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Crackdown on Drug Nexus in J&K: LG Sinha Sounds Alarm on Narco-Terror

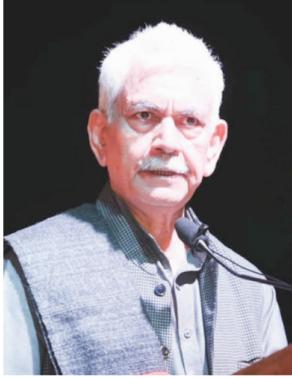
Calls for united public effort and stricter enforcement to achieve 'Nasha Mukt' vision

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 28: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday ordered a sweeping crackdown on drug smuggling networks targeting the youth, while reviewing the progress of the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan in Jammu and Kashmir at a high-level meeting at Lok Bhavan.

Chairing the meeting attended by top civil and police officials, the Lieutenant Governor warned of 'deliberate and sinister efforts' to push young people into drug addiction, stressing the urgent need for a comprehensive, whole-of-government strategy to

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From Border Villages to Big Dreams : AGS Students Explore New Horizons on Army Tour

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 27: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday interacted with students from Army Goodwill School, Saujiyan in Poonch, currently on a J&K Integration Tour organised under Operation Sadbhavana. The tour, an outreach

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Entrepreneurs in J&K Are Drivers of Innovation : LG Manoj Sinha

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 28: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said Jammu and Kashmir's evolving industrial and business ecosystem is a result of bold reforms and the relentless efforts of entrepreneurs, urging

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Assembly Pushes Reform Agenda, Passes Three Key Bills by Voice Vote

Omar Abdullah-led measures target decriminalisation, anti-discrimination and judicial efficiency

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 28: In a significant legislative move, the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Saturday passed three important Bills by voice vote, underscoring the government's focus on governance reforms, social justice and strengthening the judicial framework in the Union Territory.

The Bills, introduced by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, were taken up for consideration and put to vote by Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather before being cleared by the House.

Among the key legislations, L.A. Bill No. 01 of 2026 seeks to amend existing laws to decriminalise and rationalise minor offences, a step aimed at promoting trust-

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Assembly Stands United Against Attack on Farooq Abdullah

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 28: In a rare show of political unity, members of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Saturday cut across party lines to strongly condemn the attack on former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah and sought a thorough, time-bound investigation into the incident.

The issue came up for an extensive discussion after legislators of the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference moved an adjournment motion, prompting sharp reactions from both treasury and opposition benches.

Initiating the debate, NC MLA Salman Sagar

termed the attack "highly condemnable" and stressed the need for a fixed timeline for the probe. He said the incident raised serious concerns about the safety of public representatives if a leader of Abdullah's stature could be targeted.

His party colleague Mir Saifullah questioned the absence of an official statement from the authorities and alleged possible security lapses, even hinting at a conspiracy behind the attack.

Senior BJP MLA Sham Lal Sharma described Abdullah as a "tall leader" and said the incident pointed to gaps in the security apparatus that warranted immediate investigation.

Bandipora legislator Nizam-ud-Din Bhat

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New Tourism Hotspots on Anvil in J&K, Doda in Focus

Omar Abdullah says proposal under review as govt ramps up infrastructure and promotion efforts

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 28: The Jammu and Kashmir government is examining a proposal to notify new tourism-worthy destinations across the Union Territory, with a significant focus on scenic locations in Doda district, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Saturday.

Replying to a question raised by Doda West MLA Shakti Raj Parihar during the Question Hour of the ongoing Budget Session 2026, the Chief Minister informed the Assembly

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Karnah a Hidden Gem for Tourism : Omar Abdullah

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 28: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said Karnah possesses immense untapped potential for tourism, particularly in border tourism, hiking and trekking, and assured that the government is working on a comprehensive plan to promote the region.

The Chief Minister made the remarks while replying to a supplementary question raised

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CS Pushes For Time-Bound Reforms To Transform Higher Education in J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 28: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Higher Education Department (HED) to strategise a forward-looking roadmap for advancing higher education and steering Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) in Jammu and Kashmir towards excellence.

The meeting was attended by the Vice-Chancellors of various Universities; Commissioner Secretary, HED; Registrars of the Universities; Director Colleges; and other senior officers of the department.

Emphasising the need for institutional accountability and time-bound reforms,



the Chief Secretary directed all HEIs to formulate their own actionable plans for implementation of reform measures recommended during the 5th Chief Secretaries' Conference chaired by the Prime Minister himself. He stressed strict adherence to timelines and called for a results-orient-

ed approach without any laxity. He observed that these reform measures are closely aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and form a strong foundation for achieving the objectives envisioned for higher education

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Wet Spell Ahead: Rain, Snow to Sweep J&K Till March 30

HT NEWS DESK / KNO

SRINAGAR, MAR 28: The India Meteorological Department (MeT) on Saturday predicted a spell of generally cloudy weather with intermittent rain and snowfall across Jammu and Kashmir till March 30, even as authorities issued avalanche and landslide warnings for vulnerable areas.

Officials at the MeT Centre Srinagar said most parts of the Union Territory are likely to witness light to moderate rain, while higher reaches may receive snowfall, particularly during evening hours over the next three days. Thunderstorms accompanied by gusty winds

with speeds of 40-50 kmph are also expected during the period.

The weather is likely to remain generally cloudy on March 31 with brief spells of light rain or snow at scattered places. From April 1 to 2, conditions are expected to range from partly to generally cloudy with isolated rainfall, while similar weather is forecast between April 3 and 4. Between April 5 and 7, the MeT has predicted partly cloudy skies with light rain or snowfall at isolated locations.

The department has warned of moderate snowfall over higher reaches of North and Central Kashmir between the night of March 28

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Govt determined to eradicate drug menace across J&K: Health Minister

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 28: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today informed the House that the government is determined to eradicate drug menace across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister stated this while replying to a question raised by Leg-

islator, Iftikar Ahmad, regarding "Drug De-Addiction Centre" in the Legislative Assembly.

She apprised that two Drug De-addiction centres are functional in Rajouri district, adequately catering to the needs of drug abuse victims adding that one Drug De-addiction centre is functioning at Old District Hospital Building, Rajouri, being run



by NGO National Educational Society and Social Welfare Organization (NESSW). Besides, another Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) is also functioning in Associated Hospital GMC, Rajouri (Kheora).

The Minister informed that out of around 822 patients admitted in these centres 558 have been treated.

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Mainstreaming Of J&K Youth Has Raised Their Aspiration Level: Dr Jitendra

HT NEWS NETWORK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, MAR 28: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh today said that over the last 11 years, the Modi Government has enabled the mainstreaming of youth from Jammu & Kashmir, which has in turn raised their level of self-confidence and aspiration.

Interacting with participants of the 6th Kashmir Youth Exchange Programme, "Watan Ko Jaano", organised by My Bharat

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Crackdown on.....

dismantle the ecosystem of drug trafficking and narco-terrorism.

He directed authorities to intensify enforcement measures, implement strong deterrents—particularly in educational institutions—and identify and strictly punish those linked to drug networks. Emphasising public participation, Sinha called for “Jan Bhagidari” and urged citizens to report drug-related activities to the police and administration.

The review focused on key areas including enforcement, awareness, counselling, treatment and rehabilitation, alongside the need for robust monitoring of social media to counter misleading narratives. The Lieutenant Governor also reviewed preparations for an intensive anti-drug awareness campaign across the Union Territory.

Highlighting the importance of collective action, he called for the involvement of religious leaders, social organisations, ex-servicemen and youth bodies such as NCC, NSS and Scouts and Guides in the fight against drug abuse.

Officials briefed the meeting on progress made over the past year, including expansion of de-addiction infrastructure, operationalisation of treatment facilities, district-level outreach programmes and onboarding of districts on the Nasha Mukh J&K portal.

On the sidelines, the Lieutenant Governor directed officials to prioritise the Vibrant Villages Programme with a focus on inclusive development of border areas.

From Border Villages.....

initiative of the White Knight Corps, is aimed at fostering national integration and promoting the holistic development of children from remote border areas by exposing them to diverse environments and institutions.

Commending the Indian Army's continued commitment towards youth welfare in border regions, the Lieutenant Governor said such programmes play a vital role in nurturing young minds and strengthening the spirit of “Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.”

The visiting group, comprising 33 students accompanied by teachers and Army personnel, shared their experiences during the interaction, reflecting on the transformative impact of the tour.

Officials said the initiative seeks to broaden the horizons of children from far-flung villages by familiarising them with the country's cultural, social and institutional framework, while building confidence and a sense of belonging.

During the tour, the students visited Poonch, Rajouri, Jammu and Srinagar, gaining exposure to urban life, key institutions including the Air Force Station in Jammu, and the functioning of the Army. For many, the journey marked first-time experiences such as rail travel to Srinagar and visits to modern urban spaces, significantly enhancing their outlook and self-assurance.

Entrepreneurs.....

them to further strengthen diverse sectors and contribute to nation-building with renewed resolve.

Speaking at the ‘Big Impact Awards J&K 2026’ organised by 92.7 Big FM, Sinha said India is rapidly transforming into an innovation-driven economy under the leadership of Narendra Modi, with reforms enabling a shift from a consumer-driven to a creator-led ecosystem.

He said the changes witnessed in the industrial landscape are not coincidental but a direct outcome of policy initiatives and entrepreneurial commitment. Highlighting the resilience of local businesses, the Lieutenant Governor noted that despite challenges such as raw material constraints, entrepreneurs in the Union Territory have expanded production capacities and diversified markets.

“True entrepreneurship lies in converting crises into opportunities, and J&K's innovators have exemplified this spirit,” Sinha said, adding that innovation requires sustained effort and determination rather than being a one-time achievement.

The Lieutenant Governor also underlined the transformation in the education sector following the implementation of the National Education Policy and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, stating that stakeholders built digital learning platforms and extended virtual education even to remote areas.

He said technology integration, research-driven approaches and policy reforms are paving the way for India to emerge as a knowledge economy, while emphasising that rapid technological changes demand adaptability and commitment from all sections of society.

Sinha felicitated awardees at the and urged them to lead with purpose, while also suggesting the inclusion of the farming community in future editions of the awards. He further called on the organisers to support awareness campaigns under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan.

Senior officials, representatives of 92.7 Big FM and prominent citizens from various fields were present at the event.

Assembly Pushes.....

based governance and improving ease of living and doing business in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Assembly also approved L.A. Bill No. 02 of 2026, which focuses on eliminating discrimination against persons affected by lep-

rosy by ensuring equal treatment, removing stigmatizing provisions and enabling affirmative action by the government.

Further, L.A. Bill No. 03 of 2026, proposing amendments to the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Courts Act, 1977 (Svt), was passed with the objective of enhancing the efficiency and functioning of the judicial system.

All three Bills were adopted through voice vote after discussion in the House.

Earlier, amendments moved by legislators Saifullah Mir, Nizamuddin Bhat and Balwant Singh Mankotia were withdrawn following assurances from the Chief Minister, paving the way for smooth passage of the Bills.

Assembly Stands.....

called Abdullah a “national asset” and said ensuring his safety was the responsibility of the state.

Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo welcomed the rare unity in the House but termed the silence of the Home Department “unfortunate,” demanding that the investigation report be placed before the Assembly and accountability fixed.

Ramban MLA Arjun Singh Raju linked the attack to rising communal tensions and urged a collective political response against divisive elements.

BJP's Rajiv Jasrotia said the incident appeared aimed at disturbing communal harmony, while his colleague Pawan Kumar Gupta noted that timely intervention by security personnel had averted a major tragedy and suggested they be commended.

CPI(M) leader M. Y. Tarigami termed the attack an “assault on society” and called for strict action against those involved.

Peoples Conference MLA Sajad Gani Lone said such incidents revive painful memories of past killings of legislators and stressed that security must not be compromised under any circumstances.

PDP's Waheed Ur Rehman Parra also condemned the attack, calling it shameful and urging swift action.

The Assembly collectively underscored the need for a credible probe, stronger security measures and accountability to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

New Tourism.....

that several sites in the district—including Udhvana and Sarna in Baderwah, Nalthis, Chinta, Guldanda, Padri, Khalemi Top, Lal Draman, Doda town and Shibnot in Premnagar—are under consideration for tourism notification.

Abdullah, who also holds the Tourism portfolio, said the government is committed to strengthening infrastructure and enhancing visitor facilities across major destinations. He noted that prominent tourist spots such as Lal Draman, Dedni, Dal Draman, Ramrachna, Galadhar and Dessa are already being developed and promoted.

Highlighting ongoing efforts to boost tourism, he said several events over the past two financial years—including the Lavender Festival, Winter Festival, Mega Wrestling Competition, Maa Chandi Yatra, Bhal Padri mela and Lal Draman Snow Festival—have been organized to attract visitors and create awareness.

The Chief Minister further said the Tourism Department participated in 11 tourism marts during 2025–26 to promote destinations from Jammu Division, including Doda, and similar initiatives are planned to further strengthen its presence on the national tourism map.

On infrastructure, he said a double-storey guest house is under construction at Lal Draman at a cost of 75.63 lakh, while additional works including beautification, viewpoints and public conveniences worth 80 lakh have been completed under the CAPEX Budget to improve amenities and generate employment.

In a separate reply, Abdullah said the government is actively pursuing the outsourcing of the Yoga and Spiritual Centre at Mantalai to make the facility operational at the earliest.

Karnah a.....

by the MLA Karnah during Question Hour in the ongoing Budget Session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

Highlighting the scenic beauty of the area, Abdullah said Karnah offers vast opportunities for tourism development and emphasized that a structured programme is being planned to bring the region onto the tourism map. He underscored the need for sustainable and grassroots-level tourism infrastructure, advocating promotion of homestays instead of large hotel projects to ensure wider economic benefits for the local population.

Admitting that remote areas like Karnah have not received adequate attention in the past, the Chief Minister said more efforts are needed to promote tourism in such regions.

Clarifying on the proposed cable car project from TD Drangyari to Zarla via Sadhna Pass, Abdullah stated that no such proposal is currently under consideration in the Tourism Department. He cautioned against the perception that installing gondolas automatically boosts tourist inflow, noting that success depends on proper planning and viability.

Referring to destinations like Gulmarg, he said that despite gondola facilities at several locations, tourist footfall remains significantly higher in Gulmarg, indicating that infrastructure alone does not guarantee success.

Reiterating the government's commitment to promoting lesser-known destinations across

Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Minister said development initiatives would be guided by feasibility and available resources.

He also highlighted ongoing efforts in Karnah, including construction of a tourist cafeteria and public convenience at Drangyari, hosting of a Winter Carnival in January 2023, and a Mega Yoga Festival at Teetwal in June 2024, aimed at boosting tourist footfall and generating livelihood opportunities for locals.

CS Pushes.....

institutions in the Union Territory. Taking a detailed review of faculty positions and student enrollment across universities and colleges, the Chief Secretary directed that faculty vacancies be filled up to at least 90 percent by August this year, underscoring that quality education hinges on adequate and competent teaching staff.

Highlighting the need for academic relevance, he called for a comprehensive audit of all courses offered by universities and affiliated colleges. He stressed that courses with low demand or outdated content should be phased out and replaced with emerging, technology-driven programmes that align with market needs and student aspirations.

The Chief Secretary also emphasised regular updation of curricula to reflect latest developments and research in respective fields. He instructed institutions to integrate skill-based courses with conventional academic programmes to enhance employability and industry readiness of graduates.

Focusing on professional education, he directed the Vice-Chancellors of IUST and SMVDU to undertake a detailed study of engineering colleges and schools of architecture in the UT and recommend measures to improve enrolment. He noted that these institutions possess robust infrastructure and faculty, which must be optimally utilised.

