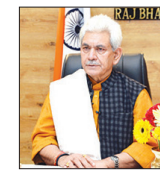


Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

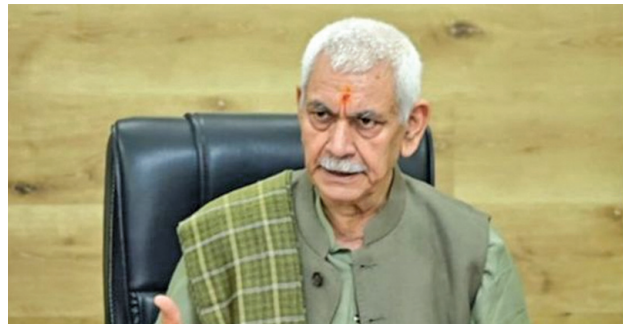
Office of LG J&K
@OfficeOfLGJandK



J&K's finest hour has arrived! Emotions surging beyond words as I watch our Cricket team claiming the Ranji Trophy. To every fierce player who carved history through sheer grit: thank you from entire UT beaming with pride. You have immortalized history—embrace it with honor.

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LG Congratulates J&K Cricket Team On Historic Ranji Trophy Triumph



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday extended his heartiest congratulations to the Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Team for the historic maiden Ranji Trophy title victory.

The Lieutenant Governor hailed the achievement as a defining moment in the Union Territory's sporting history. He praised the players and the coaching staff

for their extraordinary performance, and dedication throughout the tournament.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "J&K's finest hour has arrived! Emotions surging beyond words as I watch our Cricket team claiming the Ranji Trophy. To every fierce player who carved history through sheer grit: thank you from entire UT beaming with pride. You have immortalized history— ●P-06

Historic Glory

J&K Clinch Maiden Ranji Trophy Title With Commanding Show Against Karnataka

End Of 66-Year Wait As J&K Script Golden Chapter In Indian Domestic Cricket

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: In a landmark moment for the region, Jammu & Kashmir lifted their maiden Ranji Trophy title, defeating Karnataka cricket team in a one-sided final at Hubballi to script history after more than six decades.

The triumph marks a watershed achievement for J&K cricket, ending a 66-year-long wait and igniting celebrations across the Union Territory, as fans hailed the victory as a symbol of perseverance, belief, and transformation.

Winning the toss, skipper Paras Dogra opted to bat first,



a decision that laid the foundation for a memorable triumph. J&K piled up a mammoth 584 in 173.1 overs, riding on a dis-

ciplined and collective batting display. Shubham Pundir anchored the innings with a masterful 121, while Yawer

Hassan (88) and Dogra himself (70) ensured stability in the top order.

The middle and lower order further consolidated the innings, with Abdul Samad (61), Kanhaiya Wadhawan (70), and Sahil Lotra (72) contributing vital runs. Despite a five-wicket haul from Prasad Krishna, Karnataka bowlers struggled to contain the relentless J&K batting unit.

In response, Karnataka faltered under pressure and were bundled out for 293, conceding a massive 291-run first-innings deficit. Captain Mayank Agarwal stood tall with a fighting 160, but lacked ●P-06

PMO India
@PMOIndia



Congratulations to the Jammu and Kashmir team for their first ever Ranji Trophy win! This historic triumph reflects remarkable grit, discipline and passion of the team. It is a proud moment for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and it highlights the growing sporting passion and talent there. May this feat inspire many young athletes to dream big and play more.

Amit Shah
@AmitShah



On Jammu and Kashmir winning the Ranji Trophy for the first time ever, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to every youth of the region and especially to Team J&K that scripted this history. It is a moment that fills every citizen with immense pride and mirrors the reality that the new changes that have swept Jammu and Kashmir are the new identity of its youth. The mantras of peace, progress, and prosperity are the driving force of the New Jammu and Kashmir.

Jay Shah, Others Congratulate J&K Cricket Team

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Cutting across the lines, every section of the society, including former cricketers, politicians and others congratulated Jammu and Kashmir cricket team for

winning its maiden Ranji Trophy title by defeating eight-time champions Karnataka on Saturday.

The victory not only ended a 66-year wait but also triggered celebrations across the Union Territory. ●P-06

Historic Triumph Reflects Remarkable Grit Of J&K Team: PM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated Jammu and Kashmir cricket team for clinching their maiden Ranji Trophy title.

PM Modi, wrote on X: "Congratulations to the Jammu and



●P-06

Peace, Progress, Prosperity Driving Force Of New J&K: HM

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Union Home Minister and Amit Shah on Saturday congratulated Jammu & Kashmir for winning Ranji Trophy for the first time ever.

In a post on 'X', Shah, said, "On Jammu and Kashmir



●P-06

CM Announces ₹2 Crore Reward For Players, Support Staff

GMK NEWS NETWORK

HUBBALLI: In a moment that will be etched in the sporting history of Jammu and Kashmir, the J&K cricket team lifted their maiden Ranji Trophy title, prompting Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to announce a ₹2



●P-06

CONGRATULATIONS TEAM JAMMU AND KASHMIR FOR THE MAIDEN AND HISTORIC WIN OF Ranji Trophy 2025-26



Jammu and Kashmir Government announces Rs. 2 Crore for Winning Team

DIPK-11440/25 DATE: 11/08/2025

Div Com conducts City Tour; Inspects E-Bus Charging Stations

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Saturday undertook an extensive tour of Srinagar city to review the progress of ongoing developmental works at various locations.

He was accompanied by Commissioner SMC/CEO SSSL, General Manager SRTC, Deputy Director Planning (DDP), and other senior revenue officers.

During the visit, the Divisional Commissioner inspected the e-bus charging station at Zoonimar, Soura, and assessed the status of the ongoing works. He was informed that the facility is expected to be commissioned by March 15.

He directed the concerned officers to evaluate the operational impact of the charging station, particularly in terms of service efficiency, traffic decongestion, circulation management, and public convenience.



The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the construction of residential houses being developed for eight families from Habakadal at a nearby site and stressed timely completion of the project.

While visiting the proposed site for an additional e-bus charging station at Hazratbal, he instructed the CEO, Srinagar Smart City, to prepare detailed site drawings and examine the feasibility of the project in consultation with the Vice Chairman, LCMA.

Taking note of the deteriorating condition of the Habakadal Foot bridge, the Divisional Commissioner directed the CEO SSSL to consult local representatives and expedite necessary renovation measures.

He further inspected the proposed riverfront development project at Habakadal near the ghat, which aims to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the area and facilitate water transport infrastructure.

DC Sgr kick starts free HPV vaccination campaign for Girls Aged 14-15

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Saturday launched Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for girls aged 14-15 Years as a part of nationwide campaign to prevent incidences of cervical cancer among young women here at UPHC Bataloo.

Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tahir Sajad; District Health Officer, Dr Rubee-na; Zonal Medical Officer, Batmaloo, Dr Sameena; ZMO SR Gunj, Dr Shafiq; Medical Superintendent Government Gousia Hospital, Dr Arshid, other senior health functionaries and other concerned were present on the occasion.



Speaking at the launch event, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of early vaccination in protecting adolescent girls against HPV infections, which are a leading cause of cervical cancer. He stated that cervical cancer remains

one of the most preventable yet prevalent cancers affecting women, and that timely immunization can significantly reduce long-term health risks.

Emphasizing coordinated efforts, the DC urged parents, guardians, school authorities and healthcare

workers to ensure maximum participation and coverage across the district. He directed health officials to meticulously follow the laid-down guidelines and adopt a systematic approach to identify and take awareness to all eligible girls in the target age group, ensuring effective and time-bound implementation of the campaign.

During the launch event, the DC was informed that about 13,700 HPV vaccine doses have been arranged for Srinagar district. They also apprised the DC of the arrangements regarding vaccine storage, logistics and cold chain management to ensure smooth implementation of the campaign.

DDC Anantnag inaugurates HPV Vaccination Campaign at SDH Achabal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: In sync with the nationwide launch of HPV Vaccination Campaign, District Development Commissioner (DDC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat, Saturday inaugurated HPV Vaccination Campaign at Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Achabal.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC said that health remains a top priority sector and HPV Vaccine is crucial in curbing the Cervical Cancer. "There are over 11,000 eligible females aged 14-15 years

who will be immunised at 14 Designated Centers across the district," Dr. Bhat added.

The DDC further said that all necessary arrangements for safe roll out and smooth vaccination drive have been put in place. He also interacted with several beneficiaries and appealed to the general public to encourage their eligible children to get vaccinated at DVCs.

ADC, CMO, BMO Achabal and other concerned officers and officials of the health department were present during the inauguration ceremony.

HPV Vaccination Campaign kicks off in Budgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan Saturday launched the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Campaign against cervical cancer from Charar-i-sharif marking a major initiative toward safeguarding adolescent girls from cervical cancer in the district. The initiative, launched under the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji aims to vaccinate girls up to the age of 14 years, thereby significantly reducing the risk of cervical cancer later in life.

The DC emphasised that the campaign reflects the administration's strong commitment to preventive healthcare and the promotion of women's health. He informed that a large number of beneficiaries will be covered across Budgam district through a well-coordinated mechanism involving multiple vaccination centres established at Government Medical Colleges, District Hospitals, Community Health Centres, and

Primary Health Centres to ensure smooth and effective implementation.

Highlighting the importance of early vaccination, the DC urged parents, teachers, and community leaders to actively support the initiative and ensure maximum participation.

He also stressed the vital role of the Education department and Anganwadi workers in spreading awareness and facilitating outreach at the grassroots level.

On the occasion, the DC also inspected the overall facilities SDH charar-i-sharif. He interacted with doctors, paramedical staff, patients, their attendants, and members of the general public, and took stock of healthcare services being provided, while issuing necessary directions for further improvement.

Later, the DC paid obeisance at the revered Ziyarat of Sheikh Noor-ud-din Wali (RA). Besides, SDM Chadoora Primroz Bashir, CMO Budgam Dr. Gulzar, Senior officers of the district administration and the health department were present on the occasion.

DC Budgam chairs introductory sectoral meeting with officers

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: After assuming charge as Deputy Commissioner of Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Saturday chaired an introductory sectoral meeting with all district and sectoral officers to take stock of ongoing developmental works and governance mechanisms across the district.

Besides, ADC Budgam, CPO Budgam, ACR Budgam CEO, CMO, SDMs, Tehsildars, BDOs, Executive Officers of Municipal Committees, and sectoral heads from departments including Rural Development, Health, Education, PDD, PHE, R&B, PMGSY, Irrigation & Flood Control, Social Welfare, Cooperatives, and NRLM were present in the meeting.

In a comprehensive sector-wise review, the DC held threadbare discussions on departmental performance, project progress, and implementation status of key government schemes. He directed all executing agencies to strictly adhere to the set timelines for completion of projects and ensure quality standards are met.

Underscoring the significance of community



involvement, the DC said that public participation in both planning and implementation of developmental initiatives is vital for achieving inclusive progress.

He directed that all eligible beneficiaries must receive benefits under government schemes within the stipulated timelines.

The DC stressed the need for real-time monitoring and regular structural reviews of major infrastructure projects to eliminate delays and bottlenecks.

Emphasizing e-governance, the DC directed concerned officers to ensure delivery of all online services within the timeframe

specified under the Public Services Guarantee Act.

He further instructed departments to organize special outreach camps to provide doorstep services and raise awareness about various welfare schemes.

The DC called upon officers to uphold transparency, accountability, and integrity in their official conduct, emphasizing that public trust is the cornerstone of good governance.

The DC stressed that effective coordination and cooperation among all departments is imperative to ensure efficient service delivery and successful implementation of developmental initiatives.

DC Kupwara reviews progress under District CAPEX Budget

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Saturday chaired a review meeting to assess progress under the District CAPEX Budget 2025-26.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed physical and financial achievements, directed strict adherence to timelines, and emphasized quality standards in execution. He instructed departments to strengthen monitoring, ensure transparency, and coordinate effectively to overcome bottlenecks.

Detailed discussions were held regarding physical and financial progress made by different departments like PWD, Health, Education, Youth Services and Sports, PDD, PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control, Agriculture etc.

The DC also reviewed progress made under SASCI works as well as ongoing projects of Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums.

