

Srinagar  
Wednesday  
April 01 | 2026  
12 Shawwal 1447 AH  
Issue No: 79  
Volume: 16  
Pages: 12  
Price: Rs 02/-

16TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION  
**HEADLINES TODAY**  
Voice To The Voiceless

**LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS**  
ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS  
NEWSPAPER | BOOKS | FLYERS | LOGO | FLEX | MAGAZINES  
VISITING CARDS | BROCHURES | 3D BOARDS | COVER PAGES  
WEDDING CARDS | CALLIGRAPHY | WALL PAINTINGS  
9999038812  
9419008414  
Radio Colony, Gund Hassibhat, Lawaipora Srinagar-190017

# Heritage to Drive Future: LG Sinha Inaugurates J&K Cultural Festival in Jammu

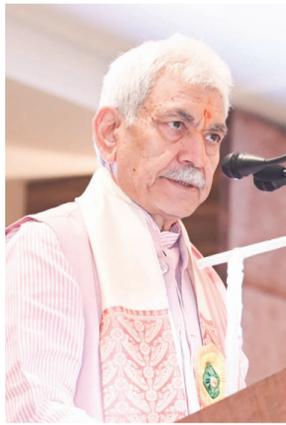
Urges youth to blend tradition with innovation, calls India's rise a 'civilizational renaissance'

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, MAR 31:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday asserted that the cultural and spiritual heritage of Jammu and Kashmir will play a pivotal role in shaping a brighter future, as he inaugurated the Jammu Kashmir Cultural Festival in Jammu.

Addressing a large gathering, the Lieutenant Governor said Jammu's soil is deeply rooted in rich traditions, where Dogri songs, crafts, and devotional art continue to reflect the region's timeless values. He remarked that such cultural expressions are not merely artistic forms but living legacies that sustain identity and inspire progress.

The festival, organised by Shri Kailash Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust, seeks to preserve heritage, promote folk traditions, and reinforce the spiritual and cultural foundations of



the Union Territory. Sinha expressed confidence that traditional performances and exhibitions would

## Build Bridges, Not Battlefields: LG Invokes Mahavira's Message of Peace

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, MAR 31:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said the world must embrace peace, compassion and mutual understanding, drawing inspiration from the teachings of Lord Mahavira, as he attended the Mahavir Janma Kalyanak celebrations in Jammu.

Extending greetings on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the enduring relevance of Ahimsa and Anekantavada, stressing the need for right faith, right knowledge and right conduct in today's conflict-ridden world. He said humanity must learn from Lord Mahavira's philosophy to foster lasting peace

# Govt Clears ₹18,382 Cr in Pending Liabilities : CM Omar Abdullah

Assures Assembly of regular bill settlement; contractor dues, retirement benefits prioritised



HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, MAR 31:** The Jammu and Kashmir Government has cleared liabilities amounting to Rs. 18,382 crore, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah informed the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday.

## 59,000 Posts Lie Vacant in J&K Govt; Omar Promises Fast-Track Recruitment

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, MAR 31:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the government

## MLAs Empowered to Fund Housing Relief for Calamity Victims

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, MAR 31:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday announced in the

# Snowfall, Rain Disrupt Life Across J&K

MeT predicts more till Apr 10

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

**SRINAGAR, MAR 31:** Higher reaches of Kashmir received fresh snowfall while plains witnessed widespread rainfall on Tuesday, leading to a drop in temperatures and disruption in road connectivity, officials said.

Snowfall was reported from Tulail Valley, Razdan Pass and Sadhna Top in Kupwara

district, while several parts of the Valley recorded moderate to heavy rainfall over the past 24 hours.

According to data, Baramulla recorded the highest rainfall at 73 mm, followed by Poonch in Jammu region at 68.5 mm. Other major stations included Qazigund (48.6 mm), Kupwara (40.8 mm), Kulgam (42.2 mm), and Srinagar (31.6 mm). Jammu city recorded 12 mm of rainfall.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar said erratic weather conditions are expected to continue till April 10, with intermittent spells of rain and snow likely across the Union Territory.

"Between March 31 and April 2, brief spells of light rain or snow may occur at isolated places, particularly towards late afternoons. From April 3 to 4, generally

# Kashmir's Five Glacial Lakes on High Flood Alert: CM Omar

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, MAR 31:** Sounding a note of caution over emerging climate risks in the Himalayas, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that five major glacial lakes in Kashmir have been identified as having "very high susceptibility" to Glacial

Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), though no immediate threat has been indicated.

The lakes — Bramsar, Chirsar, Nundkol, Gangabal and Bhagsar — were flagged in a recent scientific study conducted by the University of Kashmir and published in the Journal of Glaciology. The assessment, based on hydro-geomorphic indicators such as

# Govt endeavouring to boost J&K's educational ecosystem: Sakeena Itoo

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, MAR 31:** Minister for Education Sakeena Itoo today informed the House that the government is endeavouring hard to boost the educational ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir, with special focus on establishing all kind of facilities in the government schools.

The Minister stated this while replying to a question of Legislator, Khurshheed Ahmad



# Budgam's Wagoora Panchayat Shines Nationally, Secures 3rd Rank in Rural Governance Awards

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, MAR 31:** In a significant boost to grassroots governance in Jammu and Kashmir, Wagoora Gram Panchayat in Budgam district has secured the third rank at the national level in the prestigious National Panchayat Awards 2025, marking a rare achievement for the Union Territory on the country's rural development map. The award was conferred under the

"Socially Just and Socially Secured Panchayat" category of the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSVP), instituted by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The recognition places Wagoora among the top-performing Panchayats in India, following a rigorous selection process involving thousands of entries from across States and Union Territories.

Officials said the evaluation process went beyond paperwork, with a central team

conducting an extensive on-ground inspection of the Panchayat's functioning. Key sectors including healthcare, education, rural livelihoods and employment generation were assessed in detail to verify the implementation and impact of various government schemes.

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, hailed the achievement

# CS reviews impact of MSME Health Clinic under RAMP Scheme

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, MAR 31:** The Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Industries & Commerce Department to assess the progress and impact of the MSME Health Clinic established under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance



(RAMP) scheme, aimed at revitalizing stressed and sick industrial units across Jammu and Kashmir.

Emphasizing the need for a robust and result-oriented approach, the Chief Secretary directed the department to optimally leverage available institutional and human resources. He stressed that, in addition to

# J&K has sufficient stock of petroleum products: Satish Sharma

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, MAR 31:** Minister for Food, Civil Supply and Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma today informed the House that the Department is maintaining regular monitoring of availability and distribution of LPG and Petroleum products across Jammu and Kashmir.

"As per the daily stock position reports furnished by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), the availability of Petrol, Diesel and LPG is adequate as on date, with availability of petroleum products" maintained the Minister.

The Minister was replying to the Calling



## REVIVE CARE

Mr. Meer Turab

Audiologist & Speech Therapist  
(Avaz Certified & Apraxia Practitioner)

Former Sr. Audiologist & Speech Therapist at MAX Hospital Saket New Delhi  
Former Sr. Audiologist at Dr. JM M Hans Center for ENT & Vertigo  
RCI No.: A53474

Available Every Wednesday and Sunday From 4PM

Address National Highway Kanispora  
Baramulla Near Petrol Pump

99062 15683



پیشاپہ  
Preserve Your Ideas  
We Bring Them to Life  
**LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS**  
ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS  
We Publish in  
Arabic | Urdu | Hindi | Persian | Kashmiri  
Contact us:  
9697071471 | 9999038812  
lubaabpublications01@gmail.com

**CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....**

**Heritage to.....**

enlive the atmosphere while carrying forward the region's invaluable legacy. He also noted that initiatives like Kisan Melas would recognise the contribution of farmers who form the backbone of society.

Calling upon the youth to reconnect with their roots, the Lieutenant Governor urged them to harness cultural heritage as a tool for innovation and societal transformation. He said the world is looking towards India for new ideas grounded in its civilizational wisdom, especially at a time when global conflicts are deepening divisions.

"In this defining moment, India stands ready to show a new path to the world," he said, adding that the country's legacy of knowledge, culture, and spirituality has historically illuminated societies across continents.

Highlighting India's rapid transformation over the past decade, Sinha credited the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for restoring the country's global confidence. He described the ongoing progress as a renaissance and called for collective efforts to further accelerate growth through innovation, technology, and a knowledge-driven economy.

He also urged the youth to strengthen bonds of brotherhood and champion compassion over conflict in an increasingly interconnected world.

The festival featured cultural exhibitions, traditional folk performances, a Kisan Mela, and a free medical camp. Several distinguished individuals were felicitated on the occasion, which witnessed participation from legislators, senior officials, and prominent citizens.

**Build Bridges, Not.....**

and unbreakable brotherhood.

Referring to the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sinha said India stands resolute as a strong nation promoting peace with courage. "True peace is not weakness but unwavering courage. This is a time to build bridges, not battlefields," he said, adding that India's message is inspiring the world.

The Lieutenant Governor said true progress stems from accountability and responsibility towards one's actions and emphasized bridging divides through understanding diverse cultures, ideas and experiences. He observed that Lord Mahavira's focus on introspection and individual transformation holds the key to societal progress.

"By internalizing Ahimsa, restraint, austerity, Anekantavada, non-possession and truth, we can contribute meaningfully to nation-building. Our impact depends on the character we cultivate," he said.

Calling upon the youth to imbibe non-violence in their mindset, Sinha also stressed the need to reform attitudes towards nature, describing true Ahimsa as a powerful environmental strategy.

Highlighting Anekantavada, he said Lord Mahavira taught intellectual humility, reminding that truth is multifaceted and cannot be confined to a single viewpoint. He cautioned against the growing tendency of mistaking opinions for absolute truth, particularly in the age of echo chambers.

Describing Lord Mahavira's legacy as a guiding framework for modern society, the Lieutenant Governor said his teachings of non-violence, restraint and austerity remain a timeless heritage for humanity.

The event, organised by SS Jain Sabha, witnessed the presence of prominent citizens, public representatives and senior officials, while the Lieutenant Governor also felicitated achievers from various fields on the occasion.

**Govt Clears.....**

assuring that pending bills are being settled on a regular basis.

Replying to a question raised by legislator Sham Lal Sharma during the Question Hour of the ongoing Budget Session, the Chief Minister said that bills worth Rs. 12,561.31 crore under various heads—including gratuity, commutation, leave salary and contractor payments—have been cleared up to March 27, 2026.

He further said that General Provident Fund (GPF) claims amounting to Rs. 5,821.43 crore have been settled up to December 31, 2025, taking the total cleared liabilities to Rs. 18,382 crore.

The Chief Minister, who also holds the Finance portfolio, told the House that financial liabilities in the form of bills presented at treasuries are being addressed consistently, with payments to contractors and retired employees processed at regular intervals.

Providing a break-up for the financial year 2025-26, he said Rs. 2,864.14 crore has been cleared in gratuity, Rs. 1,123.22 crore in commutation, Rs. 773.47 crore in leave salary and Rs. 7,800.58 crore in contractor bills up to March 27, 2026, while GPF claims of Rs. 5,821.43 crore have been settled up to December 31, 2025.

He also clarified that budget allocations are made under specific Heads of Expenditure rather than on a divisional basis, and payments in treasuries are accounted for accordingly.

Legislator RS Pathania also raised a supplementary during the discussion.

**59,000 Posts.....**

will prioritise recruitment to fill a staggering number of vacancies across departments, with over 59,000 posts currently lying unfilled in Jammu and Kashmir.

Responding to a question raised by Waheed ur Rehman Para during the Question Hour of the ongoing Budget Session of the Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister informed the House that 48,958 non-gazetted and 10,217 gazetted posts are vacant across 38 government departments.

He said that under the direct recruitment quota, 24,507 non-gazetted and 3,808 gazetted posts remain vacant, while under the promotion quota, 24,451 non-gazetted and 6,409 gazetted posts are yet to be filled, indicating a significant gap in both fresh hiring and internal promotions.

The Chief Minister further stated that at the district level, 16,812 non-gazetted and 2,798 gazetted posts are vacant across all 20 districts of the Union Territory, underscoring the scale of the staffing deficit at the grassroots level.

Highlighting recruitment efforts, he informed that during 2025, 959 gazetted vacancies were referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission, while 6,340 non-gazetted posts were referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board.

Assuring the House, the Chief Minister said the government is committed to expediting the recruitment process to bridge the manpower gap and strengthen administrative functioning across departments.

**MLAs Empowered.....**

Legislative Assembly that MLAs can now allocate up to Rs. 50 lakh from their Constituency Development Fund (CDF) to provide housing assistance to families affected by calamities, including fire incidents, under revised guidelines for the financial year 2026-27.

Responding to a Calling Attention Motion moved by Habba Kadal MLA Shamim Firdous during the ongoing Budget Session, the Chief Minister said the amended provisions expand the scope of CDF utilization to include reconstruction and repair of damaged houses. He added that the assistance to each affected family will be capped at Rs. 1 lakh and will be available to all eligible victims, irrespective of their socio-economic category.

Clarifying the definition of "calamity," the Chief Minister said it encompasses all incidents causing significant damage or harm, specifically including fire-related cases, which have frequently impacted residential areas.

Referring to Srinagar district, Omar Abdullah informed the House that 24 cases had been submitted by Shamim Firdous for assistance to fire victims under the scheme, involving an estimated cost of Rs. 12.80 lakh. Of these, five cases have already been cleared after completion of formalities, while the remaining 19 are under examination in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar. He assured that all eligible cases would be processed in accordance with prescribed norms.

**Kashmir's Five.....**

lake expansion, dam stability and surrounding terrain, evaluated 155 glacial lakes across the Kashmir Himalaya.

Replying to a query raised by National Conference MLA Tanvir Sadiq, the Chief Minister said the classification reflects a higher likelihood of outburst under specific triggering conditions, rather than an imminent hazard.

A preliminary geospatial analysis carried out as part of the study mapped downstream exposure and identified vulnerable habitations and infrastructure in districts including Ganderbal, Shopian and Kulgam. The findings indicate that a potential GLOF event could affect around 2,704 buildings, nearly 15 major bridges, road networks and at least one hydro-power project.

The Chief Minister said the study provides a critical baseline for understanding vulnerability in high-altitude regions, even as it highlights significant gaps in precise risk estimation. Experts have pointed out that accurate GLOF modelling requires detailed bathymetric data — including lake depth and volume — which is currently unavailable for most Himalayan lakes.

To bridge this gap, the Department of Geoinformatics at the University of Kashmir has procured a high-precision RTK-enabled robotic echosounding system with support from the Ministry of Earth Sciences. Bathymetric surveys of vulnerable glacial lakes in the western Himalaya are planned for 2026 to improve hydrodynamic modelling and downstream risk assessments.

Emphasising preparedness, Abdullah said the government is prioritising continuous monitoring of vulnerable lakes through remote sensing and field-based assessments, alongside the development of early-warning systems and ecozonation plans for downstream areas. He added that GLOF risk scenarios are also being integrated into district-level disaster management frameworks to enhance response capacity.

The study's findings come amid growing concern over the impact of climate change on Himalayan glaciers, where rising temperatures are accelerating glacial melt and expanding lake volumes, increasing the likelihood of sudden, high-magnitude flood events in fragile mountain ecosystems.

**Snowfall.....**

cloudy conditions with light to moderate rain or snowfall at many places are expected, accompanied by thunder and gusty winds," an

official said.

The advisory further said partly cloudy conditions are likely between April 5 and 7, while fresh spells of light to moderate rain and snow in higher reaches are expected from April 8 to 10.

Authorities have also warned of thunderstorms and gusty winds reaching speeds of 30-40 kmph at isolated places, particularly during late afternoon hours on March 31, April 3 and 4.

Meanwhile, the Traffic Police Headquarters issued an advisory stating that the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) remained blocked for several hours due to landslides and shooting stones between Ramban and Banihal.

Although the road was later partially restored, commuters have been advised to avoid travel during night hours due to the risk of shooting stones. Passenger Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) are being allowed from both sides under regulated conditions, subject to weather and road status.

The Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri (SSG) Road remains closed for vehicular movement towards Kargil due to fresh snowfall, with only stranded vehicles being allowed after clearance by road maintenance agencies.

Similarly, the Mughal Road connecting Shopian and Poonch has been closed due to snow accumulation.

Meanwhile, the Bandipora-Gurez road via Razdan Pass has also been closed following fresh snowfall, officials said. Traffic on the nearly 85-kilometre stretch has been suspended till further orders.

Officials said the Sinthan-Anantnag-Kishtwar road also remains closed following administrative orders due to unsafe conditions.

Passengers and transport operators have been advised to prefer daytime travel on the highway and strictly follow lane discipline to avoid congestion and accidents.

