

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
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Delighted to welcome Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan Ji at the Srinagar Airport.

Srinagar • Thursday 26, February 2026 • Vol: 17 • Issue No: 50 • Pages: 08 • Price: ₹ 1/- (Air Surcharge for Delhi, Jammu & Ladakh 50/- Paisa) RNI No. JKENG/2010/36998

Red Fort Blast

NIA Arrests 2 More Terror Operatives From Kashmir



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has apprehended two more terror operatives involved in the Delhi Red Fort bomb blast conspiracy, taking the total number of arrests in the case to eleven.

In a statement issued, a NIA spokesman said: "The duo, identified as Zameer Ahmad Ahangar of Ganderbal (J&K) and Tufail Ahmad Bhat of Srinagar (J&K), were formally arrested by NIA for their active involvement in the conspiracy related to the Delhi blast. The duo had supplied the weapons to the prime accused in the Delhi blast case, investigations by NIA have revealed."

Pertinently, eleven persons were killed and sev-

eral injured in the blast that shook the national capital on 10th November 2025. The prime accused, Umer Nabi, was also killed in the deadly explosion.

"The NIA, which has been investigating the case (RC-21/2025/NIA/DLI) with the aim of unveiling the complete conspiracy behind the dastardly terror act, found Zameer Ahmad and Tufail Ahmad to be active over ground workers (OGWs) of the Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGH) terror outfit," the spokesman added.

"Investigations by NIA, which has been working in coordination with J&K Police, Haryana Police and other agencies, have further revealed that Zameer and Tufail were involved in the blast conspiracy. •P-06

Vice-Prez Radhakrishnan Arrives In Srinagar On His Maiden J&K Visit

LG, CM Receive Him At Srinagar Airport; Will Attend 21st KU Convocation As Chief Guest

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan arrived in Srinagar on Wednesday evening on his maiden visit to Jammu and Kashmir, marking his first official engagement in the Union Territory since assuming office.

According to the details available, the Vice-President was received at Srinagar Airport by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and other senior officials.

"Delighted to welcome Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Shri C P Radhakrishnan Ji at the Srinagar Airport," LG Sinha wrote on X.

Office of the J&K Chief Minister wrote on X that the CM received Hon'ble Vice-President of India upon his arrival at Srinagar Airport today.

After landing in Srinagar, the Vice-President drove to Lok Bhavan where LG Sinha presented him with a souvenir, said an official.



He said the Vice-President will attend the 21st convocation of the University of Kashmir as a chief guest at its Hazratbal campus on Thursday.

"The programme is scheduled to begin in the forenoon with the academic procession,

followed by the Vice-Chancellor's annual report highlighting the University's academic achievements, research output and institutional milestones," said the official, adding, "Vice-President Radhakrishnan will then deliver the convocation

address and formally confer degrees upon graduating students."

He said that Lieutenant Governor and KU Chancellor, Manoj Sinha, will preside over the convocation, while Chief Minister and Pro-Chancellor, Omar Abdullah, will attend the event as a guest of honour.

"A total of 59,558 degrees — 44,910 graduates, 13,545 post-graduates, 461 MD/MS, four MCH, 18 MPhil and 620 PhDs — will be conferred at the convocation," said an official.

KU Vice-Chancellor Nilofer Khan said the convocation "celebrates the academic accomplishments of our students and reaffirms our commitment to quality education, research and public engagement."

She added that the presence of the Vice-President of India at the event reflects the growing national recognition of the university's academic and research contributions.

As per details, elaborate and multi-layered security arrangements have •P-06

THE PROGRAMME IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN THE FORENOON WITH THE ACADEMIC procession, followed by the Vice-Chancellor's annual report highlighting the University's academic achievements, research output and institutional milestones," said the official, adding,

...Dry Spell To Continue

Day Temperatures Remain Above Normal Across J&K



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Day temperatures continued to hover significantly above normal across Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, with most places in the Valley recording departures of 8 to 10 degrees Celsius above the seasonal average, officials said.

According to data obtained, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 20.8 degrees Celsius, which was 8.8 degrees above normal. Qazigund settled at 20.6 degrees Celsius (9.6 degrees above normal), while Pahalgam recorded 17.1 degrees Celsius (8.6 degrees above normal).

Kupwara registered 20.7 degrees Celsius (9.3 degrees above normal), Kokernag 18.5 degrees Celsius (8.7 degrees above normal) and Gulmarg 10.5 degrees Celsius, around 8.1 degrees above normal.

In the Jammu region, Jammu city recorded a maximum of 25.5 degrees Celsius, 2.4 •P-06

DGP Calls For Focused Action Against Terror Ecosystem

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Director General of Police, J&K, Nalin Prabhakar IPS, Wednesday chaired a comprehensive Security Review Meeting in Budgam to assess the prevailing security scenario and operational preparedness of the district Police.

The meeting, according to a statement issued, meeting was attended by S.J.M. Geelani-IPS; Special DGP Coordination;



IGP Kashmir Zone V.K. Birdi-IPS; DIG Central Kashmir Range Rajeev Pandey-IPS; SSP Budgam Nikhil Borkar-IPS; besides Additional SP Budgam, all SDPOs, DySsP SOG, SHOs,

DOs, and other senior officers of District Budgam.

During the review meeting, SSP Budgam presented detailed briefing on counter terror operations, law

and order management, measures to prevent crime, action against drug trafficking, area domination plan and overall security scenario of the district.

The DGP reviewed ongoing kinetic and non kinetic operations, anti terror strategies and measures to dismantle overall separatist and terror ecosystem in the district. He stressed for actionable intelligence generation by field officers and directed to maintain •P-06

No Immediate Implementation Of TET In J&K: Sakina Itoo



REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir will be the last region in the country to enforce the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) guidelines, Education Minister Sakina Itoo said on •P-06

PM GatiShakti Centre Evaluates Key Infrastructure Projects

IANIS

NEW DELHI: The government evaluated several infrastructure projects from Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Ministry of Civil Aviation, which are expected to boost logistics efficiency, reduce travel times, and deliver significant socio-economic benefits to the catchment areas of the project, it was announced on



Wednesday.

The 109th meeting of the Network Planning Group (NPG) was held at Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

to evaluate infrastructure projects.

According to Commerce Ministry, it focused on enhancing multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency in alignment with the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (PMGS NMP).

The NPG evaluated 2 rail projects, 1 Metro project, 1 airport project for their conformity to the PM GatiShakti principles of integrated •P-06

Sgr Airport Expansion Hailed As Game-Changer

Tourism Operators, Hoteliers, Locals Term It Major Boost For Connectivity, Economy

REHAN QAYOOM

SRINAGAR: The expansion of the civil enclave at Srinagar International Airport, approved at rupees 1,677 crore by the Union Cabinet on Tuesday, is being widely welcomed by tourism operators, hoteliers, business leaders, travelers and local residents, who see it as a good step to improve connectivity, generate employment and bolster the overall economy of the Kashmir Valley.

The expansion, covering 73.18 acres, will feature a state-of-the-art terminal of 71,500 sq. metres, capable of handling 10 million passengers annually, an expand-



ed apron with 15 aircraft parking bays and a multi-level parking facility for 1,000 cars.

The terminal will combine modern architecture with Kashmir's traditional woodwork and craftsmanship, while integrating eco-friendly features such as water

harvesting and energy-efficient lighting.

Tourism operators, called the project a major boost for visitor arrivals. "This airport expansion is a turning point for tourism in Kashmir," said Tawkeer, a Srinagar-based tour operator.

He said better connec-

tivity and modern facilities will encourage more domestic and international travellers to visit the Valley.

Local hoteliers also welcomed the announcement, highlighting that a smooth airport experience forms the first impression tourists get. "This will benefit hotels, guesthouses, and restaurants, while also creating jobs for local staff," said a Srinagar-based hotelier.

Business leaders, including the Travel Agents Association of Kashmir (TAAK), stressed the economic potential of the project. "Srinagar airport is more than just a travel hub; it is an •P-06

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Pollution-Free, Prosperous Jammu & Kashmir

A Visionary Step
by
Jenab Omar Abdullah
Chief Minister, J&K

Towards Sustainable Development

Foundation stones laid for

VARIOUS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

worth

About ₹191 Cr

<p>Construction of BAB-UL-SULTAN-UL-ARIFEEN City Gateway with Artistic Calligraphy Landmark at Rainawari Chowk</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: orange; font-weight: bold;">₹1.30 Cr</p>	<p>Pollution abatement and conservation of River Jhelum at Chuntikul & Gowkadal areas</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: orange; font-weight: bold;">About ₹71 Cr</p>	<p>Construction of Sewerage Treatment Plant for daily dry weather flow into Doodh Ganga, Alluchi-Bagh, Srinagar (DG-1)</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: orange; font-weight: bold;">About ₹51 Cr</p>	<p>Technology intervention for dry weather flow into Doodh Ganga Nallah from Chadoora to Baghi-i-Mehtab (DG-2)</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: orange; font-weight: bold;">About ₹68 Cr</p>
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Let's build a Sustainable Jammu & Kashmir together!

DIPK-11355/25 DATED: 25/02/2026

SANJY-2026

DC Srinagar, SSP visit Yatra Transit Camp Pantha Chowk

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In connection with the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo along with Senior Superintendent of Police, Sundeeb Chakravarty on Tuesday visited the Yatra Transit Camp at Pantha Chowk to take onsite stock of the preparations being undertaken for the smooth and seamless conduct of annual SANJY-2026.

The DC reviewed arrangements related to registration, accommodation, bedding, sanitation, drinking water supply, electricity, healthcare facilities, security deployment, traffic management and other essential services at the Transit Camp, a halt site for pilgrims traveling to the Shri Amarnathji cave. He also took stock of other amenities to ensure they meet the needs of the yatri.

The DC also inspected the readiness of Yatri Facilitation Center, which will handle critical services such as e-KYC verification, RFID card distribution, and registration to streamline the pilgrimage process.

The DC directed the concerned departments to undertake proactive



measures for necessary augmentation of facilities well ahead of the commencement of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 to ensure timely completion of all works and to maintain close coordination for the smooth and efficient management of the Yatra. He stressed upon maintaining high standards of hygiene, safety and public convenience to facilitate a hassle-free stay for the visiting pilgrims.

The DC also directed the Superintending Engineers of R&B and PHE Departments to ascertain

requirements on ground for further facilitation of the Yatri.

Emphasizing pilgrim comfort, the DC stressed the need for seamless coordination among departments to enhance services at the Camp. Special attention was laid on ensuring proper sanitation facilities, availability of clean drinking water, electricity and setting up of Langars (community kitchens) to provide nutritious meals.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Aadil Fareed, Joint Commissioner SMC,

Syed Abul Qasim, Superintending Engineer R&B, Tatheer Manzoor, Superintending Engineer, Jal Shakti, Anbreen Anjum, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, Deputy Director Information, Mohammad Rafiq Zulla, DPO Panthachowk Zohaib Ahmad, DSP Traffic, Suhail Ahmad, Tehsildar Pantha Chowk, Muzamil Zaman, Chief Sanitation Officer, Mudaris Ahmad Bandy, & other senior Officers of Police and District Administration Srinagar accompanied the DC and the SSP during the visit.

Dir Agri inaugurates exhibition cum awareness programme for GI-tagged saffron

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Wednesday inaugurated an Exhibition cum Awareness and Promotion Programme dedicated to GI-tagged Kashmir Saffron at the Agriculture Complex, Lalmandi, Srinagar.

The event was organized by the Spices Board of India, Regional Office, Srinagar (Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India). It aimed to showcase the exceptional qualities of Kashmir saffron, create greater awareness among stakeholders, and promote its international market potential following the award of the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

In his inaugural address, the Director highlighted the various initiatives undertaken by the Department of Agriculture for the promotion and development of GI-tagged saffron. He reaffirmed the department's full commitment to providing technical support, guidance, and assistance to saffron farmers to improve productivity, enhance production, and strengthen market linkages.



