-Block District Level Tournament under the flagship "League of Classics" in the disciplines of cricket, football and volleyball at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Girls Kishtwar.

The long drawn tournament is being conducted under the direction of Anuradha Gupta, Director General, Youth Services & Sports J&K and under the guidance and supervision of District Youth Services & Sports Officer, Jaffer Haider Sheikh.

The event was formally inaugurated by District Development Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma as the Chief Guest. The host School Principal Radha Sen was the Guest of Honour.

The DC declared the "League of Classics" tournament open, marking the beginning of an exciting series of competitions aimed at promoting sportsmanship, discipline and youth participation in constructive activities.

Addressing the gathering, the DC emphasized the importance of sports in shaping character, imbuing confidence and leadership qualities among youth.

The DYSSO said that the Youth Engagement Programme - League of Classics has been initiated with the objective of channeling the energy of youth toward healthy competition, physical fitness and team spirit, while also identifying talented players for higher-level competitions.

A large number of young players from different blocks of the District participated in the tournament with great enthusiasm and zeal.

The opening day witnessed exciting matches in volleyball, drawing appreciation from spectators and officials present at the venue.

The DC also administered Nasha Mukh Bharat Pledge to all the participants.

The event was successfully coordinated by the field staff of the Youth Services & Sports Department, including Physical Education Masters, Physical Education Teachers, REKs, GMs and NYC officials, whose dedicated efforts ensured the smooth conduct of the tournament.

DC Rajouri reviews, finalises preparations for ASMITA League

HT NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI, MARCH 03: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting to review preparations for the celebration of International Women's Day 2026 in the district.

The meeting discussed arrangements for organising sports and fitness activities as part of the ASMITA League (Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action). The initiative aims at promoting and encouraging greater participation of women and girls in sports.

The meeting was informed that competitions including badminton, tug of war and Fun Activities shall be held in Sports Stadium, 100 metre and 200 metre race at DPL Rajouri, while a 400 metre race will be conducted at ALG. The events under ASMITA League are being organised in 250 locations across the Nation. In J&K, the events shall be organised at 3 locations including Rajouri. Women participants will compete in three separate age categories - below 13 years, 13 to 18 years and above 18 years - to ensure wider participation. The Deputy Commissioner was informed that the event will be organised with the collaborative effort of Sports Authority of India, MY Bharat, Khelo India Centres, the SAI ecosystem and the State Government. The initiative aims to create a meaningful nationwide celebration of women's empowerment through sports and fitness in continuation with the ASMITA initiative.

The DC directed the Principal of Government Medical College Rajouri to establish health, nutrition and dietician counters at the venue to facilitate participants and spread awareness about healthy lifestyles among women. He further directed the concerned departments to set up stalls displaying IEC material related to various women-centric welfare schemes to create awareness among participants and the general public. Meanwhile District Social Welfare Officer Rajouri was directed to ensure organising of the Inaugural Ceremony of Gojri Caps. To facilitate participation from remote areas, the DC also instructed the concerned officers to ensure adequate transport facilities for women participants from peripheral areas to and from the venue.

ADC Chander Prakash, PO ICDS Harpal Singh, Nitin Hangloo Deputy Director MY Bharat Rajouri, Principal GMC Rajouri A. S. Bhatia, CMO Manohar Lal Rana, Principal Government Degree College Rajouri Anwer Shah, Executive Engineer PWD Rajouri Aftab Anwar, CEO Mohd Hafeez, DYSS Ali Mohd, EO Municipality Yousuf-ul-Umar and other district and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

MSME-DFO Jammu organises awareness programme on PM Vishwakarma at Udhampur

HT NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR, MARCH 03: The MSME-DFO Jammu, in collaboration with the District Administration Udhampur, today organized a PM Vishwakarma awareness programme here at Conference Hall DC Office Complex. The programme witnessed participation from more than 200 PM Vishwakarma artisans. Their active involvement highlighted the growing inclination toward entrepreneurship as a means of achieving self-reliance and sustainable livelihood. The interactive session enabled participants to raise queries regarding financial assistance, subsidy-linked schemes, enterprise registration, digital platforms, marketing support and business expansion opportunities.

Earlier, the event began with a welcome address by Young Professional, MSME-DFO Jammu Shahid Hussain Wani, who emphasized the importance

of formalizing traditional artisans and integrating them into the mainstream economic framework through structured government support.

A presentation on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) was delivered by Sarthak Khoda, GeM Trainer, North Region. He explained the process of seller registration on the GeM portal, product listing, participation in government procurement and the benefits of digital marketing and transparent procurement systems for artisans and small entrepreneurs.

District Nodal Officer JKEDI, Yash Paul Sharma listed the JKEDI schemes aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and startup culture in the region. He elaborated on financial assistance, seed capital support, training programmes, skill development initiatives and mentoring support available to aspiring entrepreneurs.

A detailed presentation on MSME schemes was delivered by D.K. Tyagi

(IEDS), Assistant Director, MSME-DFO Jammu General Manager DIC Kishore Singh Katoch and Functional Manager Jagdeep Singh delivered a comprehensive presentation on UT Government schemes and industrial incentives available in Jammu & Kashmir.

A presentation on employment schemes was delivered by SBDU-Coordinator, Employment Officer Paras Dubey. He informed participants about the employment-oriented initiatives, skill enhancement programmes, job facilitation services and self-employment support measures available through the Employment Department.

The banking perspective was shared by Lead District Manager State Bank of India Vikram Singh. He elaborated on banking schemes including MUDRA loans, credit-linked subsidy schemes, the importance of financial discipline and maintaining a good credit history.

DLRC meeting: DDC Kathua sets target of achieving 60% CD Ratio

HT NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA, MARCH 03: The District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting for the quarter ending December 2025 was convened today at the DDC Office to review the performance of banks and the flow of credit in the district.

The meeting was chaired by District Development Commissioner Rajesh Sharma. SSP Mohita Sharma; ADDC Surinder Mohan Sharma; GMDIC, Mushtaq Choudhary; AGM & LDO RBI, Rajneesh Malhotra; DDM NABARD, Nipun Sharma, besides senior officers of banks and line departments attended the meeting. The meeting was convened by Lead District Manager Kathua.

The Chair reviewed the progress achieved under key banking parameters including Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio, deposits and

advances, priority sector lending and performance under Government Sponsored Schemes such as Kisan Credit Card (KCC), new KCC for Dairy, Poultry, Fisheries and Sheep Husbandry, PMEGP (KVIB/KVIC/DIC), NRLM SHGs, NULM and PMMY. Emphasis was laid on timely disposal and disbursement of cases and effective credit linkage of beneficiaries.

The DDC directed the banks and line departments to reconcile pending sponsored loan applications and work in close coordination to ensure saturation of eligible beneficiaries.

Stressing financial inclusion, the Chair advised banks to achieve maximum coverage under social security schemes including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana.



SSP Mohita Sharma called upon banks to maintain close coordination with law enforcement agencies and share details of suspected and high-value transactions for verification of their genuine sources, in order to curb financial frauds and unlawful activities. She emphasized strengthening vigilance and ensuring strict adherence to KYC norms and regulatory guidelines.

The DDC directed the banks

to submit consolidated monthly reports of such suspicious and high-value transactions to the district administration and district police for scrutiny and necessary follow-up action. He stressed that timely sharing of information and proactive monitoring would contribute significantly towards maintaining financial discipline and safeguarding public interest.

AGM & LDO RBI emphasized expanding banking services in

unbanked rural centres of the district. He directed that updated branch-wise lists of CSPs/BCs be shared and efforts be made to activate inactive BCs/CSPs, ensuring adherence to regulatory guidelines.

DDM NABARD presented the Potential Linked Credit Plan (PLP) for 2026-27, which will serve as the basis for the Annual District Credit Plan. The plan envisages a total credit potential of 2251.76 crore under the priority sector, covering Agriculture, MSME, Solar Energy, Food and Agro Processing, Export Credit, Education and Housing, aligned with national and UT-level priorities.

The meeting concluded with a call for coordinated efforts among banks and departments to boost credit flow; promote entrepreneurship and strengthen the district's economic growth trajectory.



HT EDITORIAL

Regulate functioning of clinical establishments

There was a time when all the clinical laboratories operating in Srinagar district and other parts of Kashmir valley would charge a similar rate for various tests and investigations being carried out at such laboratories. There was no confusion among the people and very few people would doubt the results of the different investigations or tests. The situation has changed as of now with people being at the receiving end.

Most of the clinical laboratories charge according to their own wish and whim and there seems to be no prescribed rate from the concerned department. The health department might have issued a rate list for the different tests and investigations but the same is followed by a handful of clinical laboratories. Despite complaints from the people in this regard no worthwhile action has been taken against the errant. In most of the cases people are forced to pay extra bucks for a particular test or investigation.

There are clinical laboratories that offer a package to the people and claim that their rates are nominal as compared to the others in the market. In such a scenario a person is somewhat perplexed and he or she feels that they are being forced to go through the tests or investigations which they are not supposed to. Offering packages on food stuff, clothing, shoes or any other item is a welcome thing but extending the same in the health sector is somewhat disturbing.

If a person has been asked to go through a single test why does the clinical establishment force him or her to go through some other tests. It does not hold true for each and every clinical establishment but it is going on in a number of such establishments. It is more in case of the health agencies that have made a mark in the market not only in Jammu & Kashmir but in the other parts of the country.

Over the years it has been observed that there is a variation in the results of the tests and investigations as given out by the different clinical establishments. A patient can compromise on the rate being charged by a clinical establishment for a particular test but he or she gets perplexed as and when there is a variation in the results of a similar test carried out at different laboratories. This needs to be looked with more seriousness by the concerned department.

