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J&K Pushes Reform Agenda: Bills on Decriminalisation, Private Universities Tabled ; LG Clears Three Laws

Move aims to boost ease of doing business and strengthen higher education oversight

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APR 2: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday stepped up its reform agenda by introducing two significant bills in the Legislative Assembly—one aimed at decriminalising minor business-related offences and another to facilitate the establishment of private universities in the Union Territory.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah tabled a bill seeking to amend various existing laws to decriminalise and rationalise certain offences, with the objective of



improving ease of living and promoting a more business-friendly environment. The proposed legislation also provides for repeal of outdated enactments, reflecting a shift towards simplifying regulatory frameworks and reducing compliance burdens.

In a parallel move, Education Minister Sakeena Itoo introduced a bill for the establishment and incorporation of private universities, proposing a structured mechanism to ensure academic standards, safeguard quality education,

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Evolve Governance With Time to Realise 'Viksit Bharat': PM Modi

Calls for citizen-centric, tech-driven reforms in civil services

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 2: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday stressed the need for continuous upgradation of public services and administrative systems to keep pace with changing times and realise the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

Addressing the launch of 'Sadhana Saptah' through a video message, the Prime Minister said governance must consistently work towards improving ease of living and enhancing the quality of life for citizens. He underlined that the guiding principle of administration should be the mantra "Nagrik Devo Bhavah," placing citizens at the centre of all policymaking and service delivery.

Highlighting the evolving role of civil servants, Modi said reforms in governance are not limited to structural changes but also require a transformation in mindset and behaviour. He noted that while the earlier system emphasised authority, the present focus is on duty and service.



The Prime Minister urged officials to assess their decisions in terms of their impact on citizens and the country's development journey, adding that individual transformation within the bureaucracy must lead to institutional change.

Emphasising the growing importance of

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Power Dues in J&K Cross Rs 3,747 Crore, Govt Departments Lead Defaults

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APR 2: Outstanding electricity dues in Jammu and Kashmir have surged past Rs 3,747 crore, with government departments, public sector units and security establishments accounting for a substantial share of the unpaid liabilities, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Thursday.

The figures were disclosed in the Assembly in response to a question raised by PDP legislator Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi. According to the official data, total outstanding dues stand at Rs 3,74,735.42 lakh, including Rs 2,31,022.41 lakh under the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited and Rs 1,43,713.01 lakh under the Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited.

The Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department has emerged as the biggest defaulter, with dues of Rs 1,30,043 lakh, followed by the Irrigation and Flood Control Department at Rs 58,059.72 lakh.

Among security agencies, the Central Reserve Police Force owes Rs 29,638.45 lakh, while the Army has pending dues of Rs 19,719.94 lakh. The Border

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"1979 Power Pact Must Be Honoured Fully": Omar Abdullah

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APR 02: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday declared that the 1979 power-sharing agreement between Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab is a "sovereign commitment" that must be implemented in letter and spirit, as he spoke during the Question Hour of the ongoing Budget Session of the Legislative Assembly.

Responding to a supplementary question by Basohli MLA Darshan Kumar, the Chief Minister said he would personally take up the matter with his Punjab counterpart to ensure that the agreement is honoured, asserting that

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"Any Misadventure Will Be Met with Decisive Force": Rajnath Singh Warns Pakistan

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 02: Amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday cautioned Pakistan against any provocation, asserting that India would respond in a "decisive and unprecedented" manner if challenged.

Addressing a Sainik Samman Sammelan in Kerala, Singh said the evolving geopolitical situation could tempt India's neighbour to exploit the moment, but maintained that the country was fully prepared to counter any such move.

"Our neighbour, in the current

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"No Fuel Shortage, Maintain Vigil": Centre Reviews Supply, Warns Against Hoarding

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, APR 02: The Petroleum Secretary on Thursday chaired a meeting with senior officials of States and Union Territories to review the fuel supply situation, asserting that there is no shortage while directing strict vigilance against hoarding and misinformation.

During the meeting with



Additional Chief Secretaries and Principal Secretaries of Food and Civil Supplies, the Secretary briefed participants

on steps taken by the Centre to streamline the supply of essential petroleum products and appreciated the coordinated efforts of States and UTs in managing the evolving scenario.

He stressed that States and UTs must actively manage and prioritise LPG distribution to ensure uninterrupted supply for domestic consumers and essential sectors. Warning

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CS Reviews LPG, Fuel & Fertilizer Supply in J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 02: Amid the prevailing situation in West Asia, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting with Administrative Secretaries, Divisional

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'Zero Tolerance on Poor Quality, Delays': Deputy CM Announces ₹3.44 Cr Relief for Flood-Hit Koteranka-Khawas Road

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 02: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Thursday reiterated the government's zero-tolerance policy against violations in quality parameters and delays

in execution of development works, while announcing a Rs. 344.10 lakh package for the restoration of the Koteranka-Khawas road in Rajouri district.

Replying to a question raised by legislator Javaid Iqbal in the Legisla-

ture Assembly, the Deputy Chief Minister said the road had suffered extensive damage due to flash floods last year, leading to erosion of the surface, damage to retaining structures and potholes at several locations. He said the sanctioned funds will be used for

permanent restoration and that the work has already been allotted and is underway.

Emphasising accountability, Choudhary said departments have been directed to strictly adhere to

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J&K Tables Private Universities Bill to Open Doors for New Campuses

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APR 02: The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Thursday introduced the "Jammu and Kashmir Private Universities Bill, 2026" in the Legislative Assembly, seeking to lay down a comprehensive framework for the establishment and regulation of private universities in the Union Territory.

The Bill, tabled by Higher Education Minister Sakina Masood Itoo, proposes stringent eligibility conditions for sponsoring bodies, mandating that only financially sound entities registered for at least three years, with education as their primary

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Sakeena Itoo interacts with representatives of NHM Employees Association, assures redressal of genuine grievances

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APR 02: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today held an interaction meeting with representatives of National Health Mission (NHM) Employees Association to discuss various issues concerning their welfare, working conditions and service-related matters.

During the interaction, the delegation apprised the Minister of various challenges faced by NHM employees, including services security, timely disbursement of salaries, career progression and strengthening of workplace support systems. The representatives emphasized the crucial role played by NHM staff in delivering healthcare services, particularly in remote



and underserved areas.

Listening patiently to the concerns raised, the Minister acknowl-

edged the significant contribution of NHM employees in strengthening grassroots healthcare delivery

and improving public health outcomes. She appreciated their dedication and commitment,

especially during challenging times when healthcare workers remained at the forefront of service.

Sakeena Itoo assured the delegation that the government is committed to addressing genuine and long-pending grievances in a phased and practical manner.

She reiterated that the welfare of healthcare workers remains a priority for the government, adding that constructive engagement between the administration and employee representatives is essential for building a responsive and resilient healthcare system.

The representatives of NHM Employees Association expressed gratitude to the Minister for granting them a patient hearing and sympathetic consideration of their demands.

Felicitation Ceremony Held at Tagore Hall Srinagar in Honour of Newly Appointed Interim President

Cultural Academy Non-Gazetted Employees Participate Enthusiastically; DPC Meeting Expected Soon

JAMEEL ANSARI

SRINAGAR, APR 02: A grand felicitation ceremony was held today at the Conference Hall of Tagore Hall, Srinagar, in honour of the newly appointed Interim President of the Cultural Academy Union, Mtr. Birjees Akhter. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from non-gazetted employees, who extended their heartfelt congratulations and presented her with gifts as a token of love and respect.

Addressing the gathering, the President informed the employees about her recent meeting with the Secretary, Cultural Academy, Ms. Harvinder Kour,



in Jammu. She stated that the Secretary has assured that the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) meeting will be held shortly. She further added that the administration has been directed to submit the DPC file by April 6, 2026, for further necessary action.

During her address, Mtr. Birjees Akhter reiterated her commitment to resolving the issues faced by non-gazetted employees on a priority basis. She emphasized that the welfare, career progression, and protection of employees' rights would remain her foremost responsibility. She assured that matters related to service conditions, delays in promotions, salary concerns, and other facilities would be taken up seriously and addressed through concrete measures. She also stated that the concerns of employees would be effectively conveyed to higher authorities to ensure that their genuine demands are fulfilled and a conducive working environment is maintained.

The ceremony concluded on a positive note, with employees expressing their best wishes and full support to the new leadership.

Zonal Painting Contest Held Under Nasha Mukht Bharat Theme

HT NEWS NETWORK

KANGAN, APR 2: Today on 02-04-2026, a Zonal Level Painting Competition was held in Zone Kangan in collaboration with Mission Shakti Ganderbal. The programme was organized under the theme Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan with the aim of spreading awareness among students about the harmful effects of drug abuse. Participant students were from all High Schools and Middle Schools of Zone Kangan and they took part with great interest and enthusiasm.

The competition was conducted "under the guidance of the Zonal Education Officer Kangan". On this occasion, the "District Coordinator Mission Shakti Ganderbal and the Cultural Coordinator Zone Kangan" addressed the students and highlighted the serious dangers of substance abuse. They encouraged students to stay away from drugs and adopt a healthy and positive lifestyle.

The participants presented meaningful and creative paintings reflecting the message of a drug-free society. "Prizes and kit bags" with stationery items were distributed among the toppers. The event not only showcased the artistic talent of students but also helped in building awareness and responsibility among them towards creating a better and safer future.

Dr. Tasaduk; Dr Syed Sahil Deliver Speeches on the superannuation of Syed Ashiq Hussain Shah

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APR 2: A heartfelt farewell ceremony was organized at the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, to mark the superannuation of Mr. Syed Ashiq Hussain Shah, recognizing his years of dedicated service and significant contributions.

On the occasion, Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo, a distinguished medical professional and son-in-law of the retiree, delivered an emotional and inspiring speech. He expressed deep gratitude for Mr. Shah's unwavering commitment, integrity, and exemplary work ethic throughout his career.

Dr. Itoo also acknowledged that beyond professional excellence, he has personally learned invaluable life lessons from Mr. Shah—particularly the virtues of dignity, compassion, and selfless service. He noted that these values have greatly influenced his own personal and professional journey.

He further highlighted that Mr.



Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo
(Distinguished Medical Professional & Son-in-law)



Dr. Syed Sahil
(Dental Surgeon & Son of the Retiree)

Shah's life stands as a guiding example for future generations, reflecting dedication, humility, and a strong sense of responsibility.

Adding to the occasion, Dr. Syed Sahil, a dentist by profession and son of the retiree, also delivered a heartfelt speech. He reflected on his father's inspiring journey, dedication to duty, and the strong moral values he instilled in his family. He expressed pride and gratitude, describing his father as a guiding force both at home and in his

professional life.

The event was attended by senior officials including Dr Vikas Gupta – Worthy Director Tourism Jammu, colleagues, staff members, family members and well-wishers, who shared their experiences and extended warm wishes for a healthy and fulfilling post-retirement life to Mr Shah.

The ceremony concluded with presentations, felicitations, and a collective expression of appreciation for Mr. Shah's remarkable service.

KVK Kupwara Promotes Natural Farming Through Field Outreach in Villages

DR. AB QAYOOM

KUPWARA, APR 02: A scientific team from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kupwara, under the supervision of its Head, Prof. G.M. Bhat, conducted an extensive field outreach programme across several villages of the district to promote natural farming practices and establish demonstration models at farmers' fields. The team visited villages including Batargam, Dodikote, Kandi and Bramri, where they held interactive sessions with the local farming community. During the visits, on-the-spot advisories were provided, and three progressive farmers with adequate land holdings were selected for the establishment of natural farming

demonstration units. To facilitate the initiative, the KVK distributed essential inputs among the selected farmers, including quality seeds, planting material, mulching material, jaggery, lime, plastic barrels and well-decomposed desi cow dung. The support is aimed at encouraging farmers to adopt sustainable and chemical-free agricultural practices.

During interactions, the scientists assured farmers of timely availability of potato seeds and other inputs in the coming days, subject to their willingness to adopt improved and scientific farming techniques. The outreach programme was warmly received by the local farming community. Progressive farmers expressed gratitude towards the KVK team



for their guidance and technical support. They also appreciated the efforts of Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, and Director Extension, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, for their continued commitment towards the welfare of farmers in Kupwara district. The scientific team who participated Farmer interaction including Dr. Fardous Ahmad Rani, Dr. Shaied Hakeem, along with other non-teaching staff members. The programme marks a significant step towards transitioning from traditional agricultural practices to sustainable and scientific farming, thereby enhancing productivity and improving farmers' livelihoods in the district.

Kashmiri Folk Artist Rayees Wathori Honoured with "Art for Hope" Grant 2026

GULFAM BARJI

SRINAGAR, APR 2: Renowned Kashmiri folk artist Rayees Wathori (Ravice Rashid) has been honoured with the prestigious "Art for Hope" Grant 2026 under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of Hyundai India. A total of 40 artists from across the country were selected for the grant, each receiving financial assistance of ₹1,00,000. Rayees Wathori was the sole representative from Jammu and Kashmir to receive this recognition.

The grant has been awarded in recognition of Wathori's efforts to revive and reinterpret Shikargah through the traditional folk theatre form of Bhand Pather. As part of the project, he trained approximately 10 to 15 young artists, thereby contributing significantly to the preserva-

tion and promotion of this indigenous theatrical tradition. The final exhibition of the project was held at Travancore Palace New Delhi, from March 19 to March 22, 2026 where artists from different parts of India showcased their work. Representing Kashmir, Rayees Wathori and his team drew widespread attention for their captivating performance. The team included Tahir Ahmad Najar, Khursheed Ahmad and Tanvir Ahmad Bhat, who presented a powerful performance in the Bhand Pather style. Their presentation was highly appreciated by the audience and received enthusiastic applause. Speaking on the occasion, Rayees Wathori said, "This is not merely about financial assistance but a significant national recognition. It is a matter of great pride for me that a traditional art form like Bhand Pather has been acknowledged through this grant."

MHA's Principal CCA inaugurates budget software 'PBAS' at PCR Kashmir

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APR 2: In a major push for digital governance in security-related financial management, Dr Ajay Shanker Singh, ICAS, Principal Chief Controller of Accounts (CCA), Ministry of Home Affairs, on Wednesday inaugurated the PHQ Budget Allocation Software (PBAS) at the Police Control Room (PCR) Kashmir.