The meeting was attended by CPO, SE PWD, SE Hydraulics, ACD, concerned Executive Engineers as well as district officers.

HPV Vaccination Drive launched at DH Bandipora

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Drive was Saturday launched at District Hospital Bandipora as part of the nationwide campaign aimed at protecting adolescent girls against cervical cancer.

The drive was formally inaugurated by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zafar Husson Shawl, in the presence of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Bandipora, Dr. Nisar Ahmad Ganaie, Block Medical Officer (BMO) Bandipora, Medical Superintendent District Hospital Bandipora and other health officials, doctors and paramedical staff.

On the occasion, vaccination shots were administered to eligible girls by the health officials, marking the formal commencement of the drive in the district. Speaking during the

programme, the ADC highlighted the significance of the HPV vaccination in preventing cervical cancer and emphasized the importance of ensuring maximum coverage under the campaign. He urged parents and guardians to cooperate with the Health Department and bring eligible girls to nearby health institutions to avail the free vaccination facility.

The CMO Bandipora informed that the vaccination drive targets girls aged 14 years but below 15 years and will be conducted across all health institutions in the district in a phased manner. He further stated that the drive is scheduled to continue for a period of three months to ensure coverage of all eligible beneficiaries.

The Health Department called upon the public to actively participate in the programme to safeguard the health of adolescent girls.

DC G'bal launches HPV Vaccination Campaign at DH

GMK NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Campaign was Saturday formally launched at District Hospital Ganderbal by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore.

The campaign was launched as part of the nationwide rollout of the programme inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister from Rajasthan.

This program marks a significant step towards protecting adolescent girls from cervical cancer, which is the second most common cancer among women in India and is often caused by persistent infection with the Human Papillomavirus (HPV).

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the importance of preventive healthcare and said that vaccination remains one of the most effective ways to safeguard the health and future of young girls. He urged parents, guardians and community leaders to actively support the campaign and ensure that eligible beneficiaries receive the vaccine within the stipulated timeframe.

Chief Medical Officer Ganderbal informed that all necessary preparatory measures have been com-



pleted to ensure smooth implementation of the programme. He stated that comprehensive line-listing of the target age group has been carried out, followed by block-wise verification to ensure accurate coverage.

He also informed that capacity building and orientation sessions for healthcare workers have also been conducted to equip them with the required knowledge and skills for effective service delivery.

CMO further apprised that adequate vaccine stocks have been arranged and proper cold chain mechanisms are in place to maintain vaccine safety and effectiveness. Regular monitoring and supervision will be undertaken throughout the campaign period to ensure quality implementation and timely reporting.

ADDC Shopian reviews Mission YUVA in district

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta, a review-cum-interaction meeting under Mission YUVA was held here Saturday at Mini-Secretariat Shopian under the chairmanship of the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone.

The meeting focused on reviewing the progress of ongoing activities under Mission YUVA at the sub-division level, identifying key challenges and discussing measures to enhance efficiency and coordination among stakeholders.

Officers briefed the chair on the status of implementation, highlighting achievements, pending cases at the bank level and field-level constraints.

The ADC stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination and robust monitoring mechanisms to ensure that the intended benefits reach the public. He assured full institutional support from the district administration and highlighted the need for youth-led development and community participation to build a strong entrepreneurship ecosystem in the district.

Directions were issued to the concerned bank representatives to priori-

tize the sanctioning and disbursement of cases.

Newly recruited SBDU and BHD members were welcomed and emphasized the critical role they play in the effective execution of Mission YUVA. The interaction session provided a platform for open discussion, during which participants shared suggestions and feedback aimed at enhancing grassroots outreach.

The meeting was attended by ACR, Shakoor Ahmed Dar; Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Zainapora, Bilal Ahmed, officers from the Employment Department, NRLM, bank representatives and newly recruited SBDU and BHD members.

ADDC reviews implementation of Mission YUVA in Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: A comprehensive review meeting of Mission YUVA was convened under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan Saturday to assess the progress and strategize measures for further strengthening the implementation of the programme in the district.

The meeting was attended by the SDM DH Pora, Sub Registrar Kulgam, and other concerned district and sectoral officers.

A threadbare discussion was held regarding

the physical and financial progress achieved so far under Mission YUVA, identification of bottlenecks, and measures required to accelerate the pace of implementation.

During the meeting, the ADC emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts among all departments to ensure effective outreach and timely disposal of cases under the scheme. Stress was laid on expediting verification processes, facilitating eligible beneficiaries, and enhancing awareness at the grassroots level so that maximum youth can avail benefits under the

programme. Officers were directed to intensify field-level monitoring, ensure prompt redressal of issues, and submit regular progress reports to this office.

The chair underscored that Mission YUVA is a vital initiative aimed at empowering youth through self-employment and entrepreneurship, and all stakeholders must work with dedication to achieve tangible outcomes.

The meeting concluded with a resolve to further streamline procedures and significantly improve the overall progress of Mission YUVA in the district.

J&K targets 100% business reform compliance in next three months

CS directs for holding stakeholder conference for smooth rollout

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Saturday stressed the need for holding a comprehensive stakeholders' conference to ensure smooth, time-bound and effective implementation of reform-oriented deregulations introduced under the 'Reduction of Compliance Burden' initiative aimed at strengthening Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) across Jammu & Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary was chairing a high-level review meeting to assess the progress achieved under Phase-II of the Ease of Doing Business reforms and subsequently reviewed the District Business Reforms Action Plan (D-BRAP) in a separate session. These reforms are being implemented under the guidance of the Government of India's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

The meeting, coordinated by the Industries & Commerce Department, was attended by the Administrative Secretaries and senior officers including ACS, Power Development Department; ACS, Agriculture Production Department and Tourism; ACS, Finance;

Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretaries of FCS&CA, Forests, Housing & Urban Development, Industries & Commerce and Law; Secretary, Labour & Employment; Secretary, Transport; Director, Industries, Jammu; and other concerned officers.

Taking a comprehensive department-wise review of services and reform parameters mandated under EoDB-II and D-BRAP, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of bringing all public and private stakeholders on board.

He directed the Industries & Commerce Department to convene a stakeholders' conference at the earliest to sensitize entrepreneurs, industry representatives, district officials and service providers about their roles and responsibilities under the revised framework.

He observed that significant progress has been made in notifying designated services under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA), with clearly defined timelines for delivery. He stressed that all such services had been made available strictly through online mode, as envisaged under the D-BRAP framework, ensuring trans-



parency, accountability and reduced physical interface.

The Chief Secretary further advised the department to draw upon the successful model of Mission YUVA, where a Single Business Development Unit (SBDU) is already operational. He suggested upgrading this mechanism into a more robust institutional support system to create a conducive ecosystem for innovation, entrepreneurship and investment across the Union Territory.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to reform-driven governance, the Chief Secretary directed all departments to ensure complete implementation of the pre-

scribed reforms within the next three months without fail. He emphasized that the pace of reform must not slacken and that tangible results must be achieved under all circumstances.

Calling for seamless coordination from the grassroots to the highest administrative level, he stressed that the reforms must translate into real benefits for businesses and citizens by simplifying procedures, minimizing compliance requirements and enhancing service delivery standards.

Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, presented the overall framework of D-BRAP

and informed the meeting that 46 services have been identified by DPIIT for mandatory digitization.

He further added that these services have already been notified under the PSGA, are being delivered through online platforms and are being monitored through a real-time dashboard by the concerned authorities in accordance with the scheme's requirements.

Director, Industries, Jammu, Arun Manhas, apprised the meeting of the department-wise categorization of services and outlined the specific responsibilities of departments and district administrations for their effective implementation. He presented the current online

status of each service along with their PSGA notification status.

It was informed that a real-time monitoring dashboard, developed in compliance with DPIIT guidelines, showcases key components of both e-services and inspection modules, enabling effective oversight and performance tracking.

The meeting was also informed that DPIIT has launched D-BRAP 2025 comprising 154 reform points to be implemented by all States and Union Territories. All concerned departments in J&K have been tasked with developing new or modifying existing services to ensure 100 percent compliance by March 31, 2026.

The D-BRAP framework encompasses a broad spectrum of citizen-centric and business-related services. These include land demarcation and boundary verification, change in land use permissions, property registration and mutation, digitization of land records, approvals and registrations for setting up play schools and private educational institutions, and issuance of Mandi licenses (APMC).

The reforms also mandate online issuance of licenses and

permissions for establishment of health clinics and diagnostic centres, goods and passenger transport permits, new electricity connections, building plan approvals, demolition and reconstruction permissions, certificates of vending for street vendors, parking licenses, No Objection Certificates for hotels, restaurants and entertainment establishments, water supply connections, and shop and establishment registrations, among others.

In addition, the action plan seeks to strengthen District Industries Centres and promote development of industrial parks to attract sector-specific investments. The overarching objective is to create an enabling, investor-friendly ecosystem at the district level, fostering sustainable economic growth and employment generation across Jammu & Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary reiterated that these reforms are aimed at transforming governance through digitization, transparency and time-bound service delivery, thereby positioning Jammu & Kashmir as a competitive and investment-ready destination for all times to come.

Dy CM calls for strict monitoring, quality execution of projects in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Reiterating government's zero-tolerance policy against quality compromise, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Saturday cautioned of strict action against the use of substandard material or poor execution of works under the Public Works Department (PWD) across Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairing a high level review meeting held at the PWD Guest House, Jammu, the Deputy Chief Minister assessed the overall functioning, zone-wise physical and financial performance of the department in all districts of J&K.

During the comprehensive review, he underscored strict adherence to quality benchmarks in all ongoing and upcoming projects, asserting that there would be no tolerance for substandard execution, delays or administrative lapses. "There is no room for quality compromise. Accountability must be visible at every level," he stated, directing the officers to ensure close supervision and timely completion of works.

He emphasized that the government is committed to ensure seamless road connectivity to all habitations and is executing a wide range of road, bridge and infrastructure projects under the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF), NABARD RIDF, R&B and Cities & Towns



initiatives to accelerate the developmental transformation of J&K.

"Officers must adhere to stipulated timelines and financial discipline. Delays in completion will invite strict action, including blacklisting of contractors and accountability of the concerned officers responsible for lapses," he warned.

Expressing concern over slow tendering and low expenditure in certain sectors, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the officers to ensure 100 percent utilization of allocated funds by the end of March, cautioning that negligence would be viewed seriously. He strongly discouraged abnormally low bidding and subletting of contracts, terming such practices detrimental to quality, transparency and timely execution of projects.

He further instructed that fresh tendering should not be undertaken without proper justification and prior approval from the competent authority.

"Contractors securing multiple projects through low bids must be closely monitored to ensure adher-

ence to quality standards and progress timelines," he added.

To enhance accountability and transparency, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the field officers to maintain proper movement registers and conduct regular site inspections. The officers posted in far-flung areas were instructed to mark attendance through geo-tagging to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and work culture.

Among key projects, he directed for ensuring expeditious completion of Seerbagh-Chadoora Bridge, Ramban Bridge, Indrapati-Paragwal Bridge, Dak Bungalow-cum-Conference Hall Hyderpora and Dak Bungalow Rajouri.

The Commissioners were also asked to submit detailed proposals for beautification works in Jammu and Srinagar, with specific instructions to ensure completion of works in Srinagar well before the Darbar Move to the summer capital.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner SMC/JMC and senior engineering officers, including Chief Engineers of Prad-

han Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Jammu/Kashmir, R&B Jammu, Pir Panjal, Chenab, Central, North and South Kashmir, Design Inspection and Quality Control J&K (DIQC), and Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department J&K (MHED) besides Superintending and Executive Engineers from all Circles and Divisions.

The chair was informed that during FY 2025-26, the Road Sector recorded substantial financial progress, with expenditure reaching 62 percent under CRIF projects and 45 percent under NABARD RIDF works. Region-wise performance remained steady, with South Kashmir achieving 64 percent expenditure, Chenab Zone 57 percent, Central Kashmir 56 percent, and Jammu Zone 55 percent, reflecting balanced infrastructure development across the Union Territory.

Under PMGSY, 99.7 percent of targeted habitations under Phase-I have been connected, with 18,009 km of road length completed. PMGSY-IV aims to provide connectivity to 2,513 additional eligible habitations, further strengthening rural road infrastructure.