He said that Saffron is our niche heritage crop, and Kashmir has the proud distinction of producing one of the finest and most premium saffrons in the world. The GI tag has opened new global opportunities for our saffron, ensuring its authenticity and commanding higher value in international markets, he added. He called for a unified and

collective approach among all stakeholders to further strengthen and promote the saffron sector.

The Director emphasized that the GI tag is playing a key role in enabling saffron growers to receive remunerative prices, thereby ensuring economic sustainability and long-term viability of saffron cultivation in the region.

Sartaj Ahmad Shah directed all concerned officers to ensure proactive outreach so that every saffron farmer is fully aware of the departmental schemes, programmes, and support measures avail-

able for the advancement and modernization of the saffron industry.

Earlier, the Director visited various exhibition stalls set up by the India International Kashmir Saffron Trading Centre (IIKSTC), Spices Board of India, and private entrepreneurs. These stalls displayed saffron products, cultivation practices, post-harvest techniques, and value-addition opportunities.

The programme was attended by representatives from the Spices Board of India, officers from IIKSTC and the Agriculture Department, and saffron growers.

This initiative reflects the strong collaboration between the Department of Agriculture Kashmir and the Spices Board of India to protect, preserve, and globally promote Kashmir's iconic saffron while empowering farmers through better awareness, improved market access, and sustainable development practices.

Budgam Administration bids Farewell to outgoing DC

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: District Administration Budgam Wednesday organized a warm farewell function in honour of the outgoing Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, on his transfer to district Anantnag as the Deputy Commissioner.

The function was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Budgam, Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Budgam, all Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs), all Tehsildars, and officers and officials from various departments.

During the occasion, several senior officers shared their experiences of working under the leadership of Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, appreciating his commitment, efficiency, and people-centric approach. They remarked that he carried out his responsibilities with utmost sincerity, dedication, and professionalism, ensuring that all adminis-

trative tasks were handled effectively and within stipulated timelines. His ability to maintain transparency, responsiveness, and strong inter-departmental coordination was widely acknowledged and praised.

While speaking at the farewell, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the entire district administration team for their constant support, dedication, and collaboration throughout his tenure in Budgam.

He acknowledged the valuable contributions of officers at every level, stating that the achievements during his term were the result of collective efforts rather than individual merit.

He also extended his sincere thanks to the people of Budgam for their warmth, trust, and cooperation.

The event concluded on a heartfelt note, with warm wishes, gratitude, and sincere prayers for the outgoing DC's continued success and well-being in his new assignment.

Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament held at GDC Shopian

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: An inspiring and intellectually stimulating Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament was Wednesday organized by GDC Shopian in collaboration with Mera Yuva Bharat Shopian at Government Degree College, Shopian with the theme "50 Years of Emergency-Lessons for India".

Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament is a platform for young voices to engage in national discussions and contribute to shaping the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. It fosters leadership, civic participation, and meaningful policy dialogue, enabling students to deliberate on key national issues.

The venue was beautifully decorated to resemble a Parliament, with the Speaker, Dr. Aftab Ahmed in the Chair presiding over the proceedings.

The event featured two full-fledged sessions of the House along with an engaging Zero Hour, providing participants

the opportunity to raise issues and present their viewpoints.

The young participants delivered impactful speeches on various contemporary topics, reflecting confidence, awareness and a deep understanding of democratic values. They eloquently threw light on 50 years of Independence, highlighting the nation's journey, achievements and the responsibilities of citizens in strengthening democracy.

The programme was graced by MLA, Zainapora, Showkat Hussain Ganie. On the occasion, he threw light on the theme of the event and appreciated organisers for providing such a meaningful platform to the youth.

SSP, Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmed Choudhary also attended the program and emphasized that participation in such activities strengthens leadership qualities, enhances public speaking skills and prepares young minds to work hard and shine in their future endeavors.

Rouble Nagi calls on LG Sinha



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Educator and social worker Rouble Nagi Wednesday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated Rouble Nagi on being conferred the prestigious GEMS Global Teacher Prize 2026.

Through the Rouble Nagi Art Foundation, Nagi has spearheaded a revolution in inclusive learning and established over 800 learning centres across the country.

The Lieutenant Governor hailed Nagi's transformative impact on the

Indian educational landscape, and securing future of thousands of underprivileged and out-of-school children.

"Ms. Rouble Nagi's contribution to bringing education to the most marginalized is truly admirable. Her pioneering work serves as an inspiration for educators globally," the Lieutenant Governor said.

During the interaction, Ms. Rouble Nagi also shared her mission to bridge the digital divide through new school digital centers and bringing AI education to students in the most remote villages.

DSWO Sgr organizes Training-cum orientation Programme under NMBA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: District Social Welfare Office (DSWO) Srinagar successfully organized a Training-cum orientation Programme under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) at Government College for Women, M. A. Road, Srinagar.

The programme was conducted with the objective of creating awareness about substance abuse prevention and strengthening to build capacities and enhance institutional mechanisms for early identification, counselling, and rehabilitation of individuals affected by drug abuse. The event witnessed the active participation of Assistant Professors and esteemed members of the college faculty.

During the programme, a medical expert delivered a comprehensive presentation on the harmful effects of drug abuse, early warning signs, preventive strategies, and available de-addiction facilities. The session

emphasized the critical role of educational institutions in addressing substance abuse among youth.

A clinical Psychologist from ATF Psychiatric Hospital, Rainawari also addressed the gathering and highlighted the psychological dimensions of addiction, behavioural indicators, and the importance of timely counselling and psychosocial intervention. The expert elaborated on the Drug De-Addiction Programme framework and discussed strategies for providing emotional and psychological support to vulnerable individuals.

An interactive question and answer session was held during which faculty members actively engaged with the experts, raising important queries regarding identification of at-risk students, referral mechanisms, counselling procedures, and community involvement. The experts provided detailed responses, making the session highly informative and impactful.

SHD Shopian achieves major milestones in 2025-26, boosts rural livelihoods

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Sheep Husbandry Department, Shopian has registered remarkable progress during the financial year 2025-26, reinforcing its pivotal role in strengthening the rural economy and ensuring sustainable livelihoods for sheep and goat rearers of the district.

Through targeted investments, scientific interventions, and large-scale service delivery, the department has achieved measurable outcomes across income generation, employment, livestock health, productivity, fodder development, and wool marketing.

A total of 185 income generating sheep units were established under various government schemes with a financial outlay of Rs 165.18 lakh, resulting in direct employment generation for 452 persons and a substantial enhancement in mutton and wool production.

These units were established under the Integrated Sheep Development Scheme, HADP, JKCI, RKVY, Tribal Sub Plan, and National Livestock Mission, collectively strengthening the livestock production base of Shopian.

To promote adoption of scientific sheep husbandry practices, the department conducted 20 awareness, training,

exposure, and demonstration programmes under ATMA-SMAE and ASCAD components, benefiting 505 sheep farmers, who were sensitized on improved livestock management, disease control, and productivity enhancement.

Livestock health coverage was implemented on an extensive scale, ensuring disease prevention and public health safety, with 20,785 animals treated during the year. The department provided 3,72,272 lakh dosing and 2,75,328 lakh vaccinations.

Free FMD and PPR vaccinations and provision of medicines to farmers at 50-75% subsidized rates significantly reduced disease incidence and eco-

nomical losses for farmers during the ongoing year.

Productivity enhancement efforts were further reinforced through the distribution of 116 elite government breeding rams among progressive breeders, contributing to mutton production of 7.59 lakh kilograms and wool production of 2.24 lakh kilograms during the period.

To support sustainable livestock productivity and fodder security, the department distributed 453 fodder seed kits free of cost, comprising 224 kits of Perennial Rye Grass and 229 kits of Perennial Red Clover, strengthening the horti-pastoral system of the district.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER (S&M) KMR J&K FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SRINAGAR

e-AUCTION TIMBER CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH-2026

e-NIA No: 12/JKFDCL/S&M/K of 2025-26 - Dated: 25/02/2026

It is notified for information of Bonafide consumers of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Public in general and Timber Traders in particular including Government Departments/ PSU's/ Autonomous bodies of Jammu & Kashmir UT that Sales and Marketing Circle of Jammu and Kashmir Forest Development Corporation, Kashmir is going to sell its timber stocks at various sale depots. Interested persons/Firms can participate in online bidding at <https://oya.auction>.

For registration/enrolment/participation in e-auction, Consumers/Bidders shall have to share the GSTIN/Pan, Mobile No, Mail ID & Security deposit details with this office.

Time Schedule and key details of the Auction: -

#	Activity	Shaltang I & II	Kakapora & Kunjoo	PC	Sangam & Harnag
1	CDR / FDR / Online security deposit end date	05.03.2026 at 1200 Hrs	07.03.2026 at 1200 Hrs	12.03.2026 at 1200 Hrs	28.03.2026 at 1200 Hrs
2	Auction Start Date	07.03.2026 from 1030 Hrs	09.03.2026 from 1100 Hrs	14.03.2026 from 1030 Hrs	30.03.2026 from 1030 Hrs
3	Auction End Date	07.03.2026 upto 1900 Hrs	10.03.2026 upto 1900 Hrs	14.03.2026 upto 1900 Hrs	31.03.2026 upto 1900 Hrs
4	Mode of Auction/ Type of Auction	e-Auction / Normal			
5	Declaration of Result	To be notified later			
6	Deposit of 10 % down payment/security deposit by H1 bidder	By or before 09.03.2026	By or before 12.03.2026	By or before 16.03.2026	By or before 02.04.2026
7	Type of e-Auction	Forward Auction			
8	Lot Types	Multi Lot species-wise			
9	e-Auction Place	https://oya.auction			
10	e-Auction Fee	Nil			
11	Security Deposit	Rs.25,000/ per bidder (Refundable)			
12	Payment Instrument (security deposit)	CDR/FDR/Online Payment Mode (NEFT/RTGS)			
13	Security Deposit Exemption Allowed to:	Only Govt. Deptt./ PSU's/Autonomous bodies			

Detailed auction document (NIA) with terms and conditions will be available in the office of the undersigned. However, details of timber stocks (lots) to be sold shall be available two days before commencement of e-auction.

DIPK-NB-3432-25
DT: 25/02/2026

Sd/-
M. Ayub Dar
General Manager (S&M) K
JKFDCL

CM lays foundation for ₹190 Cr urban Development projects in Srinagar, Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday laid the foundation for infrastructure and river conservation projects worth over ₹190 crore across Srinagar and Budgam districts, marking a significant push towards urban transformation and environmental sustainability.

Spanning five constituencies, the projects focus on urban beautification, pollution abatement of the Jhelum River, and advanced sewerage treatment infrastructure for Doodh Ganga, reflecting the Government's commitment to improving civic amenities, enhancing climate resilience, and restoring water bodies.

At Rainawari, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the construction of BABUL-SULTAN-UL-ARIFEEEN, a landmark city gateway featuring artistic calligraphy at Rainawari Chowk. Executed by PW (R&B) at a cost of ₹130 lakh, the project aims to enhance the aesthetic and cultural identity of the historic locality.

He said the gateway would not only beautify the area but also highlight its spiritual and cultural significance.

The Chief Minister also laid the foundation of a major environmental initiative at Brari-Nambal Munawarabad for Pollution Abatement and Conservation of River Jhelum at Chuntikul and Gowkadal. The project, under the Housing & Urban Development Department, will be executed by UEED at a cost of ₹7090.68 lakh. It includes the establishment of an 8 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to significantly reduce untreated discharge into the river.