Designed to streamline budget allocation, monitoring, and utilisation within the Police Headquarters, the PBAS platform is being seen as a key initiative to enhance financial transparency, accountability, and operational efficiency of the J&K Police.

Senior officers, including J&K DGP Nalin Prabhat-IPS, Special DGP Coordination PHQ Shri S.J.M. Gillani-IPS, ADGP Headquarters M.K. Sinha-IPS, and IGP Kashmir

V.K. Birdi-IPS, attended the launch ceremony. Other district and armed police officials joined via video conferencing.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Singh emphasised the role of digital platforms in ensuring real-time financial oversight. "Systems like PBAS play a crucial role in strengthening governance and optimising the use of public resources," he said. DGP Nalin Prabhat highlighted that modern financial management systems are vital for enhancing institutional efficiency and accountability within the police organisation. A live demonstration of the software was given by Shakeel Maqbool, ICAS-IFA J&K, who explained that the platform aligns with the broader vision of digital transformation. "It will facilitate efficient planning, allocation, and monitoring of budgetary resources while minimising delays and manual errors," he said.

Action Against Illegal Mining in Budgam

HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, APR 2: Authorities in Budgam district have intensified their ongoing crackdown against illegal mining, continuing efforts to safeguard natural resources and maintain ecological balance in the region.

In a major operation conducted today, the District Mineral Officer (DMO) Budgam led a late-night enforcement drive in the Rathsunia area of Beerwah. The **कारवाज** specifically targeted illegal mining activities taking place in Nallah Sukhnag, a location that has reportedly witnessed



repeated instances of unauthorized mineral extraction.

According to official sources, the enforcement team took decisive steps to immediately halt the illegal operations. Key access routes used by miners to transport extracted materials were blocked and cut off, effectively disrupting further activity at the site.

The operation was carried out in coordination with officials from the District Mineral Office and personnel from the Flood Control Department, highlighting a joint effort by multiple agencies to tackle the issue.

Authorities reiterated their firm stance against illegal mining, stating that such enforcement drives will continue in the coming days. They emphasized that strict monitoring mechanisms are being put in place to prevent the unlawful exploitation of riverbeds and other natural resources.

The administration also underlined the environmental risks posed by illegal mining, noting that unregulated extraction can lead to soil erosion, damage to aquatic ecosystems, and increased flood vulnerability. Officials assured the public that protecting the environment remains a top priority, and violators will face strict action under the law.

Govt places 136 Senior Lecturers as in-charge Principals: Sakeena Itoo

Says process in final stage to fill all vacant posts of Principals

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 02: Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo, today informed that 136 Senior Lecturers were placed as in-charge Principals in the months of December-2025 and January-2026. Besides, the process of promotion of 114 ZEOs as in-charge Principals is in the final stage to fill all vacant posts of Principals in the School Education department (SED) across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister said this while replying to a Calling Attention Notice moved by Legislator Javid Hassan Baig in the Legislative Assembly.

She informed that with regard to subject specific teachers in Baramulla constituency, 27 Teachers/Masters/Lecturers have



been deployed to these Higher Secondary Schools in addition to their own duties to teach the subject where they hold expertise.

The Minister further said that, out of 15 Higher Secondary Schools functioning in Baramulla constituency, 09 are without Principals and the process for filling up of the posts of Principals is being made through promotions.

She added that in December-2025 and January-2026, 136 Senior Lecturers were placed as I/c Principals while the process for promotion of 114 ZEOs as in-charge Principals is in the final stage, by virtue of which vacant posts will be filled up across J&K, including those of Baramulla Constituency.

She informed the House that, additionally, 594 vacancies for

Lecturers across various subjects have been referred to the JKPCS with selection lists nearing completion and selections already received for some subjects.

The Minister said that the department is also making placement of PG Masters/Teachers as I/c Lecturers in various disciplines, adding that since January-2026, 48 PG Masters/Teachers have been elevated as I/c Lecturers in the discipline of Geography, 10 in Dogri and 87 in Political Science. She highlighted that the elevation in other disciplines is in pipeline and shall be finalized soon through which the vacancies of subject specific teachers/Lecturers shall be met out throughout Jammu and Kashmir including Baramulla Constituency.

Joint Secretary Meity reviews PM SHRI schools in Udhampur, emphasizes quality education, innovation

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR, APRIL 02: Joint Secretary, Ministry for Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) Government of India and Central Nodal Officer for PM SHRI Schools, Sushil Pal ICAS, today visited Udhampur district and chaired a review meeting to assess the functioning and implementation of PM SHRI Schools.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner, Minga Sherpa, Joint Director School Education Udhampur-Reasi, Dr. Jagdish Chander Mehra, State Coordinator PM SHRI Schools, Fayaz Ahmed Fayaz, Chief Education Officer along with Principals of PM SHRI Schools and other concerned officers.

Joint Director School Education extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries and presented an overview of PM SHRI Schools in Udhampur district.

The Central Nodal Officer conducted a detailed review of the scheme implementation and interacted with the heads of PM SHRI Schools to assess their functioning and infrastructure.

He emphasized the importance of building motivation and confidence among the students, stating that a motivated learner is key to academic success. He also reviewed the infrastructural development, academic performance and innovative initiatives undertaken under the PM SHRI scheme.

He urged the school heads to ensure that the benefits of the PM SHRI scheme reach every eligible student in an effective and timely manner.

The Deputy Commissioner encouraged the institutional heads to gain first hand insights into classroom practices, learner engagement and school leadership processes. He appreciated the visible transformation in school ecosystems and the commitment of educators towards fostering a learner-centric environment.

Meanwhile, State Coordinator PM SHRI Schools presented a detailed overview of infrastructural upgrades, academic milestones and innovative practices being implemented across PM SHRI institutions in Udhampur.

Later, the Central Nodal officer visited PM SHRI High School Johnu in Udhampur district and interacted with the staff members and students.

Dardpora WSS nears completion; JJM to benefit 2,165 households:

Javed Rana

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 02: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today informed that Water Supply Scheme for village Dardpora has been taken up under the Jal Jeevan Mission at an approved cost of 980.19 lakh.



The Minister said that the scheme, covering 2165 households, is presently under execution with approximately 80 percent physical progress achieved. He stated this while replying to a Calling Attention Motion moved by MLA Mir Saifullah.

Javed Rana said that completion of the scheme for Dardpora will ensure adequate and sustainable drinking water supply to all the panchayat halqas.

The Minister informed that out of the five panchayat halqas of village Dardpora in Trehgam Constituency, Panchayat Halqas C, D and E are presently being provided piped water supply through the existing schemes, namely Panzgam, Reddi Rashi Mohalla and WSS Banjerpati.

However, the panchayat halqas A and Bare currently experiencing low service level issues with regard to water supply, which are being addressed through deployment of water tankers.

The Minister further informed that the project is being executed in a time-bound manner with close monitoring to ensure its early completion and delivery of intended benefits to the targeted population.

Machil-Z-Gali Tunnel gets approval, DPR proposed for inclusion in Annual Works Plan: Deputy CM

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 02: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary announced that a tunnel connecting Machil Sector to hinterland at Z-Gali has been sanctioned under the 'Other than Capital Acquisition' head with preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) is underway for its inclusion in the Annual Works Plan (AWP) 2026-27.

The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to a question raised by Legislator, Qaysar Jamshaid Lone in the Legislative Assembly today.

He said that the Machil (Machhal)



area experiences heavy snowfall during winter months, which affects the connectivity and poses difficulties for the residents. He added that an institutional mechanism is in place to address the essential requirements during winters, with advance planning and necessary arrangements made to ensure availability of basic services, including healthcare and essential supplies. The Deputy Chief Minister said that representations for construction of Lolab-Bandipora Tunnel have been received from the local population, citing its strategic and connectivity importance.

Rs 109.22 cr allocated for roads across South Kashmir constituencies: Deputy Chief Minister

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 02: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today said that Rs. 109.22 crore funds have been allocated for the road construction works across South Kashmir constituencies during the financial year 2025-26. He added that macadamization of about 268.67 kilometre road length was carried out across South Kashmir during this period.

The Deputy Chief Minister, was replying to a question raised by MLA, Ghulam Mohiud-Din Mir in the Legislative Assembly.

He said that the work has been done under sectors like Cities and Towns, Potholes, UT Road Sector, NABARD, CRIF and District Capex. He added that on the recommendation of the MLA Rajpora, a project proposal for widening and upgradation of Lassipora-Litter-Sangam road covering a length of 14 km, at an estimated cost of Rs. 98.71 crore, has been received by the department and is presently under consideration.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the DPR for construction of 15 km Kandipathri-Shidak Shrine Road project has been prepared at an estimated cost of Rs. 48.26 crore. He added that a major portion of the proposed alignment falls under the forest area and, therefore, requires mandatory forest clearance prior to execution. He further said that the DPR for widening and



upgradation of Lassipora-Litter-Sangam road has been prepared at an estimated cost of Rs. 98.71 crore under CRIF.

He added that the existing carriageway width of about 5.5 meter is inadequate in view of the heavy traffic, particularly due to the presence of Industrial Growth Centre (IGC), Lassipora.

Further, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the proposals are under consideration of the department which is ascertaining the feasibility and availability of the resources.

Kalakote-Sunderbani sees boost in PHE, I&FC works

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 02 : Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today informed the Legislative Assembly that significant progress has been achieved in execution of works under various funding schemes like UT CAPEX, SDRF, BDC, CDF and District CAPEX in Kalakote-Sunderbani constituency of district Rajouri.

He stated this while replying to a question raised by MLA Randhir Singh regarding fund utilization in Kalakote-Sunderbani constituency.

The Minister said that under the UT CAPEX, an amount of Rs 350.15 lakh has been released, against which an expenditure of Rs 107.18 lakh has been incurred, so far, on PHE Jammu works in respect of the Kalakote-Sunderbani constituency.

Elaborating, the Minister said that under district CAPEX, CDF, BDC and SDRF funds to the tune of Rs 110.47 lakh have been released and all the approved works have been completed.

The Minister further apprised the House of the status of works under execution in Kalakote-Sunderbani constituency by the Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) Department, stating that several projects are at different stages of implementation. He informed that a list of damages to the infrastructure projects in Kalakote-Sunderbani constituency has been submitted to the Finance Department for



necessary consideration.

Regarding SASCI proposals, the Minister said that works amounting Rs 226.16 lakh have been submitted for Kalakote-Sunderbani constituency in respect of I&FC Jammu. He also stated that separate proposals have been submitted to the Finance Department for works under I&FC Jammu.

Responding to the concerns raised by the concerned legislator, the Minister asserted that the government is committed to equitable distribution of resources across all constituencies. He maintained that all the projects in the constituency are being taken up in a balanced manner, adding that sustained efforts have been made to ensure timely completion of works.

Reiterating the government's commitment, he said that every region is being facilitated on equal footing with development initiatives being guided by people's welfare.

Rs 68.34 lakh approved for infrastructure in 9 schools of Ramgarh Constituency: Sakeena Itoo

Says numerous measures undertaken to ensure 100% enrolment at Primary level

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 02 : Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo, today informed the House that nine schools in Ramgarh Constituency have been approved for creation of various infrastructure facilities with a financial implication of Rs. 68.34 lakh under Samagra Shiksha.

The Minister said this while replying to a question raised by Legislator Balwant Singh Mankotia on behalf of MLA Dr. Devinder Manyal in the Legislative Assembly regarding status of schools in border areas.

She informed that the School Education department has initiated

numerous measures to bring children to schools and ensure 100% enrolment at Primary level. She added that steps are being taken to address the declining enrolment in schools like conduct of enrolment drives by DSEJ/K, identification of out of School Children through door-to-door survey and their mainstreaming through direct enrolment and establishment of seasonal centres for the children of tribal migratory population to prevent learning disruption during the migratory period.

The Minister also said that free uniforms and text books are being provided to around 8 lakh children,

Mid-Day Meal under PM POSHAN to every child from pre-primary sections to Class 8th as well as scholarship is being provided to the girl students under the Beti Anmol Scheme to encourage the girl's education at Senior Secondary Level.

She added that the school buildings and land rendered vacant due to the merger of schools has been handed over to the concerned District Administration for utilization by the other departments.

The Minister also said that there is no proposal for up-gradation of schools to next higher level from Primary to Middle, Middle to High and High to Higher

Secondary including the schools of border areas, as the School Education Department is focusing on creation of required infrastructure and providing staff to all the schools especially the upgraded ones.

She added that as and when there is any proposal for up-gradation of existing schools, the feasible schools of border areas shall also be examined for consideration.

The Minister also said that nine schools of border villages falling in Samba district have been proposed for up-gradation in terms of infrastructure and other facilities under Vibrant Village Programme (VVP-II).

Rs 136.67 lakh spent on sports infra in past 3 yrs in Billawar constituency: Satish Sharma

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 02 : An amount of Rs. 136.67 lakh has been spent on promotion and upgradation of sports infrastructure in Billawar constituency during the past three years.

This information was given by Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, while replying to a question raised by Legislator Satish Kumar Sharma in the Legislative Assembly today.

He said that the department has already distributed 149 sports kits in different schools and clubs in the said constituency. He added that the department also conducts trail/selection camps and talent hunt programmes at school and zone level on a regular basis.

"During the current financial year 2025-26, playfields have been developed in the constituency including construction and upgradation of playground at HS Lohai with

an allotted cost of Rs 5.48 lakh and construction of Synthetic Volleyball Court at Government HSS Dhar Dugnoo with an allotted cost of Rs 8.81 lakh", informed the Deputy CM.

He added that several works are under execution like construction of practice pitch, competition pitch and volleyball court and allied works at playfield Billawar amounting Rs. 35.00 lakh approved under CAPEX.

Besides, construction of a playfield at Ridi ward number 7 Panchayat Malti block Billawar district approved under CAPEX worth Rs 20.00 lakh is also being done on war footing.

The Minister further said that 53 awareness programmes, sports activities and other competitions have been held in the constituency in the past three years. He further said that sports activities would be given a huge fillip in the rural and border areas.