It was further informed that 697 permanent restoration works have recently been approved, reaffirming the government's commitment to build resilient, durable and high-quality public infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

Sakeena Itoo inaugurates HDU at District Hospital Kulgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Saturday inaugurated the High Dependency Unit (HDU) at District Hospital Kulgam reaffirming the government's commitment to enhancing accessible and quality healthcare services at the grassroots level.

Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, Shahzad Alam; CMO Kulgam, senior officers of district administration and other concerned officers were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Health Minister highlighted the Government's focused approach to upgrade district-level healthcare institutions with modern facilities and trained manpower. "Operationalisation of this HDU marks a major milestone in strengthening the secondary healthcare framework in Kulgam district and adjoining areas", she stated.

The Minister underlined that the HDU will act as an essential bridge between



ICU and routine inpatient services, ensuring timely intervention and improved patient outcomes. She added that this facility will provide enhanced monitoring and treatment for patients who require higher care.

"HDU facility will significantly strengthen emergency and critical care services at the hospital by reducing referrals to tertiary care institutions and ensuring stabilization of critically ill patients within the district Kulgam", the Health Minister said.

Minister Sakeena further said that the establishment and functioning

of HDU at District Hospital Kulgam reflects the commitment of Omar Abdullah led Government to enhance secondary healthcare services, improve patient safety and provide accessible, quality care to people near their vicinities.

"Upgrading healthcare infrastructure in rural and semi-urban regions remains Government's top priority, with sustained investments being made to bridge gaps in service delivery", the Minister said.

The Minister, on the occasion, also interacted with the doctors and paramedical staff, and sought detailed and urgent

requirements at the hospital. She also interacted with the patients and took feedback from them about the healthcare services being provided at the DH Kulgam.

Pertinently, the roll-out of HDU at DH Kulgam marks a landmark development in improving the critical care services across the district. The HDU is equipped with advanced monitoring systems including multipara monitors, oxygen supply, suction apparatus, infusion pumps, defibrillator, and emergency resuscitation equipment. The unit will cater to patients with serious medical and surgical conditions like severe infections, respiratory distress, cardiac ailments, post-operative cases requiring close observation, obstetric complications and other high-risk conditions.

The HDU is staffed by trained medical officers, nursing personnel, and paramedical staff who will provide round-the-clock monitoring and prompt management of patients requiring advanced care.

CS extends condolences to Rohit Sharma on Father's demise

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the passing away of Dr. Brahm Dev Sharma, father of Rohit Sharma, Additional Secretary,

General Administration Department.

In his condolence message, the Chief Secretary said that he was deeply saddened to learn about the demise of Dr. Brahm Dev Sharma, who left for his heavenly abode today.

He described the loss as irreparable and conveyed that the void created by his passing will be difficult to fill.

The Chief Secretary extended his heartfelt condolences to Sh. Rohit Sharma and the bereaved

family members in this hour of grief. He prayed for strength and fortitude to the family to bear this immense loss with courage and patience.

He also prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

₹666 Cr worth claims receives approval under PMJAY-SEHAT

Chief Secy favours robust claim scrutiny for swift disbursals

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Saturday chaired the 11th Governing Council Meeting of the State Health Agency (SHA) to review the progress and performance registered under PMJAY-SEHAT under the current Policy Stage which commenced on April 17, 2025.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, H&ME; Secretary, IT; Secretary, RDD; Secretary, L&E; DG, Codes; CEO, SHA; Principal, GMC Jammu and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for putting in place a robust and foolproof mechanism to weed out fake or fraudulent claims received by the State Health Agency. He stressed that

safeguarding the integrity of the scheme is paramount to ensuring that the benefits reach genuine beneficiaries.

The Chief Secretary further underscored the importance of instituting an effective third-party monitoring mechanism to strengthen oversight and accountability. He observed that such independent scrutiny would play a vital role in ensuring that only genuine claims under PMJAY-SEHAT are processed and disbursed by the agency in a timely and transparent manner.

While highlighting the performance of SHA the CEO, Ananth Dwivedi informed that the scheme has registered substantial utilisation across public and private healthcare institutions, reflecting enhanced access to cashless treatment



for beneficiaries across Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the details presented during the meeting, it was revealed that from April 17, 2025 to February 25, 2026, a total of 3,52,563 pre-authorizations have been approved under this policy term. Of these, 2,43,967 approvals were accorded to public hospitals and 1,08,596 approvals to private hospitals, demonstrat-

ing significant participation from both sectors.

In financial terms, the total amount of pre-authorizations approved during the period stands at ₹666.34 Cr, with ₹444.75 Cr accounted for by public institutions and ₹221.59 Cr by private hospitals.

The Governing Council was further apprised that 3,23,468 claims have been submitted so

far, including 2,21,642 claims from public hospitals and 1,01,826 claims from private hospitals. The total value of claims submitted amounts to ₹604.46 crore, with public sector claims accounting for ₹395.36 Cr and private sector claims for ₹209.10 Cr.

In terms of claim settlement, 1,16,667 claims have been paid to date including 85,570 claims

in the public sector and 31,097 claims in the private sector thereby translating into a total disbursement of ₹183.09 Cr. Of this, ₹123.86 Cr has been released to public hospitals and ₹59.23 Cr to private healthcare providers.

The meeting was also informed that 28,631 claims have been rejected after due scrutiny, comprising 27,110 claims from public institutions and 1,521 claims from private hospitals. The total amount associated with rejected claims stands at ₹55.58 crore, including ₹52.19 crore in the public sector and ₹3.39 crore in the private sector.

It was highlighted that the total pre-authorization amount of ₹666.34 crore has been achieved over a period of 315 days (April 17, 2025 to February

16, 2026). On a pro-rata basis, the projected pre-authorization outgo for the full 365-day policy period is estimated to reach approximately ₹772 crore, indicating sustained demand and growing trust in the scheme.

The Governing Council underscored the importance of timely claim processing, strengthened monitoring mechanisms, and enhanced coordination between public and private healthcare institutions to ensure seamless delivery of benefits to eligible beneficiaries. The performance under the current policy period reflects the continued commitment of the State Health Agency towards providing financial risk protection and expanding quality healthcare access across Jammu and Kashmir.

Good Morning **Kashmir**

EDITORIAL

From Inspections To Impact

What Srinagar Really Needs

The recent visit by Divisional Commissioner Anshul Garg to review development works across the city has once again raised hopes, but also familiar doubts. For the people of Srinagar, official inspections are no longer news. What truly matters is what follows after the officers leave.

There is no denying that projects like e-bus charging stations, housing for displaced families, footbridge repairs, and riverfront development are important. They point towards a more modern, accessible, and livable city. But residents have seen too many deadlines come and go, too many plans remain stuck between files and field realities.

The e-bus initiative, for example, carries real promise. Cleaner transport and better mobility are badly needed. Yet buses alone will not fix congestion unless routes are streamlined, traffic is managed, and services run reliably. Without this bigger picture, even well-intended projects risk becoming underused assets.

For the families from Habakadal awaiting new homes, development is not a policy term, it is about stability and dignity. Every delay extends uncertainty and hardship. Rehabilitation projects must move with urgency, not procedural comfort.

The crumbling Habakadal footbridge tells another story, one of neglect catching up with the city. Public infrastructure should be maintained before it becomes unsafe, not after it turns into a risk. Citizens should not have to wait for inspections to feel secure while crossing a bridge.

Riverfront development may beautify the city and open new possibilities for water transport, but beauty alone cannot mask everyday struggles. A city is judged not by how it looks in plans, but by how smoothly it functions for its people.

Ultimately, governance is not measured by the number of site visits or review meetings, but by results that people can see and feel. Srinagar does not lack plans or potential, it lacks timely execution and accountability. Turning inspections into action is the real test, and one the city hopes will finally be passed.

Hope In The Halls: From Scarcity To Systemic Strength

MOHD AMIN MIR

In the year 2007, I stood in the dimly lit corridors of the then District Hospital Anantnag, watching anxiously as my mother was wheeled into the operation theatre for an eye procedure. Those moments are etched in my memory, not merely because of the fear and uncertainty that accompany any surgery, but because of the visible inadequacies that surrounded us. The infrastructure appeared fragile, medical equipment seemed outdated, and the general atmosphere reflected systemic fatigue. It was, undeniably, a district hospital operating under severe constraints.

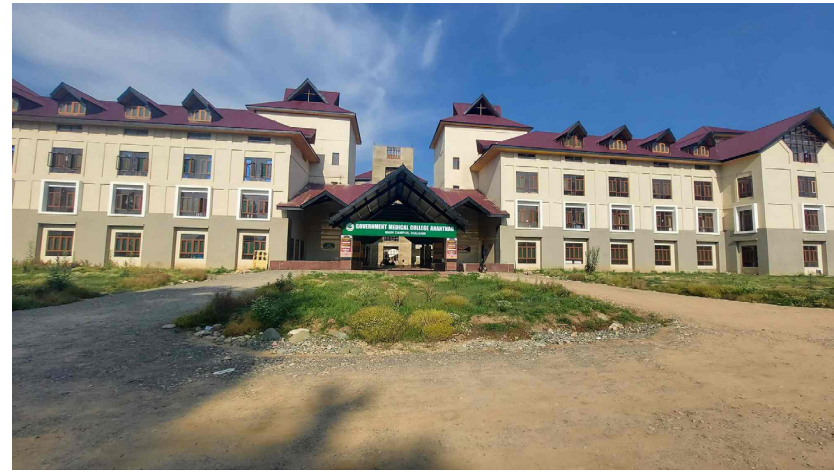
Seventeen years later, destiny brought me back to the same institution, no longer known as District Hospital Anantnag but upgraded and functioning as Government Medical College Anantnag. This time, it was my daughter who required medical attention. She had suffered a fracture in the middle finger of her left hand and needed surgical intervention. I entered the premises with a mix of anxiety and curiosity. What I witnessed was not merely an upgraded building, it was a transformed healthcare ecosystem.

The journey from a modest district hospital to a well-equipped medical college hospital reflects more than infrastructural change. It represents a broader narrative of governance, prioritisation of public health, and systemic reform in Jammu and Kashmir. The transformation is visible not only in physical structures but also in administrative efficiency, medical technology, patient care standards, and public confidence.

In 2007, healthcare in many parts of Jammu and Kashmir was struggling. Hospitals were overburdened. Specialist doctors were few. Modern diagnostic tools were limited. Referral to tertiary care hospitals in Srinagar was common even for manageable cases. Patients from rural belts faced significant hardships, both financial and logistical. The District Hospital Anantnag was functioning, but barely. Facilities were functional but minimal. The wards lacked the polish and hygiene standards one would expect from a major district hospital. Waiting areas were overcrowded. Attendants often complained about shortages, whether of medicines, equipment, or staff.

I remember asking fellow attendants at the time about the condition of healthcare in Kashmir. Their responses were largely pessimistic. The consensus was clear: healthcare facilities were poor, especially in peripheral districts. There was a sense of helplessness, as though improvement was a distant dream.

Fast forward to the present. As I entered the campus of Government Medical College Anantnag, the contrast was striking. The infrastructure appeared modern and well-maintained. Departments were clearly marked. Digital registration counters functioned efficiently. Cleanliness was evident. The waiting halls were spacious and organised. More importantly, the clinical setup had undergone a substantial upgrade. The orthopaedic department where my daughter



was treated had modern equipment, skilled surgeons, and trained support staff. The surgical procedure was conducted with professionalism and efficiency comparable to reputed institutions in metropolitan cities.

Seventeen years had indeed passed—but the magnitude of change felt far greater than the passage of time. The upgradation of the District Hospital into a Government Medical College was a watershed moment. Medical colleges are not mere treatment centres; they are hubs of learning, research, and specialised healthcare delivery. They attract better talent, generate medical manpower, and elevate standards across departments.

The establishment of Government Medical College Anantnag brought multiple advantages:

- Availability of Specialist Doctors: Departments now have qualified specialists and super-specialists.
- Advanced Diagnostic Tools: Modern radiology, pathology, and imaging facilities reduce dependency on referrals.
- Teaching Environment: The presence of medical students and faculty creates a culture of academic discipline.
- Improved Accountability: Institutional structure enhances administrative efficiency.
- Patient-Centric Services: Improved nursing care and paramedical support.