The administration has urged people to check the latest traffic and weather updates before undertaking journeys, warning of possible landslides and shooting stones at vulnerable locations.

Farmers have been advised to resume agricultural activities between March 31 and April 2, when weather conditions are expected to remain relatively stable.

Authorities said the situation is being closely monitored and necessary measures are in place to ensure public safety.

Furthermore, the Army and police on Tuesday rescued 34 students and staff trapped in a government school in Watergam area of Baramulla district after flash floods triggered by heavy rainfall inundated the premises, officials said.

The rescue teams evacuated 30 students and four teachers from the hostel after water levels in a nearby nallah rose suddenly.

Officials said the swift joint operation averted a major tragedy, and all those rescued are safe. (KNO)

**Govt endeavouring.....**

Sheikh in the Legislative Assembly regarding introduction of new subjects.

She informed that components relating to general studies, computer education, digital literacy and vocational skill-based education have been introduced at different levels of schooling in a phased manner depending upon the levels of institution, availability of infrastructure, trained manpower and other requisite facilities.

She added that Computer Science, Information Practices and IT as separate subjects have already been introduced in the curriculum at Higher Secondary School Level (XI to XII). Besides, vocational/skill based education with 15 different trades have also been implemented in High and Higher Secondary in alignment with the recommendations of the National Education Policy.

She further said that the introduction of Artificial Intelligence as a subject/discipline is also under active consideration in the department in alignment with NEP 2020.

The integration of 21st century skills, as articulated in the National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023, and envisioned in NEP 2020 is already being implemented in a phased manner and the revised curriculum framework emphasizes critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration, digital literacy, problem-solving, and experiential learning, the Minister further said.

She added that these competencies are being systematically embedded across subjects through curriculum rationalization, revised pedagogical approaches, competency-based assessments and integration of skill-oriented modules at the Secondary and Senior Secondary levels.

The Minister also informed that the existing curriculum is aligned with the National Education Policy-2020, particularly in respect of digital literacy, multidisciplinary learning and vocational education. She informed that the National Education Policy 2020 advocates an integrated and holistic approach to curriculum design, and accordingly, domains like Digital Literacy and Skill Education are embedded within the curriculum from the Foundational Stage onwards.

She also gave out that the teachers are being oriented and trained to effectively integrate these competencies into classroom practices, thereby ensuring the acquisition of relevant skills and learning outcomes in a holistic man-

ner.

The Minister further revealed that at the Secondary and Senior Secondary levels, Digital Literacy and Skill Education are also being offered as dedicated elective subjects within the curriculum, in addition to their cross-curricular integration.

**Wagoora.....**

as a milestone moment for rural governance in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that it reflects the strength of field-level execution and community-driven planning. He said the success of Wagoora demonstrates how data-backed governance and participatory approaches can transform rural institutions into engines of inclusive growth.

During the inspection, the team reviewed healthcare facilities under the National Health Mission, assessing service delivery, availability of medicines and staffing in local health institutions. Self-Help Groups linked to the National Rural Livelihoods Mission were also evaluated for financial inclusion and livelihood outcomes, while works executed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act were examined for quality and utility.

Located in B.K. Pora block, Wagoora Panchayat has gained recognition for its proactive "Leave No One Behind" approach, focusing on the socio-economic upliftment of vulnerable sections. With a population of around 4,000, the Panchayat has ensured 100 percent coverage under pension schemes for senior citizens and widows, while nearly 90 percent of persons with disabilities have been issued UDID cards to access welfare services seamlessly.

Officials further said that near-universal enrolment under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana has strengthened healthcare access and financial security for residents, making Wagoora a model of inclusive governance at the grassroots level.

The achievement is being seen as a reflection of Jammu and Kashmir's growing footprint in national rural governance reforms, with Wagoora emerging as a benchmark for Panchayats striving to deliver equitable and people-centric development.

**CS reviews.....**

technical support from Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, the department should actively utilize the expertise of Functional Managers, resources from the Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI), and faculty and students from universities across the Union Territory.

He underscored the importance of constituting multidisciplinary teams comprising professionals and trained interns to carry out a structured assessment of MSMEs. These teams, he noted, should initially undertake virtual evaluations followed by field visits for on-the-spot assessment and advisory support to units requiring intervention. He also called for the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based tools to streamline the diagnostic process and determine the severity and nature of interventions required.

The Chief Secretary further advised the department to set realistic daily and monthly targets to ensure timely outreach to MSMEs, either through digital platforms or physical visits. He stressed that each unit should be systematically evaluated and categorized as stable, stressed, or sick, followed by the provision of appropriate advisory and financial assistance in coordination with Jammu & Kashmir Bank to facilitate their stabilization and revival.

Highlighting the need for innovative financial solutions, he suggested exploring collaboration with J&K Bank for addressing financial stress among MSMEs, including examining possibilities of loan restructuring in line with the bank's internal policies and regulatory framework.

The Chief Secretary also emphasized aligning insights generated from the MSME Health Clinic with the evolving Industrial Policy of Jammu and Kashmir. He observed that data and findings from enterprise-level assessments could be effectively utilized to fine-tune policy incentives, ensuring a more evidence-based and targeted approach to industrial support.

He further directed the department to plan extensive physical outreach programmes in collaboration with IIM Jammu and leverage the Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) under Mission YUVA for organizing workshops and providing expert guidance to MSMEs. He urged the management of IIM Jammu to play a proactive role in transforming the MSME Health Clinic into a model initiative in the region.

On this occasion, the Director, IIM Jammu, B S Sahay, suggested developing comprehensive informational material, including pamphlets outlining standard operating procedures, dos and don'ts, and key diagnostic parameters for MSME assessment. He assured full institutional

support in terms of training human resources and constituting dedicated teams to accelerate the implementation of the initiative.

During the meeting, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, informed that a total of 3,968 MSMEs have registered on the Health Clinic portal so far. He stated that Phase I and Phase II of the initiative have been successfully completed, with 1,238 enterprises digitally assessed. Of these, 994 units (80.29%) were found to be stable, 237 units (19.14%) were identified as stressed, and 7 units were categorized as sick.

He further informed that verification of MSME credentials is being carried out in coordination with J&K Bank to enhance outreach and increase registrations. Additionally, chatbot-based support systems are being developed to provide real-time assistance and guidance to MSMEs.

Director Industries & Commerce, Jammu, Arun Manhas, apprised that the initiative has covered 12 districts so far, with 162 online interactions already completed. The remaining cases are expected to be finalized shortly. He added that 14 units have been identified for targeted rehabilitation, with field visits conducted to validate assessments and extend on-ground support.

Highlighting the ongoing Phase III, he informed that 1,544 MSMEs have been digitally assessed, out of which 1,309 units (84.47%) were categorized as stable, 229 units (14.83%) as stressed, and 6 units as sick.

It was also noted that in-depth diagnostic studies and structured interviews of the 229 stressed MSMEs will commence shortly, marking a transition from broad-based assessments to focused, case-specific interventions aimed at revival and capacity enhancement.

It is worth mentioning here that the MSME Health Clinic initiative under the RAMP scheme represents a strategic intervention by the Government of India to enable early identification of stress, provide expert diagnostics, and facilitate structured revival pathways for struggling enterprises, thereby fostering a resilient and competitive MSME ecosystem.

**J&K has sufficient.....**

Attention Notice moved by Legislator Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami in the Legislative Assembly.

He said that geopolitical tensions have triggered panic buying and spike in Petrol, Diesel and LPG consumption beyond normal levels. He gave out that as per the report furnished by the Oil Marketing Companies, stocks are adequate, urging the public to ignore rumours, as the overall supply remains stable and sufficient despite the temporary surge in demand.

Satish Sharma said that the Divisional and District Level Control Rooms are in place and functional. He said that the department is conducting regular inspections across the districts to strictly check and prevent any instance of hoarding and black marketing. The government is taking strict action against those found violating norms, imposing fines and penalties for any irregularities found.

The Minister said that the department is conducting detailed inspections and raids besides undertaking punitive action including fine, penalties against the hoarders and black marketers, FIRs have also been lodged. He said that since 17 March 2026 a total number of 3442 inspections/raids have been conducted and several FIRs have been launched and 252 goods/articles have been seized/impounded with 2443 grievances/complaints redressed.

With regard to ensuring uninterrupted supply of Motor Spirit (MS) and High Speed diesel (HSD), the Minister informed that daily monitoring of Petroleum Products including LPG from stockiest/outlet level to bulk level of OMC's (State level) is being monitored.

The Minister said that steps taken for ensuring uninterrupted supply of MS/HSD/CNG Movement of LPG and Petroleum products in coordination with SLC/OMC (State level) is being facilitated with review of stock at stockiest/outlet level monitored by respective District Level Committee headed by Deputy Commissioners/District Magistrates. He said that other field functionaries drawn from different Departments for enforcement including punitive action against hoarders, black marketers, conducting of surprise visits stands encouraged.

He stated that there's no panic buying and no reports of rumours, with all channels being monitored for such activity. He added that from March 15 to 24, 36 media interactions, briefings, and social media engagements have been conducted, along with on-ground community interactions.

The Minister said that regular review meetings are also being held to monitor the availability and the measures being taken to ensure the same at different levels.



## Div Com Kashmir reviews availability of Essential Commodities in Valley

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, MAR 31:** To ensure uninterrupted availability of essential commodities across the Kashmir Valley, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Tuesday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess stock positions and streamline supply mechanisms.

The meeting emphasized enhancing public interface systems to enable more efficient monitoring and assessment of demand and supply trends.

Deputy Commissioners from across the Valley, the Additional Commissioner Kashmir, Assistant Commissioner Central, representatives from medical institutions, universities, Agriculture Department, and sales officers from oil marketing companies—including Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)—attended the meeting.

During the review, the Divisional Commissioner assessed the availability of petroleum products and LPG across districts

and company depots.

On the occasion, the Joint Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), informed that the combined stock position of oil companies for Motor Spirit (MS) is 6,919 KL, sufficient for approximately 13.6 days, High-Speed Diesel (HSD) is 12,980 KL, sufficient for approximately 18.5 days and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is 4,371 MT, sufficient for approximately 15.6 days.

Regarding foodgrain reserves at Food Corporation of India (FCI) depots, it was informed that the stocks are sufficient for 65 days.

On the status of eKYC verification for LPG consumers, it was reported that 1,107,947 verifications have been completed, while 8,77,145 cases remain pending.

The Divisional Commissioner directed concerned agencies to expedite the completion of pending eKYC processes within a stipulated timeframe while availing the services of CSCs.

He also instructed oil companies to ensure home delivery of LPG cylinders and take strict action against unauthorized spot deliveries. Additionally, he directed



the operation of the Pampore HPCL plant on Sundays to meet

peak demand requirements. To improve inventory accuracy,

the Divisional Commissioner called for immediate reconciliation of discrepancies between physical stock at distribution agencies and system records maintained by oil marketing companies. He further urged Deputy Commissioners to ensure adequate supply of commercial LPG to industries and institutions like SKIMS, GMC, Hospitals, SKUAST-K, KU, CUK and other educational institutions.

The Joint Director Agriculture also briefed the meeting on fertilizer availability, stating that sufficient stocks are in place for the upcoming Kharif season and are being regularly replenished.

Meanwhile, the Divisional Commissioner stressed the need to safeguard the interests of workers in industrial and service sectors, directing authorities to ensure that labourers are neither laid off nor deprived of timely wages.

He also instructed FCS&CA officials to compile and analyze supply and demand data from the past 15 days to identify consumption trends and support informed decision-making.

## Awareness camp regarding digital tools under VSK held in Kangan and Hariganwan

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**KANGAN, MAR 31:** Awareness camps were successfully conducted at Zone Kangan and Hariganwan with the objective of familiarizing school heads with newly introduced digital tools under the VSK initiative. The programme aimed to enhance digital awareness and ensure the effective integration of technology into school administration and academic processes. The camps witnessed the presence of the Chief Education Officer Ganderbal, Deputy Chief Education Officer (DNO VSK), Zonal Education Officers, Cluster Heads, and ZNO VSK. Their active participation added value to the programme, as they shared their insights and provided practical guidance to the Heads of Institutions (HoIs). The sessions were conducted in a clear, interactive, and easily understandable manner, ensuring that all participants could grasp the concepts without difficulty. During the programme, detailed demonstrations were given on the use and functionality of various VSK bots. The officials highlighted how these digital tools can streamline administrative tasks, improve efficiency, and support better monitoring and implementation of educational initiatives. Special emphasis was laid on achieving 100% registration across institutions and ensuring the proper and timely use of all available bots. The HoIs participated with great interest and enthusiasm. They listened attentively, raised relevant queries, and expressed their willingness to adopt and implement these digital tools in their respective institutions. The overall atmosphere of the camps was productive and encouraging, reflecting a positive shift towards digital adoption in the education sector.

The programme concluded with a note of appreciation for the collective efforts of all stakeholders and a reaffirmation of the commitment to strengthening the digital framework in schools.

## KU concludes workshop on use of linguistic software, tools

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, MAR 31:** The Department of Linguistics, University of Kashmir (KU), successfully concluded a two-day workshop on 'Use of Linguistics Software and Tools' at the Main Campus.

The workshop aimed to familiarise participants with contemporary linguistic software and equip them with practical skills for data analysis, phonetic research, and language documentation in an era marked by the growing use of and dependence on artificial intelligence.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her message said, "Incorporating digital tools into language studies is key to keeping pace with changing academic practices. Such initiatives help students and scholars refine their research skills and engage more effectively with emerging methodologies in linguistics."

Speaking at the inaugural session, Controller of Examinations KU, Prof. Majid Zaman, said, "In today's rapidly evolving academic landscape, the integration of technology with linguistic research is essential. Workshops like these empower students and scholars to engage with advanced tools and enhance the quality and scope of their research."



Former Head, Department of Linguistics, KU, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Dhar, emphasized the relevance of computational tools in modern linguistics and encouraged participants to adopt innovative approaches in their academic work.

Dr. Shabir Ahmad Parah, faculty at the Department of Electronics & Instrumentation Technology, KU, highlighted the interdisciplinary nature of such trainings and spoke about the role of technology in enhancing research precision and efficiency.

Earlier, Head, Department of Linguistics, KU, Prof. Musavir Ahmad, in his welcome address underscored

the importance of learning and using specialised software tools to keep pace with emerging trends in linguistic research and pedagogy.

The workshop featured expert sessions and hands-on training on software such as Flex and Praat, enabling participants to gain practical exposure to linguistic data processing and phonetic analysis. Participants actively engaged in the sessions and gained helpful insights into the application of these tools in their academic and research pursuits.

The workshop was attended by research scholars and students from the Department of Linguistics at the Main Campus.

## Farewell Ceremony Held in Honor of Headmaster Manzoor Ahmad Khan at High School Chandigam

Speakers Appreciated His Valuable Services in the Education Department

### HT NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA, MAR 31:** A dignified farewell ceremony was organized at Government High School Chandigam in honor of Headmaster Manzoor Ahmad Khan. He joined the Education Department in 1989 as a teacher and, through his hard work, dedication, and commitment, progressed through various stages of his career before retiring from the department as Headmaster. A large number of teachers, students, parents, and distinguished guests attended the ceremony. Among those present were former Chief Education Officer Kupwara Mirajud-Din Shah, District Education Planning Officer Mohammad Iqbal Shah, Principals of Higher Second-

ary Schools Sogam, Khamriyal, and Kralpora, as well as Zonal Education Officer Sogam and Zonal Education Planning Officers from Sogam, Kralpora, and Kupwara. The purpose of the event was to acknowledge and pay tribute to his long and valuable services in the Education Department.

On the occasion, speakers expressed their views and stated that Manzoor Ahmad Khan had been not only an excellent teacher but also a capable and dedicated administrator. Through his hard work, honesty, and exemplary performance, he significantly improved the academic environment of the school and played an important role in shaping the lives of thousands of students. The speakers further added that,



as Headmaster, he utilized his abilities and experience to promote quality education in the institution and always remained at the forefront in guiding both teachers and students. Under his leadership, the school achieved notable progress in both academic and moral development.

Speaking on the occasion, Headmaster Manzoor Ahmad Khan shared the bitter and sweet experiences of his long service with the audience. He also highlighted his performance and contributions to the Education Department as a teacher and emphasized the noble status and responsibilities of a

teacher. He said that a teacher plays a fundamental role in nation-building and that proper guidance of the younger generation is essential for the progress of society.

During the ceremony, teachers and students appreciated his services and expressed their best wishes for his future. At the end of the event, the school administration presented him with mementos as a token of appreciation and pledged to always remember his contributions.

Later, all the guests accompanied him to his residence, where hundreds of guests and family members warmly welcomed them. On this occasion, they congratulated Manzoor Ahmad Khan and presented him with gifts.