527 Stone Crushers operational in J&K: Deputy Chief Minister

Says Govt vows to balance growth with environmental protection

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 02: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today informed that 527 stone crusher units are operational in Jammu and Kashmir following due process, with development works unaffected by the non-functional units.

The Deputy Chief Minister stated this while replying to a Calling Attention Notice moved by Legislator Balwant Singh Mankotia in the Legislative Assembly.

He said that, of 691 stone crusher units, 527 are operational and 164 are non-functional, including 48 that have been sealed or closed. These units have been operating in compliance with the set regulations and their closure has not significantly



impacted any ongoing development project in the Union Territory.

Territory.

The Deputy Chief Minister stated that the department has taken necessary measures under current rules and provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Minor Mineral Concession, Storage, Transportation of Minerals and Prevention of Illegal Mining Rules, 2016, along with Pollution Control Committee guidelines, to curb illegal mining and ensure smooth operation of stone crushers across the UT. He added that the department ensures availability of finished material to the executing agencies for development works, serving a dual purpose of preventing revenue loss and curbing the illegal mining activities.

He said that the compliant stone crusher units are operating smoothly while those violating the prescribed norms like lacking

consent, environmental clearance or pollution control measures have been shut. Despite sufficient notice, non-compliant units failed to rectify deficiencies and were closed, he added.

He added that to ensure environmental compliance and safeguard the public health and ecology, the authority had to shut down the non-compliant units, following due process and provisions of law.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that regular inspections are being carried out to prevent illegal operation of such units and strict action is being taken against the violators. He added that the government remains committed to balance the development needs with the environmental protection and will continue to enforce the rules rigorously.

J&K Cancer institutes, Oncology departments strictly functioning as per TMC guidelines: Sakeena Itoo

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 02: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today said that the Cancer institutes and Oncology departments in Jammu and Kashmir are functioning as Day Care Centres exclusively for the administration of chemotherapy for solid tumours and these services are being provided strictly in accordance with the mandatory guidelines issued by Tata Memorial Centre (TMC).

The Minister said this while replying to a question raised by Legislator R.S Pathania in the House today regarding Cancer Treatment Institutes.

She informed that all the standard treatment protocols are being meticulously followed for treatment of Cancer patients and there is no violation of any



mandatory TMC guidelines, adding that chemotherapy services are being delivered as per the approved norms under the AB-PMJAY Scheme.

The Health Minister also informed that the Drugs which are part of Cancer Care of Health Benefit Package Ayushman Bharat PMJAY/SEHAT Scheme are being procured through JKMSCL. She added that all procurements of chemotherapy and supportive drugs are carried out strictly in accordance with the prescribed financial rules, procurement guidelines and established procedures through JKMSCL.

She also said that in case of non-availability of drugs, local purchases are resorted to only to meet the emergent clinical requirements in the interest of patient care and such procurements are duly supported by the requisite technical justifications and approvals as per the prescribed norms.

The Minister informed that during the past two years, requests seeking relaxation or modification of existing Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs), wherever received, have been examined on merit and processed strictly as per the prescribed procedure and in consultation with the competent technical authorities.

While responding to the supplementary questions of Legislator, the Minister said that all the procurements are being done as per the standard protocols and rules in the health department.

Rana meets several delegations; Assures redressal of key public issues

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 02: A delegation of Contractors Co-ordination Committee (CCC) called on Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana and apprised him of issues related to the release of pending payments under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Jammu & Kashmir.



The delegation submitted that contractors across the Union Territory are experiencing delays in the settlement of work bills. They requested the Minister's intervention for early signing of the reform-linked MoU and timely release of funds so that pending liabilities are cleared and execution of vital public works continues smoothly.

During the day, several other delegations from Samba, Reasi and other areas met the Minister and projected their issues and demands pertaining to their respective areas and sectors.

Besides, the delegation demanded construction of bunds for protection of agricultural land and infrastructure, along with construction of proper drainage systems to address waterlogging and sanitation concerns.

Similarly, another delegation sought release of pending wages with the PHE Division Kishtwar and sought early release of the same.

Likewise, other delegations raised various individual service matters pertaining to their respective departments and sought timely redressal.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the delegations and assured them that all genuine issues would be examined on priority. He directed the concerned authorities to look into the matters and take necessary action for their timely resolution.

Reiterating the government's commitment towards public welfare, the Minister emphasized that focused efforts are being made to address grassroots issues and improve basic infrastructure across all regions.

3-Day Phase-I Training for Census 2027 culminates in District Kishtwar

HT NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR, APRIL 02: The District Administration Kishtwar (Principal Census Office), in collaboration with the Directorate of Census Operations J&K, conducted a comprehensive three-day Phase-I training programme for designated officials for Census-2027.

On Day 3 of the programme, held today, the training focused on hands-on practice on CMMS and HLO, marking the final day of the three-day training programme for Charge Officers and census clerks.

The training programme was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (Principal Census Officer), Pankaj Kumar Sharma.

Resource persons from the Directorate of Census Operations J&K, including AD (Nodal Officer) (Census & Operations Office J&K) Balbir Singh; Nodal Officer Kishtwar, Chandra Shekhar Singh Rajawat; Resource Person, Vinay Kumar Singh along with other officials imparted the training.

The sessions covered key aspects such as role and responsibilities of



census staff, core concepts of House Listing Operations and hands-on training on the Census Management & Monitoring System (CMMS) and HLBC web portal.

The Deputy Commissioner, in his address, stressed the need for seamless coordination among field level functionaries for smooth census operations. He instructed officers to perform their duties with dedication, precision and professionalism.

The participants actively engaged in the training sessions, gaining valuable insights into digital tools and procedural frameworks essential for modern census operations.

The day concluded with interactive discussions, during which field-level challenges were addressed and operational queries were clarified.

The programme was attended by ADC Pawan Kotwal (District Census Officer); PO ICDS Dr. Rishi Kumar Sharma; ACD Manoj Kumar; SDM Marwah, Dr. Mohd Ashraf (SDCO); SDM Chatroo, Nayeem Ur Rehman (SDCO); CEO Municipal Council Kishtwar, Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; all Tehsildars (Charge Census Officers); DSEO Kishtwar, Suresh Kumar Sharma (ADCO); CEO Sanjay Dogra along with other clerical and technical staff associated with the census operations.

DC reviews progress of civic works in Kishtwar Township

HT NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR, APRIL 02: Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma today reviewed the working of the Municipal Council and assessed the progress of ongoing development works in Kishtwar town.

At the outset, the MC Executive Officer Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal shared detailed insights on the current status of the 32 works being executed by the Urban Body, including the Town Beautification Project and Central Drainage works.

DC directed the Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) to expedite all these works and ensure timely

completion, including the works under CSR.

The DC also instructed to clear the decks for establishing Material Recovery Facility to improve waste management in the town. He further directed the concerned officers to start work on the Automated Car Parking Project proposed to be developed near Ashiana Orphanage. The EO was directed to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness in the town as well as in surrounding areas.

The DC, while laying special emphasis, directed the Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Kishtwar to start work on Rs 4.21 crore Central Drainage Project at the earliest



and complete the same within one month.

Taking note of road damage caused by wastewater, the DC

directed the committee formed earlier by the DC to check unauthorized service stations without proper drainage and seal them if found violating norms.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for timely execution of all works and better coordination among departments for the overall development of Kishtwar.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Vinod Kumar Behnal; ADC Pawan Kotwal; CPO Akhil Thakur; ACR Idrees Lone; CEO Municipal Council Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; Ex En Jal Shakti Rohit Wadera; Ex En JPDCL besides other Officers and Concerned Staff.

DC Poonch reviews implementation of Road Safety Plan

HT NEWS NETWORK

POONCH, APRIL 02: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting of the District Level Road Safety Committee (DLRSC) to review and strengthen road safety measures across the district.

Detailed discussions were held on ensuring black spot free roads for commuters. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed accident-prone locations and emphasized the need for a thorough survey to ascertain the causes of road accidents. He directed the executing agencies to carry out comprehensive assessments and take necessary corrective measures.

The concerned departments were asked to utilize the funds allocated for the removal of black spots effectively to enhance road safety. The recent road accidents were reviewed on a case-to-case basis, with a focus on identifying reasons and implementing preventive strategies. Directions were also issued for the



identification and rectification of any left-out accident-prone spots.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Muhammad Sayeed, SE PWD (R&B), Arvind Mangay, CMO, CEO Municipality, ARTO, DIO NIC, Dysp, Hqr, Tehsildar Hqr, Executive Engineers and other concerned officers.

3-Day training for Phase-I concludes at Poonch

HT NEWS NETWORK

POONCH, APRIL 2: The District Administration Poonch today successfully concluded a three-day district-level training programme for District and Charge Level Officers, Officials for smooth conduct of Phase-I Census-2027 (House Listing & Housing Census - HLO).

The training programme was conducted in accordance with the guidelines of the Directorate of Census Operations, J&K, with the objective of capacity building of Census functionaries at district and charge levels.

The sessions focused on sensitizing officers to their role and responsibilities, the concepts of House Listing Operations and hands-on training on the Census Management & Monitoring



System (CMMS) and HLBS web applications.

The training was organised in multiple sessions from March 24, 25 to April 2, 2026, ensuring comprehensive coverage of all operational aspects for the smooth and efficient conduct of Census 2027 Phase-I.

Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma, who is also the Principal Census Officer for the district, underscored the significance of accurate and reliable data collection and stressed the need for close coordination among field-level functionaries.

He exhorted the officers to

discharge their duties with utmost dedication and professionalism to ensure the successful conduct of the upcoming Census.

The participants actively engaged in the sessions and gained valuable practical exposure to digital tools and procedural frameworks.

The programme concluded with interactive discussions, addressing field-level challenges and clarifying operational queries.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik; District Statistics & Evaluation Officer Javid Ahmed; District Informatics Officer NIC Parvinder Singh; District Coordinators from the Directorate of Census Operations, J&K and Ladakh, Tehsildars, Executive Officers and other officials associated with the forthcoming Census exercise participated in the training programme.

HT EDITORIAL

People, government need to be responsible during times of crisis

Ever since the United States of America and Israel have lodged a war against Iran the union territory government led by chief minister Omar Abdullah has been maintaining that there is no need to worry since there is adequate stock of petrol products and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders in Jammu & Kashmir. Despite this repeated position of the government the ground situation suggests that all is not well in this regard.

People could be seen lining up in queues so as to get a single gas cylinder with very few among them ready to wait and get a cylinder at their doorstep. Most of the people complain that the home delivery of the gas cylinders has been badly hit and the whole system has gone awry. Complaints are also pouring in that the delivery boys or drivers of home delivery vehicles sell the gas cylinders in black market and as such earn quick bucks.

Even though the government claimed that many flying squads have been set up to check the malpractices, hardly any action has been taken so far. There are reports that in some localities people have been found to have pounced upon home delivery vehicles of gas cylinders and such the distribution of gas cylinders could not take place. This has resulted into a situation where-in many of the drivers are reluctant to go to localities and deliver gas cylinders at the doorsteps of people.

At the same time, it is important that people show responsibility while booking their gas cylinders. There is no need to be chaotic and panic should be avoided by the common masses. As and when a gas cylinder is booked by any consumer he or she should wait for the time frame set out by the oil companies to book another cylinder. Chance should be given to the other consumers so that they too book the gas cylinders and then receive the same.

Since some other options of cooking are available to the people it is imperative that such options are explored so that there is less pressure on the oil companies in delivering gas cylinders to the consumers. Since complaints of sale of gas cylinders in black market have come to the fore it is necessary that the oil companies carry out an in-house probe so that the truth comes out. If anybody is found guilty then action should be taken against the same.

Raising mentally strong kids for a challenging World



MOHAMMAD HANIEF

In a world that is increasingly fast-paced, competitive, and unpredictable, raising mentally strong children has become one of the most pressing priorities for parents and educators alike. While academic success and talent development continue to receive significant attention, there is a growing recognition that mental resilience is what ultimately determines how children navigate life's challenges. Strength of mind enables young individuals to cope with stress, adapt to change, recover from setbacks, and move forward with confidence.

Mental strength is often misunderstood as emotional toughness or the ability to suppress feelings. In reality, it is a balanced combination of emotional awareness, rational thinking, and constructive behavior. Children who develop these qualities are better equipped to face disappointment, uncertainty, and pressure without becoming overwhelmed. They learn not only how to succeed, but also how to endure and grow when things do not go as planned.

The foundation of mental strength is laid early in life, primarily within the home environment. Children learn how to respond to difficulties by observing the adults around them. When parents handle stress with patience, accept responsibility for mistakes, and demonstrate perseverance, children absorb these behaviors naturally. This modeling effect is powerful, as it provides real-life examples of resilience in action. On the other hand, environments that encourage avoidance, excessive worry, or fear of failure can hinder the development of emotional strength.

One of the most significant challenges in modern parenting is finding the right balance between support and overprotection. While it is natural to want to shield children from discomfort, constantly removing obstacles from their path can limit their ability to develop coping mechanisms. Experiencing manageable difficulties is essential for growth. When children face setbacks, solve problems independently, or navigate social conflicts, they gradually build confidence in their own



abilities. These experiences teach them that challenges are not threats to be avoided, but opportunities to learn and improve.

Emotional awareness plays a central role in this process. Children need to understand what they are feeling and why. When emotions are acknowledged rather than dismissed, children become more comfortable expressing themselves. This creates a sense of security and trust, allowing them to process their experiences in a healthy way. Over time, they develop the ability to regulate their emotions, which is a key component of mental resilience. Instead of reacting impulsively, they learn to pause, reflect, and respond thoughtfully.

Another important aspect of raising mentally strong children is shifting the focus from outcomes to effort. In many environments, success is measured by visible achievements such as grades, awards, or recognition. While these are important, an excessive emphasis on results can create pressure and fear of failure. Children may begin to associate their self-worth with performance, leading to anxiety and avoidance of challenges. When effort, persistence, and improvement are valued instead, children develop a growth-oriented mindset. They begin to see mistakes as part of the learning process rather than as indicators of inadequacy.

Discipline and structure also contribute significantly to mental strength. Clear expectations and consistent

boundaries provide children with a sense of stability and responsibility. When rules are fair and predictable, children learn to manage their behavior and make thoughtful choices. This form of guidance is most effective when it focuses on teaching rather than punishment. Understanding the consequences of actions helps children develop accountability, which strengthens their decision-making skills over time.

