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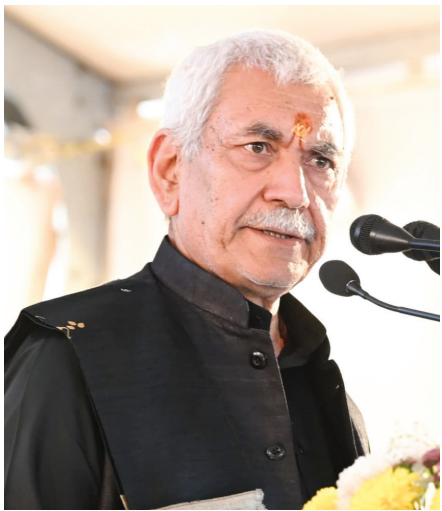
Shiv Khori Shrine Gets Major Facelift as LG Sinha Inaugurates Upgradation Works

JSW Group completes beautification under CSR; helipad, heli-services and new pilgrim facilities announced

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 7: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday inaugurated infrastructure upgradation and beautification works at the revered Shiv Khori Shrine, describing the initiative as a major step towards reviving the spiritual heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

The works were carried out by the JSW Group under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme. The Lieutenant Governor expressed gratitude to the company's Chairman and Managing Director Sajjan Jindal and his team for what he termed a "historic endeavour" in preserving the region's shared spiritual heritage. Sinha said the day marked the culmination of a long-awaited effort since the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the JSW Group in 2023. "Shiv Khori's awakening begins today. We have not only upgraded infrastructure but strengthened faith itself," he said, adding that the development reflects a commitment to make spiritual spaces more accessible to devotees.



Emphasising the importance of spiritual tourism, the Lieutenant Governor said the infrastructure upgradation of Shiv Khori signalled the revival of ancient shrines and fulfilled the long-cherished aspirations of devotees and ancestors who had envisioned improved facilities at the sacred site. He noted that similar initiatives undertaken for the annual Amarnath Yatra

● Turn on Page 2

Omar Abdullah Honours Linemen, Sets 'Zero Casualty' Target for Power Workers

CM stresses safety training and strict use of protective gear during Lineman Diwas celebration in Jammu

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 7: Omar Abdullah on Saturday felicitated frontline electricity workers during the celebration of Lineman Diwas at the Convention Centre Jammu, calling them the backbone of the power department and stressing the need to achieve a "zero casualty" target for linemen on duty.

The event, organised by Jammu Power Development Corporation Limited, recognised the vital role played by linemen in maintaining electricity supply across Jammu and Kashmir, particularly during emergencies, natural calamities and other challenging situations.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister described the occasion as long overdue and



underscored the fundamental role electricity plays in governance and everyday life. He said key public services such as healthcare,

● Turn on Page 2

Army Hosts Tri-Force Synergy Meet In Udhampur To Boost Border Security Coordination

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, MAR 7: The Indian Army on Saturday hosted a high-level "synergy" conference with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and the Border Security Force (BSF) at the headquarters of the Northern Command in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen inter-force coordination in view of the evolving security landscape.

The conference was chaired by General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Northern Command, Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, and brought together senior officers from the three forces to deliberate on operational coordination and emerging security challenges.

According to officials, the meeting focused on sharing insights into the operational framework and aligning strategies and capabilities to effectively tackle potential threats

in sensitive border regions.

"Enhancing synergy for national security - HQ Northern Command hosted a synergy conference to enhance coordination with ITBP and BSF," the command said in a post on X.

During the interaction, Lt Gen Sharma commended the participating forces for their dedication and resolute approach during operations and emphasized the importance of close coordination among

● Turn on Page 2

Modi Congratulates Nepal On Successful Elections, Reaffirms Strong Bilateral Ties

Rastriya Swatantra Party heads toward landslide victory in historic polls

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAR 7: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday congratulated the government and people of Nepal for the successful and peaceful conduct of elections in the Himalayan nation, calling it a proud milestone in the country's democratic journey.

In a message posted on X, Modi said India, as a close neighbour and trusted friend, remains committed to working closely with the people of Nepal and the incoming government to achieve shared peace, progress and prosperity.



"I warmly congratulate the people and government of Nepal on the successful and peaceful conduct of elections. It is heartening to see my Nepali sisters and brothers exercise their democratic rights so vibrantly. This historic milestone is a proud moment in Nepal's democratic journey," the Prime Minister said.

Meanwhile, rapper-turned-politician Balendra Shah's Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) was heading toward a landslide victory in Nepal's first general elections since last year's violent Gen Z protests, significantly altering the country's political

● Turn on Page 2

Rain, Snow Likely Across J&K as Temperatures Set to Dip After March 9

■ HT NEWS DESK / KNO

SRINAGAR, MAR 7: The India Meteorological Department (MeT) has predicted generally cloudy weather with spells of light rain in plains and snowfall in higher reaches across Jammu and Kashmir over the coming days, with day temperatures expected to fall significantly after March 9.

According to the MeT office in Srinagar, the weather is likely to remain generally cloudy from March 7 to 9, with light rain and snowfall in higher reaches at isolated places. The department said that from March 10 to 12, the region is expected to witness more widespread activity with light rain and snowfall in higher reaches at many places.

The forecast, as reported by Kashmir News Observer (KNO), indicates that some higher reaches of Kupwara district, Bandipora district, Ganderbal district and Anantnag district may

● Turn on Page 2

DGP Pushes Intelligence-Led Operations During Pulwama Security Review

Nalin Prabhat Calls for Intensified Action Against Militancy, Drugs and Crime While Reviewing Situation in Awantipora

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAR 7: Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Saturday emphasised intelligence-based operations and proactive policing to maintain peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir while reviewing the overall security scenario in south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

The police chief chaired a



comprehensive review meeting to assess the security situation, counter-terror operations and the law and order scenario in Awantipora police district. Senior officers briefed the DGP on the prevailing situation on the ground and the measures being taken to strengthen security in the area.

During the meeting, Prabhat took a detailed review of

● Turn on Page 2

Illegal Mining Ravages Sukhnag River; NGT Orders Fresh Probe

Govt Report Confirms Severe Ecological Damage in Budgam's Trout Stream

■ HT NEWS DESK / KNS

NEW DELHI, MAR 7: A government-constituted fact-finding committee has confirmed that illegal riverbed mining has caused extensive destruction to the Sukhnag River in the Beerwah area of Budgam district in Jammu and Kashmir, prompting the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to order a fresh on-site assessment of the damage.

The seven-member panel, formed by the Deputy Commissioner of Budgam in August last year following

● Turn on Page 2

Women Driving Society's Progress: Sakeena Itoo

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 07: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today remarked that women are playing a transformative role across all sectors and their contribution towards shaping our society is remarkable.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing grand International Women's Day celebrations at Abhinav Theatre here today, organised by Mission Shakti in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) under the theme 'Give to Gain'.

Addressing a large gathering of women achievers, officers, students

and social workers, the Minister highlighted that women today are playing a transformative role across all sectors including education, healthcare, administration, entrepreneurship, science, sports and social development and this day is observed to celebrate their achievements and recognitions in diverse fields.

"Women are not only backbone of

their families but a driving force behind the progress of society. Their resilience, determination and leadership are shaping a stronger and more inclusive future for our country," Minister Sakeena said.

The Minister reaffirmed that the government is committed to ensure equal opportunities, dignity and

● Turn on Page 2

MLAs Propose 8,000 Works; 5,881 Projects Worth ₹22,275 Cr Included

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, MAR 7: Since the formation of the National Conference-led government in Jammu and Kashmir in 2024, as many as 5,881 development works worth Rs 22,275 crore proposed by MLAs during pre-budget discussions for Budget Estimates 2025-26 have been accommodated, officials in the finance department said.

Under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), the MLAs have so far recommended around 12,000 works worth about Rs 313 crore against an allocation of Rs 427 crore, indicating strong progress in

● Turn on Page 2



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Div Com Kashmir reviews progress of transit accommodation for migrant employees

Over 4100 flats completed across Kashmir, 680 more to be ready by April 2026

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAR 07: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a meeting to review the progress of construction of transit accommodation for migrant employees across Kashmir division.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrant), Chief Engineers of KPDCI, Jal Shakti, PWD and other concerned officers.

At the outset, the Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner gave a detailed presentation on the physical progress of the transit accommodation and the status of allied works. It was informed that out of a total of 6000 flats being constructed at 20 locations across the Valley, 4112 flats have been completed so far, of which 3257 have already been allotted to migrant employees.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed the status of completion of transit accommodation flats in each district. He also took a detailed



review of the availability of essential services including water supply, electricity, drainage facilities and Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), besides the physical status of other allied works in the accommodation towers.

While reviewing the physical progress of the under-construction towers, the Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner informed that around 680 additional flats are expected to be completed by the end of April 2026.

The Divisional Commissioner stressed that priority should be given to completing the remaining flats along with all allied infrastructure within the already fixed timelines.

He also asked the concerned Deputy Commissioners to personally visit the project sites along with officials of executing agencies to resolve minor issues that are hindering the completion of works.

The Divisional Commissioner further directed the concerned departments to float tenders for the pending works at the earliest to ensure timely completion of the projects.

In 3 years, nearly 6 lakh tourists visit Manasbal

Wullar-Manasbal Development Authority plans water sports, zipline;

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

GANDERBAL, MAR 07: Tourist footfall at Manasbal Lake in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district has witnessed a steady rise over the past three years, with authorities planning several adventure, infrastructure and conservation projects to transform the scenic lake into a major eco-tourism destination.

Chief Executive Officer of Wullar-Manasbal Development Authority (WMDA), Ahsan-ul-Haq Chisti, while speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said Manasbal holds immense potential for adventure tourism and efforts are underway to enhance visitor facilities while safeguarding the lake's fragile ecosystem.

"Manasbal is a unique tourist destination in Kashmir with huge adventure potential. Tourist flow has been steadily increasing over the past three years," Chisti said.

He said, over 1.6 lakh tourists visited Manasbal in 2023, while the number increased to around 2.2 lakh in 2024. In 2025, the tourist footfall reached about 2.12 lakh, reflecting growing interest among visitors.

He said a significant number of foreign tourists also visit the lake due to its natural beauty and adventure possibilities.

To further boost tourism, the WMDA is procuring water sports equipment worth Rs 3 crore, which is expected to become operational in the coming months.

"Once the equipment arrives, tourists will be able to enjoy various water-based recreational activities," Chisti said, adding that the authority is also planning to introduce a zipline facility to enhance adventure tourism in the area.

He said the authority has also established a home-stay cluster in collaboration with the Tourism Department to encourage community participation and increase the stay duration of tourists.

"In the last two to three months, several cultural programmes and events were organised which received a very positive response from both locals and visitors. We plan to organise more such events in collaboration with cultural organisations," he said.

Besides cultural tourism, the authority is promoting eco-friendly activities such as mountaineering, cycling, nature walks and water-based recreation to enrich the overall tourist experience.

Chisti said that under the Smart City project, WMDA is constructing jogging and cycling tracks along the boundary of the lake, with around 80 percent of the work already taken up.

"The jogger and cycling tracks will not only provide recreational space for visitors but will also help protect the lake from future encroachments by clearly demarcating its boundary," he said.

To address traffic congestion during peak tourist season, authorities have also operationalised a bypass road near Manasbal, allowing routine traffic between Ganderbal and Bandipora to avoid the tourist zone.

He said the development authority is also improving public facilities, including washrooms, passenger sheds, selfie points and welcome gates, while ensuring that the structures remain environment-friendly and blend with the natural landscape. Further plans include the creation of theme parks and a rural museum around the lake in coordination with departments such as Forest and Soil Conservation.

Highlighting conservation efforts, Chisti said that dredging operations have been restarted after many years, resulting in the clearance of over one lakh square metres of lake area and reopening of several water channels.

He added that authorities are also undertaking manual de-weeding and are removing around 7,000 cubic metres of aquatic weeds by the end of March, which will significantly improve water quality and lake ecology. The lake has also witnessed a large presence of migratory birds this winter, many arriving from Siberia, prompting authorities to organise bird and wetland festivals to highlight the ecological importance of the area.