## SRDE starts campaign to plant one million trees in Pir Panjal range

### JEHANGIR RASHID

**SRINAGAR, MAR 31:** In a landmark step towards ecological restoration and climate resilience in the Western Himalayas, the "One Million Trees for Pir Panjal" initiative was formally inaugurated with remarkable enthusiasm, unity, and a renewed sense of environmental responsibility.

Led by the School for Rural Development and Environment (SRDE), in collaboration with the Nature Conservancy Alliance (NCA) and supported by the forest department, the campaign represents far



more than a plantation drive—it is a transformative people's movement dedicated to healing the fragile ecosystems of the Pir Panjal range.

The initiative was officially launched by renowned climate justice activist and founder of SRDE, Dr. Shaikh Ghulam Rasool, in the presence of distinguished civil society leaders, forest officials, academicians and international representatives, including IHRO SAARC Director Roshni Bhattarai.

The event witnessed vibrant participation from students and scholars of the Faculty of Forestry at SKUAST-K, alongside educators, youth groups, women's collectives, and local communities—collectively reflecting a powerful and shared commitment to environmental stewardship and climate action.

Marking the beginning of its first phase, a large-scale plantation drive was simultaneously launched in the Sukhnag forest range of Pir Panjal Division Budgam. This milestone event signals the operationalization of an ambitious vision to plant one million trees across the Pir Panjal landscape. The drive is being implemented through a collaborative framework involving SRDE, NCA, Tosamaidan Bachav Front (TBF) and Shukhnag Conservation and Development Foundation (SCDF) with strong institutional support from the Jammu & Kashmir Forest Department.

"This is not merely about planting trees; it is about healing our mountains. The forests of Pir Panjal sustain our water systems, Glacier ecology, biodiversity and climate resilience. To protect them is to secure the future of Jammu & Kashmir, a future that is safe, sustainable, and green," said Dr. Shaikh. He further emphasized that the campaign is as much about people as it is about trees.

Dr. Shaikh said that the goal is to plant one million trees across the Pir Panjal Range, but equally important is to inspire and engage communities, especially the youth as custodians of these forests. He said that true conservation lies in collective ownership and sustained participation adding that additional plantation drives are planned across Budgam before the initiative expands to the broader Pir Panjal region.

With over 16 years of dedicated work, SRDE has consistently remained at the forefront of research and grassroots action in mountain ecology, biodiversity conservation, wildlife protection, wetlands conservation and climate justice across Jammu & Kashmir. Having already planted more than 2.7 lakh trees, the organisation has demonstrated a strong track record of impactful environmental interventions.

Officials from the forest department extended technical expertise, providing saplings and ensuring scientific planting methods to enhance survival rates. The range officer of Sukhnag range appreciated the initiative and apprised participants of ongoing forestry schemes.

Molvi Maqbool, President, SCDF, highlighted the ethical and spiritual dimensions of environmental stewardship. "It is our Islamic duty to plant trees and protect water, biodiversity, and our mountain landscapes. These natural resources are a sacred trust for future generations," he said.

Prof. Bilal Bhat reaffirmed SRDE's long-term commitment to ecological advocacy and said that SRDE will continue to lead such plantation initiatives and remain actively engaged in campaigns defending nature and communities.

Mushtaq Budgam, representing the Gujjar-Bakerwal Youth Welfare Conference (GBYWC) & FRC-J&K said the Gujjar-Bakerwal youth will always remain shoulder to shoulder in this noble cause. Peer Sheikh Ghulam Mohideen, Chairperson of Pir Panjal Conservation Foundation (PCF) said the conservation of Pir Panjal is vital for the entire Kashmir region, particularly for its water security.

Abiza Maqbool, Youth Coordinator at NCA and a forestry professional, passionately called upon the youth to take ownership of the movement, emphasizing that the future of Kashmir's ecological security rests in their hands. The event witnessed the presence of Rashada from Azerbaijan, teachers from the education department and members of various civil society organisations, further reinforcing both local and international solidarity for environmental conservation.

# 1190 AWCs functional in Srinagar district, 152 in Central Shalteng Constituency: Sakeena Itoo

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, MARCH 31:** Minister for Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo, today said that 1190 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) are functional in Srinagar district with 152 AWCs functioning in Central Shalteng Constituency.

The Minister informed this in reply to a question raised by Legislator Tariq Hameed Karra regarding Social Welfare schemes in the Legislative Assembly.

She said that at present there is no proposal under consideration of the government regarding opening/establishment of new Anganwadi Centres in Central Shalteng Constituency as the existing centres are catering to the needs of the target beneficiaries of the said Constituency.

The Minister further said that the that any proposal regarding opening of new AWCs that fulfil



the criteria would be examined for submission to the Government of India.

She also informed that the monthly honorarium to Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and

Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) is in consonance with the honorarium provided to AWWs and AWHs at the National level on the pattern of 90:10.

She added that the Government

of J&K is already giving additional state share to AWWs and AWHs and the matter would be taken up with Central Government to examine enhancement of honorarium subject to availability

of resources.

Giving details about the beneficiaries covered under social welfare schemes in Central Shalteng constituency, the Social Welfare Minister informed that 6756 beneficiaries are covered under Old Age Pension, Widow Pension and various other Centrally and UT sponsored welfare schemes in the constituency.

She apprised that the old age pension under the Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS) and National Social Assistance Programme has recently been enhanced along with other components and the persons aged below 60 years are paid Rs.1250/- per month, between 60-79 years Rs 1500/- per month and 80 years and above @Rs 2000/- per month.

Legislators, Balwant Singh Mankotia and Qaysir Jamsheed Lone raised supplementary questions.

## Metrolite, Light Metro projects for Jammu, Srinagar under Govt consideration: Sakeena Itoo

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, MARCH 31 :** The Government of India is currently reviewing proposals for Metrolite and Light Metro projects in Jammu and Srinagar, aiming to enhance the cities' transportation infrastructure.

This was stated by Minister for Education Sakeena Itoo in the Legislative Assembly today while replying to a question of Legislator Mohan Lal, regarding the matter, on behalf of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.



The Minister informed that in Jammu city, comprehensive ground surveys, traffic studies, feasibility analysis and DPR preparation has been completed through M/s RITES Limited. She added that the DPR included alignment planning, ridership projections (2.84 lakh daily ridership by 2035), cost estimates, land requirements (29.58 hectare permanent and 1.50 hectare temporary), environmental and seismic design considerations besides financial structuring.

It was also apprised that the Economic Internal Rate of Return (EIRR) has been assessed at 18.92%. The current proposal is confined to the Jammu urban corridor from Bantalab to Bari Brahmana covering 23 km with 22 stations, she said.

It was told that at present no proposal is under consideration for extending the Metrolite corridor to Akhnoor town and any future expansion would be subject to separate feasibility assessment and approval of the Government of India.

Regarding Srinagar city, the Minister said that detailed topographical surveys, traffic and ridership assessments, engineering feasibility studies, financial and economic analyses and alignment planning have been undertaken through M/s RITES Ltd.

She added that DPR for both the projects has been finalized and submitted to the Government of India for appraisal.

## JKEDI Baramulla launches several Developmental Programmes under RAMP

HT NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA, MARCH 31:** In an effort to foster sustainable enterprise growth, the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), District Centre Baramulla, today launched a series of developmental programmes under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme.

While conducting an Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme (ESDP) at ITI Pattan, JKEDI has simultaneously commenced its 6-day, 30-hour Management Development Programme (MDP), Batch-VIII, at ITI Baramulla.



A total of 54 participants, including both male and female candidates, have enrolled in the programmes, with 32 participants in ESDP and 22 in MDP.

The programmes are designed to equip participants with essential knowledge and skills in key areas such as entrepreneurship development, business planning, financial management, marketing strategies, awareness of government schemes, and critical soft skills required for sustainable enterprise development.

The programmes were formally inaugurated by the ITI Superintendents, Er. Showkat Ahmad and Er. Javed Ahmad and is being coordinated by faculty members under the overall guidance of Imtiyaz Ahmad, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI District Centre Baramulla.

## Div Com Office Bids Farewell to Deputy Director Planning (E&S) on his transfer

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, MARCH 31:** The officers and officials of the Divisional Commissioner's Office Kashmir today organized a farewell ceremony to bid adieu to the Deputy Director (E&S), Ashiq Hussain Malik on the occasion of his transfer.

The programme was presided over by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, and was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Central, OSD to Div Com, Law Officer, Private Secretary to Div Com, Section Officer, and other officers and officials from subordinate offices.

Speaking on the occasion, the Divisional Commissioner extended his best wishes to the Deputy Director Planning and lauded him for rendering nearly six years of dedicated service in the office with an unblemished record of integrity,



efficiency, expediency, and punctuality.

He urged all participants to draw inspiration from the officer's sense of responsibility, commitment, and work ethic.

The Deputy Director Planning also shared his experiences and time spent in the office and expressed gratitude

to the Divisional Commissioner and other staff members for their support and cooperation.

Other officers, including the ACC, OSD, Section Officer, and Private Secretary, also extended their best wishes to the officer and prayed for his continued success in future professional assignments and life.

## NCORD meeting; DC Kathua reviews anti-drug measures, enforcement strategy

Seeks focus on counselling, youth engagement initiatives

HT NEWS NETWORK

**KATHUA, MARCH 31:** Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the District level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) Committee to review the progress of ongoing initiatives and devise a comprehensive strategy to curb drug abuse in the district.

The meeting was attended by ADC Vishvajet Singh; ASP Rahul Charak; CMO Dr Vijay Raina; ACD Akhil Sadotra; ACP Ajeet Kumar; Assistant Commandant 107 BSF Battalion, CAO, DIO, CEO, DSWO, Assistant Controller Drugs and other concerned officers.

The meeting was informed that paramedical staff and teachers

are being trained as Counsellors through structured training being imparted to them in a phased manner. Nearly 200 individuals have already been trained at GMC Kathua to strengthen grassroots-level intervention, the meeting was told. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need to ensure availability of at least 2-3 trained counsellors at each block, besides one trained teacher at every High and Higher Secondary School to guide and sensitize students against drug abuse. Chief Education Officer Kewal Krishan informed that all 13 private coaching centres in the district have been equipped with CCTV surveillance, while government schools are being covered in a phased manner.



Stressing stringent enforcement, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Drug Control Department to intensify drives, conduct surprise inspections, maintain strict vigil on over-the-counter sale of drugs and ensure effective functioning of de-addiction OPD clinics.

The meeting also underscored the importance of sustained IEC activities under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan along with enhanced youth engagement in sports to promote a healthy and drug-free lifestyle. Threadbare discussions were held on key issues including consolidation of data of offenders for punitive actions such as cancellation of licenses, regular monitoring of contraband cultivation, identification.

## 3 day training on Vaccine Preventable Diseases Surveillance concludes at GGN Hospital

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, MARCH 31:** A three-day training program on Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD) Surveillance, conducted as part of the Phase-II transition from the World Health Organization (WHO)-supported system to the General Health System, concluded here today at Government Gandhi-Nagar (GGN) Hospital. The program was organized under the guidance of Mission Director NHM Akriti Sagar.

Over the course of three days, participants from across the districts of Jammu Division were trained on key components of VPD surveillance, including case identification, reporting mechanisms, data management, outbreak response and field-level implementation.

Technical sessions were conducted by experts from the WHO and the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control, New Delhi.

The training marks an important milestone in the transition of VPD surveillance into the General Health System in the Jammu



Division, thus ensuring sustainability, improved data integration and timely public health response.

Earlier, the training was inaugurated by Director Family Welfare, Jammu Dr. Poonam Sethi and Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar in presence of Dr. Narinder Bhutiyal, Medical Superintendent, Gandhi Nagar Hospital Jammu, Dr. Ramesh Khullar, State Epidemiologist/SSO Jammu Division and Dr. Shahid Hussain, State Immunization Officer, Jammu Division, who emphasized the importance of strengthening integrated disease surveillance systems.

## District Magistrate Chairs NCORD Meeting at Doda

String of decisions taken to reinforce Drug Control measures

HT NEWS NETWORK

**DODA, MARCH 31:** District Magistrate (DM) Doda Krishan Lal, in presence of Senior Superintendent of Police Sandeep Kumar, today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) mechanism here in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

The meeting reviewed ongoing anti-narcotic measures and deliberated on fresh initiatives to strengthen on ground efforts to eradicate drug abuse in the district.

The meeting was held in compliance with the directions issued by the Union Home Minister during the Apex NCORD Meeting, calling for formulation of a robust district-level roadmap for effective drug control.

The meeting was convened by the Nodal Officer NCORD Zubair

Ahmed and attended by officers from multiple departments and representatives of local NGOs.

The District Magistrate highlighted the importance of MANAS (Madak-Padarth Nisedh Asuchna Kendra), a 24x7 toll-free helpline (1933), encouraging stakeholders to actively report drug related issues and contribute to the anti-drug campaign. He issued string of directions to stakeholder departments to reinforce control measures.

Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) was directed to constitute Nasha Mukta Committees in each Panchayat to encourage community participation, strengthen awareness and facilitate counseling in educational institutions.

The Police and Education Departments were instructed to strictly enforce the ban on the sale of tobacco products within the



100-meter radius of schools, declare all institutions as Tobacco-Free Zones and ensure regular awareness campaigns during morning assemblies. The heads of Government Degree Colleges were directed to activate Anti-Substance Abuse Cells to conduct sustained awareness drives and enforce adherence to tobacco-free norms around the College premises.

The Drug Control Department was instructed to conduct regular inspections of medical stores to

verify CCTV footage and billing records. The Sub-Divisional Magistrates were asked to rope in religious scholars and local stakeholders to promote awareness against substance abuse and strengthen the concept of "Nasha-Mukta Panchayats." The meeting was attended by ACR Ashraf Parvez; CPO Manesh Kumar; PO ICDS Akhter Qazi; Assistant Commissioner Development Din Mohammad Afaq; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Mushraf Haff; Principal GDC Doda Dr. Javed Iqbal; DSWO Zubair Ahmed; CEO Bhushan Kumar; EO Municipal Committee, Nodal Officer ATF and officers from various departments and NGOs.

ADC Bharderwah, SDMs, Sub-Divisional Police Officers, Tehsildars, BDOs, Divisional Forest Officers of Doda, Bharderwah and Batote, SHOs and other officials also participated through virtual mode.

# Legislators raise public issues during Zero Hour in J&K Legislative Assembly

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, MARCH 31:** Several members of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today raised pressing public concerns during Zero Hour, drawing government attention towards critical gaps in healthcare, education, infrastructure, public utilities and administrative functioning across their constituencies.

MLA Shagun Parihar highlighted the issue of vacant administrative posts at District Hospital Kishtwar, stressing the urgent need for specialists such as an anaesthetist and a radiologist to ensure uninterrupted healthcare services.

MLA Irfan Hafiz Lone called for the extension of the Power Amnesty Scheme for another year to provide relief to consumers and prevent power disconnections.

MLA Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani raised concerns regarding acute manpower shortages in Budgam district, particularly the absence of key positions including Deputy Chief Education Officers (Dy CEOs), Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs), headmasters and principals in higher secondary schools.

MLA Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Mir urged the government to resume construction work on the long-pending Government Degree College Rajpora, which has remained stalled for several years.

MLA Javid Riyaz Bedar demanded posting of an Executive Officer for the Municipal Committee Pattan and the filling up of vacant



posts such as ZEOs and Block Development Officers (BDOs) in his constituency.

MLA Tariq Hamid Karra flagged the issue of inflated electricity bills allegedly caused by load enhancements without consumers' consent, seeking intervention from the concerned authorities.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal emphasized the need for timely admissions of NEET-PG candidates to ensure that aspirants from the region are not disadvantaged at the national level.

MLA Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat

sought early repayment of long-pending dues to the depositors from the J&K SCARD Bank.

MLA Waheed ur Rehman Para requested for posting of a radiologist at District Hospital Pulwama to strengthen the diagnostic services.

MLA Javid Ahmad Mirchal called for filling up of vacant posts in the Health and Irrigation departments in his constituency, urging prompt intervention by the government.

MLA Choudhary Mohammed Akram pressed for the early release of the provisional list of

field functionaries in the Agriculture Production Department. He also sought streamlining of the National Pension System (NPS) across J&K in light of recent amendments.

MLA Muzaffer Iqbal Khan demanded rehabilitation of families affected by road slippages in his constituency. He advocated for extending hostel facilities in Pahari Hostels to postgraduate students as well.

MLA Surinder Kumar raised concerns over disparities between rural and urban areas in accessing

LPG services under existing norms.

MLA Zaffar Ali Khatana sought filling up of vacant posts including Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Kokernag and Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Kokernag and also supported the extension of the Power Amnesty Scheme.

MLA Arjun Singh Raju urged the government to improve road conditions in his constituency to facilitate smooth operation of SRTC buses.