Modern society presents a unique set of challenges that make mental resilience even more critical. The influence of digital media, for instance, has introduced constant comparison and exposure to unrealistic standards. Children are often confronted with curated versions of others' lives, which can affect their self-esteem and sense of identity. Additionally, academic pressure and uncertainty about future opportunities contribute to stress at an increasingly young age. In such an environment, it becomes essential to create spaces where children feel valued for who they are, not just for what they achieve.

Encouraging independence is another key factor in building mental strength. When children are given opportunities to make decisions and take responsibility for their actions, they develop a sense of control over their lives. This autonomy fosters confidence and reduces reliance on external validation. Even small choices can have a meaningful impact, as they allow children to experience the con-

sequences of their decisions and learn from them. Over time, this builds resilience and prepares them to handle more complex challenges.

Failure, often perceived negatively, is one of the most valuable experiences in a child's development. It teaches perseverance, adaptability, and humility. Children who are allowed to fail in a supportive environment learn that setbacks are temporary and manageable. They begin to approach challenges with curiosity rather than fear, understanding that growth often comes from difficulty. Normalizing failure helps remove the stigma associated with it, making it easier for children to take risks and explore new possibilities.

The role of schools in this process cannot be overlooked. Educational institutions are not just centers of academic learning; they are also environments where children develop social and emotional skills. When schools incorporate programs that promote emotional intelligence, teamwork, and problem-solving, they complement the efforts of families. A consistent approach between home and school creates a strong support system that reinforces positive behaviors and attitudes. Ultimately, raising mentally strong children requires patience, consistency, and intentional effort. It is not about eliminating struggles or ensuring constant success, but about equipping children with the tools they need to navigate life independently. This involves allowing them to face challenges, guiding them through their emotions, and encouraging them to keep trying even when the outcome is uncertain.

As the world continues to evolve, the importance of resilience will only grow. Children who are mentally strong are more likely to become adaptable, confident, and empathetic individuals. They are better prepared to handle uncertainty, build meaningful relationships, and contribute positively to society. By prioritizing mental strength alongside academic and physical development, parents and educators can help shape a generation that is not only capable, but also resilient in the face of life's complexities.

The responsibility is shared, and the impact is long-lasting. Investing in a child's mental strength today is an investment in a more balanced and resilient society tomorrow.

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Family People Live Together But Absorb In Digital World



MOOL RAJ

As the world observes the ongoing conflict in West Asia, its effects are being experienced far beyond the immediate region. Rising fuel prices, economic uncertainty, and a constant stream of distressing news have begun to influence everyday life across societies. At the same time, with technology and global connectivity shaping modern work patterns, balancing professional duties with family life has become less of a choice and more of a necessity, though it continues to remain a difficult task.

The contemporary workplace, heavily influenced by digital tools, has significantly changed daily routines. The clear boundary that once separated work from personal time is gradually disappearing. Work now extends into homes through smartphones and laptops, making it increasingly hard for individuals to disengage. While this transformation has improved efficiency and provided flexibility, it has also resulted in constant accessibility, often

interfering with time meant for family and personal well-being.

In many households today, people live together physically but remain absorbed in their own digital spaces. A parent may be occupied with work emails, while a child is engaged with a screen, and conversations are limited to short, functional exchanges. Being physically present no longer ensures emotional closeness. This gradual weakening of personal connections is one of the less acknowledged outcomes of a fast-paced, always-connected lifestyle.

The present global situation has added to these existing pressures. The conflict in West Asia has contributed to increasing living costs and heightened financial concerns. Families are dealing with worries about stability, employment, and the future. Continuous exposure to news updates further adds to stress and anxiety, which often affects the atmosphere within homes. Even children, though not always directly involved in such discussions, can sense the tension around them.

In such circumstances, the importance of family as a source of emotional support becomes more evident. People look to their homes for reassurance and stability. However, this sense of comfort can only exist when relationships are actively maintained. It is not just about spending time together, but about being truly attentive. Listening carefully, engaging in meaningful conversations, and creating shared experiences within busy routines help

strengthen bonds. Simple activities like eating together without distractions, taking a walk, or discussing daily events can contribute to emotional security and stronger relationships.

Maintaining clear boundaries between work and personal life is also necessary. While work responsibilities cannot always be avoided, allowing them to dominate personal time can strain relationships. Fixing work hours, reducing communication beyond those hours, and consciously stepping away from devices during family time are practical ways to maintain balance. Parents play a crucial role in ensuring stability within the family. By providing reassurance, guidance, and a supportive environment, they help children feel secure even during uncertain times. A calm home atmosphere allows children to cope better with external stress. When parents invest time in meaningful interactions, they contribute to building a stable and supportive environment. Organisations also have a responsibility to support their employees by encouraging reasonable working hours and respecting personal time. Perfect balance may not always be possible, but conscious effort can help manage both responsibilities. Balancing work and family life is not just about managing time but also about recognising priorities.

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Hakeem Manzoor

A Complex Literary Legacy of Kashmir



■ DR. MOHIUDIN ZORE KASHMIRI

Hakeem Manzoor (1937–2006) stands among the most celebrated and influential Urdu poets of Jammu and Kashmir, associated with the rich tradition of Dabistan-e-Urdu. Although primarily known for his poetry, he also produced prose of considerable quality and depth. A significant amount of material about his life and works is available today, including academic research conducted by universities in Jammu and Kashmir. The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages published a special issue of Sheer-aza dedicated to him, while many scholars and writers have contributed essays highlighting different dimensions of his personality and literary contributions. His works are also included in Urdu syllabi at schools and colleges, ensuring that new generations remain familiar with his legacy.

Given this recognition, one may ask: why revisit and write about Hakeem Manzoor again? The answer lies in the diversity of perspectives individuals bring to literary figures. Every reader, researcher, or contemporary has a unique understanding shaped by personal experiences. My own perception of Hakeem Manzoor is influenced not only by his literary output but also by my direct encounters with him.

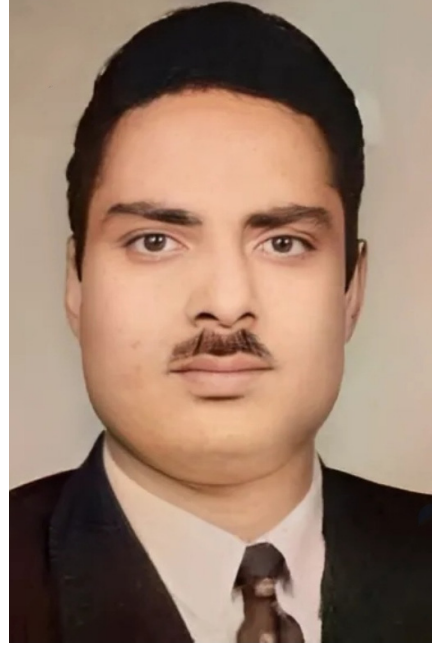
From a personal standpoint, I found him somewhat dismissive of newcomers in the

literary field. This aspect of his personality reflected a certain rigidity or perhaps an old-school mind set. However, it would be unfair to allow such impressions to overshadow his immense contributions. Agreeing with a person's behaviour is not a prerequisite for acknowledging their intellectual and creative significance. Despite his personal shortcomings, Hakeem Manzoor remains a towering figure in Kashmiri Urdu literature.

He maintained a wide circle of friends and acquaintances, partly due to his prestigious position in government service. Beginning his career as a clerk, he rose to one of the highest bureaucratic levels by successfully clearing competitive examinations. His professional journey reflects determination and intellectual capability, traits that also resonated in his literary work.

In academic discussions about Urdu literature in Jammu and Kashmir, names like Professor Hamidi and Hakeem Manzoor are frequently mentioned. During my own research at the Iqbal Library of Kashmir University, particularly while examining Urdu journals published after 1947, I observed that Hakeem Manzoor was among the very few writers from the region whose work consistently appeared in national-level publications. This highlights not only his literary merit but also his reach beyond regional boundaries.

My personal interactions with him were mixed. On one occasion, I visited his private office, Khabr-o-Nazar, located near Pratap Park in Srinagar. Our conversation began on academic topics, but I was disappointed by what I perceived as a somewhat narrow, clerical attitude. However, a later encounter in 2003 at a literary gathering during the Kashmir Book Festival at the College of Education on M.A. Road com-



pletely changed my impression. There, he delivered a powerful lecture on Iqbal, speaking with remarkable authority, passion, and depth of knowledge. His commanding voice and intellectual clarity left a lasting impression on me.

In 2006, he was honored at SKICC, though by then he was suffering from a serious illness. Despite his declining health, his contributions had already secured him a permanent place in the literary history of the region.

Setting aside personal experiences, Hakeem Manzoor's role in promoting literature and journalism in Jammu and Kashmir is undeniable. As a government employee in the Civil Secretariat, he utilized opportunities such as the Darbar Move to organize literary events in both Jammu and Kashmir regions. In doing so, he helped

bridge cultural and literary communities across regions. Additionally, he ran a trilingual newspaper, Khabr-o-Nazar, demonstrating his commitment to journalism alongside literature. Importantly, literature was not his primary profession, yet he served it selflessly without seeking financial gain.

His literary output is vast, comprising dozens of books in Urdu, English, and Kashmiri. Some of his notable works include Natamam (1977), Lahoo Lamas Chinar (1982), Bharaf Ritu ke Aag (1990), Khushboo ka Naam Naya (1991), Phool Shafaq Aangan Ke (1993), Sher Aasman (1993), Subh-e-Shafaq Tilawat (1998), Baraf Aftab (2000), Sukhan Baraf Zaar (2002), and Qalam Zubaan Shigaf (2005), among others. He wrote in multiple genres including ghazal, nazm, and ruba'i, and also translated works from English such as The Valley of Kashmir and Documents of Kashmir.

Hakeem Manzoor received recognition from various literary bodies, and his poetry was highly praised by eminent scholars like Professor Jagan Nath Azad, Gopi Chand Narang, Jameel Jalibi, Hamidi Kashmiri, and Mushfaq Khwaja. His work reflects a balance between different literary movements beginning in the era of progressive writing, evolving through modernism, and witnessing postmodern influences. Yet, he maintained his own distinct voice, deeply rooted in the socio-political realities of Kashmir.

A defining feature of his poetry is its strong connection to the land of Kashmir. His verses are filled with local imagery and vocabulary (Jhelum, baraf (snow), kangri, akhrot (walnut), and chinar capturing the essence of Kashmiri identity. This use of indigenous elements reflects a form of literary nativism, giving his poetry authenticity and emotional resonance.

He often addressed social issues, cultural preservation, and the erosion of traditional values. At times, he incorporated mythological and supernatural elements, blending them with philosophical reflections. His poetry also critiques the political and social leadership of the region, often using symbolism to portray the suffering and confusion of the people. His well-known poem "Buz Dili Aek Azaab Hai" exemplifies his concern for the moral and social decay in society.

Hakeem Manzoor's poetry is also marked by a deep sense of longing and hope for Kashmir. He mourned the changing social fabric, where respect for noble values seemed to be diminishing, yet he never lost faith in the possibility of renewal. His lines often carry a prayer-like quality, expressing hope for the restoration of lost dignity and harmony.

In conclusion, Hakeem Manzoor was not a flawless individual, but he was undoubtedly a significant literary figure. His contributions to Urdu literature, journalism, and cultural integration in Jammu and Kashmir are immense. Revisiting his life and work is not merely an academic exercise but an opportunity to understand the complexities of a writer who captured the spirit of Kashmir in his words while navigating the contradictions of his own personality.

Note: "A writer is not measured by his temperament, but by the depth of his words and the reach of his ideas."

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Technology and innovation are giving us the edge, and as a nation, we are working together to reach new heights



■ MS NAZKI

Modern-day warfare is defined by remote destruction, digital deception, and rapid technological acceleration, shifting the focus from physical frontlines to information dominance, logistical superiority, and unmanned systems.

Key themes include the erosion of traditional battlefields, the high human cost, and the constant evolution of strategies (civilian). On Technology and Distant Warfare:

So much destruction in modern war takes place miles and miles away from the source of the destruction, the human being who has caused it.....Once I too believed in this fallacy!

It was back in 1986 when Pak continued to make us dance around with their meteoric firing!

Enough was enough I thought! The next barrage was from us and all the AGL rockets ended upon their Langan!

A loud voice erupted out of silence.....
..!Jazat Mil gay Kya!

I never left the Pak soldiers for three nights! If you want to go anywhere in modern war, in the air, on the sea, on the land, You should be committed!

It's a different matter of fact that I was reprimanded, and got an average sort of a report! But I never allowed a man to be hurt!..... Needless to mention a Red-ink entry!

Anti-submarine warfare is the military version of chess.....Naval words say that

The fastest way to operationalize a weapon or system is - Operational Deployment in LIVE EXERCISE.....A personal experience!

If you know the enemy and know yourself, your victory will not stand in doubt. - Sun Tzu.....The Chinese still sit in silence and so is Russia!

France will never speak!.....This is a game of International Relations! A subject that has been forgotten by the Americans!

"There is no instance of a nation benefitting from prolonged warfare.....US-Iran-Israel war is a testimony to the fact!

What is modern day warfare?

Modern-day warfare, often termed hybrid or fourth-generation warfare, blends traditional military force with cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns, and economic disruption. Key examples include the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine (drones/cyber), Syrian Civil War (proxy warfare), Israeli-Palestinian conflicts, and "gray zone" activities.

Examples of modern-day warfare tactics include:

Drone and Autonomous Weapon Warfare: The extensive use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and drones in Ukraine (e.g., Bayraktar TB2) and in the Syrian conflict for reconnaissance and precision strikes.

Cyber Warfare: Attacks on critical infrastructure, such as disrupting power grids, government communication networks, or financial systems, as seen in various campaigns against Ukraine.

Information and Psychological Operations (PsyOps): Manipulating public opinion through social media bots, deepfakes, and disinformation campaigns to influence elections or weaken resolve, as noted by the Atlantic Council.

Gray Zone Warfare: Actions between peace and open conflict, such as Russia's annexation of Crimea or the use of "little green men" (soldiers without insignia), as described by the Atlantic Council and Helion & Company.