At the same venue, the



Chief Minister laid the foundation for two major sewerage treatment projects under H&UDD (UEED) to curb pollution in Doodh Ganga — a 14 MLD STP at Aloo-chi-Bagh, Srinagar (₹5060.47 lakh), and a 6 MLD STP at Mochua, Budgam (₹6772.32 lakh) to treat dry weather flow from Chadoora to Baghi-i-Mehtab — significantly strengthening wastewater management and environmental protection in the area.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said that although projects worth nearly ₹200 crore across five constituencies would ordinarily warrant a large public function, the programme was deliberately kept modest in view of the holy month of Ramzan.

"If we had organised this programme some other time, it

would have been garnered huge public participation. But keeping Ramzan in mind, we did not want to cause inconvenience to people, nor delay projects for which the public has been waiting impatiently," he said.

Highlighting the pressure on the Housing & Urban Development Department and the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, he said drainage, sewerage, roads, parks and development of new colonies fall under their mandate.

"Our two capital cities, Srinagar and Jammu, create the first impression of Jammu and Kashmir. Tourists arrive here first. Millions of residents live here. It is our responsibility to ensure the infrastructure in cities reflects the development of this region."

The Chief Minister stressed that inadequate drainage and

sewerage systems often result in waterlogging after even brief rainfall.

"It rains for one hour and the whole city is under water. This must change, whether through Central schemes, UT Capex, District Capex or new funding schemes like SASCI, our effort is to upgrade Srinagar's infrastructure comprehensively."

Referring to changing climate patterns, he said rainfall distribution has become increasingly erratic.

"We may not see rain for months, and then receive six months' rain in three days. Instead of water percolating into the ground, it flows away, leading to both flooding and water scarcity. We must prepare infrastructure that can withstand changing weather patterns."

Emphasizing water conser-

vation and reuse, he said treated sewage must improve, not degrade, river water quality.

"We must ensure that if treated water enters the river, it improves its quality instead of harming it. Our lakes and canals must regain their former glory."

Recalling Srinagar's historical identity as the "Venice of the East," he added:

"Once, people travelled through our canals by boat. I want to see our water bodies restored to that standard. Water quality must improve, scarcity must reduce."

The Chief Minister also stressed the need to decongest the city through planned housing colonies in peripheral areas.

"There is immense pressure on the inner city because we have not developed sufficient planned colonies. This year, we intend to take up at least one or two major housing projects with proper roads, drainage, water and electricity infrastructure, so that people willingly move towards the outskirts."

Assuring speedy implementation, he said several projects are ready for inauguration or foundation laying.

"In the next three to three-and-a-half years, when we go back to the people, we want to present a transformed Srinagar — a city with modern infrastructure and renewed character. That is our commitment."

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLAs Ali Mohammad Dar, Tanvir Sadiq, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed and Shamina Firdous, Commissioner Secretary Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation Fazlul Haseeb, and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

Felicitates winners of Chrysanthemum Garden Photography, Reel Competition



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday felicitated the winners of the Photography and Reel Competition held as part of the inaugural celebrations of the Chrysanthemum Garden in Srinagar.

The felicitation ceremony, organised by the Department of Floriculture, Gardens and Parks, honoured participants for their exceptional creativity and artistic expression in capturing the beauty and grandeur of the majestic garden.

The Chief Minister presented Certificates of Merit along with cash awards to the winners with ₹20,000 as first prize, ₹10,000 as second prize, and ₹5,000 as third prize in each category.

Congratulating the winners, the Chief Minister said such initiatives provide an important platform for creative engagement and youth participation.

"Kashmir's gardens are not merely landscapes of flowers; they are living symbols of our heritage, creativity and cultural pride. Through photography and reels, our youth have beautifully captured the spirit of this garden and shared it with the world," he said.

He added that encouraging artistic expression around nature and public spaces strengthens community bonding and promotes eco-consciousness.

"When our young people use their talent to celebrate nature, they become ambassadors of Kashmir's beauty and values. Such platforms must continue to inspire innovation and cultural expression," he remarked.

The competitions witnessed enthusiastic participation from both young and seasoned photographers, reflecting the growing interest in nature-based creative pursuits and digital storytelling.

Zero tolerance policy against illegal mining in J&K: Dy CM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Wednesday reiterated the Government's firm commitment to a zero-tolerance policy against illegal mining across Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that strict action will be taken against violators as well as the negligent officials.

During an inspection of the riverbed area near the 4th Bridge over River Tawi, the Deputy Chief Minister took serious note of mining activities allegedly being carried out in violation of established norms.

The Deputy Chief Minister was accompanied by Director Mining, Chief Engineer PWD, ADC Jammu, ASP South Jammu and other senior officers.

Taking serious note of mining issues near the bridge, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the Chief Engineer, PWD, to register a formal complaint and lodge an FIR to ensure stringent legal action against those involved.

"Presently, all mining blocks are non-functional and no extraction activity should be allowed. Any operation within this prohibited zone is illegal and



will invite strict action," the Deputy Chief Minister stated.

He emphasized that, as per the existing mining regulations, no extraction is permitted within 500 meters upstream or downstream of a bridge. "This is very unfortunate that mining activities are carried out under the bridge and the concerned have failed to take action. We have adopted a zero-tolerance approach and will not allow such unlawful operations," he added.

The Deputy Chief Minister informed that the Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, who serves as Chairman of the District Task Force on Mining, along with the Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu and the District Mineral Officer (DMO), have been directed to ensure strict enforcement of mining regulations.

He made it clear that no vehicle shall be allowed to transport mining material without valid documentation.

He further directed the immediate seizure of vehicles involved in illegal transportation, imposition of penalties and prompt initiation of appropriate legal proceedings against the violators.

Expressing concern over reports of extraction from non-functional or unauthorized blocks, the Deputy Chief Minister ordered that responsibility be fixed and accountability ensured. He reiterated that mining can only be undertaken in duly identified and approved blocks after completion of all required formalities.

Voicing displeasure over lapses in enforcement, he remarked that officials must act responsibly and proactively. "It is unacceptable that senior authorities

are compelled to intervene due to negligence at the field level," he said.

He also underlined that no department, including those engaged in flood control or dredging works, shall undertake any activity without prior approval from the competent authority. Unauthorized deployment of machinery in riverbeds will not be tolerated, he added.

The Deputy Chief Minister expressed confidence that the inspection would lead to visible improvements on the ground and assured the public that the administration remains fully committed to safeguarding the natural resources, upholding the rule of law.

During the tour, the Deputy Chief Minister also took stock of ongoing works at the 4th Bridge and called for expediting the pace of work for timely completion.

Javid Dar inaugurates modernised cattle feed plant at Bari Brahmana

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SAMBA: In a significant push to strengthen the livestock and agriculture sectors, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, on Tuesday inaugurated the modernised Cattle Feed Plant at Bari Brahmana and the newly developed Wool Trade Mandi at Kartholi in Samba district.

MLA Vijaypur, Chander Prakash Ganga, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Agriculture Production Department, Dr Ashish Chandra Verma, Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta, Director Animal Husbandry Jammu Sanjay Gupta, Director Horticulture Jammu, Director



Sheep Husbandry Jammu and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

The Minister was informed that the modernization and upgradation of the Cattle Feed Plant has been executed by the Jammu and Kashmir Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited at a project cost of ₹499 lakh.

The plant has been

upgraded with a fully automatic PLC-based automation system enabling centralized process control, automatic batching and micro-dosing systems for precise ingredient proportioning. It also features online monitoring of moisture, temperature and production flow, ensuring improved efficiency and quality control.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, the Minister said that with controlled formulation technology, the plant now operates on scientific feed manufacturing principles, ensuring high precision within minimal tolerance limits. He stated that the modernization will substantially enhance the productivity, operational efficiency and quality assurance standards.

Javid Dar said such initiatives would provide farmers easy access to high-quality cattle feed, leading to better livestock health and increased milk production. He reiterated the government's commitment towards equipping the farming community with modern infrastructure and necessary facilities to strengthen the livestock and agriculture sectors.

H&H Deptt organizes Trainee Products' sale at Kashmir Hatt

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Handicrafts & Handloom (H&H) department inaugurated 2-day 'Trainee Products' Sale at Kashmir Haat here Wednesday.

During the sale, Craft products like hand-knotted woollen carpets, GI-tagged Pashmina shawls and stoles, Crewel curtains, Sozni embroidered shawls, Zari & Aari embroidered suits, tweed cloth, Chain Stitch rugs and cushion covers, tapestry, Gabba and



Namda products, papier mâché and willow wicker souvenir and décor items, prepared by trainees of Training Centers across all 10 districts of Kashmir Division are being

showcased.

The products available at extremely affordable rates, with pricing calculated only on the material component used and no labour cost is added, there-

by ensuring cost-to-cost availability of authentic handmade crafts to buyers, besides providing platform for trainees to exhibit their skills.

District stalls are expected to record encouraging sales during the current exhibition, with particular interest anticipated in carpets, Pashmina, and other GI tagged crafts. The initiative continues to serve as a vital platform for trainees to gain exposure, besides promoting Kashmir's rich craft heritage.

IN THE COURT OF SPECIAL JUDGE ANTICORRUPTION BUREAU ANANTNAG

Present: Masarat Roohi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED (Under Section 84 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023)

Whereas Sabzar Ahmad Bodha S/o Late Mohammad Jabbar Bodha R/o Bagi Wanpoh, District Kulgam stands accused in FIR No. 07/2021, Police Station ACB Anantnag, for the commission of offences punishable under Section 5(1)(c) read with 5(2) of J&K Prevention of Corruption Act, Samvat 2006 and Sections 420, 468, 471 & 120-B RPC, and Whereas it has been represented to this Court and it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Court that the said accused has absconded and is concealing himself so that the non-bailable warrant issued by this Court on 14.07.2025 cannot be executed, Now, therefore, this proclamation is issued requiring the said accused Sabzar Ahmad Bodha to appear before this Court at Anantnag on 11/03/2026 at 10.30 A.M, failing which he shall be liable to be proceeded against in accordance with law. Given under my hand and seal of this Court on this 10th day of February, 2026.

DIPK-11345-25
DT: 25/02/2026

(Masrat Roohi)
Special Judge Anticorruption Bureau
Anantnag

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

TET In J&K: Between Reform And Reassurance

The government's recent stand on the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) has once again brought uncertainty to the education sector in Jammu and Kashmir. Education Minister Sakina Itoo has clarified that the Union Territory will be the last region in the country to enforce TET guidelines, and that the process will not be implemented immediately.

At one level, the assurance sounds comforting. The Minister has rightly acknowledged that thousands of teachers in Jammu and Kashmir have spent decades shaping young minds, often under difficult circumstances. Their concerns about sudden policy changes are genuine and deserve to be heard. Any reform that affects their careers and dignity must be handled with sensitivity.

However, the confusion arises from the mixed signals coming from the system. Even as the Minister speaks of delay and caution, the School Education Department has already issued a formal order appointing the Jammu and Kashmir State Board of School Education as the nodal agency for conducting TET. This gap between policy announcement and administrative action has left teachers and aspirants anxious and unsure about what lies ahead.

TET, after all, is not just another exam. It is a nationally accepted benchmark meant to improve the quality of teaching. By repeatedly postponing its implementation, Jammu and Kashmir risks remaining out of sync with the broader national education framework. At the same time, rushing into it without preparation could unfairly impact experienced teachers.

What is missing is clarity. If the government intends to protect long-serving teachers, it should clearly spell out exemptions, transition periods, or training support. If TET is to be implemented later, a realistic timeline should be shared. Uncertainty benefits no one—neither teachers nearing retirement nor young graduates preparing for the profession.

Education reforms succeed not through sudden shocks or endless delays, but through honest communication and careful planning. The government must bridge the gap between reassurance and action. Only then can trust be restored, and the focus returned to what truly matters: providing quality education to students while respecting those who have dedicated their lives to teaching.