"To tackle pollution, WMDA has adopted a six-lakh square metre catchment area for solid waste management and is coordinating with the district administration to establish an integrated solid waste management plant," he said.

Meanwhile, he said the capacity of the proposed Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) has been enhanced and the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is currently with the UED, with planning aimed at meeting requirements up to 2047.

Chisti added that Manasbal also holds heritage importance due to the presence of an ancient 10th-century temple, which has been stabilised and restored in phases by the development authority.

"It is one of the major historical attractions of Manasbal and has been preserved carefully for visitors," he said, adding that the focus remains on promoting tourism in a sustainable and eco-friendly manner while protecting the natural and cultural heritage of Manasbal Lake—(KNO)

Health Department Employees Seek Amendment in S.O. 334 Over CHO Promotions

FAROOQ RATHER

SRINAGAR, MAR 7: Employees of the Health Department in Kashmir division have submitted a representation to the authorities seeking amendment in S.O. 334 dated July 13, 2022, raising concerns over the proposed inclusion of Family Welfare Department employees in the promotional quota for the post of Community Health Officer (CHO).

In a memorandum addressed to the Commissioner Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, Jammu and Kashmir, the employees said the post of Community Health Officer exclusively belongs to the Health Department under the 2210 major head and should remain reserved for eligible feeding categories within the department.

The representation states that Health Educators, Sanitary Inspectors and Lady Health Visitors serving under the Health Department are the legally recognized feeding categories for divisional-level promotion to the post of CHO.

Employees expressed apprehension that staff members from the Family Welfare Department, which functions under a separate budget head (2211), may be considered for promotion to the post of CHO in Kashmir division.

According to the memorandum, such a move would adversely affect the promotion prospects of hundreds of employees working under the Health Department.

The employees also pointed out that the Family Welfare Department operates under a separate administrative structure headed by the Director Family Welfare and maintains its own cadre strength and promotion avenues.

They argued that employees of the Family Welfare Department already have separate promotional channels within their own department and therefore should not be considered for posts belonging to the Health Department.

The memorandum further highlighted that certain feeding categories of the Family Welfare Department had allegedly been included in the feeding categories of the Health Department for promotion to the post of CHO, a move the employees termed unjustified.

They also cited examples of inter-departmental discrepancies, stating that employees of the Health Department are not considered for promotions in the Family Welfare Department despite similar eligibility.

Employees urged the government to amend S.O. 334 to ensure that all vacancies of Community Health Officer are allocated strictly to the feeding categories of the Health Department and that Family Welfare Department employees are excluded from the promotional quota.

The signatories appealed to the authorities to examine the matter and take necessary steps to safeguard the future promotion prospects of Health Department employees in Kashmir division.

Visually impaired candidate from Bandipora clears UPSC exam

Lost his eye in school accident during early childhood, continued his studies, civil services preparation over years, say family members

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, MAR 07: A visually impaired candidate from North Kashmir's Bandipora district has cleared the Union Public Service Commission Civil Services Examination 2025.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Irfan Ahmad Lone, of Manzpora in Naidkhai area secured an all-India rank of 957 in the examination, the results of which were declared recently.

Lone lost an eye in a school accident during his early childhood but continued his studies and civil services preparation over the years.

He completed his schooling from the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities in Dehradun and later graduated from Hindu College under University of Delhi.



He went on to pursue political science at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi.

Family members and residents said Lone prepared for the examination for several years.

His cousin, Feroz Ahmad, said Lone's journey showed that sustained effort and focus can help achieve difficult goals.

Residents in the locality said people from nearby areas visited the family's residence to congratulate them after the results were announced.

A neighbour said that Lone's father, who worked as a casual labourer, continued supporting his son's education despite financial constraints.

Lone's younger sister Shabia said the family had confidence in his efforts and remained supportive during his preparation.

The Union Public Service Commission conducted the written main examination in August last year, followed by personality tests between December 2025 and February 2026, after which the final results were announced—(KNO)

Film shoot brings first major production to remote Kupwara village

Locals hope shoot brings opportunities, gives tourism push to LoC village

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, MAR 07: A film production unit shooting a horror film titled "Pashaan" has brought unusual activity to the remote village of Nagranar in Handwara area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district, where locals say a movie is being filmed for the first time. The project, produced by Dharma Productions Private Limited, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), drawn attention from residents as film crews set up equipment and began shooting in the scenic village located close to the Line of Control (LoC), with locals describing the development as a rare moment for the district, which has largely



remained outside the mainstream film shooting circuit in Kashmir.

Residents said the arrival of the production team has generated excitement across the village. Many gathered around the shooting locations to watch the filming process and interact with crew members.

Crew members present at the site said the natural surroundings and calm environment of Nagranar fit well with the theme of the horror film. They described the

location as peaceful and visually striking, making it suitable for the scenes planned for the film.

Villagers believe Nagranar's growing presence on social media may have played a role. Over the past few years, images and videos of the village highlighting its natural beauty have circulated online and attracted attention beyond the region.

Kaiser Ahmed, a resident of the village, said the film shoot has created a sense of optimism among young

people in the area. He said such projects could open opportunities for locals in tourism and services linked to film production.

"People here are happy to see a film crew working in the village. If more filmmakers come, it can help local youth find work in guiding, transport and other activities," he said.

The crew was scheduled to shoot at the location for three days, followed by other scenic locations across the Kashmir valley to film the remaining portions.

Officials said the administration has extended full support to facilitate the shooting. Local authorities and police coordinated with the production team to ensure that the work proceeded smoothly without disruption—(KNO)

MLA Zadibal reviews utilization of funds under RKS, Kayakalp programs

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MARCH 07: A meeting was convened at JLNH Hospital, Rainawari Srinagar today by MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq to review and discuss the proposed agenda for utilization of funds under the RKS and Kayakalp programs for the year 2025-26.

The meeting was attended by the Medical Superintendent, Deputy Medical Superintendent, Chief Medical Officer Srinagar, Deputy Director Information, various Executive Engineers, Tehsildar Khanyar, Ward Officer SMC, Project Officer ICDS, and several Heads of Departments of JLNH Hospital.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held regarding the proposed works and procurement of items aimed at improving hospital infrastructure, sanitation facilities, patient amenities, and medical equipment



at the hospital. The agenda items were thoroughly deliberated upon and were positively received by the MLA.

On the occasion, Tanvir Sadiq appreciated the initiatives taken by the hospital administration for strengthening healthcare facilities and improving patient services. He assured full support for the proposed works and emphasized the need for timely implementation of the planned initiatives.

The MLA also promised to facilitate the provision of electric wheelchairs and an ambulance for the hospital to further enhance patient care and accessibility.

The meeting concluded with a commitment from all concerned departments to work in coordination for the effective execution of the proposed plans and overall improvement of healthcare services at the hospital.

Chairman DLSA Srinagar reviews preparations for forthcoming National Lok Adalat

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MARCH 07: A meeting regarding the preparations for the forthcoming National Lok Adalat scheduled to be held on 14th March 2026 was convened today at the Conference Hall of District Court Complex Srinagar under the chairmanship of Haq Nawaz Zargar, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA)/Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar.

During the meeting, the Chairman reviewed the arrangements and preparations for the National Lok Adalat and stressed upon the Judicial Officers to ensure identification and listing of maximum number of eligible pending cases for their amicable settlement during the upcoming Lok Adalat.

He emphasized that National Lok Adalat provides an effective platform for expeditious disposal of cases and helps in reducing pendency in courts while promoting amicable settlement of disputes.

The Judicial Officers were directed to make sincere efforts for identifying suitable cases and to encourage litigants to resolve their disputes through settlement before the Lok Adalat.

The meeting was attended by Judicial



Officers posted at District Court Complex Srinagar including officials of District Legal Services Authority Srinagar.

The meeting concluded with a resolve to make the forthcoming National Lok Adalat a success through coordinated efforts

Kathua admin holds Health & Nutrition Day across district under Women's Week initiative

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA, MARCH 07: As part of the Women's Week campaign being organised by the District Administration Kathua in the run-up to International Women's Day, a Health & Nutrition Day was observed across the district with a series of awareness and health outreach activities for women and adolescent girls.



Free medical camps were organised at various health institutions where women were provided on-the-spot screening and consultations. The camps offered testing facilities for haemoglobin (Hb), blood pressure, blood sugar and anaemia along with guidance on menstrual health and hygiene. Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) tablets were also distributed to beneficiaries to promote better nutritional health.

Counselling desks were set up to provide expert advice on health issues, nutrition and preventive care. Informative stalls were installed under the POSHAN initiative showcasing balanced diet practices and locally available nutritious food options. In addition, AYUSH stalls provided information on traditional and holistic approaches to women's health and wellness.

The day-long activities were conducted under the supervision of the respective Block Medical Officers (BMOs) across the district, while the overall programme was monitored by Chief Medical Officer Kathua Dr Vijay Raina.

The initiative aimed to strengthen awareness regarding preventive healthcare, improving nutritional practices and encouraging women to prioritise their health and wellbeing. A large number of women participated in the camps and availed the health services provided during the programme.

5-day Capacity Building Programme on Transformative Teaching Strategies concludes at DIET Jammu

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MARCH 07: The District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Jammu successfully concluded a five-day Capacity Building Programme for teachers on "Transformative Teaching Strategies for Modern Classrooms", held from 02 to 07 March 2026. The programme was organized in alignment with the vision of NEP 2020, which emphasizes competency-based learning, experiential pedagogy and the development of 21st-century skills among learners.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of Principal DIET Jammu Dr. R. G. Dogra with academic coordination by HOD DIET Jammu Dr. Romesh Kumar.

The inaugural academic session on Transformative Teaching Strategies was delivered by

Assistant Professor, Government College of Education Jammu Dr. Rakesh Bharti. Other key sessions included Enquiry-Based Teaching by Dr. Alka Sharma (Teacher Model Higher Secondary School Domana) and Universal Design for Learning by Dr. Jyoti Malhotra (Lecturer, GHSS Bishnah).

Sessions on Project-Based Learning, focusing on designing and assessing projects were conducted by the Parmod Bakshi-led team from Piramal Foundation. Dr. Romesh Kumar also conducted a session on Mental Health and Well-being, highlighting the importance of integrating psychosocial support and student well-being within school education systems.

Sessions on Digital Tools and Pedagogy for Modern Classrooms were conducted by Harish Raina, Senior Regional Manager, Parachi



India Pvt. Ltd. and Sachin Goel (Teacher, GHSS Rehari).

Similarly, the Sessions on Art-Integrated Teaching and Performing Arts were facilitated by Deepak Virdhi, Theatre Artist and Co-founder, Theatre in Education Foundation. K.K. Bhardwaj, Founder of BDI Kids Theatre in Education Foundation also delivered a brief

presentation on the importance of training teachers in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE).

A session on Art-Integrated Teaching with a focus on Visual Arts was conducted by Jastinder Kour Head of Institution MS Rakh Bandu.

The programme included

recapitulation sessions, team work and presentations, providing opportunities for collaborative learning, reflection and peer engagement.

The coordination team included Anil Gupta and Suniya Mehta, Lecturers at DIET Jammu, who supported the academic and organizational aspects of the programme.

Technical support was provided by Sanjay Lal Seth, Teacher, along with Gandhi Fellows from the Piramal Foundation Subah, Faizan Sibli and Aaqib Nazir who extended valuable technical and facilitation support throughout the programme.

The programme concluded with a valedictory session, reaffirming the importance of innovative, inclusive and learner-centred pedagogies for strengthening modern classrooms in line with the goals of NEP 2020.

Mission Director reviews implementation of Integrated Farming System (IFS) Project under HADP

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MARCH 07: A meeting to review the implementation of Project No. 13 - Integrated Farming System (IFS) under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) was held today at the Conference Hall, Directorate of Agriculture, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

The meeting was chaired by Sandeep Kumar, Secretary, Agriculture Production Department and Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and Jammu and Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement in Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP). The meeting aimed to review the progress achieved under the project, identify implementation challenges and deliberate on measures required for its effective and timely execution.