Similarly, the Vice-Chancellors of the University of Kashmir and University of Jammu were asked to assess enrolment trends in their affiliated colleges and suggest corrective measures, particularly in institutions witnessing low student intake. The Chief Secretary also reviewed the status of infrastructure development in newly established colleges and stressed expeditious completion of ongoing construction works.

During the meeting, the Vice-Chancellors presented updates on implementation of the 21 reform points identified in the Chief Secretaries' Conference. They also outlined their respective roadmaps and assured timely and effective execution of these reforms.

Earlier, Commissioner Secretary, HED, Ram Niwas Sharma presented a detailed overview of the higher education landscape in Jammu and Kashmir. He apprised the meeting of the existing faculty strength, vacancies, course offerings, seat matrix and enrolment trends across institutions.

It was informed that the Union Territory has 09 Universities and 152 Colleges, including 144 Government Degree Colleges, 03 Autonomous Colleges, 02 Engineering Colleges and 03 Private Grant-in-Aid Colleges. Additionally, there are 208 private colleges offering B.Ed, engineering, law and other programmes. It was informed that the total student enrolment across these institutions currently exceeds three lakh.

Regarding staffing, it was informed that out of 3,635 sanctioned teaching and 2,955 non-teaching posts, 3,425 teaching and 2,413 non-teaching positions are filled, with efforts underway to fill the remaining vacancies.

The meeting also held an in-depth university-wise review of key reform initiatives, including the launch of a Global Talent Return Scheme, engagement of Professors of Practice, mission mode faculty recruitment in institutions with over 30 percent vacancies, development of delivery partnership agreements, curriculum reforms integrating emerging areas, adoption of unified digital platforms, apprenticeship-embedded degree programmes and cross-disciplinary frameworks.

Other major reform areas discussed included integration of skill courses as per UGC guidelines, implementation of vacancy-linked grants, promotion of foreign collaborations and campuses, training of at least 25 percent faculty in emerging technologies, regulatory streamlining, strengthening of quality and autonomy in colleges, development of innovation ecosystems through incubation centres, and increasing international student enrolment by 20 percent.

The reform agenda further envisages conversion of select HEIs into model finishing schools, enhancement of Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), expansion of skill-based education, establishment of a multiversity, development of mega educational hubs and clusters, and setting up of research parks in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

The Chief Secretary reiterated the commitment of transforming the higher education ecosystem into a dynamic, inclusive and globally competitive sector, capable of producing skilled, innovative and employable youth by the institutions established across the districts of J&K.

Wet Spell.....

and March 30, and cautioned about the possibility of landslides at vulnerable spots.

In view of the forecast, farmers have been advised to suspend agricultural operations on March 29 and 30, while travellers have been urged to follow traffic advisories and plan

movement accordingly.

Meanwhile, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 22.2°C, above the seasonal average, while Jammu registered 29.6°C. No significant rainfall was reported across most stations during the day.

The Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority also issued a medium danger level avalanche warning for areas above 2,400 metres in Bandipora and Ganderbal over the next 24 hours, advising residents and travellers to avoid venturing into high-altitude and avalanche-prone zones.

Govt determined.....

She added that Psychiatrist, Counsellor, Social Worker, Nurses, Pharmacist and Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) are providing regular services at the Drug De-addiction centre run by NESSW.

The Health Minister said that the two Drug De-Addiction Centres functioning in the district are adequately catering to the needs of the district, as reflected by the number of patients admitted and treated. She added that the government's focus remains on reducing the incidence of drug abuse across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, rather than merely increasing the number of de-addiction centres.

She said that awareness and counselling initiatives are being actively conducted throughout the district under the guidelines of District Administration, maintaining close collaboration with Police, Social Welfare and other concerned departments under the Nasha Mukh Bharat initiative.

The Health Minister also said that in the last two years 2024–25 and 2025–26, the Directorate of Health Services, Jammu has organized 53 camps mostly on every Monday which have covered about 19 Panchayats in District Rajouri. She added that GMC Rajouri has also conducted 5462 Awareness and Counseling programmes (3545 in the year 2024 and 1917 in 2025).

While replying to various supplementary questions, the Minister underlined that the Health department has deployed counselors in each village of Jammu and Kashmir to train former Panchayat members, religious preachers and heads, respectable citizens and others on tackling menace of drug abuse in the society. She also highlighted that the Health department is continuously providing treatment, counseling and rehabilitation facilities to drug abuse victims and the domain of law enforcement and conviction is not with the Health department.

The Minister added that the government is taking due action against the Drug De-addiction centres run by NGOs if they are violating any rules.

Legislators Dr. Bharat Bhushan and Tanvir Ali Sadiq raised supplementary questions.

Mainstreaming.....

under the aegis of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Minister said that youth from Jammu & Kashmir are now emerging as toppers in civil services and other competitive examinations. He said that earlier, many young people from the region were hesitant to step beyond their immediate surroundings, but today

they are confidently engaging with opportunities across the country and contributing to national sectors such as tourism, hospitality, and aviation.

Recalling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision articulated in 2014, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that focused attention was given to regions like Jammu & Kashmir and the North East which had remained on the margins of development for long. He said that sustained policy support and targeted interventions have helped bridge this gap, and the visible change in the confidence, mobility, and aspirations of youth from Jammu & Kashmir reflects this transformation.

The interaction provided a platform for young participants from districts such as Pulwama, Bandipora, Anantnag and Kupwara to share their experiences of connecting with the rest of the country. Many participants spoke about their visits to national institutions including Parliament, Legislative Assembly and Rashtrapati Bhavan, describing how such exposure has strengthened their sense of belonging and participation in India's democratic framework.

Participants shared that programmes like this are helping youth from Jammu & Kashmir move beyond earlier limitations and actively engage with diverse cultures and communities across the country. Several students noted that there is a growing sense of trust and openness, and that more young people are now willing to explore opportunities outside the region and build meaningful connections.

Young achievers from the region, including those pursuing careers in sports and competitive examinations, also highlighted both their progress and their aspirations. Some participants pointed to the need for further strengthening of sports infrastructure, access to coaching and availability of facilities in Jammu & Kashmir to fully realise the potential of local talent. Responding to these inputs, the Minister said that the ecosystem for sports and youth development in Jammu & Kashmir is steadily improving, with greater transparency in selection processes and increased investment in infrastructure. He cited the recent Ranji trophy victory by J&K Cricket team.

Suggestions were also received regarding improving logistical arrangements and enhancing structured interaction with students from other parts of the country through institutional visits and peer engagement. The Minister acknowledged these suggestions and indicated that such inputs would help further strengthen the design of future programmes.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the transformation underway in Jammu & Kashmir is part of a larger effort to ensure that no region or section of society remains left behind in the country's development journey. He said that the increasing participation of youth from Jammu & Kashmir in national life is a clear indication of this shift, and that their growing confidence and aspirations will play an important role in shaping India's future.

The programme concluded with cultural presentations by the participants, showcasing the rich heritage of Jammu & Kashmir and reinforcing the spirit of integration and shared identity.

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CS reviews progress on implementation of business reforms

Calls for elimination of redundant NoCs

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 28: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of the concerned Administrative Secretaries to review the progress achieved in the implementation of identified deregulation measures under the next phase of the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) programme in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the urgent need to eliminate unnecessary regulatory bottlenecks, particularly the requirement of multiple No Objection Certificates (NoCs) for establishing businesses.

He observed that such procedures are often redundant and create avoidable hurdles for entrepreneurs. Emphasizing the importance of timely reforms, he remarked that rationalizing these requirements within a defined timeframe would significantly benefit the people of the Union Territory.

Citing practical examples, the Chief Secretary pointed out that individuals seeking to establish small enterprises such as schools,



nursing homes, or health clinics are often required to obtain numerous clearances from different departments, making the process cumbersome and discouraging for potential investors.

He stressed the need to streamline such procedures and explore the feasibility of issuing lifetime licenses in suitable sectors, particularly in health and education, where periodic renewals may not serve any meaningful purpose.

To address these concerns, the Chief Secretary directed the Labour and Employment Department to work in close coordination with the Department of Law to examine the existing regulatory framework and propose

comprehensive solutions.

He further called for a detailed review of the proposed Right to Business Act, with a view to incorporating provisions that facilitate smoother and more efficient processes for establishing and operating businesses in the UT.

Highlighting the broader significance of these reforms, the Chief Secretary noted that their effective implementation is critical for fostering a business-friendly regulatory environment and enhancing investor confidence in Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, provided an overview of the ongoing initia-

tives under the second phase of compliance reduction and deregulation, commonly referred to as Deregulation 2.0 or Phase-II of EoDB.

He informed that this phase is aligned with the national framework and envisages the rollout of 30 new priority reform areas across seven key sectors in 2026. He added that the implementation process has already commenced, with substantial progress achieved in several priority areas.

He further elaborated that while the first phase of EoDB primarily focused on digitization of services, Phase-II aims at deeper structural reforms, particularly

targeting reduction of compliance burden on MSMEs and startups. The overarching objective is to simplify regulatory frameworks, eliminate procedural redundancies, and promote sustainable economic growth.

Providing details on the current status of implementation, Director, Industries and Commerce, Jammu, Arun Manhas, informed that the initiative covers seven major focus sectors encompassing 30 priority reform areas, including several domains that were not extensively addressed in earlier phases.

He noted that the reforms include five priority areas each in the Education sector and Utilities/Permissions, three categories of land-related compliances, and two focus areas each in Environment, Health, and Building and Construction sectors. Additionally, high-impact reforms have been identified in Labour, Fire Services, and Tourism sectors to ensure these areas receive a substantial boost through reduced regulatory burden and streamlined compliance mechanisms.

Budget Session 2026

Rs. 27.245 lakh disbursed among fire victims in Eidgah constituency: Dy CM

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAR 28: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today said that about Rs. 27.245 lakh have been disbursed among the fire affected families in Eidgah constituency during 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years.

While replying to the calling attention moved by Legislator Mubarak Gul in the Legislative Assembly, the Deputy Chief Minister said that a total 14 fire incidents have been reported in Eidgah constitu-



ency in last two years.

He said that responding promptly, immediate relief and rescue measures were initiated by the District Administration preventing any further loss.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the relief assistance, admissible under SDRF norms, has been provided to the fire victims from time to time out of the funds available under SDRF. He added that during 2024-25 and 2025-26, in fire incidents in Eidgah Constituency, relief assistance was provided to 20 fully damaged houses (Rs. 1.30 lakh each), 15 partially damaged houses (Rs. 6,500 each), 3 fully damaged huts (Rs. 8,000 each) and 1 damaged cowshed (Rs. 3,000).

"The recent fire incident cases of the year 2026 are under active consideration and eligible persons shall be provided relief assistance on priority as per SDRF norms," he added.

Free medical, veterinary camp held in Wadar Handwara

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, MAR 28: The Indian Army Saturday organized a free medical-cum-veterinary camp at Wader Rajwar in Handwara Sub District, benefiting a large



number of local residents and livestock owners.

A team of doctors from GMC Handwara, along with medical team from the Indian Army and veterinary specialists, participated in the camp.

During the programme, more than 350 medical patients were examined and provided with free medical consultation and medicines.

In addition, veterinary doctors conducted health check-ups of dozens of animals, offering treatment and distributing medicines free of cost to livestock owners.

The initiative was widely appreciated by locals, who expressed gratitude to the Indian Army and the medical teams for bringing essential healthcare services to the remote area.

World Theatre Day Celebrated in Pattan with Cultural Performances

■ GULFAM BARJI

BARAMULLA, MAR 28: On the occasion of World Theatre Day, a grand cultural event was organized at Hanjiveera Pattan by the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) in collaboration with Inder Cultural Forum Sumbal. The programme was held at the auditorium of Gore Call Solutions Pvt.Ltd. The event themed "The Importance of Theatre in the Modern Era" featured engaging performances and discussions. Saleem Yousuf and Gulfam Barji presented thought-provoking dialogues while speakers highlighted the relevance and evolving role of theatre in contemporary society.

A short, meaningful play titled "Nouw Chaprais" written by Saleem Yousuf was also staged and received appreciation from the audience.

On the occasion the first poetry collection of Showqeen Sonami titled "NagRadan Manz" was formally released. Manzoor Ahmad Shah presented a review written by Shahbaz Hakbari.

The programme concluded with a vibrant mushaira (poetic symposium) presided over by Zameer Ansari, where several prominent poets from the Valley recited their verses.

The event was ably conducted by Gulfam Barji and was supported by Korkal Solutions Private Limited.

GDC Ganderbal organises three-Day NSS camp at Manasbal

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, MAR 28: The NSS Units of Government Degree College (GDC) Ganderbal successfully organised a three-day camp at Manasbal from March 25-27, 2026, in collaboration with the Tourist Office Manasbal. The initiative reflected a strong commitment towards environmental sustainability and community engagement.

The programme was conducted under the esteemed guidance of Ahsan-ul-Haq Chishti, Chief Executive Officer (WMDA) and Azad Ahmad Yaseen, Assistant Tourist Officer (ATO) Manasbal, who also inaugurated the camp. The initiative was undertaken under the patronage and support of Principal Prof. Fouzia Fatima, who consistently encourages and provides such meaningful opportunities to students. The programme was efficiently coordinated by NSS Programme Officers Dr. Jamsheeda Akhter and Dr. Mansha Nisar.

The camp featured a series of impactful activities, including a cleanliness drive, sanitation campaign, and a nature walk, organised as part of a post-Eid cleanliness initiative aimed at fostering civic responsibility among



students and the local community.

During the camp, NSS volunteers collected substantial quantities of waste from key locations, including the Manasbal Public Park, nearby markets, and Kondibal village. The Manasbal sanitary staff extended commendable support throughout the campaign. Special appreciation is extended to Farooq Ahmad and Mr. Jawed Ahmad Pandit for their consistent assistance and coordination during all three days.

The programme witnessed the active participation of 30 NSS volunteers, who also engaged with local shopkeepers and residents of Kondibal village, spreading awareness about hygiene, sanitation, and environmental preservation.

The camp was further strengthened by the presence and support of faculty members, including Dr. Sheikh Tanveer, Dr. Rafiq, Dr. Ulfat, Dr. Shabana Aslam, Dr. Marifat, Dr. Ravinder Kour, Jawed Ahmad, Mehraj Bhat, Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Mir, and Naseema Akhter.

The camp concluded with a valedictory session, during which certificates were distributed among all participating volunteers in recognition of their dedication and service. The organisers also acknowledged the valuable support of Deedar Singh and Mehraj for their cooperation and assistance.

This initiative stands as a testament to GDC Ganderbal's continued efforts in nurturing socially responsible citizens and promoting sustainable practices within the community.

Youth Power Initiative Promotes Women Empowerment, Drug-Free Society in Mandi

■ FAROOQ RATHER

MANDI, MAR 28: The Social Welfare Department on Thursday organised a one-day awareness programme under its flagship initiatives—Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan—at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Mandi, aiming to sensitise youth on crucial social issues.

The event began with the National Anthem and witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teaching staff, and members of the local community. A variety of cultural performances, including skits, songs, and theme-based presentations focusing on drug de-addiction and social awareness, were showcased by students. Several participants also delivered thought-provoking speeches, highlighting the importance of gender equality and a substance-free society.

The programme saw the presence of civil society members, former PRI



representatives of Mandi, and other distinguished participants, whose active involvement added significance to the occasion.

District Social Welfare Officer,

Khalil A. Bandy, in his welcome address, underlined the importance of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and stressed the urgent need for collective efforts to tackle chal-

lenges related to gender discrimination and substance abuse. He lauded the role of youth and emphasised channelising their energy towards constructive and

nation-building activities.