Kashmiri: More Than A Language, It Is Our Soul

RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR

Each year on 21st February, the world celebrates International Mother Language Day to promote linguistic diversity and encourage people to speak and preserve their mother tongues at home, in workplaces, and in society. In Srinagar, this year's celebration was marked with remarkable enthusiasm and cultural vibrancy. A grand provincial-level literary event was organised at Tagore Hall by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages. The event witnessed the participation of eminent litterateurs, poets, and authors from across the Valley. A special poetry session was also held, where distinguished poets captivated the audience with their soulful and thought-provoking verses.

During the programme, speakers strongly reiterated that every possible step—at individual, societal, and governmental levels—would be taken to promote and preserve the Kashmiri language and literature, safeguarding its centuries-old legacy and rich heritage. Similar celebrations were organized at district and tehsil levels, as well as in various educational institutions.

When we speak of our mother tongue, Kashmiri, it is not merely a language or a medium of communication; it is our collective identity. As the noted Kashmiri writer Amin Kamil rightly said, "Kashri sith chhi Kashir sari nata; wananik hearan kaaw" (Through Kashmiri we are bound together as Kashmiris; otherwise, we would be like bewildered crows scattered in the wilderness). This year's celebration will be especially remembered for the release of a thematic Tarana (an anthem poem). Written years ago by the versatile poet and academician Shad Ramzan, the Tarana was formally released on International Mother Language Day to commemorate the glorious heritage of the Kashmiri language.

The musical composition was crafted by noted vocalist Waheed Jeelani, while its production was undertaken by the



legendary writer, broadcaster, and poet Dr. Rafiq Masoodi. The videographic backdrop of the song is mesmerising and deeply evocative, capturing the scenic beauty and emotional depth of Kashmir, thereby enchanting both hearts and minds. Unlike conventional songs performed by one or two singers, this masterpiece stands apart. Many leading literary figures of the Valley contributed to its recitation and release. Among them were Dr Satish Vimal, Shahi Mumtaz, Raja Bilal, Prof. Naseem Shifayi, and Shazia Bashir, alongside Shad Ramzan and Waheed Jeelani.

This collective artistic endeavour beautifully symbolises unity, cultural pride, and a shared commitment to preserving the Kashmiri language for generations to come. Bea Kashir Zaban Chas (I am the Kashmiri language) is a prominent and beautiful Tarana (anthem poem) in the Kashmiri language, written by renowned poet Shad Ramzan. It serves as a profound tribute to the Kashmiri language and culture. According to Shad Ramzan, the Kashmiri language has been blessed with the crown of prosperity and has inherited the grandeur of knowledge. It carries centuries of dignity within its bosom, and its melodies echo across

ages. It holds within it the fragrance of flowers and carries the colours of culture and tradition.

It speaks with sweetness and elegance and is adorned with intellectual and poetic reflection. Sages and saints have drawn enlightenment, and it is enriched by guides and spiritual masters. It is filled with wisdom and lofty thought and nurtures refined and elevated minds. It echoes in valleys and towering mountains and flows like a river in lyrical expression. Its words shimmer with beauty, and its voice is both melodious and pure. It preserves heritage and identity and safeguards culture and tradition. It unites hearts in love and harmony and stands as a symbol of collective pride. It carries the legacy of thought and awareness and shapes understanding and consciousness.

That is why he praises it with utmost devotion and honour and with heartfelt admiration. With the release of this masterpiece tarana, the glory and rich cultural heritage of the Kashmiri language are set to reach a much wider readership and earn well-deserved accolades across the globe. Its production and composition have been executed with such meticulous care and artistic brilliance that, within minutes of its release, it began circulating widely

across various social media platforms. Literary circles as well as common listeners showered praise upon the author, producers, and composers alike. The diction of the tarana is undoubtedly profound and intellectually demanding. Rendering such poetic brilliance into a compelling musical composition was no small challenge. Yet, under the able leadership and creative vision of Dr Rafiq Masoodi and Waheed Jeelani, it has been produced and composed with remarkable finesse and aesthetic excellence.

History reminds us that Ahista Ahista by Janab Kishitwari did not initially gain widespread popularity until it was melodiously rendered by Samad Sofi and Gulzar Ganie. Likewise, one hopes that Shad Ramzan's Kashmiri language tarana will now attain the recognition it truly deserves, having been given voice by noted literary figures and elevated through the masterful production and composition of Dr. Rafiq Masoodi and Waheed Jeelani. May this artistic endeavour continue to illuminate and celebrate the timeless beauty of the Kashmiri language.

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Degrees Abroad, Parents Alone? Success, Education, And The Silent Crisis Of Old Age



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

A recent tragedy in Bengaluru involving a retired ISRO employee allegedly killing his wife, reportedly out of fear about who would care for her after his death, has shaken many people far beyond the city where it occurred. Early reports describe a deeply distressing situation shaped by emotional strain, ageing, isolation, and anxiety about the future. Police have said the case is under investigation.

But for many readers, the incident has stirred a painful question that goes beyond crime and law:

What is the meaning of educating our children for success if, in the end, parents are left alone in old age—needing not money, but presence?

It is a hard question. And it deserves an honest answer.

Education is not the problem. Education without values is.

In moments of grief and anger, it is easy to say: Why educate children if they go abroad, build careers, and leave their parents behind?

Yet that conclusion, though emotionally understandable, is too simple.

Education itself is not the enemy. In fact, education is what gives children dignity, opportunity, independence, and the ability to support families. The real problem begins when education is reduced to only three outcomes:

- degree,
- salary,
- status.

If education produces successful professionals but not responsible human beings, then something is broken—not in education as a concept, but in the way we define success.

We have taught many children how to compete.

We have not taught enough of them how to remain connected.



The new tragedy of modern success

Across South Asia and in many migrant families worldwide, a familiar pattern is emerging. Parents make sacrifices for decades—fees, coaching, hostels, language training, migration paperwork, emotional support—so that their children can "settle well." Often, "settle well" means one thing: settle abroad.

And when the child succeeds, everyone celebrates. The photos are shared. The degrees are framed. The job offer is announced. The visa is a family victory. But slowly, another reality enters the home:

- parents age,
- illnesses multiply,
- mobility decreases,
- social circles shrink,
- loneliness deepens.

At that stage, parents often discover a painful truth: financial support can arrive on time, but human presence cannot always be couriered across continents.

A bank transfer can pay for medicine.

It cannot sit beside a mother in silence.

It cannot notice a father's depression.

It cannot replace the reassuring sentence: "I am here."

Let us be fair: distance does not always mean neglect.

At the same time, fairness matters. Not every child abroad

is careless. Many sons and daughters living overseas are deeply devoted. They call daily, visit regularly, arrange medical care, manage emergencies, and support their parents with extraordinary discipline and love.

And many children living in the same city neglect their parents too.

So the issue is not simply "abroad versus at home."

The issue is responsibility versus convenience.

Distance can be real. Visa restrictions are real. Work pressure is real. Children may have young families, demanding jobs, or immigration limitations. These are not excuses—but they are realities. If we ignore them, we moralize the problem instead of solving it.

This is why the Bengaluru incident, tragic as it is, should not be used to condemn all children who migrate. It should instead push us to ask a more serious question:

Are we preparing families for old age—or only preparing children for careers?

The question we should ask our education system

The real crisis is not that children are getting educated. The crisis is that our educational and social culture often treats success as complete once a child gets:

- a degree,
- a job,
- a foreign address.

Where, in this model, do we

teach:

- filial duty,
- elder care planning,
- emotional literacy,
- gratitude,
- community responsibility,
- mental health awareness?

If a child can solve complex equations, code systems, manage portfolios, and lead teams—but cannot make time for ageing parents—then society must ask whether it has confused qualification with character.

Education must not only prepare students to earn.

It must prepare them to belong.

Presence is not only physical—yet it must be planned.

There is another difficult truth: in a globalized world, not every child can live with parents. Migration will continue. Careers will move people across countries. Families will remain transnational.

So the solution cannot be simply: "Don't send children abroad."

The solution is more mature—and more demanding. Families must begin discussing ageing, care, and emotional support before a crisis. Parents and children should plan together:

- Who will respond in a medical emergency?
- Which relatives, neighbours, or friends can be contacted immediately?
- What is the local support network?

- How often will meaningful visits happen?
- Who monitors mental health, not just finances?
- What arrangements exist if one parent dies first?

These conversations are uncomfortable, but necessary. Silence is not love. Planning is.

A better dream for parents

Parents should continue educating their children. They should continue dreaming big. They should continue celebrating ambition. But perhaps the dream needs one correction.

Not just: "My child should become successful."

Also: "My child should remain humane."

Not just: "My child should settle abroad."

Also: "My child should never emotionally migrate away from family."

This is where values matter—not as moral slogans, but as daily habits: calling, listening, visiting, planning, staying involved, noticing distress, and showing up.

The deeper lesson

The Bengaluru incident is first a human tragedy, then a criminal matter, and also a social warning. It exposes a fear many ageing parents quietly carry: not poverty, but abandonment; not hunger, but helplessness; not lack of money, but lack of presence.

Reports indicate the case remains under police investigation, and the facts will be settled through due process.

If this moment leads us to question education, let us question it correctly.

The answer is to educate less. The answer is to educate better.

We need an education that builds:

- competence and conscience,
 - mobility and memory,
 - success and responsibility.
- Because a society that produces brilliant careers, but lonely parents is not truly educated yet.

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IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

India's Strategic Tech Diplomacy: Leading The AI Age With Pax Silica



LALIT GARG

The twenty-first century has unmistakably become an era defined by artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and the global competition over technological supply chains. In such a transformative period, India's successful hosting of the AI Summit, followed immediately by its formal association with the U.S.-led group Pax Silica, is not merely a diplomatic accomplishment but a visionary and strategic milestone. It signals the emergence of a new India—one that possesses the capability to harmonize technological strength, ethical vision, and global balance. Through the AI Summit, India made it clear that it no longer wishes to remain merely a consumer of technology; it is prepared to assume the role of creator and guide. This marks a decisive step toward becoming the world's third-largest AI power.

Over the past several years, China's near 90 percent dominance over rare earth minerals and semiconductor supply chains has been a matter of global concern. From computer chips to defense systems and space technologies, nearly every modern sector depends on these critical resources. In this context, Pax Silica has been conceptualized as a balanced, reliable, and multipolar technological framework. India's participation in this group is not symbolic—it is strategic and essential. India's engineering excellence, vast pool of young talent, and rapidly developing semiconductor ecosystem will lend significant



strength to this alliance. This initiative is not an act of aggression against any nation; rather, it is an effort to introduce balance and diversification into global supply chains. When power is decentralized and partnerships expand, the global order becomes more stable and equitable.

Under the leadership of Narendra Modi, India has, over the past decade, placed technology at the heart of governance and development. Initiatives such as Digital India, Startup India, Make in India, and the Semiconductor Mission have laid a strong foundation for technological advancement. India's Digital Public Infrastructure has today become a global model. Aadhaar, UPI, and digital service platforms have integrated millions into the economic mainstream. On this foundation, ambitious strides are now being taken in AI and chip manufacturing. The Prime Minister's proactive engagement and India's assertive presence on global platforms have established the country as a trusted technological partner. His vision extends beyond economic gains; it seeks to blend technological

self-reliance with meaningful global collaboration.

India is actively attracting substantial investments to boost chip design, fabrication, and AI research. Global corporations increasingly view India as a stable democracy with a skilled workforce and long-term policy consistency. By becoming part of international frameworks like Pax Silica, India stands to benefit from technological cooperation, joint research initiatives, capital investments, and supply chain diversification. This will not only reduce overdependence on China but also strengthen national security and economic resilience. Such collaboration will deepen India's engagement with leading technological powers including the United States, Japan, South Korea, and European nations, further elevating its stature in the global technological landscape.