Among others, Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta, Director Animal



Husbandry Jammu Sanjay Gupta, Chief Agriculture Officers from all districts of Jammu division and Chief Animal Husbandry Officers participated in the meeting.

Director Agriculture Kashmir, Director Animal Husbandry Kashmir and other officers from the Kashmir division joined the meeting through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Mission Director reviewed the progress achieved under the Integrated Farming System (IFS) project and stressed the need for stronger inter-departmental coordination between Agriculture and Animal Husbandry departments to

ensure effective implementation of the project at the grassroots level. He emphasized that the Integrated Farming System model has the potential to enhance farmers' income through diversification and optimal utilization of available farm resources.

Sandeep Kumar directed the concerned officers to intensify field-level monitoring, ensure timely delivery of benefits to farmers and promote integrated farming practices in a mission mode. He also called for strengthening extension activities and capacity building of farmers so that they can effectively adopt integrated farming models and improve their livelihoods.

The meeting concluded with detailed discussions on accelerating the implementation of the project and ensuring better convergence among allied sectors to achieve the objectives of HADP in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Market checking, decongestion and anti-encroachment drive conducted in Baderwah town

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BHADERWAH, MARCH 07: A market checking, decongestion and anti-encroachment drive was conducted in Baderwah town under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner Baderwah, Sunil Kumar Bhutyal.

During the drive, Tehsildar Kamalpreet Singh, Naib Tehsildar Parampreet, Food Safety Officer along with the Mobile Food Testing Van (MFTV) team, Police, Municipality, Traffic Police and officials of the Veterinary Department inspected various market areas of the town.



The team checked food quality, shop establishments and ensured that shopkeepers follow hygiene and safety standards. Several shopkeepers and individuals violating the rules were issued online as well as offline challans and fines were imposed accordingly.

The drive also focused on removing encroachments from roads and market spaces to reduce congestion and ensure smooth movement of pedestrians and vehicles.

The officials said that such drives will continue to maintain cleanliness, regulate market activities and ensure public safety in the town.

International Women's Day celebrated with enthusiasm at Community Hall Doda

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, MARCH 07: International Women's Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and passion at Community Hall Doda under the theme "Give to Gain." The programme aimed to highlight the importance of gender equality, women's rights and the empowerment of girls and women in all spheres of life.

The event brought together officers, students and members of civil society to recognize the invaluable contributions of women in building a progressive society.

Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal graced the occasion as Chief guest.

Among others present were

Additional District Development Commissioner Roshan Lal, Chief Planning Officer Manesh Kumar Manhas, District Social Welfare Officer Zubair Ahmed and officials of various government departments and a large number of women and girls from government and private schools.

The programme featured vibrant cultural performances, speeches and awareness presentations highlighting the significance of International Women's Day. Participants presented skits and cultural items reflecting the role of women in society and the need for equal opportunities.

The Deputy Commissioner also inspected various stalls set up by departments and institutions



showcasing initiatives related to women empowerment, skill development and self-reliance.

On the occasion, a Signature Campaign was also organised to

promote the message of gender equality and women empowerment. The Deputy Commissioner along with district officers and participants actively took part in the campaign by signing the pledge board, reaffirming their commitment towards ensuring dignity, equal rights and opportunities for women in society.

The campaign witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, officials and the public, reflecting collective support for the cause of women empowerment.

The Deputy Commissioner congratulated the participants and briefly spoke about the history of International Women's Day, recalling its association with the early women's movements and the role of women during the

Russian Revolution. He emphasized that the day reminds society to overcome its weaknesses and ensure equal opportunities for women. He said that women today are working shoulder to shoulder with men in every field, including the Army, Air Force, administration, education and entrepreneurship and encouraged women to come forward to overcome all barriers and achieve success. He also highlighted the important role of women in strengthening families, society and nation-building.

The celebration concluded with the distribution of certificates and mementos to women achievers and participants in recognition of their outstanding contributions and performances.

Div Com chairs Divisional Level PWMC meeting

Directs strict enforcement of Single Use Plastic ban across Kashmir division

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MARCH 07: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg today chaired a meeting of the Divisional Level Plastic Waste Management Cell (PWMC) in his office chamber, to discuss measures for elimination of Single Use Plastic (SUP) and to address the issue of plastic pollution in the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC, Director General Rural Sanitation, Director Urban Local Bodies (ULB) Kashmir, Director Rural Development Department Kashmir and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, Director ULB Kashmir briefed the Divisional Commissioner about the implementation of Plastic



Waste Management Rules, formation of Special Task Force, establishment of Plastic

Management Cell, besides action taken in terms of seizure of Single Use Plastic and imposition of fines on violators.

The Divisional Commissioner directed all stakeholder departments to ensure strict enforcement of the ban on Single Use Plastic across the division. He also stressed that extensive awareness campaigns should be carried out to sensitise the public about the harmful effects of SUP on the environment.

Meanwhile, Director General Rural Sanitation informed the meeting that Collection and Segregation Centres have been established under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban to strengthen plastic waste management and ensure proper disposal and segregation of waste.

GDC Ramkote celebrates International Women's Day

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

RAMKOTE, MARCH 07: Government Degree College Ramkote today celebrated International Women's Day with a vibrant and inspiring Programme dedicated to honoring the achievements and resilience of women.

Principal Government Degree College Vijapur, Dr. Ashu Vashisht was the chief guest on the occasion.

Highlighting the intellectual spirit of the occasion, the students delivered insightful speeches with the latter reflecting on the historical significance of International Women's Day. In a gesture of appreciation, the college presented mementos to the female staff



for their dedicated service.

The chief guest lauded the progress of women in modern society. She urged students to strive for financial security and self-dependence while offering practical solutions to contemporary challenges faced by women.

Principal Government Degree College Ramkote Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of women's empowerment and equality. He emphasized the critical importance of gender equality in nation-building. He encouraged students to respect and appreciate the contributions of women in society. The celebration ended with the distribution of mementos to all student performers in recognition of their talent.

ADC Bhaderwah reviews progress of Jal Shakti, irrigation works

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BHADERWAH, MARCH 07: Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal today chaired a meeting to review the progress of ongoing works of the Jal Shakti and Irrigation & Flood Control Department.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on various schemes including Asha Pati Scheme, Monda Amrat Bhaderwah Scheme, Hanga Water Supply Scheme and Quill Reservoir. The officers informed the chair about the progress of these works.

The ADC emphasized that the pace of work should be further accelerated and directed the concerned departments to carry out the works in double shifts so that all pending works are completed without delay.



While reviewing the works of the Irrigation Department, it was informed that 20 irrigation drains are currently under progress. The ADC directed the department to ensure that all these drains are completed within the next ten days for the benefit of the local farmers and residents.

The meeting was attended by AEEPHE, concerned Assistant Engineers (AE) and Junior Engineers (JE) along with other officials of the concerned departments, who briefed the ADC about the status of ongoing projects and assured timely completion of the works.

GCW Parade marks International Women's Day with Human Chain, Rangoli Contest

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MARCH 07: The Department of English, Government College for Women (GCW) Parade Ground, Jammu, celebrated International Women's Day 2026 on the college campus under the patronage of Principal Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo.

The highlight of the celebration was a Human Chain organized under the theme "Empower Women, Empower the World." Students and teachers from various departments



joined hands to symbolize unity, equality and collective strength while celebrating the courage and achievements of women.

On the occasion, HoD English Dr. Ritu Magotra emphasized the need for continued awareness and collective action to promote gender equality and empowerment.

A themed Rangoli competition was also organized as part of the celebrations. The entries were judged by Prof. Anjali Abrol, Dean Academic Affairs and Prof. Samta Sharma, HoD History.

Agriculture Department rebuts claims on unchecked sale of substandard pesticides

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MARCH 07: Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, has taken note of the article published in Ziraat Times on March 5, 2026, titled "Orchardists in Kashmir flag counterfeit pesticides as fruit season begins."

While the concerns of farmers are important, the department has strongly refuted the claim that the distribution of substandard pesticides remains unchecked in the markets. The department remains fully committed to safeguarding the interests of farmers and orchardists, and the report appears to present a generalized view that does not fully reflect the regulatory framework and enforcement mechanisms already in place.

The department operates strictly under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 and the rules framed thereunder, which regulate the manufacture, sale, distribution, and use of pesticides to ensure that only approved and quality products reach farmers and orchardists. Under this legal framework, pesticides can be sold only through licensed dealers and are subject to regular monitoring and inspection.

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has maintained strict vigilance to curb the menace of counterfeit or substandard pesticides. The Agriculture Department

has a dedicated enforcement wing that routinely conducts inspections of pesticide outlets, collects samples for quality testing, and takes action against any dealer found violating the prescribed norms.

During the current year 2025-26, the enforcement wing carried out 3,456 inspections of pesticide outlets and 2,741 samples were drawn for quality analysis. Based on violations detected, 39 prosecutions were launched against erring dealers in addition to other legal actions as provided under law. The department has also already adopted and is implementing a clearly defined roadmap for the monitoring and distribution of insecticides. In addition, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the Agriculture Production Department (APD) for the monitoring and regulation of fertilizers are being strictly followed to ensure transparency, accountability, and quality control in the supply chain of agricultural inputs.

The department also issues timely advisories to farmers regarding recommended pesticides, proper dosages, and safe pest management practices. Farmers are instructed to procure Agro-Chemicals only from authorized dealers, insist on proper bills and properly labelled products, and report any suspected counterfeit or substandard products to the department so that immediate action can be taken.

CRPF 187 Battalion organises blood donation, free medical camp at Battal Ballian Udhampur

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR, MARCH 07: To commemorate the 87th Raising Day of the Central Reserve Police Force, the 187 Battalion CRPF organised a Blood Donation Camp cum free medical camp under the Civic Action Programme 2026 at the Battalion Headquarters Battal Ballian Udhampur.

The camp was conducted with the joint support of Dr. Lubina Naseer Pathologist, Dr. Akib Jawed from Government Medical College Udhampur and Dr. Ajoy Kumar, Eye Specialist from Rotary Hospital, Eye & ENT Udhampur.

Around 40 officers and personnel of the battalion voluntarily donated blood during the camp.

In addition, a large number of patients from Udhampur and nearby villages including men women and children benefited from free medical check-ups, which included ECG, eye examinations, blood pressure and blood tests. Free medicines were also distributed among the beneficiaries.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of Md. Sazid, Commandant 187 Battalion in presence of Jaswinder Singh, Dy. Commandant, Dr. Manmeet Kaur Brar SMO and with the assistance of the paramedical staff of 187 Battalion.

The Commandant appreciated the efforts of the medical team and thanked the visiting



doctors and staff for their valuable support. He also highlighted the importance of voluntary blood donation and encouraged officers and jawans to actively participate in such humanitarian initiatives.

SHEW Mission Shakti Shopian celebrates International Women's Day

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, MARCH 07: Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW), Mission Shakti Shopian today organized a grand programme to celebrate International Women's Day at Town Hall Shopian under the supervision of District Social Welfare Officer, Ibrar Mirza.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from women, students, and various stakeholders working for women empowerment. Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The event began with a seminar highlighting the importance of women's empowerment, gender equality, and self-reliance among women. Several speakers including students, women achievers, and social activists shared their views on the role of women in building a progressive society.

A special exhibition was organized by women beneficiaries supported by Sankalp Hub, where they displayed their products and entrepreneurial ventures. Many of these

women expressed gratitude towards Sankalp Hub for providing them guidance, support, and opportunities that helped them become financially independent and self-reliant.

During the programme, women entrepreneurs, students, and speakers were felicitated for their achievements and contribution towards promoting women empowerment in the district.

A signature campaign was also conducted on the occasion to raise awareness about the rights, dignity, and empowerment of women. ADDC Shopian, in his address appreciated the efforts of the Department of Social Welfare and Sankalp Hub for actively working towards empowering women at the grassroots level. He emphasized the importance of providing equal opportunities and encouraged women to actively participate in social and economic development.

District Social Welfare Officer, in his speech highlighted the various initiatives being implemented under Mission Shakti to support women through awareness, capacity building, and livelihood opportunities.