Principal of Boys Higher Secondary School Mandi, Anwar Khan, also addressed the gathering. He later presented the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the Social Welfare Department for organising the programme and appreciating the collective contribution of all participants.

Certificates of participation and appreciation were distributed among students, staff, and media personnel. Distinguished guests and contributors were also honoured with mementos as a token of appreciation.

District Social Welfare Officer Khalil A. Bandy extended special thanks to Principal Anwar Khan and the school staff for their wholehearted support in making the programme a success.

The programme concluded with a collective pledge to continue spreading awareness and strengthening efforts towards women empowerment and building a drug-free society.

Workshop on Tele-Law Services held at Srinagar to strengthen access to justice

DC Srinagar calls for strengthening Tele-Law outreach and effective implementation at grassroots level

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR MARCH 28:- As a part of efforts to strengthen access to Justice through technology-enabled legal services and to foster informed deliberations among key stakeholders, a workshop on Tele-Law services was held at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex here today.

The workshop was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo and attended by senior Officers and Officials of the District Administration Srinagar along

with District Manager CSC Srinagar and VLEs of District Srinagar.

Addressing the participants, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the significance of Tele-Law services in ensuring timely and accessible legal assistance to citizens. He highlighted that such initiatives play a crucial role in bridging the gap between legal institutions and the public.

During the session, the DC stressed the need for enhanced legal awareness and effective implementation of Tele-Law services through Common



Services Centres (CSCs), so as to ensure that legal aid reaches every section of society, particularly those living in remote and underserved areas.

He further underscored the importance of stronger coordination among the judiciary, administration and civil society organizations to improve last-mile delivery of justice.

The workshop concluded with a collective commitment from all stakeholders to strengthen Tele-Law outreach and enhance service delivery for the welfare of the public.

Mega Plantation Drive launched at Faculty of Forestry with Theme "For a Greener Tomorrow" at Benhama

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, MARCH 28: Faculty of Forestry, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Benhama-Watlar Campus, today organized a Mega Plantation Drive at FoF under week long programme under the inspiring theme "For a Greener Tomorrow."

The programme was attended by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, who marked the occasion by planting a coniferous tree on the campus. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from senior university functionaries including Director Research, Prof. Haroon R. Naik; Director Extension, Prof. Rehana Habib; Registrar, Dr. Azmat Alam Khan; Dean, Faculty of Forestry, Prof. Arshad H. Mughal; and Dr. T.H. Masoodi, Director, Regional Centre of AYUSH, all of whom contributed by planting saplings of Deodar and other species.

Students from adjoining schools, along with faculty members and students of the Faculty of Forestry, actively participated in the plantation drive, each planting a sapling and contributing towards enhancing the green cover of the campus.

Following the plantation activity, an awareness lecture was organized highlighting the importance of forests and tree plantation.

Addressing the gathering, Vice Chancellor Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai stressed the collective responsibility of safeguarding ecosystems through active participation in plantation initiatives. He urged students to adopt eco-friendly lifestyles and reduce dependence on plastic, emphasizing sustainability as a way of life.

Prof. A.H. Mughal, Dean, Faculty of Forestry, highlighted the transformation of previously unproductive land into lush green forest areas, expressing pride in the institution's sustained conservation efforts.

Prof. Naseem Geelani, who reiterated that such initiatives are vital for enhancing green cover, protecting local ecosystems, and fostering environmental responsibility among the younger generation.

The event successfully reinforced the importance of community participation in environmental conservation and marked a significant step towards a greener and more sustainable future.

District Admin Bandipora conducts Awareness Programme under NMBA at Hajin

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, MARCH 28: As part of the ongoing awareness activities under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), an awareness programme was conducted at Town Hall MC Hajin on Saturday to sensitise people about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the need for a healthy and responsible lifestyle.



The programme was organised with Municipal Committee (MC) Bandipora as the nodal department, in collaboration with the Social Welfare, Health, Labour & Employment and Urban Local Bodies departments.

During the programme, participants were sensitised about the ill-effects of substance abuse and its impact on individuals, families and society at large. Resource persons highlighted the importance of early prevention, awareness and coordinated community efforts to curb the menace of drug abuse.

Speakers emphasised the role of youth and civil society in building a drug-free society and urged participants to actively contribute towards spreading awareness in their respective areas.

Participants were encouraged to act as ambassadors of the anti-drug campaign and disseminate the message of a drug-free society among the masses.

DC KULGAM VISITS DISTRICT HOSPITAL; REVIEWS PATIENT CARE SERVICES

Distributes Nutritional Kits among TB Patients

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, MARCH 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today visited District Hospital Kulgam to review healthcare facilities and patient care services being provided at the hospital.

During the visit, the DC inspected various wards and sections, including IPD wards and ticket counters, and interacted with patients and attendants to obtain feedback regarding the services available.

The Medical Superintendent, Dr. Syed Masood, briefed him about the

hospital's functioning, staff availability, and the medical facilities available for patients.

Speaking on the occasion the Deputy Commissioner highlighted that Phase-II of the TB eradication programme has recently been inaugurated and, as part of the initiative, nutritional kits were distributed among TB patients to support their treatment and recovery.

He stressed that active public participation, especially timely sampling and testing, is essential to make Kulgam a TB-free district. He urged people to come forward for screening so that the district can achieve

the goal of being declared TB-free at the earliest.

While reviewing hospital infrastructure, the DC was informed that facilities including a digital X-ray plant, anesthesia station, orthopedic surgery theatre, dialysis centre machinery, and a dedicated mortuary area have been added to strengthen healthcare services.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of maintaining cleanliness, ensuring timely treatment, and providing efficient and patient-friendly healthcare services to the public.

Horticulture Planning and Marketing Department organizes Buyer Sell Meet at Parimpora

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MARCH 28: The Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing Jammu and Kashmir today organised a Buyer seller Meet (BSM-4 of 2025-26) at Conference Hall of New Kashmir Fruit Association Parimpora Srinagar with the aim of strengthening Market Linkages and promoting agribusiness partnership within and outside J&K. Prominent growers, Traders, Commission agents, FPOs, SHGs, Processors Exporters and Entrepreneurs participated in the event. The meet was held to promote direct contact between buyers and sellers aiming to create transparency and ensuring better price realisation. The platform helped to bring buyers and sellers together for sharing their knowledge and expertise regarding Good Agricultural Practices, Export Potential of Horticulture Produce and integration with e-Market platforms like e-NAM. The department highlighted its role and commitment to benefit stakeholders by way of facilitating easy market access at various levels, imparting training and capacity programmes. The BSM facilitated direct interaction between buyers, FPOs/sellers of Srinagar, Ganderbal, Baramulla, Bandipora and Sopore.

The event was graced by the presence of Dy. Director Horticulture Planning and



Marketing Kashmir who apprised the participants about the efforts and plans of the department to develop better Marketing Linkages for local sellers and buyers within and outside UT of J&K. She highlighted the initiatives taken by the government under the schemes like HADP and JK CIP all aimed to minimise post-harvest losses.

Presidents of different fruit and vegetable Associations, FPO's and SHG's belonging to District Srinagar, Baramulla, Ganderbal and Bandipora spoke on the occasion and highlighted the issues confronted by them in the trade. President, New Kashmir Fruit Association expressed satisfaction over the role played by the Department of Horticulture (P&M) under the dynamic leadership of Director, Ghulam Jeelani Zargar in promoting Horticulture Marketing and mitigation of issues faced by fruit growers and traders.

DC Ganderbal reviews progress of Mission YUVA; 158 cases approved

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, MARCH 28: A meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore to review the progress of Mission YUVA and approve loan applications under the scheme.

At the outset, the Additional District Development Commissioner briefed the meeting about the status of hiring SBDU/BHD Coordinators and the engagement of external trainers. He also shared details regarding the total number of cases sanctioned and disbursed under Mission YUVA so far.

The DC directed officials to speed up the recruitment process for vacant SBDU/BHD Coordinator posts to ensure smooth implementation of the programme at the ground level. He also stressed the need to increase the number of external trainers to strengthen capacity-building programmes for selected beneficiaries.

He instructed the Lead District Manager to improve the pace of sanctioning and disbursing cases so that selected applicants can start their ventures without delay.

Later, the Committee reviewed applications received under Mission YUVA

in detail, assessing their eligibility, feasibility, and potential to generate employment and promote entrepreneurship in the district.

During the meeting, emphasis was laid on maintaining transparency, timely processing of cases, and providing support to deserving youth with viable business ideas. The DC highlighted the importance of coordination among departments and financial institutions for smooth implementation of the scheme.

After thorough scrutiny, the Committee approved 158 cases, enabling the applicants to avail financial and institutional support under Mission YUVA. Officials were directed to complete further formalities at the earliest so that approved cases can be disbursed without delay.

The meeting also stressed the need to create wider awareness about the scheme and ensure that more eligible youth benefit from it through active outreach.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Manzoor Ahmad, General Manager District Industries Centre, Lead District Manager, Assistant Director Employment, District Social Welfare Officer, and Nodal Officer JKEDI.

DM Bandipora reviews Anti-Drug Measures at NCORD Meet Stresses strengthening Enforcement, Surveillance and Awareness

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, MARCH 28: District Magistrate (DM) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib along with SSP Aijaz Ahmad Zargar, today chaired a meeting of the District-Level NCORD Committee to review ongoing efforts to curb drug abuse and illicit trafficking in the district.

During the meeting, the DM emphasized the need for focused and professional investigation in NDPS cases, directing concerned agencies to thoroughly examine both forward and backward linkages to dismantle entire drug networks. She also stressed strict enforcement measures, including action on licences, vehicle registrations, passports, contractor cards and arms licences of offenders, besides ensuring attachment of properties under PIT NDPS provisions.

Highlighting the importance

of surveillance, the DM directed all stakeholders to ensure optimum functionality and saturation of CCTV cameras in identified hotspot areas, colleges and schools to enhance monitoring and deterrence.

The Senior Superintendent of Police, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar, briefed the meeting on recent measures taken by the police, including detentions under the PIT NDPS Act, intensified action in identified hotspots, and the registration of new cases.

The Deputy Director Prosecution apprised the meeting about the status of NDPS cases, including prosecutions, acquittals and bail matters.

The DM underscored the need for capacity building and training of prosecutors and called for the establishment of video conferencing facilities at remote locations to facilitate examination of prosecution witnesses.

The Deputy DEO presented a detailed presentation on the progress achieved under IEC (Information, Education and Communication) activities. The DM stressed the need for intensive and sustained IEC campaigns, mass awareness drives and active public participation, while also seeking feedback from participants to improve outreach strategies.

During the meeting, the Excise Department informed that awareness initiatives are being carried out through Friday sermons, and reported that a recent poppy cultivation survey found no evidence of illegal cultivation in the district. The Assistant Drug Controller briefed the meeting on inspections conducted, installation of CCTV cameras and computerized billing systems at medical establishments, and other enforcement measures.

On the occasion, the ARTO Bandipora was directed to ensure

timely action against the driving licences of offenders and strict compliance with regulations. The Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) Bandipora also shared details regarding registrations and ongoing treatment and rehabilitation services.

Reiterating the need for coordinated action, vigilant surveillance and continuous monitoring, the DM urged all departments to work in close synergy to effectively combat the drug menace and safeguard the youth of the district.

The meeting was attended by ACD Bandipora; CAO Bandipora; ARTO Bandipora; DIO Bandipora; MO, ATF Bandipora and other concerned officers, while Principals of GDCs; CMO Bandipora; MS DH Bandipora; Assistant Drug Controller Bandipora; District Officer, Excise and Taxation Department Bandipora attended the meeting virtually.

DC Kulgam visits District Hospital; Reviews patient care services

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, MARCH 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today visited District Hospital Kulgam to review healthcare facilities and patient care services being provided at the hospital.

During the visit, the DC inspected various wards and sections, including IPD wards and ticket counters, and interacted with patients and attendants to obtain feedback regarding the services available.

The Medical Superintendent, Dr. Syed Masood, briefed him about the hospital's functioning, staff availability, and the medical facilities available for patients.

Speaking on the occasion the Deputy Commissioner highlighted that Phase-II of the TB eradication programme has recently been inaugurated and, as part of the initiative, nutritional kits were distributed among TB patients to support their treatment and recovery. He stressed that active public participation, especially timely sampling and testing, is essential to make Kulgam a TB-free district. He urged people to come forward for screening so that the district



can achieve the goal of being declared TB-free at the earliest. While reviewing hospital infrastructure, the DC was informed that facilities including a digital X-ray plant, anesthesia station, orthopedic surgery theatre, dialysis centre machinery, and a dedicated mortuary area have been added to strengthen healthcare services. The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of maintaining cleanliness, ensuring timely treatment, and providing efficient and patient-friendly healthcare services to the public.

Comprehensive Evaluation of PM SHRI Schools in Anantnag by Central Nodal Officer concludes with Strategic Review Meeting

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, MARCH 28: In a significant step towards strengthening the vision of PM SHRI Schools as centres of excellence under the national education transformation agenda, Abhishek Dev, Joint Secretary, Government of India, and Central Nodal Officer (CNO-PM SHRI), concluded his two-day official visit to District Anantnag with extensive school inspections and a high-level review of implementation progress across PM SHRI institutions.

During the two-day visit, the Central Nodal Officer undertook a comprehensive assessment of academic, infrastructural, and administrative dimensions of PM SHRI schools in the district, focusing on institutional preparedness, implementation quality, and alignment with national educational priorities.

On the first day, the officer visited multiple PM SHRI institutions across the district and reviewed progress under the PM SHRI framework with special emphasis on Performance Grading Index (PGI), quality of teaching-learning processes, competency-based education, and integration of innovative and experiential pedagogies.

He interacted extensively with students, teachers, and Heads of Institutions to obtain firsthand insights into classroom practices, learner engagement, and school leadership processes. The visible transformation in school ecosystems and commitment of educators towards learner-centric and inclusive education were



appreciated during these interactions.

On the second day, the visit commenced with an inspection of PM SHRI High School Semthan, where the overall institutional status, academic practices, infrastructural development, and key achievements under the PM SHRI initiative were closely evaluated. The officer reviewed the school's progress in implementing child-centred pedagogy, digital interventions,

and holistic development activities.

Thereafter, the team visited PM SHRI SRJ Higher Secondary School Khanabal, where detailed interaction was held with school authorities regarding academic outcomes, innovation initiatives, resource utilization, and challenges in implementation.

The school's efforts towards creating an enriched learning environment and integrating PM SHRI objectives into daily academic

functioning were examined in detail.

The visit concluded with a comprehensive review meeting held at District Institute of Education and Training Anantnag, attended by district administration and education department functionaries.

The district administration was represented by Tariq Ahmad Malik, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Anantnag. Senior officers of the Education Department including

the Chief Education Officer Anantnag, District Education Planning Officer, Samagra Shiksha Coordinator, DIET faculty and Zonal Education Officers of PM SHRI school zones also participated in the deliberations.

The review meeting witnessed a threadbare and constructive interaction where district officials presented institutional progress, achievements, and field-level challenges emerging during implementation. Stakeholders also highlighted practical concerns relating to infrastructure optimization, academic flexibility, capacity building, digital access, and school-level administrative needs. Several policy suggestions and implementation-oriented recommendations were placed before the Central Nodal Officer for consideration.

During the deliberations, the Central Nodal Officer emphasized continuous academic monitoring, optimal utilization of resources, digital integration, competency-based learning, and stronger institutional leadership to further improve educational outcomes. He reiterated that PM SHRI schools must evolve as model institutions that establish benchmarks in innovation, sustainability, inclusion, and holistic student development.

The visit concluded with a renewed collective commitment by district administration and the education department to transform PM SHRI schools of Anantnag into vibrant, future ready centres of excellence capable of delivering quality, equity, and excellence in education to every learner.

