

Srinagar
Friday
March 13 | 2026
23 Ramadan 1447 AH
Issue No: 63
Volume: 16
Pages: 12
Price: Rs 02/-

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Peace in J&K Built on Sacrifices of Security Forces: LG Manoj Sinha

Warns enemies of stability of decisive action at police sports meet in Jammu

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 12: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said the peace and stability being witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir today have come at the cost of immense sacrifices by security forces, while warning that those attempting to disturb it would find "no place to hide".

Addressing the closing ceremony of the 2nd All India Police Kabaddi Cluster 2025-26 (Men and Women) at Maharaja Hari Singh Stadium in Jammu, Sinha said the environment of peace that allows families to gather, athletes to compete and communities to prosper was secured through the sacrifices of personnel from the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the Indian Army and the Central Armed Police Forces.

"This peace was secured through the sacrifices of the J&K Police, the Army and the CAPFs. Thousands of police personnel, soldiers and CAPF bravehearts gave their lives protecting the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Our duty is not just



to remember them, but to ensure their sacrifice endures and the peace they won is

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World Looks to India Amid Global Uncertainty: PM Modi

PM Says Disruptions and questions over global institutions highlight India's rising role

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, MAR 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that amid mounting global crises and disruptions in supply chains, India continues to move forward with resilience and the world today looks at the country with great expectations.

Addressing the NXT Summit, Modi said the world is currently at a crucial turning



point in history where the functioning and priorities of global institutions such as the United Nations are being increasingly questioned.

"Supply chains are being disrupted again. The priorities of global institutions like the United Nations are being questioned. In such a period, our India is moving ahead even in these adverse circumstances," he said.

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Omar Reviews SASCI Projects, Pushes for Faster Execution



HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 12: Omar Abdullah on

Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of works being

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J&K to Emerge as Higher Education Hub: Sakeena Itoo

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 12: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today remarked that the Government is committed to strengthen higher education sector in Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that our vision is to position J&K as a hub of quality higher education and research excellence.

The Minister made these remarks while chairing a high level meeting to assess academic performance, research initiatives and institutional development of all Universities of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu Prof. Umesh Rai; Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir Prof. Nilofer Khan; Vice Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Prof. Pragati Kumar; Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology Prof. Shakeel Ahmad Ramshoo; Vice Chancellor, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University Prof. Jawaid Iqbal; Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Jammu Dr. K.S. Chandreshkar; Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar Prof. Mohammad Mobin; Dean Research Jammu University, Registrars and senior officials of

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'God Saved Me': Farooq Abdullah Escapes Assassination Bid at Jammu Wedding

Gunman opens fire at close range; NC leader questions security lapse at venue

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 12: National Conference president and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah on Thursday said "God saved me" after he narrowly escaped an assassination attempt during a marriage function in Jammu on Wednesday night, while raising serious concerns over the absence of adequate security at the venue.

The 88-year-old veteran leader

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LG Assures Thorough Probe Into Attack on Farooq Abdullah

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 12: Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, on Thursday spoke to former chief minister Farooq Abdullah

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NSG Orders Security Audit After Bid on Farooq Abdullah's Life

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAR 12: The National Security Guard (NSG) will undertake a comprehensive

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Omar Abdullah Meets Father After Assassination Bid; Parties Seek Probe

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 12: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah met his father and

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Over 7,900 Public Grievances Filed Against J&K Govt in 2025: Centre

HT NEWS NETWORK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAR 12: More than 7,900 public grievances were received with respect to the government of Jammu and Kashmir in 2025, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Thursday.

These grievances were received on the online Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) and forwarded to the Jammu and Kashmir government.

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CS REVIEWS PLAN FOR FUTURE-READY IT PARKS IN J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 12: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today reviewed a comprehensive roadmap for establishing future-ready IT Parks in Jammu and Kashmir in a phased manner, aimed at strengthening the Union Territory's technology ecosystem, creating employment opportunities and building institutional capacity to meet future techno-

logical challenges.

Those who were present includes Secretary, IT, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; CEO, JaKeGA and other concerned officers of the Department.

While reviewing the proposal, the Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of laying a strong preliminary foundation for taking

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Lok Sabha Runs Strictly by Rules : Speaker Om Birla After Surviving Removal Motion

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAR 12: Om Birla on Thursday asserted that the Lok Sabha functions strictly according to its rules and regulations and will continue to operate in the same manner regardless of whether members find it agreeable.

A day after a motion seeking his removal as Speaker was defeated in the House, Birla said he would continue to conduct the

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Erratic weather likely in J&K till March 20: MeT

HT NEWS NETWORK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, MAR 12: The Meteorological Department on Wednesday said erratic weather conditions are likely to continue in Jammu and Kashmir till March 20, with intermittent spells of rain and snow expected in higher reaches.

According to the MeT Centre Srinagar, the Union Territory witnessed varied weather conditions during the past 24 hours.

The department said the weather on March 12 is expected to remain partly cloudy with the possibility of brief spells of light rain in plains and light snowfall in higher reaches at a few places.

It said generally dry weather is likely to prevail on March 13 and 14. "Generally cloudy weather with a spell of light to moderate rain in plains and snowfall in higher reaches is expected towards the night of March

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اجتماعی و نصاب خوانی

کاروان کشمیر کے مدیر اعلیٰ
قاضی غلام نبی شاہ نورانی

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Peace in.....

preserved," the Lieutenant Governor said. Issuing a stern warning to those seeking to destabilise the region, he said the administration and security forces would take decisive action against such elements. "You will find no place to hide. We will hunt you down from the deepest depths," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated sportspersons from State Police Forces and CAPFs who participated in various disciplines including Kabaddi, Gymnastics, Fencing and Kho-Kho, saying the discipline and determination displayed by the participants reflected the core values of policing.

Highlighting the unifying power of sports, Sinha said that on the playing field differences of language, geography, rank and social status fade away and only courage and resolve matter. He said sports help shape the character of young people and strengthen the values of trust and teamwork that are vital for lasting peace and prosperity.

Lauding the role of the Jammu and Kashmir Police in community outreach, he said initiatives such as the Civic Action Programme have strengthened the bond between the police and the people and inspired confidence among youth.

"The people here have always seen the Jammu and Kashmir Police as a guide and mentor—an integral part of the community. Such sporting competitions reflect that spirit," he said.

Calling upon the youth of the Union Territory to recognise its vast potential, the Lieutenant Governor urged them to dream big and make full use of the opportunities available to them, while also remaining vigilant against the menace of narcotics.

He also congratulated the Jammu and Kashmir cricket team on winning their maiden Ranji Trophy title and released an e-souvenir of the 2nd All India Police Kabaddi Cluster on the occasion.

Among those present were Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, Special DG (Coordination) S. J. M. Gillani, Commandant General Home Guards, Civil Defence and SDRF Abdul Ghani Mir, ADGP Armed Police Anand Jain, ADGP Headquarters M. K. Sinha and Joint Director IB Pankaj Thakur, besides senior police and civil administration officials and prominent sportspersons.

World Looks.....

The Prime Minister noted that at this critical juncture India has become one of the most widely discussed nations globally, with leaders and experts expressing strong confidence in the country's potential and future role.

Referring to the recent visit of Alexander Stubb, President of Finland, Modi said Stubb had observed that the Global South will increasingly influence the direction of the world and that India will play the most significant role in shaping that trajectory.

Omar Reviews.....

implemented under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme, directing departments to speed up execution and ensure timely utilisation of allocated funds.

The review meeting assessed the status of various projects, reforms and opportunities under the scheme, covering a wide range of works being undertaken by different departments across the Union Territory.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, administrative secretaries and other senior officers from the concerned departments attended the meeting.

During the department-wise review, the Chief Minister examined both the physical and financial progress of ongoing projects and took stock of fund utilisation as well as issues hampering timely execution.

Abdullah directed officials to resolve bottlenecks, accelerate spending and strictly adhere to prescribed timelines and quality standards to ensure that projects are completed without delay.

He stressed that departments must maximise utilisation of funds under the scheme and keep the surrender of allocations to the bare minimum. The Chief Minister cautioned that delays or underutilisation of funds could adversely affect the sanctioning of allocations in the next financial year.

J&K to Emerge.....

the Higher Education department. During the meeting, the Minister undertook a comprehensive review of academic functioning, research output, faculty development programmes, infrastructure expansion and student-focused initiatives being implemented across universities in J&K.

Speaking in the meeting, Minister Sakeena emphasized that universities must go beyond their traditional role as degree-awarding institutions.

"Universities are engines of innovation, centres of knowledge creation and pillars of societal transformation. They must evolve into vibrant ecosystems where ideas flourish, research thrives and young minds are empowered to shape the future," she stated.

Highlighting the need to nurture a strong research culture in Jammu and Kashmir, the Minister urged Vice Chancellors to identify priority research areas aligned with the region's

specific needs. She stressed that need is to focus on sustainable development, climate resilience, agricultural innovation, tourism studies, technology integration and social science research relevant to the unique socio-economic landscape of J&K.

She called for greater interdisciplinary collaboration, stronger industry partnerships and better utilization of research funding to enhance outcomes and improve global academic visibility.

The Minister also reviewed ongoing research projects, patent filings and publication records, encouraging universities to actively promote incubation centres, start-up ecosystems and technology transfer mechanisms that can translate ideas into real-world impact.

Reiterating on promoting research based curriculum, Minister Sakeena emphasized on curriculum modernization, quality assurance and adoption of outcome-based education frameworks. She also stressed on strengthening digital learning infrastructure, expanding skill-based programmes and ensuring continuous faculty training to keep pace with technological and academic advancements.

She also urged the University Administrators to place special attention on improving student support systems, promoting inclusive education and enhancing access to higher education for students from remote and underserved areas.

The Minister further reviewed infrastructure development projects, campus expansion plans, hostel facilities and smart classroom initiatives. She stressed the importance of transparent governance, efficient administration and optimal resource utilization to enhance institutional performance.

Calling for measurable progress, she directed universities to establish structured monitoring mechanisms to track research and innovation outcomes.

"Our goal is to position Jammu and Kashmir as a hub of quality higher education and research excellence. By empowering our universities, the Government is investing in the intellectual capital that will drive sustainable growth and social progress," the Minister stated.

She assured continued Government support for research funding, infrastructure modernization and capacity-building initiatives aimed at elevating J&K's universities to national and international standards.

During the meeting, Registrars presented institutional progress reports and outlined future academic and research roadmaps, reflecting a shared commitment to transforming the higher education landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

'God Saved.....

was allegedly targeted by a man identified as Kamal Singh Jamwal during the event held in the Greater Kailash area on the outskirts of the city. The assailant reportedly managed to get within close range and fired shots before being overpowered by security personnel present at the gathering.

Recounting the incident, Abdullah said he had stepped out of the wedding pavilion shortly after the bride arrived and was preparing to leave for home when he heard sounds that he initially mistook for firecrackers.

"Then I felt a burning sensation, but at that moment I did not realise what had happened," he said, adding that he was later told by his security personnel that a pistol had been fired at him.

According to Abdullah, the attacker attempted to fire again but was interrupted when a person standing nearby pulled him back by the arm, destabilising him. "At that moment his pistol misfired. Meanwhile, the security personnel managed to grab the pistol from his hand, though another shot went off," he said.

He said the security team quickly rushed him into his car and informed him that the assailant had fired two shots.

Jamwal, 63, a resident of Purani Mandi in Jammu, was immediately apprehended after the attack. During preliminary questioning, he reportedly told investigators that he had wanted to kill Abdullah for the past 20 years and had seized the opportunity when it arose, describing his motive as "personal".

Abdullah said he did not know the man who attacked him and expressed surprise over the alleged long-standing grudge. "I do not know that man... As for his motive, how would I know that?" he told reporters at his Bhatindi residence.

The former chief minister also flagged what he described as a major security lapse at the function, saying there was no visible police presence despite the attendance of several prominent personalities.

"The biggest issue is that there was no police presence there at all. Many prominent people had come to the wedding. It was necessary to have protection at such an event, especially in the kind of environment we are living in today," he said, calling for a thorough probe into the incident.

Abdullah said Union Home Minister Amit Shah called him after the incident and assured that the matter would be thoroughly investigated. "He asked how I was. I told him, 'By the grace of God, I am safe.' He said they had caught the person and that an investigation would be conducted," Abdullah said.

Praising the swift action of his security personnel, including his personal security officers and members of the National Security Guard, Abdullah said their prompt response prevented a major tragedy.

His son and Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also expressed concern over the incident, stating that the close protection team acted quickly to deflect the shot and foil the assassination attempt.

Following the attack, the chief minister rushed to Jammu to meet his father. Authorities have since launched a review of security arrangements for central government protectees across Jammu and Kashmir, with steps being taken to further strengthen protection measures.

Omar Abdullah.....

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah here on Thursday morning, hours after security personnel foiled an assassination attempt on the veteran leader at a wedding function in the city.

Leaders cutting across party lines also gathered at the former chief minister's residence in Bhatindi here to enquire about his well-being and demanded a thorough probe into the incident.

Abdullah had a narrow escape when a gunman opened fire at him from behind while he was leaving the function at Greater Kailash on the outskirts of Jammu on Wednesday night.

The chief minister drove straight to the NC chief's residence after arriving in Jammu from Delhi this morning. He spent nearly an hour with his father, who received a stream of visitors, including leaders from the BJP, the Congress and social activists.

Omar's sons — Zamir and Zahir — also reached Bhatindi from Srinagar to meet their grandfather.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, who visited Abdullah, said CCTV camera footage clearly showed the accused pointing a gun at the NC president, rejecting speculation that firing was part of celebratory fire.

He said timely action of security personnel prevented a tragedy and demanded a thorough probe into the incident, asserting that an attack on such a highly protected leader raises serious security concerns.

Among those who visited Abdullah were ministers Sakina Itoo and Javid Dar, along with senior functionaries and workers of the party, who condemned the incident and termed it a matter of serious concern.

BJP MLA Vikram Randhawa also visited Abdullah and termed the incident "deplorable and unfortunate" and said Jammu has always been peace-loving.

"Such incidents have no place in Jammu. Even at the peak of militancy, Jammu maintained its communal harmony," he told reporters after meeting Abdullah.

Referring to conflicting statements by the accused, the BJP leader said the motive behind the attack was still unclear.

"We do not know what kind of grudge he has been carrying and what was going on in his mind, or why he did this. The agencies should investigate it and question him.

"He himself is saying that he had been looking for him for 20 years... This is clearly a matter for investigation, and the agencies must probe it," the BJP MLA said.

Several Congress leaders also met Abdullah to enquire about his well-being.

Meanwhile, the accused — Kamal Singh Jamwal — a resident of Purani Mandi in Jammu, reportedly told police that he had been waiting for an opportunity to target Abdullah for the past 20 years.

Police have initiated a detailed probe into the antecedents of Kamal Singh Jamwal, the man who allegedly attempted to assassinate former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah at a marriage function here, officials said on Thursday.

Police are examining the 63-year-old Jamwal's background, including his personal, social and possible organisational links, to ascertain the motive behind the firing incident, they said. (Agencies)

LG Assures.....

and assured him of a thorough investigation into the attack on him during a wedding function in Jammu.

Abdullah, 88, had a narrow escape when a gunman allegedly opened fire from behind while he was leaving a marriage function at Greater Kailash on the outskirts of the city on Wednesday night, officials said.

Police arrested the accused, identified as Kamal Singh Jamwal, 63, a resident of Purani Mandi, who reportedly told investigators that he had been waiting for an opportunity to target Abdullah for nearly two decades.

Sources said Sinha assured the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference president that the matter would be thoroughly investigated. He also directed Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat to leave no stone unturned in getting to the bottom of the incident and to ensure swift action.

Senior officials have been instructed to guarantee airtight security for protectees, while police have launched a detailed probe into the antecedents of the accused, officials said.

NSG Orders.....

security audit of all Z-Plus category dignitaries under its protection following the assassination attempt on former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, officials said on Thursday.