Satish Sharma flags off "Nasha Mukht" Motorcycle rally; pitches for collective fight against drug menace

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MARCH 7: In a significant initiative aimed at spreading awareness against drug abuse and promoting a healthy society, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), IT, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today flagged off a "Nasha Mukht" motorcycle rally from Jourian to Khour.

The rally was organized by the Society for Scheduled and Backward, an NGO actively engaged in social welfare and awareness programmes.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of youth, social activists, volunteers and members of civil society who joined the rally carrying banners and placards with strong messages advocating a drug-free society.

Flagging off the rally, the Minister said that such initiatives play a crucial role in mobilizing society against the growing menace of drug abuse. He stressed that the drug problem not only affects the individuals and families but also poses a serious threat to the social and economic fabric of society.

Satish Sharma maintained that the government has undertaken a massive campaign to eradicate the drug menace from Jammu and Kashmir, focusing on awareness, prevention, enforcement and rehabilitation. He said that coordinated efforts of government agencies, civil society organizations and the public are essential to effectively tackle the challenge.

The Minister underscored the importance of youth engagement in constructive and positive activities, particularly in sports,



education and skill development, which serve as powerful tools in steering the young people away from substance abuse. He added that the Youth Services & Sports Department has been actively promoting sporting activities across the region to channelize the energy of youth in a productive direction.

Calling upon the parents, teachers, community leaders and social organizations to remain vigilant and proactive, Satish Sharma said that a united societal response is necessary to eliminate the scourge of drugs. He emphasized that awareness campaigns like the "Nasha Mukht" rally help in sensitizing the people and strengthening the resolve to build a drug-free and healthy Jammu and Kashmir.

The participants of the rally pledged their commitment towards spreading awareness about the harmful effects of drugs and actively contribute towards the mission of making the region "Nasha Mukht."

Prominent members of the Society for Scheduled and Backward, local representatives, youth volunteers and residents of the area were present on the occasion.

HT EDITORIAL

Provide helmets, safety equipment to KPDCL line staff & workers

The officers and officials of the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) are not ready to learn a lesson or two from the unfortunate incidents that take place quite regularly across the valley. Day in and day out there are news reports about the electrocution of KPDCL line staff and the labourers engaged by the corporation for carrying out various maintenance or upgradation works across Kashmir valley.

On most of the occasions it is found out that the labourers bore the brunt and in majority of times there are fatal casualties. Time and again directions are issued to the people carrying out the works to wear helmets and use other safety equipment. The directions fall on deaf ears most of the time and the KPDCL employees and labourers never wear helmets or use other safety equipment. In such a scenario one cannot rule out any unfortunate incident subsequently leading to fatal casualties.

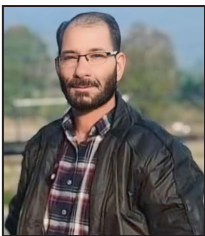
It is imperative that the KPDCL or the contractor hired by the corporation to carry out the works provide helmets and other safety equipment to the employees and workers. Negligence on their part in this regard leads to fatal casualties with the affected family forced to feel the heat. In most of the cases it has been observed that the brunt is borne by the casual workers and contingent paid employees or ordinary workers. Since these people are not permanent employees their family members suffer trauma in multiple forms.

In most of the cases the worker or employee who is electrocuted turns out to be the sole bread earner of the family. Once the sole bread earner of the family loses the battle of his life his family members struggle to make the two ends meet. The government comes out with very little help to the hapless family and the aggrieved family feels that there is no light at the end of the tunnel. It gets difficult for them to meet the daily expenses and they are left at the mercy of Almighty Allah.

The power ministry should frame a policy and take punitive action against the KPDCL officers and the contractors who fail to provide helmets and other safety equipment to the workers and contingent paid employees. Legal action should be taken against the concerned executive engineer and the contractor once it is proved that they are responsible for a fatal casualty during the maintenance or upgradation works.

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International Women's Day: Renewed Resolve, Persistent Struggle and the Promise of a Brighter Future



■ GULFAM BARJI

Every year on March 8th the world observes International Women's Day, a day dedicated to recognizing the achievements of women and renewing the global commitment to gender equality. It is a moment to acknowledge the historical struggles, sacrifices and remarkable accomplishments of women across societies. More importantly it is a reminder that the journey toward equality is still ongoing. International Women's Day is not merely a ceremonial occasion marked by speeches and symbolic gestures; it represents a powerful movement that urges societies to reflect on an essential question: have women truly been given the place they deserve?

The origins of International Women's Day are rooted in the labor movements of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. During the period of rapid industrialization, women entered factories and workplaces in large numbers, yet they were often subjected to long working hours, poor conditions, and significantly lower wages than men. In 1908 women garment workers in New York organized protests demanding better pay shorter working hours and voting rights. Their courageous stand drew international attention to the inequalities faced by women in the workforce.

Inspired by these efforts in 1910 the German activist Clara Zetkin proposed the idea of an international day dedicated to women during the Socialist Women's Conference held in Copenhagen. The proposal received unanimous support and in 1911 International Women's Day was celebrated for the first time in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland. Decades later, in 1975, the United Nations officially recognized March 8 as International Women's Day. Since then, the day has been observed globally with annual themes that highlight key issues affecting women and encourage collective action to address them.

The Status of Women in Islamic Teachings

More than fourteen centuries ago Islamic teachings introduced principles that emphasized dignity, justice and rights for women at a time when many societies denied them basic human freedoms. Islam granted women the right to education, property ownership, inheritance, and the freedom to consent to marriage. These rights were revolutionary for their time and continue to hold significance today.

History offers inspiring examples of women who played vital roles in early Islamic society. Khadija bint Khuwaylid (AS) the first wife of Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (SAWW) was a successful businesswoman known for her wisdom and integrity. Aisha bint Abu Bakr (RA) another prominent figure was widely respected for her knowledge and contributions to scholarship and jurisprudence. Their lives demonstrate that women have long been active participants in intellectual, economic and social spheres.



■ SHAHNAWAZ NAZIR

The escalating conflict involving Iran has once again reminded the world how deeply interconnected global politics and economies are. For a country like India, which maintains strong economic, strategic, and cultural ties with the Middle East, any instability in the region quickly translates into domestic concerns. From rising oil prices and financial market volatility to disruptions in trade routes, the ongoing tensions around Iran carry significant implications for India's economy and geopolitical positioning.

One of the most immediate impacts of the conflict is on global oil prices. India imports nearly 85 percent of its crude oil requirements, and a substantial portion of this supply passes through the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow maritime corridor near Iran that serves as one of the world's most critical oil transit routes. Any military escalation in this region threatens the smooth flow of oil shipments.

However in many societies today cultural practices sometimes overshadow the true spirit of these teachings. There is a pressing need to revisit the ethical foundations of equality and justice embedded in religious and moral traditions and align social practices with these principles.

Women's Role in Modern India

Since independence women in India have made remarkable progress in almost every field. From politics and education to science, sports, and defense services, Indian women have demonstrated exceptional capabilities and leadership. During the country's struggle for independence women played a significant role in mobilizing communities and supporting the national movement.

On the global stage figures such as Malala Yousafzai who courageously advocated for girls' education despite facing grave threats have drawn international attention to the importance of empowering young women. Within India, women athletes have achieved remarkable success in international competitions. The Indian women's cricket team and athletes in various sports have brought pride and recognition to the nation. Furthermore, the growing presence of women in the armed forces, aviation, police services, and judiciary reflects a society gradually embracing gender inclusivity.

Education: The Key to Empowerment

Education remains the cornerstone of social progress and empowerment. When a girl receives quality education it not only transforms her life but also uplifts her entire family and community. Educated women contribute to healthier families, stronger economies and more inclusive societies.

While urban areas have witnessed improvements in female literacy and school enrollment, many rural regions still face significant challenges. Poverty, social norms and limited access to educational institutions often prevent girls from completing their education. Addressing these barriers requires both policy-driven initiatives and social awareness.

In India, the government's initiative "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" (Save the Daughter, Educate the Daughter) has been an important step toward improving the status of girls. The campaign aims to combat gender discrimination and promote girls' education across the country. Although progress has been made sustained efforts are required to ensure that every girl has equal access to learning opportunities.

Economic Independence and Opportunities

Economic empowerment plays a vital role in strengthening women's confidence and autonomy. When women have access to financial resources and employment opportunities, they gain greater control over their lives and contribute significantly to economic development.

Across rural areas, women are actively engaged in small-scale industries, handicrafts, agriculture and livestock management. These activities provide income and improve household livelihoods. In urban settings, the rise of digital technology has opened new avenues for women including opportunities in information technology, entrepreneurship and freelancing. Many young women today are connecting with global markets through online platforms and remote work.

If governments, private organizations, and civil

society institutions collaborate to provide skill training, financial assistance, and mentorship programs, women's participation in the economy can increase dramatically, leading to broader national development.

Challenges That Still Persist

Despite notable progress, women continue to face numerous challenges worldwide. Issues such as domestic violence, workplace harassment, child marriage, limited healthcare access, and unequal pay remain pressing concerns. In many cases, legal protections exist but weak implementation prevents these laws from fully protecting women.

To address these issues effectively stronger institutional support is essential. Law enforcement agencies, judicial systems and social organizations must work together to ensure that women's rights are protected and that justice is accessible to all.

The Role of Media and Social Media

In the digital age media has become a powerful tool for raising awareness about gender issues. Social media campaigns have amplified the voices of women, enabling them to share their experiences and demand accountability. Movements advocating for women's rights have gained momentum through online platforms, inspiring solidarity across borders.

However, with this influence comes responsibility. Ethical and responsible use of media is essential to prevent misinformation, cyber harassment, and character assassination. Media should serve as a platform that promotes dignity, truth and constructive dialogue.

A Global Responsibility

Women across the world have fought long and hard for fundamental rights, including the right to vote, equal pay, and access to education. While significant progress has been made, many regions still struggle with systemic inequality and discrimination.

International cooperation is crucial to ensure that women everywhere have access to education, healthcare and economic opportunities. Governments, institutions, and communities must work collectively to build a future where gender equality is not merely an aspiration but a lived reality.

International Women's Day reminds us that empowering women is not just a matter of fairness; it is essential for sustainable development and social harmony. Ensuring girl's education, enforcing laws that protect women, promoting equal economic opportunities, and fostering a culture of respect are responsibilities shared by all members of society.

Ultimately, women are not the weaker half of society; they are its foundation. When women are educated, safe and empowered families grow stronger and nations prosper.

Let us therefore use this International Women's Day as an opportunity to renew our commitment to gender equality and take meaningful steps toward creating a more just and inclusive world.

As the renowned poet Allama Iqbal beautifully expressed:

(The colors of the universe are shaped by the existence of woman, From her melody springs the inner passion of life)

The author from Harwar, Srinagar

The Iran War and Its Ripple Effects on India

Even the fear of disruptions can push global crude prices higher, increasing India's import bill. Rising oil prices inevitably translate into higher fuel costs domestically, which can lead to inflation and increased pressure on household budgets.

The financial markets have also shown signs of strain in response to the crisis. Global uncertainty often drives investors toward safer assets, leading to capital outflows from emerging markets such as India. As a result, the Indian rupee can weaken against the US dollar, making imports more expensive and adding further pressure on the economy. Reports indicate that financial authorities have already been closely monitoring currency fluctuations to maintain stability in the market. Stock markets, too, tend to react sharply to geopolitical tensions, as investors grow cautious about future economic growth.

Another area of concern for India is trade. The Middle East is one of India's most important trading partners, not only for energy but also for exports such as basmati rice, textiles, machinery, and chemicals. Shipping routes through the Persian Gulf and surrounding waters are vital for Indian trade with several countries in the region. Any disruption in maritime transport due to military activity, sanctions, or security risks can

delay shipments and increase transportation costs. These disruptions can affect exporters, businesses, and ultimately the broader economy.

Certain industries within India may feel the effects more directly than others. Energy-intensive sectors such as ceramics, tiles, and manufacturing depend heavily on stable fuel supplies and affordable energy prices. A sharp increase in fuel costs can force companies to reduce production or pass higher costs on to consumers. Small and medium-scale industries, which often operate on thin margins, are particularly vulnerable to such economic shocks.