Multi-Stakeholder Platform Meet under JKCIP held at Pulwama

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, MARCH 28: Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing today organized the 4th Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) Meet of 2025-26, under the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP) at Conference Hall, SIDCO, Lasipora, Pulwama. The event marked an important step towards strengthening collaboration among key stakeholders in the agriculture and horticulture sectors. The meet was inaugurated by Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing, Ghulam Jeelani Zargar, who briefed the audience about the significance of Multi-Stakeholder Platform meets for overall development of Agri/Horticulture Sector.

While addressing the gathering, the Director emphasized the upliftment of the farming community through flagship initiatives such as the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and JKCIP. He urged all participants to actively raise their concerns, challenges, and suggestions on such platforms to enable effective, inclusive, and farmer-centric policy formulation. He reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening agricultural value chains, improving market access, and enhancing farmers' incomes. The meet witnessed an overwhelming response from a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including Presidents from Fruit & Vegetable Markets of Jablipora, Pulwama, Shopian, Anantnag besides FPOs, progressive farmers, CA store operators, entrepreneurs, industrialists from processing & packaging sector, traders and HADP/JKCIP beneficiaries. The platform facilitated threadbare and constructive discussions on critical issues related to supply chain management, marketing linkages, post-harvest infrastructure, and institutional financing.

The concerns and suggestions raised by participants were addressed in detail by the concerned officers of various departments. The various issues raised by the beneficiaries of Kissan Khidmat Ghars (KKG) and Rural Business & Service Hubs (RBSH) established under HADP were also discussed. The event concluded with a felicitation ceremony, wherein the Dy. Director Central, Horticulture Planning and Marketing, felicitated the dignitaries, and experts from various institutions in recognition of their valuable contributions.

SWD Srinagar organizes Distribution of New Born Baby Kits to Girl Child under BBBP

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, MARCH 28: Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP- Hub for Empowerment of Women-Mission Shakti Srinagar, today organized distribution programme of newborn baby kits to girl child at SKIMS Medical College Hospital- Bemina as part of its continued efforts to promote maternal and child welfare.

On the occasion, the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), Srinagar distributed newborn baby kits among the beneficiaries at the hospital. The kits, comprising essential items required for the care and hygiene of newborns, were provided to support mothers during the immediate postnatal period.

While interacting with the beneficiaries, the DSWO Srinagar highlighted the importance of institutional healthcare, proper nutrition, and hygiene for both mother and child. The officer also briefed the attendees about various welfare schemes being implemented by the department for the benefit of women and children.

The programme witnessed participation from hospital staff and officials of the Social Welfare Department, who reiterated their commitment to ensuring the well-being and support of vulnerable sections of society.

The beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the Social Welfare Department for the timely assistance and appreciated the initiative aimed at safeguarding the health and care of newborns.

SWD Srinagar remains committed to organizing such outreach programmes to strengthen social security and promote inclusive welfare across the district.

District Level Training for District, Charge officers for Census-2027 continues on Day 2 at Shopian

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, MARCH 28: The second day of the District Level Phase-I training programme for District and Charge Officers for Census-2027 (Houselisting & Housing Census & Population Enumeration) was conducted today at the Meeting Hall, Mini Secretariat, Shopian.

During Day 2, the training commenced with detailed sessions on HLB (House Listing Block) carving through HLB Creator and preparation of layout maps.

The programme further covered CMMS modules including training management, generation of appointment letters and ID cards, logistics, printing and data entry modules.

The participants were also trained on preparation of Village/Town/Charge Registers, followed by practical sessions on the use of dashboards in CMMS for monitoring purposes.

The concluding session focused on self-enumeration, including its process, demonstration and the role of informants, enumerators and supervisors. The sessions were conducted through theory, demonstration and practical exercises to ensure hands-on understanding and effective field-level implementation.

The training programme forms part of the preparatory activities for Census-2027, which is a constitutional and statutory exercise conducted under Article 246 (Union List) and the Census Act, 1948.

The officers were informed that Census is the most credible source of demographic and socio-economic data, covering population

characteristics, economic activity, literacy, education, housing and household amenities, urbanization, migration, disability and other key indicators.

It provides grassroots-level information essential for planning and implementation of welfare schemes, resource allocation and delimitation of constituencies, thereby playing a vital role in nation-building.

It was highlighted that the Census will be conducted in two phases, with Phase-I (Houselisting & Housing Census) scheduled from 01 to 30 June 2026 and Phase-II (Population Enumeration) from 09 to 28 February 2027.

The Houselisting & Housing Census provides vital information on housing conditions, amenities and assets and creates the framework for population enumeration, while Population Enumeration records individual particulars of every person at a fixed reference date and time.

The officers were further briefed that Census-2027 marks a major shift towards digital data collection through the "Census 2027-HLO" mobile application.

Self-enumeration has also been introduced for the first time, wherein citizens can submit their own data digitally, which will be verified by enumerators before final submission.

The training was imparted by master trainers and resource persons including Joint Director, Arun Kumar (National Trainer), Assistant Director, Rohini Pokhrel (Nodal Officer), District Coordinator, Naveen Raghav (Census Officer Shopian) and District Coordinator, Ajay Singh (Census Officer Pulwama).

DC Srinagar reviews functioning of Aadhaar Centres, setting up of Centre of Excellence-CSC, progress of Mandatory Biometric Updates for Aadhaar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR MARCH 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Saturday reviewed the progress of Mandatory Biometric updates for Aadhaar in a meeting held here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

He also reviewed the functioning of Aadhaar Centres and the status of establishment of a Centre of Excellence under Common Services Centres (CSC) in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, SP headquarter, Umar Shah, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, District Social Welfare Officer, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, District Statistics & Evaluation Officer, Shah Ismail Bangroo, Chief Education Officer, District Informatics Officer, Medical Superintendents of various City Hospitals, all Tehsil Dar, Project Manager, UIDAI, District Coordinator CSCE-Governance and other concerned.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner was given a detailed overview of the progress on Mandatory Biometric Updates for Aadhaar, achievements under the Civil Registration System (CRS) with a focus on the Birth Registration-Based Aadhaar Enrolment (BRBAE).

On the occasion, the DC stressed the need to ensure timely completion of Aadhaar based Mandatory Biometric Updates (MBU) and emphasized expeditious disposal of pending Aadhaar cases, particularly those



involving applicants above 100 years of age. He also underscored the importance of data analysis to achieve time-bound Aadhaar saturation in the district.

The DC further directed that all Aadhaar Centres be made fully functional to ensure greater convenience for the public.

While reviewing the status of infrastructure and preparedness for the establishment of the Centre of Excellence-CSC, the DC instructed the concerned Officers to complete all requisite arrangements and ensure that the Centre is made operational at the earliest to benefit the people.

The DC also stressed the importance of effective coordination among line departments and the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to ensure seamless functioning of Aadhaar Centres and timely achievement of targets in the district.

DC Pulwama reviews TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan-100 days campaign

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, MARCH 28: Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Administrative Complex Pulwama to assess the preparedness and implementation strategy for the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan 100 Days Campaign in the district.

The TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan-100 Days Campaign was launched earlier on March 24, aimed at accelerating case detection, improving treatment adherence, and strengthening last-mile delivery of TB services.

At the outset, the District Programme Coordinator

presented a detailed presentation, outlining the objectives, key strategies, target population, and operational framework of the campaign. It was informed that the initiative aims to proactively identify TB cases through systematic screening of vulnerable populations, reduce TB-related mortality through early detection and personalised care, and prevent new infections through TB Preventive Treatment, adopting a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

It was further informed that X-ray-based proactive screening, including the use of handheld X-ray units under Ayushman Arogya Shivar, will form a key component of the campaign

strategy. While reviewing the preparedness, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for meticulous micro-planning at all levels, ensuring proper line-listing and vulnerability mapping.

He directed the concerned officers to ensure 100 percent screening of identified vulnerable populations, particularly in high-risk areas, and to make optimal use of available diagnostic infrastructure. Emphasis was laid on intensified case finding through advanced diagnostic tools including X-ray, NAAT and CBNAAT, to ensure comprehensive coverage.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner also



conducted a detailed block-wise review of pendency in X-ray screening of the identified population. He directed all Block Medical Officers to formulate a clear action plan to ensure timely completion of X-ray screening, particularly in high-risk areas. He emphasised optimal utilisation of available X-ray facilities, and directed that weekly progress reports be submitted for close monitoring and timely intervention.

Dr. Qayoom further highlighted the importance of strengthening outreach mechanisms and called for intensified field-level activities to reach underserved populations. He also emphasised the need for seamless

coordination among departments and directed for effective convergence to ensure successful implementation of the campaign.

Highlighting the role of community participation, the DC called for enhanced Jan Bhagidari by actively involving elected representatives, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies, youth volunteers, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders to create widespread awareness and ensure public cooperation in the fight against tuberculosis.

The Deputy Commissioner further stressed the importance of robust monitoring and real-time data reporting through the Nikshay portal to ensure

proper tracking of cases and delivery of services. He also directed for ensuring adequate nutritional and psychosocial support to TB patients under existing schemes to improve treatment outcomes.

Concluding the meeting, Dr. Qayoom urged all stakeholders to work in a coordinated and mission mode in the fight against tuberculosis.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Pulwama; Chief Medical Officer Pulwama; Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Pulwama; District Tuberculosis Officer Pulwama; Deputy Chief Medical Officer; Block Medical Officers; and Medical Officers of various health institutions.

HT EDITORIAL

Increase and not decrease operation hours at Srinagar Airport

Srinagar airport is one of the important airports in North India and for a long time the airport has been projected as one of the international airports of the country. Some years back few international flights were operated from this airport to some gulf countries. The process was discontinued with the airport authorities saying that the response to such flights was very poor and as such further flights could not be operated.

The international flights might have stopped from the Srinagar airport, but the air traffic from different cities of the country has picked up over the past few years. During the peak tourist season roundabout 100 flights arrive or depart from the Srinagar airport on an average on a daily basis. Given this fact it is important that the operation hours at the airport are increased so that more and more flights operate when the tourist season has already begun.

Quite contrary to this a bizarre order has come from the authorities according to which the operation hours are going to be reduced for four months from April. According to this order no aero-plane would be allowed to land at the Srinagar airport after 5 PM during these four months. The aircraft carriers have been asked to plan their schedule of flights in such a manner that the flights arrive or depart before the cut-off timing and there should be no chaos and confusion at the airport.

The authorities have said that the restrictions on the arrival and departure of flights from Srinagar airport have been necessitated due to the repairs being carried out on the runway at the airport. One can accept that maintenance has to be carried out at the airports time and again for enhanced performance. However, this should be done at a time when the rush of the people visiting a particular airport is relatively less. Since Kashmir is a tourist destination steps should be taken to increase the tourist footfall travelling by air during the peak tourist season.

It must be kept in mind that tourists are our guests and we cannot dictate terms to the guests. We need to be more accommodative and hospitable to the guests since many sectors of the society are dependent on tourism. The civil aviation ministry needs to chip in so that operation hours at the Srinagar airport are increased and tourists plan their journey according to their own programme.

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Winter Wings over Kashmir's Wetlands



MOHAMMAD HANIEF

Every winter, as vast stretches of Central Asia, Siberia and Europe succumb to freezing temperatures, the Kashmir Valley quietly assumes a global ecological role. Its wetlands, lakes and marshes become temporary homes for migratory birds that traverse thousands of kilometres in search of food, safety and moderate climatic conditions. This annual avian influx, one of the most remarkable natural phenomena in the region, once again unfolds across Kashmir's landscape, reaffirming the valley's importance on the international migratory map while also highlighting the environmental pressures that threaten this delicate balance.

From early October onward, wetlands such as Hokersar, Haigam, Shal-abugh, Mirgund, Dal Lake and Wular Lake begin to witness the gradual arrival of waterfowl. By the onset of winter, these habitats are alive with movement, sound and colour as birds settle into their seasonal refuge. Species commonly recorded include mallards, northern pintails, common teals, gad-walls, tufted ducks, coots, greylag geese and bar-headed geese, along with several species of gulls and waders. For months, these wetlands provide sustenance and shelter before the birds begin their return journey in spring.

Recent seasonal assessments indicate that Kashmir's wetlands have collectively hosted more than a million migratory birds, a figure that reflects a steady rise observed over the past several years. The Asian Waterbird Census and local wildlife surveys have recorded an encouraging increase in both population numbers and species diversity. This resurgence is widely attributed to sustained wetland management initiatives, improved water retention mechanisms and increased surveillance against illegal hunting and encroachment.

Wular Lake, one of Asia's largest freshwater lakes and a designated Ramsar site, continues to serve as a crucial wintering ground. Its vast open waters and surrounding marshes support large congregations of birds, particularly geese and ducks. Dal Lake,



despite urban pressures, remains an important habitat due to its complex mosaic of open water, reed beds and floating vegetation. Hokersar wetland, often described as the gateway for migratory birds entering the valley, retains its ecological significance, especially during early winter when bird arrivals peak.

The importance of these wetlands extends beyond seasonal migration. They act as natural flood buffers, groundwater recharge zones and biodiversity reservoirs. For migratory birds, they offer not only food but also relative safety from predators and extreme weather. The presence of healthy bird populations is therefore considered a key indicator of wetland health and water quality.

In recent years, conservation efforts across Kashmir have intensified, yielding visible results. Measures such as controlled water regulation, selective desilting and habitat restoration have helped improve the carrying capacity of several wetlands. Surveillance infrastructure has been strengthened, with night patrols and monitoring systems deployed to curb poaching, a practice that once posed a serious threat to migratory birds in the region. Awareness campaigns targeting local communities have also contributed to greater public participation in conservation. At the same time, the current scenario reveals contrasting realities. While some wetlands report higher bird concentrations, others are experiencing stress due to environmental and climatic factors. Prolonged dry spells and erratic precipitation patterns have affected water levels in certain marshes, particularly Hokersar, where reduced inflows have limited suitable

foraging areas. Such fluctuations directly influence bird distribution, forcing species to either relocate within the valley or shorten their stay.

Climate variability has emerged as a critical concern. Changing snowfall patterns in the upper catchments and inconsistent rainfall have altered hydrological cycles that wetlands depend upon. Reduced winter precipitation not only affects water availability but also impacts aquatic vegetation, a primary food source for many migratory species. Over time, these shifts could influence long-established migration routes and seasonal timings.

Human pressure remains another major challenge. Encroachment, pollution from untreated sewage, agricultural runoff and unregulated development continue to threaten wetland ecosystems. Urban expansion around Dal Lake and Wular Lake has increased nutrient loading, leading to eutrophication and loss of open water. In rural wetlands, land reclamation and silt deposition have reduced marshy areas critical for feeding and nesting.

Despite legal protections and Ramsar recognition for several sites, enforcement gaps persist. Conservationists emphasize that wetland protection cannot succeed through isolated interventions alone. It requires integrated land-use planning, strict regulation of waste disposal, and coordinated water management across river basins. Without such measures, short-term gains in bird numbers may not translate into long-term ecological stability.

The annual arrival of migratory birds also carries socio-economic significance. Birdwatching and nature tourism have gained momentum, drawing photographers, researchers and visitors

to Kashmir's wetlands. This growing interest has the potential to support local livelihoods through eco-tourism, provided it is managed responsibly. Infrastructure such as observation decks, guided trails and interpretation centres is increasingly being viewed as a means to balance conservation with community benefit.

Educational initiatives have further strengthened this link. Schools, colleges and environmental groups are now actively involved in bird monitoring and wetland clean-up drives. Such engagement fosters environmental stewardship among younger generations, reinforcing the idea that wildlife conservation is a shared responsibility rather than an isolated administrative task. Scientifically, migratory birds serve as living indicators of broader ecological changes. Variations in their numbers, health and behaviour often signal shifts in climate, water quality and habitat integrity. Continuous monitoring through structured censuses and research programmes is therefore essential to understanding long-term trends and planning adaptive conservation strategies.