The elite commando force, popularly known

as the 'Black Cats', currently provides high-level security cover to nine VIPs across the country, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Officials said the security review will assess existing protocols and deployment patterns for all NSG protectees. Under standard operating procedures, the NSG provides mobile security during transit and deploys a specialised Close Protection Team (CPT) comprising four commandos when a dignitary is present inside an indoor venue such as a banquet hall or convention centre.

Sources said the force routinely conducts such audits whenever an extraordinary incident involving an NSG-protected dignitary takes place. While the NSG is responsible for the immediate safety of the protectee, officials noted that venue sanitisation and ensuring that no armed individual gains entry fall within the jurisdiction of local police and other security agencies.

Once the audit is completed, the NSG will share its findings with the concerned authorities and flag any potential security lapses that may have contributed to the breach.

Farooq Abdullah had a narrow escape on Wednesday night after a gunman allegedly opened fire at him from behind while he was leaving a wedding function in Jammu. CCTV footage from the venue showed a police officer and an NSG commando intercepting the attacker, while another commando and security personnel quickly overpowered him before he could cause further harm.

The former chief minister, who heads the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, was immediately evacuated from the venue in a high-speed convoy.

Over 7,900.....

Of the total of 7,936 grievances received during the last year (excluding 7,340 brought forward ones), 5,598 were pending and 9,678 were closed, Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said in a written reply.

He said 8,459 and 6,991 such grievances were received in 2024 and 2023, respectively.

The government introduced the 10-step reforms for CPGRAMS in April 2022 to make grievance redressal timely, effective and accessible to the citizens, Singh said.

Further, the government issued the comprehensive guidelines for effective redressal of public grievances in August 2024, reducing the grievance redressal timelines from 30 days to 21 days.

These guidelines mandate the integration of public grievance platforms, the establishment of dedicated grievance cells within ministries and departments, the appointment of experienced and competent nodal and appellate officers, emphasis on root cause analysis and action on citizen feedback, and the strengthening of grievance escalation mechanisms, he said.

A dedicated review meeting module has been operationalised in CPGRAMS to facilitate senior-level reviews of public grievances to enhance the efficiency and quality of the redressal process, the minister said.

CS Reviews.....

such initiatives to their logical conclusion in Jammu and Kashmir.

He observed that technology will play a defining role in shaping the future economy, and therefore it is imperative for the Union Territory to invest in building future-ready human resources, technology infrastructure and institutional mechanisms capable of responding to emerging global challenges.

The Chief Secretary further stressed that the initiative would help create new employment avenues for the youth, strengthen the start-up ecosystem and attract technology companies to the region, thereby positioning Jammu and Kashmir as an emerging hub for innovation and digital growth.

He directed the concerned departments to work in close coordination with IIT Jammu to ensure timely implementation of the proposed phases and development of the required ecosystem for technology-led growth in the Union Territory.

At the outset, Secretary, Information Technology, Dr Piyush Singla presented the background of the initiative and highlighted the progress achieved so far towards setting up technology-driven innovation infrastructure in the Union Territory.

During the meeting, Prof. Arvind of IIT Jammu presented a detailed plan for establishing an Innovation and Research Park beginning from the campus of IIT Jammu and subsequently expanding to other locations across the UT.

It was informed that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the proposed initia-

tive has already been approved by the Board of Governors of IIT Jammu on January 5, 2026, while the Government of Jammu & Kashmir has accorded in-principle approval for collaboration in this initiative.

The project envisages a phased development strategy to gradually build a robust IT and innovation ecosystem in the region.

Explaining it was revealed that Under Phase-I, scheduled to be launched during May-June 2026, about 50,000 square feet of existing built-up space within the IIT Jammu campus will be upgraded and developed to initiate operations of the proposed IT and innovation park.

Phase-II will involve construction of approximately 120,000 square feet of additional infrastructure, with work proposed to begin during 2026 and targeted for completion by 2028. For Phase-III, the project proposes expansion of the IT Park outside the campus, enabling larger scale industry participation and technology-driven growth.

During the presentation, it was informed that a land parcel has been identified in Kashmir Division too for expansion of this park under next phase. Additionally, land is proposed to be identified in Jammu for expansion of the park in close proximity to the existing IIT Jammu campus.

The proposed Innovation Research Park (Phase-B) at IIT Jammu is planned with a built-up area of over 11,000 square metres, including multiple functional floors designed to accommodate innovation labs, technology companies, start-ups and research collaborations. The facility with supporting spaces aims at fostering research-industry partnerships and technology incubation.

Lok Sabha.....

proceedings with sincerity, fairness and impartiality, emphasizing that the Chair symbolizes the dignity and prestige of the House and does not belong to any individual.

Expressing gratitude to members for the trust reposed in him during the debate, Birla thanked those who spoke both in his favour and against him. "The House has been running with rules and regulations and will continue to function in future, irrespective of whether it is acceptable to any member or not. I will continue to discharge my duty with all sincerity and impartiality," he said amid desk-thumping by treasury bench members.

Thursday marked the first time Birla presided over proceedings after a notice of no-confidence against him was moved during the first part of the Budget session, which concluded on February 13. The second part of the session began on March 9.

Referring to concerns raised during the debate, the Speaker said some members had argued that the Leader of the Opposition was not given adequate opportunities to speak and should be allowed to address the House whenever he wished and on any subject.

Birla said while every member has the right to speak in the House, they must do so in accordance with established rules. "No member, not even the prime minister or any minister, can speak without the permission of the Chair. No member of the House has the privilege to speak at any time and on any subject. A member can speak only when the Chair allows," he said.

Responding to allegations that microphones of some members are switched off when they attempt to speak, Birla clarified that the system operates only when the Chair grants permission. "I don't have a switch to turn the mic on or off. The microphone is activated when a member is allowed to speak by the Chair," he said.

Soon after his remarks, Birla adjourned the House till 2 pm. (Agencies)

Erratic weather.....

15 and morning of March 16 at scattered to many places," the MeT department said.

For March 17 and 18, the weather is expected to remain generally cloudy with the possibility of brief spells of light rain or snow in isolated areas towards the night of March 17 and morning of March 18.

The department said there is also a possibility of light to moderate rain in plains and snowfall in higher reaches at scattered to many places towards the night of March 19 and morning of March 20.

It added that weather conditions are likely to remain generally dry between March 21 and 23.

Meanwhile, the MeT department has issued an advisory warning of possible thunderstorms and gusty winds at a few places towards the evening of March 15.

Farmers have been advised to resume farm operations during March 13 and 14 when dry weather is expected to prevail across the region, the department said. (KNS).



AD Tourism Gulmarg initiates streamlining of Tourist Guide Licensing System

First Batch of 77 Valley Guide Licence Holders notified for conversion

HT NEWS NETWORK

GULMARG, MAR 12: In a development being widely welcomed as a long-overdue breakthrough for tourism professionals in the Gulmarg region, the Office of the Assistant Director Tourism, Gulmarg has initiated a structured and phased process for the conversion of Valley Guide licence holders into the Tourist Guide category.

This reform was initiated by Tahir Mohi-Ud-Din Wani, Assistant Director Tourism, Gulmarg, who, upon assuming charge,

undertook a comprehensive verification exercise of registered service providers under the relevant provisions of the J&K Tourist Trade Act.

During the exercise, the sector was found to be affected by long-pending irregularities, including registrations held in the names of deceased persons, government employees, and individuals holding multiple registrations simultaneously.

Rather than allowing the status quo to continue, Tahir Mohi-Ud-Din Wani, under the supervision of the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism

Department, initiated a systematic scrutiny and rationalisation of the existing registration records. In the process, ineligible registrations were identified and cancellation orders were issued in accordance with law.

It is against the vacancies thus created, specifically 77 slots arising on account of deaths and government employment in the Tourist Guide category, that the first batch of eligible Valley Guide licence holders has now been notified for conversion. The list has been prepared on the basis of the prescribed eligibility

parameters, including qualification, age, and experience, as available on the official record so as to ensure uniformity, administrative clarity, and fairness in the selection process, and to avoid any ambiguity or dispute in determination of eligibility.

For eligible license holders who do not figure in the first list, the Assistant Director Tourism, has clarified that subsequent lists shall follow in a phased manner, subject to vacancy, availability and approval of the competent authority.

Applicants who have sought

registration in the general Tourist Guide category have also been advised not to lose hope, as their case has likewise been submitted to the Directorate for consideration, and it is expected that vacancies may also be made available for them in due course, subject to approval.

For a region where tourism forms the backbone of the economy, this marks a significant step towards replacing years of disorder with a more transparent, regulated, and accountable framework for guiding services in Gulmarg.

Joint Market Inspection Conducted in Manzgam, Aharbal to Ensure Food Safety During Ramadan

FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, MAR 12: To ensure the availability of safe and hygienic food items during the holy month of Ramadan, a joint market inspection was carried out in the Manzgam and Aharbal areas of Kulgam district on Wednesday.

The inspection drive was conducted by a team of officials from the Food Safety Department in coordination with the Police, Revenue Department, and Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (CAPD) Department. The joint team visited several shops, bakeries, and food outlets to check the quality, hygiene, and standard of food items being sold in the markets.

During the inspection, authorities thoroughly examined various food establishments and verified whether the shopkeepers were adhering to the guidelines and standards prescribed by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The officials focused particularly on bakery and dairy products, which witness increased consumption during Ramadan.

As part of the enforcement process, the inspection team lifted five legal samples of different bakery and milk products for laboratory testing. These samples will be analyzed to determine whether the food items meet the prescribed food safety standards.

The team also detected certain violations related to food safety regulations during the inspection. Consequently, compound cases amounting to ₹10,000 were recommended for prosecution under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act against the violators.

Officials said that the inspection drive was carried out keeping in view the increased demand for bakery items, dairy products, and other food commodities during Ramadan. They emphasized the need for maintaining strict hygiene and quality standards to protect public health.

Shopkeepers and food business operators were advised to maintain proper cleanliness in their establishments, display valid food safety licenses, and strictly adhere to all regulations laid down under the Food Safety and Standards Act.

The authorities also warned that strict action will be taken against those found violating food safety norms. They further stated that such inspection drives will continue in different markets across the district to ensure the safety and well-being of consumers during the holy month of Ramadan.

SDM Noorabad Reviews Arrangements for Jumat-ul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr

FAROOQ RATHER

KULGAM, MAR 12: Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Noorabad, Bashir-ul-Hassan (JKAS) on Wednesday chaired a meeting of officers to review preparedness and necessary arrangements for the upcoming religious occasions of Jumat-ul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr.

The meeting was convened to ensure that adequate facilities and essential services are put in place for the smooth observance of these important religious events across the subdivision.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held regarding arrangements related to traffic management, sanitation, drinking water supply, electricity, health-care facilities and other essential services. The officers were directed to ensure that all necessary measures are taken well in advance so that devotees do not face any inconvenience during the congregational prayers and other religious gatherings.

The SDM stressed the importance of maintaining proper sanitation and cleanliness around mosques and Eidgahs, especially in view of the large gatherings expected during Jumat-ul-Vida, Shab-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr. He directed the concerned departments to ensure uninterrupted power and drinking water supply in all major religious places.

Bashir-ul-Hassan also instructed the traffic and police authorities to make adequate arrangements for smooth regulation of traffic near mosques and Eidgahs to avoid congestion during peak hours of prayers. He further asked all departments to work in close coordination and remain vigilant and responsive to address any issues that may arise during the holy occasions.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the Tehsildar, Station House Officer (SHO), Block Medical Officer (BMO), Block Development Officers (BDOs), Naib Tehsildars, Assistant Executive Engineers (AEE) of PDD and PHE, Tehsil Supply Officers (TSOs) and the President of Auqaf.

KVK-Anantnag, DARS Rangreth Organise Awareness cum Input Distribution Programme for Tribal Farmers

Improved forage seed kits and agricultural tools distributed under Tribal Sub Plan

HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, MAR 12: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Anantnag of SKUAST-Kashmir, in collaboration with the Dryland Agriculture Research Station (DARS) Rangreth, organized an Awareness-cum-Input Distribution Programme for tribal farmers under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) of the All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Forage Crops and Utilization. The programme was sponsored by the Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (ICAR-IGFRI), Jhansi.

At the outset, Dr. Ishfaq A. Khan, Head KVK-Anantnag, welcomed the guests and participating farmers and highlighted the role of KVK-Anantnag in promoting sustainable agricultural practices and improving the livelihood security of tribal communities through various capacity building programmes, demonstrations and input support initiatives. He emphasized that strengthening fodder resources and livestock-based farming systems is crucial for enhancing the resilience and income of tribal farmers.

On the occasion, Prof. N.S. Khuroo, Principal Investigator and Breeder at DARS Rangreth, and Dr. Zahida Rashid, Agronomist, spoke about the importance of improved forage crop varieties, scientific fodder production and efficient utilization of fodder resources to address fodder scarcity in the region. They encouraged farmers to adopt improved forage technologies to ensure year-round fodder availability and better



livestock productivity.

The participating farmers were also informed about various government schemes in the agriculture and allied sectors aimed at the socio-economic upliftment of farming communities.

During the programme, improved forage seed kits and agricultural tool kits were distributed among the participating tribal farmers to promote the adoption of improved cultivation practices and enhance fodder production at the farm level. The programme concluded with

an interactive session where farmers raised queries related to fodder cultivation, livestock management and government support schemes. The scientists assured continued technical guidance and support to the farming community.

The programme was coordinated by the scientific staff of KVK-Anantnag in collaboration with DARS Rangreth, reaffirming the commitment of SKUAST-Kashmir towards inclusive agricultural development and the empowerment of tribal farmers in the region.

CS Reviews Plan for Commercial Cultivation of MAPs in J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 12: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today held a meeting to review the progress on the proposed strategy for large-scale commercial cultivation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) across Jammu and Kashmir, aimed at strengthening the sector and enhancing farmers' income through scientific cultivation, value addition and market integration.

The meeting was convened to assess the progress made by the Agriculture Production Department in formulating a comprehensive strategy for developing the MAP sector in the Union Territory following consultations with private pharmaceutical companies, MAP dealers, Minor Forest Produce depot holders, Biodiversity Management Committees and other industry stakeholders.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took a detailed appraisal of the concerns raised by these stakeholders and the measures proposed by the department to address them. He observed that

medicinal and aromatic plants represent a high-value sector with immense potential for livelihood generation in the region.

Emphasizing the importance of scientific planning, the Chief Secretary noted that the major bottlenecks in scaling up commercial MAP cultivation include availability of quality planting material, development of crop-specific package of practices and establishment of reliable market linkages for farmers. He said that addressing these challenges would be critical for encouraging farmers to adopt MAP cultivation on a large scale.

The Chief Secretary underlined that research institutions have a significant role to play in identifying commercially viable species suited to different agro-climatic zones of the Union Territory. He asked the research institutions to assist the department in developing cultivation protocols, identifying suitable zones for different MAP species and ensuring that the recommended crops are both environmentally sustainable and commercially viable.

He further advised the depart-

ment to hold wider consultations with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and the Ministry of AYUSH while framing the strategy and also suggested taking guidance from eminent agricultural experts such as Dr. Mangla Rai and Dr. Ashok Dalwai to make the initiative more impactful.

Additional Chief Secretary, APD Ashish Chander Verma briefed the meeting about the initiatives taken so far by the department. He informed that consultations had been held with leading industry players including Dabur, Emami, Patanjali Ayurved, Sami-Sabinsa Group and Dehvi Naturals to understand the scope, demand patterns and challenges related to the commercial production of MAPs in the Union Territory.

He added that based on the feedback received from these stakeholders, the department has undertaken a preliminary exercise to identify solutions to the challenges and frame a structured roadmap for the development of this sector.

Managing Director, Holistic

Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Sandeep Kumar, made a detailed presentation outlining the proposed intervention framework.