Asymmetric Warfare: Smaller, less powerful forces using guerrilla tactics, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and suicide drone attacks against conventional militaries, as seen in the Iraq War and Colombian cartel conflicts, according to the YouTube video.

Space Warfare: Targeting satellite communication and GPS systems to disrupt enemy command and control.

Maritime Drone Warfare: The use of unmanned surface vehicles (USVs) to target naval ships, exemplified by Ukrainian drone attacks on the Russian Black Sea Fleet, as described in Wikipedia's asymmetric warfare article.

On modern warfare, Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma (GOC-in-C), Northern Command, says, "... Even in today's era of warfare, decisive victory rests on ground dominance. Warfare has broadened with society, industry, and technology now aligning with diplomacy, deterrence, force, and political will, ensuring success..."

Drones, decision weapons, electronic warfare, and counter-systems are reshaping combat. Technology and innovation are giving us the edge, and as a nation, we are working

together to reach new heights."

Evolution of warfare:

Warfare has evolved from primitive hand-to-hand combat to high-tech, AI-driven, and cyber-based operations, shifting from local disputes to global, technological, and asymmetric conflicts. Key stages include ancient manpower-based battles, the gunpowder revolution, industrial-era mechanized warfare, and the current era of artificial intelligence and digital, non-state conflicts.

Evolutionary Stages of Warfare
Ancient & Classical (Pre-1500s): Initial warfare involved clubs, stones, and spears. Development included disciplined phalanxes, chariots, and later, metal weaponry like bronze and iron swords, with battles focusing on physical strength and maneuvering (e.g., Roman Legion).

Gunpowder & Early Modern (1500s–1800s): Gunpowder revolutionized warfare by enabling firearms, such as the matchlock musket, which allowed infantry to penetrate traditional armor. This era shifted towards "line and shot" tactics.

Industrial Warfare (19th–20th Century): Rifled muskets, breech-loading weapons, machine guns, and eventually tanks, aircraft, and armored vehicles transformed battlefields into high-intensity, mechanized industrial scenes.

Modern & Information Warfare (20th Century–Present): Shifted towards "total war" in the mid-20th century (WWII) to 21st-century "4th generation" tactics, focusing on precision weapons, drones, cyber operations, and artificial intelligence (AI).

Key Transformation Drivers
Technology & Tactics: Technological supremacy (e.g., gunpowder, airpower, AI) often dictates success over raw numbers.

Structure: Shifted from small professional armies to large conscript armies during the French Revolution, and now to leaner, technologically advanced forces and non-state actors.

Asymmetric Warfare: Modern challenges involve non-state actors using high-tech tools (e.g., drones, cyber) to challenge traditional militaries, bypassing traditional battlefield rules.

Key Eras of Strategic Change
1st Generation: Manpower-driven, using muskets and column tactics (pre-mid-19th century).
2nd Generation: Industrial firepower, leveraging machinery (19th–20th century).
3rd Generation: Speed, surprise, and stealth,

focusing on bypassing enemy lines (e.g., Blitzkrieg).

4th/5th Generation: Asymmetric warfare, non-state actors, information superiority, and AI-driven combat.

Modern warfare is undergoing a fundamental transformation where emerging technologies—specifically AI, autonomous drones, cyber capabilities, and quantum computing—act as critical strategic surprises. These technologies redefine battlefields by accelerating the speed of combat, enabling precision strikes, and allowing for non-kinetic, hybrid, and autonomous operations that can overwhelm traditional defenses and decision-making processes.....!

What is Asymmetric warfare
Asymmetric warfare is a conflict between opposing forces with significant disparities in military, economic, or technological power, where the weaker side employs unconventional strategies—such as guerrilla tactics, terrorism, and cyber warfare—to exploit the stronger side's vulnerabilities. It often pits state militaries against non-state actors, focusing on eroding the opponent's will rather than direct, force-on-force engagement.

Key aspects of asymmetric warfare include:
Unconventional Tactics: Tactics include guerilla warfare, hit-and-run attacks, suicide bombings, psychological operations, and sabotage.

Targeting Vulnerabilities: The weaker side avoids direct battles, instead targeting civilian infrastructure, using improvised explosive devices (IEDs), or exploiting media/political weaknesses.

Power Disparity: The conflict involves a massive imbalance, such as a formal army against insurgents, paramilitaries, or terrorist groups.

Modern Examples: Recent examples include the use of inexpensive drones to challenge high-tech, expensive military systems.

Goal Differences: The weaker side often seeks to prolong the conflict to make it politically or financially unbearable for the stronger side, as discussed in Wikipedia's entry on asymmetric warfare and seen in studies of Iranian military strategy.

The term became widely popular after 1975 to describe how weaker forces can defeat or stalemate stronger opponents, according to an analysis.

Artificial Intelligence:
Technological evolution in warfare has shifted from conventional, kinetic combat to a digitalized, automated battlefield, character-

ized by precision-guided munitions, AI-driven decision-making, and ubiquitous, low-cost drone proliferation. Modern conflicts increasingly rely on autonomous unmanned systems (aerial, ground, maritime) for surveillance and strike capabilities, reducing personnel risk while transforming logistics and enabling faster, data-driven strategies.

Key technological advancements reshaping military strategy include:

Drone Warfare & Autonomous Systems: Small, inexpensive unmanned vehicles (UAVs) now cause 60%–70% of equipment damage in modern conflicts, significantly altering battlefield dynamics and surveillance capacity, as highlighted by studies from NatStrat. Autonomous weapons systems are rapidly emerging to operate without human intervention.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Analytics: AI accelerates command-and-control decisions, analyzing vast amounts of battlefield data to predict enemy actions and enhance operating efficiency.

Cyber Warfare & Electronic Warfare: Digital infrastructure protection and attacks are now integral to national defense, with networks, communication systems, and cyber capabilities serving as primary targets, reports DefenceXP and ICRC.

Precision-Guided Munitions (PGMs): Modern battlefield success is increasingly reliant on smart missiles and precision bombs, which enhance targeting accuracy while reducing collateral damage, notes Global Tech Awards.

Emerging Technology Trends: Future warfare is incorporating additive manufacturing (3D printing) for field repairs, biotechnology for soldier health monitoring, and advanced energy systems like small nuclear reactors for specialized power needs, according to studies from ODN.

These innovations are transforming how battles are fought and forcing a reassessment of international legal frameworks and ethics, particularly regarding autonomous combatants.

Examples of modern day warfare:
Modern-day warfare is characterized by hybrid strategies, combining conventional military force with cyberattacks, drone technology, AI, and information operations. Key examples include the Ukraine-Russia conflict's use of drones and AI, cyberattacks on infrastructure, and proxy wars like in Yemen. It focuses on destroying enemy systems and logistical supply chains, rather than just combatants.

Recent Advances in the Pharmacological Management of Diabetes Mellitus: A Cardio-Renal-Metabolic Paradigm Shift



■ DR. TASADUK HUSSAIN ITOO

Diabetes mellitus has emerged as one of the most pressing global health challenges of the 21st century, with an estimated 643 million adults projected to be affected by 2030. The disease accounts for millions of deaths annually and imposes a substantial economic burden due to its chronic complications. Contemporary diabetes management has undergone a remarkable transformation, shifting from a purely glucose-centric model to a comprehensive cardio-renal-metabolic (CRM) approach. This paradigm shift emphasizes not only glycaemic control but also the prevention of cardiovascular and renal complications, alongside weight management and individualized care.

At the core of this evolution lies an enhanced understanding of diabetes pathophysiology. Traditional concepts focused primarily on insulin resistance and beta-cell dysfunction; however, modern frameworks such as the "omni-ocet" and the expanded "egregious eleven" highlight additional mechanisms, including incretin deficiency, renal glucose reabsorption, alpha-cell dysregulation, and systemic inflammation. This broader understanding has paved the way for targeted pharmacological interventions that address multiple metabolic pathways simultaneously.

Metformin continues to serve as the foundational therapy for type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), owing to its efficacy, safety, affordability, and weight-neutral profile. Beyond glycaemic control, emerging

evidence suggests potential pleiotropic benefits, including anti-aging effects mediated through AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK) activation and possible reductions in cancer risk. Nonetheless, long-term therapy necessitates monitoring for vitamin B12 deficiency. While sulfonylureas remain effective in lowering HbA1c, their declining use reflects concerns regarding hypoglycemia and weight gain. Thiazolidinediones, particularly pioglitazone, have found a niche role in insulin resistance and metabolic-associated steatohepatitis (MASH), though their use is limited by adverse effects.

One of the most transformative developments in diabetes pharmacotherapy is the incretin revolution. Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists (GLP-1 RAs) have demonstrated robust efficacy in glycaemic reduction, weight loss, and cardiovascular risk mitigation. Agents such as liraglutide, dulaglutide, and semaglutide have become integral components of modern treatment algorithms. Notably, oral semaglutide represents a significant advancement, offering comparable efficacy to injectable formulations through innovative absorption technologies. These agents exert multifaceted effects, including enhanced insulin secretion, delayed gastric emptying, reduced appetite, and suppression of glucagon secretion.

Building upon this success, dual incretin agonists such as tirzepatide have introduced a new era of "twincretin" therapy by targeting both GLP-1 and glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide (GIP) receptors. Clinical trials, including the SURPASS and SURMOUNT programs, have demonstrated unprecedented reductions in HbA1c and body weight, positioning tirzepatide as a class leader. Its benefits extend beyond glycaemic control, with promising effects on obesity and MASH, underscoring the interconnected nature of metabolic diseases.

The frontier of incretin-based therapy continues to expand with the development of triple agonists targeting GLP-1, GIP, and

glucagon receptors. Retatrutide, a leading candidate in this category, has shown remarkable weight loss of approximately 24% in early-phase trials, alongside significant improvements in glycaemic parameters and lipid profiles. These findings suggest that multi-receptor agonism may offer synergistic benefits, potentially redefining the therapeutic landscape of diabetes and obesity.

Parallel to incretin advancements, sodium-glucose co-transporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors have revolutionized diabetes care by extending benefits beyond glucose lowering. By promoting glycosuria and natriuresis, these agents improve hemodynamic parameters and confer substantial cardiovascular and renal protection. Landmark trials such as EMPA-REG, DECLARE-TIMI, and DAPA-CKD have established their role in reducing cardiovascular mortality, heart failure hospitalizations, and progression of chronic kidney disease, irrespective of diabetes status. Dual SGLT2 inhibitors like sotagliflozin further enhance postprandial glucose control and incretin release, highlighting the therapeutic potential of targeting multiple transport pathways.

Innovations in insulin therapy have also contributed significantly to improving patient outcomes and quality of life. The development of once-weekly basal insulins, such as insulin icodex and insulin efsitora alfa, represents a major advancement in reducing injection burden and enhancing adherence. These formulations achieve prolonged action through modified molecular structures and albumin binding, providing stable glycaemic control with fewer injections. Furthermore, the concept of glucose-responsive "smart" insulins, which activate in hyperglycaemic states and deactivate during euglycemia, holds promise for eliminating hypoglycemia risk and mimicking physiological insulin secretion.

Emerging pharmacological classes are targeting novel mechanisms to address unmet needs in diabetes management. Imeglimin,

a member of the glimin class, improves mitochondrial function and reduces oxidative stress, thereby enhancing both insulin sensitivity and beta-cell function. Teplizumab, an anti-CD3 monoclonal antibody, represents a breakthrough in type 1 diabetes by delaying disease onset in high-risk individuals, marking a significant step toward preventive pharmacotherapy. Additionally, glucagon receptor antagonists and agents targeting pathways such as GPR119, 11-HSD1, and fibroblast growth factor-21 (FGF-21) are under investigation, offering new avenues for metabolic modulation. Clinical practice guidelines have evolved in response to these advancements. The 2025/2026 ADA/EASD recommendations advocate early combination therapy and prioritize agents with proven cardiovascular and renal benefits, particularly in high-risk individuals. Weight management is now recognized as a central pillar of diabetes care, with pharmacological strategies aimed at achieving significant weight loss to facilitate disease remission. This shift underscores the importance of addressing obesity as a primary driver of metabolic dysfunction.

Personalized medicine is increasingly shaping therapeutic decision-making in diabetes. Advances in pharmacogenomics and phenotypic classification enable clinicians to tailor treatments based on individual characteristics, such as genetic subtypes and degrees of insulin resistance. For instance, patients with maturity-onset diabetes of the young (MODY) may respond preferentially to low-dose sulfonylureas, while those with severe insulin resistance may benefit from thiazolidinediones or high-dose incretin therapies. This individualized approach enhances efficacy while minimizing adverse effects.

The integration of digital health technologies and artificial intelligence further augments diabetes management. Continuous glucose monitoring systems, smart insulin pens, and hybrid closed-loop systems facilitate real-time data analysis and auto-

mated insulin delivery, reducing glycemic variability and hypoglycemia. Machine learning algorithms are increasingly being utilized to predict individual responses to therapies, enabling more precise and dynamic treatment strategies.

Despite these remarkable advancements, significant challenges remain. The high cost of novel therapies limits their accessibility, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. Ensuring equitable access to life-saving medications and incorporating them into essential medicine lists are critical for addressing global disparities in diabetes care. Additionally, long-term safety data and real-world evidence are needed to fully understand the implications of emerging therapies.

Looking ahead, the future of diabetes pharmacology is poised to embrace groundbreaking innovations, including stem cell-derived beta-cell transplantation, fully bioavailable oral insulin, and precision editing of metabolic pathways. These developments hold the potential to move beyond disease management toward disease modification and even cure.

In conclusion, the pharmacological management of diabetes mellitus has entered an era of unprecedented progress, characterized by a shift toward holistic, patient-centered care. By targeting multiple pathophysiological pathways and prioritizing cardiovascular, renal, and metabolic outcomes, modern therapies offer the promise of improved survival, enhanced quality of life, and reduced burden of complications. Continued research, innovation, and equitable implementation will be essential to fully realize the potential of these advances in transforming diabetes care worldwide.