The hospital no longer appears as an overwhelmed district unit, it functions as a structured healthcare institution aligned with national medical standards. While infrastructure speaks volumes, public perception often speaks louder. During my daughter's stay, I engaged in conversations with several attendants. To my surprise, the responses were overwhelmingly positive. Many acknowledged that earlier they would have preferred taking patients to Srinagar or even outside the Union Territory. Today, they expressed confidence in the services available locally. Some even remarked that facilities now match those of hospitals in developed urban centres.

A recurring sentiment was that healthcare reforms in Jammu and Kashmir have gained momentum over the last decade. Several attendants explicitly credited the leadership of Narendra Modi for pri-

oritising healthcare infrastructure in the region. Whether one views such opinions through political or administrative lenses, the fact remains that public confidence has increased. That confidence is built not merely on rhetoric but on visible change.

Healthcare reform does not happen overnight. It requires political will, financial allocation, administrative continuity, and monitoring. Over the years, multiple initiatives have aimed at strengthening medical infrastructure across India, including in Jammu and Kashmir. In Jammu and Kashmir, the establishment of Government Medical Colleges in various districts has decentralised tertiary care. This reduces pressure on major hospitals in Srinagar and ensures equitable access.

The real beneficiaries of improved public healthcare are the economically weaker sections. Private hospitals, though efficient, are often beyond the financial reach of ordinary citizens. A strengthened public hospital system offers dignity and affordability. In my recent experience, I observed that treatment protocols were systematic. Investigations were conducted without unnecessary delays. Staff were responsive. Financial burden was manageable compared to private alternatives. Many attendants shared stories of how government-backed health insurance schemes helped them access free or subsidised treatment. For a region with significant rural population, this represents a substantial relief.

One of the most striking differences between 2007 and today is cleanliness. Modern healthcare emphasises infection control, sanitation, and patient comfort. The wards were hygienic, waste disposal appeared organised, and sanitation staff were actively engaged. Digitalisation has also improved record-keeping and patient registration. Streamlined processes reduce waiting times and eliminate confusion. Such improvements may seem minor individually, but collectively they transform patient experience.

The presence of a medical college in Anantnag has broader implications beyond treatment. It creates opportunities for local youth to pursue medical education within the region. It generates employment for doctors, nurses, technicians, and administrative staff. Medical education also fosters research culture and continuous learning.

A teaching hospital typically maintains higher standards due to academic oversight.

Thus, the transformation of the institution contributes to long-term capacity building.

Healthcare reforms across Jammu and Kashmir have included infrastructure development, new hospital buildings, recruitment drives, and expansion of primary health centres. Road connectivity, emergency transport services, and telemedicine initiatives have further strengthened the system. In remote districts, such measures can be life-saving. While challenges remain—such as doctor shortages in far-flung areas and the need for more super-specialty services, the trajectory appears upward.

Public policy outcomes often reflect leadership priorities. Many attendants during my visit openly expressed their belief that healthcare transformation in Jammu and Kashmir accelerated under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. They viewed the establishment of new medical colleges and infrastructure projects as part of a broader developmental agenda. For ordinary citizens, the political discourse matters less than tangible results. When facilities improve, gratitude naturally follows. Whether one frames the narrative in political or administrative terms, the lived experience of improved healthcare cannot be denied.

Seventeen years ago, I stood outside an operating theatre worrying about limited facilities. Today, I sat in a modern orthopaedic ward observing structured clinical care. The difference is not merely physical, it is psychological. There is greater trust in the system. There is less compulsion to travel long distances. There is a sense that district-level institutions are capable and reliable. As a father and son who has witnessed both eras, I cannot ignore the magnitude of change.

The transformation of the former District Hospital Anantnag into Government Medical College Anantnag symbolises a broader evolution in healthcare governance. It reflects systemic investment, administrative reform, and policy prioritisation. From limited facilities in 2007 to modern surgical care today, the journey is remarkable. Public perception has shifted from dissatisfaction to confidence. The poor and marginalised now have access to improved services within their district. History will assess leadership contributions through outcomes that touch ordinary lives. For families like mine, the change is not abstract, it is personal.

Seventeen years ago, I witnessed a system under strain. Today, I witness a system striving toward excellence. The corridors that once echoed with concern now reflect organised care and professional assurance. If progress continues with the same commitment, the future of healthcare in Jammu and Kashmir appears promising. And for countless families, that promise translates into hope, dignity, and security.

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Storytelling: The Fading Art Of Shared Memory

MOHD ISHAQ SHAH

Storytelling has been one of the prominent components of literature, and it has a special role in continuing the tradition, culture, and legacy of prophets, saints, and great heroes of the world who have sacrificed for the cause of humanity and human service. In my childhood, I used to listen to the bedtime tales from the mouths of my grandparents or parents, which added to my information and kept me convinced to go ahead with an ideal goal. And kept me motivated to the effect that gaining knowledge, practising morality, following honesty and dedication are the real aims of life. With the passage of time and the advent of technology, the art of storytelling has faded. And especially after the inception of social media, this art has died, as today every household is full of smartphones and every family member is busy scrolling the screen up and down. Hence, the connectivity is lost among the human folk.

Walter Benjamin – a twentieth-century critic and philosopher – in his seminal critical essay "The Storyteller" talks about the works of Nikolai Leskov. And goes on talking about the declining art of storytelling, as Less and less frequently do we encounter people with the ability to tell a tale properly. More and more there is embarrassment all around when the wish to hear a story is expressed. It is as if something that seems inalienable to us, the surest among our possessions, were taken from

us: the ability to exchange experiences. One of the reasons for this phenomenon is obvious: Experience has fallen in value.

Leskov was grounded in the classics. The first storyteller of the Greeks was Herodotus. In the fourth chapter of his book Histories there is a story from which much can be learned. It deals with Psammetus. When Egyptian king Psammetus had been beaten and captured by Persian king Cambyses, the latter was hell-bent on humbling the prisoner. He gave orders to place Psammetus on the road along which the Persian triumphal procession was to pass. And he further arranged that the prisoner should see his daughter pass by a maid going to the well with a pitcher. While all the Egyptians were lamenting and bewailing this spectacle, Psammetus stood alone, mute and motionless, his eyes fixed on the ground; and when presently he saw his son who was being taken along in the procession to be executed, he likewise remained unmoved. But when afterwards he recognised one of his servants, an old, impoverished man, in the ranks of prisoners, he beat his fists against his head and gave all the signs of deepest mourning.

From this story, it may be seen what the nature of true storytelling is. The value of information doesn't survive the moment in which it was new. It lives only in the moment; it has to surrender to it completely and explain itself to it without losing any time. A story is different. It doesn't expend itself. It preserves and concentrates its



strength and is capable of releasing it even after a long time.

Walter Benjamin continues to say that the earliest symptom of a process whose end is the decline of storytelling is the rise of the novel at the beginning of modern times. What distinguishes the novel from the story (and from the epic in a narrow sense) is its essential dependence on the book. The dissemination of the novel became only possible with the invention of the printing press. What can be handed on orally, the wealth of the epic, is a different kind from what constitutes the stock-in-trade of the novel. What differentiates all other forms of prose literature – the fairy tale, the legend, even the novella – is that it neither comes from oral tradition nor goes into it. This distinguishes it mainly from the storytelling. The storyteller takes what he tells from experience – his own or that reported by others.

So we can say that storytelling as an art has faded away gradually due to certain reasons, and in the current scenario, the main cause behind it is the screen addiction

and its consequences on both the adults and young folk. The screen has given a considerable amount of benefits, like up-to-date information, news, and entertainment, but has snatched from us much more than it has given. The art of storytelling was, in a way, natural and came down through the generations. It has its own feasible impacts upon the mind and body of a person. Those bedtime tales served as a source of information, motivation and especially connectivity. The family members would sit together after dinner and share their experience. Usually it was the job of grandparents to tell the tales to children in order to make them soothed and calm for the night. And it was that those children would fall asleep while listening to the sweet tale. The most effective factor of this tradition was that it would keep the fabric of the family intact. The get-together would serve as a cabal for the family in which all the planning was discussed.

I still remember a tale that I have heard from my elders. Once upon a time there was a father who

had three sons. When he reached his old age and was apprehended about his death; He summoned all his sons and distributed his property among them. He wanted to give the test to his youngest son, as he was inexperienced. He gave a hundred-rupee note to his younger son and asked him to do the business of it. He went away and happened to come across a party of young boys who had caught a dog and were trying to kill it, but he stopped them from doing it, for which they demanded 100 rupees from him. He gave it to them and got the dog with him. After he reached home, his father enquired about the 100 rupees. He showed the dog and was bullied. On the second day he got a cat, and on the third day he got a snake. Hence, he lost all the chances of inheriting his father's property, as it was his test in which he had failed. He left home for nowhere along with his three animal companions. While travelling a long way, they happened to reach the banks of the river and sat down there for the rest. The young boy prayed to God for his help. He was granted his wish and bestowed with a bungalow and a beautiful wife with golden hair. But after some time he was again caught in trouble, and all these animals helped him out of this tragedy. The moral that emerges out of the story is "virtue is its own reward", and if we are compassionate with other species, nature will be compassionate with us.

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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

Holi: Festival Of Spiritual Awakening And Scientific Insight

LALIT GARG

Holi is not merely a play of colors; it is a living expression of the Indian philosophy of life. It is a festival that invites human beings to look within and reminds us that the true beauty of life lies not in external display but in the purity of the inner self. Over time, Holi has undergone many changes. In some places, it has remained a celebration of joy and harmony; in others, it has unfortunately become associated with unruly behavior. Teasing, intoxication, violence, and breaches of dignity stand in complete contrast to the sacred spirit of this festival. In its true sense, Holi does not signify the crossing of moral boundaries but the burning of inner impurities and the renewal of relationships. The need of the hour is to understand the spiritual, scientific, and cultural dimensions of Holi and to restore its dignity and vibrancy in contemporary life.

The foundational inspiration of Holi is linked to the legend of Prahlada and Holika. This narrative is not merely a mythological tale but a deeply symbolic message. Prahlada represents unwavering faith and righteousness, while Holika symbolizes arrogance and stubborn ego. The ritual of Holika Dahan teaches us that truth ultimately triumphs and that the fire of ego eventually consumes itself. When we light the bonfire, its true meaning is not the burning of wood but the burning of anger, jealousy, hatred, and pride within us. Without this inner purification, Holi becomes merely a social event devoid of its spiritual essence. The spiritual symbolism of colors is equally profound. In Indian culture, each color carries its own meaning. Red represents energy and love, yellow symbolizes knowledge and purity, green reflects life and prosperity, and blue signifies the infinite sky and expansive consciousness. When we apply colors to one another, we symbolically dissolve divisions and embrace unity. Colors teach us that diversity is the true beauty of life. Just as a rainbow emerges from the blending of many colors, a harmonious society is formed through the coexistence of diverse communities, ideas, and cultures. This is Holi's enduring cultural message—unity in diversity.

From a scientific perspective, Holi holds seasonal and health-related significance. It is celebrated on the full moon of the month of Phalgun, marking the transition from winter to summer. This seasonal change is a sensitive period for the immune system. Traditionally, sitting near the



warmth of the Holika fire was believed to offer health benefits. In ancient times, colors were made from natural sources such as tesu flowers, sandalwood, turmeric, and herbal gual, all of which possessed medicinal properties and protected the skin from infections. Today, the harmful effects of chemical colors challenge this tradition. Therefore, it is essential to return to natural and eco-friendly alternatives. The vision of a developed India, rooted in cleanliness, green living, and environmental sensitivity, aligns perfectly with the traditional spirit of Holi. Culturally, Holi is a celebration of collective consciousness in Indian society. It is an occasion when social barriers soften and bonds of belonging deepen. In villages, the echoes of folk songs fill the air; in towns and cities, cultural gatherings and performances strengthen the social fabric. Holi also provides an opportunity to forget old grievances and embrace one another anew. It can serve as a bridge of dialogue and harmony—if we remain faithful to its true spirit.