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WHEN THE TYRANT RULES, BETTER BE A FOOL



■ DR. SURINDERPAL SINGH

Throughout history, oppressive or authoritarian leadership has shaped human behavior in profound ways. The phrase "When the tyrant rules, better be a fool" suggests that in certain hostile environments, appearing submissive, silent, or non-threatening may serve as a survival strategy. Though the statement sounds philosophical or political, it carries deep psychological, neurological, and medical implications. Modern neuroscience, behavioral psychology, and stress physiology help us understand why such coping mechanisms arise—and whether they are truly healthy.

A tyrant need not always be a political dictator. Tyrannical control can exist in nations ruled by authoritarian leaders, in rigid corporate structures, in abusive households, in educational institutions marked by extreme discipline, or even in interpersonal relationships. In such environments, power is centralized, dissent is punished, and unpredictability becomes routine. From a biological standpoint, these conditions trigger chronic stress responses that gradually reshape behavior and mental health.

When individuals perceive threat or domination, the brain's amygdala activates the fight-or-flight response. Stress hormones such as cortisol and adrenaline are released through the adrenal glands under the regulation of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis. This system is designed for short-term survival. However, under continuous oppression, cortisol levels remain elevated, the immune system weakens, sleep cycles are disturbed, and emotional regulation declines. In such circumstances, the brain may choose a third survival pathway beyond fight or flight—freeze or submit. Behaviorally, this may appear as silence, compliance, or even acting foolish to avoid drawing attention.

From an evolutionary psychology perspective, submission can be protective. Among social animals, including humans, lower-ranking individuals often display non-threatening behavior to reduce aggression from dominant figures. This relates to the concept of learned helplessness described by psychologist Martin Seligman, where repeated exposure to uncontrollable stress leads individuals to stop resisting altogether. Yet, an important distinction must be made between strategic silence and

When individuals perceive threat or domination, the brain's amygdala activates the fight-or-flight response. Stress hormones such as cortisol and adrenaline are released through the adrenal glands under the regulation of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis. This system is designed for short-term survival. However, under continuous oppression, cortisol levels remain elevated, the immune system weakens, sleep cycles are disturbed, and emotional regulation declines. In such circumstances, the brain may choose a third survival pathway beyond fight or flight—freeze or submit. Behaviorally, this may appear as silence, compliance, or even acting foolish to avoid drawing attention

internalized helplessness. Strategic silence is adaptive coping, a conscious decision to avoid unnecessary harm. Internalized helplessness, however, erodes confidence, self-worth, and motivation. The former may preserve life in dangerous systems; the latter can deeply damage mental health.

This strategy does not apply universally. In violent or unpredictable settings, restraint may prevent immediate harm. During temporary crises, caution can be wise. However, in democratic or safe environments where expression is protected, blind submission may hinder growth, creativity, and self-respect. In workplaces that value communication and in personal relationships that require healthy boundaries, silence can become self-sabotage rather than protection.

The mental health consequences of prolonged suppression are significant. Chronic fear increases

sympathetic nervous system activity, contributing to anxiety disorders characterized by persistent worry and restlessness. Emotional suppression and prolonged powerlessness are strongly linked to depression, often associated with reduced dopamine and serotonin activity. Neuroimaging studies show that chronic stress can reduce hippocampal volume, impairing memory and emotional balance. Prolonged stress may also manifest physically through psychosomatic illnesses such as hypertension, irritable bowel syndrome, chronic headaches, and autoimmune flare-ups. Thus, while appearing foolish may shield against immediate harm, extended psychological suppression increases the risk of anxiety, depression, and physical illness.

Social psychology further demonstrates that individuals often suppress their own judgments to align with authority or majority opinion, even when they know it is incorrect. Human beings are biologically wired for social survival; historically, acceptance meant safety, while rejection carried danger. This instinct remains embedded in modern behavior.

The real question, therefore, is not whether one should always be a fool, but when strategic restraint is wiser than confrontation. Healthy coping includes emotional regulation techniques, mindfulness practices that reduce cortisol levels, building supportive social networks, seeking professional help when necessary, and gradually asserting oneself where safety permits. Silence for survival is different from silence born of fear.

Interestingly, resilience research shows that individuals who endure oppressive systems sometimes develop heightened emotional intelligence, situational awareness, and inner strength. True resilience, however, develops only when internal dignity is preserved, even if outward compliance is temporarily necessary.

"When the tyrant rules, better be a fool" reflects a survival instinct deeply rooted in human biology. In dangerous environments, appearing non-threatening may reduce immediate risk. From a neuroscientific perspective, submission can be adaptive. Yet prolonged suppression of identity and emotion carries serious mental health consequences. The principle is not universally true. In healthy societies and relationships, expression, dialogue, and assertiveness promote psychological well-being.

The ultimate wisdom lies not in foolishness but in discernment—knowing when silence protects life and when a voice protects dignity. In medicine and psychology, both survival and self-respect must be preserved.

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

Transformation Of Indian Hospitals In Digital Era



■ MOOL RAJ

For decades, Indian hospitals relied on paper-driven processes handwritten prescriptions, manually prepared discharge summaries, and physical files that moved slowly across departments. While clinical expertise remained strong, administrative inefficiencies were common. That model is now steadily giving way to digitised, integrated systems that are reshaping how hospitals function.

At the centre of this transformation is the Hospital Management Information System (HMIS), which has evolved from a billing utility into the operational backbone of modern medical institutions.

■ From Records to Real-Time Systems

Early hospital software focused largely on registration and billing. Today's HMIS platforms integrate clinical workflows, pharmacy, laboratory and radiology reporting, insurance processing, inventory, and analytics within a unified digital framework. This shift aligns with broader efforts such as the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, which seeks to build interoperable digital health infrastructure. But the push towards digitisation is not policy-driven alone. Rising patient

loads, expanding insurance coverage, regulatory compliance requirements, and expectations of transparency have made fragmented systems unsustainable. Hospitals increasingly require centralised digital platforms that enable coordination and accountability.

■ Changing Attitudes in Clinical Practice

Digitisation was once met with hesitation among clinicians, who feared increased documentation burdens and disruption to patient interaction. That perception is changing. Automated prescription systems ensure clarity and reduce medication errors. Integrated alerts flag potential drug interactions and dosage inconsistencies. Longitudinal access to laboratory and imaging records enables doctors to assess trends rather than isolated data points. Structured electronic records also facilitate quicker follow-ups, automated reminders for chronic patients, and consolidated case histories.

These systems do not replace clinical judgement; they strengthen it. By reducing clerical workload and improving access to information, HMIS platforms allow doctors to focus more on decision making and patient engagement.

■ Efficiency Across the Care Continuum

The expansion of e-consultations and remote workflows has further accelerated digital adoption. Electronic discharge summaries, online report access, digital billing, and remote consultations reduce repeat hospital visits and administrative

delays. For patients, this means shorter waiting times and greater convenience. For hospitals, it improves bed turnover, documentation accuracy, and audit readiness. Even incremental efficiency gains become significant in high-volume settings. Digitisation, therefore, enhances both patient experience and institutional productivity.

■ AI-Based Clinical Decision Support

The most consequential development is the integration of AI-enabled Clinical Decision Support Systems (CDSS) within HMIS platforms. When patient data are digitised and structured, they generate insights beyond routine record-keeping. AI extensions can highlight abnormal lab trends, flag early warning indicators in critical care, suggest evidence-based treatment pathways, and identify high-risk cases requiring closer monitoring. In resource-constrained environments, such support systems can help standardise aspects of care and reduce preventable errors. Importantly, these tools function as clinical aids rather than substitutes. They provide timely prompts and structured analysis, enabling physicians to make more informed decisions under time pressure. The shift from documentation to predictive analytics marks a structural change in hospital practice.

■ Insurance and Administrative Alignment

Simultaneously, the rapid growth of health insurance in India has increased documentation complexity. Multiple insurers and govern-

ment schemes operate with varying requirements. A dynamic HMIS helps standardise coding, streamline pre-authorisations, and reduce claim rejections. For patients, smoother insurance processing reduces discharge delays and financial uncertainty. For hospitals, it strengthens revenue cycle management and compliance. In this context, digitisation directly influences both care delivery and financial sustainability.

■ A Foundational Shift

An effective HMIS today supports not only daily operations but strategic oversight. Real-time dashboards enable hospital leadership to monitor utilisation rates, infection trends, and performance indicators. Decisions increasingly rely on data rather than retrospective assessments. Challenges remain including data privacy safeguards, interoperability standards, and training of personnel. Yet the direction of change is clear. The movement from paper files to predictive care reflects more than technological adoption. It represents a reorganisation of hospital management around integration, intelligence, and responsiveness. Institutions that effectively combine robust HMIS platforms with AI-based clinical decision support are likely to set new benchmarks in efficiency, safety, and quality of care. The transformation is no longer optional. It is foundational to the future of health-care delivery in India.

THE AUTHOR IS A
REGULAR COLUMNIST AND
FREELANCE WRITER

The Economy Through a New Lens: Understanding India's GDP Base Revision



■ SH. SAURABH GARG

Gross Domestic Product or GDP, is a way to measure the size and health of a country's economy, more like a report card for a nation, it tells us how much the country is producing in terms of goods and services. When GDP is growing, it usually means businesses are producing more goods and services, more people are getting jobs, and incomes are rising. GDP also matters on the global stage. India currently ranks among the world's top five economies and is projected to become the third largest by 2030.

GDP, as an instrument to measure the economy, needs regular calibration to capture the economy's accurate pulse and this is achieved through updating the base year of GDP at regular intervals to keep pace with a changing economy. As the economy reshapes itself, new industries emerge, consumption patterns change and new data sources evolve, revisions help the official data catch up with the realities and make the estimates more accurate and robust.