India's strength lies not only in its technological capacity but also in its cultural and ethical worldview. Inspired by the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—the world is one family—India envisions AI as a tool for human-centered development. Its

application in healthcare, education, agriculture, and disaster management can ensure widespread public welfare. If advanced technologies become concentrated in the hands of a few powers, global imbalances intensify. However, when democratic and inclusive nations guide their development, technology can become a force for collective progress. India advocates for universal ethical standards in AI, ensuring that technology serves as an instrument of human advancement rather than a weapon of domination.

For India, artificial intelligence is not merely a technological tool but an extension of human consciousness. The civilization that offered the world the ethos of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," that upheld compassion, non-violence, and coexistence as core values, views AI not through the narrow lens of market competition or geopolitical dominance, but through the broader framework of human welfare and global harmony. The moral inspiration drawn from Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence and Gautama Buddha's message of compassion reinforces the idea that

technological advancement must be anchored in ethical discipline. Development must embody not only speed but direction, not only capability but sensitivity. If artificial intelligence is integrated with the holistic fabric of life—nature, society, and human dignity—India can offer the world a balanced model that prevents technology from becoming a source of destruction and instead transforms it into a powerful instrument of creativity, inclusion, and human flourishing.

Today, the world appears divided between two poles—centralized technological dominance on one side and a cooperative, balanced model on the other. India's rise holds the potential to transform this polarization into equilibrium. India is neither pursuing confrontation nor embracing passivity; it is adopting a policy of active balance. Such equilibrium may well form the foundation of a peaceful global order in the future. Through Pax Silica, India and its partners can chart a new course where the benefits of technological innovation extend to the Global South, supply chains remain transparent, and global power structures stay stable. Undoubtedly, this is a historic moment for India. In the age of AI and semiconductors, this strategic step will elevate India's economic and technological power to new heights.

Under the leadership of Narendra Modi, the emerging technological and AI revolution is not only empowering India but also offering the world a new path of balance and cooperation. In the years ahead, this partnership could lay the foundation for a new global order—one in which technology becomes not a means of rivalry, but a vehicle for coordination and peace. India is moving forward with determination, positioning itself to play a constructive leadership role on the world stage.

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From Panini To The AI Stack

Delhi's AI Moment And The Logic Of National Capability

HARDEEP S PURI

When Panini reduced the chaos of spoken language into a compact, computable grammar, he proved something that still holds: intelligence is most powerful when it is expressed as structure. Nalanda took that instinct into institutions, building methods to debate, preserve, and transmit knowledge across borders. India's decision to host the India AI Impact Summit 2026 draws from the same civilisational impulse, because the next leap in technology is about systems that can learn, reason, and act at scale, and the world cannot afford a future in which only a few capitals decide how those systems are built.

Held at Bharat Mandapam last week, the Summit was the first global AI summit hosted by a Global South nation, and no previous edition drew participation at this scale: over 20 heads of state, 60 ministers, more than 500 AI leaders from over 100 countries, and 300 exhibitors across ten thematic pavilions. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India is putting forward an organising idea of its own: sovereignty over data, inclusion by design, accountability by default. And it is inviting global capital to build here on those terms.

That idea finds its sharpest expression in the Prime Minister's M.A.N.A.V. vision: ethical guardrails, accountable governance, sovereignty over data so that the raw material of intelligence is not extracted the way commodities once were, broad access so that the benefits reach a farmer in Madhya Pradesh as surely as an engineer in Bengaluru, and legal validity so that every deployed system remains answerable to democratic scrutiny. His formulation about giving AI an open sky while keeping command in human hands draws a line many advanced economies have been reluctant to draw.

Those principles now carry multilateral weight through the Delhi Declaration, adopted at the summit and already being called the first major AI governance blueprint from the Global South; taking a development-oriented view, anchored in a techno-legal approach that favours flexible guardrails over



rigid compliance. It organises global collaboration around three pillars: People, Planet, and Progress. Population-scale solutions like BharatGen, which supports 22 Indian languages, address the reality that most of the world does not operate in English. A proposed global Compute Bank, modelled on India's own subsidised GPU access at 65 per hour, lowers entry barriers everywhere. And the Declaration's insistence on data sovereignty directly challenges AI extractivism: the pattern in which developing nations' data is harvested to train models they must then pay to use.

What gives that framework its credibility is the decade of execution that precedes it, because this government did not arrive at AI through a white paper but through the most ambitious digital public infrastructure programme any democracy has undertaken. UPI processed over 228 billion transactions in 2025, worth roughly USD 3.4 trillion, nearly half the world's real-time digital payment volume, more than Visa processes globally. The JAM trinity has delivered over 3.48 lakh crore in welfare savings since 2015. No other country has built identity, payments, and entitlement delivery at this scale within a single policy arc, and that is the foundation on which India's AI moment stands.

If the logic of digital public infrastructure was to connect every citizen to the state, the logic of AI infrastructure is to connect every citizen to capability, and here the numbers reveal a striking gap: India generates nearly 20 percent of the world's data but hosts roughly 3 percent of global data centre capacity. That gap is now being closed with the same intent that built UPI: fast, at scale, and with sovereign design.

Consider what was announced in a single week at Bharat Mandapam. Microsoft: USD 50 billion by 2030 for the Global South, with USD 17.5 billion already committed to India. Google: the America-India Connect initiative, anchored by USD 15 billion over five years. Amazon Web Services: USD 8.3 billion in Maharashtra. Adani Group: USD 100 billion toward renewable energy-powered AI data centres by 2035. Yotta Data Services: over USD 2 billion for one of Asia's largest AI computing hubs using Nvidia's Blackwell Ultra chips. Larsen & Toubro: a proposed venture with Nvidia to build India's largest gigawatt-scale AI factory. The IndiaAI Mission's national compute cluster has crossed 38,000 GPUs and is scaling to 58,000, available to startups at roughly one-third of global cost. The government's target

of USD 200 billion in AI infrastructure investment over the next two years is not aspiration; the commitments already announced bring it within reach.

Ensuring that this investment becomes long-term structural advantage is the purpose of the Union Budget for 2026-27, which extends a tax holiday until 2047 for foreign companies using Indian data centres for global cloud services and commits USD 1.1 billion to a venture capital fund for AI and advanced manufacturing startups. The National Critical Mineral Mission, at over 34,000 crore, secures the lithium, cobalt, and rare earths that AI and semiconductor manufacturing depend on.

None of this matters, however, unless it reaches people. On the first day of the Summit, more than 2.5 lakh students took a pledge to use AI for responsible innovation, a number submitted for Guinness World Records recognition. Thirty Data and AI Labs are operational in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, the first wave of a planned 570-lab network, while AIKosh offers over 7,500 datasets and 273 models as shared public infrastructure. When this government took office India had 16 IITs; today there are 23. OpenAI's CEO disclosed that India is Chat-

GPT's second largest market, with 100 million weekly active users. The consumption is here, and the production capability is catching up: three sovereign AI models were unveiled at the summit, including Sarvam AI's 105-billion-parameter large language model trained entirely on Indian compute and BharatGen's Param2, a 17-billion-parameter multilingual model supporting all 22 scheduled languages. These are not fine-tuned adaptations of foreign models; they are built from scratch on sovereign infrastructure.

Equally telling is how partnerships are now structured, because they are no longer about licensing foreign technology but about co-building sovereign capacity. The Tata Group's strategic partnership with OpenAI, beginning with 100 megawatts of AI-ready data centre capacity under the Stargate initiative and scaling to one gigawatt, signals that Indian industry is moving from the demand side to the supply side of global intelligence. India's formal signing of the Pax Silica Declaration on the sidelines of the summit places it in the US-led coalition securing supply chains for AI, semiconductors, and critical minerals alongside Japan, South Korea, the UK, and Australia. The bilateral India-US AI Opportunity Partnership, signed alongside, commits both nations to pro-innovation approaches on critical technologies, while the India-France Year of Innovation in 2026 adds another axis organised around joint skilling and measurable outcomes.

Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, the first Global South nation to host the global AI summit series did not merely convene a conversation but laid out the terms on which it intends to compete: a Delhi Declaration that rewrites the rules of AI governance, digital infrastructure processing nearly half the world's real-time payments, investment commitments in the hundreds of billions, sovereign models built from scratch, and entry into the supply chain security architecture of the AI age. Panini's lesson was never complicated. Structure is intelligence. India is building that structure now.

The author is Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas

SCERT signs MoU with Bharti Airtel Foundation for Life Skills Curriculum Development



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a significant step towards future-proofing the youth of the region, the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Jammu & Kashmir has entered into a strategic partnership with the Bharti Airtel Foundation.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was formally signed to co-create and implement a comprehensive Life Skills Curriculum across the Union Territory, marking a pivotal move towards nurturing holistic and resilient learners.

This landmark collaboration aims to go beyond conventional academics by embedding essential life competencies into the core of school education. The initiative is designed to equip students with the tools required to navigate the complexities of the modern world, with a focus on critical thinking, effective communication, emotional intelligence, creative problem-solving and sound decision-making.

The signing ceremony was

attended by prominent dignitaries from both organizations, reflecting their shared commitment to educational transformation.

The signatories included Director, SCERT J&K; Dr. Naseem Javed Chowdhary, Joint Director, SCERT J&K; Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor, Chief Operating Officer; Binu Nair, Regional Head, Anil Bhatt and Project Head from Bharti Airtel Foundation, Sourab Sharma.

Dr. Naseem Javed Chowdhary highlighted the transformative potential of the initiative, stating that the partnership represents a cornerstone in redefining educational excellence in Jammu & Kashmir. He emphasized that by integrating a structured life skills framework, the initiative seeks not only to educate students but to empower them with the emotional and cognitive resilience necessary to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

The collaboration will adopt a multi-pronged strategy, including joint development of age-appropriate curriculum mod-

ules, extensive capacity-building programmes for teachers and master trainers and phased implementation across schools in the Union Territory. The overarching goal is to ensure sustainable and measurable impact on student development.

Binu Nair, COO of Bharti Airtel Foundation, reiterated the Foundation's commitment to educational innovation, expressing pride in partnering with SCERT J&K. He underscored the belief that education forms the bedrock of a thriving society and that the curriculum is designed to foster a growth mindset in students, enabling them to become not only academically proficient but also emotionally intelligent and socially responsible citizens.

Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor, Joint Director, SCERT J&K, while thanking Bharti Airtel Foundation, stated that the MoU signifies a shared vision to empower the next generation of Jammu & Kashmir with essential life skills to achieve personal well-being, academic success and professional readiness.

SHRAMIK WARTA- An evolving panacea for workers grievances redress

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: What began as a digital outreach initiative has steadily evolved into one of the most impactful grievance redressal platforms for workers in Jammu and Kashmir.

Shramik Warta, a flagship programme spearheaded by the Labour Commissioner, J&K, is transforming how labour-related grievances are heard, addressed and resolved across the Union Territory.

Conceived as a weekly virtual interface, Shramik Warta is held every Wednesday, bringing together Assistant Labour Commissioners (ALCs) from all districts, workers, labourers and other aggrieved individuals on a common digital platform. The initiative ensures that workers, irrespective of their location, can directly present their concerns before senior departmental authorities without procedural hurdles or delays.

Grievances pertaining to non-payment of wages, minimum wages, non-payment of gratuity, non-payment of compensation, illegal termination etc. are presented by the aggrieved workers during the Shramik Warta and upon intervention by the concerned

officers, the same are resolved in a time-bound manner. A total amount of Rs.2,89,05,026/- (Rupees Two Crore Eighty-Nine Lakh Five Thousand and Twenty-Six) has already been recovered as pending wages, gratuity, compensation, retrenchment compensation, bonus etc. from employers and the same has been disbursed to the concerned beneficiaries under rules. Moreover, in the cases of illegal termination, through the intervention of officers, the aggrieved workers have also been reinstated.