The author is a (MBBS, FRSPH(UK), FIDF(BELGIUM), IPFP(UK), MAcadMEd(UK), MRSB(UK)). He Can be Reached at drtasadukitoo@gmail.com

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The Azmat e Mustafa (PBUH) Conference 2026: A Spiritual Revolution of Unity, Devotion, and Enlightenment in Batagund Tral

■ MOHAMMAD ARFAT WANI

TRAL, APR 02: The love for Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him is an untainted and timeless gift to all humanity, which has lived in hearts for centuries. It is an illumination that never ends but continues to flourish with the passage of time. This is the love that teaches, purifies, and provides true purpose to our lives. The power of such an emotion to bring people together is not just an assembly but an experience of spirituality and magnificence. The Azmat e Mustafa peace be upon him Conference held on 31st March 2026 in Batagund Tral was an embodiment of unity, spirituality, and devotion.

The program was first planned to take place at the Eidgah ground. However, due to some unavoidable reasons, the program was shifted to the Markazi Jamia Masjid Batagund. This proved to be a turning point for the program, as the peaceful atmosphere provided a special beauty to the program. From early morning, the area was filled with people coming from different places. The roads were filled with people, vehicles were parked in lines, and excitement filled the atmosphere. Despite the limited space and traffic jams, people were calm and happy as they were attending a program filled with love for Prophet peace be upon him.

The mosque and its surroundings provided a highly inspirational view. The audience filled all three floors completely. Even the courtyard, roads, and open spaces were filled with people. Special arrangements were made for LCD screens so that more people could witness the program live. Every face reflected respect and devotion for Prophet peace be upon him. Many eyes were filled with tears and hearts were focused on sending blessings upon Prophet peace be upon him. The program started with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Hafiz Aaqib and Mohammad Shafi Sahab. The recitation of the Holy Quran in a beautiful and respectful manner created a peaceful and spiritual atmosphere in the gathering. After this, the Naat recitation program started. Hafiz Basharat, the respected Imam of the mosque, started the Naat recitation program. His recitation touched the hearts of the listeners in a deep manner and proved his love for the Prophet peace be upon him. After this, Abdul Ahad Mujahid started his introductory speech and also recited a Naat, which added more beauty and spirituality to the gathering.

The speeches of the respected scholars started after the Naat recitation program in a well-organized manner. First, Maulana Syed Hamid Raza started his speech in front of the gathering. In his speech, he beautifully explained different aspects of the life and teachings of the Prophet peace be upon him in a simple and engaging manner. He encouraged the listeners to follow the example of the Prophet in their daily lives and adopt his teachings in a practical manner.

After him, Maulana Mohammad Latif Qadri addressed the gathering with his speech. In his speech, Maulana discussed the reality of death in such a powerful way that a deep silence prevailed in the gathering. Maulana's speech reminded people of their final destination and made them think about it. He also discussed the signs of the end times and told people about five things toward which they would develop an unusual attachment.

The gathering was finally presided over by Allama Maulana Abdul Rasheed Dawoodi, and his speech was highly impactful and memorable. In his speech, Maulana discussed the greatness of the Holy Quran and told people about the importance of developing a deep connection with it. Maulana also discussed the challenges faced by the younger generation in his speech, especially regarding issues like drug addiction, moral degradation, and detachment from religion, in a highly sincere manner. It was not just his speech that was heard by the people, but it was also felt by them.

After the speeches, the chief guest, Irshad Ahmad Attari, recited a Naat. He was very young and did not have physical eyesight, but his heart was filled with the light of Islam and love for the Prophet peace be upon him. He recited the Naat in an emotional tone, which had a very strong impact on everyone present. After him, Ifaam Ali and Zahid Nazir recited Naats in their sweet voices, taking the gathering to the highest peak. The whole environment was filled with Durood and Salaam. Everyone became emotional, and tears were in their eyes. Their hearts were filled with love for the Prophet peace be upon him. These were special moments, which cannot be explained in words but can only be experienced.

rienced. The arrangements for the prayers were also well managed. The Asr prayer was led by Mohammad Tahir Baba, while the program was conducted by Saqib Ahmad. The Maghrib prayer was led by Allama Maulana Abdul Rasheed Dawoodi himself, which was a peaceful moment for everyone present.

This successful program was possible because of the hard work and dedication of Sawt Ul Awwaliya Unit Batagund Tral and the youth. The sincerity and hard work of the team were visible in every aspect of the program. The efforts put in by the team working behind the scenes really deserve special appreciation. The Sawt Ul Awwaliya Unit and the youth of the area worked with great dedication, sincerity, and commitment to make this program successful.

Especially the hard work put in by Dar Aadil was the key to the success of this conference. Along with him, the efforts put in by Shah Nawaz Gul, Suhail Reshi, Muzamil Rashid, Sameer Ahmad Sheikh, Mohammad Iqbal Dar, Ishtiyaq Ahmad Dar, Riyaz Ahmad Shah, Younis Ahmad Mir, Nisar Ahmad Ganie, Liaqat Jalal, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, Umar Rashid Dar, Mohammad Iqbal Sofi, Aijaz Ahmad Dar, Mur-taza Baba, Mohammad Saleem Baba, and Gowhar Ahmad Sheikh were all wholehearted. This shows the point that if the intentions are pure and the goal is noble, success is sure to follow. One of the most special moments of this gathering was the opportunity to meet such respectable personalities as Allama Maulana Abdul Rasheed Dawoodi, Irshad Ahmad Attari, Maulana Syed Hamid Raza, and Maulana Mohammad Latif Qadri. Such meetings will always remain a valuable and memorable part of the experience.

Finally, the media coverage was also a part of the event. Well-known journalist Shabir Bhat Sahab conducted a short interview with Allama Maulana Abdul Rasheed Dawoodi and asked many important questions. His answers were clear, wise, and full of guidance for the audience.

Public Notice

I have Damaged my 10Th 12Th class Marks card, certificate bearing reg no 10th N10480860006 Roll no 558200 12Th reg no N10480860006 Roll no 552268 now I am applying for it's duplicate in this regard if anybody having any objection may file the same to government Girls higher secondary school Handwara within 7 days after that no objection shall be entertained

**AASIYA MAJEED
D/O ABDUL MAJEED LONE
R/O MUQDAM MOHALLA KULAN GAM TEHSIL
HANDWARA DISTRICT KUPWARA**

Public Notice

This is to notify the general public that the name recorded in the Aadhaar database is incorrect. Name shown in Aadhaar: Kalsooma Jan Correct name: Qulsuma Jan, Address: Udipora Langate Jammu and Kashmir 193201 The above mentioned person (Kalsooma Jan) hereby declares that the name printed on the Aadhaar is incorrect and that her correct and legal name is Qulsuma Jan. Any objection to this correction should be brought to the attention of the UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra, Office Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received within the stipulated period, the necessary correction procedures may be undertaken.

Public Notice

I want to change the name on electricity bill bearing consumer id no 0214010012256 From Mohd Yaseen Najar S/O Late Mohd Sultan Najar R/O Khandaji Satkoji Handwara, District Kupwara to Mohd Amin Najar S/O Late Mohd Sultan Najar R/O Khandaji Satkoji Tehsil Handwara if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the P.D.D Department chotipora Handwara within of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection will be entertained.

**Mohd Amin Najar S/O Late Mohd Sultan Najar R/O
Khandaji Satkoji Tehsil Handwara District Kupwara**

Public Notice

I JAMID MUSHTAQ MIR S/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD MIR .Here by inform to general public that I have lost my 10 pass certificate at somewhere bearing Registration no N10440680044 Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may contact with office of JKBOSE Srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**Name.....JAMID AHMAD MIR
S/O.....MUSHTAQ AHMAD MIR
Registration No N10440680044
Session..... ANNUAL REGULAR 2011**

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/OJAHANGIRPORA SHRAKWARA
BLOCK.... WAGOORA**

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.

**NameRAYAZ 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/OWARIPORA 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 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

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

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 regards may file the same to the office adhar seva/concerned authority within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

**AEJAZ 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 Aasif
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**

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 Child Development Project Officer, Poshan Project Anantnag

Subject: Provisional Selection list of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helper) of Poshan Project Anantnag and inviting of objections thereof.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In pursuance to the Government Order No.222-JK(SWD)2022 Dated 30.11.2022 and Government Order No. 103-JK (SWD) of 2023 Dated 28-04-2023 and Communication No. SWDICDS/43/2022 Dated 14.08.2023 and approval from Mission Director Poshan J&K vide No. MD/ Poshan//47117-27 Dated 24.12.2025 (AWHs) and advertisement was made vide No. 03 of 2025 Dated 27.12.2025 with opening and closing date 01.01.2026 and 15.01.2026 respectively and later on extended upto 30.01.2026 vide No. CDPO/POSHAN/Ang/2025-26/451-464 Dated 15.01.2026. In response to the aforesaid advertisement only 03 applications were received for Post of AWH. Application forms was scrutinized by the selection Committees by the designated selection Committee and thereby resulting in framing the panel showing merit with duly signed by all Committee members and accordingly provisional selection list was framed. Merit list (Annexure-A) and Provisional Selection (Annexure-B) list is hereby published for information of public in general and applicants/Candidates in particular for filing appeal/Objections if any. The appeal/Objection if any against the provisional selection list shall be filed in the office of the Child Development Project Officer Anantnag against proper receipt within 10 days (in Office Hours) from the date of publication of this notification. No objection /Appeal shall be entertained after expiry of last late of filing /Appeal/objection.

Annexure - A OF CDPO/POSHAN/ANG/2026-27/01-08 Dated: 02.04.2026

Merit List of Applicants for the post of Sahayikas (AWHs) advertised vide this office No: 03 of 2025 Dated: 27.12.2025, then extended this office No: Poshan/Ang/2025-26/451-464 Dated: 15.01.2026 in respect of Poshan Project Anantnag.

S.No	Index S.No.	Name of Candidate	Parentage / Spouse	Married / Un-married	Address	Panch / MC Ward	Name of AWC	DOB	Qualification	Board	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	%age of Marks	Final Points
1	2	Nazima Nazir	Nazir Ahmad Dar / Mubashir Ahmad Bhat	Married	Bonpora Chee	Bonpora Chee 03 (Panchayat Halqa Chee)	Bonpora Chee	05-08-2002	10th	JKBOSE	500	260	52	52
2	3	Shoqia Ashraf	Mohd Ashraf Dar	Un-married	Bonpora Chee	Bonpora Chee 03 (Panchayat Halqa Chee)	Bonpora Chee	08-08-1994	10th	JKBOSE	500	270	54	54
3	1	Tahira Akhter	Maqsood Ahmad Ganie	Un-married	Bonpora Chee	Bonpora Chee 03 (Panchayat Halqa Chee)	Bonpora Chee	05-10-1988	10th	JKBOSE	500	217	43.4	43.4

Annexure-B OF CDPO/POSHAN/ANG/2026-27/01-08 Dated: 02.04.2026

Provisional Selection List of the post of Sahayikas (AWH) advertised vide this office No: 03 of 2025 Dated: 27.12.2025, then extended this office No: CDPO/Poshan/Ang/2025-26/451-464 Dated 15.01.2026 in respect of Poshan Project Anantnag.

S.No	Index S.No.	Name of Candidate	Parentage / Spouse	Married / Un-married	Address	Panch / MC Ward	Name of AWC	DOB	Qualification	Board	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained	%age of Marks	Final Points	Remarks
1	2	Nazima Nazir	Nazir Ahmad Dar / Mubashir Ahmad Bhat	Married	Bonpora Chee	Bonpora Chee 03 (Panchayat Halqa Chee)	Bonpora Chee	05-08-2002	10th	JKBOSE	500	260	52	52	Selected

Selection has been made on the basis of merit in 10th among married candidates on the basis of communication no. SWD-ICDS/43/2022 Dated 14.08.2023. In case no married candidate is available unmarried candidates may be considered who fulfill qualification criteria.

No: CDPO/POSHAN/ANG/2026-27/01-08 | Dated: 02-04-2026

DIPK: 68/26 | Dated: 02-04-2026

Sd/- Child Development Project Officer Anantnag

HUDD embraces digital processes for seamless building permissions: Sakeena Itoo

Says new portal fully functional; receives 11 applications

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 02: The government today informed that significant governance reforms with automated scrutiny and end-to-end digital processing has been embraced by the Housing and Urban Development department (HUDD) under Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) and Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) for seamless submission of building permission applications.

This was stated by Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, while replying to a Calling Attention Notice in the House today on behalf of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, moved by Legislator Mir Saifullah.

The Minister said that under

Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) and Ease of Doing Business (EoDB), the department has developed a new online portal (<https://obps.jk.gov.in>) for building permission applications discontinuing old portal <https://huddobps.jk.gov.in>. She said that the new portal has become fully functional and applications are being received and processed on the new portal with 11 applications under process. She added that the old portal has not been decommissioned and continues to facilitate the processing and tracking of legacy applications.

The Minister further informed that in terms of SO 304, as amended vide SO 58 dated 26.02.2026, only Registered Technical Persons (RTPs) are authorized to submit the applications, along with CAD



drawings, for Automated Building Plan Scrutiny using Auto DCR technology.

"Initial delays were experienced due to the time required for registration of RTPs, which temporarily affected the volume of new submissions. However, 99 RTPs have now been registered across J&K and the new portal is functioning smoothly," asserted the Minister.

The Minister further said that the transition to the new system is a significant governance reform aimed at enabling automated scrutiny and end-to-end digital processing. She added that after some initial adaptation challenges, the system has now largely stabilized and is witnessing increased adoption.

Deputy Advisor NITI Aayog reviews progress on Sampoonata Abhyan 2.0 in Khawas

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI, APRIL 2: Deputy Advisor, NITI Aayog, Dr. Muni Raju SB, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at Rajouri to assess the progress achieved under Sampoonata Abhyan 2.0 in Aspirational Block Khawas.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, presented a detailed PowerPoint Presentation and briefed the visiting officer on key indicators. He told about the status of saturation across sectors including ICDS, Education, Animal Husbandry, Health, Nutrition, Agriculture & allied sectors, basic infrastructure and other social development parameters.

During the meeting, the Deputy Advisor held an interactive session with the district and sectoral officers to obtain first-hand feedback on the challenges being faced in implementation of various government schemes.