Availability of new data sources since the last base revision have helped us view the sectoral and regional contributions to GDP more clearly and adopt better methods, for instance, to estimate the value added by the unincorporated sector broadly covering the informal



sector also.

In the intervening period since the last base revision, among others, some new data sets like Management & Administration related data (MGT-7/7A) for companies has become available that provides information on the number of business activities undertaken by the enterprise, description of business activity as per NIC 2008 and percentage turnover from each business activity (industry) for each year. So, while rebasing, for multi-activity enterprises, value added is now allocated across activities based on newly available MGT-7 data rather than entirely to the major activity as was done earlier. This change allows us to capture sectoral contributions more accurately, providing a clearer view of

how each business activity drives the economy.

Just as new company-level data helps us measure sectoral contributions more accurately, enhanced use of GST data in the new series allows for a finer, more precise view of regional contributions of GDP by inter alia, improving regional allocation pertaining to private corporate sector and through better compilation of expenditure-side estimates at state level.

Availability of annual data from surveys like ASUSE and PLFS that wasn't available earlier has also allowed us to adopt a better methodology for estimating value added by unincorporated sector annually, instead of inferring its contribution to GDP indirectly from

other indicators, as was done before. This matters because this sector, comprising of millions of household businesses, small shops, and self-employed workers, forms a huge part of the economy and plays a vital role in jobs and livelihoods.

The base revision is more than just use of new data sources, it is also about improvements in methodology as well, and in this regard, the new GDP series has seen a number of methodological improvements.

Earlier, double deflation, a detailed method to adjust the GDP for changing prices was applied only to agriculture sector. In the new 2022-23 series, double deflation has been expanded to manufacturing sector where sufficient

data is now available and single extrapolation/volume extrapolation is used in all other sectors. This approach makes the best use of the data at hand, keeping the estimates as accurate and reliable. Double deflation is very data-intensive, as it requires detailed information on prices for both outputs and inputs. As more of this data becomes available over time, we will be able to expand its use to more sectors.

A notable methodological improvement is the alignment of estimates of the economy based on what is produced (production side) and what people and businesses spend (expenditure side). The two often don't match perfectly, a common occurrence in countries around the world, especially in quarterly GDP. To address this issue, in the new series, the framework of 'Supply & Use Tables' is being used to ensure that discrepancies are limited in the early estimates and finally eliminated when full set of data becomes available at the time of final estimates.

The updated GDP is like looking at the economy through a sharper lens. Every economic activity, big or small, comes into clear focus, accurately revealing its contribution to the nation's growth. By using better data, refining methods, and aligning with international best practices, the Ministry has brought the economy into sharper view. For citizens, this means that policies and public services are guided by an accurate understanding of how the economy works, making growth something that is felt in everyday life, not just on paper.

The Author is Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Views are personal

Who can forget Kanpur!



■ M S NAZKI

By the way, it all started from here! I mean the fight for Indian Independence!

The Kanpur (Cawnpore) Mutiny of 1857 was a pivotal, violent episode in the Indian Rebellion, where Nana Sahib led rebel forces to besiege British troops and civilians. It involved a treacherous massacre at Satti Chaura Ghat (June 27) and the subsequent, brutal killing of ~200 women/children at Bibighar, provoking fierce British vengeance.

The Siege (June 1857): Following the outbreak of the rebellion, Indian sepoys in Kanpur rebelled. British forces, led by General Wheeler, took refuge in a hastily fortified, overcrowded entrenchment.

Satti Chaura Ghat Massacre (June 27, 1857): Nana Sahib promised safe passage to Allahabad for the British in exchange for surrender. However, as they boarded boats at Satti Chaura Ghat, firing broke out, resulting in the deaths of most British men.

Bibighar Massacre (July 1857): Surviving women and children were taken to a house called Bibighar. As British relief forces approached, these captives were killed, and their bodies thrown into a well.

Retaliation: British forces, upon retaking Kanpur, engaged in brutal reprisals against rebels and locals. The event became a rallying cry for the British, often recalled with the phrase "Remember Cawnpore!".

The city was eventually recaptured by the East India Company, but not before it became one of the most infamous and violent locations of the entire 1857 uprising.

Operational Readiness Frameworks for Complex Projects

Operational readiness is the comprehensive process of ensuring an organization, system, or asset is fully prepared to launch, operate, and maintain new projects

safely and efficiently from Day One. It bridges the gap between construction and operations by training staff, validating procedures, and preparing resources to minimize risks.

Key Aspects of Operational Preparedness Definition: It is the capability of an organization to perform its designed functions or missions without significant, high-rated risks or operational challenges.

Key Components: It involves preparing people (training), processes (documentation), and technology (assets/infrastructure) to ensure a seamless handover.

When It Occurs: It is not a final check but a continuous process that should start early in the project lifecycle, not just at the end, to ensure long-term sustainability.

Benefits: It ensures increased reliability, enhanced efficiency, improved safety, reduced costs, and faster return on investment.

Common Challenges: Typical issues include communication gaps, limited resources, and resistance to change.

Key Stages in an Operational Readiness Plan:

Preparation: Defining roles, responsibilities, and training needs.

Implementation: Testing systems, setting up maintenance routines, and documenting procedures.

Handover: Safely transitioning from project team to operational team.

Assurance: Ongoing monitoring to ensure performance meets goals.

Operational Readiness is the comprehensive process of preparing an organization to safely and efficiently operate a new facility o...

Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, Army Cdr NC, visited Kanpur Military Station to review operational preparedness of the formation in the prevailing security scenario. The Army Commander interacted with all ranks and emphasized the importance of maintaining high standards of training, adaptability and mission readiness to effectively meet evolving challenges. He commended the troops for their unwavering professionalism, dedication and high morale.

Here we will quote General Patton Commander of the Third Army of the USA and

the scenario was World War-III!

Germans were supreme at that time! They were almost all of Europe and Africa!

General George S. Patton's 1944 speeches to the Third Army, often called his Patton's Speech, are considered among the best for boosting morale through raw, aggressive motivation. He emphasized duty, courage, and action, pushing soldiers to be "murderous" against the enemy, which effectively ignited fighting spirit.

Key Themes: Unwavering aggressiveness, duty regardless of fear, and the imperative of constant forward movement.

Impact: Though filled with profanity and often considered unprofessional by some, the speech profoundly connected with inexperienced troops, giving them the confidence to face imminent combat.

Other Notable Mentions:

Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw: Known for focusing on moral courage, stating, "A 'yes man' is a dangerous man... He can never make a leader".

Admiral William McRaven: Focused on perseverance and the importance of daily discipline (e.g., "Make Your Bed") to overcome hardships.

General Mark Milley: Emphasized fighting for principles, famously stating, "We take an oath to the Constitution, and we're willing to die to protect it".

These speeches, ranging from historical, profanity-laced, to stoic, were designed to create a sense of purpose and invincibility among their troops.

Patton's speech to the Third Army was a series of speeches given by General George S. Patton to troops of the United States Third Army in 1944, before the Allied invasion of France during World War II. The speeches were intended to motivate the inexperienced Third Army for impending combat.

Patton urged his soldiers to do their duty regardless of personal fear, and he exhorted them to aggressiveness and constant offensive action. His profanity-laced speaking was viewed as unprofessional by some officers but the speech resounded well with his men. Some historians have called the oration one of the greatest motivational speeches of all time.

Background

Patton delivers an address in Northern Ireland, April 1944 In June 1944, Lieutenant General George S. Patton was given command of the Third United States Army, a field army newly arrived in the United Kingdom and composed largely of inexperienced troops. Patton's job had been to train the Third Army to prepare it for the upcoming Allied invasion of France, where it would join in the breakout into Brittany seven weeks after the amphibious landing at Normandy.

Patton began delivering speeches to his troops in the United Kingdom in February 1944. The extent of his giving the particular speech that became famous is unclear, with different sources saying it had taken this form by March, or around early May, or in late May. The number of speeches given is also not clear, with one source saying four to six, and others suggesting that every unit in the Third Army heard an instance. The most famous and well known of the speeches occurred on 5 June 1944, the day before D-Day.

Though he was unaware of the actual date for the beginning of the invasion of Europe (as the Third Army was not part of the initial landing force), Patton used the speech as a motivational device to excite the men under his command and prevent them from losing their nerve. Patton delivered the speech without notes, and so though it was substantially the same at each occurrence, the order of some of its parts varied. One notable difference occurred in the speech he delivered on 31 May 1944, while addressing the U.S. 6th Armored Division, when he began with a remark that would later be among his most famous: No bastard ever won a war by dying for his country. He won it by making the other poor dumb bastard die for his country. Men, all this stuff you hear about America not wanting to fight, wanting to stay out of the war, is a lot of horse dung. Americans love to fight. All real Americans love the sting and clash of battle. When you were kids, you all admired the champion marble shooter, the fastest runner, the big-league ball players and the toughest boxers. Americans love a winner and will not tolerate a loser.

This was the time of the Second World War but now it is 2026!

Kanpur Cantonment (popularly referred to as Kanpur Cantt) is a military cantonment in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India. The Kanpur Cantonment was established in the year 1811 and is situated on the right bank of river Ganges and is bound by Kanpur city area on the remaining three sides. Kanpur Cantonment is the largest cantonment in India, by population and not by area. The area of the Cantonment is approx. 4243.0084 acres (17 km²) out of which the Bungalow Area is 3899.1784 acres and the Civil Area is 334.83 acres. As per 2011 Census, the population of Cantonment is 108,035 which is 453rd largest city of India (See the point 2 on external links).

The historical reasons necessitating the formation of individual cantonments are different for different cantonments depending upon the prevailing political and military realities of the times.

For example, Secunderabad cantonment was established to assist the Nizam of Hyderabad, militarily against his local adversaries, whereas Lucknow Cantonment was established to maintain pressure on the Nawab of Oudh and to finally capture that state. Similarly, the need for cooler climate for the British troops and strategic importance of Doab dictated the setting up of hill cantonments and cantonments in modern-day Uttar Pradesh respectively.