Looking ahead, the future of Kashmir's migratory birds will largely depend on the resilience of its wetlands. Strengthening water security, restoring degraded marshes and curbing pollution must remain top priorities. Equally important is the need to align development goals with ecological limits, ensuring that infrastructure expansion does not undermine natural systems that have sustained both wildlife and human communities for centuries.

The winter skies over Kashmir, streaked with the silhouettes of migrating birds, remain one of the valley's most enduring natural spectacles. Each arrival is a testament to the valley's ecological relevance on a global scale. Yet, it is also a reminder that this ancient cycle is fragile. Preserving it demands sustained commitment, informed policy and collective action.

As another migration season unfolds, Kashmir stands at a crossroads. Its wetlands can either continue to serve as sanctuaries for millions of birds or slowly lose their vitality under mounting pressure. The choices made today will determine whether future winters will still echo with the calls of distant lands carried on wings across continents.

The author is a senior analyst and can be mailed at m.hanief@gmail.com
X/Twitter: @haniefmha

The Story of Chenab

Valley In Heart Of Himalayan Region



MOOL RAJ

The Chenab Valley derives its name from the Chenab River, one of the major rivers of northern India. The term "Chenab Valley" was first used by Erik Norin in a 1926 journal article. Geographically, the valley is situated in the eastern part of the Jammu region in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. To the north, it is bordered by the majestic Pir Panjal range, and to the south by the Zaskar range. The term is generally used to describe the present-day districts of Doda, Kishtwar, and Ramban—and historically, it also included parts of Reasi district. The Chenab Valley is a region that personifies natural beauty, adventure, and rich cultural heritage. Geographic Reference

The Chenab River itself is a significant waterway that flows through India and Pakistan. It originates in the Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh at the confluence of the Chandra and Bhaga rivers. Flowing through the districts of Doda, Kishtwar, and Ramban in Jammu and Kashmir, the river eventually enters Pakistan and merges with the Indus River. The name "Chenab" is derived from the Sanskrit term "Chandrabhaga," referencing the union of the Chandra and Bhaga rivers.

The people inhabiting the Chenab region—often referred to as "Chenabis"—are a diverse group with a strong sense of regional identity rooted in the valley's cultural and geographical uniqueness.

The Chenab Valley is known for its diverse cultural and religious landscape. Comprising the districts of Doda, Kishtwar, and Ramban, the region

is home to people from various ethnic and religious backgrounds, all contributing to the rich mosaic of life in this beautiful Himalayan valley.

The Chenab Valley is home to a vibrant mix of communities, where Islam and Hinduism are the two major religions. Muslims form a majority—around 60%—with Hindus comprising most of the remaining population. Sunni Muslims dominate many areas, especially in Doda and Kishtwar, while Hindus are prominently found in parts of Ramban and neighbouring regions. A small Sikh community also exists, mainly in towns such as Batote and Ramban.

Linguistically, the region is a remarkable tapestry of languages. Among the many spoken languages are Kashmiri, Dogri, Padri, Bhaderwahi, Sarazi, Kishtwari, Bhalessi, Rambani, and Gojri. Urdu and English also serve as common means of communication. Each subregion reflects its linguistic charm—for instance, Bhalessi is spoken in the Bhalessa area of Doda district, while Bhaderwahi dominates in and around Bhaderwah. Sarazi is native to the Saraz area, and Padri is spoken in the remote Padar region.

Culturally, the Chenab Valley stands out for its richness and ethnic diversity. It is home to Dogras, Gujjars, and Bakerwals—each contributing distinct traditions, attire, and dialects. Traditional music and dance play a central role in cultural celebrations, especially during weddings, harvests, and religious festivals. Instruments like the dhol, mashkoo, and bansuri set the tone for vibrant folk songs, including Bhakh and Gojri melodies. Among these cultural expressions, Bhaderwahi culture holds a special place. Centered around Bhaderwah, it represents a blend of tradition, rural lifestyle, and pride in the local Pahadi language, Bhaderwahi. This language echoes through poetry, songs, and daily life, even as people also speak Hindi and Urdu. Hospitality is a core value in the valley. Guests are welcomed with warmth, and it is customary to offer meals—most commonly the beloved local dish of Rajma-Chawal.

Traditional attire is widely worn, with pherans and

turbans for men and colourful, embroidered dresses for women. Festivals like Mela Pattin Bhaderwah and the Machail Yatra in Kishtwar are key cultural highlights. Major religious celebrations, such as Eid, Diwali, and Navratri, are observed with local rituals and a shared community spirit. Respect for elders, close-knit family structures, and community cooperation continue to define daily life in the valley.

The Chenab Valley is also dotted with numerous places of breathtaking beauty and spiritual significance. Bhaderwah Valley is perhaps the most popular tourist destination, renowned for its scenic charm and mild climate. Jantroon Dhar in the Thathi subdivision offers panoramic views from its long meadows, while the Chandi Mata Temple near Kishtwar draws pilgrims year-round. Other picturesque spots include Nalthi, the saffron fields of Kishtwar, Jai Valley, Chinta Valley, and Sanasar—each with its own appeal. Despite its beauty, the Chenab Valley faces several development challenges. The mountainous terrain makes transportation, construction, and communication extremely difficult. The region is also earthquake-prone, and frequent landslides, heavy rains, and unpredictable weather conditions disrupt both infrastructure and daily life. Building costs are significantly higher due to these geographical and environmental factors. Additionally, local residents often face hardships such as extreme weather, displacement, and loss of traditional livelihoods.

In conclusion, the Chenab Valley is a place of immense natural beauty, deep-rooted traditions, and enduring social harmony. Spanning the Doda, Kishtwar, and Ramban districts, the valley is a true reflection of linguistic plurality, cultural wealth, and religious coexistence. Even with its developmental struggles, its spirit of unity and resilience stands strong. Geographic Reference

"The Chenab Valley truly reflects the unique and colourful identity of Jammu and Kashmir."

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

Making Mobile A Companion: Journey Towards Learning



■ DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

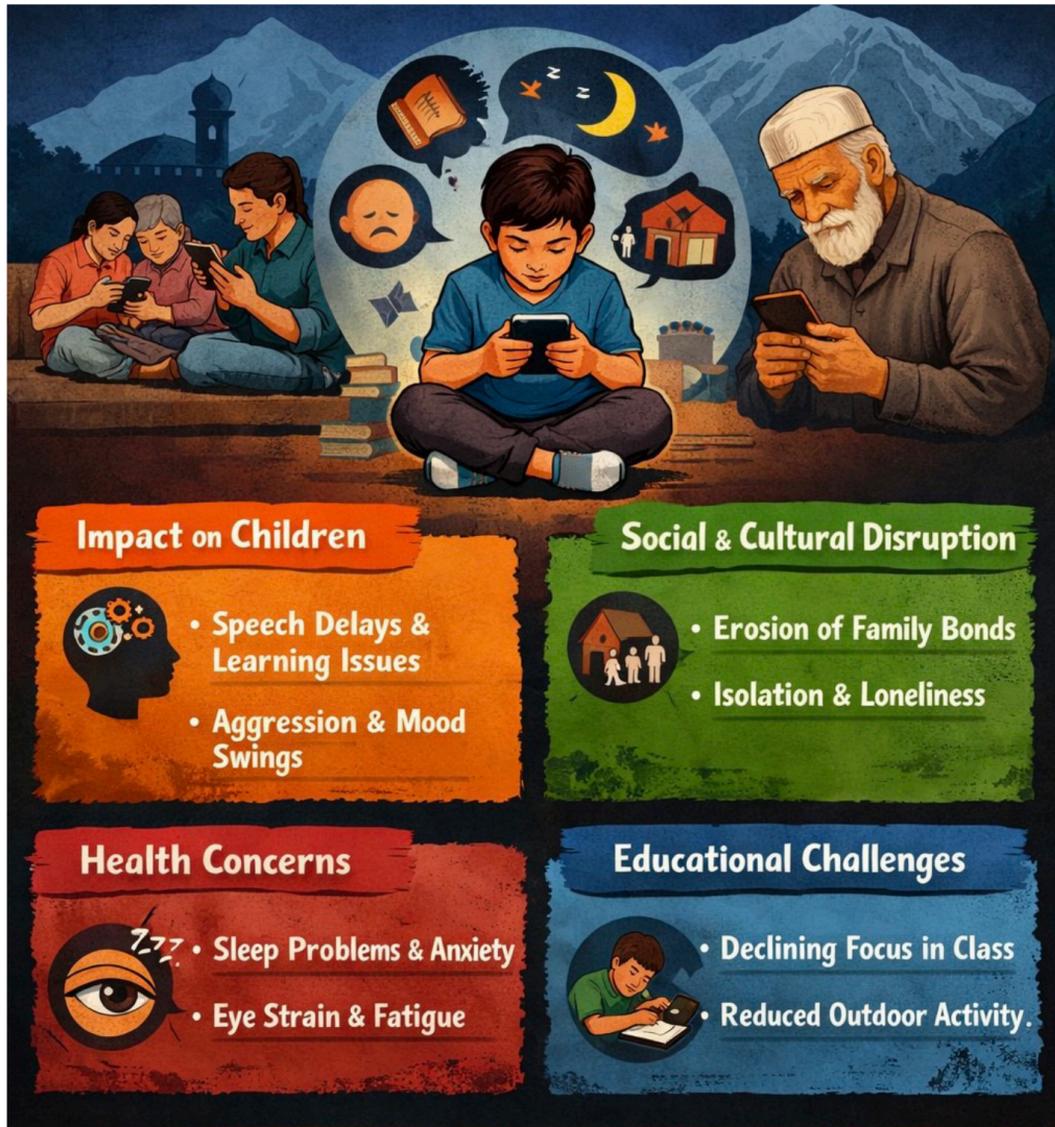
Mobile overuse in Kashmir has become a growing social and health concern, affecting children, youth, and even older generations. Excessive smartphone use is linked to declining learning abilities, sleep disturbances, speech delays in young children, and erosion of traditional social bonds across the valley. Mobile phones have become an inseparable part of modern childhood, shaping how students learn, play, and interact with the world. Experts in Kashmir emphasize that banning mobiles is unrealistic. Instead, channelizing mobile use toward education, creativity, and mindfulness is seen as the most effective solution. Schools and families can encourage children to use mobiles for e-learning, digital art, or collaborative projects, while also setting boundaries to ensure offline engagement. Mobile overuse in Kashmir is eroding learning abilities, family bonds, and mental health across age groups. The challenge is not to eliminate mobile phones but to redirect their use toward constructive purposes, balancing digital engagement with the valley's rich traditions of social and cultural life.

While concerns about overuse are valid, it is equally important to recognize that mobile devices can become companions in the journey of learning and development when guided thoughtfully. Instead of viewing them as distractions, parents and educators can help children transform their mobile habits into opportunities for growth, creativity, and responsible digital citizenship. Children are naturally drawn to mobile devices because they provide instant gratification through games, videos, and social media. This attraction, if left unchecked, can lead to excessive use and dependency. However, the same energy that fuels mobile overuse can be redirected toward learning. Educational apps, e-learning platforms, and gamified lessons can make studying engaging and interactive. For example, a child who enjoys puzzles can be introduced to math games that challenge problem-solving skills, while another who loves stories can explore reading apps that bring literature to life. By aligning mobile activities with children's interests, learning becomes enjoyable rather than forced.

Creativity is another powerful avenue where mobile phones can serve as companions. Instead of passively consuming endless streams of content, children can be encouraged to create their own. Digital art apps allow them to paint and sketch, music apps enable them to compose melodies, and video editing tools let them craft stories. These activities not only reduce addictive scrolling but also nurture talents that may shape their future careers. A child who spends time designing graphics or editing short films is not wasting time but building valuable skills in communication, design, and storytelling. Mindfulness and health can also be supported through mobile devices. Meditation apps teach children how to manage stress, fitness apps encourage physical activity through fun challenges, and habit trackers help them build discipline. When children learn to use mobiles for well-being, they begin to see their devices as tools for self-improvement rather than mere entertainment. This shift in perspective is crucial in developing balanced digital habits.

Parents and teachers play a central role in guiding this transformation. Children often imitate the behavior they observe, so adults must model healthy mobile usage themselves. Parents can set boundaries, monitor screen time, and engage in joint activities such as watching educational videos or exploring science experiments together. Teachers can integrate mobile-based assignments into classrooms, encouraging students to research, collaborate, and present findings using apps. Schools can organize digital competitions, such as coding contests or online quizzes, where mobile phones become instruments of achievement rather than distraction. Balance, however, remains essential. Even when mobiles are used constructively, children must also engage in offline activities.

Outdoor sports, reading books, family bonding, and hobbies like gardening or



Impact on Children



- Speech Delays & Learning Issues
- Aggression & Mood Swings

Social & Cultural Disruption



- Erosion of Family Bonds
- Isolation & Loneliness

Health Concerns



- Sleep Problems & Anxiety
- Eye Strain & Fatigue

Educational Challenges



- Declining Focus in Class
- Reduced Outdoor Activity.

painting provide experiences that no app can replicate. A balanced routine ensures that mobile phones enhance rather than dominate children's lives. For instance, a child might spend an hour on an educational app followed by an hour of outdoor play, creating harmony between digital and physical worlds. Social media, often seen as a source of distraction, can also be redirected toward learning. Children can join educational groups, student forums, or communities that encourage collaboration and knowledge-sharing. Parents and schools must teach responsible usage, ensuring that children spend more time engaging with constructive content than scrolling aimlessly. Digital literacy programs in schools can further prepare students to navigate the online world wisely, equipping them with skills to distinguish between helpful and harmful content. The long-term benefits of channelizing mobile use are significant.

Children who learn to use their phones constructively often show improved academic performance, enhanced creativity, sharper problem-solving skills, and better physical and mental health. They also develop digital literacy, learning to balance online and offline worlds responsibly. These skills are essential in the modern era, where technology is not just a tool but a way of life. In essence, mobile phones can indeed become companions in the journey of learning and development. The key lies in guidance, balance, and redirection. By transforming mobile overuse into opportunities for education, creativity, and mindfulness, parents and educators can ensure that children harness the power of technology positively. The goal is not to eliminate mobile phones from children's lives but to teach them how to use these devices wisely. With structured routines, parental involvement, and school initiatives, mobiles can evolve from distractions into powerful allies in shaping capable, balanced, and responsible digital citizens.

In the context of Indian scenario, mobile overuse among school children has become one of the defining challenges of our digital age. The smartphone, once a tool reserved for adults, has now become a constant companion for children, shaping their habits, routines, and even their worldview. While the device itself is not inherently harmful, the way it is used often determines whether it becomes a source

Children who learn to use their phones constructively often show improved academic performance, enhanced creativity, sharper problem-solving skills, and better physical and mental health. They also develop digital literacy, learning to balance online and offline worlds responsibly. These skills are essential in the modern era, where technology is not just a tool but a way of life. In essence, mobile phones can indeed become companions in the journey of learning and development. The key lies in guidance, balance, and redirection. By transforming mobile overuse into opportunities for education, creativity, and mindfulness, parents and educators can ensure that children harness the power of technology positively.

of enrichment or a distraction. The problem arises when children spend excessive hours scrolling through social media, playing games, or watching videos, often at the expense of their studies, physical health, and social interactions. Yet, instead of treating mobile phones as enemies, parents and educators can take a more constructive approach: redirecting the energy that fuels mobile overuse toward learning, creati-

ty, and personal growth. This requires a shift in perspective, where the mobile phone is seen not as a threat but as a powerful tool that, when guided properly, can open doors to knowledge and skill development.