The officers highlighted key issues such as inadequate school infrastructure, poor internet and road connectivity, shortage of trained staff and insufficient healthcare personnel as major bottlenecks affecting the public service delivery.

The Deputy Commissioner also apprised the meeting of several initiatives undertaken by the district administration in Khawas to address these challenges. These included introduction of telemedicine facilities at Badhaal, deployment of mobile medical units, installation of CCTV cameras in schools and provision of free coaching facilities for students.

Appreciating the efforts of the district administration, Dr. Muni Raju SB lauded their proactive approach adopted in improving the service delivery in the aspirational block. He further directed the concerned departments to explore and propose establishment of an Eklavya Model Residential School for Khawas to enhance educational infrastructure in the area.

ADDC Rajouri Malikzada Sheraz-ul-Haq, Programme Officer ICDS Harpal Singh, CPO Maqsood Ahmed, DSEO Sandeep Sharma, ACD Auqil Naveed, AD FCS&CA Rohit Kumar, CMO Dr. Manohar Lal Rana, CEO Mohd Hafeez, Executive Engineers of PDD and PHE Muneer Ahmed and Sudesh Kumar, DSHO, CAHO Khalid Hussain, District Horticulture Officer Sushil Kumar, Lead Bank Manager and other district and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

GMC Srinagar observes World Autism Awareness Day with Inclusive Programme

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, APRIL 2: Child Guidance & Wellbeing Centre (CGWC) at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS), Government Medical College Srinagar, observed World Autism Awareness Day with a vibrant and heart-warming programme at SMHS Hospital, reaffirming its commitment to inclusive and evidence-based care for children with neurodevelopmental disorders.

The event was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal/Dean of GMC Srinagar, who attended the programme as the Guest of Honour. She appreciated the centre's dedicated efforts in delivering accessible, equitable, and high-quality mental healthcare to vulnerable populations. In a heartening gesture, she distributed specially curated therapeutic gift sets among the children, fostering encouragement and positive reinforcement.

Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Administrator, GMC & Associated Hospitals, highlighted the pivotal role of IMHANS in strengthening tertiary-level mental healthcare services and advancing specialized child and adolescent psychiatry in the region. He emphasized the importance of integrating clinical care with community outreach, capacity building, and caregiver engagement to ensure sustainable and outcome-oriented interventions.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) Zaid Ahmad Wani, Professor Department of Psychiaitry remarked, "Today is not just about awareness, but about acceptance and action. As the only tertiary-care government facility catering to these children, we recognize the magnitude of our responsibility. Our approach focuses on early screening, individualized intervention plans, behavioural therapy, and family-centered care models to optimize developmental outcomes and quality of life."

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from children and their families, fostering a sense of belonging, emotional resilience, and community support, while reinforcing the institution's commitment to rights-based and inclusive mental healthcare.

As the lone tertiary-care government facility in the region dedicated to children and adolescents with neurodevelopmental conditions, CGWC-IMHANS continues to serve as a critical centre for comprehensive mental health services. Its approach integrates early diagnosis, multidisciplinary intervention, and psychosocial rehabilitation. The programme revolved around the theme of inclusion and empowerment, bringing together children, parents, and caregivers to celebrate neurodiversity in a supportive and engaging environment.

Moving beyond conventional clinical frameworks, the CGWC team conducted structured, play-based therapeutic interventions rooted in established neurodevelopmental rehabilitation protocols.

These included sensory integration therapy aimed at improving sensory modulation and adaptive responses, motor coordination exercises to enhance gross and fine motor planning and neuromuscular control, and visuo-motor (eye-hand coordination) tasks targeting executive functioning, attention, and bilateral integration. These interventions align with globally accepted best practices for managing Autism Spectrum Disorder, promoting functional independence and improved social participation.

At the conclusion of the programme, Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan Shah felicitated the participating children to encourage their efforts and also appreciated the crucial role of parents and caregivers in supporting their developmental journey.

Among other dignitaries present were Medical Superintendent, Dr. Ajaz Baba, along with faculty members and staff of the Department of Psychiatry.

DC Budgam visits industrial Estate Rangreth; Chairs review meeting

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, APRIL 02: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today visited the Industrial Estate (I/E) Rangreth and chaired a comprehensive review meeting regarding the development, functioning, and regulation of the estate.

The DC was accompanied by General Manager DIC Budgam, Superintending Engineer R&B, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Budgam, Managing Director SICOP, District Officer Pollution Control Board (PCB) Budgam, Tehsildar concerned, Lead District Manager (LDM), Executive Engineer KPDC, and other concerned officers.

During the visit, the DC conducted on-spot inspections of various industrial units and assessed their operational status, infrastructure facilities, power supply, environmental compliance, and employment generation. He also interacted with unit holders and stakeholders to understand their concerns and challenges.

While chairing the meeting, the DC stressed strict adherence to government norms and directed the concerned departments to initiate immediate de-registration of all units operating illegally or in violation of prescribed guidelines, emphasizing that no compromise will be made on

regulatory compliance.

He further directed the PCB to ensure that all units operate only after obtaining necessary environmental clearances and strictly follow pollution control norms. The DC reiterated that the district administration is committed to creating a conducive ecosystem for legitimate businesses and assured that genuine grievances of unit holders, particularly those related to incentives and subsidies, will be taken up with higher authorities for prompt redressal.

During the meeting, the functioning of the Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) was discussed in detail, and the DC directed that a joint committee comprising SIDCO, JKPC, and representatives of the Industrial Association be constituted to assess the quantity and nature of wastewater generated by units, including JKLI as well as rainwater inflow, so that a workable and sustainable solution for the CETP can be devised.

The issue of water supply was also deliberated upon, wherein unit holders highlighted the poor quality of potable water being supplied to the estate.

The DC directed SIDCO to explore the feasibility of establishing potable water connectivity through PHE to ensure access to safe drinking water within the estate.

Regarding power supply, the DC instructed the concerned PDD/KPDC

officials to ensure uninterrupted and quality electricity supply to the industrial estate for improving productivity and minimizing operational disruptions.

The DC also reviewed the drainage system in the estate and directed SIDCO to provide a proper and efficient drainage facility to enable clear segregation of rainwater and industrial effluents, thereby preventing environmental hazards.

On the issue of solid waste management, the DC advised SIDCO to work in close coordination with unit holders for proper collection and scientific disposal of waste, ensuring improved sanitation and compliance with environmental norms.

Further directions were issued to the R&B and UEED departments to take immediate steps for rectification and resolution of infrastructure-related issues in the estate.

The DC directed officers to maintain regular monitoring of industrial estates and ensure transparency and accountability in service delivery. He reiterated that the administration's focus remains on sustainable and planned industrial development and urged all stakeholders to strictly adhere to norms, adopt environmentally responsible practices, and contribute towards the economic growth of the district.

Legislators raise scores of public issues in J&K Assembly

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, APRIL 02, 2026: The Zero Hour in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today witnessed extensive deliberations as Members raised several pressing public concerns and sought prompt intervention from the Government for their resolution.

MLA Payare Lal Sharma demanded early release of pending MGNREGA wages for 48 days and sought faster No-Objection Certificates (NOCs) and forest clearances for road construction works under PMAY-G.

MLA Sajjad Shaheen during the deliberations raised the issue of young girl belonging to a tribal community of Gool area and sought immediate redressal of the matter.

MLA Showkat Hussain Ganie demanded restoration of the stipend/salary of Khidmat Centre operators, stating that around 1200 families are suffering due to disruption of services and called for a policy to regularize them.

MLA Khurshid Ahmad urged the Government to permit seasonal migration of nomadic cattle during the summer, extension of Ladli Beti Scheme in his constituency and addressing concerns of daily wagers who were not included in the online registration process.

MLA Hasnain Masoodi demanded waiving off of KCC loans for farmers who suffered heavy losses during last year's floods.

MLA Shagun Parihar called for the early construction of the Sattar Bridge-Batpura road, stating that its completion would greatly benefit local residents.

MLA, Dr. Rajeev Kumar highlighted the issue of medical

staff strikes and sought immediate redressal of their issues.

MLA Rafiq Ahmad Naik demanded early construction of Fruit Mandi in Tral. He also sought establishment of Research Centre and raised concern over frequent changes in school uniforms by private institutions.

MLA Javaid Riyaz Bedar highlighted jurisdictional conflicts in development works following delimitation, urging the Government to resolve the issue at the earliest.

MLA Javaid Ahmad Mirchal demanded that Block Medical Officers (BMOs) be authorized to issue NOCs required for social welfare schemes.

MLA Iftkar Ahmad raised the issue of a Rajouri resident who died in Kuwait and sought Government intervention to facilitate the return of the deceased's body to his hometown.

MLA Choudhary Mohammad Akram demanded filling of vacant post of Executive Officer in the Municipal Committee of his constituency.

MLA Sunil Bhardwaj highlighted that volleyball court was damaged due to recent rains and sought an enquiry against those responsible for the lapse.

MLA Ajaz Ahmad Jan demanded enhancement of salaries of CAMPA workers engaged on daily-wage basis.

MLA Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani sought completion of the long-pending JVC Hospital construction. He demanded additional blocks in Community Health Centres.

MLA Hilal Akbar Lone demanded installation of transformers at receiving stations in his constituency and early completion



of lift irrigation projects to ensure adequate water supply for farmers during sowing season.

MLA Salman Sagar emphasized that implementation of welfare schemes in Jammu and Kashmir should be carried out in consultation with the respective legislators.

MLA Shakti Raj Parihar raised concern that several Irrigation and Flood Control projects are non-functional and urged the Government to take measures for their restoration.

MLA Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi demanded JJM House Committee visit of his constituency to review implementation of the scheme and also called for demarcation of land for wetland development with the consent of local residents.

MLA Surjeet Singh Slathia further demanded adequate funds and manpower for smooth functioning of water supply projects in District Samba and sought release of deposits of around 22,000 account holders in SCARD Bank. He also sought serious consideration of issues raised by legislators in House.

MLA Altaf Ahmad Wani (Kaloo) advocated for construction of Mini Secretariat in Pahalgam and urged that tourist destinations in his

constituency should not be closed.

MLA Abdul Majid Bhat (Larmi) raised the issue of pending compensation for orchardists of Qazigund. He urged the Revenue department to expedite the process and release the compensation at the earliest.

MLA Shamim Firdous stressed the need for separate timing and transport facilities for Nursery and UKG students.

MLA Peerzada Feroz Ahmed demanded KCC loan waiver, extension of Ladli Beti Scheme and establishment of Fire Station in his constituency.

MLA Yudhvir Sethi sought release of compensation by JMC for flood-damaged houses, besides construction of a boundary wall and repair works at Degree College Sidra.

MLA Narinder Singh Raina demanded extension of financial assistance by one year for families affected from PoJK.

MLA Arvind Gupta urged the Government to frame service rule policy for nearly 3300 employees working in medical colleges to facilitate promotions and other service benefits.

MLA Choudhary Zafar Ali Khatana demanded directions to

concerned Deputy Commissioners to issue migration NOCs to Bakerwal and Gujjar communities.

MLA Mian Mehar Ali raised concerns about residents affected by the construction of the Zojila Tunnel, demanding their rehabilitation, extension of Ladli Beti Scheme to Ganderbal district and permission for farmers to level agricultural fields without intervention from the mining department. He also demanded restoration of Baba irrigation canal.

MLA Tanvir Sadiq demanded issuance of domicile certificates within a week and sought that development works in the Kashmir Valley be approved in accordance with weather conditions.

MLA, Dr. Rameshwar Singh demanded enhancement of salaries of NHM employees and filling of vacant teaching posts in schools of his constituency.

MLA Mir Mohammad Fayaz sought filling of vacant Head of Department posts in various government institutions, including health, education and agriculture sectors in his constituency.

MLA Mohammad Yousef Tarigami highlighted the shortage of LPG cylinders and demanded that consumers who have not yet registered should be given an opportunity to do so.

MLA Saif-ud-Din Bhat demanded filling of vacant engineering wing posts to ensure timely completion of development works and smooth implementation of welfare schemes.

MLA Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah demanded action against officials responsible for low expenditure on development works, urging the Government to ensure proper utilization of funds.

CBIC notifies one-time relief for SEZ units to sell in DTA at concessional duty

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, APRIL 2: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on Wednesday introduced a one-time relief measure allowing eligible manufacturing units in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to sell their products in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) at concessional customs duty rates, addressing concerns arising from ongoing global trade disruptions.

The relief, announced in the Budget 2026-27, has been implemented through an exemption notification issued under Section 25 of the Customs Act, 1962. The measure will remain in force from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027, according to a Finance Ministry statement here.

The CBIC has prescribed a revised concessional duty structure across multiple slabs. Goods currently attracting 7.5 per cent duty



will now be taxed at 6.5 per cent, while the 10 per cent slab has been reduced to 9 per cent.

Items in the 12.5 per cent and 15 per cent categories will be subject to a 10 per cent duty under the scheme. Similarly, goods attracting 20 per cent duty will face a reduced rate of 12.5 per cent, while those in the 20-30 per cent bracket will be taxed at 15 per cent.

Products currently attracting duties between 30-40 per cent will be charged at a concessional rate of 20 per cent.

To ensure that the benefit reaches genuine manufacturers, CBIC has specified that only SEZ units that commenced production on or before March 31, 2025, will be eligible.

Further, goods cleared under this relief window must have undergone a minimum value addition of 20 per cent over input costs.

Maintaining the export-oriented character of SEZs, the Board has capped DTA sales at concessional rates at 30 per cent of the highest annual Free on Board (FOB) value of exports achieved by the unit in any of the three immediately preceding financial years.

The relief measure will be implemented through CBIC's automated system, with assessment of Bills of Entry for DTA clearances being carried out under the faceless assessment mechanism to enhance efficiency and transparency.

At the same time, the CBIC has excluded certain sensitive sectors from the scope of the scheme in order to safeguard the domestic industry and maintain a level playing field for units operating in the DTA. UNI

Hyderabad to host 13th Asian textile conference on April 3

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, APR 2: The 13th Asian Textile Conference (ATEXCON 2026) will be held at HICC here on April 3.

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will deliver the keynote address at the conference.