However, irrespective of the local factors, the paramount consideration in setting up all these cantonments was the need for military camps in various strategic locations of India to establish, maintain and consolidate the rule of a foreign power.

Spread of diseases such as diarrhea, malaria, and venereal diseases among the troops necessitated the cantonment (insulation) of these military camps from the local population.

The records of 19th-century British India reveal that health and hygiene of the troops was one of the major areas of concern which the rulers of the day had to contend with. This consideration coupled with the desire of an alien ruling elite to distance itself from the native population led to the development of an insulated type of character in all these cantonments which continues today.

Cultivating Your Spring Glow



■ **SHAHNAZ HUSAIN**

Spring is here and we are ready to play with a little more colour in our makeup routines. As the chill of winter fades and the warmth of spring approaches, it's a new season in full bloom.

With its longer sunlit days and vivid blooming flowers, a freshness hangs in the air which lightens up your mood. Spring combines warmth with brightness in tune with the rays of sunshine and blossoming nature.

Think of spring, and you immediately think of fresh florals and vibrant blooms. It's all about embracing colour in new and exciting ways. Just like the blooming flowers, your beauty products need a seasonal update.

Spring is a great time to refresh and revive your makeup style and try new trends and looks that you have been eyeing for a long time.

■ Playful Eyes

It's all about the eyes this spring. As soon as the sun comes out, it's time to switch up the makeup routine, especially when it comes to the eyes. Eye makeup deserves special attention, as our eyes remain our most expressive feature. Instead of using the typical black eyeliner/black liner, you must try a slightly bold, colored liner to add a pop of colour to the look.

Spring is the favourite time to try all those colourful eye makeup looks and pick warm berries and nude eyeshadow.

Give darker, dramatic colour palettes a miss and instead opt for playful combinations of textures that make your eyes pop.

"Primer is a must. Apply a tiny amount all over the lid, going up to the brow bone and allow it to dry naturally

It will prevent your eye makeup from creasing, feathering, smearing and looking like an unmade bed.

Apply a base colour to the lids, preferably an eyeshadow that is close to your skin tone.

Take the Wet/Dry Eye Brush again and apply eyeshadow on the lid, taking it into the crease area. Now, using the same blending brush, smooth out the edges by blending with eyeshadow.

Add some colour by applying eyeliner. Take Eye Liner Pencil directly onto the upper lash lines. Next, smooth out the lines using the Eye Brush and wing the liner out. Finish the eye look with some mascara. For dramatic lashes, apply 3 to 4 coats of Mascara.

Eye makeup in spring should reflect the season's playful and light-hearted spirit.

■ Hair Colour and Style

It's time to start thinking about the best spring hair colour makeover. Give one of the trendy spring and summer hair colours from a smokin' hot fiery red to a cool silvery blonde, try this season.

Warmer weather is a good reason to consider a hair refresh.

A refresh can be a daring new colour or a dramatic new cut, but it can also be a subtle enhancement to what you're already working with—think adding a little fullness with extensions or playing with new hair accessories.

Light hair colours with soft undertones, such as honey blonde or light auburn, can complement your spring palette. Hairstyles that embody the season's breezy and carefree nature, like loose waves or casual braids, can add to the overall effect, creating a look that is both stylish and effortless.

This spring season is all about subtle but statement-making colour that doesn't require constant upkeep. That means low-maintenance colour in extra eye-catching shades.



Off-black shades, like deep espresso or dark chocolate, provide a softer alternative to true black. These off-black shades retain the depth and richness of black hair while being less dramatic, making them easier to wear for many people. The result is a luxurious, velvety tone that's just as striking but with a bit more softness and dimension.

Once you've achieved your new spring hair colour, prevent it from fading by opting for a gentle shampoo and conditioner that has been specifically formulated to keep your color fresh and vivid for longer.

Mild shampoos work by deeply nourishing and protecting the hair shaft to keep your colour locked in. It is also a good idea to limit how often you wash your hair because it speeds up colour loss—consider using a dry shampoo from time to time. Before styling, always apply a heat protection spray and lower the temperature of your styling tools, as too much heat can dull your colour.

■ Lips

The skin on the lips is thinner, more delicate and more sensitive than other parts of the skin. Because there is no sebaceous gland,

there are many wrinkles on the lips.

Due to these skin properties, it is easier to lose water than other parts of the skin. Severe thirst, dry air, product irritation, and even saliva can cause skin dehydration. And because it is a part of everyday use, such as eating, drinking and talking, it is also slower on curing once you have a problem.

For most, lip balm is a worthy ally in the fight against chapped lips. But some people can't take fragrances, flavours and preservatives found in popular balms.

Our lips are not protected from the weather onslaught as they can't be covered with clothes, mittens, and toboggans like any other parts of the body. Since our lips are always exposed to weather conditions, we have to be extremely sensitive about our daily routine for lip care.

Chapped lips are not only unsightly but also a breeding ground for germs that can cause inflammation or a bacterial infection. The good thing is that there are plenty of things that you can do to repair your lips and get ready for the warm spring weather.

Some ingredients like Castor seed oil, Shea butter, White petroleum jelly, titanium oxide/zinc oxide, Hemp seed oil, Ceramides and Dimethicone can help maintain natural hydration level in the lips, while ingredients like Camphor, Eucalyptus, Cinnamon, citrus, mint, Lanolin, Menthol, Phenol and Salicylic acid can be especially irritating to lips during the springtime. Paperclips, jewellery, and other everyday products made of metal can irritate your already sensitive lips. If you drink carbonated beverages or coffee instead of water, you feel thirsty. It can be a source of dryness in your lips. It is advised to avoid carbonated beverages as much as you can!

We generally wipe our lips with a napkin after meals and snacks. However, because lips are very sensitive and fragile parts, applying strong friction will instantly evaporate moisture and dry lips rapidly. Do not put the tissue directly on the lips; roll the lip

balm in your hand and gently wipe it off.

When purchasing your lip product, look for ingredients such as shea butter, vitamin E or natural oils that will nourish your skin. Synthetic products will only lead to a build-up on your lips that will make the problem worse. Chapstick, sunscreen and mild exfoliant will help you to fight off the effects of the weather. Look for a lip balm that includes an SPF of 30 or higher. (You will also want to use sunscreen on the rest of your face, so don't forget to get a facial moisturiser with SPF 30 too!)

■ Jewelry

If you're a jewellery fanatic and deep into current trends, you know that every season calls for something a bit different in your jewellery box.

Spring jewellery is all about embracing the beauty of the season. Spring calls for jewellery that is light and delicate, mirroring the gentle beauty of the season. It's not just the season that's changing—it's the ideal moment to give your jewellery collection a little refresh as well.

During spring in India, jewellery trends lean towards light, airy pieces with nature-inspired designs, floral motifs, and pastel gemstones, reflecting the season's fresh and vibrant energy. Opt for pieces in silver, white gold, or rose gold, which reflect the soft hues of spring. Mixing and matching jewellery with outfits is a trendy fashion game during the spring season. You can also go minimal with simple crystal or charm pendants with chains in rose gold plating to contrast the colourful spring outfits.

Dainty necklaces, thin bangles, and simple earrings with pastel gemstones like rose quartz, aquamarine, or moonstone can add a subtle sparkle that complements the freshness of your spring makeup.

The author is international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India

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

Govt terminates PMGSY road contracts worth Rs. 2,543.05 lakh over delay, blacklists contractor

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR03: The government has terminated two major road construction contracts in Kathua, black-listing the contractor for delays in work completion.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary said the contracts, awarded to M/s Puran Chand and Sons, Jammu, have been terminated due to the contractor's failure to meet the deadlines despite repeated notices and extended opportunities.

He said that the terminated projects included construction of road from Malhar to Marhoon (Package No. JK07-136, Phase X, Stage-I) and construction and maintenance of road from L031 Mahan to Banjar (Package No. JK07-219, Phase XII). Both the works had been allotted to M/s Puran Chand and Sons, Jammu.

He said that besides imposition of penalty the contractor has been black-listed and debarred from participating in future PMGSY works for a period of one year.

An official order from the Office of the Chief Engineer PMGSY states that the contractor failed to mobilize adequate machinery, manpower and resources, leading to prolonged delays. Despite multiple notices, review meetings and assurances, progress remained unsatisfactory, impacting connectivity and public convenience in the affected areas.

In both the cases, the contracts have been terminated under relevant clauses of the Standard Bidding Document (SBD). Liquidated damages and penalties amounting Rs. 146.63 lakh in one project and Rs. 217.54 lakh in the other have been imposed.

The concerned Executive Engineer

has been directed to recover the penalty amount from the pending dues, security deposits, performance securities and bank guarantees.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that fresh tendering for the balance works has been ordered to ensure early completion. He stated that timely and quality execution of developmental works is non-negotiable for the government. He emphasized that public infrastructure must be completed within stipulated deadlines and in accordance with the prescribed standards.

The Deputy Chief Minister further cautioned that the erring contractors may face strict action, including black-listing, if they fail to complete projects within the defined timeframe. He reiterated the government's commitment towards ensuring accountability, transparency and accelerated development across J&K.

Sat Sharma releases devotional album “Gaddi Vich Do Photoan” dedicated to Maa Chandi, honouring Kulbir Thakur

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 3: Sat Sharma, President J&K BJP, and MP (Rajya Sabha), released a devotional Bhakti video album titled “Gaddi Vich Do Photoan” at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

J&K BJP Vice-President Rekha Mahajan, General Secretaries Baldev Singh Billawaria, and Gopal Mahajan, Secretary Arun Sharma, Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan, and other senior leaders of party were present on the occasion.