This initiative of grievance redressal mechanism has also been acknowledged and appreciated by the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India at the Regional Conference of Labour & Employment held in Jaipur.

The 16th edition of Shramik Warta was convened on Wednesday at 11:30 am by Labour Commissioner, J&K, S. Charandeep Singh reaffirming the Department's commitment to institutionalizing a transparent, accountable and worker-centric grievance redressal mechanism. During the session, the Labour Commissioner interacted directly

with aggrieved workers, patiently hearing their concerns and issuing on-the-spot directions for resolution.

Several cases highlighted during the session underscored the tangible impact of the initiative:

In Rajouri, Sat Paul, a construction worker, had sought financial assistance under the Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Scheme for the medical treatment of his son suffering from a kidney ailment. Prompt intervention by the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Rajouri, ensured immediate financial assistance, enabling the family to arrange urgent treatment. The beneficiary expressed heartfelt gratitude for the timely humanitarian support.

In Srinagar, Adil Ahmad Mir and fellow teachers from Iqra International School had raised concerns regarding non-payment of salaries for three months. Following swift action by the ALC Srinagar, the pending salaries were released in a time-bound manner, bringing relief to the affected teachers.

Similarly, workers employed with Unique Sanitation in Doda had complained of non-payment of six months' wages and irregu-

larities in Provident Fund contributions. After intervention by the ALC Doda, the pending wages were cleared and statutory compliance was ensured, resolving the matter efficiently.

In Kulgam, Mubarak Ahmad Itoo had approached the Department regarding non-payment of gratuity by his employer, Kashmir Public School Balsoo. The grievance was addressed promptly and an amount of Rs. 35,600 was disbursed to him through cheque.

Addressing participants during the session, the Labour Commissioner emphasized that Shramik Warta represents a pioneering institutional mechanism providing workers with a structured and direct interface with higher authorities. He noted that the initiative has significantly strengthened transparency, responsiveness and accountability within the enforcement machinery of the Department.

Reiterating the Department's commitment to safeguarding the rights and welfare of workers, he affirmed that Shramik Warta will continue to be held regularly to ensure timely grievance redressal and effective delivery of labour welfare measures across Jammu and Kashmir.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

NIA Arrests 2 More

and were also a part of various other terror conspiracies. They were engaged in the collection of arms and ammunition, intended for use against the Indian State, NIA has further found through extensive investigation and examination of evidence," he said.

"As per the findings of the national counter-terror agency, the Delhi blast conspiracy was masterminded by Umer, along with other accused - Muzammil Ganai, Shaheen Saeed, Mufti Irfan, Adeel Ahmed Rather, as well as five others who had provided shelter and logistical support to the main conspirators. These nine men were arrested earlier from various locations in J&K and Haryana," the spokesman said—(KNO)

Vice-Prez Radhakrishnan

been put in place across Srinagar, particularly in and around the Hazratbal-Nishat-Harwar axis.

Senior police and civil administration officers have reviewed the security and logistical preparations to ensure smooth conduct of the event.

Meanwhile, authorities have also issued a detailed traffic advisory for parts of Srinagar tomorrow, with restrictions to remain in force from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM—(KNO)

Day Temperatures

degrees above normal. Banihal registered 20.9 degrees Celsius (7.5 degrees above normal), Batote 19.9 degrees Celsius (6.7 degrees above normal), Bhaderwah 19.4 degrees Celsius (5 degrees above normal) and Katra 24.9 degrees Celsius (4 degrees above normal).

In the Ladakh region, Leh recorded a high of 7.2 degrees Celsius, Kargil 9.1 degrees Celsius and Nubra Valley 10.5 degrees Celsius.

The temperatures remained largely similar to the previous day, when most stations across Kashmir had recorded departures of up to 10 degrees above normal.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast generally dry weather across Jammu and Kashmir on February 25 and 26.

Between February 27 and 28, the weather department has predicted partly to generally cloudy skies with light rain or snow at isolated places. March 1 is likely to remain generally dry.

From March 2 to 3, partly to generally cloudy conditions with light rain or snow over higher reaches at isolated to scattered places are expected, followed by a dry spell from March 4 to 7. Another spell of partly to generally cloudy weather with light rain or snow in higher reaches at isolated to scattered places is likely between March 8 and 10, the MeT office

said.

The department has advised farmers to continue their agricultural operations and said a further rise of 1 to 2 degrees Celsius in day temperatures at most places is likely over the next two days—(KNO)

DGP Calls For Focused

sustained operational momentum. Highlighting, the current security challenges, DGP directed officers to undertake nontraditional, non conformist and modern tactics to neutralize Pakistani terrorists.

He called for focused approach and renewed efforts against terrorists, their support networks to eliminate terrorism and establishing peace in the district.

To strengthen the overall security grid, the DGP emphasized on maintaining seamless coordination with sister agencies, effective area domination plan and surveillance on traditional terror sympathizers and separatists network of the district. While reviewing law and order, he stressed on taking preventive measures against miscreants, engaging peace loving citizens in day to day activities of policing and adopting measures to bridge the gap between police and public.

Before the conclusion of the meeting, the DGP urged officers to continue counter terror operations in the area and remain committed to establish long lasting peace and stability in the district.

No Immediate

Wednesday, a day after the School Education Department (SED) issued the formal order.

Speaking to reporters, Itoo, said, "We are not implementing the TET orders immediately. J&K will be the last region in the country to conduct TET examinations."

She said many teachers have dedicated decades of service to educating students and their concerns will be taken into consideration.

Earlier, the School Education Department had designated the Jammu and Kashmir State Board of School Education as the nodal agency to conduct the TET examination—(KNO)

Centre Evaluates Key

multimodal infrastructure, last-mile connectivity to economic and social nodes and 'Whole of Government' approach, said the official statement.

The Ministry of Railways has proposed the construction of a third railway line between Jalandhar Cantt and Jammu Tawi, covering a total length of 210.750 km across the states of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. The proposed alignment will include

27 stations and traverse key districts such as Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Kangra, Pathankot, Kathua, and Samba.

It carries substantial strategic, economic, and social significance. It will serve as a crucial infrastructure asset for national security by enabling faster and more reliable movement of defence personnel, equipment, and supplies to border regions.

"From an economic perspective, the project will enhance trade and commerce by improving the transportation of agricultural produce, construction materials, and essential goods," according to the ministry.

The Railways Ministry also proposed the construction of a third railway line between Manikpur and Itarsi, covering a total length of 518.532 km across the States of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

The proposed alignment traverses key districts including Chitrakoot, Satna, Maihar, Katni, Jabalpur, Narsinghpur, and Narmadapuram, thereby reinforcing rail connectivity along a critical corridor linking northern and central India.

This is expected to significantly augment operational capacity, improve network resilience, and facilitate the introduction of additional train services to meet growing traffic demand and reduce congestion.

Moreover, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has proposed the development of a Greenfield Airport at Doloo, Silchar in Assam, strategically located adjacent to National Highway NH-27.

Once operational, the airport is expected to act as a key catalyst for socio-economic development in Cachar district and surrounding areas.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has proposed an extension of Surat Metro Corridor II (Phase I) from Saroli to the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (HSR) corridor in Gujarat.

The 4.4-km elevated extension includes three stations, with provisions for two future stations, and is aimed at enhancing urban mobility while strengthening Surat's integration with regional and national transport networks.

Sgr Airport Expansion

economic gateway," said Rouf Trambo, President of TAAK. "It will attract investment, boost trade and retail and create employment opportunities across sectors."

Travellers visiting Srinagar praised the move. "A modern terminal with faster check-in and better facilities makes travel easier," said a tourist from Delhi. "It shows that Kashmir is serious about welcoming visitors safely and comfortably."

Local residents also expressed optimism about the indirect benefits. "More tourists mean better income for taxi

drivers, shopkeepers and local guides," said Farooq Ahmed, a shopkeeper in Lal Chowk. "This expansion will help the entire community."

With construction expected to be completed in phases over the coming years, stakeholders are hopeful that the upgraded airport will deliver long-term benefits across tourism, business and employment, marking a new era for aviation in Jammu & Kashmir.

On social media, the airport expansion drew positive reactions from political and official accounts. Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted that the Cabinet approval will boost J&K's economy and strengthen connectivity, while Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described it as a "landmark step" for the region, highlighting improved passenger capacity and modern infrastructure—(KNO)



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In meeting with PM Modi, Netanyahu highlights 'bond of real friendship' between Israel and India

IANS

TEL AVIV: Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a private meeting with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu at the Ben-Gurion International Airport on Wednesday soon after his arrival in the country on a two-day State Visit with the two leaders discussing a wide range of subjects aimed at boosting bilateral ties.



"This is a bond of real friendship. Great friend, my great friend," Netanyahu is seen saying while meeting PM Modi in a video shared by the Israeli Prime Minister's office.

"Had an excellent meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu. Expressed gratitude to him for the warm welcome earlier in the day. It is a delight to be back in Israel after 9 years. We discussed a wide range of subjects aimed at boosting bilateral ties. Sectors such as technology, water management, agriculture, talent partnership and more offer immense scope for close collaboration. We also discussed key developments in the region," PM Modi posted on X after the meeting.

The 'private meeting' between the two leaders took place after Netanyahu and First Lady Sara Netanyahu welcomed PM Modi at the Ben-Gurion airport in a special gesture.

"You are a great leader," said Netanyahu after the two leaders exchanged a warm hug at the tarmac.

The Israeli PM also engaged in an animated

conversation with PM Modi, highlighting that the colour of PM Modi's pocket square matches Sara's saffron dress perfectly.

Upon arrival, Prime Minister Modi stated that he is honoured to have been received by Israeli counterpart and his wife at the airport and is looking forward to holding talks and fruitful outcomes that strengthen the friendship between two nations.

"Landed in Israel. I am extremely honoured to be received by Prime Minister Netanyahu and Mrs Netanyahu at the airport. I look forward to engaging in bilateral discussions and fruitful outcomes that strengthen the India-Israel friendship," PM Modi posted on X.

PM Modi last visited Israel in 2017, a trip which opened new avenues in defence, agriculture, and water management cooperation between the two countries. Netanyahu had also welcomed PM Modi at the airport in 2017 also.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated

Israel is an important partner of India in strategic and technological domains, with deep cooperation in science and technology, innovation, defence and agriculture.

In a post on X, Jaiswal stated, "Shalom Israel! Prime Minister Narendra Modi has touched down in Israel. This is PM Modi's second visit to Israel in nine years. In a special and heartwarming gesture PM Narendra Modi was received by Prime Minister Netanyahu and his wife, Mrs Sara Netanyahu at the airport and was accorded a special guard of honour."

"Israel is an important partner of India across strategic and technological domains, with deep cooperation in science and technology, innovation, defence and agriculture. The relationship is anchored in mutual trust, shared priorities and a growing convergence in futuristic technologies," he added.

In his departure statement on Wednesday, PM Modi stated that he is looking forward to his engagements with Netanyahu, aimed at further strength-

ening cooperation in various sectors and discussing regional and global issues.

"India and Israel share a robust and multifaceted Strategic Partnership that has witnessed remarkable growth and dynamism in recent years. I look forward to my discussions with Prime Minister Netanyahu aimed at further strengthening our cooperation across various domains, including science and technology, innovation, agriculture, water management, defence and security, trade and investment, as well as people-to-people ties," he said.

During the visit, PM Modi will also meet Israeli President Isaac Herzog and hold talks with him on various bilateral issues.