MLA Javid Iqbal demanded a detailed inquiry into the mysterious deaths reported in Budhal, Rajouri last year and also sought provision of additional buses to improve public transport in his area.

MLA Sheikh Ahsan Ahmad Pardesi requested the government to formulate a plan for optimal utilization of the vacant GB Pant Hospital premises, mentioning the lack of adequate healthcare facilities in the surrounding areas after relocation of the pediatric hospital.

MLA Satish Sharma called for an in-depth inquiry into the damage to recently constructed volleyball and badminton courts due to rains and demanded deployment of a fire tender in his constituency to meet emergency needs.

The issues raised during Zero Hour reflect a wide spectrum of public concerns, with legislators urging timely and effective intervention by the government to address these challenges and ensure improved service delivery across Jammu and Kashmir.

## Legal awareness programs held in different parts of Reasi

HT NEWS NETWORK

**REASI, MARCH 31:** Under the visionary leadership of Khalil Choudhary, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Reasi (Pr. District and Sessions Judge) and the able guidance of Secretary Pooja Gupta, a series of legal awareness programmes were organized today in different parts of the district.

Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA and TLSC Mahore generated awareness about the Right to Apply for Compensation before MACT in Hit and Run Cases.

The participants were sensitized to the legal provisions related to Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT), especially focusing on the rights of victims and their families in hit and run cases. The programme witnessed active participation from litigants and general public.

An awareness programme on Role and Functions of DLSA was held at LAC Pouni. ALADC Ranjeet Singh and ALADC Niharika Bamotra conducted the programme.

The panel lawyers sensitized the participants to the role and functioning of the District Legal Services Authority, informing them about the provision of free legal aid for eligible sections of society, including women, children and economically weaker sections.



They also highlighted the schemes and initiatives launched under NALSA to ensure access to justice for all. In addition, a Jail visit was conducted by the Assistant Legal Defence Counsels (LADCs) to assess the condition of inmates and to provide legal assistance to under trial prisoners.

The LADCs interacted with the inmates, listened to their grievances and informed them about their legal rights, including the availability of free legal aid and speedy trial mechanisms.

The visit aimed to ensure that no inmate is deprived of legal representation and that their cases are addressed in a timely and just manner. An awareness Program on "Digital Frauds and Online Scams" was organised at the Court Complex Katra. The program aimed at sensitizing public to the rising incidents of cyber frauds and equipping them with essential knowledge to safeguard themselves against various online scams.

Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel Advocate Bhumika Rajput was the Resource Person for the program. She elaborated in detail on different types of digital frauds, precautionary measures and the legal remedies available to victims.

## A&T Department bids warm farewell to Abdul Hamid Kumar, felicitates retiring officers

HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, MARCH 31:** A heartfelt farewell was accorded to Abdul Hamid Kumar on his superannuation as Director, Accounts & Treasuries, Kashmir, marking the culmination of a distinguished and dedicated career in government service. The farewell function was attended by Director General, Accounts & Treasuries, Fayaz Ahmad Lone; DG Resources/Funds, Mohd Yaqoob Itoo; DG Codes, Mahesh Dass; DG Budget, Mohd Sultan Malik; along with Directors from A&T Jammu, Finance (Resources), Finance Health, and Treasury Officers from Kashmir who joined the event virtually. Speaking on the occasion, the officers lauded Abdul Hamid Kumar for his exemplary leadership, professionalism, and unwavering commitment throughout his illustrious career. They highlighted his significant contributions towards strengthening the financial management system and acknowledged his role in enhancing institutional efficiency within the department.

The participants extended their heartfelt wishes for his good health, happiness, and a fulfilling post-retirement life. On the occasion, several other officers of the Accounts cadre who also attained superannuation were felicitated for their dedicated services. Their contributions to the department were widely appreciated.

Among those honoured were Accounts Officers Mohammad Ayoub Mir (Directorate of Horticulture, Kashmir), Fayaz Ahmad Wani (Pay & Accounts Office, Chief Engineer Office, JKPTCL, Srinagar), Kamal Kishore (J&K ERA), Amarjit Singh Sandhu (Water Regulatory Authority), Rajinder Kumar Bhat (State Motor Garages), Mohd Yasin Sofi (District Fund Office, Srinagar), Daulat Ram (Municipal Council Samba), Abdul Rashid Khan (KPDCL, Pulwama), Ashwani Kumar (JKPTCL), Davinder Kumar Sharma (Kishtwar Tourism Development Authority), Jan Mohd Sofi (Treasury Officer, Pattan), Mohd Farooq Mir (Govt. College of Engineering & Technology, Ganderbal), Satvir Singh Manhas (Bhaderwah), Syed Arif Yaseen (Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Kashmir), Mangat Ram Khajuria (Central Store, JPDCL, Jammu) and Jai Dev Singh (Deputy Director Audit & Inspections, Jammu).

Assistant Accounts Officers Noor Mohd Gadyari, Mohd Yousuf Lone, Ali Mohd Haroo, Parveez Ahmad Shah, Shabir Ahmad Rather and Mubeena were also felicitated on their retirement. All the retiring officers were honoured for their invaluable services and dedication to the department. The gathering acknowledged their contributions with deep appreciation and extended best wishes for their future endeavours and post-retirement life.

## Veteran DIPR Artist Hilal Ahmad Mattoo retires

Warm farewell accorded at Joint Directorate Kashmir

HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, MARCH 31:** Joint Directorate of Information & Public Relations, Kashmir today bid a heartfelt farewell to its veteran artist and senior official, Hilal Ahmad Mattoo, on his superannuation.

On the occasion, a grand farewell function was organized at Joint Directorate of Information, Kashmir, where officers and officials gathered in large numbers to bid him a warm send-off.

Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari, congratulated Mattoo on his retirement and praised his distinguished service. Deputy Director Kashmir, Mohammad Rafiq Zullah appreciated the retiring official for his dedicated service even in odd times. Cultural Officer, Burhan Hussain



also extended his best wishes to Mattoo for a successful and fulfilling post-retirement life.

Speaking on the occasion, AECO,

Syed Shakeel Shan lauded Mattoo for his unwavering dedication and commitment to duty. He said that retiring official had always performed his responsibilities with sincerity and professionalism, rising to the occasion whenever his services were required under all circumstances.

In his farewell address, Hilal Ahmad Mattoo fondly recalled his long and fulfilling career, describing it as a "golden period" marked by learning, service, and memorable experiences.

Colleagues and officers present at the function appreciated his valuable contributions to the department, particularly in promoting cultural activities and performing arts across the region. They offered prayers for his good health, happiness, and prosperity in the years ahead.

## DEO Kathua flags off SVEEP Van to boost awareness on Panchayat Electoral roll revision

Special camps, door-to-door outreach being conducted from March 27 to April 29

HT NEWS NETWORK

**KATHUA, MARCH 31:** District Election Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Kathua Rajesh Sharma today flagged off a SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) Van to generate awareness among the public regarding the ongoing Annual Revision of Panchayat Electoral Rolls in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the DEO informed that the State Election Commission has notified the schedule for revision from March 27 to April 29, 2026. He said that special camps would be organized across all Panchayats on four consecutive



weekends (Saturdays and Sundays) to facilitate voter registration and updation.

He further stated that door-to-door campaigns shall be conducted by field functionaries to ensure inclusion of all eligible voters and to facilitate addition, deletion, correction and transfer of entries in the electoral rolls.

The DEO appealed to the general public to participate actively in the special camps and ensure that their names are correctly entered in the Panchayat Electoral Rolls. He particularly called upon new voters to come forward in large numbers and get themselves registered, emphasizing that

the qualifying date for enrolment is April 1, 2026.

He also highlighted that Panchayat Electoral Rolls are distinct from Assembly Electoral Rolls and urged citizens to verify their registration separately to avoid any inconvenience.

Reiterating the importance of participatory democracy, the DEO stressed that collective efforts and public awareness are essential for ensuring inclusive and error-free electoral rolls.

Deputy District Election Officer Kathua, Nagesh Singh, Officers and officials of the Election Cell were also present on the occasion.

## DC Udhampur conducts extensive tour of Sub-Division Chenani, inspects developmental works

HT NEWS NETWORK

**UDHAMPUR, MARCH 31:** To assess the progress of ongoing developmental works and implementation of flagship schemes, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today conducted an extensive tour of the far-flung areas of Sub-Division Chenani, covering Sudhmahadev, Mantalai, Latti and Dudu areas. During the visit, the DC inspected progress of developmental

projects and reviewed the functioning of key government institutions in these areas. Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner visited the SDM Office, Community Health Center, BDO Office and Government Higher Secondary School in Chenani. He interacted with officers and enquired about status of delivery of public services. He also paid obeisance at the revered Sudhmahadev Temple and inspected the International Yoga Centre at Mantalai. Emphasizing

efficient governance, the DC directed officers to ensure doorstep delivery through an efficient delivery mechanism. He further instructed all departments to organize awareness camps to encourage citizens to avail benefits of the centrally sponsored schemes. En-route, the DC also inspected the Tehsildar Office, BDO Office and Government Higher Secondary School Latti, besides visiting the SDM Office, GHSS and NTPHC at Dudu.

## DC Ramban releases Potential Linked Credit Plan 2026-27, Approves Annual Credit Plan

HT NEWS NETWORK

**RAMBAN, MARCH 31:** Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today released the Potential Linked Credit Plan (PLP) for the year 2026-27 here at a meeting held in his office chamber. Among others present on the occasion were Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak; Assistant Commissioner Development Sheraz Ahmed; Lead District Manager

Davinder Singh; District Development Manager NABARD Aarshi Sharma and other concerned officers. The PLP is prepared annually by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to assess the credit potential of the district on the basis of past trends, available infrastructure and development prospects in different sectors. For the year 2026-27, the priority sector credit outlay under PLP has been projected

at Rs. 65,203.49 lakh. On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner also approved the District Credit Plan (DCP) for the year 2026-27. The DCP is prepared every year by the Lead District Manager and contains sector-wise credit targets for banks under priority and non-priority sectors. The total credit outlay under DCP for FY 2026-27 for District Ramban has been fixed at Rs. 1,11,340.00 lakh, covering both priority and non-priority sectors.

HT EDITORIAL

**Zojila avalanche incident unfortunate, unthinkable**

Last week seven persons lost their lives when many vehicles got trapped under an avalanche at Zojila on the Srinagar-Leh national highway. Given the fact that people across the country including Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh are availing the facility of round the clock weather updates, the tragic incident somewhat surprised the people in general. As on date the people plan their travel according to the weather forecast as given by the Meteorological department.

In such a scenario one can expect the people who have to undertake long journeys to religiously follow the weather updates of the concerned department and independent weather forecasters. Since the Ladakh region along with some of the areas of Ganderbal district in Kashmir valley witnessed rains and snow before the incident of avalanche it was imperative that the people avoided travel on the Srinagar-Leh highway. If that would have been done then these precious lives could have been saved.

As the onus of regulating the traffic lies on the traffic police department it is the duty of the department to ensure that traffic is stopped as and when the weather turns bad. In this case the traffic police department has somewhat been negligent and the safety as well as the security of the people has been compromised. It was the duty of the traffic police personnel to stop the traffic once there was snowfall in the entire Zojila axis but that was not to be.

In the past the Srinagar-Leh highway would remain closed for not less than six months but the situation has changed of late. However, this does not mean that people will take chances while travelling on the highway during inclement weather. Since the highway is predominantly zig-zag it becomes very difficult to drive the vehicles during extreme weather conditions like continuous rainfall and heavy snowfall. This needs to be kept in mind by the people, especially those who travel on this highway on a frequent basis.

It is important that all the stakeholders play their part to perfection in this regard and there are no compromises whatsoever. At the end of the day, it is important that human lives are saved and no chances are taken in this regard. Human life is prime and nobody should be allowed to take a chance with his or her life or the life of anybody else. Accidents need to be avoided and for the same everyone has to chip in.

Chief Patron Of Lubaab Publications Group:  
Syed Sad Ud Din Bukhari (Saidi),  
Printer Publisher, Owner And Editor:  
Syed Jahangir Bukhari,  
Printed At: Lubaab Publications, Radio  
Colony Gund Hassibhat Lawaipora  
Srinagar -190017,  
Gen. Manager: Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmad  
Cell No - 9697071471,  
Editorial Section: 7006846797,  
Multimedia Section: 9419008414,  
Advertisement Section: 9697071471  
RNI No: Jkeng/2011/39231  
dailyheadlinestoday@gmail.com  
headlinestoday2024@gmail.com

**I Wish We Had Never Met**



■ RAQIF MAKHDOOMI

Headaches have now become a daily routine for me. Amid restlessness I poured from a jug on the side table into a glass I opened my drawer and took out a paracetamol tablet and swallowed it using the glass full of water. Waking up to headaches and paracetamol is now a daily routine and I have no issues about my mental health or otherwise also. After all when actions become usual I don't think about it. I picked up my phone and I am surprised to see 300 unread messages on WhatsApp. I press the back key and decide to check out what's new on my Instagram and Twitter. And when I see both full with notifications and messages, I again press the back key as I did with WhatsApp. I don't know but I just got irritated by all these messages and notifications. I keep my phone aside and say to myself "Don't people have any work to do", with all the anger and irritation I had in me seeing those heaps of notifications. I have never been so irritated with notifications, it has been the first time ever since I joined social media notifications have come to me. Well, Raqif much has changed since then, I say to myself. I slowly make my fingers move in my hair and while doing so I remember that for about a month I haven't checked out my social media accounts and that's why I have so many notifications. Getting to know that it's my fault, I get some time to gasp and I feel relaxed. But at least I was relaxed.

For the whole month I felt tired. Things that rolled out changed me from inside and even when I am physically fit, I feel lazy and sleepy. Well when someone close to your heart breaks it up you are left with nothing and you have no urge to do anything and that "No urge" kills your energy. I have no mood of leaving bed, my headache still continues like anything. I don't know what to do. "I have Cried a lot before sleeping, this headache is the result", I ask myself with a smile. I press my eyes to get some relief but it didn't help. I check the watch to see the time and it shows 10:30 a.m. Why did I wake up so early, I ask myself. I wanted to sit but as I try I couldn't because of my headache. I lay down again and went back to sleep. My hands start to search for phone as I am almost in sleep. I open my right eyes partially to check the time. It's 12:00 P.M a good time to wake up. I open my eyes and get out of bed. I give a look around in my room and it's messy, I didn't clean it for a month now. I hate the month that passed by. Every single day of it changed me and made me regret. "Well let it be" I say to myself. What begins has to end and it ended, echoed in my mind and tears start to roll down. I hate it, when my anger turns into tears, I say while gritting my teeth. I have tried to forget, Haider turned out but every time I did it I remember him more. Well he was my best friend, we had been together for a long. I walk up to tissue box and sit on the chair. I take out a tissue to wipe my nose and tears. "I am feeling thirsty" I said while getting up from the chair. I walk up to the side table, lift up the jug and glass, walk again to chair and put the jug and glass on the side table. I fill myself glass with water and start to drink while sitting down. Since Haider turned out to be what I never thought,

**"Well let it be" I say to myself. What begins has to end and it ended, echoed in my mind and tears start to roll down. I hate it, when my anger turns into tears, I say while gritting my teeth. I have tried to forget, Haider turned out but every time I did it I remember him more**

tears aren't under my control they come out wherever they want to. They wanted to roll my cheek and they started to roll down even without letting me know. I kept the glass in the hand and let the tears roll down with disturbing their path, soon the tears were on my neck. My phone is overflowing with buzzing of notifications but I am not bothered about them. Let them keep coming, I don't care anymore because caring has taught me a less and has brought me to this place, where rolling down of tears has become a common thing and headaches with bonus too. I am forzen in the chair, It's either that I don't want to move or I am unable to make any move.

The only thing that's working is brain, that's constantly trying to make out why did Haider turned out to be my nightmare and my heart that aches badly whenever I think about it. My legs, Hands, arms, eyes and head refuse to move badly as I tried to move them to get my phone as it's buzzing like a massive waterfall. I let my body win over my will and

then my mind echoes "Curse the day we met". "I curse every single minute of that day and I curse every single second we spend as so called best friends", I say moving my lips. Moving my lips felt like moving like moving mountains. I take a sip of water and then I suddenly start to cry like babies do. I am getting hiccups. I am confused and worried seeing myself crying the way I never did. I keep the glass down and cry even more badly than before. It took me 10 minutes to get myself normal but I feel my mind relaxed and heart lighter I feel fresh and a bit happy than I was before crying. "It feels like something heavy has been removed from me" I say to myself while lifting tissue box. I took out a tissue, wipe out my face and place the box on the place I picked it up from. I relax my head while being seated in a chair, and started to take deep breaths. I was enjoying it, I feel relaxed after a month. After sometime of relaxing, Haider again hits my mind and I was back to the memories. I gave a hard try to stop myself from not thinking about him but after all Haider was like a Brother to me and he had a special place in my heart it isn't an easy task forgetting him. "He has given a deep wound on my heart and it will take time to heal" I say to myself. Or I think it will never heal and I have to live with a voice from within echoed. I take a deep breath and had all the pain in it. I checked the watch and it's 1:00 p.m now. I stood up from the chair and I don't know why I sat on bed and rested my elbows on my legs and my face in my hands and I again take a deep breath and say "Yaar kash ham kabie mila hee na Hota" and tears and roll down and I let them fall.