The album, devoted to Maa Chandi and highlighting the devotion of Kulbir Singh Thakur, who initiated the historic Chadi Yatra of Maa Chandi in Machail, reflects the deep-rooted spiritual traditions of the region. On the occasion, Suraj Singh Chib recited the first two lines of the bhajan, invoking Maa Chandi and paying tribute to her ardent



devotee, filling the atmosphere with devotional fervour.

Releasing the Bhakti Album, Sat Sharma appreciated the efforts of the entire team and said that devotional music plays a significant role in preserving and promoting India's rich cultural and spiritual heritage. He stated that such creative initiatives strengthen societal values and connect the younger generation with their roots. He said that Jammu & Kashmir has always been a land of faith and devotion. Efforts like these not only glorify Maa Chandi but also highlight the inspiring legacy of devotees like Kulbir Singh Thakur, who devoted his life to religious service, he added.

Sharma congratulated singer and lyricist Suraj Singh Chib, Sahil Mahajan for his special efforts, and the entire production team for their commendable work.

Rekha Mahajan lauded the initiative, stating that devotional art forms are a powerful medium to spread positivity and spiritual awareness in society.

Baldev Singh Billawaria emphasized that promoting cultural and spiritual content is essential to preserve the identity and traditions of Jammu region.

Gopal Mahajan also appreciated the production and expressed hope that the album would receive immense love from devotees.

The music of the album has been composed by Dr. V Kaithi, while the video has been directed by KK Malhotra. The album has been released under the banner of Maa Bawe Wali Records.

The programme was coordinated by Sahil Mahajan, Co-Convenor, BJP J&K Sanskriti, Art & Culture Cell, who presented the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to Sat Sharma and all senior leaders for their encouragement and support.

Singer Suraj Singh Chib, in his gratitude note, thanked Sat Sharma and the BJP leadership for releasing the album and said that the bhajan is a humble tribute to Maa Chandi and the unwavering devotion of Kulbir Singh Thakur. Among others present were Sat Paul, Janak Saban, Vikram Sharma, Vatsal Sufi, and Master Manish.

Public Notice

IT is hereby notified that I am applying for Birth certificate in Block Development office handwara of my child namely Ayesha Binte Firdous DOB 28/09/2022 prantage Firdous Ahmad Tantray ,R/o Chogal Tehsil Handwara District: kupwara.if anybody having any objection in this regards he/she may file his /her objection in the office of the Block Development Office handwara within 07 days .After that no objection shall be entertained.

AYESHA BINTE FIRDOUS
DOB: 28/09/2022
PRANTAGE FIRDOUS AHMAD TANTRAY
R/o CHOGAL 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 shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

NAIB TEHSILDAR KALANTRA

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Fathers name AB GAFFAR SOFI S/O ...AB SAMAD SOFI R/O KREERI Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040000455 wants to be registered on my MOHD ASHRAF SOFI S/O AB GAFFAR SOFI R/O KREERI .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/ her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name...MOHD ASHRAF SOFI
S/O ... AB GAFFAR SOFI
R/O ...KREERI

Public Notice

I am applying for fresh Pesticide and Fertilizer License under the title of Malik Agrotech, deals in Pesticides , Fertilizers and other related items . situated at KHISIPORA , Kreeri, Baramulla. In this regard if anybody is having any objection may file the same to Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla and PPO Lal Mandi Srinagar within the time period of 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

AIJAZ AHMAD MALIK
S/o: GH RASOOL MALIK R/o . KHISIPORA, Kreeri)
Cell No: +91 8493894820

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

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 forthe 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 shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of 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 WARIPORE 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 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 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

FRESH NIT 163 (2ND CALL OF NIT NO 154) OF R&B/ANANTNAG/2025-26 /E-TENDERING/ 13269--78, DATED 28-02-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost	T.D Cost	E/M	Time
1.	Construction of Girls toilet at Primary school Hayar (SSA).	1.75 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 1.49 + (18% GST Amount 0.26)	200	3500/-	60 Days

Major Head of Account: Samagra Shiksha – 2026

Class of Contractor: DEE Class & MSME's Only

Project Authority: Directorate of Samagra Shiksha, J&K.

Position of AAA: Accorded vide Society Order No. 424- Chirag of 2026, Dated 13.02.2026.

Position of TS: Accorded.

1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms-and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental websitewww.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated		
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice		28-02-2026	
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From To	28-02-2026 06-03-2026	(05:00 PM) (04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From	28-02-2026	(05:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To	06-03-2026	(05:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)		07-03-2026	(10:30 AM)
In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag.				

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag [Tender Inviting Authority] (NIT No. Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (Tender receiving Authority).(The Date of EMD{CDR/FDR/BG} should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and validity of EMD at the time of opening of Bids shall be a period of 45 Days beyond Bid Validity of 120 Days). The same EMD should not be used in more than one Tender/Bid.

2. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

3. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released 60 days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The date of Performance Security (CDR/FDR/BG) should be after the date of issuance of letter/LOI to deposit the performance security. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.

4. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released 60 Days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag

6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the “Downloads” option as well as from “Bidders Manual Kit” on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

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

Sd/- (Er. Mohammad Waseem)
Executive Engineer, R&B Division Anantnag

DIPK: 11511/25 | Dated: 03-03-2026

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T) JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT. GROUND WATER DIVISION SRINAGAR

Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E-mail: phegwd@yahoo.com | Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

Re-Tender Corrigendum 1st

Subject: 1. Construction of 200mm dia Production Well by ODEX Method at Kasnard Pannard Sangnard Well No. 2 District Anantnag.

2. Construction of Production Bore Well at Kharbatpora Ratnipora District Pulwama.

Reference: This office e-NIT No. 82/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/ Camp/18707-23-, dated: 10-02-2026. Bearing Tender ID No. 2026_PHE_302770_1 & 2.

Due to “NO Response” for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 21-02-2026 Up-to 01:00 PM are extended as per the details given below:

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Last date & Time of submission of bids	02-03-2026 Up-to 02:00 PM
2.	Date & Time of opening of tenders	03-03-2026 01.00 PM

NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./19203-20 | Dated: 21-02-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar

DIPK: 11528/25 | Dated: 03-03-2026

DDC Kathua reviews physical, financial progress under Capex Budget

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA, MARCH 03: District Development Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma today reviewed the physical and financial progress of works being executed under District Capex Budget (DCB) 2025-26, UT Capex (ST Plan)/DAJGUA and other allied schemes at a meeting held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting took a detailed sector-wise review of ongoing works. The officers from PWD, PHE, Irrigation & Flood Control, JPCL, RDD and JKEDA informed about the status of Roads, Water schemes, power projects PRI Works and Aspirational Panchayat Works. The DDC assessed the pace of execution, fund utilization and adherence to timelines.

He directed the departments for prompt submission of bills in respect of completed works to



facilitate smooth financial progress and optimal utilization of allocated funds.

Emphasizing accountability and transparency, the DDC instructed officers to strictly ensure developmental works meet quality standards.

The officers apprised that some projects were delayed due to land-related issues. While the majority of such issues have been resolved, a few cases are still pending, the meeting was told. The DDC directed the departments concerned to coordinate closely with the Revenue authorities to resolve pending land matters at the earliest to avoid further delays.

Chief Planning Officer Ranjeet Thakur, ACD Akhil Sadotra, Chief Education Officer, Executive Engineers of PWD and other departments were present in the meeting, while some XENs and BDOs joined through virtual mode.

DDC Kulgam unveils ₹1800 Crore NABARD Credit Plan for 2026-27

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, MARCH 03: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, along with AGM NABARD and other district-level officers, today unveiled the Potential Linked Credit Plan (PLP) document prepared by NABARD for the financial year 2026-27.

NABARD has envisaged a credit potential of Rs. 1800 crore for Kulgam district for the year 2026-27 to be achieved by banks, financial institutions and development departments operating in the district.

This was revealed during a District Level Consultative Committee meeting held under the chairmanship of the DDC.

The meeting was attended by the Joint Director Planning, AGM RBI, AGM NABARD, Lead District Manager (LDM), district officers from various departments and representatives of banks functioning in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner formally launched the Potential Linked Credit Plan (PLP) for the ensuing financial year. AGM NABARD, Rouf Zargar informed that the PLP would form the basis for preparation of the Annual District Credit Plan for the upcoming year. He stated that the PLP has been prepared in alignment with the policies of the Central and UT Governments and reflects the national priorities of the Government of India to scale up lending across various sectors of the economy.

Providing details, the AGM NABARD said that NABARD has projected a total credit potential of Rs. 1800.45 crore for the district for 2026-27 under priority sectors. Sector-wise projections include Rs. 1192.13 crore for agriculture and allied activities including agriculture infrastructure; Rs. 490.80 crore for MSME; Rs. 1.93 crore for export credit; Rs. 15.58 crore for education; Rs. 45 crore for housing; Rs. 7.35 crore for renewable energy, and Rs. 16.84 crore for social infrastructure development. The informal credit delivery system for support to SHGs/JLGs has been estimated at Rs. 27.81 crore.

He further informed that NABARD undertook the PLP exercise after extensive consultations with stakeholders from agriculture, MSME and rural development sectors.

Keeping in view the available resources and infrastructure in the district, a scientific assessment of credit potential under various priority sectors has been carried out. The PLP highlights sector-specific infrastructure gaps and identifies critical interventions required by the Government and financial institutions to fully harness the district's potential.

This year, NABARD has leveraged technology to prepare a digital PLP for more efficient credit projections. The new-generation document features a standardized structure, comprehensive coverage and data indices, significantly reducing manual intervention and laying the foundation for a data-driven credit planning environment. NABARD's PLP serves as a catalyst for empowering rural areas and supporting stakeholders across the rural ecosystem.