Beyond economic considerations, the conflict also presents a delicate diplomatic challenge for India. New Delhi maintains historically cordial relations with Iran, particularly through projects such as the development of the Chabahar Port, which provides India with strategic access to Afghanistan and Central Asia. At the same time, India also enjoys strong partnerships with the United States, Israel, and several Gulf nations. Navigating these relationships during times of conflict requires careful diplomacy, as India seeks to protect its national interests while maintaining balanced ties with all sides.

Another dimension of the crisis involves the large Indian diaspora living and working in the Gulf region.

Millions of Indians reside in countries across the Middle East, contributing significantly to India's economy through remittances. Any regional instability raises concerns about their safety and the potential impact on employment and remittance flows. The Indian government often prepares contingency plans to ensure the protection and evacuation of its citizens if the security situation deteriorates.

Despite these challenges, India has historically shown resilience in navigating geopolitical turbulence. Diversifying energy sources, strengthening strategic petroleum reserves, and expanding trade partnerships are some of the measures that can help mitigate the long-term impact of such crises. At the same time, diplomatic engagement and balanced foreign policy remain essential tools for maintaining stability in India's international relationships.

The conflict surrounding Iran serves as a powerful reminder that regional wars rarely remain confined within borders. Their consequences ripple across continents, affecting economies, markets, and societies far beyond the battlefield. For India, the situation underscores the importance of energy security, economic preparedness, and diplomatic balance in an increasingly uncertain world.

The Author is a freelance columnist

BOOK REVIEW

A Critical Review of the Story Collection “Meri Kashti Luta Do” by Veerindar Patwari

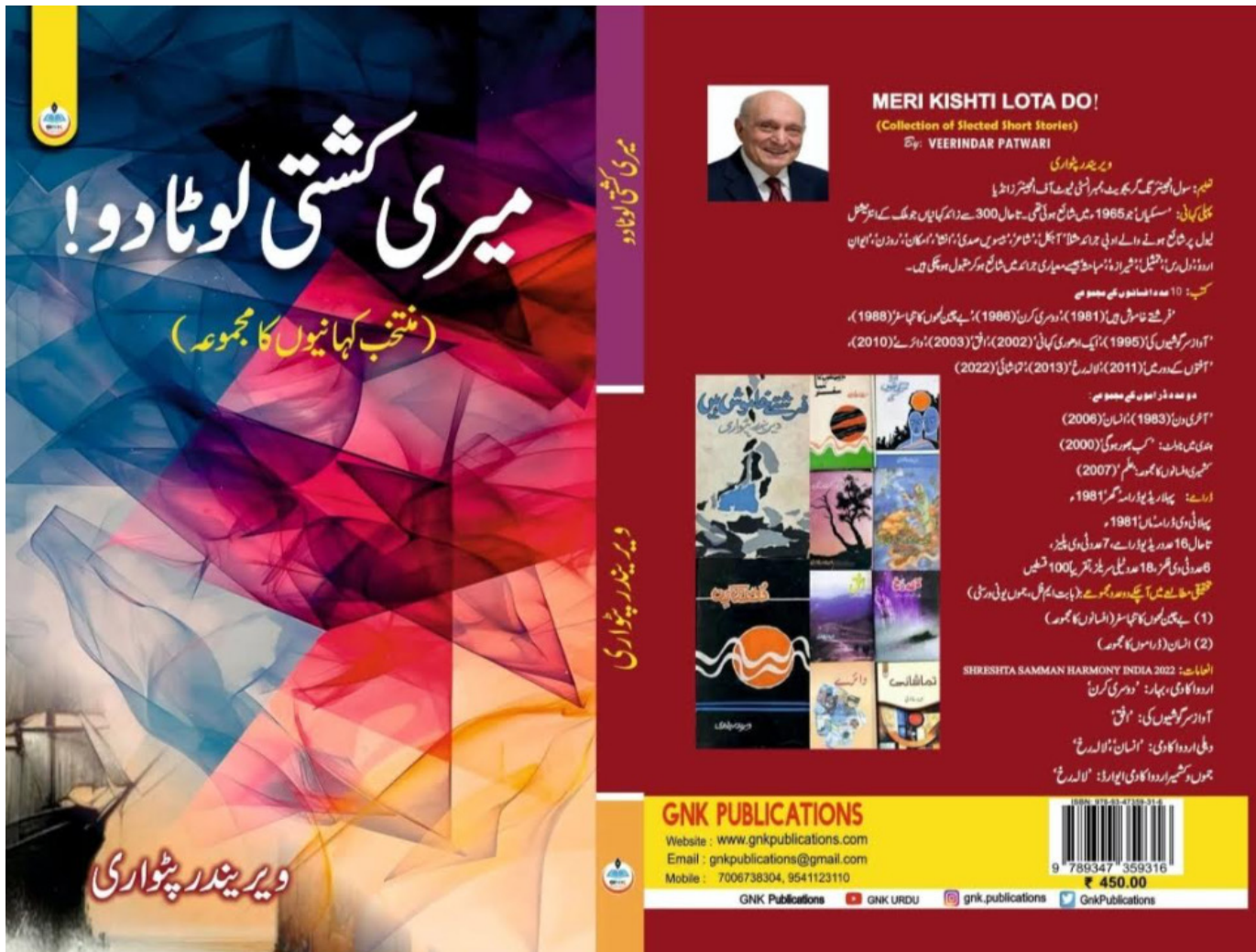


■ MOHAMMAD ARFAT WANI

In the vast canvas of Urdu literature, the role of Kashmiri Pandits and Kaistahs is like a star studded galaxy. They not only added to the richness of the language but also lit up the horizon of Urdu literature with their own distinct cultural flair. In this galaxy of literary luminaries, two distinct groups of writers can be identified. The first group consists of writers who not only branched out from Kashmir but also made their mark in Lucknow, Delhi, and other cities, including the likes of Pandit Diya Shankar Nasim, Ratan Nath Sarshar and Chakbast. The other group comprises writers who remained rooted in their homeland and worked for the cause of Urdu literature. The events of 1990 forced this small but loyal group of writers into exile, but among those who converted their personal tragedy into literary gold are Prem Nath Pardesi, Dr. Birj Premi, and Veerindar Patwari.

Veerindar Patwari is a renowned and revered personality in Urdu literature. Since 1965, he has established a unique identity through his copious and insightful literary productions. Born in a family of scholars in Sopore, he has inherited a rich literary tradition from his father, Pandit Prem Nath Patwari. Though he has been trained as a civil engineer, his creative temperament has overcome all hurdles. Even an accident that changed the course of his life and the difficulties of displacement could not halt his literary stream. His writings reflect the essence of Kashmir with a sensibility so delicate and have explored the depths of the human psyche, depicting the concealed pain and inner turmoil of the soul.

His latest compilation, Meri Kashti Luta Do, is a deep reflection of the pain within, the love for roots and the search for identity. The cry in the title is not just a cry for an individual but a cry of a generation that wants to go back to its past and save its cultural heritage. The stories of Patwari are an embodiment of the intricacies of human relationships, the tragedies of exile, and the never-ending struggle of life with an immense level of empathy and skill. They also remind the reader that no matter how turbulent the circumstances are, a true writer always



maintains the spirit of his homeland and its culture through the power of words.

The literary contributions of Veerindar Patwari include afsanche, novels, poetry, and plays in Urdu, Hindi, English, and Kashmiri languages. More than 300 of his afsanche have been published in leading publications such as Aaj Kal, Biswin Sadi, Aiwane Urdu and Shairazah. His writing style is marked by its unique, effective, and philosophically rich features which have the capability of holding immense meaning and emotion in the short span of a short story.

His literary achievements include publication of ten story compilations: Farishte Khamosh Hain (1981), Doosri Kiran (1986), Bechain Lamhoon Ka Tanha Safar (1988), Awaaz-e-Sargoshiyon Ki (1995), Ek Adhoori Kahani (2002), Ufuq (2003), Dairay (2010), Athon Ke Dor Mein (2011), Lala Rukh (2013), and Tamashai (2022). Moreover, he has published compilations of plays, a Hindi novelette titled Kab Bhoor Hogi, and a Kashmiri stories compilation titled Ilm. His writings have been broadcast on radio and television, and two

MPhil research dissertations on his literary contributions have been prepared at Jammu University. Patwari has received many awards, including Shreshtha Samaan from Harmony India, and awards from Urdu academies in Delhi, Bihar, and Jammu & Kashmir.

Renowned writer Deepak Badki says that Patwari's writing style is unique and fascinating, which is infused with his immense love for the Kashmir soil. His writings are full of humility, compassion and humanism, and the rhythm of his literary expression has continued unabated in all circumstances.

Meri Kashti Luta Do is a breath of fresh air in terms of creativity in Urdu literature. This book is more than a compilation of stories; it is an essence of the observations, artistic insights, and experiences of the author. With 140 pages and publication by G.N.K. Publications, this book is exceptionally well-designed and organized. The title of the book has a philosophical undertone, hinting at the lost memories, struggle for identity, and turmoil of the human soul.

This book is a compilation of forty afsanche and stories, each of which portrays various aspects of human life. The stories revolve around human emotions, social awareness, political predicaments, and personal struggles. Some of the story titles include Fateh Hoon, Hok, Soda, Tota, Anjam, Na Jane Kyun, Jamood, Achanak, Bood Nabood, Dhuen Ki Lakeerein, Ajooba, Sawal, Aur Agar, Jawaaz, Anokha Khel, Ajnabi Dost, Masoom, Yeh Desh Kaun Hai, Ek Hi Rasta, Dushman, Bila Unwan, Magar Kab, Tamashai, Wujood, Saza, Faryaad, Ek Anokhi Adalat, Girdab, Kuch Meri Suno, Kaheen Yeh Woh To Nahin, Khamoshi, Talaash, Hamare Apne Mohsin Ji, Wasiyat, Pukaar, Darpok, Barf, Meena Bazaar, Karwat, and Meri Kashti Luta Do! that transport the reader to a world of human experiences and philosophical ideas.

The strength of Patwari's craft is his ability to articulate deep truths in simple, precise, and beautiful language. Every story has a philosophy, a question, and an answer to the question of human experience. The final chapter, Meri Kashti

Luta Do is a memorable one, distilling the author's thoughts and observations in a profoundly moving way.

The stories deal with a host of themes ranging from the COVID-19 pandemic to human relationships, the apathy of society, moral dilemmas, historical and political situations, and parent-child relationships. The stories represent the strength of the human spirit, moral awareness, and the never-ending struggle for justice, understanding, and empathy. Patwari's stories place social issues, politics, and the complexities of human psychology in the open with unflinching honesty and a remarkable artistic sensibility.

Veerindar Patwari's artistic journey is not just a play of words but the voice of a civilizational elegy that seeks the moisture of its roots in the scorching deserts of migration. Even in the final stages of life and the weakness of old age, when most people are concerned with their own health and comfort, the hallmark of Patwari's character lies in his concern for the preservation and spread of Urdu literature more than for himself. Veerindar Patwari's latest offering, Meri Kashti Luta Do, is not just a book but the cry of a soul that is exiled and seeks to reclaim its lost identity and forgotten links of humanity in the crystal-clear waters of the past. His artistic journey shows that when the ground shifts from under one's feet, the real writer builds an entire universe with words, where the islands of memory and the shelters of hope are never destroyed, and this literary courage and selfless devotion to Urdu is a beacon of hope for the new generation of writers.

In my opinion, Meri Kashti Luta Do is not only a remarkable contribution to the Urdu afsanche literature, but it is also a timeless masterpiece that embodies the spirit of human experience, social awareness, and philosophical insight. Veerindar Patwari has proved his literary acumen in this masterpiece, which has a profound impact on the readers and has raised the bar of modern Urdu literature. I, Wani Arfat take this opportunity to congratulate Veerindar Patwari on this outstanding literary achievement. This book is a precious present and a beacon of intellectual insight for every Urdu literature lover.

The author is a writer, social activist, and medical student from Kuchmulla, Tral. He writes on social issues, culture, and public concerns with the aim of raising awareness and inspiring positive change. Email: wania6817@gmail.com

UPSC Success Stories

A story of struggle or a story of popularity?



■ DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Many candidates actually come from villages or humble backgrounds and share their stories to inspire other young people. India boasts numerous successful officers with roots in small towns and rural settings. Their success demonstrates that hard work and dedication can lead to great achievements, even with limited resources. However, in this age of social media, a different trend is also evident. Some people overemphasize their identities, such as "farmer's son" or "village boy or girl," to cultivate their image. This is often intended to garner sympathy, make their story more inspiring, or attract more attention in the news and social media.

The Union Public Service Commission's Civil Services Examination in India is not just an exam, but a symbol of the

dreams, struggles, and aspirations of millions of young people. Every year, lakhs of candidates from across the country appear for this exam, and only a few hundred ultimately secure a place in the administrative service. Therefore, those who succeed in this difficult examination naturally become the subject of discussion and respect in society. The news media, social media, and the general public are eager to know their life stories.

An interesting, and sometimes worrying, trend has emerged over the past few years. Successful candidates, often raised in affluent urban backgrounds, suddenly seem to identify themselves as "farmer's son," "village son," or "from a rural background." This trend isn't just a question of personal identity; it also highlights a broader socio-psychological process in which one's story is presented in a particular way to gain popularity and sympathy.

It's natural to ask why this happens. Is it simply an attempt to inspire or a strategy to gain popularity? The answer to this question is not simple, as it lies in many social, cultural, and media-related reasons. Stories of struggle have always been highly respected in Indian society.

When someone overcomes difficult circumstances and achieves great success, that story inspires millions. This is why the news media often highlights examples where a candidate achieves success despite limited resources, financial difficulties, or a rural background.

There's no doubt that such stories play a positive role in society. They instill in young people the belief that success can be achieved through hard work and determination, no matter the circumstances. In a country like India, where a huge gap still exists between rural and urban opportunities, such stories become a source of hope and inspiration. But the problem arises when the pressure to present a story that is more appealing or emotional than the reality increases. In this age of social media, everyone wants to present their story in a way that reaches and influences as many people as possible. In this process, sometimes the complexity of the real background is reduced to a simplified and sentimental narrative.

Nowadays, the news media and social media play a vital role in shaping a person's image. The story of a successful candidate can spread across the country

in a matter of hours. Various interviews, video platforms, and news articles often highlight aspects of the story that are emotional and inspiring.

This is natural from the media's perspective, as viewers and readers feel more connected to such stories. Headlines like "Youth from village joins administrative service" or "Farmer's daughter makes it to administrative service" attract immediate attention. As a result, sometimes some aspects of the story are given more prominence, while others are overlooked. If a candidate's family originates from a rural area, but they were educated and raised in cities, the media often highlights those rural connections. This presents a partial picture of reality.

In a society as vast and diverse as India, identity isn't always simple and one-dimensional. A person may be born in a village but educated in a city. One's parents may be engaged in farming, while the family's financial situation may be relatively stable.

In reality, both can be true simultaneously. But when an attempt is made to simplify and impact a story, one identity is often given prominence. This is why people sometimes feel that a reality-deflecting or exaggerated image is being

presented. Today is a time of image and narrative. Social media has given everyone the opportunity to create their own image. People not only express who they are, but also decide how they want to appear to society. But when this process becomes more based on image-building than reality, it becomes a subject of criticism. Society begins to feel that identity is being used to gain popularity.

It's also important to remember that not every successful candidate does this. There are thousands of officers across the country who speak honestly about their backgrounds and view their success not merely as a personal achievement, but as a social responsibility. Ultimately, the true value of success in the administrative service should be determined by how an officer uses their position for the benefit of society. Honesty, sensitivity, and a spirit of public service are the hallmarks of any officer. Popularity may be fleeting, but true service and honest work are the foundation that earns a person lasting respect.

Dr. Priyanka Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker

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120 BEDDED ORTHOPEDIC ADDITIONAL BLOCK, BARZULLA



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Health is wealth. Health has no alternative and no 100% compensation; once any health issue arises, the whole life gets disturbed, and there are no other alternatives except hospitals. Health ailments, accidents, and uncertainty regarding health are certain. We have no idea and we cannot predict when we may meet any untoward incident in our lives. In simple words, everybody has to be ready for the uncertainties regarding health.

One thing is very strange among people: nobody wants to be admitted to a hospital. Truly, everyone wants good health, and I also want to stay away from hospitals and never want to admit myself there. But one thing we are ignoring is that we have no idea about our future. Anytime and anywhere, one can face any untoward event, and some people are diagnosed with serious health ailments that they have had for years without being aware of them.

Actually, what made me write this article is that I am a Kashmiri and I have a lot of concern for my Kashmir. As we have poverty here, most patients are not in a position to go to reputed hospitals like AIIMS Delhi and its associated branches for frequent treatments. In Kashmir, people suffer from various diseases and mostly depend on government hospitals.



Getting treatment from government hospitals is right, and the nation needs healthy people for development. People's health is directly related to the overall development of the nation.

Today in this article I am going to highlight the importance of hospitals and most importantly the Bone and Joint Hospital, Barzulla, Srinagar, Kashmir.

Two decades ago, the health system in the Kashmir Valley was not so developed

except for SKIMS Soura. I have heard people say that getting treatment at SKIMS Soura was not within everyone's reach because the charges were so high that a common and poor patient suffered, and many lives were lost due to the non-availability of sufficient money for treatment.

120 Bedded Orthopedic Additional Block, Bone and Joint Hospital Barzulla

I recently visited Barzulla regarding one of my relatives who was admitted there.

After receiving basic treatment in the observation ward, he was shifted to the 3rd floor of the new block.

The building is very attractive and has been constructed in a modern pattern. This step by the health department is really appreciated and is great in all respects. The newly constructed block was inaugurated in July 2025 by our worthy Chief Minister Shri Omar Abdullah in the presence of other senior officials and Health

Minister Sakina Yatoo.

How It Looks

I wish every hospital department should look like the 120-bedded orthopedic block at Barzulla because it has a number of attractions. It adds beauty to our city, refreshes the minds of patients and their attendants, helps patients in healing, and minimizes their anxiety. The building is constructed in a modern design and looks like a beautiful structure. The exterior of the building looks very beautiful and charming from a distance, and the interior is truly attractive for patients as well as attendants.

The newly constructed block is equipped with basic facilities like heating in winter, washrooms, a pantry separated for washing utensils, and a wash basin for hand washing near the patients' beds. The beds are highly sophisticated, and the floor is very shining and clean. One thing comes to mind: it has been opened recently, so it needs proper maintenance in the future. I want every hospital in Kashmir to be well-maintained and highly equipped according to modern requirements. Hospitals like LD (Lala Ded at All Mandi, Srinagar) and SMHS, commonly known as Hedwun, should also be maintained in the same way.

What Do I Want?

It is my humble request to all attendants, patients, and hospital staff to please keep every hospital neat and clean and always cooperate with the hospital administration. The time is not far when we will truly understand the importance of hospitals and focus only on service rather than unnecessary issues.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Dr. Tasaduk listed in Public Professional Register of AoME, UK

■ HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, MAR 07: Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo, a distinguished doctor, public health fellow, and medical educator from Jammu & Kashmir, has been officially listed in the Public Professional Register of the Academy of Medical Educators (AoME), United Kingdom.

The register enlists recognized fellows and members of AoME carrying "FACadMed" and "MACadMed" as prestigious post-nominal respectively.

The Academy of Medical Educators (AoME) is the multi-professional organisation for all those involved in medical education. AoME exists to provide leadership, promote high professional standards and support all those involved in the academic discipline and practice of medical education.

Pertinently, Dr. Itoo holds multiple prestigious international distinctions, including Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health (FRSPH, UK), Fellow of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF Fellow Belgium), International Practitioner of the Faculty of Public Health (IPFP, UK), Member of the Academy of Medical Educators (MACadMed, UK), and Member of the Royal Society of Biology (MRSB, UK). He is also a member of American College of Physicians (ACP, USA) and Academic Life Member of Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI).



MS. JAASINDAH MIR

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

TRAUMA-FOCUSED PSYCHOLOGIST
MA Applied Psychology
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JOIN FACEBOOK LIVE
WITH Dr.SUMIT , Mr.TURAB, Former Sr. Audiologist at Max Hospital Saket ,Delhi)
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8:00PM On January 18th , Sunday

District administration Jammu closes spa and massage centres for violations; notices issued, further legal action initiated

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 07: Following the order issued by District Magistrate Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Minhas to regulate the functioning of spa and massage centres in the district, the District Administration conducted a comprehensive inspection drive, during which the establishments found in serious violation of the prescribed directions and were closed forthwith with notices issued to them.

In furtherance of the order, the District Magistrate constituted dedicated inspection teams under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioners Ansuya Jamwal and Vidhu Shekhar.

During the drive, the teams, including one led by ADC Vidhu Shekhar inspected a number of spa and massage centres across the district, some of which were found to be in violation of the directions stipulated under the order.

The establishments closed and served notices include K Crystal Spa, Evergreen Thai Therapy Centre, Touch of Magic, The Bubble Spa; The Golden Thai Unisex Spa and Health Ayurveda Spa and Salon.

The violations observed across



the inspected establishments included, among others: lack of mandatory undertaking, absence of display board and site plan;

provision of cross-gender services; presence of door locks inside private cabins; non-production of identity cards by staff;

unaccounted payment of employee salaries; non-maintenance of client registers and malfunctioning CCTV cameras.

Notices have been issued to the defaulting establishments and further police and legal action shall be taken against the owners, managers and employees under the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) as applicable.

The District Magistrate reiterated that the administration maintains zero tolerance towards the misuse of commercial establishments for unlawful and immoral purposes. Inspection drives will continue on a periodic and surprise basis throughout the operative period of the order. All spa and massage centres operating within District Jammu are directed to ensure strict compliance with the regulatory framework in letter and spirit, failing which they shall face immediate closure and prosecution under the relevant provisions of law.

The inspection teams comprised Tehsildars Raju Sambyal, Mona Chalotra and Sunaina Bharti, Assistant Labour Commissioner Rupali Jasrotia, District Statistics and Evaluation Officer Neeraj Sharma and Naib Tehsildar Bitti, besides officials of the Labour and Legal Metrology Departments.

PhysicsWallah announces free online education for orphan students of J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MAR 7: Education company PhysicsWallah (PW) announced free online education for orphan students of Jammu & Kashmir. The initiative was unveiled by Founder and Teacher, PhysicsWallah (PW), Alakh Pandey, during Vishwas Diwas, the annual flagship event bringing together students and educators while exploring academic support opportunities.

A spokesperson of the company said that this step comes as a part of the organisation's ongoing efforts to support the continuation of education for students facing personal and financial hardship. Under the initiative, orphan students across Jammu & Kashmir can join any PW online batch of their choice, free of cost, through the PW App, allowing them to continue learning without having to move from their hometowns.

The support covers school learning and competitive exam preparation, with access to lessons, practice material, and academic guidance, helping ease financial pressure after personal loss through online learning.

Speaking on the occasion, Alakh



Pandey, Teacher and Founder, PhysicsWallah (PW), said, "Education matters most when it supports students during difficult phases of life. Through this initiative, we are making an effort to ensure that students facing personal losses in Jammu & Kashmir are able to continue their education without financial barriers. When a student is willing to learn, it becomes important for institutions to step forward with support. By offering access to PW's online batches, we are trying

to encourage these students to move ahead with confidence."

Alongside its digital programmes, PW JKBOSE Wallah, the state board vertical of PhysicsWallah (PW), provides academic guidance and preparation support for students of Classes 9 to 12 preparing for the state board examinations. Through its digital platforms, PW aims to provide academic guidance and learning support while attempting to cater to students' diverse learning needs in the region.

Public Notice

I, Mohd Ashraf Reshi S/o Late Ab Rehman Reshi, R/o Khulchohar Chohar, Tehsil Shangus, District Anantnag, Jammu & Kashmir, do hereby inform the general public that my father Late Ab Rehman Reshi S/o Gh Mohd Reshi expired on 10/01/2026.