The festival of Holi also finds its most enchanting expression in the divine play of shrikrishna and Radha

in Vrindavan and Mathura. The Holi of Braj is not merely a festival but a celebration of divine love and playful devotion. In these sacred towns, colors symbolize the blissful union of the soul with the Supreme. Shri Krishna's playful application of colors upon Radha reflects the transcendence of ego and the joy of pure affection. The message of this tradition is that love dissolves all differences and elevates human relationships to a spiritual plane. The Holi of Vrindavan and Mathura remind us that celebration becomes sacred when it is rooted in devotion, mutual respect, and divine consciousness.

In today's era of globalization, the younger generation often equates modernity with progress. Modernity is welcome, but when it leads to the erosion of values, social balance is disturbed. The phrase "Do not take offense, it is Holi" does not justify hurting someone's dignity; rather, it encourages the sharing of joy with sensitivity and affection. Celebrating Holi while upholding women's dignity, public decorum, and social responsibility reflects true Indian ethos. Joy and discipline are not oppo-

sites; they are complementary. Under the leadership of Narendra Modi, India is moving toward a renewed cultural confidence. The vision of a "New India" and a "Developed India" extends beyond economic growth to encompass cultural renaissance. The growing global recognition of Indian traditions, yoga, Ayurveda, and festivals reflects this transformation. Holi has become a symbol of India's cultural identity worldwide. When celebrated with dignity, environmental awareness, and spiritual depth, it strengthens India's soft power and cultural diplomacy.

In a rapidly evolving global order, where technological advancement is accompanied by rising mental stress and social isolation, festivals like Holi offer opportunities to rebuild human connections. In the digital age, people often engage more in virtual communication than in personal interaction. Holi encourages face-to-face meetings, affectionate gestures, and collective joy. It can also become a medium for compassion if we share its colors with the underprivileged, the elderly, and those in need. It is time to collectively pledge to celebrate a drug-free,

eco-friendly, and culturally dignified Holi. Schools, social institutions, and religious organizations can play a significant role in spreading its authentic message. Folk songs, cultural programs, poetry gatherings, and collective prayers can give the festival a renewed direction. When Holi evolves from being merely a festival of colors to a festival of ideas and values, its true purpose will be fulfilled.

Ultimately, Holi teaches us that external colors fade, but inner love and harmony endure. If we burn our egos and fill our hearts with compassion, every day can become Holi. The dream of a developed India will be realised only when economic progress moves alongside cultural consciousness. Let us resolve this Holi to celebrate not the violation of boundaries but the celebration of dignity; not division but trust, and not recklessness but enthusiasm guided by goodwill. When the colours of Holi permeate our character and conduct, the festival will truly become meaningful and inspiring.

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Fading Colors, Fraying Relationships

When Holi Was Not Just A Festival, It Was A Feeling Of Belongingness

DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

Holi has been a festival in Indian society that wasn't limited to colors alone. It was an opportunity to bridge the distance between people, wash away years of bitterness, and infuse new freshness into relationships. With the arrival of the month of Phalgun, a unique spirit permeated the atmosphere. The scent of gual (coloured powder) wafting through the air, the laughter of children in the streets, and the melody of folk songs emanating from every home transformed life into a celebration.

But today's Holi looks quite different from the Holi of the past. Over time, society has changed, technology has advanced, and conveniences have arrived—but somewhere amidst these changes, the warmth of relationships has cooled. The colors are still there, but they no longer reach hearts. There was a time when Holi wasn't just a one-day celebration. Preparations began as early as Vasant Panchami. Phaag would resonate in temples, the beats of dhap and chang would resonate in the chaupals, and groups of singers would emerge from villages and neighborhoods. This togetherness was the soul of Holi.

Children used to gather in groups in neighborhoods to collect Holi donations. Even if someone refused, they wouldn't mind—they would move on, smiling and making others laugh. Applying color wasn't a crime, but a way to show affection. Even if someone scolded them, it was simply forgotten, considering it part of the fun of Holi. Today, those same children are confined to mobile screens, and neighborhoods have become devoid of communication.



The most beautiful aspect of Holi was that social distinctions blurred on that day. Rich and poor, young and old, friends and foes—all seemed painted in the same hue. Even enemies embraced. "Don't mind, it's Holi" wasn't just a sentence, but a social consensus that this day should be lived with open hearts.

Today, that phrase has become a joke. People are more concerned with protecting their boundaries than with colors. The fear of something untoward happening or a dispute arising has taken away the spontaneity of Holi. Earlier, delicacies were prepared in every home. The aroma of gujiyas, dahi-vadas, malpuas, and thandai would permeate the entire neighborhood. Neighbors' daughters-in-law and daughters were also considered members of their own family. Guests were welcomed with open arms. Today, celebrations are confined to the four walls of the

home. A formal "Holi Mubarak" or "Happy Holi" has replaced the warmth of relationships.

Growing insecurity and distrust in society have also changed family behavior. In the past, girls would stay late at night with friends and relatives during Holi. Amid laughter, fun, and music, time would slip by without anyone realizing it. Today, those same things become a source of worry. Relationships are shrouded in suspicion.

Traditions are also slowly disappearing. Once upon a time, natural dyes were made at home from Tesu and Palash flowers. Women would mix the colors while singing folk songs, and children would wait eagerly. Little girls would make Valudiyas from cow dung and adorn them with garlands. These were not just rituals, but symbols of collective labor and creativity.

Today, commercially purchased

Holi was once not just a celebration of colors, but of relationships. As soon as Falgun arrived, songs would echo through neighborhoods, children would play with colors in groups, and adults would embrace generously. Today, that same Holi has been reduced to formal messages and limited boundaries. Technology and changing social conditions have increased convenience, but a sense of belonging has been left behind. Traditions, folk songs, and collective joy are gradually becoming part of memories.

chemical dyes have replaced those traditions. Convenience has increased, but emotional connection has diminished. Folk songs are now limited to a few cultural events. The tunes of Phaag and Rasiya, which once echoed throughout the month of Phalgun, are now rare.

The peace that followed Holi was once comforting. The pause that followed the splashes of water and the sounds of laughter brought fulfillment, not fatigue. Today, the celebrations end within a few hours, and society returns to its own closed worlds. In recent years, social tensions and divisions have further limited celebrations like Holi. Many families avoid leaving their homes on this day, even though the original purpose of festivals is to unite people and lift them away from fear and negativity.

Holi isn't just a festival of colors; it's a festival of forgiveness, a festival of reconciliation. It reminds us that being human means not just living for ourselves, but also laughing and connecting with others.

Today, we need to revisit Holi in its original meaning. Away from the noise and formalities, devote time to relationships. Let children play in the neighborhoods, give adults opportunities to meet each other, and don't let traditions become mere memories. Festivals give us hope. They break loneliness and provide a brief respite from the tedium of life. If we reduce them to mere rituals, society will become even more desolate. The colors of Holi will only deepen when there is a sense of belonging in our hearts. Otherwise, the colors will be washed off our hands, but the dust on relationships will only grow thicker.

Perhaps it is time to stop and think—Can we bring back that Holi again? Where relationships blossomed before colors?

(Dr. Satyawan Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

HPV Vaccination Campaign kick-starts across J&K

Around 850 Eligible Girls Vaccinated On 1st Day Of Campaign

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a landmark step towards safeguarding the health of adolescent girls and preventing cervical cancer, the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Campaign was officially kick started in Jammu and Kashmir from Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar Saturday.

The campaign was started in J&K after the nationwide launch of the campaign by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today from Ajmer, in which all States and Union Territories participated virtually.

Minister for Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, joined the nationwide launch

of the campaign virtually from District Hospital Kulgam.

MLA Bahu, Vikram Randhawa; Commissioner Secretary Health & Medical Education, M. Raju; MD NHM, Akriti Sagar; Director Family Welfare MCH & Immunization, Dr. Poonam Sethi; Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar and other senior officers of the health department participated in the launch from Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu.

The participants described the day as historic milestone in public health. The nationwide launch of the HPV Vaccination programme under the leadership of Prime Minister reflects the Government's unwaver-

ing commitment to protecting adolescent girls from cervical cancer and ensuring a healthier future for the nation.

The initiative aims to vaccinate eligible adolescent girls 14 to 15 years of age in campaign mode across J&K, marking a significant stride toward eliminating cervical cancer as a public health concern. Family Welfare MCH & Immunization department has made comprehensive arrangements for vaccine supply, cold chain management, training of vaccinators, and public awareness to ensure smooth implementation of the programme.

Notably, on the very first day of the campaign, around 850 eligible girls (14-15 years) were

successfully vaccinated across the Union Territory, reflecting the strong response and coordinated efforts of the health and inter-sectoral departmental teams.

The department reaffirms its commitment to ensuring maximum coverage during the campaign period and urged parents, guardians, educational institutions, and community leaders to actively support and encourage eligible beneficiaries to avail the vaccine.

The initiative marks the beginning of a focused and determined effort to protect the future of young girls in Jammu & Kashmir and contribute meaningfully to the national goal of cervical cancer elimination.

'Israel-Iran Strikes' Safety concerns, evacuation appeals intensify among Indian students in Iran

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

SRINAGAR: As tensions erupt in the Middle East, Indian students in Iran said they are facing an unprecedented situation following renewed military strikes by Israel on Iranian cities, including Tehran and Urmieh.

The Indians caught in the escalating tension recalled hearing explosions, seeing rising smoke and emergency measures in the capital, which have heightened fear and uncertainty among foreign nationals, especially Indian students pursuing medical and professional courses.

In a video message shared by Mehak Hussain, an MBBS student from Zadibal, Srinagar, described the tense situation.

"The embassy advised us to leave immediately, but our university did not allow us. There is panic everywhere. We request the Indian government to take urgent steps for evacuation," she said.

Mehak added, "We urgently request the Indian government and the embassy to take immediate action to evacuate all Indian students and citizens before the situation worsens."

Pertinently, when tensions erupted between Iran and Israel in June 2025, India had launched 'Operation Sindhu' to evacuate its citizens from conflict-affected areas, bringing back thousands of Indian nationals, many of them students, safely to India.

As fresh tensions emerged, the All India Medical Students Association (AIMSA) raised alarm over the escalating violence in Tehran, stressing the need for immediate evacuation and protection of Indian nationals.

"We urge External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar to take proactive measures to safeguard all Indian citizens in the region, ensure timely communication with students and families, and issue

clear advisories," said Dr Mohamad Momin Khan, AIMSA National Representative and President JKCA.

AIMSA further reaffirmed its commitment to the welfare of Indian students abroad and stressed that a swift and transparent government response is critical to protect students and reassure anxious families.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) also wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking urgent intervention to ensure the safety, academic protection and possible evacuation of Indian students in Iran.

"The rapidly evolving security environment has created fear, uncertainty and grave risks for thousands of Indian students, many from Kashmir, pursuing MBBS and allied courses. Coordinated diplomatic engagement and structured contingency planning are now imperative," said Nasir Khuehumi, National Convener of JKSA.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

LG Congratulates J&K

embrace it with honor. I'm grateful for UT's sporting revolution ignited under Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji's leadership post 2019. To all youth: let this blaze ignite your horizon: train relentlessly & fiercely. Build on this win to pioneer eras of dominance -J&K's unstoppable future starts with you."

Jay Shah, Others

marking a defining chapter in J&K's sporting journey.

ICC Chairperson JayShah wrote on X: "Congratulations to the Jammu & Kashmir team in India for scripting a remarkable story of grit and perseverance. While the players are fully deserving of the adulation they receive, one must also remember the contribution of the coaching staff, management and administrators from J&K who have toiled behind the scenes to fashion this landmark achievement. I am sure that this win will ignite belief in the hearts of the current generation from the region and drive the next one to pick up a bat or ball. Our sport is rich with such stories of inspiration from around the world and I hope this one also receives its fair share of admiration."

"Heartiest Congratulations to J&K Cricket Team for winning its maiden Ranji Trophy at Hubli today...it is a classic instance of how well the game of cricket is spread across India despite challenging conditions. Relentless efforts of BCCI & its former Secretary & present ICC Chair Mr @JayShah's vision laid the roadmap, through a 3- members Sub- Committee in place since June, '21 till date to manage cricket activities, has made the glorious success possible... Indian Cricket continues to flourish!" Devajit LON Saikia secretary BCCI said in a post on 'X'.

Legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar described the journey as "beautiful," highlighting the team's consistency and resilience, and singling out Auqib Nabi's standout performance.

"The Kashmir willows have been a part of many champions' kits. To see Jammu & Kashmir's journey from being an enabler of champions, to becoming champions themselves, is beautiful.

The season was built on consistency, resilience, and season-long excellence. Auqib Nabi's impact with the ball stood out in a demanding campaign. A historic moment for the team, coaches, and support staff. Journeys like these define the beauty of domestic cricket," said Tendulkar on 'X'.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh and several other leaders also extended their congratulations, calling the victory a proud moment for the entire nation. "You made it boys! You've made history!"

Heartiest congratulations to the #JammuAndKashmir cricket team for this remarkable Ranji Trophy victory. You have not only made everyone proud but also vindicated the trust reposed in you by your selectors and vindicated also the departure from the past considerations that determined the earlier selections," he said in a post on 'X'.

Jammu and Kashmir Police in its congratulatory message said, "J&K cricket team has made everyone proud."

The Awami Itihaad Party (AIP), through its Chief Spokesperson Inam Un Nabi, termed the achievement a "defining moment" for J&K's youth. The party noted that the victory reflects the resilience and talent of young cricketers and called for further investment in sports infrastructure and grassroots development.

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCC&I) also hailed the triumph as a moment of immense pride. The Chamber stressed that the success demonstrates the importance of merit-based selection and professional governance in sports.

KCC&I urged authorities to upgrade key sporting venues such as Sher-i-Kashmir

Stadium, Polo Ground, Bakshi Stadium, and other district-level facilities, emphasizing the need for world-class infrastructure to nurture emerging talent.

Former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti described the triumph as a "rare moment of joy" and a powerful symbol of unity, noting that the team's diverse composition reflects the strength of collective effort.

"Today's stupendous success of the Jammu & Kashmir in the Ranji Trophy has given the people a rare moment of joy after a long time. This victory is also a powerful reply to those forces that seek to divide our society on religious lines. The triumph was made possible by the united effort of a team made up of both Hindu and Muslim players proving once again that unity is our greatest strength. Together we rise, together we succeed, and today's win is a reminder to the world that the spirit of J&K can never be broken." Mehbooba said in a post on 'X'.

Other political leaders, including Sajad Lone and Altaf Bukhari, also congratulated the team, calling the victory a long-awaited achievement and a source of pride for every citizen of Jammu & Kashmir.

"Jammu and Kashmir finally are the champions of cricket in the country. Congratulations to the team. Congratulations to the team management. And congratulations to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. What a long wait it has been." Said PC president Sajad Lone on 'X'.

"Heartfelt greetings to Team J&K for winning their first-ever Ranji Trophy title. This remarkable triumph marks a historic milestone not only for the team but for the entire people of the Union Territory. This is truly a moment of celebration and pride, representing a historic achievement. I congratulate each and every member of the team, as well as everyone who played a role in this tremendous victory. May this historic accomplishment be the beginning of many more successes in the years to come." Said Altaf Bukhari, President Apni Party on X.

Heartiest Congratulations to our Jammu & Kashmir team on winning the Ranji Trophy Final. Our team has made the entire Jammu Kashmir proud with their hard work and determination. This historic victory belongs to every citizen of J&K. Proud moment for all of us!" said LOP Sunil Sharma in a post on 'X'.

Having made their debut in India's premier domestic competition nearly seven decades ago, Jammu & Kashmir had come close to glory in previous seasons but never crossed the final hurdle—until now.

This historic win not only places J&K firmly on India's cricketing map but also serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for thousands of aspiring sports persons across the region.

Hakeem Yaseen President of the People's Democratic Front (PDF) congratulated the Jammu and Kashmir cricket team for scripting history by lifting the Ranji Trophy title for the first time in the Union Territory's history.

In a statement issued here, Hakeem Yaseen termed the victory as a "landmark moment" for Jammu and Kashmir's sporting fraternity and said the triumph would inspire generations of young cricketers across the region.

Former J&K Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad in his congratulatory message wrote on X: "A triumph of talent, grit and discipline that makes the entire nation proud. May this be the first of many such achievements."—(KNO)

J&K Clinch Maiden

support from the other end as J&K bowlers dominated proceedings.

Leading the charge was Auqib Nabi Dar, who produced a sensational spell of 5/54—his seventh five-wicket haul of the season—firmly tilting the contest in J&K's favour. Sunil Kumar and Yudhvir Singh Charak provided able support, ensuring Karnataka never recovered.

With a commanding lead, J&K tightened their grip in the second innings. Qamran Iqbal delivered a stellar unbeaten 160, while Sahil Lotra capped off a dream match with an unbeaten century (101). Their unbroken stand extinguished any hopes of a Karnataka comeback.

Though the match ended in a draw, J&K's overwhelming first-innings lead secured them the title, as per tournament rules.

The historic occasion was witnessed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who was present at the venue and applauded the team's remarkable achievement.

J&K's path to glory was anything but easy. After a modest start, including a defeat against Mumbai cricket team, the team bounced back with resilience. A dominant win over Rajasthan reignited their campaign, while consistent performances in the league stage ensured qualification to the knockouts.

They outclassed Madhya Pradesh cricket team in the quarterfinal and overcame a strong Bengal cricket team side in the semifinal, showcasing steady growth and belief.

A major architect behind this transformation has been coach Ajay Sharma, whose experience and guidance reshaped the team's approach to red-ball cricket. From an aggressive, inconsistent unit, J&K evolved into a disciplined and formidable side.

Captain Paras Dogra described the victory as the biggest moment of his career, crediting team unity and lessons learned from last season's narrow heartbreak. "Every run mattered this season, and we made sure not to repeat past mistakes," he said.

Player of the Series Auqib Nabi Dar termed the triumph "unbelievable," highlighting years of struggle and hard work. He emphasized the importance of process over results and dedicated the win to the people of J&K.

Player of the Match Shubham Pundir called the achievement "surreal," stating that the team's focus was always on batting long and building partnerships rather than chasing numbers.

Karnataka captain Devdutt Padikkal sportingly acknowledged J&K's superiority, praising their consistency and admitting his side fell short under pressure.

This historic win is being widely regarded as a turning point for cricket in Jammu & Kashmir. From underdogs to champions, the team's journey has inspired a new generation of cricketers across the region—(KNO)

Historic Triumph

Kashmir team for their first ever Ranji Trophy win! This historic triumph reflects remarkable grit, discipline and passion of the team. It is a proud moment for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and it highlights the growing sporting passion and talent there. May this feat inspire many young athletes to dream big and play more."

Pertinently, J&K scripted history by defeating eight-time champions Karnataka in a dominant Ranji final.

Peace, Progress,

winning the Ranji Trophy for the first time ever, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to every youth of the region and especially to Team J&K that scripted this history. It is a moment that fills every citizen with immense pride and mirrors the reality that the new changes that have swept Jammu and Kashmir are the new identity of its youth.

The mantras of peace, progress, and prosperity are the driving force of the New Jammu and Kashmir."

CM Announces `2 Crore

crore cash reward for the players and support staff. Describing the triumph as a defining

chapter for J&K cricket, the Chief Minister said the victory has ignited celebrations across the region and inspired a new generation of young sportspersons.

He further declared that members of the title-winning squad would be eligible for government appointments under the newly notified policy for outstanding athletes.

Facing eight-time champions Karnataka on their home ground, J&K showcased grit and composure to secure the trophy on the strength of a commanding 291-run first-innings lead. The team tightened its grip on the contest by piling up 342/4 in the second innings, stretching the overall advantage to 633 runs by the end of the fifth and final day at the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium in Hubballi.

Opener Qamran Iqbal led from the front with an unbeaten 160 — his second century in first-class cricket — while Sahil Lotra struck a fluent maiden hundred (101 not out), ensuring J&K remained firmly in control.

With the ball, Auqib Nabi once again proved decisive.

The pacer claimed a five-wicket haul for the seventh time this season, underlining his consistency and impact throughout the campaign.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who was present at the stadium to witness the historic occasion, met the players after the match and congratulated them personally.

He applauded Qamran Iqbal and Sahil Lotra for their remarkable innings and commended Auqib Nabi for his match-winning spells, noting that his disciplined bowling was instrumental in steering the team to the title.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq and Members of JKCA accompanied the Chief Minister.

Jammu and Kashmir made their debut in India's premier domestic competition 67 years ago. Despite reaching the quarterfinals in previous seasons, the elusive championship had remained out of reach — until now.

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LG inaugurates 2nd Edition of 'Sikh Cricket Premier League' in Jammu

Says vital sporting events like SCPL must cultivate youth who view sports not as pastime

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: "The new generation embodies possibility itself. I believe our youth are the solution to every challenge. Provide them apt opportunities, robust platforms, and true mentorship, and they will author history," the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Saturday.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the 2nd Edition of 'Sikh Cricket Premier League (SCPL)' at Cricket Ground, University of Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the Sikh Cricket Premier League is sculpting multifaceted character and in future it will instill discipline, leadership, teamwork, patience, and self-belief in the young generation.

He said that the commendable initiative of All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee and the Hari Singh Nalwa Cricket Club, Jammu is a declaration that the new generation advances not as spectators, but as bearers of brotherhood and social harmony.

To foster inclusivity, All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee has ensured that each team includes youth from other communities.

The Lieutenant Governor spoke to players on training with ferocious discipline and competing with unbreakable unity, on and off the ground.

He emphasised that the true societal wealth and strength reside not in bricks and mortar, but in fresh ideas.

"The energy of our youth is like a river. When guided

with purpose, it becomes a source of life and progress.

I am confident in the journey of nation-building, our youth will not stop, not bow, and they will not tire," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that vital sporting events like Sikh Cricket Premier League must cultivate youth who view sports not as pastime, but as force for life's enduring values.

"When youth align with purposeful missions, they grasp that grand transformations demand grand visions. Entrepreneurship and sports harbor that very alchemy," he further said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the sports landscape in Jammu & Kashmir has undergone a historic trans-

formation over the past few years.

Driven by substantial financial assistance under the Prime Minister's Development Programme (PMDP), the Union Territory has built a world-class foundation for sports excellence, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that the Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah, during his recent visit to Jammu Kashmir, has assured Rs. 200 crore assistance for sports development in UT, with support of BCCI, FIFA and other sports organizations.

S. Ajit Singh, Chairman, All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee; heads of various sikh organisations, prominent citizens, players, coaches and youth in large number attended the inaugural ceremony.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY KASHMIR SRINAGAR OFFICE OF THE EXTENSION OFFICER PUBLICITY WING

No; EOPW/Estt/ Dated; /02/2026

SPRING LIVESTOCK ADVISORIES:

Spring livestock management focuses on transitioning animals from winter feeding to grazing, shelter sanitation, parasite control, nutritional supplementations to prevent metabolic diseases, mastitis, and lung infections due to fluctuating temperatures, intermittent rainfall and abundant growth of green. Key actions include providing dry, clean, and sheltered areas to prevent disease, gradually introducing to fresh pasture or green fodder to avoid digestive issues, and supplementing with magnesium to prevent grass tetany or grass staggers or Magnesium tetany.

KEY SPRING ADVISORIES:

HEALTH & DISEASE CONTROL

• **Shed Management:** Keep shed clean & dry and well bedded. Provide dry bedding in calving areas to prevent disease, as wet, muddy conditions increase the risk of scours (diarrhea) navel ill/joint ill, and pneumonia in calves. Offer shelter from wind and cold, damp weather which can still occur in early spring.

• **Vaccinations/Procedures:-** Ensure vaccination of livestock against Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD), Black Quarter (BQ) and Hemorrhagic Septicemia (HS).

• **Weigh, tag, disbud(dehorn), and castrate calves;**

a. **Castration :-** 8-9 weeks of age (2 months & above)

b. **Disbudding (Dehorning) :-** 7-10 days of age.

c. **Weaning :-** 2-3 months of age

2 months (in case calf is taking calf starter feed)

3 months (on milk only)

• **Mineral Supplementations:** Provide Magnesium to lactating cows on lush green and fast growing pasture to prevent grass staggers (Magnesium Tetany), as green grass is high in Potassium and Nitrogen (e.g Magnesium oxide to cows at least 2 weeks before and during risk period (60g to cattle and 10 g to sheep).