He informed that the proposed strategy is structured around six key intervention areas, including conservation and sustainable management of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) in forest areas, promotion of their commercial cultivation on private lands and village woodlots, strengthening of nursery systems to ensure availability of certified planting material, establishment of primary processing and value-addition facilities, promotion of branding, cluster development and market integration, besides enhancing research, capacity building and skill development in the sector.

Under the proposed plan, geo-spatial mapping of niche MAP zones will be undertaken by the Department of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing (DEERS) between 2026 and 2028, while a baseline survey will be carried out by the J&K Agriculture Production

Department in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu during 2026-27.

The strategy also includes nursery raising of medicinal plants with an annual capacity of about 50 lakh plants, to be implemented by the Forest Department from 2026 to 2032 to ensure the availability of quality planting material.

It was further given out that initially plantation activities are proposed to be taken up on a large scale, including 1,500 hectares in forest areas, 62 hectares on government land outside forest areas, and 80 hectares on private lands, with further yearly augmentations upto the year 2032.

Experts from Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir also shared their inputs regarding the role their institutions could play in strengthening research, developing technologies and supporting farmers in the cultivation of MAPs.

Literary Circles Mourn the Passing of Ahmad Ali, Father of Dr. Showkat Shahbaz

GULFAM BARJI

GANDERBAL, MAR 12: Ahmad Ali father of noted Urdu poet, broadcaster and General Secretary of Karwan-e-Adab Dab Ganderbal Dr. Showkat Shahbaz passed away after a brief illness. His demise has caused deep sorrow among literary and jour-



nalistic circles.

Several literary organizations and personalities have expressed their heartfelt condolences to Dr. Showkat Shahbaz and well-known journalist and poet Sabiq Ali Sabiq on the sad demise of their father.

Meanwhile the Inder Cultural Forum Sumbal has also expressed deep grief over the passing of Ahmad Ali and extended its sympathies to the bereaved family. In its condolence message the forum prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength and patience for the bereaved family especially Dr. Showkat Shahbaz and Sabiq Ali Sabiq.

The forum further stated that in this hour of grief all members of the Inder Cultural Forum stand in solidarity with the bereaved family and share their sorrow.

DC Ganderbal chairs District Rent Assessment Committee meeting; approves 29 cases

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, MARCH 12: A meeting of the District Rent Assessment Committee was today held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, to review and finalize rent assessment cases of various government offices functioning in private rented buildings across the district.

During the meeting, the committee examined 38 pending cases related to rent fixation and reassessment of buildings housing government offices. All the cases were discussed in detail and out of these 29 cases were approved after scrutiny of the relevant records, reports and technical inputs from the concerned departments while



remaining were deferred.

The DC emphasized the importance of maintaining transparency and adherence to prescribed norms while assessing rents of private buildings being used for government purposes. He directed the concerned officers to ensure

that all pending cases are processed and disposed-off in a time-bound manner to avoid inconvenience to the building owners as well as the departments concerned.

The DC also stressed that government offices should preferably be accommodated in available

government buildings and that private rented accommodation should be hired only in cases of genuine and unavoidable requirement. He called for strict adherence to established procedures while hiring such accommodations.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Ganderbal, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Divisional Forest Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Executive Engineer R&B Kangan and other district officers and officials.

Owners of the buildings whose rent assessment cases were taken up during the meeting were also present and shared their views and clarifications before the committee.

ADC Handwara reviews arrangements for celebration of Shab-e-Qadr, Eid-ul-Fitr

HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, MARCH 12: Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi today convened a meeting of all concerned officers at ADC Office chamber Handwara to review the arrangements put in place for Shab-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr.

During the meeting, the ADC instructed all the officers to ensure adequate arrangements at major mosques, Eidgahs and prominent locations in the sub division Handwara.

He emphasized the importance of making all necessary arrangements for essential services to facilitate the general public, particularly devotees visiting the mosques and Eidgahs.

He directed the concerned officers to ensure sanitation at mosques, availability of drinking water,

uninterrupted power supply, efficient transportation of devotees, security measures and other necessary amenities.

He also instructed Tehsildars of the sub division and other officials to make detailed arrangements in their respective Tehsils for Shab-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr besides instructing them to conduct personal visits to prominent places. Concerned were also instructed to intensify market checking to keep a check on rates in the markets.

The meeting was attended by Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Division Handwara, Executive Engineer PDD, Division Handwara, all Tehsildars of sub division Handwara, BDOs, Medical Superintendent Associated DH GMC Handwara, BMOs, Executive officer MC Langate, TSOs, officials of MC Handwara and President Traders Federation Handwara.

DC Ganderbal chairs DLC meeting on HADP, JKIP; approves 414 cases

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, MARCH 12: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) to review and finalize beneficiaries under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKIP).

At the outset, the committee discussed sector-wise proposals received from various agriculture and allied departments including agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries and Horticulture Planning and Marketing sectors.



The Committee discussed the submitted proposals in detail and approved 414 beneficiaries aimed at boosting farm productivity, strengthening value chains and improving livelihood opportunities for farmers and allied sector stakeholders in the district.

The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure that the schemes are implemented in a transparent and time-bound manner so that eligible beneficiaries can avail the benefits without delay. He stressed the importance of proper scrutiny of applications and adherence to guidelines while processing cases.

The DC also asked the departments to intensify awareness among farmers and youth about the schemes so that more eligible individuals can come forward to benefit from the programmes.

He emphasized that the initiatives under HADP and JKIP are intended to modernize the agriculture sector, promote entrepreneurship in allied sectors and enhance income generation for farming communities.

The meeting was attended by General Manager District Industries Centre, Divisional Forest Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Nodal Officer HADP/JKIP and Cluster Head J&K Bank, among other concerned officers.

DC Budgam visits SDH Khansahib, reviews healthcare facilities

Chairs Public Darbar at SDM Office Complex to address Public Grievances

HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, MARCH 12: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan today conducted a visit to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Khansahib to review the functioning of the healthcare facility and later chaired a Public Darbar at the SDM Office Complex Khansahib to interact with the general public and listen to their grievances.

During the visit to the hospital, the DC inspected various sections of the hospital and took stock of the healthcare facilities being provided to the patients. He also reviewed the progress of the under-construction additional block of SDH Khansahib.

The DC interacted with the medical staff and emphasized the

need for maintaining high standards of patient care, hygiene, and timely medical services.

He directed the concerned officers to ensure the availability of essential medicines, proper functioning of medical equipment, and improved patient facilities at the hospital. He also stressed the importance of strengthening healthcare delivery at the grassroots level so that quality medical services are accessible to the people of the area.

Following the hospital visit, the DC chaired a Public Darbar at SDM Office Khansahib.

The darbar witnessed participation of a large number of residents from different areas of the sub-division including Khansahib, Arigam, Asthan

Mohalla, Waterhail, Shinnipora and other adjoining villages.

Addressing the gathering, the DC emphasised the need for 100 percent saturation of Government welfare schemes, ensuring that the benefits of various flagship programmes reach every eligible beneficiary without any exclusion.

During the interaction, the locals raised various issues and put forth suggestions related to development of playfields for youth, construction and upgradation of linkroads, improvement in drinking water supply, strengthening of irrigation facilities, upgradation of schools, and ensuring uninterrupted power supply in several areas.

The DC patiently listened to the grievances and assured the

public that all genuine issues and demands would be addressed in a time-bound manner. He directed the concerned officers to take immediate note of the issues raised and work in a coordinated manner for their prompt redressal.

The DC further directed all officers of the district to frequently visit different areas and provide real-time solutions to the genuine demands of the public.

He instructed the ACD Budgam to identify land for playfields so that every Panchayat has its own playing facility. He also emphasized that officers must maintain close liaison with the public to ensure better education and awareness regarding various social security and employment generation schemes of the Government.

On the occasion, a plantation drive was also conducted in the sub-division to promote environmental sustainability. Additionally, certificates were distributed among beneficiaries under various Government schemes.

The DC reiterated that the District Administration is committed to responsive governance and ensuring that development initiatives effectively reach every corner of the district.

Among others, Programme Officer ICDS, Chief Planning Officer Budgam, SDM Khansahib, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, and several other district and sectoral officers were present on the occasion.

Meeting of Verification Sub-Committee for SGLR held in Srinagar

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MARCH 12: A meeting of the Verification Sub-Committee for Swachhata Green Leaf Rating (SGLR) in the hospitality sector was convened today under the chairmanship of Zuber Ahmad Bhat, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (East), Srinagar, to initiate the verification process of hospitality establishments under the SGLR framework. The meeting aimed to orient the committee members regarding the objectives, framework, and verification process of the Swachhata Green Leaf Rating initiative, which is being implemented to promote safe sanitation and sustainable waste management practices in hospitality establishments such as hotels, guest houses, and other tourism facilities.

During the meeting, the committee members were briefed on the SGLR guidelines, assessment indicators, and certification format that will be used during the field verification of participating hospitality facilities. The committee will be responsible for verifying the self-assessment reports



submitted by tourist establishments and assessing their compliance with sanitation, waste management, and environmental sustainability standards.

Speaking on the occasion, Zuber Ahmad Bhat emphasized the importance of promoting responsible sanitation practices within the hospitality sector, particularly in a tourism-centric district like Srinagar. He highlighted that the implementation of the Swachhata Green Leaf Rating framework will contribute towards strengthening cleanliness, improving environmental sustainability, and enhancing the overall quality of tourism services in the district.

Officers who participated in the meeting were members of the Verification Sub-Committee representing various departments including Revenue, Rural Development/ Directorate of Rural Sanitation, Power Development Department, Roads & Buildings Department, Health Department, and Urban Local Bodies, ensuring a comprehensive and transparent verification process.

It was informed that the committee will soon undertake field visits to hospitality establishments to verify the current certification status based on the prescribed SGLR indicators and submit its report accordingly.

District Admin Bandipora reviews JJM Works, Jal Mahotsav Pakhwada Activities

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, MARCH 12: On the directions of District Development Commissioner Bandipora, the Chief Planning Officer Bandipora, Mohammad Maqbool Lone today chaired a meeting to review the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works in the district in view of the ongoing Jal Mahotsav Pakhwada being observed from March 8 to March 22, 2026.

During the meeting, officers discussed the schedule of activities being organized under the 14-day celebration programme and stressed the need for coordination among departments for effective implementation.



It was informed that the Jal Mahotsav Pakhwada commenced on March 8 with the celebration of International Women's Day, where women participants were sensitized about water governance and water quality monitoring through Field Testing Kit (FTK) demonstrations.

As part of the programme, water quality testing and awareness activities are being conducted in High and Higher Secondary Schools across the district. World Plumbers Day was also observed on March 11 at ITIs, where plumbers and technical staff were trained on plumbing works and maintenance of water supply infrastructure.

The meeting was informed that Jal Arpan Diwas will be celebrated on March 13 to promote significance of water supply schemes, while a Jal Yatra on March 14 will focus on awareness about water supply infrastructure.

Further activities including school awareness campaigns, cleanliness drives of water sources and water infrastructure will be conducted during the pakhwada, which will culminate on March 22 with the celebration of World Water Day at the district level and across Panchayats.

DC Anantnag reviews arrangements for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026

Emphasizes meticulous planning for smooth, hassle free Yatra

HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, MARCH 12: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag who is also the Yatra Officer Pahalgam Axis, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat on Wednesday chaired a meeting of officers at Dak Bungalow Khanabal to review the preparedness and departmental arrangements for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026 along the axis. During the meeting, the DC held a comprehensive review of arrangements including the Yatra route preparation, power and water supply, healthcare facilities, sanitation, traffic management, communication services, emergency response and other logistical support for the smooth conduct of the sacred pilgrimage.

The meeting was informed that various departments have prepared a detailed action plan for the Yatra. It was highlighted that a total of

175 works have been proposed under Capex and Revex at an estimated cost of 5428.43 lakh, covering key sectors including power supply, water supply, road connectivity and infrastructure.

The DC was apprised that the track from Chandanwari to the Holy Cave will be opened in May 2026 and snow clearance, repair of tracks, restoration of culverts and construction of rain and shelter sheds along the route will be undertaken. Upgradation of the track to improve pilgrim movement and maintenance of pony tracks and footpaths were also discussed.

The Public Works (R&B) Department informed that works are being undertaken for improvement of approach roads, development of parking facilities near base camps and operationalization of a new transit camp at Bijbehara to facilitate pilgrims. Jal Shakti Department reported that adequate drinking

water supply will be ensured at all camps and enroute locations. The department will also install RO filtration plants at transit camps and use anti-freezing pipelines at higher altitude camps to maintain uninterrupted water supply during the Yatra period.

The Power Development Department/KPDCL informed that arrangements are being made for uninterrupted power supply at all camps, installation of LED lighting along the track, solar lighting at high-altitude camps and generator backup for RFID and registration counters. The Health Department briefed the chair that a 100-bedded hospital will be operationalized at Chandanwari, besides establishing medical aid centres at Sheshnag and Panjtarni. Adequate deployment of doctors, paramedics and ambulances will be ensured, along with oxygen booths and emergency medical response facilities along the route. AYUSH

medical aid camps will also be established at various locations.

Regarding sanitation, the Rural Development Department, PDA and other agencies will ensure installation of adequate number of toilets and bathing units at camps and halt points, besides making arrangements for solid waste management and maintaining cleanliness throughout the Yatra period. The requirement of services of Pony, Pithu and Palki Walas besides health care for horses and ponies were discussed in detail.

Arrangements for tents, ration and essential commodities at various stations enroute to the Holy Cave for both normal and contingency were also reviewed.

Further, the RFID and registration, fire fighting, telecommunication, publicity and media management plans were reviewed during the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, the DC emphasized the need for

meticulous planning based on previous data and experience for ensuring smooth and hassle free Yatra. He stressed upon all departments to work in close coordination and put in place the necessary arrangements for pilgrims in a seamless manner.

All works shall be completed in time while maintaining high standards of safety, hygiene and service delivery during the Yatra period, he remarked. Dr. Bilal called for strengthening emergency response mechanisms and ensuring effective communication facilities along the Yatra route for the safety and convenience of pilgrims. Among others, the meeting was attended by senior district officers including ADCs, CEO PDA, SP, SEs of Jal Shakti, PWD & PDD; ACD, SDM Pahalgam, CMO, CAHO, CEO, DFO, ARTO, Exen I&FC, ALC, AD FCS&CA, officers from Beacon, F&ES, EOs of concerned MCs, officers from Traffic, SRTC, NHAI.

Further, the RFID and registration, fire fighting, telecommunication, publicity and media management plans were reviewed during the meeting. Addressing the meeting, the DC emphasized the need for

Additional Commissioner State Taxes chairs performance review meeting of Kashmir Division

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MARCH 12: Additional Commissioner, State Taxes (Administration & Enforcement), Kashmir, Parveez Ahmad Raina, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the performance and progress of the department in Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners State Taxes Enforcement (North/Central Kashmir) Shah Nawaz Shah; Deputy Commissioner State Taxes IT, Data Analytics Kashmir, Reyaz Ahmad Shah and all jurisdictional State Taxes Officers of the Kashmir Division.

The meeting focused on key agenda items, including year-on-year revenue realisation, action taken on reports generated by GST Analytics & Fraud Detection (BISAG), growth in cash and IGST settlements, progress in cases initiated under Section 65 of the JK GST/CGST Act, efforts to curb the menace of fake Input Tax Credit (ITC), Nil-Filers, payments released by Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) and resultant tax paid by taxpayers, scrutiny of returns under Section 61 of the Act, enforcement activities and their outcomes, as



well as utilisation of various analytical reports and their results.

During the circle-wise review, the Additional Commissioner evaluated the progress made by each circle towards target achievement, including DRC-03 realised as a result of assessments, follow-up on non-filers, and actions initiated as per the Act.

Parveez Ahmad Raina emphasised the critical need to leverage data, reports, and inputs generated by specialised teams such as the Special Investigation Unit (SIU), Business Intelligence

Unit (BIU), and field enforcement units. He stressed meticulous scrutiny, integration of field inputs, and available reports to effectively curb fake ITC and other fraudulent practices.