Children are naturally curious, and mobile devices feed that curiosity with endless streams of content. The challenge is that much of this content is designed to entertain rather than educate, leading to addictive patterns. The first step in channelizing mobile overuse is to acknowledge that banning or restricting phones entirely is neither practical nor effective. In today's interconnected world, mobile phones are integral to communication, learning, and even identity formation. Instead of prohibition, the goal should be transformation—turning passive consumption into active engagement. For instance, a child who spends hours playing mobile games can be introduced to gamified learning apps that teach mathematics, science, or languages in a playful manner. The same excitement that drives them to clear levels in a game can be harnessed to solve puzzles, complete quizzes, or learn coding basics. By reframing mobile use as a gateway to knowledge, children begin to associate their devices with growth rather than distraction.

Parents and teachers play a crucial role in this redirection. Children often imitate the habits they observe, so adults must model balanced mobile usage themselves. If a parent spends hours scrolling through social media, it becomes difficult to convince a child to use their phone responsibly. Instead, parents can engage in joint activities with their children, such as watching educational videos together, exploring science experiments on YouTube, or using language-learning apps as a family. This shared experience not only strengthens bonds but also normalizes the idea that mobile phones can be tools for learning. Teachers, on the other hand, can integrate mobile-based assignments into the classroom. Rather than discouraging phone use, they can design projects that require students to research, collaborate, and present findings using mobile apps. Schools can even organize digital competitions, such as online quizzes, coding contests, or creative storytelling challenges, where mobile phones become instruments of achievement.

Another effective strategy is to encourage creativity through mobile devices. Instead of consuming endless streams of videos, children can be guided to create their own content. Digital art apps allow them to draw and paint, music apps enable them to compose tunes, and video editing tools let them craft stories. This shift from consumption to creation not only reduces addictive tendencies but also builds valuable skills. A child who spends time editing videos or designing graphics is not wasting time but developing talents that may serve them in the future. Similarly, children can be introduced to apps that promote mindfulness and health. Meditation apps help them manage stress, fitness apps encourage physical activity, and habit trackers instill discipline. These tools transform mobile phones into companions for well-being rather than sources of distraction.

Of course, balance is essential. Channelizing mobile overuse does not mean allowing children to spend all their time on devices, even if the activities are educational. Offline engagement remains critical for holistic development. Outdoor sports, reading books, family bonding activities, and hobbies like gardening or painting provide experiences that no mobile app can replicate. Parents and educators must help children build routines that allocate time for both digital and physical activities. For example, a child might spend an hour using an educational app, followed by an hour of outdoor play. This balance ensures that mobile phones enhance rather than dominate their lives. It also prevents the physical and mental health issues associated with excessive screen time, such as eye strain, poor posture, and sleep disturbances.

Redirecting mobile energy toward learning also requires controlled social media usage. Social platforms can be powerful tools for collaboration and knowledge-sharing, but they can also become addictive. Children should be taught to use social media responsibly, joining educational groups, student forums, or communities that encourage learning. Parents can monitor usage and set boundaries, ensuring that children spend more time engaging with constructive content than scrolling aimlessly. Schools can also provide digital literacy programs, teaching students about the risks of mobile addiction and the importance of responsible online behavior. By equipping children with the skills to navigate the digital world wisely, educators prepare them for a future where technology will be even more pervasive. The long-term benefits of channelizing mobile overuse are profound. Children who learn to use their phones constructively often show improved academic performance, as they spend more time engaging with educational content. Their creativity flourishes as they explore digital art, music, and storytelling. Their problem-solving skills sharpen through coding and gamified learning. Their physical and mental health improves when mobile devices are used to track fitness and mindfulness. Most importantly, they develop digital literacy and responsible citizenship, learning to balance online and offline worlds. These skills are essential in the modern era, where technology is not just a tool but a way of life.

In conclusion, all over India mobile overuse among school children is a pressing concern, but it also presents an opportunity. By redirecting the energy that fuels mobile addiction toward learning, creativity, and mindfulness, parents and educators can transform mobile phones from distractions into powerful tools for growth. The solution lies not in prohibition but in guidance, not in restriction but in redirection. With structured routines, parental involvement, school initiatives, and a focus on balance, children can learn to harness the power of mobile technology wisely. In doing so, they not only overcome the challenges of mobile addiction but also prepare themselves for a future where digital skills will be indispensable. The task before us is clear: to ensure that the mobile phone, rather than being a source of concern, becomes a companion in the journey of learning and development.

International Dickens Medal Winner Multilingual Writer and Poet and author of Our Time Revisited Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee is an International Visiting Professor and Retd. Head Post Graduate Dept of English Dum Dum Motijheel College . He may be mailed at prof.ratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com

The Atmosphere Revealed



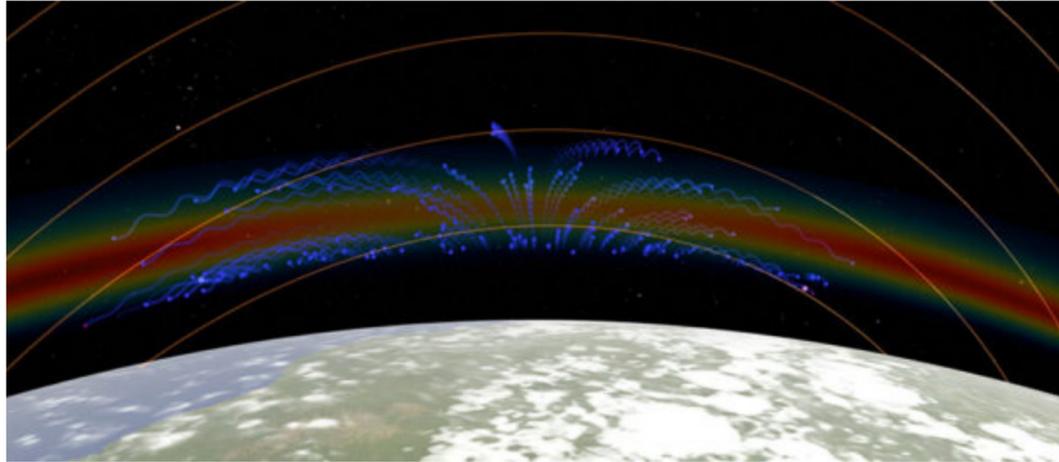
■ DR. SURINDERPAL SINGH

The atmosphere is the vast envelope of different gases that surrounds the planet Earth and is held close to it by the force of gravity. It acts as a protective blanket, making life possible on our planet. Without this gaseous cover, Earth would be a lifeless world marked by extreme temperatures and constant exposure to harmful solar radiation. The presence of the atmosphere ensures a balanced environment where living organisms can survive and thrive.

The composition of the atmosphere is primarily a mixture of nitrogen, which makes up about 78 percent, and oxygen, which accounts for around 21 percent. The remaining one percent consists of other gases such as carbon dioxide, argon, water vapour, and trace elements. Though present in small quantities, these gases play a vital role in maintaining environmental stability and supporting life processes.

The atmosphere extends from the Earth's surface to several hundred kilometres into space, gradually thinning out as it merges with the vacuum beyond. While there is no clearly defined boundary, scientists estimate that it fades into outer space at an altitude of around 10,000 kilometres. However, most of the atmospheric mass is concentrated close to the surface, with nearly 75 percent found within the first 11 kilometres. This concentration is crucial because it is within this region that most life-supporting processes take place.

The importance of the atmosphere can-



not be overstated, as it performs several essential functions that sustain life and maintain ecological balance. It provides oxygen necessary for respiration, enabling humans, animals, and many microorganisms to survive. It also shields the Earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation through the ozone layer, thereby protecting living beings from serious health hazards. Furthermore, the atmosphere regulates temperature by acting as a thermal blanket, preventing extreme fluctuations between day and night. This regulation creates a stable climate suitable for life.

In addition, the atmosphere is responsible for weather and climate systems. Phenomena such as clouds, rainfall, winds, and storms occur within it, playing a crucial role in water distribution and agricultural productivity. It also acts as a protective barrier against meteoroids, most of which burn up due to friction before reaching the Earth's surface. Another vital func-

tion is its role in the water cycle, where processes like evaporation, condensation, and precipitation ensure the continuous circulation of water across the planet.

Structurally, the atmosphere is divided into several layers based on temperature variations and physical characteristics. The lowest layer, known as the troposphere, extends from the Earth's surface up to about 8 to 15 kilometres. This layer contains the majority of the atmospheric mass and is the region where all weather phenomena occur. It is also the zone where humans, animals, and plants exist, making it the most significant layer for life.

Above the troposphere lies the stratosphere, which extends up to about 50 kilometres. This layer contains the ozone layer that absorbs harmful ultraviolet radiation from the Sun. The air here is relatively stable, with minimal weather disturbances, making it suitable for high-altitude aircraft and weather balloons.

The mesosphere follows, extending up to around 85 kilometres above the Earth. It is the coldest layer of the atmosphere, where most meteors burn upon entering due to friction with atmospheric gases. This natural process protects the Earth from potential impacts of space debris.

Beyond the mesosphere is the thermosphere, which stretches up to about 600 kilometres. In this layer, temperatures rise significantly due to the absorption of solar radiation. It also contains the ionosphere, a region that reflects radio waves and enables long-distance communication. Many satellites and space stations operate within this zone.

The outermost layer, known as the exosphere, gradually merges with outer space. The air here is extremely thin and mainly composed of hydrogen and helium. Artificial satellites orbit in this region, marking the transition between Earth's atmosphere and the vastness of space.

In addition to its physical and protective functions, the atmosphere also plays a significant role in shaping human civilization and natural ecosystems. It influences agriculture by determining rainfall patterns and seasonal changes, which directly affect crop production and food security. Variations in atmospheric conditions give rise to diverse climates across the globe, from tropical regions to polar zones, thereby supporting a wide range of biodiversity. The atmosphere also enables sound transmission and supports aviation, making communication and transportation possible on a global scale.

However, in recent decades, human activities have begun to disturb the delicate balance of the atmosphere. Pollution from industries, vehicles, and deforestation has led to an increase in greenhouse gases, resulting in global warming and climate change. Issues such as ozone layer depletion, air pollution, and extreme weather events highlight the urgent need for environmental awareness and sustainable practices. Protecting the atmosphere is not only a scientific responsibility but also a moral obligation to ensure the well-being of future generations.

In conclusion, the atmosphere is one of the most vital components of the Earth's system. It not only supplies essential gases required for life but also protects the planet, regulates temperature, and supports weather and climate processes. Its layered structure ensures that each region performs specific functions that collectively make Earth habitable. Understanding the atmosphere highlights the urgent need to protect it from pollution and environmental degradation, ensuring a safe and sustainable future for generations to come.

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

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8:00PM On January 18th, Sunday

District Level Culmination Programme on Road Safety Awareness program held at Ganderbal

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, MAR 28: In a remarkable *culmination of sustained efforts* towards fostering a culture of responsibility and vigilance, the *District Level Culmination Programme on Road Safety Awareness and Implementation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Recommendations* was conducted with great enthusiasm and resounding success in District Ganderbal.

The august occasion was graced by the *Worthy SSP Ganderbal, Mr. Khalil Poswal,* along with the *ARTO Ganderbal, Dy. SP Traffic Ganderbal, esteemed Heads of Institutions, and a large gathering of students*. The programme stood as a testament to the collective commitment of all stakeholders towards safeguarding precious human lives through awareness and education.

A series of intellectually enriching activities, including speeches and painting competitions, were conducted, reflecting the creative engagement and deep understanding of students on the critical issue of road safety. The highlight of the event was the insightful and impactful address delivered by the Worthy SSP Ganderbal, who eloquently underscored the imperative of disciplined road usage and collective accountability. This was followed by an interactive *question-answer session*, wherein students actively participated, seeking clarity and contributing meaningfully to the discourse.

The culmination programme marked the successful conclusion of a month-long awareness campaign, during which Heads of Institutions, Transport Incharges, and Drivers were systematically oriented on road safety norms and the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The initiative witnessed overwhelming participation, with approximately *50,000* individuals benefitting directly and indirectly.



Through sustained awareness efforts, supported by both print and electronic media, a widespread consciousness has been instilled across the district. It is firmly believed that such continuous and collaborative endeavors will significantly minimize road accidents and nurture a generation that values safety, responsibility, and life.

The *Chief Education Officer Ganderbal* extends heartfelt gratitude to all departments, stakeholders, and participants for their unwavering support and dedication. The spirit of awareness shall continue to illuminate minds and guide actions for a safer tomorrow.

Public Notice

It is to inform the general public that I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing registration number- JK10 7572 . Now I want to apply for its duplicate, anybody having any objection may contact ARTO Leh within the period of 7 days of this notice.
Sheikh Siraj ud din , S/O- Aziz ud din R/O- Stagophelok, Leh

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application YAQOOB RAMZAN S/O MOHAMMAD RAMZAN KHAN R/O SALOOSA Tehsil for Issuance of EWS Financially weakened section in favour of YAQOOB RAMZAN S/O MOHAMMAD RAMZAN KHAN self R/O SALOOSA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of (EWS) in favour of YAQOOB RAMZAN this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SALOOSA of Tehsil KREERI and having annual income 95000 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows
1..MOHAMMAD RAMZAN KHAN Father 58 years Labour
2...SALEEMA BAGUM Mother 55 years H/W
3...YAQOOB RAMZAN self 24 years student
4..MUBASHIR RAMZAN Brother 20 years student

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application UZMAT AHAD , BURHAN AHAD , NAZIMA AHAD , RUQAYA AHAD D/O ABDULAHAD NAJAR R/O DOLIPORA Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward classes in his/her favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of DOLIPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the NAJAR community having annual income 104000 // (one lack four Thousand) the details of family of the applicant are as follows
1...ABDUL AHAD NAJAR Head of Family 60 years Labour
2.ATIQA BEGUM W/O Abdul Ahad 50 years H/W
3... UZMAT AHAD daughter 25 years student
4...BURHAN AHAD // 23 years //
5..NAZIMA AHAD sister 21 years //
6..RUQAYA AHAD //19 years //
7...SEERAT AHAD //17 years //
8...SAIMA AHAD //25 years // married H/W

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Naib Tehsildar, Mattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that Ghulam Nabi Shah S/o Munwar Shah R/o Devipora, Tehsil Mattan, District Anantnag has applied for issuance of ST (Scheduled Tribe) Certificate. The report received from the Patwari Halqa concerned reveals that the applicant is a permanent resident of the said area and claims to belong to Scheduled Tribe (). Any person having any objection regarding the claim may file the same with documentary proof before the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Mattan

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertainingto Birth of HAZIM MAJEED S/O ABDUL MAJEED MIR R/O. KHISIPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 16/08/2009 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection .
If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

This is to notify the general public that the name recorded in the Aadhaar database is incorrect. Name shown in Aadhaar: Peer Zada Aijaz Ahmad Correct name: Aijaz Ahmad Peerzada, Address: Wahipora Langate Handwara Kupwara Jammu and Kashmir 193302. The above mentioned person (Peer Zada Aijaz Ahmad) hereby declares that the name printed on the Aadhaar is incorrect and that his correct and legal name is Aijaz Ahmad Peerzada .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

It is hereby notified that my Name spelling has been wrongly mentioned in service regards as Latief Ahmad War instead of Lateef Ahmad War S/O Gh Rasool War as for All regards now I have applying for it's correction of the same if any person have any objection in this regards may file the same to the office of the Government Police Development Office D P O Pulwama within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

LATEEF AHMAD WAR , S/O GH RASOOL WAR R/O KARAGAMA TEHSIL HANDWARA DISTRICT KUPWARA

NCORD meeting: DC Samba calls for intensifying Anti-Drug awareness campaign

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SAMBA, MAR 28: Deputy Commissioner Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narcotics Coordination (NCORD) framework here at the DC Office Complex.