**The story is just a fictional piece and has no connection with the reality. The Characters are also fictional. Views are author's own**

**A Noble Teacher Can Change the Fate of the Nation**



■ SAHIL MANZOOR

Education makes us civilised, smart, active, and well-known personalities. Education helps us change the condition of the nation from a life of poverty to a life of luxury. Education is the sector that emerges from the talent of the people of the nation. It is a vast field in terms of generating employment and providing better facilities to the people through the latest technologies. Only education empowers the weaker section of the nation, especially women, uplifting and encouraging them and opening ways for a better future and overall protection. Education is a precious asset and all that one needs for a good career.

We are talking about education, but not about the one who brings this ray of hope among us after immense hardships. A teacher is the one who makes us proud, smart, clever, and strong, and gives us everything we need for a great future. Today, teachers assist in many ways: they work as mentors, role models, inspirations, and even as parents. What we often do not realise is that teachers are a real asset to the nation and help in nation-building. As per the dictionary definition, a teacher is a person who helps students acquire knowledge, competence, and virtue.

The most important role in the lives of students in the classroom is that of the teacher. Teachers bear the responsibility of educating the children placed in their care. Although they play many other important roles, teachers set the classroom tone, add warmth to the environment, mentor and nurture students' minds, act as role models, listen to their problems, and look for signs of trouble in their learning as well as personal lives.



The main role of a teacher remains teaching and opening the minds of children. Usually, a curriculum set by state guidelines is followed. The curriculum helps ensure that all important learning is imparted to students during the session. Teaching happens in different ways such as lectures, small group activities, and hands-on learning.

Teachers are also important in setting the tone of the classroom environment. Usually, students imitate teachers. A warm and happy environment helps in maintaining healthy and focused learning. A teacher can make the environment positive or negative. If students sense anger in the teacher, they may react negatively, which can affect learning. Teachers are responsible for social behaviour in the classroom. This behaviour is mainly a reflection of the actions

of teachers and the environment created by them.

Teachers themselves may not consider being role models; however, they are the first role models for any student. While spending time learning, experimenting, and growing, teachers often play inspiring roles in children's lives. Teachers do not only teach children but also give them love and care to nurture their minds. Society highly respects teachers, and they become role models for both students and parents.

Mentoring comes naturally to teachers, whether intentional or not. Mentoring can have

positive or negative effects on children. It encourages students to make their best efforts and enjoy learning. A crucial part of mentoring is listening to students. By taking time to listen, teachers give students a sense of ownership in the classroom. This helps in building confidence and making them successful. Another crucial part of a teacher's role is being a protector. Teachers are trained to look for signs of trouble in students. If behavioural changes or signs of abuse are noticed, teachers must investigate and follow proper procedures. Teachers are seen as leaders who build the minds and future of students. As their primary role, teachers are responsible for ensuring a good learning environment for a bright future of the nation.

sahilmanzoor0401@gmail.com



# National Book Critic Circle Award 2026: Han Kang and Arundhati Roy



■ DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

The 2026 U.S. National Book Critics Circle Awards honored Arundhati Roy, Han Kang, and Karen Hao as standout winners, with Frances FitzGerald receiving the lifetime achievement award. Roy In contemporary global literature, few writers have so persistently explored the fragile terrain between memory and silence as Han Kang. Her novel *We Do Not Part*, recently honoured with the National Book Critics Circle Award, stands as a profound meditation on historical trauma, human suffering, and the ethical responsibility of remembrance. The recognition of Arundhati Roy and Han Kang by the National Book Critics Circle Award marks a significant moment in contemporary world literature, where voices from Asia have not only crossed linguistic and geographical boundaries but have also reshaped the moral and aesthetic concerns of global readership. Their works, though distinct in form and cultural context, converge in their deep engagement with questions of violence, resistance, memory, and the fragile dignity of human existence. A continuous reflection on their contributions reveals how literature today operates as a powerful site of ethical inquiry, unsettling complacency and inviting readers into uncomfortable yet necessary spaces of thought.

The 2026 National Book Critics Circle Awards honored Diane Seuss in Poetry for her collection *Modern Poetry* and Merve Emre in Criticism for *Criticism and Truth*. These wins highlight the NBCC's recognition of both innovative verse and rigorous literary analysis. Diane Seuss's poetry reflects a growing appetite for works that balance tradition with innovation. Merve Emre's criticism underscores the importance of critical voices in an era of rapid cultural and technological change. Together, these awards highlight the NBCC's commitment to honoring both artistic creativity and intellectual inquiry. John Leonard Prize winners often go on to major literary careers, making this award a strong predictor of future influence. Translation Prize winners expand the U.S. literary landscape by introducing readers to diverse voices and traditions. Arundhati Roy's literary journey is remarkable for its evolution from the luminous fictional world of *The God of Small Things* to the incisive and unflinching essays collected in *My Seditious Heart*, the latter earning her the NBCC Award in 2020. While her debut novel captured global attention with its poetic rendering of childhood, caste, and forbidden love in Kerala, Roy's later work turned decisively toward



political writing, engaging with the structures of power that shape modern India and the wider world.

Her essays are not merely commentaries; they are interventions, acts of resistance that challenge dominant narratives and expose the violence embedded within systems often taken for granted. In recognizing "My Seditious Heart," the NBCC acknowledged not only the literary merit of Roy's prose but also the urgency of her voice in an era marked by increasing authoritarianism, economic inequality, and ecological crisis. This fusion of the aesthetic and the political allows her to reach a wide audience, transforming complex socio-political issues into narratives that resonate on a human level. The NBCC Award thus becomes a recognition of literature's capacity to engage directly with the world, to speak truth to power while retaining its artistic integrity.

In contrast, Han Kang's work operates within the realm of fiction, yet it is no less politically charged. Her novel *The Vegetarian*, which brought her international acclaim and NBCC recognition, is a haunting exploration of autonomy, violence, and the limits of language. Like her earlier works, most notably *The Vegetarian*, this novel resists conventional narrative structures and instead offers a deeply interior, almost spectral engagement with history. It is not merely a novel but an act of witnessing—a literary requiem for lives erased or suppressed by official histories. At the heart of *We Do Not Part* lies the historical trauma of the Jeju uprising, a brutal episode in South Korean history that remained suppressed for decades. Han Kang does not approach this event through grand political narration or documentary realism. Instead, she filters history through the fragile consciousness of individuals, thereby transforming collective violence into

intimate grief. This narrative strategy is crucial: by refusing to monumentalize suffering, she restores its human scale. The violence is not abstract; it is lived, embodied, and remembered in fragments. The novel's title itself—"We Do Not Part"—suggests a refusal of separation, a resistance to the erasure of memory, and a quiet insistence that the dead remain among the living through acts of remembrance.

Han Kang's prose style plays a vital role in shaping the novel's emotional and philosophical depth. Her language is spare, lyrical, and often hauntingly repetitive. This minimalism is not an aesthetic choice alone; it mirrors the psychological condition of trauma, where language falters and meaning is fractured. Silence, in this novel, is as eloquent as speech. There are moments when the narrative seems to dissolve into pure sensation—snow falling, breath freezing, shadows lengthening. These images recur like motifs in a piece of music, creating a rhythm that is both hypnotic and unsettling. The reader is drawn into a liminal space where the boundaries between past and present, life and death, self and other, become porous.

One of the most striking aspects of *We Do Not Part* is its treatment of memory as both burden and necessity. Memory in this novel is not linear or coherent; it is fragmented, recursive, and often painful. Characters do not simply remember; they relive. The past intrudes upon the present with a quiet but relentless force, suggesting that unresolved trauma cannot be contained within temporal boundaries. This conception of memory aligns with modern trauma theory, which emphasizes the non-linear and intrusive nature of traumatic recollection. Yet Han Kang moves beyond theoretical frameworks, rendering memory as a lived, almost physical experience. It

weighs upon the body, distorts perception, and reshapes identity.

The novel also raises profound ethical questions about witnessing and representation. Who has the right to tell the stories of the dead? How can one speak of unspeakable violence without reducing it to spectacle? Han Kang navigates these questions with remarkable sensitivity. She avoids graphic descriptions of violence, instead focusing on its aftermath—the silence, the absence, the lingering sense of loss. This restraint is ethically significant. It refuses to commodify suffering and instead invites the reader into a space of quiet contemplation. The novel demands not passive consumption but active engagement; it asks the reader to become a witness. Nature, particularly the motif of snow, functions as a powerful symbolic element throughout the novel. Snow both conceals and reveals: it covers the traces of violence while simultaneously preserving them beneath its surface. This duality reflects the broader tension between forgetting and remembering. The landscape itself becomes a repository of memory, bearing silent witness to the atrocities that occurred upon it. Han Kang's use of natural imagery thus expands the scope of the novel, suggesting that trauma is not confined to human consciousness but is inscribed upon the world itself.

Another significant dimension of *We Do Not Part* is its exploration of relationality—the connections between individuals across time and space. The novel emphasizes that trauma is not an isolated experience; it reverberates across generations. The living are bound to the dead in a network of memory and responsibility. This interconnectedness challenges the modern emphasis on individualism, proposing instead an ethics of care and remembrance. To remember is not merely to recall but to honour, to acknowledge, and

to bear witness. In comparison to *The Vegetarian*, where the body becomes the site of resistance and transformation, *We Do Not Part* shifts its focus to the collective body—the community marked by historical violence. Yet both novels share a preoccupation with the limits of language and the possibility of transcendence. In *The Vegetarian*, silence becomes a form of protest; in *We Do Not Part*, it becomes a space of mourning. This evolution in Han Kang's work reflects a deepening engagement with the political dimensions of suffering, while retaining her characteristic introspection.

The novel's structure further reinforces its thematic concerns. It eschews a linear plot in favour of a fragmented, almost dream-like progression. Scenes emerge and dissolve, memories surface and recede, creating a narrative that feels less like a story and more like a series of impressions. This structure can be disorienting, but it is precisely this disorientation that captures the essence of trauma. The reader is not given the comfort of resolution; instead, they are left with a sense of unresolved tension, mirroring the ongoing impact of historical violence. Ultimately, *We Do Not Part* is a deeply moral work. It insists on the necessity of remembering, even when memory is painful. It challenges the reader to confront the uncomfortable truths of history and to recognize the enduring presence of the past in the present. In doing so, it transforms literature into an ethical act—a means of bearing witness to suffering and affirming the dignity of those who have been silenced.

In an era marked by ongoing conflicts and historical amnesia, Han Kang's novel resonates with particular urgency. It reminds us that the past is never truly past, that the wounds of history continue to shape our world, and that the act of remembering is both a burden and a responsibility. Through its lyrical prose, fragmented structure, and profound ethical vision, *We Do Not Part* stands as a testament to the power of literature to engage with the deepest questions of human existence. In conclusion, Han Kang's *We Do Not Part* is not simply a novel but a meditation on memory, mourning, and moral responsibility. It expands the possibilities of narrative form while confronting the limits of representation. By giving voice to the silenced and presence to the absent, it affirms the enduring connection between the living and the dead. In this sense, the title becomes not just a statement but a promise: that through acts of remembrance, we do not part.

**International Dickens Medal Winner multilingual author of *Twilight of Love* and *Six Feet Distance* Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee is an International Visiting Professor and Retired Head Post Graduate Dept of English Dum Motijheel College and poet. He may be mailed at prof.ratanbhattacharjee@gmail.com**

## A Ticket for a Smile



■ KHURSHIED RESHI

With the arrival of spring in Kashmir, gardens and parks once again come alive with beauty and joy. Colorful flowers bloom, cool breezes blow, and the fragrance in the air attracts everyone. However, the ticket counters at the entrances of these parks sometimes close the doors of happiness for certain people.

One day, a poor father was standing outside one of the well-known gardens of the city with his two children. Laughter from inside the park could be heard clearly, and rows of flowers seemed to be inviting them in.

The children began to insist. "Father, we also want to go inside. Our school friends are there too. Please buy the tickets."

The father reached into his pocket. A few coins came into his hand, but they were not enough to pay the price of that happiness. Looking at his children, he smiled faintly and said:



"My dear children, a ticket is needed when we travel by airplane... we also need a ticket to travel by train or bus... even in a hospital we need a slip or ticket for treat-

ment... and in a cinema, we must buy a ticket to watch a film."

He paused for a moment and then took a deep breath.

"But I do not understand why we need a ticket to visit a natural garden like this. This is a place where children come close to nature, find joy, and learn something

new."

Just then, a group of school students entered the garden with their teachers. Happiness was clearly visible on their faces. Watching this scene, the father's voice carried a tone of helplessness.

"Today, inflation has already troubled poor parents a lot. It has become difficult to manage household expenses. If students studying in educational institutions also have to buy tickets for excursions, how will poor parents fulfill the wishes of their children?"

The children fell silent. Perhaps they had started to understand their father's situation. There was moisture in the father's eyes and a quiet pain in his heart.

Looking up at the sky, he spoke as if making an appeal:

"I humbly request the government to exempt school children from paying tickets to enter parks and gardens. These children are the future of our nation. If even their small joys come with a price, how will their dreams grow?"

The father stood there for a few moments, watching the children playing inside the garden. Then he held his children's hands and slowly walked away. Yet, deep in his heart, there remained a hope that one day these smiles would be free for everyone.

**The author from Shargund Payeen Nawar Kupwara**

# Rabies: The Silent Killer That Can Be Stopped in Time

■ DR. SURINDERPAL SINGH

Rabies is a serious viral disease that affects the brain and nervous system of both humans and animals. It spreads mainly through the bite of infected animals, especially dogs. Despite being extremely dangerous, rabies is completely preventable if proper and timely steps are taken. Yet, due to lack of awareness, delayed treatment, and neglect, it continues to claim thousands of lives every year, particularly in developing regions.

Rabies is caused by a virus known as the rabies virus, which belongs to the Lyssavirus group. It enters the human body primarily through animal bites, most commonly dog bites. It can also spread through scratches from infected animals or when infected saliva comes into contact with open wounds, eyes, or the mouth. Dogs are responsible for nearly 99 percent of rabies cases in humans, making them the main source of transmission. Other animals such as cats, monkeys, bats, and foxes can also carry and transmit the virus, though their contribution is comparatively smaller.

Rabies is a communicable disease, but it mainly spreads from animals to humans rather than between people. Human-to-human transmission is extremely rare and generally requires direct exposure to infected saliva, such as through organ transplantation or deep wounds. This makes rabies unique compared to many other infectious diseases that spread easily among humans. However, the risk remains significant in environments where people live in close proximity to unvaccinated animals.

Once the virus enters the body, it does not immediately cause symptoms. Instead, it travels slowly through the peripheral nerves towards the brain. This incubation period can vary widely, typically ranging from one to three months, but in some cases, it may be as short as a few days or as long as several years. The duration depends on factors such as the location of

the bite, the severity of the wound, and the amount of virus introduced into the body. Bites on the face, neck, or hands tend to result in faster progression due to their proximity to the brain.

The symptoms of rabies are often divided into two stages. In the early stage, individuals may experience mild and non-specific symptoms such as fever, headache, fatigue, and discomfort or tingling at the site of the bite. These symptoms are often overlooked or mistaken for common illnesses, which can delay diagnosis and treatment. As the virus reaches the central nervous system, more severe neurological symptoms begin to appear. These include anxiety, confusion, agitation, hallucinations, difficulty swallowing, and hydrophobia, which is an intense fear of water caused by painful throat spasms. Some patients may also exhibit aerophobia, a fear of air drafts, along with excessive salivation and paralysis.

As the disease progresses further, it leads to coma and eventually death, usually due to respiratory or cardiac failure. Once these advanced symptoms appear, rabies becomes almost always fatal. This is why rabies is considered one of the deadliest infectious diseases known to humanity. The fatality rate approaches 100 percent once clinical symptoms develop, making prevention and early intervention the only effective strategies.

There is no cure for rabies after symptoms appear, but it can be effectively prevented if treated promptly after exposure. Immediate first aid is crucial and can significantly reduce the risk of infection. The wound should be washed thoroughly with soap and running water for at least fifteen minutes to remove as much of the virus as possible. This simple step alone can greatly decrease the chances of the virus entering the nervous system. After washing, antiseptics such as iodine or alcohol can be applied to further disinfect the wound.