The Additional Commissioner reiterated that the overarching purpose of these efforts is to ensure achievement of assigned revenue targets, containment of fraudulent activities, promotion of fair trade practices, and safeguarding the revenue of the state exchequer.

The department remains committed to strengthening GST

compliance, enhancing enforcement, and utilising technology-driven analytics for transparent and efficient tax administration in the Kashmir Division.

Later, Commissioner State Taxes, Jammu & Kashmir, P.K. Bhat joined virtually, providing strategic guidance and reinforcing the department's resolve to achieve revenue excellence. He highlighted the positive impact of recent GST rate rationalisation, particularly in key sectors such as cement (reduced from 28% to 18%) and

automobiles (with entry-level vehicles now at 18% and simplified structures boosting affordability and sector growth), which is expected to stimulate consumption, ease compliance, and support infrastructure and mobility.

He underscored the shift of taxpayers from IGST settlements to local purchase and the need to address local fake input tax credit frauds, urging intensified scrutiny of data for FY 2020-21 TDS mismatches and prompt initiation of proceedings under Section 74 of the Act.

Emphasizing the use of Prime Data analytics, rigorous follow-up on show cause notices, and proactive action against dormant dealers and taxpayers yet to commence business (liable for registration cancellation under Section 29), the Commissioner called for prompt, meticulous, and technology-driven enforcement to curb evasion effectively.

The Commissioner reiterated the imperative for unwavering commitment to meet assigned revenue targets, eliminate fraudulent practices, and foster a transparent, fair tax ecosystem that safeguards the interests of the UT's exchequer and promotes genuine economic growth.

District Admin Bandipora conducts IEC Awareness Programmes under NMBA BANDIPORA

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, MARCH 12: Continuing its intensified campaign under the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan (NMBA), the District Administration Bandipora today organized a series of IEC (Information, Education and Communication) awareness programmes at multiple locations across the district.

The programmes were conducted at HSS Alooosa, HSS Mantrigam, HS Ganastan, HSS Nowgam, Ward No. 7 Nasoo (Bandipora), Dumpora (Sumbal) and Bon Mohalla (Hajin).



A multi-departmental team comprising officials from Health, Police, Education, Social Welfare, Youth Services & Sports and JKNRLM participated in the programmes.

During the sessions, resource persons delivered awareness lectures and interacted with participants, sensitizing them about the harmful effects of substance abuse, preventive measures, and the importance of community participation in curbing the menace of drugs.

The programmes witnessed active participation from students, youth and members of the community, who engaged in discussions and pledged to contribute towards making their localities drug-free under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan.

Road Safety Awareness Elocution Competition held at GDC Ganderbal

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, MARCH 12: The Debate and Seminar Committee, in collaboration with the NSS Unit of Government Degree College, Ganderbal, successfully organized a District Level Elocution Competition on the theme "Traffic Ethics and Civic Responsibility" as part of the ongoing Road Safety Awareness Programme of the college.

The programme was conducted by Dr. Wasia, Convener, Debate and Seminar Committee, and highlighted the importance of traffic ethics and responsible civic behaviour for ensuring road safety.

The event commenced with a welcome address by Prof. Fouzia Fatima, Principal of the College, who emphasized the need for creating awareness among youth about traffic rules and responsible road behaviour. She appreciated the participation of students from different institutions and stressed the role of educational institutions in promoting road safety awareness.

The Guest of Honour, DSP Traffic, Gulzaar Ahmad War, delivered an insightful address on traffic regulations, road discipline, and civic responsibility. He highlighted the importance of awareness and responsible behaviour in reducing road accidents and ensuring safer roads for everyone.

Students from GDC Ganderbal, GDC Kangan, and GCET Safapora participated enthusiastically in the District Level Elocution Competition, presenting thoughtful speeches on the theme "Traffic Ethics and Civic Responsibility."

The programme witnessed active participation and meaningful discussions reflecting the commitment of young students towards road safety awareness.

The competition proved to be an effective platform for spreading awareness about traffic ethics, civic responsibility, and road safety among the youth of the district.

SHEW Shopian organises free health camp Distributes hygiene kits at GHSS Keller under BBBP

HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, MARCH 12: Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti Shopian in collaboration with the Health Department today organized a Free Health Camp and Hygiene Kit Distribution Drive at Government Higher Secondary School Keller, Shopian under the flagship initiative Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP). The programme was aimed at promoting health awareness, hygiene practices, and overall well-being among adolescent girls and women. During the camp, medical professionals from the Health

Department conducted comprehensive health check-ups, provided medical consultations and sensitized students about menstrual hygiene, nutrition and preventive healthcare.

On the occasion, hygiene kits were distributed among the girl students to encourage safe and healthy hygiene practices. The initiative was warmly received by the students and school staff, who appreciated the efforts of the Sankalp Hub and the Health Department in addressing the health needs of young girls. Officials from Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women Shopian highlighted that such

awareness and outreach activities are an integral part of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign, focusing on the health, education, dignity, and empowerment of the girl child. They emphasized that the Sankalp Hub will continue to conduct similar awareness and support programmes across the district to ensure that women and girls have better access to health services, information and essential facilities.

The programme witnessed active participation from students, teachers, health officials and representatives from the Social Welfare Department.

PD&SJ Kupwara inaugurates Legal Aid Care & Support Centre at Kralpora

HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, MARCH 12: Principal District & Sessions Judge (PD&SJ), Kupwara Chairman District Legal Services Authority) Kupwara, Manjeet Singh Manhas, today inaugurated the newly established Legal Aid Care & Support Centre at Kralpora.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Secretary DLSA Kupwara, Javid Ahmad Parry, Munsiff Judge Kralpora, Mansoor Ahmad Mir, members of the legal fraternity, officials of the Legal Services Authority, and local residents.

Speaking on the occasion, the PD&SJ emphasized that the establishment of the Legal Aid Care & Support Centre at Kralpora will significantly enhance access to justice for the people of the area. He highlighted that the Centre will

facilitate the delivery of free legal aid and services to eligible sections of society, particularly the underprivileged and marginalized.

He further stated that the initiative aims to bring legal assistance closer to the people and strengthen awareness about legal rights, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, and the various schemes of the Legal Services Authority.

Officials of the District Legal Services Authority reiterated their commitment to providing timely legal support, organizing legal awareness programmes, and ensuring that justice is accessible to all sections of society.

The local community welcomed the establishment of the office and expressed hope that it will help address legal issues more efficiently and strengthen the rule of law in the region.

Holistic Well-Being Camp for Senior Citizens organized at Shalimar under AVYAY

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MARCH 12: In a continued effort to promote active and healthy ageing among senior citizens, Social Welfare Department Srinagar organized a Holistic Well-Being Camp, featuring Yoga and wellness activities at Shalimar under the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY).

The programme was aimed at encouraging senior citizens to adopt healthy lifestyle practices that support physical fitness, mental well-being, and emotional balance. A large number of elderly participants attended the camp and enthusiastically took part in the yoga sessions and wellness interactions.

Expert instructors guided the participants through a series of simple and age-appropriate yoga exercises, breathing techniques, and relaxation practices designed to improve flexibility, reduce stress, and enhance overall

vitality. The camp also included interactive sessions highlighting the importance of regular physical activity, balanced nutrition, and mindfulness for maintaining a healthy and fulfilling life in old age.

Officials from the Social Welfare Department highlighted that the AVYAY, a flagship initiative, focuses on the welfare and empowerment of senior citizens by promoting their health, social engagement, and overall quality of life. They emphasized that such holistic well-being initiatives play a vital role in encouraging senior citizens to remain active, socially connected, and mentally resilient.

The Department reiterated its commitment to organizing similar programmes across the district to ensure that senior citizens continue to benefit from health-promoting and recreational activities.

SWD Srinagar organizes sensitization Programme under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MARCH 12: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP- Hub for Empowerment of Women- Mission Shakti Srinagar conducted Sensitization Programme at SP College today.

A sensitization program on the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative was organized to raise awareness about the importance of protecting and educating the girl child.

The program was attended by several resource persons who spoke on different aspects related to the safety, rights, and empowerment of women and girls.

Resource persons from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, highlighted the legal rights of women and the support mechanisms available through legal services institutions.

Syed Faisal Khalil from Cyber Police Srinagar addressed the participants on cyber safety, focusing on online threats, responsible social media use, and measures to protect young girls from cybercrime. Dr Tabzeer



Yaseen, Assistant Professor, also spoke on the occasion and emphasized the importance of education, gender equality, and community participation in ensuring the success of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign.

The speakers encouraged participants to actively support initiatives that promote the dignity, safety, and education of girls, and stressed the collective responsibility of society in building a safer and more inclusive environment for women.

DIPR Shopian conducts Nasha Mukht Awareness Programme at GHSS Zainapora

HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, MARCH 12: An awareness programme under the ongoing IEC Campaign on Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, J&K was conducted today by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Shopian in collaboration with the Education Department at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Zainapora.

SDM Zainapora, Bilal Ahmed attended the programme as the Chief Guest. While speaking on the occasion, he highlighted the measures being taken in the subdivision to tackle the menace of illegal cultivation of cannabis and destruction of wild bhung. He stated that due to sustained efforts of the district administration, cultivation over forty hectares of land were converted towards the Sustainable



and Cash crops which were previously used for poppy and Cannabis cultivation. He urged the audience to cooperate with the administration in eliminating the menace of drug abuse and illegal cultivation. He also advised students to stay away

from narcotics and become ambassadors of a drug-free society.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Education Officer, District Information Officer and other speakers highlighted the growing menace of drug abuse and stressed

the need for collective efforts to eradicate it from society.

They urged the participants to adopt a healthy lifestyle and spread awareness among people, especially the youth, about the harmful effects of drugs. The speakers emphasized that public cooperation, awareness and strong willpower are essential to make the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan a successful movement at the grassroots level.

On the occasion, two skits highlighting the ill effects of drug abuse were presented by the students of UPS Safanagri and Raja Art and Cultural Foundation Dooru, which were widely appreciated by the participants and officials present on the occasion. Slogan writing and painting competitions were also held on the theme of drug-free society in which 30 students from different schools participated.

HT EDITORIAL

Provide relief to masses during emergency

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg while addressing a press conference in Srinagar on Wednesday said that there is no need to worry on the energy front as there is sufficient stock of petrol, diesel and cooking gas in the valley. The Divisional Commissioner said that the domestic LPG consumers need not to worry since directions have been issued to provide hassle free supply of cooking gas to such people.

The Divisional Commissioner was enough to admit that restrictions have been enforced on the procurement and supply of commercial gas cylinders. The restrictions on the same are bound to impact the hotel and restaurant industry. Once cooking gas is not available to the hotels and restaurants these commercial establishments would be forced to shut down their operations. In such a manner the hospitality industry would suffer huge losses and one cannot rule out layoff of the staff. This needs to be looked into by the people at helm so that economic distress is avoided.

Over the years the restaurant business has picked up pace across the country with Kashmir being no exception. As the trend of take-aways and home delivery of food stuff has become a norm in the valley, more and more commercial cylinders are in demand in the market. In such a scenario it is imperative that necessary measures are taken so that the business does not get hit. Regulation of supply of LPG cylinders needs to be done so that no hoarding and black marketing takes place.

The concerned department needs to carry out a crackdown on the profiteers and hoarders so that there is no hoarding and profiteering. Regular checks need to be carried out so that nobody takes advantage of the precarious situation that has emerged after the West Asia crisis. There are people who want to make merry out of an emergency and they are not bothered about the difficulties that a common man faces.

Besides maintaining a regular check of the demand and availability of petrol and petroleum products it is also important to keep a vigil on the price mechanism. It is imperative that nobody is charged in excess of the government rate. The people want a solution to their daily problems and don't accumulate their woes and worries. The government needs to play a more proactive role in this regard and has to be more responsible as well.

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When Friday Meets the Sacred Month of Ramadhan



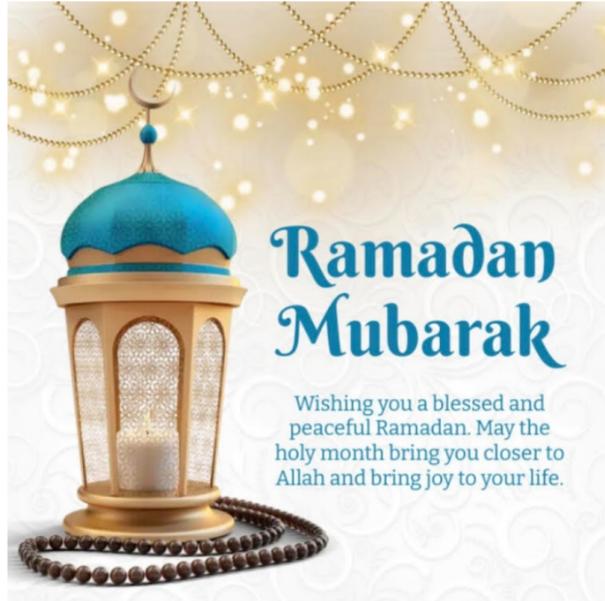
■ JAWAID IQBAL

In the gentle rhythm of the Islamic calendar, there are moments when time itself seems to bow in reverence. One such moment arrives when the sacred day of Jumu'ah falls within the blessed month of Ramadhan. It is not merely a coincidence of dates; it is a spiritual embrace—two fountains of mercy meeting to pour countless blessings upon the believers.

Ramadhan is the month when hearts soften, when souls awaken, and when the doors of mercy are opened wider than ever before. It is the month in which the divine words of the Qur'an were revealed, guiding humanity from darkness into light. During these days and nights, every act of goodness becomes heavier on the scales of reward, every prayer ascends with greater hope, and every tear shed in repentance becomes a pearl of forgiveness.

And then comes Friday—Jumu'ah—the most blessed day of the week. It is the day when believers gather shoulder to shoulder in humility before their Lord. The mosques fill with echoes of prayer, the sermons remind hearts of their purpose, and the air seems filled with unseen angels recording every whisper of remembrance.

But when Friday arrives in Ramadhan, something extraordinary happens. The believer wakes up with a heart that feels lighter yet deeper. The dawn of Fajr carries a sweetness that words cannot fully describe. The fasting soul feels hunger, yet the



Ramadan Mubarak

Wishing you a blessed and peaceful Ramadan. May the holy month bring you closer to Allah and bring joy to your life.

spirit feels nourished. The believer realizes that this day is not just another Friday—it is a Friday wrapped in the mercy of Ramadhan.

As the sun climbs higher, people prepare for the sacred gathering. Some walk quietly toward the mosque with prayer beads in their hands. Others recite verses of the Qur'an, their voices trembling with devotion. A poor man may sit silently in a corner, hoping that someone will remember him with charity before the sunset.

Inside the mosque, the atmosphere becomes indescribable. Lines of believers form in perfect unity—rich and poor, young and old, standing equal before their Creator. When the Jumu'ah Prayer begins, the hearts

beat with a shared rhythm of submission. Every forehead touching the ground carries a silent story—regret for past mistakes, hope for forgiveness, prayers for loved ones, and tears for a world full of suffering.

Some hands rise in supplication for a sick mother. Some hearts whisper prayers for a departed father. A student prays for success, a poor man prays for sustenance, and a sinner prays for one chance to begin again. And Allah listens to them all.

It is said that on Fridays there is a sacred moment—a hidden hour—when prayers are never rejected. Imagine that moment arriving while one is fasting in Ramadhan, with a heart softened by repentance and a tongue moist with remembrance. In

that moment, a single tear falling from the eye of a believer may weigh more than mountains of worldly wealth.

As sunset approaches, the fasting believers wait patiently for the call of Maghrib. Dates are placed on simple plates, water fills humble cups, and families gather around modest meals. When the call to prayer echoes across the streets and rooftops, the fast is broken with gratitude. That first sip of water feels like mercy flowing through the soul.

And somewhere, perhaps in a quiet corner of a mosque or the solitude of a small room, a believer raises trembling hands and whispers: "O Allah, forgive me before another Ramadhan passes without me."