The Deputy Commissioner conducted a thorough review of the Action Taken Report on anti-narcotics measures and laid down a sharply focused, multi-pronged strategy to dismantle drug networks and rehabilitate those already ensnared by addiction.

Ms. Sudan directed to strengthen the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) under District Hospital for greater outreach, while simultaneously calling for a significant ramp-up in the training of teachers and educators as counsellors — recognising that schools and colleges represent the first and most critical line of defence in protecting the youth.

Underlining the power of community awareness, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for intensifying awareness campaigns and the organisation of pan-departmental Mega Camps under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. She further directed concerned departments to proactively engage the youth through orientation programmes and sports events, channelling their energy into constructive pursuits that serve as a natural barrier against substance abuse.

A key highlight of the meeting was the emphasis placed on publicising the national toll-free narcotics helpline MANAS (Madak Padarth Nishedh Asuchna Kendra) – 1933, which empowers citizens to anonymously report drug-related activities.

The district's dedicated helpline for substance abuse victims 7889720593— offering guidance on treatment and counselling — was also highlighted as a vital bridge between affected individuals and available support systems.

In a forward-looking measure, the Deputy Commissioner directed departments to extend employment and livelihood opportunities to recovering individuals through targeted schemes such as Mission YUVA, reinforcing the administration's belief that rehabilitation must go hand-in-hand with economic empowerment.

The meeting was attended by SSP Samba Virender Singh Manhas, ADC Samba Jagdish Singh, Programme Officer ICDS, Chief Medical Officer, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Chief Education Officer, college principals and other senior district and sectoral officers reflecting the whole-of-government approach that defines Samba's battle against narcotics.

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Naib Tehsildar, Mattan

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that Mukhtar Ahmad Shah S/o Ghulam Nabi Shah R/o Devipora, Tehsil Mattan, District Anantnag has applied for issuance of ST (Scheduled Tribe) Certificate.

The report received from the Patwari Halqa concerned reveals that the applicant is a permanent resident of the said area and claims to belong to Scheduled Tribe ().

Any person having any objection regarding the claim may file the same with documentary proof before the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Mattan

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertainingto Birth of GH NABI BADOO S/O GH MOHI UD DIN BADOO R/O. KREERI Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 20/02/2022 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection .
If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of. HANEEFA BEGUM S/O Lt MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL DAR R/O NAGBAL for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL DAR S/O ABDUL REHMAN DAR has passed away on 26/01/2026 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below
1... , HANEEFA BEGUM 58 House wife widow
2... MANZOOR AHMAD DAR son 28 years labour unmarried
3...TAHIRA BANO Daughter 26 years H/W married
4...SHAKIR AHMAD DAR Son 17 years student un married

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

UNION TERRITORY JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Fresh NIT No: 187 of RnB-Sopore of 2025-2026 e-tendering | Dated: 27.03.2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. cost	T.D Cost	E/M	Time	Class
1	Upgradation of link road from H/O Mohammad Afzal Bhat to Zahoor Ahmad at Bagh _I Gulshan Krankshivan Colony Sopore link road	0.558	200/-	1120/-	20 days	DEE/

Time & Date of Opening of Bid: 07-04-2026

M. H of Account: CDF of Hon'ble MLA Sopore

Position of TS: 165 /TS of 2025-26 dated:05.03 .2026 Rs.0.558 lacs

Project Authority: DDC Baramulla

Position of funds: Available

Position of AA: Accorded by District Development Commissioner Baramulla vide his order No:556/DDC of 2025 dated:11.12.2025

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other detail's can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below

1	Date of issue of tender Notice	27.03.2026				
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	27 .03.2026		06.04.2026(upto 4.PM)		
3	Bid Submission start date	27.03.2026				
4	Bid submission End date	06.04.2026 (4.00 PM)				
5	Date and time of opening of bides (online)	07.04.2026(12 PM) in the office of Ex. Engineer R&B Division. Sopore				

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) with NIT No. Name of work and S.No. deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

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

3(b). Geotag Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x21 cm to be provided.

21. All other terms, conditions shall remain same as per e-NIT No.01 of 2025-26 & NIT NO;178 f 2025-26

22. If the contractor/HMPO quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected out rightly.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT,

No: 12306-15 | Dated: 27-03-2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer, R&B Division Sopore

DIPK: 12209/25 | Dated: 28-03-2026

Special camps begin in Aspirational Block Khawas to assess saturation of govt schemes

ADDC reviews key performance indicators under ABDP

HT NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI, MARCH 28: The District Administration Rajouri is organizing special cluster-wise camps in Block Khawas to assess the saturation of government schemes and key performance indicators achieved under Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP).

The drive shall continue for the next three days across the block to achieve full saturation of beneficiary-oriented and social security schemes, besides strengthening livelihood generation initiatives and improving Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) under the Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP).

The first camp was held today at Block Headquarter, which was chaired by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Malikzada Sheraz ul Haq.

During the camp, threadbare discussions were held on bridging the gaps in NITI Aayog and UT-level



indicators under ABDP. Emphasis was laid on ensuring 100 percent coverage of eligible beneficiaries under flagship Government schemes across health, education, nutrition, agriculture and social welfare sectors.

The ADC stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among departments to enhance

service delivery at the grassroots level. Officers were directed to intensify awareness campaigns, mobilize beneficiaries and ensure on-the-spot registration for different schemes during the camps.

These camps are being held as a part of preparation for the upcoming visit of the NITI team scheduled on April 2 and 3, 2026,

to assess the ground-level impact of Sampoornata Abhiyan 2.0.

All stakeholder departments were instructed to complete preparatory work in a time-bound manner and ensure visible outcomes on the ground.

Key services being provided at the camps include on-spot enrolment for different Government

schemes, Aadhaar enrolment and update, bank account opening and DBT linkage, delivery of health and nutrition services, grievances redressal, enrolment drives in schools and Anganwadi Centres, registration of pregnant women, ANC check-ups and eKYC.

The ADC also conducted field visit to review the working of the BDO Office, PHC and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV).

PO ICDS Harpal Singh; ACD Auqil Naveed; CMO Dr Manohar Lal Rana & Officers from Education, Agriculture, Horticulture, NRLM, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Jal Shakti, RDD, Social Welfare, FCS&CA, Banking Institutions, CSCs and Aadhaar Services attended the camp and shared their action plans.

The District Administration reiterated its commitment to ensuring last-mile delivery of services and achieving saturation under all major welfare schemes in the Aspirational Block Khawas.

Vande Mataram @ 150: Mega Rally organised in Kishtwar to pay grand Tribute to Martyrs

HT NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR, MARCH 28: In a stirring display of patriotism and collective remembrance, the Police Department, in collaboration with the District Administration Kishtwar, today organized a mega rally under the special "Vande Mataram" campaign to commemorate Shaheed Diwas and mark the 150th anniversary of India's iconic national song.

The rally was led by Additional Deputy Commissioner Pawan Kotwal and DySP Headquarters, Dr. Ishan Gupta.

The event formed part of a week-long celebrations being held from March 23 to March 30, 2026, across the country to honour the indomitable spirit of



patriotism and remembering the brave hearts who laid down their lives for the nation.

The rally, which commenced from District Police Lines culminated at Dak Bungalow, witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, officers and officials from civil and police administration, reflecting a strong sense of unity and national pride.

The campaign continues to inspire citizens, especially the youth, to uphold the values of sacrifice, integrity and devotion to the nation.

Div Com Jammu reviews action plan for smooth conduct of annual pilgrimage

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MARCH 28: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar today chaired a meeting to review the District wise Action Plan for the execution of development works in Jammu Division for the smooth conduct of Shri Amarnathji yatra 2026.

The meeting was attended by MD JPDC, Deputy Commissioners of Jammu, Kathua, Samba, Udhampur and Ramban, Commissioner JMC, Director ULB, Director RDD, Director Health Services and senior officers and HODs from PWD, PHE and other stakeholder departments.

The Divisional Commissioner sought the district-wise and department-wise details of works kept in the action plan for meeting the needs of logistics and civic amenities for the pilgrims and security personnel. The action plan includes civil works for the augmentation of lodging, boarding facilities at the lodgment centres in Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Udhampur and Ramban.

Reviewing the Work plan of each District, the Divisional Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioners and HoDs to expedite the tendering process to complete the works before the commencement of the annual Yatra.

The Divisional Commissioner further directed the DCs to start the repair, renovation and face-lifting works at all lodgment centres in their respective districts.

Similar directions were issued to Tourism, JPDC, RDD and other stakeholder departments for ensuring timely commencement and completion of the new and renovation works.

Green Commitment in Action: Earth Hour Pledge echoes across District Kishtwar

HT NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR, MARCH 28: The Youth Services & Sports Department Kishtwar on Saturday organized a district-wide Earth Hour Pledge event, witnessing enthusiastic participation from students, staff and local communities across various zones of the district.

The programme was conducted under the directions of Director General Youth Services & Sports J&K, Anuradha Gupta and under the guidance of District Youth Services & Sports Officer Jaffer Haider Sheikh with overall supervision of all Zonal Physical Education Officers (ZPEOs).



The event aimed to spread awareness about environmental conservation, energy saving and the importance of collective action in combating climate change. Students and participants took

a solemn pledge to switch off non-essential lights and electrical appliances during Earth Hour, symbolizing their commitment towards a sustainable and eco-friendly future.

Working of JKCIIP based youth clubs assessed in Kishtwar DC emphasises community development, effective youth engagement

HT NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR, MARCH 28: Deputy Commissioner, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting of District Level Committee (DLC) on the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement in Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIIP). The meeting assessed the activities of Youth Club Dool, Youth Club Galhar and Youth Club Dadpeth constituted

to promote the project initiatives. The DC stressed on the involvement of youth clubs in environmental conservation, community development and promotion of livelihood initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience and promoting improved agricultural and allied sector practices in the district. Officers from the Agriculture and allied departments participated in the meeting and shared their inputs



for effective implementation of the programme. Emphasis was laid on encouraging youth participation, spreading awareness on sustainable practices and promoting grassroots-level engagement in community development activities. The meeting concluded with minor modifications to the Youth Club DPRs, including conducting two anti-drug campaigns per month, inclusion of the Forest

Department in plantation drives, implementation of 2.5% administrative charges and strengthening of awareness and cleanliness drives. The meeting was attended by PO ICDS Dr. Rishi Kumar Sharma; ACR Idrees Lone; ACD Manoj Kumar; CEO Municipal Council Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; CAO Kushal Chandel; CHO Sajid Mustafa; LDM, Inspector Fisheries, besides other officers and concerned staff.

Training-cum-Workshop on NTCP held at Kathua DC pitches for strict enforcement of COTPA, promotion of tobacco-free Villages

HT NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA, MARCH 28: One-day Training-cum-Workshop on the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) was held today at the Conference Hall of DC Office Kathua.

At the outset, the Chief Medical Officer Dr Vijay Raina highlighted the objectives of the workshop, emphasizing the importance of inter-departmental coordination for effective implementation of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003.

During the technical session, Divisional Coordinator NTCP Shveta Raina delivered a detailed presentation covering key components of the programme, including enforcement of COTPA provisions, role and responsibilities of stakeholders, awareness generation strategies, tobacco cessation services and monitoring mechanisms, thereby enhancing the capacity of participants on tobacco control measures.

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma, in his address, stressed strict enforcement of tobacco control laws and called for robust coordination



among departments. He emphasized regular inspections, intensified awareness campaigns and active community participation to curb tobacco use, besides directing officers to ensure tobacco-free public places and institutions.

To promote tobacco-free environments at the grassroots level,

Tobacco-Free Village signboards were handed over by DC to the Block Development Officer (HQ) for installation in identified villages.

The meeting was attended by ADC Vishavjeet Singh; ASP Rahul Charak; RTO Surinder Sharma, officers from various departments, members of DLCC and other stakeholders.

Mega Multi-Specialty Health Camp organised at Breswana- Doda

HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, MARCH 28: To bring healthcare services to the doorstep of people living in far-flung areas, a Mega Multi-Specialty Health Camp was organized today at Village Breswana, Panchayat Pershulla-B in Medical Block Ghat.

The camp was inaugurated by former Sarpanch of the area, Haji Mohammad Saleem in the presence of local residents and health staff. The locals appreciated the initiative and expressed gratitude to the Health Department for organizing the camp in such a remote area.

A medical team provided a wide range of healthcare services, including general health check-ups, NCD screening, dental check-up, Hb screening, besides on-spot ultrasound services. Free medicines were also provided to the beneficiaries as per their individual requirement. A health awareness session was also conducted by the health staff, sensitizing the public to preventive healthcare and healthy lifestyle practices.

The services were rendered by a dedicated team comprising Dr. Hamid Parry, Dr. Mirza Nadeem, Dr. Waqas Majid, Dr. Tanveer Ahmed, Dr. Sarwar



Khan, Dr. Muneza Iqbal, Dr. Touseef Aslam, Dr. Imtiaz Natoo (MLHP), Ashok Shan (MMPHW), Yasir Yousuf (Dental Technician), Azra Kouser (MTS), besides the local staff of AAM Sub

Centre Breswana and MMU Doda. More than 300 patients from Breswana and adjoining areas availed healthcare services during the camp and benefited from the initiative.

Piyush Goyal calls for WTO reforms keeping 'development' at core

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 28: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has emphasised that necessary reform of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) should be carried out through a transparent, inclusive and member-driven process by keeping development at its core.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the WTO's 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14) on Thursday, he highlighted the need to uphold the foundational principles and objectives of the organisation mainly non-discrimination, consensus-based decision making and equity.

On the sidelines of the ministerial conference, the Commerce Minister also discussed bilateral and multilateral issues to further strengthen India-Cameroon cooperation with Prime Minister of Cameroon Dion Ngute Joseph.

Goyal also held bilateral talks focusing on the MC14 agenda with Director General of WTO.

The Minister also held bilateral



meetings with his counterparts from the Netherlands, France and Ethiopia.

Apart from this, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Chile, Paraguay, US, Nepal, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, delegation of EU parliamentarians, Mexico, Peru, Russia, New Zealand and the EU on the sidelines of this conference.

Talks were mainly focused on

MC14 agenda as well as exploring different options to further strengthen bilateral ties.

Chile and Peru touched base on ongoing India-Chile FTA negotiations and India-Peru FTA negotiations.

Additionally, EU and New Zealand took stock of the progress towards the recently concluded India-EU FTA and India-New Zealand FTA negotiations.

The 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14) of the World Trade Organisation opened in Yaounde, Cameroon on Thursday with a ceremonial session chaired by the Trade Minister of Cameroon.

The session was attended by Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, DG, WTO and Trade Ministers/Senior representatives of the WTO member countries.

Welcoming India's engagement at WTO Ministerial Conference, Rajeev Juneja, President of PHDCCI said, "We welcome India's positive engagement at the WTO Ministerial Conference with emphasis on a transparent and development-centric reform agenda. A functional dispute settlement system to address expanding role of agriculture a balanced outcomes on fisheries subsidies remain critical for India."

Juneja noted that emerging issues such as digital trade and technology governance require careful, consensus-based consideration rather than ad hoc measures resulting in unnecessary disputes later. UNI

TFCI gets rating boost to AA-Stable on long-term loans

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 28: The Tourism Finance Corporation of India Limited (TFCI), a specialised financing institution for the tourism sector in the country, has secured a significant ratings upgrade, with Informerics Valuation and Rating Limited raising its long-term bank loan and NCDs rating to AA-(Stable), reflecting improved credit strength and financial stability.