Seeking medical attention without delay is essential. Doctors assess the severity of the exposure and recommend post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), which includes a series of anti-rabies vaccinations. In cases of severe exposure, rabies immunoglobulin (RIG) is administered to provide immediate passive immunity while the vaccine helps the body develop its own protection. The vaccination schedule typically involves four to five doses given over a few weeks, depending on the protocol followed.



It is important to understand that rabies cannot be treated with natural remedies, herbal medicines, or traditional practices. Many myths and misconceptions exist, particularly in rural areas, where people rely on home remedies or faith-based treatments. Such approaches are ineffective and can lead to fatal consequences. Only scientifically proven medical treatment can prevent rabies and save lives.

Prevention of rabies requires a combination of individual responsibility and community-level efforts. Avoiding contact with stray or unknown animals is one of the simplest and most effective measures. People should never attempt to feed, tease, or provoke animals, especially those that

appear sick or aggressive. Pet owners have a crucial role to play by ensuring that their animals are vaccinated regularly and kept under proper supervision.

Educating children about animal behavior and safety is equally important, as they are often more vulnerable to animal bites. Children should be taught not to approach unfamiliar animals and to report any bites or scratches immediately to adults. Schools and community organizations can play a vital role in spreading awareness and promoting safe practices.

The impact of rabies extends beyond the individual to affect families and communities. The loss of a loved one due to rabies is not only tragic but also preventable, which adds to the emotional burden. Families may face significant financial stress due to medical expenses and loss of income. In addition, the fear of rabies can create anxiety and panic in communities, especially in areas with high numbers of stray animals.

At a broader level, rabies poses a significant public health challenge. Govern-

ments and health organizations must work together to implement effective control measures. Mass vaccination of dogs is widely recognized as the most effective strategy to break the transmission cycle. Studies have shown that vaccinating at least 70 percent of the dog population can significantly reduce and eventually eliminate rabies transmission.

Controlling the population of stray animals through humane methods such as sterilization programs is another important step. These programs not only reduce the number of stray animals but also help in managing their health and vaccination status. Public awareness campaigns, improved access to healthcare facilities, and availability of vaccines are essential components of a comprehensive rabies control strategy.

In recent years, several countries have made significant progress in reducing rabies cases through coordinated efforts. International organizations and governments have set targets to eliminate dog-mediated rabies in many parts of the world. With sustained commitment and community participation, it is possible to achieve a rabies-free future.

Rabies is a deadly but entirely preventable disease. The key to safety lies in awareness, timely action, and responsible behavior. Every individual has a role to play in preventing rabies, whether by taking immediate action after a bite, vaccinating pets, or spreading awareness in the community.

The message is simple yet powerful: never ignore an animal bite, no matter how minor it may seem. Prompt and proper medical care can make the difference between life and death. By working together and staying informed, we can protect ourselves and our communities from this silent but deadly threat.

Always remember, "Wash the wound, take the vaccine, and never ignore a bite."

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

## REVIVE CARE +

**Dr. Pervaiz Majeed Zunga**  
CONSULTANT PHYSICIAN SPECIALIST

- ✓ MBBS, MD (MEDICINE) SKIMS
- ✓ EX REGISTRAR SMHS HOSPITAL
- ✓ Fellowship Diabetes
- ✓ Fellowship Gastroenterology, Hepatology

• Expert in Thyroid Disorder  
Diabetes, and Diabetic Neuropathy

**Available Every**  
Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday Friday

🕒 Morning 9AM to 10 AM  
🕒 Evening 5:30 PM onwards

Near Petrol Pump National Highway Kanispura Baramulla  
📞 9906215683

## MS. JAASINDAH MIR

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

**TRAUMA-FOCUSED PSYCHOLOGIST**

MA Applied Psychology (Clinical)-Jamia Millia Islamia (Air 4-NIPCCD (RCI-Licensed))

**SPECIALIZATIONS**

- ☑ Anxiety & Depression
- ☑ Trauma & PTSD
- ☑ Emotional Dysregulation
- ☑ Chronic Stress
- ☑ Psychosomatic & Pain Disorders
- ☑ Parent-child Counselling
- ☑ Adolescent & Young Adult Mental Health

**CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

2000+ Therapy Sessions Delivered  
20+ Workshops Conducted  
Former Lead Psychologist At K.R. Mangalamb University, Gurugram  
Founder - Redeemer Heals Counselling & Wellness

**THERAPY FOR**

- ☑ Children And Adolescents
- ☑ Adults
- ☑ Individuals & Couples
- ☑ Parent-child Counselling
- ☑ People Requiring Subtle Help With Emotional Regulation

**THERAPEUTIC EXPERTISE**

EFT | REBT | CBT | FLOWER ESSENCE TREATMENTS | MR | ART & PLAY THERAPY

**Available Post**

**9TH JANUARY AT REVIVE CARE**  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY KANISPORA NEAR PETROL PUMP  
**SATURDAY & SUNDAY**

**BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT**  
A Day Prior To Your Visit  
Contact Us At  
📞 9906215683

Bringing Better Health Closer To Home +

## Revive Care

Complete Approach to your Well being

Chemists & Druggists , Polyclinic , Clinical Lab

AVAILABLE SERVICES

- ✓ Minor Surgical Procedures Including,
  - ➔ Post Operative Dressing
  - ➔ All Types Of Wound Dressing
  - ➔ Immediate First Aid

Lab Facilities (Collection Centre of Global Diagnostic & Imaging centre)

AVAILABLE CONSULTATIONS

- ✓ General Medicine
- ✓ Chest Medicine
- ✓ Braces & Dental Care
- ✓ Speech Therapy & Audiology

- ✓ Orthopedics
- ✓ Paediatrics
- ✓ Clinical Psychology
- ✓ Neurosurgery

Contact Us At 📞 9906215683

**BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT**  
A day prior to your visit : (First Come, First Served)

NATIONAL HIGHWAY KANISPORA NEAR PETROL PUMP

## REVIVE CARE +

**DR. GURDEV SINGH BALI**  
(BDS, MDS ORTHODONTICS)  
(Govt. Dental College Srinagar)

**BOOK APPOINTMENT**

Call To Schedule Your Visit

**REVIVE CARE**  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY KANISPORA  
NEAR PETROL PUMP  
📞 9906215683

Contact us : 9906215683

REVIVE CARE x MAX HOSPITALS  
BRINGING WORLD-CLASS ENT CARE TO BARAMULLA!

**Dr. SUMIT MRIG**

Director & Head, ENT & Cochlear implant surgery  
Max Smart super speciality hospital Saket & Max Hospital Dwarka . NEW DELHI

Director Sankalp ENT & Cochlear Implant Centre NEW DELHI

@kifayatkifi

**JOIN FACEBOOK LIVE**  
WITH Dr.SUMIT , Mr.TURAB, Former Sr. Audiologist at Max Hospital Saket ,Delhi  
@ Kifayatkifi  
🕒 8:00PM On January 18<sup>th</sup>, Sunday

# Syed Ashiq Hussain Shah Accorded Warm Farewell at Directorate of Tourism, Jammu

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, MAR 31: The Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, organized a heart-

felt farewell ceremony in honour of Syed Ashiq Hussain Shah, recognizing his dedicated service and val-

able contributions. The event was attended by Director Tourism Jammu, Dr Vikas Gupta, Deputy Director, esteemed

medico cum noted columnist. The gathering reflected deep respect and admiration for his distinguished career. During the ceremony, speakers highlighted his professionalism, leadership, and unwavering commitment to public service. A special felicitation was held where he was honoured with traditional shawls and tokens of appreciation as a mark of gratitude.

In his address, Director Tourism Jammu, Vikas Gupta, lauded Syed Ashiq Hussain Shah for his exemplary dedication, integrity, and invaluable contributions to the department.

He remarked that Shri Shah's professionalism,

sincerity, and commitment to duty have left a lasting legacy within the Directorate. He further stated that his experience and guidance have been instrumental in strengthening the functioning of the department, and his absence will be deeply felt by colleagues. The Director extended his heartfelt gratitude for Shri Shah's years of devoted service and wished him a healthy, happy, and fulfilling life ahead.

The occasion was marked by warm interactions and reflections on his illustrious service. The ceremony concluded on an emotional note, with heartfelt wishes for his continued success, good health, and happiness in the years ahead.



colleagues, and family members, including his son-in-law, Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo, a prominent

## Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill ) power connection is registered on my Father's name MALLA REHEEM R/O JAHANGIRPORA SHRAKWARA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040007529 wants to be registered on my name GHULAM NABI MALLA S/O ABDUL REHEEM MALLA R/O JAHANGIRPORA SHRAKWARA .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name..GHULAM NABI MALLA  
S/O ...Late ABDUL REHEEM MALLA  
R/O ....JAHANGIRPORA SHRAKWARA  
BLOCK.... WAGOORA

## Public Notice

I want to correct my name on my passport as it has been wrongly mentioned Fata Begum D/O Abdul Gani Dar while as my actual and correct name is Fatima Begum W/o Gh.Mohd Bhat, R/o Chuker Pattan If anyone has any objection he/She can contact concerned department within the period of seven days from this date.

Name: Fatima Begum  
W/O: Gh.Mohd Bhat  
R/O: Chuker Pattan

## Public Notice

I, Fatima Begum W/o Gh.Mohd Bhat, R/o Chuker Pattan, hereby inform that my name has been wrongly printed in my Passport as Fata Begum D/O Abdul Gani Dar Now i want to update it with my correct and original name as per Aadhar card with Aadhaar No. 3197 1695 0965. if anyone have any objection he/she can contact concerned department within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice and all concerned may treat the above name as correct for all official purposes.

FATIMA BEGUM  
W/O GH. MOHD. BHAT  
Aadhaar No. 3197 1695 0965  
CHUKAR PATTAN

## Laptop Care House

Wholesale Dealer Of New And Pre Used Laptops

DEALS IN ALL KINDS OF LAPTOPS AND ACCESSORIES

REPAIRING OF: ALL TYPES OF LAPTOPS & DESKTOPS



7006083461

## Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that my actual name is "Halzang Tsulim" S/O- Regzin Yangjor, R/O- Zanskar Salapi Gyapak, Kargil & my actual DOB is 05-06-1983 but it has been recorded wrongly in the License as "Halzang Tsulim" S/O- Rigzin Yangjor, R/O- Zangeskar Salapi Ruruk, Kargil & DOB aa 15-03-2002. Now I want its correction to be done. Anybody having any objection may contact ARTO Kargil within the period of 7 days.

## Public Notice

My son's parentage has been wrongly written as REYAZ AHMAD LONE in his SCHOOL record while his correct parentage is RAYAZ AHMAD LONE as per adhaar record which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in the office of RAINBOW PUBLIC SCHOOL WAGOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name ....RAYAZ AHMAD LONE  
F/O MOHAMMAD OWAIS LONE  
R/O THINDIMA KREERI

## Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill ) power connection is registered on my Father's name ABDUL GAFFAR WANI S/O GH MOHD WANI R/O WARIPORA BALA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040003436 wants to be registered on my name ABDUL AHAD WANI S/O ABDUL GAFFAR WANI R/O WARIPORA BALA .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name..ABDUL AHAD WANI  
S/O ...ABDUL GAFFAR WANI  
R/O ....WARIPORA BALA  
BLOCK.... WAGOORA

## 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 has submitted case file pertaining to death of ALI MOHAMMAD MIR S/O GH MOHAMMAD MIR R/O. KHISIPORA KREERI Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of death as 13/02/2024 event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of death 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 (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 has submitted case file pertaining to death of GH NABI BADOO S/O GH MOHI UD DIN BADOO R/O. KREERI Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Death 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 death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

## Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill ) power connection is registered on my Father's name MALLA REHEEM R/O JAHANGIRPORA SHRAKWARA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040007529 wants to be registered on my name GHULAM NABI MALLA S/O ABDUL REHEEM MALLA R/O JAHANGIRPORA SHRAKWARA .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name..GHULAM NABI MALLA  
S/O ...Late ABDUL REHEEM MALLA  
R/O ....JAHANGIRPORA SHRAKWARA  
BLOCK.... WAGOORA

## Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my Name spelling and DOB has been wrongly mentioned in adhar regards bearing aadhar no 4246 3065 0515 Aijaz Ahmad Wani DOB 16/06/1997 instead of Aejaz Ahmad Wani DOB 01/02/1995 as for School regards now I have applying for it's correction of the same if any person have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned authority within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

AJIAZ AHMAD WANI DOB 01/02/1995  
S/O ABDUL RASHID WANI  
R/O WARIPORA TEHSIL HANDWARA  
DISTRICT KUPWARA

## Public Notice

I have Changed my mother's name from Shakeela Bano to Shakeela Begum. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact passport office, Srinagar with in 7days, after 7days no objection will be accepted.

Mir Asif  
S/o Naseer Ahmad Mir  
R/o Bakhaikar

## Public Notice

Due to a mistake, my mothers name has incorrectly written as shakeela bano instead of shakeela Begum in my passport. Now I have to change my mothers name from Shakeela Bano to Shakeela Begum.If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact passport office, Srinagar with in 7days, after 7days no objection will be accepted.

Mir Asif  
S/o Naseer Ahmad Mir  
R/o Bakhaikar

## Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my Name spelling has been wrongly mentioned in service regards as FAROOQ AHMMAD ZARGER instead of FAROOQ AHMAD ZARGER 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 Railway Police Department Srinagar within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

FAROOQ AHMAD ZARGER  
S/O HABIBULLAH ZARGER  
R/O, KINAL, DISTRICT KUPWARA

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

Subject: Application of.SAEEDA BEGUM S/O Lt AMIR UD DIN TRUMBOO R/O KREERI 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 AMIR UD DIN TRUMBOO S/O HABIBULLAH TRUMBOO has passed away on 21/01/2026 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

1.... SAEEDA BEGUM wife 73 House wife (old aged )widow

2.... FAYAZ AHMAD son 53 years shopkeeper married

3...ZABEER AHMAD son 49 years Govt Employee married

4....HASEENA BEGUM daughter 45 years H/W married

5....KOUNSAR AKHTER daughter 39 H/W 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

## Public Notice

This is to notify the general public that the name recorded in the Aadhaar database is incorrect.Name shown in Aadhaar: Maryam Feroz Correct name: Haya Feroz.Address: Achabal Sopore Jammu and Kashmir 193201.The above mentioned person(Maryam Feroz) hereby declares that the name printed on the Aadhaar is incorrect and that her correct and legal name is Haya Feroz. 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

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

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR NEAR J&K BANK, (Zaldagar)

Telefax No. 0194-2503195 e.mail id: to-exenmidsrinagar@ik.gov.in

Gist of Short-Term e-NIT No. 39 of 2025-26, Dated:31-03-2026

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Srinagar, invites tenders on item rate basis by e-tendering mode for :-

S. No.	Particulars of the work	Tender fee (In Rs.)	Estimated Amount (In Rs.)	EMD Amount (In Rs.)	Class/ Registration Type
1	2	3		4	5
01.	Hiring of commercial vehicle along with driver on monthly basis required for inspection of various irrigation schemes of MID Srinagar  a) Type of Vehicle: - Scorpio, Innova b) Fuel type: - Diesel c) Seating capacity: - 07 d) Transmission Type: Manual e) Contract Carriage: Maxicab (UT Permit) (Fuel shall be provided by the department as per latest State Motor Garage Consumption Certificate)	100.00	396000.00	7920.00	Registered/reputed firms/transporters/Registered commercial vehicle owners

The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover '1st' consisting of Tender Document fee, EMD in the form of CDR/FDR, Pre-qualification. Cover '2nd' shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

The requirement of vehicle shall be as under: -

S No	Description	Model	Type of fuel	Quantity
1.	Vehicle along with driver on monthly basis.	Scorpio, Innova	HSD (only) to be provided by the department	01 vehicle

The critical dates are as tabulated below: -

i	Publish Date	31-03-2026 at 1600 hrs
ii	Document Download/sale start Date	31-03-2026 from 1600 hrs
iii	Clarification start date	N.A
iv	Bid submission start date	31-03-2026 from 1600 hrs
v	Clarification end date	N.A
vi	Bid submission/ Document Download/sale end date	06-04-2026 upto 1400 hrs
vii	Date and time of Bid opening	07-04-2026 at 1230 hrs

The bid uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on scheduled date /time or any other date convenient to the tender opening authority in the office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Zaldagar Srinagar.

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD Form No. 25 & 33.

No. MIDS/TS/6179-86  
Dated:31-03-2026

DIPK: 12285/25  
Dated: 31-03-206

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical Irrigation Division,  
Srinagar

# Div Com Kashmir reviews progress of flood plain Zoning in Valley

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, MARCH 31:** Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Anshul Garg today reviewed the progress of Flood Plain Zoning and the notification of flood basins across the Kashmir Valley.