The beauty of Ramadhan is that it reminds us how temporary life truly is. Last year many who stood beside us in prayer are no longer here today. Their voices that once recited the Qur'an have fallen silent. Their places in the prayer rows remain empty.

Yet we are still here. This is not merely survival; it is an invitation. An invitation to repent, to forgive others, to mend broken hearts, and to return to the path of mercy.

When Friday meets Ramadhan, it is as if heaven itself is reminding us: "Do not delay goodness. Do not postpone repentance. The doors of mercy are open now."

So let every believer hold this day close to their heart. Let them fill it with prayer, charity, kindness, and remembrance. Because perhaps—just perhaps—this Friday of Ramadhan may be the one that changes a life, wipes away years of mistakes, and opens the gates of eternal peace.

And when the night finally falls, the believer rests with a quiet hope in their heart—that somewhere in the unseen heavens, their name has been written among those who were forgiven.

The Month of Ramadan is the Best Way to Attain Piety



■ IMRAN RAINA

The month of Ramadan is one of the greatest blessings bestowed by Allah Almighty upon the Muslim Ummah. It is a month filled with divine mercy, forgiveness, and countless blessings. During this sacred period, the doors of mercy are opened and Allah's blessings descend upon believers like torrential rain. Unfortunately, many people remain unaware of the true value and status of this blessed month because most of their thoughts and struggles revolve around worldly matters and material pursuits. In reality, Ramadan is best appreciated by those whose hearts are focused on the Hereafter and whose lives are guided by the awareness of life after death.

The eagerness for Ramadan begins even before its arrival. Muslims often recite the supplication: "O Allah, bless us in the months of Rajab and Sha'ban and allow us to reach the month of Ramadan." This prayer reflects the deep longing and anticipation for Ramadan that exists in the hearts of true believers. Only those who understand the significance of this sacred month sincerely pray for the opportunity to witness and benefit from it.

The word "Ramadan" is derived from the Arabic root meaning "scorching heat." According to some scholars, the month was named so because it initially occurred during intense heat. Others explain that Ramadan burns away the sins of believers through Allah's special mercy and forgiveness. In this way, Ramadan becomes a means of spiritual purification for the faithful.

Ramadan is a special month of mercy granted by Allah Almighty to cleanse the hearts of believers. For eleven months of the year, people remain deeply engaged in worldly affairs, often leading to negligence and a weakening of their spiritual connection with their Creator. This blessed month provides an opportunity to remove that negligence



and revive faith. Just as a machine requires regular servicing and cleaning to function properly, the human heart also needs purification through worship, reflection, and repentance. Ramadan serves as that period of renewal, allowing believers to begin a new chapter in life with stronger faith and closer proximity to Allah.

The primary objective of fasting is to develop taqwa, or piety. Through fasting, a person learns to control desires and restrain the urges of the body and soul. Hunger and thirst remind believers of their dependence on Allah and encourage them to resist sinful behavior. The Holy Qur'an commands the believers: "O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may attain piety." This verse clearly highlights that the ultimate goal of fasting is spiritual discipline and righteousness.

Ramadan is also the month in which the Holy Qur'an was revealed. Therefore, believers are encouraged to increase the recitation and understanding of the Qur'an during this time. The nightly prayers of Taraweeh provide a special opportunity to listen to the Qur'an being recited and to reflect on its message. Along with prayer and recitation, sincere repentance and seeking forgiveness from Allah are essential acts of worship in Ramadan.

Charity and generosity are also highly emphasized in this blessed month. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was known for his generosity throughout the year, but during Ramadan his charity increased significantly. Following this noble example, Muslims should strive to help the poor, support the needy, and share their blessings with others.

Another important aspect of fasting is controlling one's actions and avoiding sins. True fasting is not limited to abstaining from food and drink; it also requires protecting the eyes, ears, tongue, and heart from wrongdoing. Backbiting, lying, gossiping, and wasting time on immoral entertainment contradict the spirit of fasting and diminish its reward.

In essence, Ramadan is a month of self-discipline, reflection, and spiritual growth. It teaches patience, compassion, humility, and gratitude. If observed with sincerity and devotion, it becomes the best means of attaining piety and strengthening one's relationship with Allah Almighty.

May Allah grant us the ability to understand the true spirit of Ramadan, to seek forgiveness for our shortcomings, and to benefit fully from the blessings of this sacred month. Ameen!

The writer is a teacher by profession and hails from Kangan, Ganderbal.

The Revelation of the Qur'an

A Timeless Gift of Guidance for Humanity



■ GULFAM BARJI

The arrival of the holy month of Ramadan brings a profound sense of spiritual reflection and devotion for Muslims across the globe. Observed through fasting from dawn to sunset, increased prayers, charity, and acts of kindness, Ramadan is a time when believers strive to strengthen their relationship with God and renew their moral commitment to society. Yet beyond the rituals and traditions associated with this sacred month lies a historical and spiritual event of immense importance: the revelation of the Holy Qur'an.

For Muslims, the Qur'an is not only the central religious text of Islam but also a universal message of guidance for humanity. It is believed to be the final divine revelation sent by God to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), completing the long chain of prophetic messages delivered to humankind throughout history. The Qur'an's message transcends time, geography, and culture, offering spiritual direction, ethical guidance, and a framework for a just and compassionate society.

■ The Beginning of Revelation

According to Islamic tradition, the revelation of the Qur'an began more than fourteen centuries ago during the blessed month of Ramadan. The first verses were revealed on a night known as Laylat al-Qadr, or the "Night of Power," which the Qur'an describes as a night "better than a thousand months." This night holds extraordinary significance in the Islamic calendar and is believed to be a time when divine mercy, blessings, and forgiveness descend upon the world.

The first revelation occurred in the solitude of the Cave of Hira, located in the mountains surrounding the city of Makkah. It was here that Prophet Muhammad, who often spent time in contemplation and spiritual reflection, received the first message from God through the Angel Gabriel (Jibreel). The opening words of the revelation carried

a powerful command: "Read in the name of your Lord who created."

These words not only marked the beginning of the Qur'anic revelation but also highlighted a central theme of Islam: the pursuit of knowledge and understanding. At a time when literacy was limited and knowledge was often restricted to a privileged few, the very first command of the Qur'an emphasized reading, learning, and reflection as fundamental elements of human progress.

■ A Gradual Revelation

One of the distinctive features of the Qur'an is that it was not revealed all at once. Instead, its verses were revealed gradually over a period of approximately twenty-three years. This gradual process allowed the teachings of the Qur'an to address real-life situations as they arose within the early Muslim community.

Whenever believers faced social, moral, or spiritual challenges, new revelations would offer guidance and clarity. This method ensured that the message of the Qur'an was not merely theoretical but directly connected to the realities of everyday life. Through this process, the early Muslim community was guided step by step in matters of faith, ethics, law, and social conduct.

The gradual revelation also played a crucial role in shaping the character and resilience of the believers. It strengthened their faith, nurtured their moral discipline, and prepared them to build a new society based on justice, equality, and compassion.

■ Core Teachings of the Qur'an

At the heart of the Qur'an's message lies the concept of Tawheed, the belief in the absolute oneness of God. This principle forms the foundation of Islamic faith and emphasizes that all power, authority, and accountability ultimately belong to the Creator. The Qur'an reminds humanity that every individual will be held responsible for their actions and encourages people to live lives guided by honesty, integrity, and moral responsibility.

In addition to its spiritual teachings, the Qur'an provides comprehensive guidance on social ethics and human relationships. It strongly advocates justice, fairness, and compassion in all aspects of life. The scripture repeatedly calls upon believers to stand firmly for justice, even when it may go against their



own interests.

The Qur'an also places great emphasis on caring for the vulnerable members of society. It encourages kindness toward orphans, generosity toward the poor, and respect for the dignity of every human being. Charity, compassion, and social responsibility are recurring themes throughout its verses. Significantly, the Qur'an introduced principles of social reform in a society that was deeply divided by tribal hierarchies and inequalities. It emphasized that all human beings are equal in the sight of God and that true honor lies in righteousness and moral conduct rather than wealth, race, or lineage.

■ Linguistic Beauty and Intellectual Influence

Another remarkable aspect of the Qur'an is its unique linguistic style and literary excellence. Revealed in classical Arabic, the Qur'an's eloquence, rhythm, and depth of meaning have captivated scholars and linguists for centuries. Even those who approach the Qur'an from a purely literary perspective acknowledge its extraordinary influence on Arabic language and literature.

Over the centuries, the Qur'an has inspired a vast intellectual tradition within Islamic civilization. Scholars engaged deeply with its verses, producing extensive works in theology, philosophy, jurisprudence, linguistics, and ethics. The pursuit of knowledge encouraged by the Qur'an contributed signifi-

cantly to the flourishing of scientific and cultural achievements during the golden age of Islamic civilization.

Muslim scholars made notable contributions to fields such as mathematics, astronomy, medicine, and philosophy. While these achievements were the result of many factors, the Qur'anic emphasis on knowledge, reflection, and inquiry played an important role in shaping a culture that valued intellectual exploration.

The Qur'an in the Modern World
Despite being revealed more than fourteen centuries ago, the message of the Qur'an continues to resonate in the modern world. Its teachings on justice, compassion, moderation, and accountability remain deeply relevant in addressing contemporary challenges.

Today, humanity faces numerous crises, including social inequality, political conflict, environmental degradation, and moral uncertainty. In such circumstances, the ethical framework presented in the Qur'an offers valuable insights into building a more balanced and humane society.

The Qur'an consistently promotes the principles of fairness, dialogue, and peaceful coexistence. It encourages people to respect diversity and recognize that differences among communities are part of the divine plan intended to foster understanding rather than hostility.

Furthermore, the Qur'an emphasizes the importance of moral responsibility in both personal and collective life. It

urges individuals to cultivate honesty, patience, humility, and compassion—qualities that are essential for maintaining harmony within families, communities, and nations.

■ Beyond Recitation: Living the Message

For Muslims, the Qur'an is not merely a text to be recited during prayers or religious gatherings. While its recitation holds great spiritual significance, the ultimate purpose of the Qur'an is to guide human behavior and inspire ethical living.

The Qur'an repeatedly invites believers to reflect upon its verses and apply their meanings in everyday life. This reflection encourages individuals to evaluate their actions, improve their character, and contribute positively to society.

Ramadan, in this sense, becomes a powerful reminder of the living relationship between believers and the Qur'an. During this month, Muslims around the world engage in increased recitation and study of the Qur'an, seeking not only spiritual reward but also deeper understanding of its message.

■ A Message for All Humanity

Ultimately, the revelation of the Qur'an represents far more than a historical event. It marks the beginning of a universal message intended to guide humanity toward truth, justice, and moral balance.

Throughout history, countless individuals and communities have drawn inspiration from the Qur'an's teachings, finding in its verses a source of comfort, wisdom, and hope. Its message continues to encourage humanity to rise above divisions and work toward a world built upon compassion, dignity, and mutual respect.

As the month of Ramadan reminds believers of the moment when this divine message first illuminated the world, it also calls upon them to renew their commitment to the values embodied in the Qur'an. By understanding its teachings and striving to live by them, individuals can contribute to building societies marked by justice, peace, and human dignity.

In essence, the Qur'an remains a timeless beacon of guidance—one that continues to illuminate the path toward spiritual fulfillment and ethical living for generations to come.

The author from Harwan, Srinagar

Enhance your knowledge, read newspapers



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHARTI

It has been centuries since the first newspaper was printed in the year 1605. In India, the first newspaper was published in 1779 by James Augustus. The Times of India is one of the leading newspapers in the country today, and there are a number of other prominent newspapers that are published daily in different countries across the globe. Newspaper reading adds new words to our vocabulary and provides us with current general knowledge about our surroundings. It is one of the most reliable sources of information and helps people remain aware of what is happening around them.

Today, everyone should have a gallery of knowledge to tackle difficult situations in day-to-day life. Every individual needs to be capable of facing different kinds of hardships and achieving success in life. Today's world is fully laced with advanced technology, and society needs technically skilled, energetic, and active people who possess good communication skills. These skills help individuals deal with others

properly, politely, and in a humble and kind manner.

Language is simply a medium through which we communicate with each other and express our ideas and thoughts. At the same time, we are living in a competitive world where we must have skills, motivation, and strong communication abilities. One should possess a wide range of knowledge to express thoughts clearly and confidently to the outside world. Reading newspapers regularly strengthens language skills and improves both reading and writing abilities.

During vacations, several coaching institutes offer English-speaking courses, personality-development training, and language-learning classes to help students prepare for employment. Nowadays, the competency level is very high among learners and job-seeking youth, but at the same time, many of us still lack essential skills. Education is mandatory to obtain a reputed job and earn a respectable income. Being educated enhances one's morale, develops personality, and increases self-respect and dignity.

There are many other sources that we should utilize to develop our overall personality. The time is not far when our nation will witness a revolution in education and development. A nation grows when its youth come forward with full zeal and enthusiasm, carrying dreams for the country and for themselves. When we

start to develop positive thoughts, set big goals, and move ahead with strong determination, no one can stop us from achieving success.

In today's article, I am going to explore the benefits of newspaper reading and how it helps us become educated unintentionally. These days, social media plays a major role in spreading information quickly. It brings many good things to light, but at the same time, it also has a negative side. Due to the influence of social media, many people spend more time on mobile phones instead of engaging in productive physical and mental activities. This habit can affect concentration and overall development.

Several Android applications display current happenings on mobile phones within a short time, and Google also plays a vital role in keeping us updated in day-to-day life. However, the newspaper is quite a different and more reliable learning medium for students and members of society. Newspaper reading helps us learn new words, understand proper sentence formation, and improve pronunciation. It provides a wide gallery of knowledge within a short period and keeps us informed about important national and international events.

Newspaper reading helps us know what is happening throughout the world, the country, and the state. It provides detailed information about politics, sports, education, health, science, and technology. It also gives updates about weather conditions,

national highways, job advertisements, government schemes, and renowned places worth visiting. By reading newspapers regularly, people become aware of the position of the share market, the state of the economy, and other significant developments.

Most importantly, newspaper reading enhances our vocabulary because editors use new and trending words in news columns. Readers come across various sentence structures and writing styles, which help improve their own writing skills. Other interesting features are also published in newspapers, including poetry, short stories, recipes, advertisements, religious facts, puzzles, cartoons, jokes, and educational articles. These sections make newspaper reading both informative and entertaining.

Newspapers also play an important role in shaping public opinion. They encourage people to think critically about social issues and national matters. Editorials and opinion columns present different viewpoints, which help readers develop their own perspectives. This habit strengthens analytical thinking and decision-making abilities.

Another major benefit of newspaper reading is that it builds discipline. When a person develops the habit of reading a newspaper daily, it becomes part of a healthy routine. Spending a few minutes every morning reading a newspaper is a productive way to start the day. It refreshes the mind and

prepares a person to face daily challenges with confidence.

For students, newspapers are extremely useful. They help in preparing for competitive examinations, improving language skills, and staying informed about current affairs. Many questions in examinations are based on current events, and regular newspaper reading provides accurate and updated information. Teachers also encourage students to read newspapers to broaden their knowledge base.

Newspapers in our country are published in many languages such as English, Urdu, and Hindi. Readers can choose the language they are most comfortable with and enjoy their favourite columns. This helps people from different backgrounds stay connected with national and global developments. Newspapers unite society by spreading awareness and promoting understanding among people.

In conclusion, newspaper reading is one of the best habits that a person can develop. It increases knowledge, improves language skills, builds confidence, and keeps us updated about the world. If you want to enhance your personality, broaden your thinking, and stay informed, make newspaper reading a part of your daily routine. It is an inexpensive and easily accessible source of knowledge that benefits people of all ages.