The deceased has left behind the following legal heirs:

Mohd Ashraf Reshi – Son
Gulzar Ahmad Reshi – Son
Reyaz Ul Haq – Son
Jameela Banoo – Daughter
Atika Begum – Daughter
Sakeena Banoo – Daughter
Hafeeza Banoo – Daughter
Mahmooda Akhter – Daughter

If anybody has any objection regarding the issuance of Legal Heir Certificate in favour of the above mentioned legal heirs, he/she may file objection before the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it shall be presumed that there is no objection.

Place: Anantnag
Date: 07-03-2026

Deponent
Mohd Ashraf Reshi

Public Notice

In the Bank records bearing Account No 0131040100024034 My name spelling has been mentioned as Anwar John w/o Rafiq Dar Whileas My correct name is Anwar Jan Begum W/o Mohammad Rafiq Dar as for Adhar regards now I want to apply for the correction of the same in bank regards if any person has any objection in this regards he/she may contact Main Branch J&K bank office Handwara within seven days from the date of publication of this notice After seven days no objection shall be entertained.

Anwar Jan Begum W/O Mohammad Rafiq Dar R/O Khudi Tehsil Qalamabad District Kupwara

Public Notice

IT is hereby notified that I am applying for Birth certificate in Tehsil office handwara of my daughter namely Aksa Jaan DOB 17/04/2024 prantage Khaleel Rehman Gojer Chatwal, R/o Wadar Pain Tehsil Zachaldara District:kupwara.if anybody having any objection in this regards he/she may file his /her objection in the office of the Tehsil Office handwara within 07 days .After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name, AKSA JAAN
DOB 17/04/2024 PRANTAGE, KHALEEL REHMAN
GOJER CHATWAL
R/o WADAR PAIN TEHSIL ZACHALDARA
DISTRICT KUPWARA

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 FIRDIOUS
DOB,28/09/2022
PRANTAGE FIRDIOUS AHMAD TANTRAY
R/o CHO GAL TEHSIL HANDWARA
DISTRICT KUPWARA

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 FIRDIOUS , DOB,28/09/2022,
PRANTAGE FIRDIOUS AHMAD TANTRAY , R/o
CHO GAL TEHSIL HANDWARA DISTRICT KUPWARA

Public Notice

I, Mohd Ayoub Khan, S/o Bashir Ahmad Khan R/o Gloora , Langate, Kupwara, Jammu and Kashmir 193302, hereby declare that I am the father of Masrat Ayoub and Asiya Ayoub Date of Birth 21/03/1998 and 15/03/1995 respectively.

This is to inform the general public and concerned authorities that I am applying for the issuance/registration of Date of Birth certificate of my daughters (Musrat Ayoub and Asiya Ayoub) from the Block Office Langate.If any person has any objection regarding the above-mentioned particulars, he/she may submit the same before the concerned Block Office Langate within the stipulated period. Otherwise, no objection shall be entertained later.

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) chokedar hassubmitted case file pertainingto Birth of FAYAZ AHMAD MALIK S/O GH MOHAMMAD MALIK R/O.. BANGDARA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 28/03/1974 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order.In this connection.

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Fathers name GH HASSAN DAR S/O ...GH AHMAD DAR R/O DOLIPORA WAGOORA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 021204003511 wants to be registered on my GH MOHAMMAD DAR S/O GH HASSAN DAR R/O DOLIPORA .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 ofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name..GH MOHAMMAD DAR R/O...DOLIPORA WAGOORA

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application ABDUL HAMID KHAN S/O GULZAR KHAN R/O BANGDARA RESHIPORA Tehsil KREERI for Issuance of EWS Financially weakened section in favour of his Words

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of (Ews) in favour of SUHAIL AHMAD KHAN ,ULFAT HAMEED ,AKASH HAMEED KHAN this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of BANGDARA RESHIPORA of Tehsil KREERI and having annual income 243930 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows:

1..ABDUL HAMEED KHAN Head of Family 55 years D class contractor
2... ROSHNA BAGUM wife 50 years H/W
3..SUHAIL AH KHAN son 22 years student
4..ULFAT HAMEED daughter 21 years student
5....AKASH HAMEED son 19 years student
6...JUNAID HAMEED son 16 years student

According to report of patwari concerned that applicants family has not more than 5 acres of Land and does not have greater 1000 residential House. If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay of said EWS 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 LIYAQAT ALI SOFI S/O MOHD ABDULLAH SOFI R/O RESHIPORA Tehsil for Issuance of EWS Financially weakened section in favour of his Son MUNTAZIR ABBASS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of (Ews) in favour of MUNTAZIR ABBASS this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of RESHIPORA of Tehsil KREERI and having annual income 95000 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows

1..LIYAQAT ALI SOFI Self 46 years Labour
2... MEHMOODA BAGUM wife 45 years H/W
3...ROUF ALI son 19 years student
4..MUNTAZIR ABBASS 17 years student
5....JUNAID ALI son 13 years student

According to report of patwari concerned that applicants family has not more than 5 acres of Land and does not have greater 1000 residential House. If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay of said EWS shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

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04	Sheikh Mansoor Ahmad	P.G. Urdu; B.ed	5 Years
05	Shahid Majeed Mir	P.G. Math	3 Years
06	Bilal Ahmad Parray	P.G. Pol Science	4 Years
07	Sheikh Ab Raqueeb	P.G. English; B.ed	5 Years
08	Sumaya Akhter	P.G. Education; B.ed	5 Years
09	Shakeel Ahmad Ahanger	P.G English	5 Years

Fee Structure

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9th -10th.	1000/month
11th-12th.	4000/Subject

Contact No.7006692419,9797169804

India-England T20 World Cup SF sets global digital viewership record

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 7 : The second semi-final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 has set multiple digital viewership records, highlighting the massive global appeal of the tournament.

India's streaming platform JioHotstar registered an unprecedented peak of 65.2 million concurrent viewers during the high-stakes clash, setting a new world record for the highest concurrent viewership for a live event across any digital platform.

The match also amassed 619 million views on JioHotstar, making it the most-streamed T20 International match in history. This figure surpassed the previous record of 533 million views, which was set during the final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

The blockbuster contest, which featured nearly 500 runs scored across both innings, also recorded a peak global concurrent viewership of more than 65 million, another



milestone for live sports streaming. Across television and digital

platforms combined, the semi-final delivered a total reach of more than 320 million viewers, while overall watch time across screens crossed 23 billion minutes, making it the most-watched T20 International match ever.

Jay Shah, Chairman of the International Cricket Council, praised the efforts that helped bring the tournament closer to fans in the co-hosting nation. "It is incredibly heartening to see the ICC Men's T20 World Cup bringing together hundreds of millions of cricket fans in India.

The remarkable numbers recorded during the India vs England semi-final demonstrate not only the passion of cricket fans but also the tremendous progress being made in making the game more accessible and engaging for audiences everywhere.

"This World Cup will be remembered as much for its on-field play as it will be for the way millions of fans came together to celebrate the sport," Shah added.UNI

Vedanta's Hindustan Zinc inks deal qith US Varsity

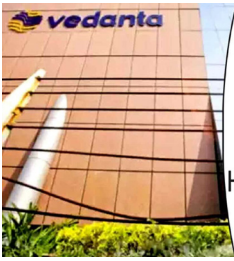
UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI, MARCH 7 : Hindustan Zinc, a subsidiary of Vedanta, a major Indian natural resources conglomerate, has signed an MoU with Virginia Tech to improve silver recovery from lead-zinc operations to advance scientific research to improve silver recovery across its lead-zinc (Pb-Zn) concentrators, according to an official statement here today.

Lead-zinc concentrators are specialised plants which process lead and zinc ore from mining activities, where lead, zinc and silver are separated as well as concentrated from the ore using what is known as a flotation process. As part of the MoU, specialised studies will be conducted to refine flotation methods and optimise reagent usage-critical components in enhancing concentrate quality and overall plant efficiency.

Hindustan Zinc is engaged in exploring, extracting and processing of minerals. The company's products, such as refined zinc metal, are used in a number of applications, including galvanising, oxides, die castings and alloys. Hindustan Zinc is the third largest silver producer globally with an annual capacity of 800 MT.

The company has a market share of 75 per cent of the growing zinc market in India. Virginia Tech, which is a globally recognised public land-grant research university based in Blacksburg, Virginia, is known for its expertise in mining engineering, mineral



HINDUSTAN ZINC

processing, and applied metallurgical research.

According to the MoU, Hindustan Zinc will work closely with Virginia Tech to leverage global research perspectives and technical knowledge, contributing to stronger process understanding and ongoing improvements across its concentrator operations. "At Hindustan Zinc, we believe the next phase of growth in the metals and mining sector will be powered by science, innovation, and collaboration," Hindustan Zinc CEO Arun Misra said. "Our partnership with Virginia Tech marks a strategic step in building a robust knowledge ecosystem that will enable more efficient, future-ready mining operations," Misra said.

"By collaborating with Hindustan Zinc, we're applying cutting-edge mineral recovery research to real-world needs. This ensures our discoveries lead to smarter resource utilization and stronger global supply chains," Virginia Tech's Head of the Department of Mining and Minerals Engineering Aaron Noble said.UNI

Middle East conflict may impact India's oil imports, remittances and trade: SBI report

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MAR 7 : The ongoing conflict in the Middle East could have significant implications for India's energy security, remittance inflows and trade with West Asian nations if tensions escalate further, according to a report released by SBI here on Saturday.

The report noted that the Israel-Iran conflict has already begun influencing global energy markets, pushing Brent crude prices sharply higher to above USD 89 per barrel in early March from around USD 70 per barrel just days earlier.

The surge reflects concerns over supply disruptions following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical oil transit routes. The US Energy Information Administration has described it as 'world's most important oil transit checkpoint.'

For India, the situation has particular significance as the country imports nearly 90 per cent of its crude oil requirements.

"India imports nearly 90 pc of its crude oil requirements. About two million barrels per day of India's oil imports—out of roughly 5.5



million barrels per day—pass through the Strait of Hormuz," it said.

Any prolonged disruption in the waterway could, therefore, affect supply chains and lead to higher import costs for the country.

The report also highlighted potential risks to remittances, which form an important pillar of India's external finances.

India received around USD 138 billion in inward remittances in FY25, reflecting a 15 per cent increase over the previous year. Of this total, approximately 38 per cent came from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, making

the region a major source of income for millions of Indian households.

If the conflict weakens economic activity in oil-dependent Gulf economies, remittance inflows to India could slow.

India's trade ties with West Asia may also come under pressure if tensions persist. GCC countries together account for over 13 per cent of India's exports and more than 16 per cent of imports.

Other West Asian countries contribute about 2 per cent of India's exports and nearly 4 per cent of imports. A prolonged conflict could disrupt supply chains and affect shipments of key commodities

between the regions.

At the macroeconomic level, the report warned that sustained increases in crude oil prices could influence India's current account deficit, inflation and economic growth.

According to the analysis, every 10 USD per barrel rise in oil prices could widen the current account deficit by about 36 basis points. At the same time, higher energy costs may push inflation up by around 35–40 basis points while slowing economic growth by roughly 10–25 basis points.

In a worst-case scenario where crude prices jump to around 130 USD per barrel, India's GDP growth could fall to about 6 per cent, assuming a baseline growth projection of around 7 per cent for FY27.

Despite these risks, the report suggested that India remains relatively better positioned compared to many economies due to its diversified oil sourcing strategy.

Over the past few years, India has expanded its crude procurement network to more than 40 countries and significantly increased purchases from Russia since 2022,

reducing dependence on any single region.

The report also pointed out that the Reserve Bank of India has taken several steps to shield domestic financial markets from global volatility. These include liquidity management measures, open market operations to stabilise government bond yields, and interventions to limit excessive volatility in the rupee.

According to the report, such measures have helped maintain stability in the domestic financial system even as global markets face uncertainty triggered by geopolitical tensions.

"Going by the Market reaction, we believe keeping the tempo of Secondary Market acquisitions intact, the Mint Street can better calibrate the yields on benchmark, as also other tenors of the curve" the SBI report suggested.