During the meeting, it was noted that, based on the inundation patterns observed during the September 2014 floods, six wetlands—Hokersar, Nowgham Jheel, Hygam Jheel, Narkara Nambal, Anchar Lake, and Wullar Lake—along with a flood plain on the left side of the River Jhelum (from Sangam to Padshahibagh), have been identified as key flood basins.

The Divisional Commissioner was informed that the Jammu & Kashmir Water Resources Regulatory Authority (JKWRA) has already invited public objections for three wetlands—Hygam, Nowgham, and Hokersar. No objections have been received for Hygam and Nowgham, while the KMZ file for Hokersar is pending submission by the Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) Department.

The Divisional Commissioner directed that the required details be expedited within three days to facilitate the invitation of public objections for Hokersar as well.

The Chief Engineer, I&FC



Kashmir, informed that revised revenue details for Anchar Lake have been obtained from the offices

of the Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar and Ganderbal.

Regarding Wullar Lake, where a major portion falls within Bandipora district, the concerned Deputy Commissioner has been requested to share the necessary details. Similar information pertaining to the Baramulla portion of Wullar Lake is also being sought from the district administration.

The Chief Executive Officer, Jhelum & Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP), stated that the consultant engaged for the project has completed hydrological modelling for a 1-in-25-year return period flood. This modelling will aid in demarcating the regulatory zone of the flood plain from Sangam to Padshahibagh, and is expected to be shared with the I&FC Department within the next two days.

Emphasizing the importance of timely completion, the Divisional Commissioner directed that all requirements for the notification of flood basins and flood plain zoning be finalized by April 30, 2026, enabling the Government to take further necessary action.

The Chief Engineer, I&FC Kashmir, was instructed to closely monitor progress and ensure continuous coordination with district administrations to achieve timely and result-oriented outcomes.

## Members withdraw resolutions after Govt assurances

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU, MARCH 31:** Legislators, Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurezi), Justice Hasnain Masoodi and Mubarak Gul withdrew their respective resolutions after assurances by the government.

Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurezi) moved a resolution which read, "This House resolves that the promotion of employees especially in Education and Health Department may be based on at least two years service in far flung areas".

Responding to the resolution, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, said that vacancies are being filled up expeditiously and requisite staff will be posted across all hard zones and far flung areas in coming days.

MLAs Mir Saifullah, Nizam-ud-Din Bhat, Balwant Singh Mankotia and Qaysar Jamshaid Lone moved amendments on the resolution.

Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi, moved a resolution which read, "This House resolves that all measures be taken by the Government to regularize the possession of State land and all types of Shamlat land in use of registered Private and Government educational institutions and till the regularization process is completed to allow such Educational institutions function from present premises without any objection on account of proprietary status of such land".

Responding to the resolution and concerns, the Minister stated that the government has already given extension to the private institutions and assured the Member that the government will look into the matter to provide further relief to the institutions.

MLA Nizam-ud-Din Bhat had moved amendment on the resolution.

Legislator, Mubarak Gul also moved a resolution which read, "This House resolves that considering the alarming degradation of Lakes and water bodies in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, it urges the government to establish a dedicated lakes, water bodies and waterways development authority on the pattern of the Manasbal Lake Development Authority Model, with a mandate for protection, restoration and sustainable development of Khusal Sar, Gilsar, Shallabug Water Body etc".

Responding to the resolution and concerns raised by the Members, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar agreed upon the seriousness of the resolution and said that the government has taken many initiatives for conservation of lakes and water bodies.

He said that there are already many acts to protect the water bodies and urged the member to withdraw the resolution. He assured the member that the government will take every step possible to stop degradation of the lakes and water bodies.

Legislator, Mir Saifullah moved amendment on resolution.

During the discussion on these resolutions, Legislators Mir Saifullah, Nizam-ud-Din Bhat, Peerzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, Dr. Devinder Kumar Maniyal, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Qaysar Jamshaid Lone, Dr. Sajjad Shafi, Dr. Rameshwar Singh, Iftikar Ahmad, Sajad Gani Lone, Shabir Ahmad Kullay, Pawan Gupta, Rajiv Jasrotia, Tanvir Sadiq, Devyani Rana, Salman Ali Sagar, Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi and Shakti Raj Parihar spoke and raised their concerns on the subject.

Later, the Members withdrew their resolutions after satisfactory assurances from the government.

## DDC Kupwara releases key Statistical Publications for 2023-24

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA, MARCH 31:** District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kupwara, Shrikant Suse today released the key district statistical publications for the year 2023-24 here at D. C Office Complex in presence of the District Officers.



The publications include District Statistical Handbook, Economic Review, District Kupwara at a Glance, and District Profile. ADC Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Khan; ACR, Peerzada Mumtaz; CPO, Parvaiz Ahmad, and other concerned officials were present on the occasion. The released publications will serve as important reference documents for planning, policy formulation, and developmental activities in the district. They provide a comprehensive statistical overview of the district, covering various sectors including economy, development indicators, infrastructure, and socio-economic parameters. The documents are expected to serve as important tools for planning, policy formulation, monitoring, and research purposes. The District Development Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the concerned officers and emphasized the importance of accurate and timely statistical data for effective governance and developmental planning.

All departments have been advised to make optimal use of these publications for official and developmental purposes.

## ADDC SHOPIAN REVIEWS AVAILABILITY OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES IN DISTRICT

Adequate stocks available; directions issued for market monitoring

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SHOPIAN, MARCH 31:** Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone today chaired a meeting of officers to review the availability and stock position of essential commodities across the district. During the meeting, a detailed assessment of the stock and supply of key commodities including petrol, diesel, and LPG was carried out. It was informed that adequate stocks of essential fuels are available, and their supply remains smooth and uninterrupted across all areas of the district. The ADC directed all concerned departments to ensure continuous monitoring of supply chains, maintain buffer stocks, and prevent any disruption



in the availability of essential commodities. Emphasis was laid on maintaining transparency in distribution and ensuring that benefits reach the public without delay.

The meeting also reviewed the stock position of food grains, and it was confirmed that there is sufficient availability to meet the requirements of the district.

Similarly, the availability of other

essential items like fertilizers was also assessed and found to be satisfactory.

The ADC stressed strict enforcement measures against hoarding and black marketing. The concerned authorities were instructed to intensify market inspections and take stringent action against violators as per the law.

A review of the prevailing price trends was also conducted, with directions issued to keep prices under regular surveillance to prevent unjustified hikes.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Shopian, Shakoora Ahmad Dar; AD Food, CEO, CAO, CHO, BMO and other concerned officers.

## Budgam's Wagoora GP bags National Panchayat Award 2025 for socially just governance

Javid Dar compliments admin; terms honour as big boost to grassroots governance

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, MARCH 31:** In a landmark achievement for grassroots governance in Jammu & Kashmir, Wagoora Gram Panchayat in Budgam district has secured the 3rd rank nationally in the prestigious National Panchayat Awards under the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSVP) 2025 category.

The award, instituted by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), was conferred under the theme "Socially Just and Socially

Secured Panchayat" placing Wagoora among the top-performing Gram Panchayats in the country.

The National Panchayat Awards witnessed enthusiastic participation from Gram Panchayats across all states and Union Territories of India, with thousands of Panchayats competing under multiple thematic categories.

Wagoora's achievement is especially significant given the scale of competition and the rigorous evaluation process, which goes far beyond documentation and self-reporting. Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural

Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, congratulated Wagoora Gram Panchayat, Budgam, for securing the honour, calling it a major milestone for grassroots governance in J&K. He said that the achievement reflects strong field-level efforts and serves as a testament to how evidence-based planning, community participation and data-driven governance under the PAI 2.0 framework can transform rural institutions into engines of inclusive development-reinforcing Jammu & Kashmir's growing

footprint in national rural governance reforms.

Dar expressed his gratitude to the Secretary, RDD&PR, J&K; Director, Panchayati Raj, J&K; Deputy Secretary, ACP Budgam; and BDO B.K. Pora for their unwavering dedication and committed efforts in achieving this milestone. Unlike conventional award processes, the DDUPSVP 2025 evaluation involved a dedicated inspection team from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj that physically visited Wagoora Gram Panchayat for an on-ground assessment.

The MoPR team assessed the functioning of key departments including Health, Education NRLM and other associated agencies.

The Sub-Health Centre and Primary Health Centre infrastructure under the National Health Mission (NHM) was also reviewed for service delivery, medicine availability and staffing. The team further assessed the NRLM-linked Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for financial activity, bank linkages and livelihood outcomes, along with the MGNREGA worksite assets and their quality and utility.

## DC Budgam reviews progress of 125-Bedded District Hospital, 100-Bedded CCU

Directs preparation of DPRs for key utilities

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM, MARCH 31:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of the under-construction 125-bedded state-of-the-art District Hospital and the 100-bedded Critical Care Unit (CCU) at Reshipora, Budgam.

At the outset, the DC took a detailed appraisal of the physical and financial progress achieved so far on both major healthcare projects.

Emphasizing the critical importance of timely completion, he directed all executing agencies

and concerned departments to further accelerate the pace of work while strictly adhering to quality standards.

The DC underscored that these flagship projects are of immense public significance and are poised to transform the healthcare delivery system in the district.

He noted that upon completion, these facilities will substantially enhance the district's capacity to provide specialized and critical care services locally.

While reviewing the progress, the DC expressed satisfaction over the pace of work on the ground and appreciated the coordinated efforts

of all stakeholders. He reiterated the administration's commitment to ensuring that both projects are completed well within the stipulated timelines.

The DC stated that the upcoming District Hospital, equipped with modern infrastructure and advanced medical facilities, will significantly reduce the referral burden on tertiary care hospitals and ensure quality healthcare services within the district.

The 100-bedded CCU, he added, will play a pivotal role in managing emergency and critical cases, thereby improving patient outcomes.

The DC emphasized that the

District Administration, in close coordination with the Health and R&B Departments, is closely monitoring the progress of works on a regular basis.

During the meeting, the DC also directed the concerned departments to initiate and expedite the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for essential allied infrastructure, including transmission lines, oxygen plant, electrical works, PHE pipelines, Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), and other allied works to ensure seamless functionality of both healthcare facilities upon completion.

## SWD Srinagar continues Educational Kit Distribution Drive

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR, MARCH 31:** On the second consecutive day of its ongoing outreach initiative, the Social Welfare Department (SWD)—SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar continued its efforts to promote education and support underprivileged sections of society by distributing educational kits among girl students at Government Boys Middle School, Moti Mohalla Kalan Dal, and Government Girls Middle School, Latti Mohalla Dal.

The initiative aims to encourage girl students to actively pursue their education by providing essential learning materials, thereby reducing barriers to access and enhancing academic participation. The

distributed kits comprised basic educational supplies necessary for daily school activities, helping create a more supportive and resourceful learning environment.

Officials from the SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar reiterated the importance of empowering girls through education and reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that no child is deprived of learning opportunities due to financial constraints. They emphasized that sustained efforts like these are crucial in fostering inclusivity and strengthening the education system at the grassroots level.

School authorities expressed their sincere appreciation for the department's continued support, describing the initiative as a significant.

# Prologis commences 1.1 mn sqft Logistics Park in North Chennai

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI, MAR 31: Prologis today announced that it has commenced construction of Prologis Park Redhills CPRR, a Grade A industrial and logistics park with total development potential of 1.1 mn sqft in North Chennai.

The project is being developed on 51 acres acquired along the Chennai Peripheral Ring Road (CPRR) corridor.

Redhills marks Prologis' third location in Tamil Nadu, alongside projects in Hosur and Sriperumbudur.

Together, these developments represent a Rs 3,300 crore investment and span approximately 6.5 mn sqft across some of the state's key industrial and manufacturing corridors.

The first phase of Prologis Park Redhills CPRR comprises two buildings totalling about 412,000 sqft. The construction is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2027.

"This construction start at Redhills speaks to the long-term opportunity we see in North



Chennai as a logistics and industrial corridor," Vineet Sekhsaria, Head of India, said.

"With the CPRR taking shape, this location will be increasingly important for regional distribution. Our site sits directly along the corridor, allowing us to support customers more efficiently while contributing to local jobs and economic growth in Tamil Nadu", he said.

Located along the CPRR, the project sits on the 52-km northern section of the 133-km corridor connecting Chennai's key highways, ports, and industrial zones. Once completed, the CPRR is expected to strengthen connectivity to Ennore and Kattupalli ports and improve access to the Chennai-Kolkata highway.

At full build-out, Redhills will deliver approximately 1.1 mn sqft

of modern Grade A warehousing and industrial space. Designed for large format logistics and manufacturing occupiers, the facilities will incorporate 34-m wide truck courts, 12-m clear heights, and robust power infrastructure to support high-throughput operations. It is structured as a professionally managed, integrated campus designed to accommodate both standardised warehouse space and build-to-suit facilities, giving occupiers flexibility in layout and scale.

"We are seeing growing interest from port-linked manufacturers and third party logistics operators that require larger facilities, stronger yard planning and resilient power infrastructure," Sekhsaria said, adding, "With direct connectivity to the CPRR and access to Ennore and Kattupalli ports, Redhills is positioned to support customers' high-volume operations. Our focus is on delivering quality Grade A industrial infrastructure - defined by specification, layout, and execution, not simply by label." UNI

## IIP grew at healthy rate of 5.2pc in Feb despite geopolitical tensions: PHDCCI

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MAR 31: Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew at a healthy rate of 5.2 per cent in February over 4.8 per cent in January despite ever-increasing geopolitical tensions, said PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in a communique released here on Monday.

Rajeev Juneja, President of PHDCCI, said, "The improvement in industrial production reflects strengthening momentum in capital-intensive sectors, particularly infrastructure and manufacturing."

Juneja noted that sustained expansion in capital goods signals improving private investment activity, a critical element for medium-term growth.

"The important element of growth is the broad-based performance across 14 manufacturing segments, which indicates resilience in industrial demand. However, the contraction in consumer non-durables suggests uneven consumption recovery and requires continued policy attention."

Manufacturing led the growth at 6.0pc followed by mining at 3.1pc and electricity at 2.3pc. The quick estimate of IIP stands at 159.0 compared to 151.1 in February 2025, underlining year-on-year improvement in industrial output.

On the other hand, Dr Ranjeet Mehta, Secretary General and CEO of PHDCCI, said, "IIP data points to a gradually strengthening



industrial production cycle with infrastructure, intermediate and capital goods expected to remain key drivers in the short-term."

He noted that continued easing of supply-side constraints holds the key to support this growth momentum. UNI

## Stock Market: Sensex loses 1700 points, Rupee breaches 95-mark

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 31: Indian stock market on Monday continued to decline for the second consecutive session with Sensex losing 1700 points and Nifty below the 22,350 mark.

Market witnessed broad-based selling led by banking stocks after the Reserve Bank of India tightened limits on banks' dollar positions.

At close, the Sensex was down 1,635.67 points or 2.22 percent at 71,947.55, and the Nifty was down 488.20 points or 2.14 percent at 22,331.40.

Nifty Midcap and Smallcap indices shedding around 2.6 percent each. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies declined to Rs 412.59 lakh crore against Friday's Rs 422.15 lakh crore.

All the sectors ended in the red. Auto, FMCG, consumer durables, capital goods, telecom, realty, private bank, PSU bank were down in the range of 2-4pc.

On Nifty, major losers were Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, Bajaj Finserv, State Bank of India, and InterGlobe Aviation while the gainers were Hindalco Industries, Coal India, ONGC, and Power Grid Corporation of India. Nearly 1500 stocks touched their 52-week low on the BSE. These included Embassy Developments, Kirloskar Brothers, Jubilant Foodworks, Aegis Vopak Terminals, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Aditya Birla Lifestyle Brands, Newgen Software, Titagarh Rail Systems, CE Info Systems, Central Bank of India, EIH, Deepak Nitrite, Amara Raja, AAVAS Financiers, Mastek, Sterling Wilson, Cochin Shipyard, Blue Jet, IICI Prudential, UCO Bank, among others.

Indian rupee breached the 95 mark for the first time, hitting a record low of 95.12.

Nifty Bank declined nearly 4 percent after RBI's move directing banks to cap their net open rupee positions in the foreign exchange market at USD 100 million. All 14 constituents of the Bank Nifty index settled in the red.

Punjab National Bank was the top laggard, declining 4.35pc, AU Small Finance Bank, declined 4.7pc, IndusInd Bank and Union Bank of India declined 4.06pc and 4.15pc.

The key reasons behind the decline in stock were the ongoing West Asia tensions, rising crude oil prices, and continued FII outflows.