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The Mystery Of Global Warming



DR. SURINDERPAL SINGH

Global warming is one of the most serious environmental challenges faced by humanity in the twenty-first century. Over the past century, scientists and environmentalists have observed a steady rise in the Earth's average temperature. This warming trend is largely the result of human activities that release heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere. If the problem is not addressed in time, global warming can lead to severe climate changes that may affect ecosystems, human health, agriculture and global stability.

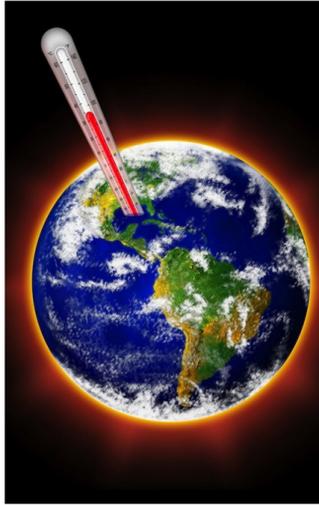
Global warming refers to the long-term increase in the Earth's average surface temperature caused by the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. These gases trap heat from the sun and prevent it from escaping back into space. This natural process is known as the greenhouse effect. However, when excessive amounts of gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide are released due to human activities, the greenhouse effect becomes stronger and leads to abnormal warming of the planet. While the greenhouse effect is essential for maintaining temperatures suitable for life on Earth, the rapid increase in greenhouse gas emissions has disturbed the natural balance of the climate system.

One of the primary reasons for global warming is the burning of fossil fuels. Coal, oil and natural gas are widely used for electricity generation, transportation and

industrial activities. The combustion of these fuels releases large quantities of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. With rapid industrialization and growing global energy demands, these emissions have increased significantly over the years. Another major factor is deforestation. Forests act as natural carbon sinks by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. However, large-scale clearing of forests for agriculture, urban development and industrial expansion has reduced the Earth's capacity to absorb greenhouse gases, thereby accelerating the warming process.

Industrial pollution also plays a crucial role in climate change. Many factories release not only carbon dioxide but also other harmful gases and particles into the air. In many regions of the world, rapid industrial growth has taken place without adequate environmental regulations, resulting in severe environmental imbalances. Agricultural practices are another important contributor to global warming. Activities such as livestock farming and rice cultivation release methane gas, which is a powerful greenhouse gas capable of trapping much more heat than carbon dioxide. In addition, rapid urbanization has intensified the problem. Expanding cities require more construction, transportation and energy consumption. Concrete buildings and paved surfaces absorb and retain heat, creating urban heat islands that increase local temperatures.

Wars and military conflicts between nations also have significant environmental consequences that contribute to global warming. During conflicts, the destruction of infrastructure releases enormous amounts of carbon emissions. Bombings and explosions often cause massive fires that burn forests, oil facilities and industrial plants, releasing large quantities of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.



Modern warfare also consumes vast amounts of fuel. Tanks, fighter aircraft, naval fleets and military vehicles depend heavily on fossil fuels, making the military sector one of the largest consumers of energy in the world. Furthermore, wars frequently damage forests, farmland and natural ecosystems that normally absorb carbon dioxide, worsening the effects of climate change.

After conflicts end, reconstruction activities also contribute to environmental damage. Rebuilding cities, roads and infrastructure requires large quantities of cement, steel and energy. Cement production, in particular, is responsible for significant carbon emissions. A notable example is the Gulf War, during which massive oil fires burned for months, releasing enormous amounts of smoke, pollutants and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere

and causing severe environmental damage.

The effects of global warming are visible across the world. Rising global temperatures are leading to the melting of glaciers and polar ice caps, which in turn causes sea levels to rise and threatens coastal regions. Extreme weather events such as heat waves, droughts and powerful storms are becoming more frequent and unpredictable. Global warming also leads to the loss of biodiversity as many species struggle to adapt to rapidly changing environmental conditions. In several parts of the world, agricultural productivity is declining due to irregular rainfall, changing temperatures and increased climate stress. These developments pose serious threats to food security, human health and global economic stability.

Addressing global warming requires coordinated efforts at global, national and individual levels. One of the most effective strategies is the transition to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and hydroelectric power. These alternatives can reduce dependence on fossil fuels and significantly lower greenhouse gas emissions. Afforestation and forest conservation are equally important. Planting trees and protecting existing forests help absorb carbon dioxide and restore ecological balance. Improving energy efficiency is another important step. The use of energy-efficient appliances, better building designs and reduced energy consumption can contribute greatly to lowering emissions.

Sustainable transportation also plays a key role in combating climate change. Encouraging public transport, promoting electric vehicles and supporting cycling and walking can reduce fuel consumption and air pollution. Responsible consumption is equally important. Reducing waste, recycling materials and choosing environmentally friendly products can help lower individual carbon footprints and contribute to environmental protection.

ute to environmental protection.

In this context, global warming should also be included as an essential topic in school curricula. Educating students about climate change can help develop environmentally responsible citizens. When students learn about environmental challenges from an early age, they gain a deeper understanding of the causes and consequences of climate change. Education can also encourage responsible behaviour such as saving energy, conserving water and reducing waste. Learning about climate science promotes critical thinking and helps students understand global environmental challenges more clearly. Moreover, young minds often bring innovative ideas and technological solutions that can contribute to environmental protection. Climate education also helps students realize that protecting the planet is a shared global responsibility.

Global warming is therefore not merely an environmental issue but a complex global challenge that affects every aspect of life on Earth. Human activities, industrial expansion, deforestation and even wars contribute to rising global temperatures. If immediate and effective measures are not taken, the consequences may become irreversible and threaten the future of the planet.

Governments, industries and individuals must work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adopt sustainable practices. Education also has a crucial role in building awareness among future generations. By understanding the causes and solutions of global warming, humanity can take meaningful steps to protect the Earth and ensure a sustainable future for all.

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

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Kultoora Villagers Laud PDD Handwara Team for Quick Restoration of Power Supply

■ DR.AB QAYOOM

HANDWARA, MAR 12: Residents of Kultoora village in north Kashmir's Handwara area have expressed gratitude to the Power Development Department (PDD) Division Handwara for its prompt response in repairing a damaged 250 KV transformer that supplies electricity to around 200 households, including the village's main Markazi Jamia Masjid Sharief. According to locals, the transformer developed a fault, causing power disruption in the area. However, the PDD Division Handwara acted swiftly and repaired the completely damaged transformer within a few hours, restoring electricity to the village.



The villagers appreciated the efforts of Executive Engineer (Exn) PDD Division Handwara, Shri Mohd Asif along with his team of Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs) Shabir Ahmad and Sajjad Mir, and the mechanical team of the division for their dedication and quick action. The repaired transformer was later transported back to the station through the PDD transport service and reinstalled, bringing relief to the residents. Locals also hailed the efforts of local casual labour employee Shabaz Ahmad Tantray, who worked tirelessly and showed great dedication to address the public concern regarding the damaged transformer. The residents said such timely action by the department reflects their commitment towards public service and ensures uninterrupted power supply to the village.

CEO Ganderbal Continues School Inspections in Hariganiwan and Kangan Zones on Public Demand

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, MAR 12: Continuing the series of field inspections, the Chief Education Officer Ganderbal today conducted a ground level inspection of several schools falling under Zone Hariganiwan and Zone Kangan to review the academic and infrastructural scenario. The Chief Education Officer was accompanied by the Assistant Director Planning and was joined by the Zonal Education Officer Hariganiwan during the inspection of schools in Zone Hariganiwan and by the Zonal Education Officer Kangan during the visit to schools in Zone Kangan. During the visit, the officer reached the far-flung High



School Sumbal Bala early in the morning and attended the morning assembly. The officer took a detailed note of accommodation, availability of facilities and overall functioning of the institution. While interacting with the students, teachers and members of the local community, the officer emphasized the importance of maintaining academic discipline and ensuring a conducive learning environment in schools. The officer also held a brief interaction with the local public, on proposal for construction of new school building. The Chief Education Officer patiently listened to their concerns and assured that all genuine issues will be examined and addressed on priority. Later, the officer visited Primary School Margund and other nearby schools in the vicinity of Kangan where the functioning of schools, attendance of staff and students, and implementation of academic plans were also reviewed.

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

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

Public Notice

I, 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 KALANTRA / KREERI

Subject: Application MOHAMMAD ABBAS SHEIKH S/O GH MOHAMMAD SHEIKH R/O SHEIKHPORA Tehsil KREERI for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of daughter FOZIA ABBAS fort he issuance of RBA in his own favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the SHEIKHPORA community having annual income 148000 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1... MOHAMMAD ABBAS SHEIKH self 50 years Farmer
- 2... FAMILDA BAGUM wife ,42 years H/W
- 3... BISMAL ABBAS daughter ,19 years student
- 4... FOZIA ABBAS daughter 18 years student
- 5... ANIKA ABBAS // 07 years //
- 6... MADIHA ABBAS 05 years //

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

NAIB TEHSILDAR KALANTRA

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREERI

Subject: Application SHABIR AHMAD SHEIKH S/O GH MOHAMMAD SHEIKH R/O SHEIKHPORA Tehsil KREERI for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of self fort he issuance of RBA in his own favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the SHEIKHPORA community having annual income 118000 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1... SHABIR AHMAD SHEIKH self 55 years TAILOR
- 2... JABEENA BAGUM wife ,53 years H/W
- 3... ULFAT SHABIR daughter ,23 years H/W
- 4... RIFAT SHABIR daughter 19 years student
- 5... MUSKAAN SHABIR // 19 years //
- 6... MUBASHIR SHABIR SHEIKH 14 years //

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

NAIB TEHSILDAR KALANTRA

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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 Wagooora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertainingto Birth of NUSRAT MUSHTAQ D/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD PARRAY R/O. HAIL JAGIR Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 02/05/2002 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

My son's name has been wrongly mentioned as MOHAMMAD HASAN MIR & his mother's name SHAISTA BEGUM W/O MUMTAZ AHMAD MIR in his date of Birth certificate issued by SHO kreeri bearing Registration No 157/15 A/psk While his correct name is MOHAMMAD HASAAN MIR & his correct mothers is SHAYISTA BANO as per Hospital date of Birth record Issued by District Hospital Baramulla which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name.....MUMTAZ AHMAD DAR , F/O ...MOHAMMAD HASAAN MIR , Mother's name...SHAYISTA BANO . R/O ...Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREERI

Subject: Application AADIL AHMAD DAR S/O GH MOHAMMAD DAR R/O SHEIKHPORA Tehsil KREERI for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of self fort he issuance of RBA in his own favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the DAR community having annual income 260000 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1... GH MOHAMMAD DAR self 70 years Farmer
- 2... HAJIRA BAGUM wife 65 years H/W
- 3... SHOWKAT AHMAD son 34 years Labour
- 4... WAZIRA BEGUM daughter in Law 33 years H/W
- 5... HAFSA SHOWKAT Grand daughter 04 years student
- 6... ABU BAKAR Grand son ,02 years infant
- 7... AADIL AHMAD DAR son 30 years student

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

NAIB TEHSILDAR KALANTRA

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 Wagooora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertainingto Birth of ALI MOHAMMAD MIR S/O GH MOHAMMAD MIR R/O. KHISIPORA KREERI Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 13/02/2024 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

My son's name has been wrongly mentioned as MOHAMMAD BASSEL S/O KHURSHEED AHMAD WAR in his Date of Birth certificate issued by SDH kreeri while his correct name is MOHAMMAD BASSAL WAR S/O KHURSHEED AHMAD WAR which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of BMO / SDH kreeri within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....KHURSHEED AHMAD WAR F/O...MOHAMMAD BASSEL WAR R/o...SHEIKHPORA Tehsil... KREERI

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREERI

Subject: Application MOHAMMAD RAMZAN MIR S/O ALI MOHAMMAD MIR R/O KAKOTHAL Tehsil KREERI for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of self fort he issuance of RBA in his own favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of KAKOTHAL of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the MIR community having annual income 130 000 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1..MOHAMMAD RAMZAN MIR Head of Family 62 years Labour
- 2...SARWA BAGUM wife 55 years H/W
- 3...REHANA BEGUM daughter 21 years student
- 4...RAZIA RAMZAAN daughter 21 years student
- 5...SABREENA BEGUM // 18 years student
- 6...UZMA RAMZAAN // 13 years student

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

NAIB TEHSILDAR KALANTRA

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT SOGAM

ORDER

Whereas, repeated complaints were received regarding misconduct, rude behaviour, non-cooperation and non-compliance with departmental norms by the Anganwadi Helper posted at Anganwadi Centre Muqam Sharifdar, Panchayat Halqa Hayathpora, which adversely affected the smooth functioning of the centre.

Whereas, this office issued notices to the said Anganwadi Helper vide Notice Nos. CDPO/Poshan/SGM/25/1104-06 Dated: 04-10-2025, CDPO/Poshan/SGM/25/1167-69 Dated: 17-10-2025, and CDPO/Poshan/SGM/25/1171-72 Dated: 22-10-2025, directing her to explain her conduct and comply with departmental instructions.

Whereas, despite the service of the above notices, the said Anganwadi Helper neither responded to the notices nor attended this office during the period of attachment, thereby showing disregard towards official communications and departmental directions.

Whereas, it has been repeatedly reported that whenever the Supervisor or any departmental official visited the said Anganwadi Centre, the Anganwadi Helper behaved rudely and failed to cooperate with the officials, and further remained deliberately absent during important programmes, resulting in failure to ensure proper functioning of the centre and disruption in delivery of services to the beneficiaries.

Whereas, owing to her continued absence, failure to ensure proper functioning of the centre, non-provision of sufficient and appropriate space for running the Anganwadi Centre and involvement in circumstances leading to disruption of official duties, the honorarium of the Anganwadi Helper as well as the rent of the AWC premises were kept withheld, as no work no wages and due to closure of Anganwadi Centre.

Whereas, a Social Audit of the said Anganwadi Centre was conducted on 17-12-2025 under the directions of the District Administration, after which the Tehsil Social Welfare Officer, Kupwara (Social Audit Officer), vide Letter No: TSWOK/Estt/2025/1734 Dated: 23-12-2025, reported that during the inspection, the audit team and Supervisor concerned faced serious misbehavior, use of inappropriate and objectionable language by the family members and Anganwadi Helper of the said Anganwadi Centre and obstruction at the centre, which created an uncooperative environment due to which the social audit and further verification could not be completed. The report further highlighted serious lapses including misuse of government property as the electric heater issued to the Anganwadi Centre was taken by the house owner/AW Helper for personal use, lack of proper cleanliness at the centre and dumping of cardboard boxes of their own inside the room which adversely affected hygienic conditions, besides lack of cooperation with government officials during the social audit process.

Whereas, this office vide communication No: CDPO/Poshan/SGM/26/1390-94 Dated: 13-01-2026 submitted the matter to District Programme Officer, Poshan Kupwara seeking approval for disengagement of the said Anganwadi Helper of AW Centre Muqam Sharifdar in view of the repeated complaints, misconduct, non-cooperation and findings of the Social Audit Report and the District Programme Officer, Kupwara communicated that action shall be taken against the said Anganwadi Helper as per HR Policy vide No: DPO/Poshan/26/682-83 Dated: 10-02-2026.

Whereas, the conduct of the Anganwadi Helper reflects gross negligence of duties, indiscipline, misbehavior with the colleagues, senior officers/officials and violation of the guidelines governing the engagement of Anganwadi functionaries under Mission Poshan, which makes her unsuitable and unfit for continuation as Anganwadi Helper at the said Centre to save the environment of the sector in particular and project level in general.

Therefore, in view of the above facts and in accordance with the provisions of the HR Policy governing Anganwadi functionaries, the Anganwadi Helper of AWC Muqam Sharifdar is hereby disengaged from her honorary services with immediate effect, and the Supervisor concerned shall ensure proper safety of all records and non-nutrition items of the Centre through the concerned Anganwadi Worker and will shift the Centre to a feasible/proper place in the same ward for smooth functioning of the Centre with immediate effect.