The DDC complimented NABARD for accurately assessing the district's credit potential and emphasized that banks must focus on priority sectors, particularly agriculture and allied activities, to generate employment opportunities in the district. He urged departments and banks to use the PLP as a reference document while finalizing their targets for the forthcoming financial year.

Abdul Qayoom Bagow: The Pioneer Who Laid the Foundation of Cricket in J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAR 03: Long before social media amplified achievements and before the glare of modern-day cricketing glamour reached the Valley, one man stood as the embodiment of dedication, discipline, and unshakeable passion for the game—Abdul Qayoom Bagow.

At a time when opportunities were scarce and sporting infrastructure was minimal, Abdul Qayoom Bagow carried the hopes of Jammu & Kashmir's cricket fraternity on his shoulders. He was not merely a



cricketer of his era; he was a symbol of belief and resilience for an entire generation that dared to dream beyond limitations.

In those early years, when the path to recognition was uncertain, Bagow's commitment to the sport became a guiding light for young aspirants across the region. His journey proved that raw talent from the Valley could stand tall and earn respect on the biggest stages, despite systemic challenges and lack of exposure.

Mr. Bagow's contribution to cricket in Jammu & Kashmir cannot be quantified by statistics alone—neither runs scored nor trophies won fully capture his legacy. His true impact lies in the inspiration he instilled in hundreds of young cricketers who found courage in his example and confidence in his belief that excellence knows no geographical boundaries.

Widely regarded as the first superstar of Jammu & Kashmir cricket, Abdul Qayoom Bagow remains a true pioneer and a guiding force whose influence continues to shape the region's cricketing journey. His story is not just history—it is the foundation upon which today's successes proudly stand.

Women Week Celebration-Day 2

Sankalp Hub & OSC organize Marathon at GDC Doda

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, MARCH 03: Sankalp Hub and One Stop Centre (OSC), Mission Shakti Doda organized a marathon here at Government Degree College (GDC) to mark the second day of Women Week celebrations.

The Women's Empowerment Marathon was held to spread awareness about women's rights, gender equality, safety and empowerment, while celebrating the strength and resilience of women. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the students of BSC Nursing College and ANMT School.

The Principal of Government Degree College along with the entire college staff, extended full support and actively participated in the marathon, reflecting the institution's commitment towards promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

Anganwadi Workers also participated in the event, demonstrating



their dedication to community welfare and the uplift of women. The staff and girls of Parisha joined the marathon with great enthusiasm and energy, further strengthening the message of unity and collective action.

The staff members of Sankalp Hub, OSC Doda and Childline Doda also took part in the marathon, showing solidarity and commitment towards empowering women and girls across the district.

DHJ reviews horticulture development initiatives in Marh Block

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MARCH 3: Director Horticulture Jammu (DHJ) Gul Syed today conducted an extensive tour of Marh Block to review the progress of the horticulture development initiatives being implemented in the area.

He was accompanied by the Chief Horticulture Officer R.K. Kotwal and field functionaries of the department. The Director inspected the Revised Modified High Density Plantation (RMHDP) created by beneficiary Pooja Suri through an empanelled agency. He reviewed the plantation layout, plant health, irrigation facilities and overall orchard management practices.

The Director also planted a sapling in the orchard premises, symbolizing the Department's commitment towards promoting sustainable horticulture and encouraging plantation drives across the region.



Later, he visited mango and dragon fruit orchards in the area and interacted with the growers. He emphasized the adoption of scientific orchard management practices, proper nutrient management and integrated pest management to enhance productivity and ensure better returns for farmers.

DC Ramban reviews status of civic amenities, services in Batote

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN, MARCH 3: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan today conducted an extensive visit to Batote and reviewed the developmental scenario in the area, besides assessing the status of essential services and supplies.

The Deputy Commissioner took stock of essential services in the area including power and water supply, healthcare facilities, sanitation and road connectivity. He further reviewed the progress of ongoing developmental works and infrastructure projects.

As part of the visit, the Deputy Commissioner also conducted market checking in the town. He directed the enforcement departments to maintain strict vigilance against overpricing, hoarding and black marketing.

The DC also interacted with shopkeepers



and members of civil society, getting feedback on the availability and pricing of essential commodities and other civic issues. Emphasizing people-centric governance and public welfare, the Deputy Commissioner assured the public that their genuine concerns would be addressed on priority.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited the Langer site established for SANJY at Chanderkote and reviewed the maintenance for the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

Bhalla leads POJK DPs delegation to CM Omar Abdullah in Jammu

Seeks ST2 Certificates for POJK Paharis, demands ₹30 lakh package for displaced families

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MARCH 3 : In a significant political development with far-reaching implications for lakhs of displaced families in Jammu and Kashmir, JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla on Tuesday led a high-level delegation to meet Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, seeking urgent intervention against what he described as the "systematic denial" of Scheduled Tribe (ST2) certificates to members of the displaced Pahari community from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK).

Calling the issue one of "constitutional justice and equal treatment under law," Bhalla urged the Chief Minister to

immediately direct all district administrations across the Union Territory to ensure uniform implementation of the Scheduled Tribe notification for the Pahari Ethnic Group (PEG), without discrimination on the basis of present place of residence.

During the meeting, Bhalla also forcefully raised the long-pending demand for implementation of the Parliamentary Committee's recommendation of a 30 lakh rehabilitation package for PoJK Displaced Persons (DPs). He said that thousands of families uprooted during the 1947 conflict continue to live in economic hardship and deserve comprehensive financial relief to ensure dignified rehabilitation.

"This is not merely a question of certificates or financial aid. It is about correcting historical injustice faced by families who sacrificed their homes and livelihoods during one of the most turbulent chapters in our history," Bhalla stated.

The delegation submitted a detailed memorandum dated March 3, 2026, highlighting grievances of displaced persons belonging to the Pahari Ethnic Group who are presently residing in different districts of Jammu Division—particularly Jammu district—but outside Rajouri and Poonch.

According to the memorandum, eligible applicants fulfilling all criteria under SO 176 dated March 15, 2024 are

allegedly facing arbitrary rejection or non-processing of their ST2 applications in districts other than Rajouri and Poonch.

The delegation comprised Amrit Bali (Ex-Sarpanch), Retd Col Ravinder Sharma, S. Rajinder Singh (Ex-Sarpanch), S. Gurmeet Singh, S. Inder Pal Singh, Ankush Raina, Madan Lal Sharma, Romesh Raina, Koushal Kumar Shastri, Babu Ram Sharma, Tushar Sharma, Rohit Khujria and Retd SP Vijay Sharma, among other representatives of the displaced community.

They sought immediate directions to the competent authorities to process and issue ST2 certificates to eligible members of the displaced PoJK Pahari community without

discrimination based on geographical location.

Bhalla pointed out that as per Rule 21 of SO 176, any person seeking benefits under the Pahari Ethnic Group category must belong to the Pahari clan, community or tribe with distinct cultural, ethnic and linguistic identity produce valid identification documents such as Aadhaar Card, Voter Identity Card or Domicile Certificate, obtain certification from the competent authority, namely the concerned Tehsildar. He asserted that displaced PoJK Pahari families fulfill all these requirements, yet are allegedly being denied ST2 certification solely because they presently reside in districts like Jammu or

Samba.

Termining this interpretation "restrictive, discriminatory and unconstitutional," Bhalla emphasized that geography has never been the determining factor for Scheduled Tribe status. "Ethnicity, culture, lineage and language form the constitutional basis for ST recognition—not district boundaries," he remarked.

The delegation referred to an earlier official clarification issued in response to a former legislator from Kishtwar, wherein authorities had categorically stated that the ST status granted to the Pahari Ethnic Group is based on distinct ethnicity and not geographical location. "It is ironic and contradictory that while the government

acknowledges ethnicity as the sole determining factor, displaced PoJK Paharis living outside Rajouri and Poonch are being excluded," the memorandum noted.

Drawing attention to what they described as "absurd and unjust situations," the delegation cited cases where two brothers born to the same father displaced from Poonch during the 1947 conflict are being treated differently by the administration. As per the memorandum, one brother settled in Rajouri or Poonch has been granted ST2 status, while the other residing in Jammu or Samba—after the family lived in migrant camps—has been denied the same and placed in the general category.

Tata Group announces Rs 11,000 crore investment in Jharkhand

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

RANCHI, MARCH 3: The Tata Group on Monday announced a fresh investment of Rs 11,000 crore in advanced steel technology at its Jamshedpur facility, along with plans to develop hydrogen-powered trucks and expand its presence in skill development, hospitality and CSR initiatives in Jharkhand.

The announcement followed a nearly two-hour meeting between Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Tata Group Chairman N. Chandrasekaran in Ranchi.

Addressing the media, the Chief Minister described the meeting as formal but meaningful. He said discussions focused on the state's development roadmap and potential areas of collaboration with the Group.

He noted that the Tata Group's association with Jharkhand was historic and deeply rooted. The Group's industrial journey began in Jamshedpur and later expanded across India and globally.

Chandrasekaran said the Group continues to feel at home in Jamshedpur. He reaffirmed its long-term commitment to the state.

Detailing the investment, he said Tata Steel has committed an additional Rs 11,000 crore towards



advanced technology steel. The project aims to modernise steelmaking processes, improve efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.

He said the technology has been developed by Tata Steel and would strengthen its global competitiveness. A parallel investment will be undertaken in Jamshedpur as part of the project.

Describing it as strategically important, he said the initiative would also benefit the wider steel industry and help position Jharkhand in next-generation steel manufacturing.

In addition, Tata Motors is moving ahead with a new investment in hydrogen-powered trucks at its Jamshedpur plant. The project includes a strong research and development component.

Chandrasekaran said the hydrogen truck initiative has potential beyond India if the technology is successfully scaled. He termed both projects critical for the future of manufacturing in the state.