Nutrition & Feeding:-

• **Transition Diet:-** Slowly transition livestock from stored hay to fresh green grass to avoid metabolic issues like Bloat, Diarrhea, and Acidosis.

• **Fibre intake:-** Avoid excessive green feedings & ensure green fodder given to animals is mixed with larger quantities of dry fodder as its excessive consumption can lead to bloat, diarrhea and Acidosis.

Breeding Management:-

• **Calving care:-** Monitor for calvings, providing a dry, clean area for the cow-calf pair.

• **Body Condition:-** Monitor the body condition score of females, ensuring they are not weak and in a negative energy balance, which can delay cycling.

• **Pasture Management:-** Avoid grazing on young, lush pasture, wait until grass is atleast 6-8 inches high.

• **Poultry:-** Maintain a dry, warm environment with proper lighting, and monitor for respiratory.

Issued in Public Interest by Extension & Publicity Wing, Department of Animal Husbandry, Kashmir.

DIPK-11479-25
DT: 28/02/2026

Govt. of UT of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Deputy Commissioner Pulwama

Subject:- Notice under Section 21 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 for acquisition of land measuring 03 kanal 14.5 marlas falling under Survey No. 2187/73 min, 2188/73 & 2182/1375/65 min situated at village Khaigam Tehsil Rajpora District Pulwama required for establishment of Police Post Pakherpora.

Notice U/S-21

Whereas, the land specification given below is required in village Khaigam Tehsil Rajpora District Pulwama for acquisition of land measuring 03 kanal 14.5 marlas falling under Survey No's. 2187/73 min, 2188/73 & 2182/1375/65 Min situated at village Khaigam Tehsil Rajpora District Pulwama required for establishment/construction of Police Post Pakherpora. The details after proper verification of revenue records is as under:-

S. No	Khevat No.	Khata No.	Name of land owner as per Jamabandi extract.	Survey No.	Total Area of the survey No.			Name of occupant	Area under acquisition		
					K	M	S		K	M	S
01	65	322	Aemir Ahmad and others	2187/73 min 2188/73	3	0	0	Gh Hassan, Mohamad Yousof & Farooq Ah Ss/o Sultan Dar in equal shares Rs/o Pakherpora	3	0	0
02	64	314	Mohamad Shaban & others	2182/1375/65min	0	9.5	0	Gh Hassan S/o Sultan Dar	0	9.5	0
Total					4	4.5	0		3	14.5	0

Whereas, the preliminary Notification under Section 11 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 was issued vide this office Notification No. 08 of 2025 dated 27-09-2025 for the aforesaid quantum of land for calling objections, if any, within the stipulated time period. However no objection has been received by this Collectorate in the said period.

Whereas in accordance with S.O-17 dated 14-01-2022, the Declaration /Notification under Section 19 of the aforesaid Act stands issued by Appropriate Government (District Collector) vide Notification No.08 of-Rev/LA of 2025 dated 02-12-2025 for the instant acquisition case.

Accordingly a notice under Section 21 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013, is hereby issued/given to all the interested persons/land owners to state the particulars of the land so needed, and to state the nature of their respective interests in the land and particulars of their claims to compensation for such interests, their claims to rehabilitation and resettlement along with their objections, if any, to the measurement made under Section 20, to appear personally or by agent or advocate before the Collector Land Acquisition (Assistant Commissioner Revenue) Pulwama's office during office hours within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice.

NO: DCP/COLL/2025/501-D5
DT: 23-02-2026

**DIPK-11456-25
DT: 28/02/2026**

Shabaz Ahmad Bhat
Collector Land Acquisition
Assistant Commissioner (Rev)
Pulwama.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER DISTRICT INDUSTRIES CENTRE, SRINAGAR
Near Petrol Pump Baghi Ali Mardan Khan, Srinagar - 190011

Public Notice

M/s P.B. Agro resources, I/E Khunmoh Srinagar under No. 01/03/06701/PMT/Tiny dated 17.12.2004 for the activity of "processing of Tea and Grinding of Spices" as a partnership concern of 1). Mr. Rouf Ahmad Bergi S/o Ghulam Hassan Bergi R/o Gole Market 300 Karan Nagar Srinagar and 2). Rafia Rashid W/o Abid Ali Pathan R/o Lukhriyar Nawakadal, Srinagar.

Now, the promoter of the unit has approached this office for change of constitution by way of retirement of partner namely Rafia Rashid W/o Abid Ali Pathan R/o Lukhriyar Nawakadal, Srinagar.

Any person having any objection with regard to the above mentioned change in favour of the unit, shall report to the Office of General Manager, District Industries Centre, Srinagar within a period of 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/-
General Manager
District Industries Centre
Srinagar

**DIPK-11463-25
DT: 28/02/2026**

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN PROJECT BIJBEHARA

Merit/Tentative Selection list who have applied for the post of Sanginis (Anganwadi Worker's) of Anganwadi centres advertised vide Notice No:03 of 2025 Dated:..27.12.2025 is shown below for wide publicity for general public for objection, if any then objection should be submitted to the office of Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project Bijbehara within 10 days from the date of Publishing of the below mentioned tentative Merit list

No: CDPO/Poshan/Bij/2025-26/753-767 Dated: 24 .02.2026

S.No	Name of Candidate	Parentage/Spouse Name	Residence	Date of Birth	AWC for which Provisionally Selected/Tentative	Ward	Qualification	Max Marks as per 10th class	Marks Obtained	%age	Addl.02 points as per HR Policy	Total Merit	Remarks
1.	Azmat Ali	D/o Ali Mohammad Bhat W/o Ajazul Haq	Kandipora	10.03.1995	29 years 09 Months	05	12 th	500	451	90.20 %	0	90.2	Tentatively Selected
2	Binish Farooq	D/o Farooq Ahmad Bhat W/o Prince Anan Muzafar	Kandipora	05.03.1998	26 years 09 month	05	12 th	500	436	87.20 %	0	87.20	
3	Maroofa Rashid	D/o Abdul Rashid Bhat	Kandipora	03.01.2003	21 years 11 months	05	12 th	500	356	71.2 %	0	71.2	
4	Shabnum Rashid	D/o Abdul Rashid Lone W/o Iqbal Illahie Bhat	Kandipora	16.03.1996	28 years 09 months	05	12 th	500	320	64.0 %	0	64.0	
5	Sumaira Jan	D/o Ghulam Mohammad Mir W/o Arif Hassan Bhat	Kandipora	04.03.1993	31 years 09 months	05	12 th	500	287	57.40 %	0	57.4	
6	Sayma Akhter	D/o Abdul Rashid Bhat	Kandipora	06.07.1999	25 years 05 month	05	12 th	500	252	50.40 %	0	50.40%	
1	Snoby Mushtaq	D/o Mushtaq Ahmad Bhar	Marhama	11.11.2000	24 years 01 months	2	12 th	500	447	89.40 %	0	89.4	Tentatively Selected
2	Roohie Ibrahim	D/o Mohd Ibrahim Bhat	Marhama	11.09.2000	24 years 03 months	2	12 th	500	385	77.00 %	0	77	
3	Nesha Nazir	D/o Nazir Ahmad Bhat	Marhama	02.11.2004	20 years 1 month	2	12 th	500	382	76.40 %	0	76.4	
4	Aaliya Jan	D/o Ghulam Nabi Bhat	Marhama	11.11.2005	19 years 1 month	2	12 th	500	309	61.80 %	0	61.8	
5	Saima Akhter	D/o Nazir Ahmad Bhat W/o Suhail Ahmad Dar	Marhama	10.09.1996	28 years 3 month	2	12 th	500	258	51.60 %	0	51.6	
6	Bismah Jan	D/o Habib ullah Bhat	Marhama	15.11.2000	24 years 1 month	2	12 th	500	231	46.20 %	0	46.2	
01	Simran Bashir	D/o Bashir Ahmad Sheikh	Dupatyar	25.04.2003	21 years 08 month	05	12 th	500	371	74.20 %	0	74.20	Tentatively Selected
02	Nazima Rashid	D/o Ab Rashir Shiekh	Dupatyar	05.06.1998	26 years 06 month	05	12 th	500	308	61.60 %	0	61.6	
03	Shugufta Manzoor	D/o Manzoor Ahmad Bhat W/o Wakeel Ahmad Teeli	Dupatyar	15.03.1991	33 years 09 months	05	12 th	750	425	56.60 %	0	56.6	
04	Heena Sajad	D/o Sajad Ahmad Sheikh	Dupatyar	4.10.2005	19 years 02 month	05	12 th	500	271	54.20 %	0	54.20	
05	Asifa Rasool	D/o Gh Rasool Thoker W/o Nawaz Ahmad Sheikh	Dupatyar	05.06.1995	29 years 06 months	05	12 th	500	259	51.80 %	0	51.8	
06	Mehak Bashir	D/o Bashir Ahmad Khan W/o Suhail Ahmad Mir	Dupatyar	12.02.1999	25 years 10 months	05	12 th	500	248	49.60 %	0	49.6	
07	Nazia Akhter	D/o Ghulam Qadir Dar	Dupatyar	04.05.1995	29 years 07 months	05	12 th	500	233	46.60 %	0	46.6	

Sd/=
Child Development Project OfficeR
Poshan Project Bijbehara
Member Secretary

**DIPK-11427-25
DT: 28/02/2026**

‘Hard To Describe, Went Numb For A While,’ Reveals Manhas On Winning Ranji Trophy Title

NIHARIKA RAINA

NEW DELHI: Mithun Manhas, the BCCI President who had served on the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) sub-committee, admitted that he simply went numb and found it hard to describe the feeling of seeing the side win its first-ever Ranji Trophy title via a first innings lead over Karnataka at the KSCA Ground.

On a sunny Saturday afternoon, the inevitable was confirmed when the final ended in a draw and Jammu & Kashmir were declared as winners of the Ranji Trophy, making it a red-letter day in their cricketing history. The taste of victory felt very sweet and fulfilling for the Paras Dogra-led side after they missed out on the semifinals last year, after giving a one-run lead to Kerala in the quarterfinals.

While players and support staff broke into bhanga when dhol beats took centre stage, and even carried Manhas on their shoulders, the man himself was still trying to process the emotions of seeing a long-standing dream turning into reality.

“Well, it’s hard to describe. To be honest, I was numb for a while. So, I didn’t know what to say or what to do. So, I just was there for some time, and then everything -- like the picture got cleared, and players running in and this is a dream for every cricketer in J&K. Back home, I think, they will be ecstatic over this feat,” Manhas told IANS in an exclusive conversation from Hubballi.

For much of its cricketing

existence, Jammu & Kashmir was easy to overlook. A region defined in the modern world due to its conflicts and mountains, it had reached the Ranji quarterfinals just three times since 2010 -- in 2014, 2020, and last season, when the heartbreak of a one-run first-innings defeat to Kerala had left many wondering if they would ever have a crack at winning the trophy.

But Saturday answered that question emphatically, thanks to J&K posting 584 in their first innings -- their highest score of the season -- without Shubham Khajuria and Vanshaj Sharma, who were ruled out on the eve of the final. Last-minute replacement Qamran Iqbal, along with Sahil Lotra and Shubham Pundir, chose the biggest stage of their careers to score memorable centuries.

The tireless Auqib Nabi, who became Player of the Tournament via 60 scalps, tore through Karnataka’s celebrated batting line-up with 5-54. Captain Dogra, only the second man after Mumbai’s Wasim Jaffer to cross 10,000 Ranji Trophy runs, hit a crucial fifty and finally got to lift the trophy after over two decades of toil in the domestic circuit.

“I think the real game changer happened when BCCI took over the reins, and a sub-committee was formed. I think for anybody to do well, it’s not possible without the support, and we found a leader in Jay (Shah) bhai, who supported us all throughout all these four years, and a lot of credit goes to him for this great set of things.”

“When the sub-committee was



formed, it was fantastic because I belong to Jammu & Kashmir and I know what J&K cricket is all about when I was appointed/elected. This was something I always wanted to do, and I wanted to be part of it. Then we had a very able administrator in Brigadier Anil Gupta ji, who had an administrative experience of 35 years, and that set the ball rolling.