No: CDPO/POSHAN/SGM/26/1611-15 | Dated: 02/03/2026

Sd/- Child Dev. Project Officer, Poshan Project Sogam

DIPK: 11831/25 | Dated: 12-03-2026

DC Anantnag chairs NCORD Meeting, Reviews Anti-Drug Abuse Measures

Emphasizes Departmental Coordination to tackle Drug Menace

HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, MARCH 12: Deputy Commissioner (District Magistrate) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi Din Bhat, today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to review the measures undertaken by concerned departments to curb drug abuse and trafficking in the district.

The meeting was attended by SP, ACR, SDMs, CEO, CMO, CAO, ARTO, DSWO, Tehsildars, ETO, Assistant Drug Controller, specialists from the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF), CEO MCA, representatives of GMC Anantnag and GDCs, and EOs of MCs, besides other members of the district-level NCORD committee and concerned officials.

During the meeting, the DC sought a detailed Action Report from all departments regarding the directions issued during previous meetings and reviewed the progress achieved.

A comprehensive review was held regarding enforcement measures against drug supply networks, seizures and legal action under relevant laws, surveillance mechanisms including the installation of CCTV cameras at vulnerable hotspots,

awareness and IEC activities under Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan in educational institutions and communities, the rehabilitation of victims, monitoring of medical establishments, the suspension or cancellation of licenses for violations, and the functioning of the ATF.

During the meeting, it was informed that 95% reduction in poppy cultivation has been reported with destruction on 1 Kanal 11 Marlas in 2025 from 58 Kanals 2 Marlas in 2024.

Similarly, a large-scale destruction of wild cannabis (bung) was undertaken by enforcement agencies, with approximately 523 Kanals cleared during 2025.

The meeting was apprised of the functioning of the Drug De-Addiction Centre at Ashajipora, where 121 Outpatient Department (OPD) and 36 Inpatient Department (IPD) substance abuse victims were provided treatment, counseling, and rehabilitation services during January and February 2026. The ATF at GMC Anantnag has witnessed 33 fresh registrations since the last NCORD meeting held in February, of whom were given IPD treatment.

On the occasion, the SP Anantnag informed the chair that 35 NDPS cases have been registered and 43 accused persons



have been arrested since January 2026. Supervisory notes have been issued in respect of all 35 cases; five cases have been

challenged, while the remaining 30 cases are under investigation. Also 25 hotspots have been identified, where a total of 17

cases were lodged along with 20 arrests during this period. The Assistant Drug Controller informed the meeting that

medical establishments are under CCTV and CBS surveillance, adding that nine medical licenses have been suspended and one cancelled since the last NCORD meeting. The meeting was further informed that 14 driving licenses and 13 vehicles have been suspended since 2025.

Departments such as Social Welfare, Education, Higher Education, Excise Taxation, RDD, ULBs, and Revenue highlighted the awareness programs and IEC activities conducted during the last year. These involved youth, students, community leaders, and other stakeholders to sensitize vulnerable groups. Awareness campaigns in schools, educational institutions, and other community platforms will be intensified following their reopening, with the active participation of all stakeholders.

Addressing the meeting, the DC stressed the need for the prompt identification of drug peddlers and strict legal action including property attachments against those involved in drug trafficking. He also emphasized strengthening surveillance in vulnerable areas through the installation of CCTV cameras and improving monitoring mechanisms in educational institutions and medical establishments.

The DC further directed

departments to intensify awareness campaigns in schools, colleges, Panchayats, and urban areas, particularly targeting vulnerable sections of society. He emphasized interdepartmental coordination and sustained collective efforts are essential to effectively combat the menace of drug abuse in the district.

Emphasizing the importance of timely treatment and rehabilitation for victims of substance abuse, the DC said such individuals shall be supported through various skill development and self-employment/livelihood initiatives, like Mission Yuva, to facilitate their reintegration into society.

Dr. Bilal issued directions to Tehsildars, Drug Control, and Police authorities to collectively analyze drug abuse patterns, especially in hotspots, and share vital information with each other so that target-oriented measures can be put in place. He further instructed the concerned departments to update the list of courier agencies and monitor their services regularly to prevent any misuse.

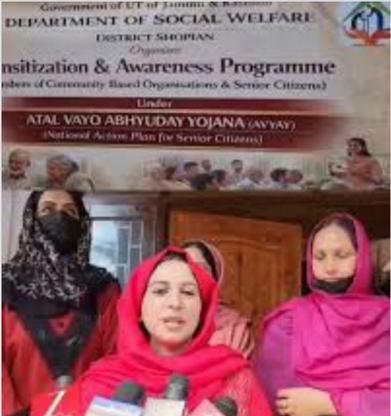
The meeting concluded with the district administration's resolve to carry out coordinated, sustained, and result-oriented action against drug abuse in the district.

OSC Shopian organizes awareness programme for Senior Citizens under AVYAY

HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, MARCH 12: One Stop Centre (OSC) Shopian, Department of Social Welfare, today organized an awareness programme for community-based organizations and senior citizens under Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY) at One Stop Centre Shopian.

During the programme, awareness was imparted regarding various Social Welfare schemes, services provided by the One Stop Centre and the Women Helpline 181.



A large gathering of senior citizens and participants attended the programme and actively participated in the session.

On the occasion, the Administrator, One Stop Centre Shopian, delivered a brief address highlighting the importance of awareness about welfare schemes and urged the participants to take advantage of various government initiatives meant for senior citizens, women and other vulnerable sections of society.

The programme concluded with an interactive session and grievance redressal, making the event informative and beneficial for the participants.

Deputy CM reviews progress on road, bridge projects in Padder-Nagseni constituency; emphasises expeditious execution

Asks installation of Bailey bridge for smooth pilgrim movement at Chashoti

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MARCH 12: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today convened a meeting to review progress on the ongoing road and bridge development projects in the Padder-Nagseni constituency.

The meeting was attended by the Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma.

The Deputy Chief Minister assessed the status of all ongoing road and bridge projects being executed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and the Public Works Department sector.

While reviewing the works, the Deputy Chief Minister stressed the need for speedy and quality

execution of all ongoing projects to ensure timely completion. "The government is committed to strengthen road infrastructure and ensure seamless connectivity to all the habitations across the region. Any lapses and delays in execution shall be viewed seriously," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the concerned officers to ensure that local MLAs are taken on board during planning and execution of projects, so that development works are aligned with the local needs and priorities.

"Ensure public representatives are consulted for every work execution and plan formation for adequate and required development projection and implementation,"



he said.

He also asked for installation of a Bailey bridge to facilitate hassle-free movement of pilgrims and the general public. He directed the officers to take immediate steps for placing a Bailey bridge at village Chashoti in Kishtwar which was washed away during

last year's floods, ensuring restoration of connectivity at the earliest.

"Ensure the pilgrims do not suffer and have seamless accessibility before the pilgrimage starts," he said.

He further directed for completion of all the ongoing

projects within stipulated timelines besides taking up the projects already in the pipeline on priority to accelerate development in Padder-Nagseni constituency.

The LoP discussed the current status of various projects and raised issues of public interest with the Minister seeking timely resolution of the same.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Chief Engineer PMGSY Jammu, Purshotam Kumar, Chief Engineer Chenab Zone K.K. Attri, Director Finance PWD, Mazhar Khan, SEs and Executive Engineers besides other concerned officers.

The meeting also included detailed discussion on various NABARD and CRF projects being implemented in the constituency.

Yasha Mudgal reviews functioning of Jammu Central Co-operative Bank Limited

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MARCH 12: Commissioner Secretary, Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting with the senior officers of Jammu Central Co-operative Bank Limited (JCCB) to assess bank's overall functioning, with emphasis on its financial health, operational efficiency and key performance indicators. The meeting was attended by Registrar Cooperative Societies J&K, Mohammad Shafiq Chak; Managing Director/CEO, JCCB, Bal Krishan; Executive Manager, JCCB,

Paramjeet Singh Slathia; General Manager, NABARD, Vikas Mittal; Branch Heads of JCCB and other concerned officers and officials.

During the meeting, the Managing Director delivered a detailed presentation outlining the bank's current operational status, key financial parameters, ongoing challenges and the strategic roadmap for enhancing performance. He also provided updates on physical and financial achievements vis-à-vis allocated targets.

The review placed significant focus on the bank's financial health, including its advances portfolio, priority sector

lending, Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), recovery performance, and deposit mobilization, particularly Current and Savings Account (CASA) deposits to bolster the financial base. The bank currently serves over 2.28 lakh deposit accounts, with total deposits standing at approximately 1282.90 crore.

The Commissioner Secretary underscored the critical need for strengthening financial discipline and improving core banking parameters. She emphasized expanding the credit portfolio in productive sectors while maintaining prudent risk management and robust recovery mechanisms.

AJKAOWF delegation meets Agriculture Minister; raises promotion, pay anomaly issues

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MARCH 13: A delegation of the All Jammu & Kashmir Agriculture Officers Welfare Forum (AJKAOWF) on Thursday called on Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Cooperatives and Election Javid Ahmad Dar and discussed several long pending issues concerning Agriculture Officers in the department.

The delegation highlighted the delay in convening Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) meetings, stating that the prolonged pendency has adversely affected the career progression and morale of officers in the Agriculture Production Department. The forum urged the Minister to expedite the process so that the eligible officers receive timely promotions.

The delegation also raised the issue of pay anomalies across different cadres within the department. It stressed that addressing these disparities is essential to ensure fairness, maintain motivation and establish parity among the officers working in various wings of the agriculture sector.

Another key concern flagged by the forum was to strengthen Human Resource Management (HRM) Section in the department. The representatives suggested that such a section (HRM) would facilitate the systematic handling of service matters, including promotions, seniority, transfers and other administrative issues.

The Minister assured the delegation that the concerns would be examined on priority and appropriate steps would be taken for their resolution.

Among those present during the meeting were OSD to the Minister Des Raj Bhagat and Deputy Secretary APD Rameshwar Kumar, who also participated in the discussions.

The delegation reiterated its commitment to work in close coordination with the government for development of the agriculture sector and the welfare of officers serving the farming community of Jammu & Kashmir.

Judicial Academy, Labour Department organise training programme on "Labour Codes"

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MARCH 12 Under the patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy) Arun Palli and guidance of Chairperson and Members of the Governing Committee of the J&K Judicial Academy in collaboration with the Labour Department organised a one day training programme on "Labour Codes" was organized today at the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy, Moominabad, Srinagar, for the officers and officials of the Labour Department of Kashmir Province.

The programme commenced

with an introductory address by Naseer Ahmad Dar, Director, J&K Judicial Academy. He emphasized the growing importance of capacity building in understanding the evolving labour law framework. He highlighted that the consolidation of multiple labour legislations into four comprehensive labour codes marks a significant transformation in India's labour law regime and necessitates continuous training of administrative and quasi-judicial authorities responsible for implementation.

Naseer Ahmad Dar also acknowledged the presence of Charandeep Singh, Labour Commissioner, J&K and underscored

the importance of institutional collaboration between the Judicial Academy and the Labour Department in strengthening effective enforcement and interpretation of labour laws.

In his special address, Labour Commissioner Charandeep Singh stressed the need for continuous capacity building of labour officers in light of the recent labour law reforms. He appreciated the role of the J&K Judicial Academy in providing structured training programmes that enhance the professional competence of administrative and quasi-judicial officers.

The first technical session, "Overview of Labour Law Reforms:

Transition from Multiple Legislations to the Four Labour Codes," was delivered by Mir Mubashir Altaf, Assistant Professor, School of Law, University of Kashmir. He provided a detailed overview of the rationale behind labour law reforms and explained the transition from 29 central labour legislations to four consolidated labour codes. The session highlighted the objectives of simplification, rationalization, and improved compliance mechanisms within the labour law framework.

The second session was conducted by Dr. Yasir Latief Handoo, Assistant Professor, School of Law, University of Kashmir, who

spoke on the Code on Social Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. He focused on the compliance framework, responsibilities of labour authorities, and enforcement challenges in implementing these codes.

The third and concluding session was conducted by Anamika Gautam, Assistant Professor, School of Law, University of Kashmir, who discussed the Code on Wages, 2019 and the Industrial Relations Code, 2020. She elaborated on their salient features, the powers and functions of authorities under the codes, and the adjudicatory mechanisms provided therein.

SAIL clocks record sales in FY26 records sales of 18.24 MT

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 12 : The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has clocked its historical sales in the Financial Year 2026 during the April to February period, recording a total sales of 18.24 million tonnes (MT), registering a 14% year-on-year (y-o-y) growth.

During the same period, SAIL also achieved the highest-ever cash collection of Rs 1.11 lakh crore, reflecting a 10% y-o-y growth.

In February 2026, the company achieved total sales of 1.58 MT. The company reduced its inventory by 1.05 lakh tonnes compared to January 2026 and lowered its borrowings by Rs 1000 crore.



On the results, AK Panda, Director (Finance) with additional charge of Director (Commercial) said, "We are ready to adapt and grow with the market. By managing inventory and working capital smartly, we are showing financial discipline that strengthens the company's foundation. At the same time, our record sales and cash collections are proof of the trust our customers place in us."

Sharing the results details, SAIL said it has reintroduced the production of chequered plates, catering to the demand from the relevant sector.

For the first time, chequered plates are being produced from SAIL's Bokaro Steel Plant located in Jharkhand. Notably, the brokerage firm ICICI Direct has turned bullish on SAIL, citing favourable demand tailwinds, safeguard duty-driven steel prices, and the company's focus on optimisation. The brokerage has assigned a 'Buy' call on SAIL with a target price of Rs 200.

The target price implies a 33% upside from the previous close of Rs 150.15 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) UNI

Adani Gangavaram Port launches digital smart gates to boost cargo efficiency

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

VISAKHAPATNAM, MAR 12: Adani Gangavaram Port Limited on Wednesday unveiled its Digital Smart Gates, an automated entry system for cargo vehicles described as a "DigiYatra-like" initiative for ports. The system is designed to enhance operational efficiency and streamline logistics at the Visakhapatnam facility.

The system was inaugurated by N. Sridhar, Principal Commissioner of Customs & CGST, in the presence of senior customs officials and port management at the facility in Visakhapatnam. In a release, the Port said the digital gates have been implemented across key operational points including parking zones, entry gates, weighbridges and tarpaulin stations, enabling automated and contactless vehicle movement across the port. The system integrates FASTag and RFID-based verification with the port's Terminal Operating System (TOS) and Port

Operating System, allowing faster vehicle clearance, improved security checks and real-time monitoring of cargo movement.

The initiative is expected to reduce congestion, minimise manual intervention and improve overall turnaround time for logistics operators by enabling seamless digital tracking and automated documentation. Speaking on the occasion, Sridhar said technology-driven systems in port operations play a key role in facilitating seamless trade while maintaining regulatory oversight. Port authorities said the digital transformation initiative aims to strengthen transparency, improve traffic management and deliver a more predictable and efficient experience for transport partners and customers.

With the implementation of Digital Smart Gates, the Port said it aims to set new benchmarks for automation and operational efficiency in India's maritime logistics sector. UNI

India's energy sector showing resiliency amid west asian unrest

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MAR 12 : The ongoing unrest in West Asia appears to be destabilising the global energy sector, raising concerns over disruptions in oil supplies through critical chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz and attacks on energy infrastructure.

In the midst of the crisis, the Strait of Hormuz, often described as the world's most important oil transit chokepoint, has come under renewed focus due to its central role in global energy trade.

According to estimates by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), nearly 25 per cent of the world's seaborne oil trade and around 20 per cent of global liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments pass through the narrow maritime corridor connecting the Persian Gulf with the Arabian Sea.

For India, the strategic waterway carries particular significance as nearly 40 per cent of the country's crude oil imports pass through the Strait of Hormuz.

Any prolonged disruption or complete closure due to military escalation could therefore have implications for India's energy

security and supply chains.

However, India currently maintains a substantial energy buffer to manage potential supply disruptions. The country holds over 250 million barrels of crude oil and petroleum products — equivalent to roughly 4,000 crore litres — across its supply chain.