Overall, while the Middle East conflict poses risks through energy markets and regional economic linkages, India's diversified supply chains, monetary policy measures and strategic responses may help cushion the economy from severe disruptions in the near term.UNI

DGFT extends export obligation period for Advance, EPCG Authorisations

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 7 : The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has announced a facilitation measure for exports by extending the Export Obligation (EO) period for certain export promotion schemes, an official statement said here today.

DGFT has provided for automatic extension of the Export Obligation (EO) period or Block-wise EO fulfillment period up to August 31, for specified Advance Authorisations and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Authorisations where the EO period is expiring between March 1 and May 31.

The step has been taken due to prevailing geopolitical developments impacting global shipping routes, logistics corridors and international supply chains.



The 'EO period' refers to a mandatory timeframe, typically 18 months for Advance Authorisation or six years for EPCG schemes, within which an exporter must fulfil their export commitments after importing duty-free raw materials or capital goods.

The relaxation applies to Advance Authorisations, including Advance Authorisation for Annual Requirement and Special Advance Authorisation, as well as EPCG Authorisations.

The extension shall be granted automatically, and exporters will not be required to submit any separate application or pay any composition fee to avail the benefit.

This measure has been introduced to provide additional operational flexibility to exporters facing disruptions arising from current geopolitical developments.

The extension granted under the Public Notice will be in addition to the existing provisions under the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) and Handbook of Procedures (HBP).

It will allow exporters to seek EO period extensions upon payment of prescribed composition fees, the Ministry of Commerce statement added.UNI

Uber launches intercity bus ticketing in India

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BENGALURU, MAR 7 : Ride-hailing major Uber has launched intercity bus ticketing on its app in India, making the country the first global market to roll out the new feature.

The offering allows riders to discover, plan and book long-distance bus journeys directly through the Uber platform, expanding the company's intercity travel portfolio. The service has been introduced in partnership with AbhiBus, the bus ticketing arm of travel platform Ixigo.

With the integration, riders across India can now search for available intercity bus services, select seats and complete bookings within the Uber app itself.

As part of an introductory offer, users can avail a 25 per cent discount of up to Rs 200 on their first Uber Intercity Bus booking and a 10 per cent discount of up to Rs 100 on their next three bookings.

Speaking at the launch, Praveen Neppalli Naga, Chief Technology Officer at Uber, said India remains one of the company's key innovation hubs globally, with local teams building technologies that drive Uber's worldwide growth. He said the launch reflects how products incubated in India are helping shape Uber's global roadmap while expanding travel choices for riders. Prabhjeet Singh, President of Uber India and South Asia, said intercity travel in India is undergoing a transformation due to improved highways and stronger road connectivity, making long-distance road travel more accessible. He noted that the shift presents a significant opportunity for digital platforms to simplify how travellers plan and experience intercity journeys. Rohit Sharma, Chief Operating Officer of AbhiBus, said the partnership combines AbhiBus's extensive bus supply network and expertise in ticketing with Uber's large user base and mobility platform trusted by millions of Indians.

The intercity bus ticketing feature also includes safety measures such as real-time location sharing, a 24x7 safety helpline and dedicated trip support for passengers.UNI

Telangana Govt working towards USD 3 trillion economy with strong industry partnership: Vivek

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, MAR 7 : Telangana Labour, Employment and Mines Minister G Vivek Venkataswamy said the state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, is working with a clear vision to transform Telangana into a USD 3 trillion economy in the coming years.

Speaking at the annual meet of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in Hyderabad on Saturday, the minister said the government is maintaining continuous engagement with industry leaders and stakeholders to achieve this ambitious goal. Vivek said the government is placing strong emphasis

on skill development to prepare youth for emerging industrial opportunities. He added that the Employment Department has established Advanced Technology Centres (ATCs) to train young people in line with the needs of modern industries. Discussions have also been held with CII to identify the specific skills required for upcoming industries. He noted that Telangana is witnessing a steady inflow of investments and several new industries are expected to be established in the state. In this context, the government is introducing new training courses aligned with evolving industrial requirements to ensure the availability of a skilled workforce.

The minister said that while the government is committed to "improving the ease of doing business, equal importance is being given to the speed of doing business" so that investments can be transformed into functional projects quickly. Vivek also stressed that "industries have a responsibility to voluntarily comply with regulations and standards". He urged industrial units to strictly follow safety guidelines and statutory norms prescribed by the Government of India and the Government of Telangana.

Referring to the recently introduced labour codes, he said industry must ensure proper compliance to protect the interests of workers. UNI

In an industry with mostly men, expertise gave me credibility, says Telcos leader Rachna Kango

BY SOURAV SHEKHAR

NEW DELHI, MARCH 7 : In an industry with mostly men, expertise gave her credibility, says Rachna Kango, Business Head – Telecom Power Solutions at Delta Electronics India Private Limited, as she reflects on her professional journey and the growing opportunities for women entrepreneurs in India. Sharing her experience in the telecom sector which is largely male-dominated with UNI, Kango said that developing deep technical knowledge and consistently taking on challenging assignments helped her build a strong professional identity in a male-dominated industry. She noted that mastering

the technological aspects of telecom became her biggest strength and enabled her to earn credibility within the organisation. "I focused on building strong technical knowledge in telecom and understanding the technology deeply. In an industry dominated by men, expertise gave me credibility," she said. Kango explained that she deliberately chose difficult projects that others were hesitant to take up, which helped her gain valuable experience and visibility within the organisation. According to her, each challenging assignment contributed to her professional growth and helped her establish a leadership role. At the same time, she stressed that leadership is not only about

individual success but also about nurturing teams and building strong professional relationships. Mentoring team members and fostering collaboration across departments were key elements of her leadership approach, she added. Kango also observed that the business ecosystem in India has become significantly more supportive for entrepreneurs, including women. She said initiatives such as Digital India have simplified the process of starting and running businesses by making registration and compliance procedures faster and more transparent. 'Digital India' is a flagship program launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to transform India into a digitally

empowered society and knowledge economy. The scheme focuses on enhancing digital infrastructure, ensuring electronics service delivery and improving digital literacy.

She added that government initiatives such as Stand-Up India, along with growing support networks for women entrepreneurs, are creating new opportunities for women to step into business leadership roles. From the perspective of the telecom industry, Kango said emerging technologies such as 5G, the Internet of Things (IoT) and digital services are opening up new avenues for innovation and entrepreneurship.

These technological advancements allow entrepreneurs to compete based on ideas,

creativity and innovation rather than traditional barriers.

"What excites me is how technology is transforming the telecom sector. With the rise of 5G, IoT and digital services, entrepreneurs can now compete on the strength of innovation and ideas," she said. However, Kango pointed out that certain challenges still persist for women entrepreneurs in India, even though the situation is gradually improving. Highlighting the challenges that are transforming, she said, "Funding disparities have gradually narrowed with growing recognition of the strong returns delivered by women-led businesses and the emergence of more funds supporting such ventures." UNI



Bumrah's Yorkers Seal India's Win

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI: India's march in the T20 World Cup received a massive boost as Jasprit Bumrah delivered a sensational spell under pressure to derail England's chase in a gripping semi-final encounter at Wankhede Stadium. When England appeared to be closing in on victory, Bumrah's composure and precision at the death turned the match in India's favour.

With England needing 45 runs from the last 18 balls and still holding five wickets in hand, the momentum seemed to be with the visitors. Jacob Bethell was playing a remarkable innings and had already raced to 94 off just 42 deliveries, keeping England's hopes alive. However, the equation became dramatically tougher once Bumrah stepped up to bowl the crucial 18th over.

Known for his unmatched skill in delivering yorkers, Bumrah produced a near-perfect over at a time when every run mattered. Operating on a flat and batting-friendly surface, he kept things simple yet deadly effective. Ball after ball, he fired in searing yorkers directed at the base of the stumps, leaving the English batters struggling to generate any power.

England's batters decided against taking unnecessary risks against the star pacer. Instead of attempt-

ing big hits, they settled for singles and doubles in an effort to preserve wickets for the final overs. The strategy ensured no wickets fell in the over, but the scoring was restricted to just six runs—an outcome that significantly tilted the match in India's favour.

The crowd at Wankhede rose to its feet as Bumrah completed the over, appreciating a spell that was a display of pure skill and control. In a match where runs flowed freely and the overall scoring rate hovered close to 12.5 runs per over, Bumrah maintained remarkable discipline. He ended with figures of 4 overs, 33 runs and one wicket, conceding runs at a much lower rate than most bowlers in the game.

Bumrah had earlier struck an important blow by dismissing England's Harry Brook with a cleverly disguised slower off-cutter. Brook, attempting to free his arms and attack, mistimed the shot completely as the ball dipped unexpectedly. The resulting leading edge flew high towards the offside, where Axar Patel sprinted in from cover and completed a spectacular catch, giving India a crucial breakthrough.

Such variations have been a key feature of Bumrah's bowling throughout the tournament. His ability to combine pace, yorkers and deceptive slower deliveries has repeatedly unsettled batters. One

of his earlier deliveries in the competition had also dismissed South Africa's Ryan Rickelton, where another dipping slower off-cutter forced the batter into an awkward shot, resulting in a leading edge.

Despite his match-defining performance, the Player of the Match award went to Sanju Samson. However, the Indian wicketkeeper-batter himself acknowledged Bumrah's immense contribution after the game.

"All credit goes to Jasprit Bumrah. He is a world-class bowler and truly a once-in-a-generation player. What he did in the death overs made a huge difference. If he hadn't bowled like that, I wouldn't be standing here receiving this award," Samson said.

Cricket often thrives on unpredictability, but Bumrah's brilliance lies in his ability to execute even the most predictable plans with near-perfection. Whether it is surprising batters with subtle variations or delivering relentless yorkers at the death, his bowling carries a sense of calculated control.

In a format dominated by aggressive batting and towering sixes, Bumrah's disciplined craft once again proved decisive. His calm execution under pressure not only stalled England's charge but also reminded the cricketing world why he remains one of the most feared fast bowlers in modern-day cricket.

Senior National Women team Selection trails from 12th to 13th March

■ AASHIQ HUSSAIN

SRINAGAR: J&K Handball Association is going to conduct the selection trails for 54th Senior Woman Handball Championship which is scheduled to be held at Bareilly Uttar Pradesh from 30th March to 3rd April. The Two



days selection trails shall take place at Dogra Ground Shastri Nager Jammu here from 12th March to 13th March at 4PM respectively. All the Presidents/secretaries of affiliated units of the association are requested to send their players at the venue.

Du Plessis: Bumrah in the XI is 'like having a genie'

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI: Faf du Plessis has lavished praise on Jasprit Bumrah, calling him a "superpower that every captain will dream of", after the quick produced another sensational spell to help India overcome England in a high-scoring semi-final of the T20 World Cup in Mumbai.

"Team India don't understand how lucky they are to have him [Bumrah] in their ranks," du Plessis said on ESPNcricinfo's TimeOut show. "It is just proven time and time and time again, regardless of the format, you just give him the ball and he wins you games. It's a superpower that any captain will dream of; it's like having a genie, you just rub the lamp and out comes Bumrah."

In a 253 vs 247 game, Bumrah was the difference as he picked up a wicket and went at just 8.25 runs an over where the overall scoring rate was well over 12.

J&K U-16 Team Wins Maiden Vijay Merchant Trophy, Reward Demand Grows

■ HT SPORTS DESK

SRINAGAR: The Under-16 team of the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) created history by winning the prestigious Vijay Merchant Trophy in January 2026, marking the first-ever title for Jammu and Kashmir in the tournament.

This remarkable achievement has been widely celebrated across the Union Territory, with members of the sports fraternity and civil society applauding the young cricketers for their exceptional talent, discipline, and determination throughout the competition. Following this historic triumph, voices from across Jammu and



Kashmir have urged the Hon'ble Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to announce a cash reward to the victorious team. Supporters believe that

acknowledging this achievement will not only honor the players' hard work but also encourage young talent across the region to



pursue cricket with greater passion and commitment. The maiden Vijay Merchant Trophy victory by the JKCA U-16 team stands as a

proud and inspiring moment for the entire region, highlighting the growing strength and bright future of cricket in Jammu and Kashmir.

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