Union Ministry of Textiles Additional Secretary Rohit Kansal, Handlooms Development Commissioner Dr. M. Beena, Telangana Textiles Minister Tumala Nageswara Rao, Minister for IT and Industries D. Sridhar Babu, and Telangana Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao are among those to participate in the event. The conference, organised by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) in collaboration with the Government of Telangana, will bring together key stakeholders from the global textile and apparel industry.

With the theme "Re-imagining the Future of Global Textiles," the event aims to address transformative changes in the sector, including shifting global supply chains, sustainability challenges and the growing role of technology in manufacturing and design.

The conference is expected to witness participation from leading manufacturers, global brands, policymakers, investors, technology providers and entrepreneurs from across the textile ecosystem.

According to the organisers, ATEXCON will provide a platform for discussions on evolving trade dynamics, sustainable production practices and innovation-led growth, while also facilitating networking and business opportunities.

The event will feature inaugural sessions by government and industry leaders, keynote addresses, panel discussions and expert-led interactions through the day.

As outlined in the event flow on page 3, the programme includes morning inaugural sessions, mid-day keynote discussions, afternoon panels and a closing plenary.

A startup pitch showcase featuring 15 curated startups and a networking gala are also scheduled as part of the conference.

Organisers said the event is expected to play a key role in shaping conversations around the future of the textile industry at both national and global levels. UNI

Beyond Appliances opens first experience store in Hyderabad, eyes omnichannel growth

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, APR 2: Beyond Appliances has launched its first experience store in Hyderabad, marking its entry into offline retail as part of an omnichannel expansion strategy.

The store, located in Kompally, is designed as a real-kitchen environment, allowing customers to interact with the brand's product range, including Android-powered chimneys, Plug 'N' Play Chimneys, hobtops and cooktops, the Bangalore-based smart kitchen appliance brand company said in a release here.



The company said Hyderabad has been among its top three markets by e-commerce revenue, prompting the move to strengthen its physical presence in the city.

Founder and CEO Eshwar K Vikas said the store aims to bridge the gap between online discovery and physical experience, while accelerating conversions and building customer trust.

He added that the company expects to nearly triple its regional sales over the next 6 to 12 months.

The launch also marks the beginning of a broader offline expansion, with plans to enter multiple cities, including Bengaluru, Mumbai and New Delhi by the end of FY26.

The company said each experience store will focus on showcasing smart kitchen technologies and reinforcing its goal of making connected kitchen solutions more accessible to Indian consumers. UNI

Orient Electric Launches 'Aero O2', India's First Oxygen-Enriching Ceiling Fan

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, APR 2: Orient Electric Limited, part of the USD 3 billion CKA Birla Group, on Tuesday announced the launching of 'Aero O2', positioning it as India's first oxygen-enriching ceiling fan, as the company expands its play in premium, health-focused home appliances.

The product marks a strategic shift from conventional air circulation to indoor air quality enhancement, targeting urban consumers increasingly concerned about pollution and indoor air conditions, the company said in a release.

Powered by patented Bio-Oxy Plasma ION technology, Aero O2 is designed to release active ions

that help break down pollutants such as PM2.5, smoke, and microbes, while enriching oxygen levels to improve indoor air quality.

Commenting on the launch, Ravindra Singh Negi said the product addresses rising consumer demand for low-maintenance, health-oriented solutions.

"Consumers today want solutions that go beyond filtering air to actively improving it. Aero O2 is designed as a zero-maintenance system that detoxifies and oxygenates indoor spaces round the clock," he said.

According to the company, tests conducted by a NABL-accredited laboratory indicate that the fan can increase oxygen levels by up to 90% within eight



hours, reduce toxic gases such as NO₂, SO₂ and CO₂ by up to 75%, and neutralise up to 99.99% of airborne microbes.

It also claims to improve the Indoor Air Quality Index by up to 60%.

From a performance standpoint, the fan is powered by a 38W BLDC motor with 1200 mm aerodynamic blades, delivering 250 CMM air output with low noise levels.

Additional features include a point-anywhere remote, reverse rotation mode for winter use, and an independent air purification function.

With this launch, Orient Electric is looking to differentiate itself in the competitive ceiling fan segment by integrating air purification technology, aligning with broader trends in premiumisation and wellness-driven consumer demand in India's home appliances market. UNI

Samsung expands Innovation Campus to 15 colleges

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BENGALURU, APR 2: Samsung R&D Institute India, Bangalore (SRI-B) on Tuesday announced the expansion of its Samsung Innovation Campus (SIC) programme with the addition of six academic institutions, taking the total number of participating colleges to 15.

The initiative aligns with Samsung's global CSR vision of "Together for Tomorrow! Enabling People" and aims to equip students with future-ready digital skills while creating meaningful opportunities for the next generation. The programme continues to focus on bridging the gap between academia and industry and strengthening India's digital skilling ecosystem.

The newly onboarded institutions include NITTE Meenakshi Institute of Technology, Christ (Deemed to be University), RV College of Engineering, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur,



BMS College of Engineering, and Dayananda Sagar College of Engineering.

With this addition, the programme is now being implemented across 15 colleges, with SRM Institute of Science and Technology being the only participating institution from Tamil Nadu, while the remaining institutions are based in Karnataka.

Launched in September 2022, Samsung Innovation Campus is a global CSR and skilling initiative designed to train young learners in advanced technologies. The programme offers specialised courses in Artificial Intelligence and Machine

Learning (AI/ML), Internet of Things (IoT), and coding and programming.

The AI/ML curriculum includes neural networks, data processing, and hands-on projects, while the IoT track focuses on sensors, connectivity, cloud integration, and smart device development.

Students are also trained in programming fundamentals such as Python, data structures, algorithms, and software engineering principles. The courses typically span six months and are delivered with mentorship from SRI-B experts.

Commenting on the initiative, Mohan Rao Goli, Managing Director and CVP of Samsung R&D Institute India, Bangalore, said the programme helps create a strong talent pipeline and supports employability while aligning with national missions such as Skill India and Digital India.

He added that the expansion will further strengthen innovation and inclusive growth in the technology sector. UNI

Taiwan Non-Woven Fabrics Delegation Explores Investment Opportunities in Sri City

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

SRI CITY (ANDHRA PRADESH) APR 2: A five-member business delegation from Taiwan, led by Shelly Chien, visited Sri City on Tuesday to explore potential investment opportunities in the integrated business hub.

The delegation represented the Taiwan Non-woven Fabrics Industry Association (TNFIA), a leading trade body with over 130 member companies in the non-woven fabrics sector.

Welcoming the delegation, Bodgan George, Assistant Vice President (Business Development), delivered a detailed presentation on Sri City's strengths as a preferred industrial destination.

He highlighted its strategic location, diversified industrial ecosystem, strong social infrastructure, and policy support from both state and central governments.

He also pointed to the growing presence of



Taiwanese companies in Sri City, citing Rechi Precision Co., Ltd., a joint venture with Daikin Industries, which manufactures compressors at the park.

Commenting on the visit, Ravindra Sannareddy, Managing Director of Sri City, said "I am confident it will further enhance business cooperation between Sri City and Taiwan."

Expressing appreciation, Shelly Chien said "We believe Sri City is a very promising destination for our industry. We are considering it for setting up manufacturing units and will also promote it among others who could not attend."

The delegation included association leaders, manufacturers, and supply chain representatives from the non-woven fabrics ecosystem across Taiwan, China, and Vietnam, with applications spanning footwear, automotive, healthcare, and industrial sectors. Officials from Invest India and the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board also accompanied the delegation. UNI

UP houses 9.6 million MSME units, the second largest employment-generating sector after agriculture: Minister

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

VARANASI, APR 2: Uttar Pradesh MSME Minister Rakesh Sachan said on Tuesday there are 9.6 million MSME units in the state, the second largest employment-generating sector after agriculture, employing approximately 30 million people.

Speaking at the Madhya Pradesh-Uttar Pradesh Cooperation Conference 2026 held here, he said, "Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the double-engine government has taken many public-friendly decisions in the last nine years of reconstruction. Infrastructure in the state has seen rapid development. There are 9.6 million MSME units, the second largest employment-generating sector after agricul-

ture, providing employment to approximately 30 million people."

He said that the state government launched the ODOP (One District One Product) programme in 2018. The state's exports are steadily increasing due to ODOP producers. Three international trade fairs have been organized so far to showcase ODOP products globally. To connect youth with entrepreneurship, interest-free loans of up to Rs 5 lakh are being provided.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone for the large PM Mitra Park in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh, and in a similar vein, the groundbreaking ceremony for a textile park on 100 acres of land is proposed in Varanasi.

Uttar Pradesh's Minister for Industrial Development, Export



and Investment Promotion, Nand Gopal Gupta "Nandi," said that the arrival of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, a staunch devotee of Baba Mahakal, in Kashi, the city of Baba Vishwanath, is a privilege. "With a very simple nature, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav is a popular politician who has left a lasting

impression on the public. His administrative decisions are firm and clear. Negligence is not tolerated in the Madhya Pradesh government," he said.

"This event is a clear example of the deep understanding and cooperation between the two states. Uttar Pradesh has a special relationship with the people

of Baghelkhand, Gwalior-Chambal, and Bundelkhand. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh has become a leading destination for investors. Our aim is to empower youth to become entrepreneurs.

"Many of the state's products are now gaining global recognition. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav is promoting industrial investment. This conference will prove to be a milestone for cooperation between the two states in the ODOP and MSME sectors."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies, intentions, and decisions are clear. Even amid the global crisis, development work in the country is being accomplished rapidly, Gupta noted further. UNI

300 Girls Light Up Wagila as Police-Hosted Sports Championship Concludes

Al Murad Kreeri, GHS Saloosa Emerge Winners; Officials Stress Youth Empowerment Through Sports

■ **ASHIQ HUSSAIN**
■ **HT CORRESPONDENT**

BARAMULLA, APR 02: A vibrant girls' Cricket and Kho Kho championship organised by District Police Baramulla under its Civic Action Plan concluded at Wagila village in the Kreeri sub-division, drawing participation from around 300 girls across multiple villages.

The event culminated in an impressive closing ceremony attended by Additional SP Baramulla Hariprasad KK (IPS) as Chief Guest and SP Operations Baramulla Feroz Ahmad as Guest of Honour. The officials lauded the enthusiasm and discipline displayed by the participants and underscored the importance of sports in shaping confident and empowered youth.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest congratulated the players and organisers for the successful conduct of the tournament, stating that such initiatives play a vital role in encouraging young girls to pursue sports and build a strong future. SP Operations Feroz Ahmad described the participants as the "future of the region" and assured continued support from the police in promoting sports activities at the grassroots level.

Earlier, SDPO Kreeri Aeshal Nissar welcomed the guests and highlighted various sports initiatives undertaken by



the J&K Police, while also expressing gratitude to the Sports Department for providing match officials.

In the finals, Al Murad Kreeri clinched the cricket title by defeating GHS Kalantra, while GHS Saloosa emerged victorious in Kho Kho by beating GHS Kreeri.

The event concluded with the distribution of medals, mementos, certificates and cash prizes among the winners and participants. The winning teams in both events received Rs. 17,000 along with trophies, while the runners-up were awarded Rs. 10,000 each.



India to tour Zimbabwe for three T20s in July

■ **UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

CHENNAI: Zimbabwe will host India for a three-match T20I in Harare in July, Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) announced on Wednesday.

This, India's first tour to Zimbabwe since July 2024, when they played five T20Is, comes close on the heels of the announcement of Zimbabwe's tour of India, for three ODIs in January 2027, which will be their first visit to India for a bilateral series since 2002.

India and Zimbabwe met most recently in the Super Eight stage of the T20 World Cup, when India won by 72 runs in Chennai after putting up 256 for 4.

Givmore Makoni, the ZC managing director, said the series against India presented a significant opportunity for both the players and the fans in Zimbabwe.

"Matches against India always generate enormous interest and this is a fantastic opportunity for our players to test themselves against the world champions on home soil," he said in a statement.



"Following our encouraging performances at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, this series gives us a strong platform to build momentum and continue growing as a competitive force in international cricket."

Zimbabwe's tour of India after more than two decades is also reason for excitement at ZC.

"It is a landmark moment for Zimbabwe to be touring India again for a bilateral ODI series after more than two decades," Makoni said. "India is one of the premier destinations in world cricket and this tour represents both an honour and a valuable opportunity for our players."

"We are looking forward to competitive and high-quality cricket and we believe this engagement will further strengthen the relationship between the two cricketing nations while providing invaluable exposure for our team."

Gill lauds 'very valuable' Ashok Sharma after impressive 18th over

Making his IPL debut, Ashok Sharma returned figures of 1 for 31 from three overs

■ **UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

CHANDIGARH: Shubman Gill said he expects rookie pacer Ashok Sharma to become "very valuable" for Gujarat Titans (GT) with more experience, after he made his debut in their IPL 2026 opening game against Punjab Kings (PBKS), which GT lost by three wickets.

Ashok frequently hit speeds in the 140-145kph range but also mixed it up with back-of-the-hand slower balls. While he went for runs in his first spell (26 runs in two overs without a wicket), he returned at the death and bowled an impressive 18th over, which went for just five runs and saw Ashok pick his maiden IPL wicket, that of Marco Jansen.

"He bowled pretty well up front and I think in the back," Gill said on the broadcast after the match. "He's definitely some-



one that I think as he keeps playing more matches and keeps getting more experience he'll be very valuable for us.

"He's someone who works very hard on his game and he's a pretty good fielder for us. And I actually met him during the

camp a couple of months ago and I was very impressed by the way he was bowling with the new ball as well. Hopefully he'll

get a chance in some of the matches to show some of his skills with the new ball."

It was one of Ashok's back-of-the-hand slower balls that brought the wicket of Jansen, who ended up chipping to Gill at cover. The wicket left PBKS seven down and needing 16 off the last two overs. But Cooper Connolly and Xavier Bartlett finished the job with the bat. Ashok finished the game with figures of 1 for 31 from three overs.

"He is exciting, there is no doubt about it," GT assistant coach Parthiv Patel said at the post-match press conference. "We've seen the way he bowled in [the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy]. He has pace. And he has the character also. "The first two overs he went for runs but he came back to bowl the crucial 18th over, so he has that character. He's a proper athlete. So we're quite excited about Ashok Sharma."

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