These reserves provide an estimated seven to eight weeks of buffer coverage.

The stocks are distributed across a wide network of storage infrastructure, including above-ground tanks, underground strategic petroleum reserve caverns, pipeline systems, terminal tankage, and offshore storage vessels.

Strategic petroleum reserves located at Visakhapatnam, Mangalore, and Padur further strengthen India's emergency preparedness.

Another mitigating factor is that only about 40 per cent of India's crude imports pass through the Strait of Hormuz, meaning nearly 60 per cent of supplies could remain unaffected even if the waterway faces disruption.

Over the past decade, India has significantly diversified its crude sourcing to reduce geopolitical risk. The country's supplier base

has expanded from 27 to about 40 nations spanning six continents. Apart from Gulf suppliers, India now imports crude from Russia, West Africa, the United States, Central Asia, and other non-Gulf routes, providing flexibility in times of disruption.

New energy supply arrangements with partners such as the United States and the United Arab Emirates have also strengthened long-term supply security.

India's strong refining sector further provides resilience in the global energy landscape. With a refining capacity of around 258 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA), India is the fourth-largest refining hub in the world.

The capacity exceeds the country's domestic consumption of about 210-230 MMTPA, enabling refiners to process a wide range of crude grades while also exporting refined petroleum products to global markets.

Russia has emerged as India's largest crude supplier in recent years, particularly after 2022, when discounted Russian oil reshaped trade flows.

The shift has helped India secure supplies at competitive prices while diversifying sources away from

traditional Gulf dependence.

Domestic energy initiatives are also helping moderate the impact of crude imports. India's ethanol blending programme has reached the 20 per cent blending level, displacing nearly six million tonnes of crude oil annually — equivalent to roughly 44 million barrels.

Since 2014, the programme has saved around Rs 1.36 lakh crore in foreign exchange while generating approximately Rs 1.18 lakh crore in income for farmers.

Despite these buffers, experts warn that sustained price spikes in global crude markets could significantly impact India's import bill and inflation outlook.

Karthik Ganesan, Fellow and Director Strategic Partnerships at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) said the latest price spikes and supply disruptions highlight India's continuing vulnerability to imported crude.

"The spike in prices and supply shocks once again brings to the fore India's tenuous relationship with imported crude oil.

This must give us even more impetus to seek solutions to reduce our dependence on imported crude. Driving down demand for oil products from private mobility

by pricing it appropriately and incentivising a slow shift to electric cooking and away from LPG in urban India can help alleviate the situation, even in the short to medium term," he said.

Ganesan also noted that if global crude prices remain elevated at around USD 115 per barrel, India's crude import bill could increase by nearly USD 6 billion per month for every month prices remain at that level.

The increase would represent roughly a 50 per cent jump in the current crude import bill, with petroleum imports already accounting for nearly 23 per cent of India's total import basket.

Coming on the expected inflationary trends on petrol and diesel prices, Ganesan said, "Price spikes and supply shocks once again expose India's vulnerability to imported crude.

This should accelerate efforts to curb oil demand through better pricing of private mobility and a gradual shift from LPG to electric cooking in urban India."

Ganesan pointing towards an RBI research said that it suggested that a 10pc rise in global crude oil prices could raise headline inflation by about 20 bps (0.2pc increment). UNI

Jio AI Classroom on JioPC now in Odia language

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BHUBANESWAR, MAR 12: Strengthening its commitment to digital inclusion and technology-led education, Reliance Jio has announced that the AI Classroom experience on JioPC is now available in the Odia language, making advanced digital learning more accessible for users across Odisha.

The AI Classroom, powered by JioPC and designed by the Jio Institute, enables students, educators and learners to access artificial intelligence tools, interactive



learning resources and cloud-based computing in a simple and affordable manner. With the addition of Odia language support, users can now interact with AI tools, explore learning content and carry out digital tasks more comfortably in their native language.

JioPC is a cloud-based personal computing solution that allows users to access a full desktop environment through a television or monitor without the need for expensive hardware. By combining cloud technology with AI-powered applications, JioPC is helping bridge the digital divide and enabling more people to benefit from modern computing.

The introduction of Odia language support for AI Classroom reflects Jio's continued focus on local language empowerment and inclusive digital growth, ensuring that technology becomes more relevant and user-friendly for communities across the state.

Through initiatives like these, Reliance Jio continues to play a key role in expanding digital opportunities, empowering students and learners, and supporting the growth of technology-driven education in Odisha. UNI

TRUZON Solar plans Rs 200 Cr BESS project in next fiscal

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, MARCH 12: RUZON Solar, a solar solutions provider operating under Suntek Energy Systems Pvt. Ltd., plans to set up a ₹200-crore Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in the next financial year as part of its expansion in the renewable energy sector.

According to Founder and Managing Director Charugundla Bhavani Suresh, the proposed BESS facility would be established either in Telangana or Andhra Pradesh, with the final location to be decided after the first half of the year.



Suresh also confirmed strategic investments in the company from Indian cricketers Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma, members of India's ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026-winning squad.

The value of their investments will be disclosed at a later stage, he said, adding that the move reflects investor confidence in the company's long-term vision and India's clean energy transition.

In last year, cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar invested ₹3.6 crore in Suntek Energy Systems Pvt Ltd, acquiring a 2 per cent stake, while Telugu actor Mahesh Babu serves as the brand ambassador for TRUZON Solar.

TRUZON Solar currently operates across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh, and plans to expand into Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha in the next phase of growth. UNI

Global destinations eye South India's booming travel market at TTF

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BENGALURU, MARCH 12: Global tourism boards and travel brands are increasingly focusing on South India's rapidly expanding travel market, with the upcoming edition of TTF Bengaluru 2026 set to position the city as a key gateway for international and domestic tourism businesses seeking access to high-spending travellers from the region.

Scheduled to be held from March 13 to 15 at Tripura Vasini, Palace Grounds, the travel trade show will bring together tourism boards, travel companies, airlines, hospitality brands and travel technology providers from across India and overseas destinations, creating a major networking platform for the tourism industry.

Organised by Fairfest Media, the event is expected to attract more than 150 exhibitors representing over 15 Indian states and six

countries, alongside more than 1,800 travel trade buyers and around 2,100 visitors. The exhibition will serve as a marketplace where destinations showcase tourism offerings and forge partnerships with travel operators targeting South India's growing outbound and leisure travel segment.

Industry stakeholders say Bengaluru has emerged as one of India's most important travel markets, driven by rising disposable incomes, strong corporate travel demand and increasing interest in premium leisure experiences. The city is also witnessing rapid growth in segments such as destination weddings, business travel, and MICE tourism — meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions — making it an attractive target market for global tourism campaigns.

The travel show will therefore act as a strategic bridge between

international destinations and the South Indian travel trade, enabling tourism boards and hospitality companies to tap into demand from Karnataka and neighbouring states, which are among India's fastest-growing tourism source markets.

Part of the long-running Travel & Tourism Fair (TTF) network, the exhibition is among India's oldest and largest travel trade platforms. Over the past three decades, the series has hosted more than 4,000 exhibitors from over 100 countries and all Indian states and union territories, connecting global travel suppliers with India's key tourism markets.

With travel demand from South India continuing to expand, the upcoming Bengaluru edition is expected to reinforce the city's role as a major hub for outbound tourism and travel trade engagement in the country. UNI

West Asia tensions push hospitality sector to explore LPG-free kitchens

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BENGALURU, MARCH 12: Concerns over possible disruptions in commercial LPG supplies amid escalating tensions in West Asia are prompting India's hospitality sector to explore LPG-free, flame-free induction kitchens as a more reliable and efficient alternative for large-scale cooking operations.

Highlighting the growing dependence of restaurants, resorts, catering units, cloud kitchens and institutional kitchens on LPG cylinders, Dr S N Chandra Mouli, Director of Lorman Kitchen Equipments Pvt Ltd, said any interruption in fuel availability can immediately affect kitchen productivity and service

continuity.

He noted that global energy uncertainties linked to developments in West Asia have renewed discussions within the hospitality industry about the need for alternative cooking technologies that reduce reliance on LPG-based systems.

According to Dr Mouli, modern commercial induction cooking technology offers a long-term solution by enabling kitchens to operate completely without LPG cylinders or gas pipelines. Induction-based commercial kitchens function without open flames and combustion gases, while also generating significantly less ambient heat, creating a safer and more comfortable working environment for kitchen staff. He said induction systems



offer several operational advantages for high-volume kitchens such as restaurants, resorts, catering facilities, cloud kitchens and institutional food production units. These systems are designed for precise temperature control, improved cooking consistency and higher energy efficiency, while also

being easy to operate and suitable for kitchens of varying sizes.

Dr Mouli further pointed out that induction-based commercial kitchens can deliver substantial economic benefits when properly designed, with energy consumption potentially up to 60 per cent more economical

compared to conventional LPG-based cooking systems. Faster heating and improved heat utilisation also contribute to greater kitchen efficiency, he added.

Lorman Kitchen Equipment has been developing turnkey commercial induction kitchens across India, providing integrated solutions that include kitchen layout planning, equipment manufacturing, installation and commissioning.

Observing that the hospitality sector is undergoing rapid transformation, Dr Mouli said modern kitchens must prioritise safety, efficiency, sustainability and operational reliability, adding that flame-free and LPG-free cooking systems represent the future of professional kitchens. UNI



Kishan Jumps To Second In T20I Batting Rankings

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI: Ishan Kishan's 317-run 2026 T20 World Cup campaign has helped the India batter move to second place in the T20I rankings for batters. Abhishek Sharma remains atop the batting charts after his 18-ball half-century in the final against New Zealand.

Kishan now trails Abhishek by just four rating points following his three fifties in the tournament. New Zealand's Tim

Seifert (sixth) and England's Jacob Bethell (16th) also made career-high gains.

Other movers up the rankings after the T20 World Cup were Finn Allen (20th), Player-of-the-Tournament, Sanju Samson (22nd) and Shivam Dube (27th).

Among T20I bowlers, India spinner Varun Chakravarthy lost his position at the summit despite being the joint-highest wicket-taker at the T20 World Cup. Afghanistan's Rashid Khan is back at No. 1 despite not featuring

beyond the group stages.

England's Adil Rashid moved up to fourth after his 13-wicket outing at the World Cup, while Jasprit Bumrah's tally of 14 wickets moved him up to sixth. Axar Patel climbed to 17th.

Zimbabwe captain Sikandar Raza and India allrounder Hardik Pandya continue to hold onto the top two spots among T20I all-rounders. Mitchell Santner, the New Zealand captain, jumped three spots to ninth while England's Will Jacks moved up to 13th.

West Indies and SA players to fly home on commercial flights

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

KOLKATA: Cricket West Indies (CWI) has made arrangements for the West Indies players and coaching staff to fly back home from India on commercial flights. The squad had been stuck in Kolkata since the team's exit from the T20 World Cup on March 1, with the crisis in West Asia leading to repeated delays in the ICC's attempts to fly them home on chartered flights. CWI has confirmed that some members of the West Indies squad have already made arrangements to fly back. Arrangements have been made for the others to depart on Tuesday or Wednesday.

South Africa, who were knocked out on March 4, will depart India starting Wednesday night, the ICC said in a statement, with all players exiting India within 36 hours. "As is customary for both men's and women's ICC World Cups, all travel and accommodation arrangements for participating teams are coordinated and managed by the ICC," a CWI statement released on Tuesday said. "The charter flight, intended to transport both the West Indies and South Africa teams, was repeatedly delayed. After completing play, the West Indies squad remained in India for nine (9) days awaiting travel. However, ongoing uncertainty surrounding the ICC-organized charter, as a result of global tensions and aviation regulations, made the situation increasingly distressing.

"In the interest of the well-being and safety of its players and support staff, Cricket West Indies advised the ICC that it was no longer prudent to continue waiting on the charter arrangements, which remain uncertain. Multiple approaches have since been made through CWI, players, and other partners, in coordination with the ICC, to secure commercial travel to facilitate the squad's safe return. It is important to note that some players and staff have already departed, with the remaining members scheduled to depart today, Tuesday, 10th March, and tomorrow, Wednesday, 11th March 2026.

Pink ball Ashes Test still part of Cricket Australia's plans

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BRISBANE: Cricket Australia has insisted it is still planning for the next men's Ashes series in 2029-30 to include a pink-ball Test despite recent reports that it has already been decided a day-night fixture won't take place.

CA's current broadcast deal which runs until 2031 includes the agreement to stage one day-night Test per season with them being a huge success for viewership figures. In the recent Ashes, the day-night Test was held in Brisbane with Australia winning by eight wickets. Overall England have played four in Australia, losing all of them by significant margins, and during this season's tour Joe Root questioned whether they needed to be part of an Ashes given interest levels are always so high.

"They haven't requested it [to be dropped]," Todd Greenberg, the CA CEO, told SEN radio when asked about the reports of the future of pink-ball Ashes Tests. "Pleasingly, we don't play them here until 2029, so I've got a little bit of time to work this one out. It's a part of our broadcast contracts. It's clearly a big part of our summer [and] it clearly works here in this country.

"We've shown it works in Adelaide. It certainly worked last year in Brisbane. It's our plan to continue at least one of those in a summer. If we need to work with our comrades at the ECB to help them prepare better or have practice matches, we'll do all those sort of things. We'll have that dialogue if and when needed."

India now unequivocally the greatest T20 team of all time

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The start of domination is always the toughest. Especially in cricket, which loves its hybrid of league and knockouts. More so in T20s, a format that offers the least time to absorb and recover from blows from toss, dew or other vagaries. Especially in India where one result is enough for the team to go from the best of all time to inept nincompoops or the other way round.

With this domination building up in bilateral T20Is since the last World Cup, India really had no option but to win the T20 World Cup and become unequivocally the greatest T20 team ever assembled. You could see from the start that they were playing like a team hyper-aware of that expectation. Expectation not necessarily from the outside but just



from knowing how good they really were. They needed to do justice to each other's pedigree.

If the expectation needed reinforcing, the meltdown after

the defeat to South Africa would have told India what was awaiting them if they didn't win the World Cup. Two years of unprecedented excellence was at stake.



It was not as smooth a ride as is expected of a dominant side. In the lead-up to the tournament, their captain and their vice-captain were out of runs, they lost

Harshit Rana to injury during the warm-up matches of the tournament, and then the left-hand-dominated top order struggled against offspin in the early goings.

The team management and the selectors deserve credit for giving more weightage to form in this format than one would in Tests or ODIs. They showed genuine flexibility without being fickle. Shubman Gill gave way to Sanju Samson just before the tournament, but they were quick to acknowledge the form Ishan Kishan was in. In the middle of the tournament, they were smart enough to realise three left-hand batters at the top wasn't working, and Samson was brought back in. It is worth remembering how much the team management valued Samson: even when Gill was brought in as an opener, they tried to accommodate Samson in the middle. Clearly, they rated Samson's ability.

Liverpool rocked by Galatasaray defeat in Champions League last 16 first leg

■ AGENCIES

ISTANBUL: Liverpool suffered a 1-0 defeat against Galatasaray in the Champions League last 16 first leg on Tuesday as Mario Lemina's goal left the Reds in danger of a shock exit.

Arne Slot's side paid the price for a dis-

jointed display in Istanbul, with Lemina netting in the first half at raucous RAMS Park.

The six-time European champions hope to salvage a turbulent campaign by winning the Champions League for the first time since 2019. But Liverpool, languishing in sixth place in the Premier League less

than a year after winning the title, will need a second leg escape act at Anfield on March 18 to avoid arguably the lowest moment in their miserable season.

Slot won't look back fondly on his 100th game in charge of Liverpool, who defended poorly and lacked cohesion in attack.

Mohamed Salah made his 81st Champions League appearance for Liverpool, surpassing Jamie Carragher for the most games in the competition by a Reds player. But, not for the first time this season, it was a night to forget for the Egypt forward, who was hauled off in the 60th minute after an anonymous performance.



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