The stock market will remain shut on March 31 (Tuesday) on account of Shri Mahavir Jayanti. UNI

## India's total primary energy supply grew 2.95Pc in FY2024-25: Report

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 31: During FY 2024-25, the India's Total Primary Energy Supply (TPES) grew by 2.95 per cent over the past year and stood at 9,32,816 KToE (Kilo Tonnes of oil Equivalent), said a report released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation here on Monday.

The Energy Statistics India 2026 noted that credit flow to the energy sector in India posted a growth of over six per cent from an amount of Rs 1,688 Cr during 2021 to Rs

10,325 crore during 2025.

Total Final Consumption (TFC) of energy surged by over 30.41 per cent from 4,69,212 KToE in FY 2015-16 to 608,578 KToE in FY 2024.

The country has huge potential for the generation of renewable energy which stands at 47,04,043 Megawatt as of March 2025.

In the same line, Solar energy also increased from 748,990 Megawatt during FY2023-24 to 33,43,378 Megawatt during FY2024-25. This sector has the highest share of 71 per cent in total energy supply followed by Wind

power and Large Hydro.

Going on state-wise potential in renewable energy, the report said that more than 70 per cent of the total potential of generation of renewable energy is concentrated in the six states - Rajasthan (23.70pc), Maharashtra (14.26pc), Gujarat (9.10pc), Andhra Pradesh (9.1pc), Karnataka (8.59pc) and Madhya Pradesh (8.09pc).

The installed capacity for generating electricity from renewable energy has grown significantly from 90,134 Mega Watt as of March 2016 to 2,29,346 Mega Watt in March 2025, which

demonstrates the surge in Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 10.93 per cent over the years.

Additionally, the gross generation of electricity has also increased in recent years. In FY2015-16, it was at 1,89,314 GWH, but in FY 2024-25 it has risen to 4,16,823 GWH.

The per-capita consumption of energy over the years has gone up from 15,296 Mega Joule/person during FY 2015-16 to 18,096 Mega Joule/person during FY 2024-25, which is a CAGR of 1.89 per cent, the report noted.

Due to the reduction in transmission and distribution losses, electricity utilisation also improved over the past years. The report noted that there has been a five per cent decline in percentage loss due to transmission and distribution between FY2015-16 and FY2024-25.

Coal remained the dominant source of total energy supply which increased from 3,87,761 KToE in FY2015-16 to 5,52,315 KToE in FY2024-25. Other energy sources, such as crude oil and natural gas, also witnessed growth over the past years. UNI

## Personal loan portfolio of digital NBFCs to exceed Rs.3.6 lakh crore by FY30

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI, MARCH 31: The personal loan portfolio of digital non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) is expected to exceed Rs 3.6 lakh crore by FY30, registering a robust CAGR of 26-28% between FY25 and FY30, according to a report by CARE Ratings.

The growth outlook remains strong, driven by rising digital penetration and the steady expansion of borrower segments, the report said.

As per Fintech Association for Consumer Empowerment (FACE) data, as of Sep-25, the outstanding personal loan portfolio of digital NBFCs reached Rs. 1.3 lakh crore compared to Rs. 0.6 lakh crores as of Mar-23, reflecting twofold over 2.5 years, the report notes.

Digital NBFCs witnessed a modest uptick in average ticket size from Rs. 12,967 in FY23 to Rs 15,177 in H1FY26.

The asset quality of digital NBFCs is improving, with the gross non-performing assets (GNPA) declining from 3.3% in FY23 to 2.1% in H1FY26,

led by recoveries, write-offs and stringent underwriting of loans.

However, risks persist in high-growth unsecured portfolios with retail NPAs increasingly concentrated in personal loans.

Balancing innovation with prudent risk management and compliance will be critical for digital NBFCs to sustain growth and credibility in India's financial ecosystem, the report notes.

According to CARE Ratings, the profitability of major digital NBFCs continues to remain rangebound, with return on assets (ROA) ranging between 1%-4%, thereby highlighting the high-risk, high-yield nature of small-ticket, unsecured loan portfolios and efficient digital distribution models.

Digital NBFCs have strong capital adequacy, backed by continued funding support from institutional and venture investors, the report said.

The rise of digital lenders has expanded access to credit, particularly for under-served segments such as MSMEs, non-salaried individuals including freelancers and new-to-credit

customers.

Digital lenders, leveraging the India stack comprising of smartphones, Aadhaar-enabled e-KYC, and UPI, are able to offer instant, paperless loans, overcoming traditional barriers to collateral and complex approvals.

Co-lending partnerships between banks and digital NBFCs have further strengthened credit reach and facilitated risk-sharing.

Digital lending continues to offer clear advantages in accessibility, speed, customer convenience, and driving financial inclusion.

However, emerging risks warrant attention data privacy concerns under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (2025), rising cyber threats and aggressive lending practices have prompted tighter regulatory oversight.

The CARE Ratings report states that the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Digital Lending Directions now mandate explicit consent, key fact statements and prohibit automatic credit limit enhancements to safeguard borrowers.

## India's industrial output rises to 5.2pc in Feb supported by robust manufacturing

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, MAR 31: India's industrial growth rises to 5.2pc in February compared to 4.8pc of Jan, said government data released on Monday.

The upward expansion in growth is driven due to the stimulus provided by manufacturing sector which witnessed a growth of 6 pc followed by mining and electricity at 3.1pc and 2.3pc respectively.

Indices for industrial production for mining, manufacturing, and electricity were at 146.3, 157.3, and 198.4, respectively.

Highlighting the sectoral growth trend, the official statement said, "Within the manufacturing sector, 14 out of 23 industry groups at the NIC 2 digit-level have recorded a positive growth in February 2026



over February 2025."

The prime growth contributors for February were: Manufacture of basic metals (13.2pc); manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers (14.9pc) and manufacture of machinery and equipment (10.2pc).

Coming to the industry group, 'Manufacture of basic metals', item group under 'MS slabs', 'Flat products of Alloy Steel' and 'Pipes and tubes of Steel' have shown significant contribution in growth.

According to use-base classification, the indices stand at 155.0 for primary goods, 129.8 for capital goods, 171.3 for intermediate goods and 213.2 for infrastructure and construction Goods for the month of February 2026., the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said.

Additionally, indices for consumer durables and non-durables stand at 135.6 and 145.8, respectively. UNI

## India's strategic NavIC satellite constellation may take up to 18 months to regain strength

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI, MAR 31: It may take another 15-18 months for India to partially augment its near defunct strategic satellite constellation NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation), hints a parliamentary committee report submitted recently.

The department-related parliamentary standing committee on science and technology, environment, forests and climate change gave its report on the demands for grants for the year 2026-27. The report was presented to the Rajya Sabha and laid on the table of the Lok Sabha on March 25. "The replacement satellites NVS-03, NVS-04, and NVS-05 will be launched over the next 15-18 months," the report notes.

Of the 11 navigation satellites launched so far by India, only three - IRNSS-1B, IRNSS-1I, and NVS-01 - are currently capable of providing position, navigation, and timing (PNT) services, and even these are not consistently reliable.

The situation is further complicated by ageing hardware. IRNSS-1B, launched in 2014, has exceeded its 10-year mission life, while IRNSS-1I, launched in 2018, is approaching the same threshold.

On March 13, ISRO confirmed that IRNSS-1F completed its mission life, and its onboard atomic clock had failed, though the satellite continues limited operations for messaging services.

Originally known as the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), NavIC was designed to provide accurate PNT services

across India and up to 1,500 km beyond its borders. Its Standard Positioning Service (SPS) offers accuracy better than 20 metres and timing precision within 40 nanoseconds.

The original NavIC architecture required seven satellites - four in geostationary orbit and three in geosynchronous orbit.

Given the series of failures of NavIC satellites, the replacement launches have not kept pace with the need. Between 2013 and 2018, India launched its initial constellation, but six satellites experienced failures, many due to faulty atomic clocks. Despite this, replenishment has been slow and inconsistent. In its report, the parliamentary committee urged the India's Department of Space to ensure the timely replacement

of non-functional satellites and to adopt appropriate measures for improving the reliability and operational readiness of the NavIC constellation so that this strategic national asset can function at its full potential. "The Committee also recommends the Government to provide adequate funds to the Department of Space to achieve these objectives," the report notes.

Interestingly, the Indian government and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have been saying that every six months, a NavIC satellite will be launched to bring the constellation to its optimum level. In its report, the parliamentary committee emphasised that expanding the coverage, reliability and adoption of NavIC in the near future will be vital for enhancing India's

technological self-reliance and strategic autonomy.

Be that as it may, currently the NavIC constellation consists of:

- Three satellites provide PNT services-Five are limited to messaging applications
- One satellite has been lost
- One has completed its mission life-One (NVS-02) is stranded in geostationary transfer orbit due to technical issues.

Experts stress that to ensure uninterrupted service, India must maintain more than seven operational satellites at all times and adopt a more frequent launch schedule. The second-generation NVS series comprising NVS-01 to NVS-05 was intended to modernize NavIC with enhanced capabilities, including L1 band signals to improve adoption in consumer devices. UNI

# Rohit Sharma's IPL 2026 version - vintage and new age



UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**MUMBAI:** Muscle memory. It's what kicks in when a batter who has spent years at the crease knows exactly how to react to a ball without having to think about it.

For Rohit Sharma, it kicks in when he sees a short ball and swivels his hips to pull it, a shot he has played countless times in his career. On this night, in the chase against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), the ball didn't even come off the middle of the bat, but it didn't matter. It still sailed over deep midwicket.

It's been ten months since Rohit last played a proper T20. Yet, in his first match of what is his 19th year in the IPL, he did not bat like someone out of touch. Rather, he just settled in and shifted into another plane. He stamped his authority on the get-go for Mumbai Indians (MI), first taking on Vaibhav Arora with a premeditated swing that sailed 87 metres over deep midwicket, before charging down to Blessing Muzarabani, making room and carving him cleanly over extra cover.

But it was the fifth over, against Varun Chakravarthy, that truly showcased Rohit's command. He greeted Varun with a lofted inside-out cover drive on the first ball, then leaned into a tossed-up delivery just outside off and caressed the ball over the covers once more. Fourth ball of the over, he moved across slightly to get inside the line and flicked the ball neatly over backward square leg for another boundary. Varun, the smart operator, had been outsmarted. Rohit scored 15 off that over alone, remarkably overturning a long-standing pattern: prior to this match, he had managed just 48 runs off the 49 balls he had faced from Varun.

Rohit carried that authority into the next over - muscle memory again - as he punished Kartik Tyagi's overpitched offcutter with an inside-out drive over extra cover for another six. By the end of the powerplay, he had raced to a

23-ball fifty - his fastest in the IPL - bringing rousing applause from a home crowd that adores him. It was also the first time in IPL history that he had scored 50-plus runs within the powerplay.

These are shots Rohit has executed countless times over the years, yet, in previous seasons, till IPL 2024, it has sometimes felt like they were often tempered by a sense of restraint - perhaps due to captaincy responsibilities, the need to protect his wicket, or just the conventions of T20 cricket at the time. His overall strike rate has reflected this evolution: from 120.17 in 2022 and 132.8 in 2023 to 150 in 2024 and 149.28 in 2025.

The strike-rate surge wasn't something the management discussed with him, but this new, aggressive version of his game is natural evolution.

"Just him, he's freed himself up," Mahela Jayawardene, the MI coach said after the game. "He's thinking much calmer, he's not the leader, there's less pressure on him. This happens - it happened to me as well in my last few years when I went and played franchise cricket.

"You practice less, but your memory - your muscle memory - it works. And you just go with the flow, you know, what the bowlers are trying to do. And once you're in that mode, you have that freedom which we've noticed in Rohit in the last couple of years. And we encourage him to go and do that, and the rest of the team is backing him to do that and I'm quite happy about it."

While Rohit has played competitive cricket in just one format this past year, most recently in the ODIs against New Zealand, his IPL preparation has been meticulous. Heading to the MI camp early this year, he spent long hours at the nets, facing team-mates including captain Hardik Pandya and a battery of fast bowlers. Training a day before the opener, he unfurled his big shots. He has also spent time away from international cricket to become a lot fitter.

## Swanepoel's Worcestershire NOC in doubt after leaving Lions in lurch

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**TAUNTON:** South African allrounder Beyers Swanepoel has put his No-Objection Certificate (NOC) to play county cricket at risk after leaving his domestic team without notice and during the one-day cup final. Swanepoel, who took 3 for 44 for the Lions against the Titans in Sunday's match, walked off the field with eight overs to go to take a flight to the UK, where he is due to play for Worcestershire. The Lions had no knowledge of his plans and his NOC, which was only presented to officials last night, is currently unsigned.

Which must be signed by home boards whose players are engaged overseas, will remain incomplete until the Lions are satisfied with the outcome of an inquiry into Swanepoel's conduct. The County Championship, in which he is due to play for Worcestershire, begins later this week and Swanepoel's involvement is in doubt.

Swanepoel, who is uncapped internationally, signed a one-year red-ball contract with Worcestershire, having previously played for Kent. In a press release issued by the county in December 2025, they said he would be available for "the entirety" of their campaign.

However, the Lions had no knowledge of Swanepoel's deal until he left the field during the game. At the time, Swanepoel, who usually bowls at the death, had delivered his quota of 10 overs as the Lions looked to break a 78-run sixth-wicket partnership between Keegan Petersen and Duan Jansen. Swanepoel, who had helped reduce Titans to 121 for 5, was not able to remove either batter, and left the field.

Initially, everyone involved in the game including the Lions players, thought Swanepoel had picked up a niggles. The Lions even had a substitute fielder briefly replace him until a query from the Titans about Swanepoel's status determined that he had left the ground. By then, Swanepoel had gone to the dugout to say goodbye to some of his team-mates and had headed to the airport to catch a 7.30pm flight out of Johannesburg. Once it had been ascertained that Swanepoel was not at the Wanderers, the Lions were denied a substitute fielder for the rest of the game as his absence was not caused by injury. They lost on the penultimate ball, with only 10 players on the field. They will now investigate why Swanepoel did not communicate his plans prior to the match, which he would not have played had the Lions known his availability was in question.

## I am not here to show how talented I am: Ajinkya Rahane

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

**MUMBAI:** Dismissive of the never-ending speculation around his future, experienced India batter and Kolkata Knight Riders captain Ajinkya Rahane says he is playing cricket for personal growth and not to prove a point to the naysayers.

The 37-year-old Rahane had stepped down from Mumbai's Ranji Trophy captaincy last season and he also did not lead the side in white-ball domestic competitions.

The move triggered another round of chatter around the fu-

ture of the batter, who hasn't played for India since 2023.

"Let people talk about me. They have been talking about me since like what, 20 years now. Let them talk," Rahane told reporters when asked if his 40-ball 67 with five sixes and three fours against Mumbai Indians here on Sunday was in any way a statement especially for those in Mumbai's cricket circuit.

"I am really happy with the way I am batting at the moment. I am not here to show anyone how talented I am and what's my game. People are watching. Let them watch. Let them talk," he said.



"But I am really happy, in the last 2-3 years, (in the) white ball formats (with) the way I have improved my game. It's impor-

tant to grow as a cricketer, as a batsman, and that's what I am trying to do. People will keep talking and let them talk," he added.

Rahane confirmed he only suffered with cramps during the second half of the contest which KKR lost by six wickets.

"I was just cramping. It's a very bad feeling to sit outside with the cramps and you don't have any control when the bowlers were bowling, it's a bad feeling but first I'm really happy the way I batted," he said.

Rahane credited Jasprit Bumrah for producing another tight

spell towards the end which prevented KKR to get the total they were eyeing.

"We all thought initially 220 (220/4) was a good total, we were on the path to get around 235-240 but those two overs from Bumrah made a lot of difference, you know why he's such a great bowler," he said.

Rahane said KKR's inexperienced bowling attack will need time to improve but the team combination would change only when Australian all-rounder Cameron Green is available to bowl. Green is nursing a back issue right now.

**LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS**  
ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS

NEWSPAPER | BOOKS | FLYERS | LOGO | FLEX | MAGAZINES  
VISITING CARDS | BROCHURES | 3D BOARDS | COVER PAGES  
WEDDING CARDS | CALLIGRAPHY | WALL PAINTINGS

9999038812  
9419008414

Radio Colony,  
Gund Hassibhat, Lawaipora Srinagar-190017

**HEADLINES TODAY INVITES CONTRIBUTIONS**

Are you a writer, poet, storyteller, columnist, or feature writer with a passion for literature or health writings? Headlines Today offers a platform to share:

Literature Section: Well-crafted essays, literary articles, reflections, and creative writings.

Health Section: Well-researched articles, expert columns, and in-depth feature reports from professionals and specialists.

Send your contributions to:  
Dr Basharat Khan  
Honorary Editor: Literature & Health Sections (HT) at  
chogalwriter76@gmail.com

YOUR WORDS CAN INSPIRE, INFORM, AND IGNITE; LET THEM BE HEARD.