Infomerics has upgraded the rating for the fund-based long-term bank facility of Rs 300 Cr. to IVR AA-(Stable) from IVR A (Stable). The rating agency has further assigned an IVR AA-(Stable) rating to non-convertible debentures worth Rs 175 crore, while reaffirming the rating for the proposed commercial paper programme of Rs 100 crore, at IVR A1.

The total rated facilities aggregate to Rs 575 crore. The upgrade factors in audited financial performance for FY2025 and financial results for nine months of FY2026, along with an assessment of business and financial position.

Commenting on the rating upgrade, Anoop Bali, Managing Director, TFCI, said, "Upgrade in our credit rating reflects consistent operational performance, disciplined credit & risk management and strength of our financial position."



is a leading player in providing financial assistance by way of Term Loans to its customers.

He said the focus remains on building a stable portfolio in tourism, real-estate, manufacturing, social infrastructure and other sectors. "This credit upgrade also reaffirms our commitment to sustainable growth and prudent financial practices," he added. UNI

AMI Paradigm Solutions acquires 'Smartworld Portfolio' of L&T Technology Services

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, MARCH 28: AMI Paradigm Solutions Private Limited (AMIPS), promoted by the AM Group (founders of Greenko) and Paradigm IT Services Technology Private Limited, on Thursday announced the signing of a binding agreement to acquire the Smart World and Communication (SWC) business of L&T Technology Services.

The acquisition is aimed at strengthening AMIPS' capabilities in building sovereign AI solutions for public systems and critical infrastructure, the company said in a release.

The Smartworld portfolio's capabilities across India and global markets are expected to complement AMIPS' long-term strategy, particularly in accelerating



AI-powered intelligent solutions.

In a release, the company said it is building a vertically integrated AI platform spanning carbon-free power, data centre infrastructure, high-performance chips, software stack, applications and flexible

consumption models, including 'Accelerator as a Service' and 'Tokens as a Service'.

The global market for sovereign AI services is currently estimated at around USD 25 billion and is projected to grow to nearly USD

100 billion by the early 2030s, expanding at an annual rate of about 20 per cent, driven by increasing adoption of AI in governance, security and data-driven policy-making.

Aligned with its vision of democratising AI, the AM Group is developing an end-to-end value chain through its AM Intelligence (AMI) platform, converting clean energy into intelligent compute capabilities.

As part of its expansion, the group is investing USD 25 billion to develop a 1GW high-performance computing hub in Uttar Pradesh, with the first phase of 250 MW being set up on land allocated by the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority.

Anil Chalamalasetty, Chairman of AM Group, said the acquisition will help operationalise AI solutions

across governments, cities, utilities and enterprises, enabling more data-driven and autonomous infrastructure.

Amit Chadha, CEO and Managing Director, L&T Technology Services, said the move aligned with the company's strategic focus on engineering, software and digital manufacturing, while enabling AMIPS to enhance its AI offerings and deliver value to clients.

Sridhar Gadhil of Paradigm IT said: "The acquisition will help build domain-specific AI models and sovereign AI architectures, enabling enterprises and governments to transition towards intelligent, outcome-driven systems."

The transaction is expected to be completed by July 2026, subject to customary approvals and conditions. UNI

Finding quality NGOs a challenge', according to a CSR analysis

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MAR 28: Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in India is a legal mandate that requires specific large companies to invest a portion of their profits into social, environmental, and developmental projects. Marrying philanthropy and modern legal accountability, CSR was formally mandated on April 1, 2014, under the Companies Act, 2013, transforming social giving from a voluntary "good deed" into a statutory obligation for large firms.

However, according to a CRISIL analysis, though the CSR spending has grown significantly since it became a legal mandate with the introduction of Section 135 of the Companies Act, geographic distribution of the spend remains uneven, with targeted investment in aspirational districts – which face the most developmental challenges – limited relative to overall spend

OICL crosses Rs 20,000 Cr. mark in gross premium for FY 2025-26

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 28: The Oriental Insurance Company Limited (OICL) has crossed Rs 20,000 Crore in gross premium for the fiscal year 2026, said a statement by the Finance Ministry.

OICL attributes this growth to the growing trust of policyholders, intermediaries, and stakeholders in OICL and robust contributions from Group Personal Accident (GPA), Health, Fire and Motor insurance portfolios. It is also aligned with the government's



objective of 'Insurance for All by 2047'.

The Motor Segment remained a catalyst of growth as it is the largest contributor to OICL's portfolio. In this domain, private car insurance leads with more than 14.5 lakh policies and a premium of Rs 869 Cr.

It's followed by two-wheeler insurance with 15.5 lakh policies with a premium of Rs 143 Cr. Additionally, Goods Carrying Commercial Vehicle (GCCV) came last with 4.82 lakh policies with a premium of Rs 1725 Cr.

In past years, OICL also strengthened its product suite with different innovative offerings like Oriental Sampurna Swasthya Suraksha, Drone Insurance, Event Insurance and Custom Duty Insurance.

OICL is also poised to introduce forward-looking solutions such as Sarvatra Suraksha Parametric Insurance Policy, Nil Depreciation Comprehensive Policies including long-term variants and Surety Bond Insurance. UNI

AutoTech Asia 2026 to bring 'Global Automotive Ecosystem' under one roof

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 28: At a time when the automotive industry is undergoing a rapid transformation, AutoTech Asia 2026 is set to emerge as a key platform bringing together the entire mobility ecosystem under one roof. Scheduled to be held from April 17-19 at Bharat Mandapam here, the B2B exhibition will focus on automotive, electric mobility, battery technologies and advanced manufacturing systems.

Addressing a pre-event presser on Friday, Mukesh Yadav, Project Director, highlighted the need for a unified platform in a fast-evolving industry.

"The industry today is evolving rapidly, but interactions across segments remain fragmented. AutoTech Asia is built to bring the entire automotive value chain onto one platform, enabling manufacturers to engage directly with the technologies, partners, and solutions they need to scale," he said.

Ashish Jain, Founder and Director of AutoTech Asia, emphasised that the exhibition has been designed to cover the complete automotive ecosystem at a time when technology is reshaping the sector.

Revealing the rationale behind choosing the name as 'AutoTech Asia', Jain said, "Auto was chosen because we want to cover the entire ecosystem. Technology and automobiles are now inseparable."

He noted that the electric vehicle (EV) space has witnessed a surge of new entrants, making it increasingly complex for businesses to find the right partners and opportunities. The exhibition aims to address this challenge by creating a single platform for collaboration, networking and business generation.

Making a clear distinction from conventional trade fairs, Jain stressed that the focus is not on crowd size but on meaningful participation.

"The exhibition is not about



crowds, it is about decision-makers. Our main focus is to generate real business opportunities for exhibitors," he said, adding that senior professionals from procurement, production, R&D and leadership roles are expected to attend.

Positioned with a broader regional outlook, the organisers said Asia is on track to become the largest automotive market, which has shaped the vision of the event beyond India. Reflecting this global appeal, companies from countries such as China and Italy are expected to participate, alongside a diverse mix of domestic players.

The exhibition will host participants from across segments, including two-wheeler and three-wheeler manufacturers, EV companies, battery producers, charging infrastructure providers and technology firms, offering a comprehensive view of the evolving mobility landscape.

One of the key highlights this year is the strong emphasis on financial solutions, with organisers making finance an integral part of the exhibition to support business

scalability and investment in the sector. In addition, a dedicated "Experience Zone" will offer live demonstrations, giving visitors hands-on exposure to emerging technologies and innovations.

Running parallel to the exhibition, the three-day AutoTech Conclave will serve as a knowledge-sharing platform, bringing together industry leaders, policymakers and experts.

Dr Shailendra Saroj, Founder of the International Federation of Electric Vehicle Association (IFEVA) said that conferences remain critical for industry growth and added that this year's conclave will feature top-level speakers and in-depth discussions.

He highlighted the growing importance of EV infrastructure, stating that electric mobility and charging solutions have now become a necessity rather than a choice.

"There are vehicles in the market, but people still lack clarity on when and how to charge. Awareness around charging infrastructure is critical," he said.

The conclave will see decision-makers deliberate on key issues such as OEM strategies, charging ecosystems, battery technologies and the future of mobility. Adding a sustainability perspective, industry voices also stressed that the transition must go beyond electrification towards cleaner and more efficient energy solutions.

Organisers noted that while India has largely remained insulated from ongoing global geopolitical tensions, any prolonged conflict could have ripple effects on the global automotive supply chain.

With dedicated pavilions, international participation and a sharp focus on innovation, collaboration and business outcomes, AutoTech Asia 2026 is poised to become a significant industry event as the sector accelerates towards electrification, localisation and sustainable mobility. UNI



In fact, interactions with stakeholders indicate that finding quality on-ground non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to partner with, especially in rural areas, is a challenge. Barring a few notable ones, implementing agencies lack adequate capacity to design, execute and measure high-impact projects, despite the right intent and focus. Therefore reliance on NGOs is declining as corporates prefer direct implementation, it says.

Titled 'Decade Decode', the findings of the analysis released today highlight an opportunity for deeper alignment with national development priorities. "Our analysis shows that, over the decade through fiscal 2024, qualifying listed companies collectively spent more than Rs 1.22 lakh crore on various CSR activities. In fiscal 2024, for instance, of the total 2,020 qualifying companies, only 397 implemented projects in aspirational districts – hardly 20% of the universe. The cumulative CSR spend of these 397 companies towards projects impacting aspirational districts was Rs 2,390 crore, i.e. 12% of the total CSR spend of Rs 19,208 crore, indicating the need for a more concerted effort," it says.

"This is a clarion call for NGOs. To be able to leverage and unlock CSR effectively, they need to put in place strong systems for governance and compliance, robust financial management systems, and build muscle for technology and automation to ensure the funds can be utilised effectively.

"India Inc, too, needs to invest in building the capacity of NGOs as well as their internal CSR-managing teams to deliver impactful and measurable CSR initiatives," it says.

As part of its ongoing efforts to improve the ease of doing business and reduce the compliance burden on corporates, the government has introduced the Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 in Lok Sabha. The proposed measures include changes to the CSR rules, including raising the net profit criteria threshold to Rs 10 crore from Rs 5 crore currently and increasing the number of days for transferring unspent CSR funds to a separate account to 90 days from 30 days now – changes that can optimise the CSR base. UNI

Shubman Gill: 'Don't think I have anything to prove this season'

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

GUJARAT: Shubman Gill has had a rollercoaster ride when it comes to his place in India's T20I side, first finding himself out of the squad before returning to the team and being named as vice-captain for the Asia Cup, only to be dropped before the T20 World Cup 2026. However, the Gujarat Titans captain said he has nothing to prove in IPL 2026 and that his only personal goal at the moment is to lead his team to the title. He was also critical of the Impact Player rule, saying it is "taking the skill out of the game."

"I think if you look at the past three or four seasons, I think I have the most runs in the IPL. So I don't think I have anything to prove in this season particularly," Gill said at a press conference ahead of the IPL. "And the four years that I have played for this team, I think we have done decently well as a team. And I think I have done decently well as a batsman."

Gill made 650 runs in IPL 2025 to help Gujarat Titans make it to the knockout, before they were beaten by Mumbai Indians. It continued Gill's excellent record in the IPL, with his tally of runs since 2020 unmatched by any other batter.

After that campaign and a successful Test tour of England as captain, Gill was recalled to the T20I squad as vice-captain, after more than a year

out in the format. After the Asia Cup, he was part of a five-match series in Australia and played the first three of a five-match home series against South Africa, but after he failed to cross 50 after 15 innings in 2025, he was left out of India's squad for the T20 World Cup, which they went on to win.

"Honestly I am not the one to look too much into personal goals. I like to, whatever team I am playing for, whether it be for my country or for Gujarat, I like the team that I am playing for, I like them to win," Gill said. "And that is where my personal goal starts and that's where it ends."

"So for me, I think the goal doesn't change. Make my team win as many matches as possible. Obviously, as a team, when you are playing, if you are playing the IPL, you are playing to win the IPL. If you are playing a series, you are looking to beat the other team in the series. So those are the goals that I look forward for."

"My personal goal right now is obviously to win the IPL. Once that will end, obviously we are going to have some other tournaments within the team, so my personal goals would change into that. And that's how I like to look about my goals."

The Impact Player rule was introduced in the IPL in 2023 and is set to stay till at least 2027, but Gill is not a fan, saying the ability for a team to play an extra batter makes the game

"more one dimensional" and "taking a little bit of the skill out of the game".

"Personally for me I don't think there should be an impact player. I think cricket in general is an 11-player game. And on wickets where we play, on the grounds that we play, adding an extra batsman, I think it takes the skill out of the game," Gill said.

"There is a certain skill in the game that you need to have. When you know you have certain amount of batters and if couple of your batters get out, there is an amount of skill that you need to have to still get the scoreboard moving and get your team to a good score. I think with that one extra player it's making the game more one dimensional and it's taking a little bit of the skill out of the game. "Chasing 180 on a challenging wicket or 160 on a challenging wicket is for me personally way more exciting than chasing 220 on a flat wicket."

So I mean it's going to be there till 2027. It's something that we also spoke about in the captain's meeting yesterday. And hopefully you know I understand it makes the game a bit more entertaining but let's see it's there, it's up to them, what the BCCI is going to... they are going to take their decision. But personally I don't like it that much."

GT begin their campaign on March 31 against last year's finalists Punjab Kings in New Chandigarh.



Thushara fails fitness test, denied NOC to join RCB in IPL 2026

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

DAMBULLA: It is understood that Thushara has failed the fitness test made mandatory by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), and has therefore been denied a no-objection certificate (NOC) by his board. Ashley de Silva, the chief executive of SLC, confirmed that Thushara had failed to achieve the pass score of 17 out of the 29 points on offer, across five different metrics, in SLC's fitness test.

That means Thushara will not be available for at least RCB's opening game - also the opening game of the season - against Sunrisers Hyderabad in Bengaluru on Saturday, and possibly RCB's second game, against Chennai Super Kings on April 5, also in Bengaluru. In case he fails the test again, he might not be permitted to play any representative cricket for the foreseeable future. The good news for Thushara, though, is that he is eligible to take another fitness



test, but only after a gap of four to five days. Two other prominent Sri Lanka cricketers, Matheesha Pathirana and Wanindu Hasaranga, are also nursing injuries, and have not yet taken their fitness tests in order to earn the NOCs to play in the IPL.

Hasaranga is a part of Lucknow Super Giants, who had acquired him for INR 2 crore at the last auction, while Pathirana went to Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) for INR 18 crore in the same auction.

Pathirana, KKR head coach Abhishek Nayar had said on March 20, would not be available for KKR's initial games, and might link up with the team around the middle of April. Pathirana, who was ruled out of the 2026 T20 World Cup after playing three games because of a calf strain, is currently undergoing rehabilitation.

Women's Cricket & Kho-Kho Tournament Held by District Police Baramulla at Wagila

Al Murad Sports Kreeri & HS Kalantra Reach Cricket Final; Eagle Sports Saloosa & GHS Kreeri Enter Kho-Kho Final

AASHIQ HUSSAIN

KREERI, MAR 28: In the ongoing Women cricket and Kho Kho tournament organized by Police Sub Division Kreeri under Civic Action Programme played at Wagila Village of Police Sub Division Kreeri

In cricket the first semi final was played between Al Murad Kreeri and Shrakwara cricket club in which Al Murad Kreeri defeated Shrakwara by 20 runs and qualifies for final second



semi final in cricket was played between High School Kalantra



and Girls Middle School Chandoosa in which High School

Kalantra beat GHS Chandoosa by 13 runs and enters in final.

In Kho Eagle Sports Saloosa and GHS Kreeri qualifies for final.



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