“Then the CAC was formed, and the selectors were put in place. It was the first time the selectors got contracts there. Otherwise, before that, nobody was answerable. You’d be surprised to know that in this day and age, the selectors would get nearly 1,50,000 and 75,000 for junior selectors. So everything that they wanted was answered because contracts were signed, and we started preparing

in April.

“We went to all the districts, and the teams used to go out hunting for talent, and that’s how this set the ball rolling. Then there were infrastructure problems, and there were other issues. But so again, gradually we started picking up,” elaborated Manhas.

What unfolded on the field on Saturday was the product of a transformation that had begun in 2021 and was driven by people like Manhas, who knew J&K cricket not as an outsider’s project but as something deeply personal.

“I think the most important thing was to get the right coaches in place and get them to support what they wanted. This is the first time I’ve seen the selectors and coaches get whatever they wanted. It wasn’t that the

selectors got something and the coaches were on a different page, but we all got on one page, and everything was well thought out.

“Even the planning that went behind this involved all the teams. Like, teams from different states started coming in, not just for the practice purpose. So it was the process throughout with all the age group teams. We started going out playing a lot of cricket. We started practising with the SG balls that were used in the national tournaments.

“Then we managed to give them a couple of turf balls, so that they get a feel and we got used to playing with those balls, and we started playing well. That was the best thing because the bowlers knew how to operate the ball, and they became comfortable, and so there wasn’t a moment when

we were not planning or thinking about winning the Ranji trophy and how to get to the next level,” added Manhas.

There were naysayers aplenty, but Manhas stated that fighting every day was worth it to see the tagline of ‘Jammu and Kashmir – Ranji Trophy Champions’ become a reality. “We faced a lot of flak for not picking up any eight each from Jammu and Kashmir. But that’s the challenge we took on. There was a lot of propaganda against us as a sub-committee.

“But thanks to Jay bhai for this, as we were in constant touch with him. The way he supported us from the vision he had for J&K, I think it all paid off. I think he’ll be a happy man today, even though he’s ICC chair. But he just called me, and he was congratulating me.

“We all went from BCCI to the groundsmen in J&K, and we even sat with the ground people. You’d be surprised to know that there are no permanent groundsmen. The people who work at the ground level are not even permanent. So there were problems everywhere. But things turned slowly, and the process started working.

“It was like every day was a fight, and I’m sure every player in the team has this feeling too, starting from the U15 team to the men’s team winning the Ranji Trophy. I feel very happy and a bit emotional as well, as it took a lot of effort to be here. Hopefully, we will see a lot more from J&K.”

Jammu and Kashmir is now the 19th different team to win the Ranji Trophy, which speaks volumes about the game’s map

expanding in the country. Saturday just redrew it more dramatically than previous instances. Plans to expand cricket facilities in Jammu and Kashmir, along with the prospect of hosting international matches in Jammu and Srinagar, will be a development to keep a close eye on.

But the bigger impact of this seismic win in Indian cricket will be felt when young boys and girls take up the sport in large numbers and view the victorious Ranji Trophy team as their role models.

For now, Manhas, who has watched this team grow over the last five years, winning the Ranji Trophy is only the beginning of what he believes J&K can offer to Indian cricket for a long time to come.

“I think the first ones are always special, and history has been created. It has happened after a span of 67 years. It took a long time to come. But I’m sure there’ll be many more occasions, not just in the Ranji Trophy, but also where they’ll get the titles in other formats.

“I think with the support of all the people back home, with everybody glued to their TV sets today, they have become the role models. You’ll see a lot more kids taking up the game because of them. I’m sure it’s not just about playing for the country. They have to think big, and that’s what I feel.

“It’s about winning games for the country, becoming an athlete, scoring 10,000 runs, taking those 500 wickets. They’re going to admire it. It’s just the start, and I’m sure there’s a lot more J&K can offer to Indian cricket,” he added. (IANS)

Satish Sharma Felicitates J&K Team On Maiden Ranji Trophy Triumph

GMK SPORTS DESK

JAMMU: Minister for FCS&CA, IT, Transport, Youth Services and Sports and Science and Technology, Satish Sharma, Saturday extended warm congratulations to the Jammu and Kashmir cricket team for achieving the rare and remarkable victory as champions of the prestigious Ranji Trophy.

In his felicitation message, Satish Sharma hailed the victory as a landmark moment in J&K’s sports history, crediting the team’s unyielding spirit, skill and perseverance. “This triumph showcases their unwavering dedication and pursuit of excellence,” he said.

The Minister lauded the entire team, coaching staff and support personnel for their outstanding commitment and teamwork, noting that their collective efforts have brought immense pride and joy to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He remarked that winning the Ranji Trophy, one of India’s most prestigious and

competitive domestic cricket tournaments, is a monumental accomplishment that will be remembered for generations.

Highlighting the broader significance of the achievement, the Minister said the triumph marks a major milestone in the development of sports in Jammu and Kashmir and underscores the immense talent and potential that exists among the region’s youth. He expressed confidence that this historic success will inspire a new generation of aspiring cricketers and sportspersons to pursue excellence with renewed passion and dedication.

The Minister further reaffirmed the government’s continued commitment towards strengthening sports infrastructure, expanding training opportunities and promoting grassroots development across the Union Territory to ensure that young athletes receive the support and encouragement they need to excel at national and international level.

From Enablers To Champions

Tendulkar Leads Tributes To J&K After Ranji Trophy Win

IANS

NEW DELHI: Legendary former India cricketer Sachin Tendulkar on Friday hailed Jammu & Kashmir’s historic triumph in the Ranji Trophy 2025-26, calling their journey “beautiful” and a shining example of consistency and resilience in domestic cricket.

Congratulating the side after their maiden title win over eight-time champions Karnataka, Tendulkar reflected on the symbolic and emotional significance of the achievement for the region, which has long contributed to Indian cricket through its famed willow bats.

“The Kashmir willows have been a part of many champions’ kits. To see Jammu & Kashmir’s journey from being an enabler of champions to becoming champions themselves is beautiful,” Tendulkar wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

J&K scripted history by clinching their first-ever Ranji Trophy title after securing a massive first-innings lead and drawing the final against Karnataka in Hubballi. The visitors piled up a commanding 584 in their first innings, powered by Shubham Pundir’s century and strong contributions across the order. Their bowlers, led by the tournament’s leading wicket-taker Auqib Nabi Dar’s five-wicket haul, then dismissed Karnataka for 293 to gain a decisive advantage.

J&K further tightened their grip in the second innings, with Qamran Iqbal’s superb 160 and Sahil Lotra’s maiden first-century hundred taking them to 342/4 before skipper Paras Dogra declared. With the lead far beyond Karnataka’s reach and time running out, the match ended in a draw, handing Jammu & Kashmir a famous victory based on their domi-

nant first-innings performance.

Tendulkar emphasised that the triumph was no accident but the result of sustained excellence throughout the season. “The season was built on consistency, resilience, and season-long excellence. Auqib Nabi’s impact with the ball stood out in a demanding campaign,” he said.

Auqib was instrumental in J&K’s victorious run, producing crucial spells throughout the tournament and delivering match-defining performances in key moments, including the final.

Tendulkar also underlined the broader significance of the achievement, noting its inspirational value for the domestic circuit and future generations of cricketers, as he stated, “A historic moment for the team, coaches, and support staff. Journeys like these define the beauty of domestic cricket.”

Deputy CM Grooms Team J&K On Historic Ranji Trophy Championship Win Says Remarkable Achievement Is A Matter Of Great Pride For All

GMK SPORTS DESK

JAMMU: The Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Saturday extended warm greetings to Team Jammu and Kashmir on their historic triumph in the 2025-26 Ranji Trophy Championship, defeating Karnataka cricket team in the final at Hubballi.

Terming the victory a remarkable achievement, the Deputy Chief Minister said it is a moment of immense pride not only for the players of the Jammu and Kashmir team but also for their families and the entire people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that the prestigious title has been clinched through sheer hard work,

discipline, and dedication displayed by the players, team management, coaching staff, and all those associated with the team’s success.

“It is great honour for all of us to win this championship, that too against an eight-time champion, Karnataka,” he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister reiterated that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir remains committed to creating adequate sports infrastructure and providing necessary platforms to the youth to excel in their chosen fields. He expressed hope that this historic win would inspire more young talent from J&K to pursue sports and bring further laurels to Jammu and Kashmir.

Ranji Trophy Triumph Massive Achievement, Youngsters Will Take The Game Seriously: BCCI Secy

IANS

KARNATAKA: BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia described Jammu and Kashmir’s maiden Ranji Trophy triumph as a watershed moment for Indian cricket, saying the historic title would inspire a new generation of cricketers from the region and validate years of sustained effort by administrators and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Jammu and Kashmir scripted history by defeating Karnataka in their own backyard, securing the title on the basis of a massive first-innings lead after the final ended in a draw at the Hubballi Cricket Ground.

The visitors had piled up 584 in their first innings, powered by Shubham Pundir’s century and crucial contributions from the middle order, before bowling Karnataka out for 293, with Auqib Nabi Dar starring with a five-wicket haul. In the second innings, centuries from Qamran Iqbal and Sahil Lotra ensured there was no way back for the eight-time champions, sealing a landmark victory for Jammu and Kashmir.

Calling it a defining moment, Saikia said the triumph would transform crick-

et in the region.

“This has been a very significant moment for Indian cricket. Jammu and Kashmir defeated Karnataka, which has the second-highest number of Ranji Trophy titles, and they did so in Karnataka itself. This will encourage smaller teams, and in my opinion, it has become a truly momentous and historic occasion for J&K cricket. It will greatly motivate cricketers from Jammu and Kashmir, and more youngsters will start taking the game seriously. It is a massive achievement for J&K, and credit must also go to the BCCI,” Saikia told IANS.

He highlighted the administrative efforts that laid the foundation for the team’s rise, particularly the intervention led by former BCCI secretary and current ICC Chairman Jay Shah.

“For the past six years, a BCCI sub-committee has been managing cricket in Jammu and Kashmir. When Jay Shah was the secretary of the BCCI, a High Court order directed the BCCI to take charge of cricket administration in J&K. The court instructed the BCCI to form a committee and develop cricket in the region. Jay Shah, Briga-



dier Anil Gupta, and another member worked extensively through this sub-committee, and today’s success is the result of their efforts. Jammu and Kashmir, which was never considered a strong team, has now won the Ranji Trophy.”

Saikia also acknowledged the structural and environmental challenges that had historically hindered cricket in the region, crediting administrators such as Mithun Manhas and the BCCI for ensuring continuity and development.

“The most challenging aspect was that there was no proper cricketing environment in J&K. I won’t reveal all the reasons, but there was a shortage of infrastructure, and the weather conditions were also difficult. During winters, when the rest of India plays cricket, J&K faces harsh weather, making cricket difficult. Despite these challenges, Mithun ji and the sub-commit-

tee worked tirelessly, and Jay Shah also arranged for players to train in alternate locations so they could continue practising regularly. Overcoming infrastructural and weather-related challenges required immense effort from the BCCI and the sub-committee.”

He added that rebuilding cricketing structures after disruptions required sustained commitment from all stakeholders.

“When cricketing activities come to a halt, restarting them takes a lot of time and effort, but this challenge was handled smoothly and effectively. Jammu and Kashmir delivered an outstanding performance. The coaches and the entire support staff worked extremely hard, and everyone was deeply dedicated. The cricketers who took the game seriously committed themselves wholeheartedly, which ultimately helped the team reach this historic milestone,” Saikia said.

Jammu and Kashmir’s title run, marked by consistency, resilience, and stand-out individual performances, represents one of the most remarkable underdog stories in Indian domestic cricket history and signals a new era for the region’s cricketing future.

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O' Romeo
SAJID NADIADWALA PRESENTS
VISHAL BHARDWAJ FILM

O' ROMEO (A)
HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES - 11:45 PM, 06:00 PM

Vijaah Kartaare Da
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ਕਰਤਾਰ ਦਾ

VIAHAH KARTAARE DA (U/A 13+)
PUNJABI - 03:25 PM

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