He further said the Group would expand its corporate social responsibility footprint in Jharkhand. While Tata Steel has been undertaking

substantial CSR activities, additional support from other Group companies will be mobilised.

He said CSR initiatives would align with priority sectors identified by the state government to ensure focused and meaningful impact.

The Chairman also said the Group is exploring opportunities in hospitality, beginning with Ranchi and later extending to other locations.

Skill development was identified as another key area. Chandrasekaran said existing initiatives would be scaled up in partnership with the state to create new capabilities in line with emerging industrial needs.

The Chief Minister encouraged the Group to explore knowledge-based industries. Chandrasekaran said the proposal would be examined seriously.

He added that engagement with the Government of Jharkhand, including the Chief Secretary and senior officials, would continue on a sustained basis.

The Group plans to constitute a small expert team to identify additional areas for collaboration with the state government.

The meeting signals a renewed phase of engagement between the industrial conglomerate and the mineral-rich state that marked the beginning of its journey. UNI

Dual engine of GCC expansion, tech refresh drives India Pro AV market: MD for APAC of Diversified

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BENGALURU, MARCH 3: India's professional audio-visual (pro AV) market is being powered by a "dual engine" of Global Capability Centre (GCC) expansion and post-pandemic technology refresh cycles, according to James Berry, Managing Director – APAC at Diversified.

In an interview to United News of India (UNI), Berry said the country's pro AV growth is not being driven by technology hype alone, but by a structural combination of new enterprise build-outs and modernisation of existing workplace environments.

"Both infrastructure and enterprise expansion are driving growth. We're seeing continued GCC expansion from international corporates, which creates demand for fitting out new premises and enabling new workforces," he said.

India has emerged as a strategic hub for multinational GCCs, with global firms scaling operations across major cities. Each new centre requires workplace collaboration infrastructure, unified communications systems, digital signages, control rooms and hybrid meeting environments that align with global standards.

At the same time, Berry noted that existing GCCs and enterprise campuses are entering a fresh upgrade cycle.

"Many organisations slowed investment during the COVID period. Now they are refreshing systems to take advantage of newer, AI-driven capabilities and step-changes in AV hardware form factors," he said. He described the current growth phase as a "dual engine" dynamic.

"In practice, it's refresh cycles plus greenfield expansion. We support clients on both tracks – helping modernise estates at scale while delivering new-build deployments that align to global standards and local realities," Berry said.

Industry projections suggest India's pro AV market is set to grow at around 6 per cent in 2026, reaching an estimated revenue pool of nearly USD11 billion. According to Berry, this reflects sustained enterprise demand rather than short-term experimentation. On competition between global and local players, Berry said India's scale and diversity mean both have a role to play. "The Indian market is large enough to require both international integrators and strong local competitors," he said.

He explained that multinational corporates often prefer standardised, high-quality solutions influenced by UK, US or European design frameworks, delivered consistently across geographies. Indian

corporates, meanwhile, may prioritise cost efficiency, flexible deployment models and reach into Tier-4 and Tier-5 cities where infrastructure conditions vary.

"Our role is to match value to need – bringing global design and delivery discipline for standardised estates while value-engineering for local business cases and geographies," he said.

On whether immersive and AI-driven workplaces could reduce the need for traditional AV integration services, Berry offered a balanced perspective.

"Immersive and AI-driven environments will grow in specific use cases, but wholesale displacement of traditional AV is not imminent," he said.

"There's hype, but corporates prioritise productivity and adoption. Introduce too much change too quickly and employees reject it. Sensible change management keeps pace with what users can absorb while still creating shareholder value," he added.

He emphasised that most organisations will continue investing in dependable AV infrastructure alongside selective immersive deployments where there is a clear return on investment.

"Near term, organisations will run both tracks in parallel. India's projected 6 per cent growth and nearly US\$11 billion revenue pool in 2026 underline why traditional integration and newer capabilities will coexist for the foreseeable future," Berry said. Explaining Diversified's positioning, Berry said the company delivers end-to-end solutions, spanning conventional AV integration as well as advanced AI-enabled and immersive environments.

"We take clients end-to-end on the journey. We're a traditional AV integrator where required, and we also deliver high-end, AI-enabled and immersive environments," he said.

"Our focus is on the right solution, not just the newest one – avoiding expensive 'white elephants' that become obsolete within two to three years. We help clients deploy capital carefully, balancing innovation with lifecycle resilience and user adoption," he added. On the advantages of a global delivery model, Berry said Diversified operates as a unified international team capable of deploying expertise across borders.

"We can tap into leading expertise wherever it sits and apply it to India-based projects – whether that's design capabilities from California, delivery support through our GCC in Bengaluru on programmes deployed in Hyderabad, or thought leadership from Berlin or Melbourne on deployments in Bengaluru," he said. UNI

Yamaha Introduces XSR155 in 'Metallic Black' shade

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI, MAR 3: India Yamaha Motor (IYM) Pvt. Ltd. on Monday announced the launch of XSR155 in a new 'Metallic Black' shade at Rs. 1,58,990/- (Ex-showroom, Delhi). As the latest addition to the XSR155's colour range, the Metallic Black variant with Golden USD front forks answers growing demand from customers seeking a striking, premium look.



This new shade enhances the bike's timeless design language, accentuating its muscular tank, minimalist bodywork, and signature retro-inspired styling cues. The deeper, more aggressive tone, paired with the striking gold upside-down (USD) forks, elevates its road presence and reinforces its premium appeal, a release from IYM said.

Speaking on the launch, Mr. Hajime Aota, Chairman, Yamaha Motor India Group, said: "At Yamaha, innovation is driven by emotion and shaped by our riders. The exceptional response to the XSR155 since its debut reflects the strong resonance of the Modern Retro Sport philosophy in India. When our community expressed a clear aspiration for a black variant, we acted with agility and purpose. The introduction of the Metallic Black XSR155 is not just about a new colour – it is about deepening our connection with riders who seek individuality, performance, and styling in one compelling package. We remain committed to delivering products that inspire pride of ownership and pure riding excitement."

The modern retro sport model, launched in November last year, has received an overwhelming response from riders across India. In a short time, it has become a preferred choice for motorcycle enthusiasts seeking Yamaha's signature blend of retro-inspired styling and sporty performance. UNI

India-Canada sign Terms of Reference to launch negotiations for CEPA

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MAR 3: India and Canada on Monday launched negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) here and decided to finalise it soon, said an official statement released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for India-Canada CEPA was signed by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Maninder Sandhu, Minister of International Trade of Canada.

The ToR of negotiations will provide format, frequency and approach to India-Canada CEPA negotiations. It will serve as a guide to facilitate negotiations in

order to conclude an ambitious, balanced mutually beneficial CEPA.

According to government data, Canada represents a market of 41.65 million people (till 2025) and USD 2.34 trillion in terms of GDP at PPP.

India-Canada CEPA holds great potential to unlock and expand bilateral trade which stood at USD 8.66 billion in FY 2024-25.

Primarily, key exports from India to Canada include drugs and pharmaceuticals, iron and steel, seafood, cotton garments, electronic goods and chemicals.

Additionally, the key imports from India to Canada include pulses, pearls and semiprecious stones, coal, fertilisers, paper and petroleum crude. UNI

Adani Defence acquires Punj Lloyd's Malanpur unit in MP

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MAR 3: Adani Enterprises officially announced here on Monday that its wholly-owned subsidiary Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Ltd (ADSTL) executed a business transfer agreement on February 28, with Punj Lloyd Ltd to acquire its defence unit located in Malanpur, Madhya Pradesh.

The company stated that it received intimation of the execution of the agreement at 12:27 am on March 1, 2026, and has disclosed the development under Regulation 30 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, to the stock exchange.

According to the company statement, no shares are being issued as part of the transaction, and therefore, details like the issue price or class of shares are not applicable. The disclosure stated that ADSTL does not hold any shareholding in Punj Lloyd Ltd in relation to this agreement.

The company statement mentioned



that the transaction does not fall within related party transactions.

Other disclosures, including nominee appointments or potential conflicts of interest, have been marked as "not applicable" in the filing to the stock exchange.

The acquisition of Punj Lloyd Ltd's Malanpur unit has consolidated Adani's defence manufacturing presence through its wholly-owned subsidiary ADSTL. The move signals continued focus on building capabilities in the defence sector, according to the statement.

The timing aligns with robust government support for indigenization and a growing defence budget, positioning Adani to challenge established players.

The acquisition will enable Adani to swiftly integrate existing manufacturing infrastructure and operational expertise rather than building these from scratch. The Malanpur facility is expected to augment Adani's production capacity, enhancing its ability to compete for domestic defence contracts.

The move directly supports the government's 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India) initiatives, which prioritise indigenous defence production and aim to reduce import dependency, the statement mentioned. UNI

Shah to attend CISF Foundation Day celebration during two-day Odisha visit

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BHUBANESWAR, MAR 3: union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah will arrive in Odisha on March 5 for a two-day visit to attend official events and review key projects. According to official sources, Shah will reach Bhubaneswar from New Delhi on the evening of March 5 aboard a special Indian Air Force aircraft.

On the morning of March 6, he will participate in the Foundation Day celebration of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at Mundali in Cuttack.

Later in the afternoon, at Jatni in Khordha district, he will lay the foundation stone for the upcoming campus of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) and the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL), Bhubaneswar. He will also virtually inaugurate the NFSU Transit Campus in Bhubaneswar.

Subsequently, at the IDCO Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar, Shah will inaugurate the "Naveen Nyaya Samhita" exhibition. He is also scheduled to lay foundation stones and inaugurate several projects related to the Cooperation Department and other state departments.