"I will also have the honour of becoming the first Indian Prime Minister to address the Israeli Parliament, Knesset, an occasion that would be a tribute to the strong parliamentary and democratic ties that bind our two nations," he said.

The Prime Minister said that he eagerly looks forward to interacting with the members of the Indian diaspora, "who have for long been nurturing the India-Israel special friendship".

"I am confident that my State Visit will further consolidate the enduring bonds between the two countries, set new goals for the Strategic Partnership, and advance our shared vision for a resilient, innovative and prosperous future," PM Modi added.

PM Modi receives rousing welcome from Indian community in Israel

IANS

TEL AVIV: Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a rousing welcome from the Indian community in Israel as he arrived at his hotel in Tel Aviv, Wednesday afternoon. The spectacular engagement highlighted India's cultural and spiritual heritage.

PM Modi witnessed cultural performances and applauded the performing artists who welcomed him. Chants of 'Modi Modi', 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' and 'Vande Mataram' reverberated, underscoring the deep love for India and massive popularity enjoyed by the Indian PM.

PM Modi arrived at the hotel after holding a private meeting with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu at the Ben-Gurion International Airport soon after his arrival in the country on a two-day State Visit. The two leaders discussed a wide range of subjects aimed at boosting bilateral ties besides regional issues.

"This is a bond of real friendship. Great friend, my great friend," Netanyahu was seen saying while meeting PM Modi in a video shared by the Israeli Prime Minister's office.

"Had an excellent meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu. Expressed gratitude to him for the warm welcome earlier in the day. It is a delight to be back in Israel after 9 years. We discussed a wide range of subjects aimed at boosting bilateral ties. Sectors such as technology, water management, agriculture, talent partnership and more offer immense scope



for close collaboration. We also discussed key developments in the region," PM Modi posted on X after the meeting.

The 'private meeting' between the two leaders took place after Netanyahu and First Lady Sara Netanyahu welcomed PM Modi at the Ben-Gurion airport in a special gesture.

"You are a great leader," said Netanyahu after the two leaders exchanged a warm hug at the tarmac.

The Israeli PM also engaged in an animated conversation with PM Modi, highlighting that the colour of PM Modi's pocket square matches Sara's saffron dress perfectly.

"My wife Sara and I welcomed today our good friend, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, who has arrived for another historic visit to Israel. Prime Minister Modi previously visited Israel in 2017, and I later paid a reciprocal visit to India that was truly exceptional. We share a close personal relationship, speak often, and I believe that the deep friendship between us powerfully reflects on the ties between our two countries," Netanyahu posted on X.

"We will attend a festive reception at the Knesset,

also welcomed PM Modi at the airport in 2017.

In his departure statement on Wednesday, PM Modi stated that he is looking forward to his engagements with Netanyahu, aimed at further strengthening cooperation in various sectors and discussing regional and global issues.

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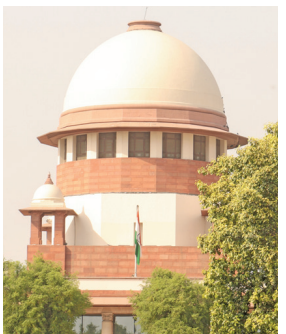
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PM Modi last visited Israel in 2017, a trip which opened new avenues in defence, agriculture, and water management cooperation between the two countries. Netanyahu had

SC issues fresh directions on SIR of electoral rolls in West Bengal

IANS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed electoral authorities in West Bengal to ensure the submission of pending verification documents by 5 p.m. on February 26 to judicial officers overseeing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.



A bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant clarified that a Madhyamik (Class 10) admit card may be accepted along with the pass certificate for verification purposes.

The bench, also comprising Justices Joyymalya Bagchi and Vipul M. Pantoli, issued further clarifications in continuation of its detailed order passed on Tuesday, after the matter was mentioned by senior advocate Dama Seshadri Naidu, appearing for the Election Commission of India (ECI).

The apex court directed that all documents referred to in paragraph 3(iii) of the February 24 order — which were received on or before February 14 but remain unuploaded — must be submitted to the presiding judicial officers without delay.

"In continuation of the order dated 24.02.2026, it is further clarified/directed that all the documents mentioned in para 3(ii) of the order dated 24.02.2026, which were not uploaded so far and which were received on or before 14.02.2026, shall be submitted/handed over to the Presiding Judicial Officers by the concerned EROs/AEROs by tomorrow, i.e., 26.02.2026, upto 5.00 P.M.," the CJI-led Bench directed.

Clarifying the scope of documents that may be relied upon for verification of voters falling under the "logical discrepancy/unmapped category", the order stated: "Para 3(iii) (c) of the order dated 24.02.2026 is further clarified to the effect that Madhyamik (Class-10) Admit

Card may be taken along with the Madhyamik Pass Certificate for the purpose of verifying the date of birth and parentage of the candidate."

The latest directions come a day after the apex court, invoking its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution, permitted the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court to draw additional judicial officers, including Civil Judges (Senior Division) and Civil Judges (Junior Division) with at least three years' experience, to expedite adjudication of nearly 50 lakh claims and objections arising from the SIR exercise.

The Supreme Court also allowed the Calcutta High Court to seek assistance from the High Courts of Jharkhand and Orissa, clarifying that while the last date for publication of the final electoral roll remains February 28, the ECI may issue supplementary lists if verification of all cases is not completed by then.

It further declared that voters included in subsequent supplementary lists "shall be deemed to have been part of the final list published on 28.02.2026".

India, Sweden sign AI pact; launch SITAC to boost tech, trade ties

IANS

NEW DELHI: India and Sweden have taken a step forward in strengthening cooperation in artificial intelligence and digital technologies, Ministry of Electronics & IT said on Wednesday.

On the sidelines of the India AI Impact Summit 2026, the IndiaAI Mission and Business Sweden signed a Statement of Intent to boost bilateral collaboration in AI and promote trade and investment between the two countries.

The agreement lays down a structured framework for working together on the development, application and deployment of AI solutions.

The focus will be on delivering real-world industrial and social outcomes. The partnership builds on the long-standing ties between India and Sweden and reflects their shared priority of using AI to drive innovation, economic growth and sustainable development, while also managing potential risks.

Kavita Bhatia, Chief Operating Officer of the IndiaAI Mission, said India and



Sweden are not just partners in AI but co-architects of a value-based, sustainable and trusted AI future.

She said the collaboration highlights the complementary strengths and shared democratic values of both countries and positions them to shape the next phase of global technological change.

Sofia Hogman, Trade and Invest Commissioner of Sweden to India, said the Statement of Intent marks an important step in turning the shared strategic vision into concrete outcomes.

She added that through the proposed corridor initiative, both sides aim to connect their AI and digital technology ecosystems and create new business opportunities.

As part of the partnership, the two sides will jointly develop a dedicat-

ed programme called the Sweden-India Technology and Artificial Intelligence Corridor, or SITAC.

This corridor will act as a flagship platform to bring together government agencies, industry leaders, startups and academic institutions from both nations.

Under SITAC, the two countries plan to organise conferences, seminars and thematic workshops, facilitate exchanges between AI ecosystems, and conduct field visits to innovation hubs and centres of excellence.

The initiative will also encourage engagement among companies, investors, researchers and policymakers, identify opportunities for joint innovation platforms and investment corridors, and promote the deployment of AI solutions across priority sectors in both countries.

ED attaches Anil Ambani's Rs 3,716 crore house in Mumbai

IANS

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached the Rs 3,716.83 crore worth Pali Hill residential property 'Abode' of Anil Ambani in Reliance Communications Ltd's bank fraud case, according to an official statement issued on Wednesday.

Enforcement Directorate (ED), Special Task Force, Headquarters has provisionally attached the Pali Hill residential property under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).

Earlier, part of this property was attached to the extent of Rs 473.17 crore, the statement issued by the financial investigation agency said.

This takes the cumulative attachment of properties of the Anil Ambani Group to over Rs 15,700 crore, according to the statement.

ED had initiated the investigation based on CBI's FIR under sections 120-B, 406 and 420 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and section 13(2) read with section 13(1)(d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1989, against M/s Reli-

ance Communications Ltd (RCOM), Anil Ambani, and others.

RCOM and its group companies availed loans from domestic and foreign lenders, of which a total amount of Rs 40,185 crore is outstanding.

The ED investigation has revealed that, among other assets, the Pali Hill property was aggregated into the RiseE Trust — a Private Family Trust of the members of Anil Ambani's family. This was done to make it appear as though Anil Ambani is not involved in the ownership.

The intended effect of this corporate restructuring was to ensure wealth preservation and resource generation by aggregation of the property in the RiseE trust and shield it from the personal liabilities of Anil Ambani in the form of personal guarantees extended by him to lender banks against the loans sanctioned to RCOM. The property was intended to be beneficially used and owned by the Anil Ambani family and not for the distressed public banks whose loans turned NPA, the statement said.

Further investigations in the case are still in progress, the statement added.

Trump claims global reset as economy surges in his State of the Union address

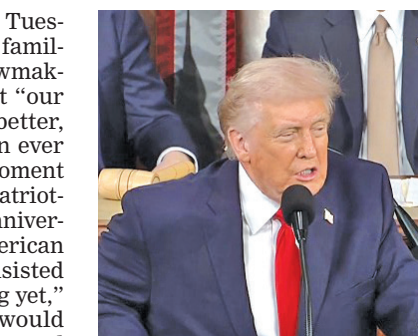
IANS

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump strode into the House chamber to chants of "USA, USA, USA", and delivered a State of the Union address built as much for the room as for the cameras — a rolling blend of victory lap, grievance and theatre that cast his second-term as a national rescue mission and his opponents as the one remaining obstacle to a promised "golden age of America".

With Speaker Mike Johnson introducing him and Vice President J.D. Vance seated behind

the rostrum, Trump, on Tuesday night, opened with a familiar superlative, telling lawmakers and the country that "our nation is back, bigger, better, richer and stronger than ever before". He framed the moment around an approaching patriotic marker — the "250th anniversary of our glorious American independence" — and insisted that "you've seen nothing yet," promising the country would "do better and better and better".

At one point, after he called on lawmakers to stand to affirm that "the first duty of the American government is to protect



American citizens, not illegal aliens," he turned toward Democrats who remained seated and scolded them: "You should be ashamed of yourself".

He claimed that "in the past nine months, zero illegal aliens have been admitted to the United States", while saying legal immigration would continue for "people that will love our country".

His economic centrepiece was a wager that the country could be remade by tax cuts and tariffs at once.

Trump said his tariff policy had brought in "hundreds of billions of dollars" and helped him broker deals "economically and on a national security basis."

Four days after what he called "an unfortunate ruling

from the United States Supreme Court", he insisted that "these powerful country-saving, peace-protecting" tariffs would remain, and predicted that tariffs would "substantially replace the modern-day system of income tax".

As is now ritual, Trump punctuated policy with invited guests — personal stories deployed as evidence. Megan Hemhauser, a mother who homeschools by day and waits tables by night, served as the emblem of tax relief; Catherine Rayner, an I.V.F. patient, was introduced as "the very first customer ever to get that big

discount" under his prescription drug programme; and Rachel Wiggins, outbid by "gigantic investment firms", was held up to justify his executive order banning large Wall Street firms from buying single-family homes in bulk.

The showmanship extended to sports. Trump summoned the men's Olympic hockey team into the aisle, praised goaltender Connor Hellebuyck's performance — "46 shots on goal" — and announced he would award him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, after a team vote that, he joked, no one dared oppose. But the sharpest colour of

the night came when Trump pivoted from applause lines to accusation. He announced a "war on fraud" led by Vice President Vance and alleged that "members of the Somali community have pillaged an estimated \$19 billion from the American taxpayer."

He warned that "importing these cultures through unrestricted immigration" brought "bribery, corruption and lawlessness" to the United States. The language landed like a provocation in the chamber, turning a fiscal crackdown into an argument about identity, borders and social order.

Ranji Trophy: Dogra fined 50 percent match fee, receives two demerit points for head-butting Aneesh

IAN S

HUBBALI: Jammu and Kashmir captain Paras Dogra has been fined 50 percent of his match fee and handed two demerit points for head-butting Karnataka substitute fielder K.V. Aneesh during day two's play in the Ranji Trophy final at the KSCA Ground on Wednesday.

A BCCI official told IANS that Dogra has been fined 50 percent of his match fee shortly after day two's play ended. "In addition to this, two demerit points have been added to Dogra's disciplinary record, as per the playing conditions for men's multi-day matches," further said the official.

The incident occurred in the 101st over of J&K's first innings, when Dogra and Kanhaiya Wadhawan attempted to steady the innings after early set-



backs. Shortly after edging a delivery from Prasad Krishna to the boundary, Dogra exchanged words with Aneesh, who was stationed at silly point.

Dogra then advanced towards Aneesh and head-butted him while still wearing his helmet, prompting immediate intervention from on-field umpires Rohan Pandit and Ulhas Gandhe, as well as Karnataka opener Mayank Agar-

wal and captain Devdutt Padikkal. Later, Dogra was seen apologising to Aneesh.

The Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) said it would comply with the aforementioned decision, noting that the sanction was in line with established norms by the BCCI and the match referee's ruling.

"Whatever has been done now is as per the BCCI norms and we have to

follow them. Plus, we have to follow the decision made by the match referee for this final, who is Vengalil Narayanan Kutty," said a JKCA official to IANS.

A source in the J&K team further said the head-but from Dogra to Aneesh may have happened in the heat of the moment. "We have no idea yet on what exactly transpired on-field, but it looks like some sledging may have led to that. Otherwise, a very calm and ethics following person like Dogra wouldn't ever react this way, especially when on-field," said the source.

Coming to the match, Dogra and Kanhaiya Wadhawan struck 70 each while Sahil Lotra was unbeaten on 57 to ensure Jammu & Kashmir, chasing their first Ranji Trophy title, reached 527/6 in 126 overs at the end of day two's play, before bad light brought an early end to the proceedings.

J&K in command against Karnataka, reach 527/6 at stumps on Day 2

IAN S

HUBLI: All-rounder Sahil Lotra stood tall with an unbeaten 57 as Jammu and Kashmir reached 527/6 at Stumps on Day 2 in the Ranji Trophy Final against the eight-time champions Karnataka here at the Hubli Cricket Ground on Wednesday.

After losing two big wickets in the second session, the Jammu and Kashmir team started the third session with caution, but Sahil soon changed gears, hitting three fours to Prasad Krishna and Shreyas Gopal.

Sahil made sure the pressure did not fall on the new batter Abid Mush-taq, who was also giving a strike to the all-rounder, and completed his fifty off 73 balls in the 150th over.



Sahil remained unbeaten at 57 with seven fours to his name, while Abid remained not out at 20 off 31 balls before play was first interrupted due to bad lighting, followed by rain, which eventually led to the match being called off. Only 11 overs were bowled in the final session, and J&K scored 49 runs.

Earlier, with the help of captain Paras Dogra's half-

century, J&K reached 473/6 at Tea despite a comeback by Karnataka in the session, with two wickets to their name.

J&K had a good start to the post-lunch session with Dogra and Wadhawan continuing the momentum from the first session of the day. Wadhwan completed his fifty in the 122nd over. He reached the milestone in just 84 balls. However, he

got out after scoring 70 runs.

Meanwhile, Dogra continued to take his team's score further by rotating the strike well. The 41-year-old completed his fifty off 150 balls. Karnataka finally got the breakthrough in the 143rd over when Shreyas Gopal clean bowled Dogra with a googly.

After being pushed back by J&K on day 1, Karnataka made a strong comeback at the start of day 2 as centurion Shubham Pundir was trapped by Vidyadhar Patil and got caught at mid-wicket.

Abdul Samad, who was looking in good touch, also went down in the next over as Prasad Krishna got his third wicket. But Captain Dogra led the comeback with Wadhwan as the team inches closer to a massive first innings score in the final.

KIWG 2026: From coffee hills to cold glory—the story of sprint queen Bhavani Thekkeda

IAN S

GULMARG: In a country where snow falls like a birth right, Bhavani Thekkeda Nanjunda had to borrow her first winter. She grew up in the coffee-scented hills of Kodagu, Karnataka where the earth is red, the mornings are misty, and snow exists only on television screens.

Bhavani was 23 when she felt the sting of ice on her cheeks the first time and learned how silence sounds different when it's blanketed in white. On Tuesday at the Khelo India Winter Games 2026 in Gulmarg, at 8,700 feet above sea level, the 30-year-old daughter of a coffee farmer became the queen of sprint.

Bhavani surged to gold in the Nordic women's 1.5 km sprint at the snow-covered Gulmarg Golf Course, adding the title to her two earlier bronze medals in the 15-km and 10-km relays this season.

When Bhavani crossed the finish line on Tuesday, lungs burning, skis carving their final arcs into Gulmarg snow, it was more than a victory. It was a reckoning with geography,



with doubt, with destiny. She looked up at the mountains, then down at the snow underneath her feet.

"This is for my parents," Bhavani said. "Though I participate in winter sports, my mom and dad have never seen snow. I hope they will someday come to Gulmarg, see the snow, and see me win gold."

Back home, her father tends to coffee plants. But it was he who cultivated something rarer: belief. When winter sports seemed like a fantasy for a girl from the deep south, he backed Bhavani's chase. No snow. No local tracks. No

culture of cross-country skiing. Just a dream and a stubborn refusal to let it go.

Bhavani is already a pioneer. She became the first Indian woman to win a medal at a Federation Internationale de Ski et de Snowboard (FIS)-accredited cross-country skiing event, clinching bronze in the 5-km interval start free race at the 2025 FIS South America Cup in Chile. She has represented India at the 2023 and 2025 Nordic World Championships and competed in all six editions of the Khelo India Winter Games.

But none of that erases the improbable beginning. Bhavani started as a mountaineer in 2014, became a certified ski instructor, learned to glide on surfaces she had never imagined touching as a child. Every step forward meant overcoming financial strain, scarce infrastructure, and the simple tyranny of distance. In Karnataka, there are no ski trails, no frozen mornings, no childhood snow days.

"I myself had not even seen snow till I was 23," Bhavani said. "If I could excel despite picking up the sport so late, imagine what someone who starts

early can do with proper training, coaching, and facilities."

In Gulmarg, she found mentors and mountains willing to teach her. She credits institutions like the Army's High Altitude Warfare School (HAWs), the Indian Institute of Skiing and Mountaineering (IISM), and the Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports (JIM & WS) for opening doors to athletes from places where winter is just a word in a textbook.

Now, she wants more doors opened and points to the Jammu and Kashmir government's plan to train 500 youth from across the country every year and urges young athletes, especially those from unlikely landscapes, to step forward.

"Interest in winter sports is growing," Bhavani says. "The snow is calling farther south than ever before."

Bhavani also acknowledges the support of Reliance Foundation, which sponsors six girls from across India, one each from Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, and two from Karnataka, including her.

T20 WC: SA vs WI head-to-head record and last five matches performance

IAN S

AHMEDABAD: Two-time champions West Indies will clash against South Africa in their second match of the T20 World Cup 2026 Super 8s at the Narendra Modi Stadium on Thursday. The match will start at 3:00 PM IST.

The West Indies are coming after registering a dominating 107-run win against Zimbabwe, while on the other hand, South Africa beat the defending champions, India, by 76 runs in their first Super 8s

match.

This will be the 30th time that both the top teams will meet in the shortest format. West Indies and South Africa have a neck-to-neck competition in the head-to-head record in T20Is. West Indies have won 15 of the 29 matches played against the Proteas, while South Africa has won 14 out of 29 matches played against the Caribbean side.

However, South Africa have a clear dominance when it came to the T20 World Cup 2026. Both teams have played five

T20 World Cup matches so far, in which South Africa have won four while West Indies have been able to win only one match. The West Indies last beat South Africa in the World Cup in 2016, and they would look to end their ten-year-long wait.

West Indies and South Africa recently met each other in a three-match T20I series last month, in which South Africa won by a margin of 2-1.

Head-to-head record between South Africa and the West Indies in T20Is

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, formerly known as Tariq Hussain Sofi, S/o Abdul Gani R/o Bilal Colony, Krangsoo, Anantnag have changed my name to Tariq Hussain Hagroo S/o Abdul Gani R/o Bilal colony, Krangsoo, Anantnag. Henceforth, I shall be known and identified by the name Tariq Hussain Hagroo for all purposes, including official records, documents, and transactions. If anyone has any objection to the above change of name, he/she may contact the Passport Office, Srinagar within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of 7 days, no objection shall be entertained.

Ramadan
2026 | 1447 Hijri

Sehri & Iftar Time Schedule

10 Days Of Rahmat

RAMADAN	DATE	DAY	SEHRI TIME	IFTARI TIME
1	19 FEB	THURSDAY	05:49	06:21
2	20 FEB	FRIDAY	05:48	06:22
3	21 FEB	SATURDAY	05:47	06:23
4	22 FEB	SUNDAY	05:46	06:24
5	23 FEB	MONDAY	05:45	06:24
6	24 FEB	TUESDAY	05:44	06:25
7	25 FEB	WEDNESDAY	05:43	06:25
8	26 FEB	THURSDAY	05:41	06:27
9	27 FEB	FRIDAY	05:40	06:28
10	28 FEB	SATURDAY	05:39	06:29

10 Days Of Magfirat

RAMADAN	DATE	DAY	SEHRI TIME	IFTARI TIME
11	01 MARCH	SUNDAY	05:38	06:30
12	02 MARCH	MONDAY	05:37	06:31
13	03 MARCH	TUESDAY	05:36	06:32
14	04 MARCH	WEDNESDAY	05:34	06:33
15	05 MARCH	THURSDAY	05:33	06:33
16	06 MARCH	FRIDAY	05:31	06:34
17	07 MARCH	SATURDAY	05:30	06:34
18	08 MARCH	SUNDAY	05:28	06:35
19	09 MARCH	MONDAY	05:27	06:36
20	10 MARCH	TUESDAY	05:26	06:37

10 Days Of Najat

RAMADAN	DATE	DAY	SEHRI TIME	IFTARI TIME
21	11 MARCH	WEDNESDAY	05:25	06:38
22	12 MARCH	THURSDAY	05:24	06:38
23	13 MARCH	FRIDAY	05:23	06:39
24	14 MARCH	SATURDAY	05:20	06:40
25	15 MARCH	SUNDAY	05:19	06:41
26	16 MARCH	MONDAY	05:18	06:42
27	17 MARCH	TUESDAY	05:16	06:42
28	18 MARCH	WEDNESDAY	05:15	06:43
29	19 MARCH	THURSDAY	05:14	06:44
30	20 MARCH	FRIDAY	05:12	06:45

DUA FOR IFTAR

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي لَكَ صَبْرٌ وَبِكَ آمَنْتُ وَعَلَيْكَ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَعَلَى رِزْقِكَ أَقْتَرْتُ

DUA FOR SEHRI

وَبَصُومٍ غَدٍ تَوَيْتُ مِنْ شَهْرٍ مَصَّانٍ

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Movies Schedule
Thursday, 26th February

GOAT (U)
ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES - 04:00 PM

DO DEEWANE SEHER MEIN (U/A 13+)
HINDI - 12:30 PM

O'ROMEO (A)
HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES - 02:40 PM, 06:10 PM

ASSI (A)
HINDI - 12:00 PM

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