Ahead of the visit, a high-level review meeting was chaired by Odisha Chief Secretary Anu Garg to assess preparations. The meeting focused on Shah's itinerary, security arrangements, traffic and route planning, and other logistical measures at the event venues.

The Chief Secretary directed all departments to coordinate closely and complete preparations within the stipulated timeline to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the visit.

Additional Chief Secretary of the Home, Industries, and Information & Public Relations Departments, Hemant Sharma, briefed officials on the various preparatory measures undertaken by the State Government.

Among those present at the meeting were Director General of Police Y.B. Khurana, Commissioner-cum-Secretary of the Cooperation Department Rajesh Prabhakar Patil, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation Commissioner, the District Collector of Khordha, secretaries of concerned departments, and senior police officials.

Avio Smart Market Stack acquires minority stake in Hyderabad-based Huwel Lifesciences

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, MAR 3 : Avio Smart Market Stack Limited (ASMS) (formerly Bartronics India Limited) on Monday said it has signed a Share Subscription cum Shareholders' Agreement with Hyderabad-based Huwel Lifesciences pursuant to and in furtherance of the MoU signed between the parties in September last year.

The company indicated that this collaboration marks the beginning of its broader entry into healthcare and diagnostics-linked opportunities.

Under the agreement, Avio

Smart Market Stack will acquire a minority stake in Huwel and collaborate on business development and project execution, the company said in a release here.

Under this structure, ASMS is contractually entitled to receive a defined share of the net project revenues arising from orders secured and executed through its institutional engagement and business development efforts.

Huwel Lifesciences' tuberculosis diagnostic platform has recently undergone a Health Technology Assessment (HTA) conducted by the Department of Health Research under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The assessment

evaluated molecular tuberculosis diagnostic platforms deployed nationwide.

As per its findings, Huwel's Quantiplus® MTB FAST platform enables testing at an approximate cost of Rs 340 per sample, whereas molecular testing systems currently used in government programmes typically range between Rs 700 and Rs 1,000 per test.

A key differentiator for the Quantiplus platform is its compatibility with open RT-PCR systems. This enables the Government to leverage the thousands of RT-PCR machines installed across India during the COVID-19 response, facilitating

rapid deployment of the platform without the need for proprietary hardware or significant additional capital expenditure. India conducts close to one crore tuberculosis tests annually under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP).

With detection and drug-resistance testing combined, the annual molecular TB diagnostics market is estimated at around Rs 1,000 crore.

The HTA findings position Huwel Lifesciences' Quantiplus platform in a potential monopoly position within the public molecular TB diagnostics segment.

With the assessment now

available, central and state procurement authorities can evaluate and consider the platform for wider adoption under the National TB Elimination Programme.

Commenting on the development, Vidhyasagar Reddy, Managing Director, Avio Smart Market Stack Limited, said: "The Health Technology Assessment provides important validation for cost-efficient molecular testing within a nationally significant programme. Through this strategic collaboration, we are aligning with scalable public health solutions while building our presence in the life sciences segment." UNI

Faf du Plessis: Aiden Markram 2.0 After LSG Stint

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD: South Africa captain Aiden Markram has been among the most impactful players in the 2026 T20 World Cup. His strike rate of 175.16 is the best among 11 openers who have faced at least 100 balls in the tournament. His success for Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in IPL 2025 has helped him grow into a successful T20 opener, according to former South Africa captain Faf du Plessis.

"I think what was really good in terms of his own game is the [IPL 2025] season where he opened for LSG and the IPL almost demanded that you needed to play in that way in order for you to keep your place," du Plessis said on ESPNcricinfo's TimeOut show. "It was obviously the Impact-Sub [rule] and the way the game was moving. As an opener, you couldn't play the old-school way anymore. "So, if you were in that first six [overs] and you didn't do your job by going after the ball, they would get someone else."

In IPL 2025, Markram had a strike rate of 151.13 in the powerplay, which was better than the likes of his current South Africa opening partner Quinton de Kock, Rohit Sharma and Will Jacks. Along with Mitchell Marsh, Markram went harder at the top after primarily batting at No.4 for Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in their run to the IPL

2024 final.

Markram had also mostly batted in the middle order for South Africa in T20Is before becoming their full-time opener after the IPL last year. The team management has trusted him to open the batting ahead of Ryan Rickelton, the top run-getter in the SA20. All of Rickelton's 1349 runs in the SA20 have come as an opener, but he is batting at No. 3 for South Africa in this T20 World Cup to allow Markram and de Kock to do their thing at the top.

"Aiden almost fell into that in terms of like, 'I'm gonna have to up the ante in terms of strike rate and play beautifully'. A good season, a couple of impactful knocks, and since then the adjustment was made from him from No.3 or 4 to opening," du Plessis said. "Now, it's an incredible skill to be flexible as a batter."

"Team managements around T20 circuits around the world and the IPLs, you're looking for versatility around what a guy can do. Can he open? Can he bat 4? So it gives you more options from a selection point of view. But that jump from 4 to 1 or 2 has been great for him because the strike rate is there."

Though South Africa have played five of their seven T20 World Cup games so far in Ahmedabad, they've had to bat on red, black and mixed soil pitches. They've dealt with it well, thanks to the early impetus provided by

Markram.

His current strike rate in this T20 World Cup is almost 40 points more than his T20 career strike rate of 136.37. Du Plessis, who has captained Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in the past, suggested that the introduction of the Impact-Player rule in the IPL has freed up batters.

"The game demands it from you, and if you don't evolve with the game, then you get left behind," du Plessis said. "So with Aiden, naturally the game has moved that way."

"I remember that first year actually really well because we were doing things as a team, at RCB. We were playing good cricket and we were playing positively and we were like, we're not far off here, but teams are beating us. And it was like halfway through the season where it was, okay, let's just pause here and get a blank canvas out and go, where is the game right now?"

"Because no longer could you say it's a 170 wicket when you're 10 overs out there in the middle and you're batting together, because who knows? Like, there's an extra batter and a batting line-up of nine guys. So it's like, scrap everything we know."

An all-format player, with a fourth-innings century in the World Test Championship (WTC) final to his name, Markram is a technically correct batter who has evolved his T20 game.



India to host Afghanistan for one Test and three ODIs in June

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BRIDGETOWN: Afghanistan are set to tour India for a one-off Test followed by three ODIs in June. New Chandigarh will host the Test starting June 6, while the three ODIs will take place Dharamsala, Lucknow and Chennai on June 14, 17 and 20 respectively.

This will only be the second Test between the two sides, after India won the first one, played in 2018 by an innings and 262 runs. The Test will not be a part of the ongoing World Test Championship



2025-27 cycle. It will be just the second Test to take place in India in the month of June, with the first one also coming against Afghanistan in Bengaluru.

The series begins just six days after the conclusion of the IPL, the final of which is set to be played on May 31.

Afghanistan's tour of India 2026
One-off Test: June 6-10, New Chandigarh
Three ODIs: June 14 (Dharamsala), 17 (Lucknow) and 20 (Chennai)

This will be the first bilateral ODI series between India and Afghanistan, who have met in the format only at the Asia Cup and the World Cup so far. Across formats, the teams had last met at a Super Eight game at the T20 World Cup in 2024.

While it will be India's first assignment after the ongoing T20 World Cup, Afghanistan will be hosting Sri Lanka for three T20Is and ODIs each in the UAE just after the World Cup ends. The series against Afghanistan will lead into a busy period for India who are also scheduled to tour England for five T20Is and three ODIs from July 1-19.

SANJU SAMSON DELIVERED 'WHEN THE TEAM NEEDED HIM THE MOST': GAUTAM GAMBHIR

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

KOLKATA: After Sanju Samson's unbeaten 97 secured India's qualification into the semi-final of the T20 World Cup, India head coach Gautam Gambhir said he always knew the wicketkeeper-batter would come good at the right time.

"He's a world class player, we all know how good a player Sanju is," Gambhir told reporters after the game. "It was all about backing him. When the team needed him the most - obviously today was the day - he showed his full potential."

What stood out for Gambhir

was the control in Samson's innings. He said the signs had been there in training, even if Samson didn't post big scores in the lead up to the World Cup.

"I actually felt that he never accelerated the innings," Gambhir said. "It was just very normal cricketing shots and I never saw him muscling the ball as well. That is the kind of talent he has."

"Obviously he had a tough series against New Zealand, so sometimes it's important to give him a break as well, because you want to get the guy off that pressure situation as well. And we always knew that whenever we needed him in the World Cup

game, he'll come and deliver it for us."

While Samson stayed right till the end in the chase of 196, Gambhir also pointed to the bowling powerplay as a key phase. India conceded only 45 even if they didn't strike in the first six overs.

"I thought we started off really well, especially when you play this kind of a game of this magnitude," Gambhir said. "You've got to start off really well with the new ball, which Arshdeep and Hardik did."

"I think the way they started off in the first three overs was really good and then Axar bowled two overs in the powerplay, which

was again a great job done by him. It's never easy on this wicket on their ground to bowl two overs in a powerplay, but Axar did that really well."

"The powerplay didn't go away from us, which was very important because once the powerplay goes away from you, it's very difficult to control."

When asked if India are peaking at the right time, bouncing back with two strong wins after the loss to South Africa, Gambhir said he did not believe in that concept. He also said he asks his players to back their instinct over data.

"You've got to win every game

that you represent your country," he said. "There is nothing like peaking at the right time. It's a short tournament, it's a tournament that comes and goes very quickly. So you've got to try and play your A game every time."

"I don't believe in data, honestly. I've never seen the data. I don't even know what data is all about. I absolutely do not believe it. Because I feel it's more about instinct. I think T20 cricket is about instinct and backing your instinct as well." He made a similar point about batting roles, referencing Tilak Varma, who made a 15-ball 27 from No. 5 to keep India's required run-rate in check.

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