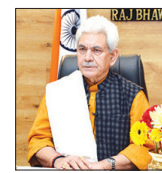


Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K
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This is an education possible only on the ground, and it has the power to shape the character of the young generation. Such sporting events carry another vital lesson: lasting public security, peace and prosperity is strengthened from trust and values.

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No LPG Shortage, Consumer Rush Is Panic Driven: Govt

IANAS

NEW DELHI: There is no LPG shortage in the country and "no dry-out has been reported", Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry's Joint Secretary, Marketing and Oil Refining, Sujata Sharma, said on Thursday.

In a briefing on the current LPG situation in the country, she said that LPG bookings have increased as consumers are rushing to secure supplies amid concerns over potential disruptions, describing the rush as "panic-driven rather than the result of any actual shortage".

"The Strait of Hormuz is closed for commercial shipping. After the government's intervention, 70 per cent of imports are coming through routes other than Hormuz. When it comes to crude, our situation is quite comfortable," Sharma said.

Regarding commercial LPG, we have prioritised hospitals and education centres, she added.

Meanwhile, the Environment Ministry has advised the use of biomass, kerosene and coal as alternative fuels for about a month, as authorities prepare contingency measures amid concerns

over potential disruptions to energy supplies.

The advisory encourages temporary fuel substitution to ease pressure on LPG demand and ensure energy availability during the period.

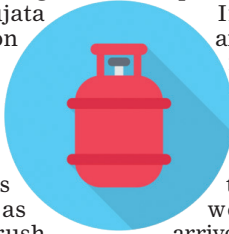
India consumes around 55 lakh barrels of crude oil every day, and the country has already secured supplies beyond the volumes that would normally arrive through the Strait of Hormuz during this period.

According to Sharma, about 70 per cent of India's crude oil imports are currently arriving through alternative routes.

Non-Hormuz sourcing has risen to approximately 70 per cent of crude imports, up from 55 per cent before the conflict began.

India sources crude from 40 countries, against 27 in 2006-07; this structural diversification, built through sustained policy over successive years, has given us options that other nations now find themselves without.

Refineries are operating at high-capacity utilisation; in several cases, they are exceeding 100 per cent, according to the government.



LG Vows To Hunt Down Enemies From 'Deepest Depths' To Preserve Peace In J&K

Attends Closing Ceremony Of 2Nd All India Police Kabaddi Cluster In Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: "We will hunt you down from the deepest depths." Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha delivered stark promise Thursday in a strong message to anti-peace elements in the Union Territory.

"Sports have always bridged divides through their unmatched reliability. Language, geography, social status, rank, and authority fade away on the field. There, only courage and resolve matter. The sports ground binds us in a shared humanity," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said, adding that the peace we enjoy today, the peace that lets families gather, athletes compete, and communities thrive, did not come without a price.

"This peace was secured through the sacrifices of the J&K Police, the Army, and the CAPFs. Thousands of



police personnel, soldiers, and CAPF bravehearts gave their lives protecting the people of Jammu & Kashmir. Our duty is not just to remember them, but to ensure their sacrifice endures, preserving the peace they won," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor issued a stern warning to those who seek to destroy this peace: "You will find no place to hide. We will hunt you down from the deepest depths".

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the closing ceremony of 2nd

Sports have always bridged divides through their unmatched reliability

Language, geography, social status, rank, and authority fade away on the field

There, only courage and resolve matter, the sports ground binds us in a shared humanity

Such sporting events carry another vital lesson: lasting public security, peace and prosperity is strengthened from trust and values

The people here have always seen the Jammu & Kashmir Police as a guide, a mentor, an integral part of the community

J&K Police has kept alive the conviction that we belong to community, that we care for youth, and that we believe in their future

Terror Funding Case NIA Raids Multiple Places In J&K's Poonch



IANAS

JAMMU: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday raided multiple places in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district in connection with a terror funding case.

Officials said that the NIA raided multiple locations in the district in connection with a case related to terrorist activities and terror funding.

According to sources, the searches were conducted at several premises belonging to individuals allegedly involved in terrorist activities and funding networks.

Official sources stated that the raids were part of an ongoing investigation into alleged financial assistance and support to terrorist organisations operating in the region.

The NIA teams, assisted by local police and security forces, conducted the searches and attempted to gather financial transactions, communication records, and other evidence related to the case.

The raids were conducted early in the morning at several locations in the district. P-06

JKCA Scam Srinagar Court Issues Non-Bailable Warrant Against Farooq Abdullah

IANAS

SRINAGAR: A court in Srinagar, on Thursday, issued a non-bailable warrant against former Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) President, Farooq Abdullah, in the JKCA Cricket Association (JKCA) scam case.

Official sources said here that the Srinagar Chief Judicial Magistrate court has rejected the plea of Farooq Abdullah seeking exemption from personal appearance and issued a non-bailable warrant against him in the JKCA scam case.

The matter has now been listed for further proceedings on March 30, 2026, sources added.

"The order was passed by the Chief Judicial Magistrate at Srinagar during a hearing scheduled for the framing of

charges in the case."

"According to court records, the case relates to alleged financial irregularities in the functioning of the JKCA," sources said.

"The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had earlier filed a charge sheet against several accused, including Farooq Abdullah, under Sections 120-B, 406 and 409 of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC) in connection with the alleged scam," official sources said.

The CBI investigation focused on embezzlement within the JKCA, with allegations that funds intended for cricket development were misappropriated during Farooq Abdullah's tenure as the cricket body's President.

Besides, Farooq Abdullah, other accused included former JKCA officials Ahsan Ahmad Mirza, P-06



CM Omar Abdullah Reviews Progress Of Works Under SASCI

Emphasizes Faster Fund Utilization, Timely Completion Of Projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday chaired a meeting to review the progress of projects under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme.

The review focused on the progress of works, reforms and opportunities, covering a wide spectrum of projects being executed by different departments. Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, besides the Administrative Secretaries of several departments and senior officers from the concerned departments, were present at the meeting.

Taking a comprehensive department-wise review, the Chief Minister examined the physical and financial progress,



utilisation of funds, and issues hampering the timely execution of the projects.

The Chief Minister issued clear directions for expediting expenditures, resolving bottlenecks and ensuring strict adherence to timelines and quality standards. He stressed the need to expedite expenditure so that

the maximum amount is utilized and the bare minimum amount is surrendered.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized faster fund utilization and timely completion of projects, and said that delays or non-expenditure of funds may affect the sanctioning of funds in the next financial year.

CS Assesses Roadmap For Establishment Of Future-Ready IT Parks

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Thursday reviewed a comprehensive roadmap for establishing future-ready IT Parks in Jammu and Kashmir in a phased manner, aimed at strengthening the Union Territory's technology ecosystem, creating employment opportunities and building institutional capacity to meet future technological challenges.

Those who were present includes Secretary, IT; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; CEO, JaKeGA and other concerned officers of the Department.

While reviewing the proposal, the Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of laying a strong preliminary foundation for taking such ini-

tatives to their logical conclusion in Jammu and Kashmir.

He observed that technology will play a defining role in shaping the future economy, and therefore

it is imperative for the Union Territory to invest in building future-ready human resources, technology infrastructure and institutional mechanisms capable of responding to emerging global challenges.

The Chief Secretary further stressed that the initiative would help create new employment avenues for the youth, strengthen the start-up ecosystem and attract technology companies to the region, thereby positioning Jammu and Kashmir as an emerging hub for innovation and digital growth.

He directed the concerned departments to work P-06



Women-Led Self-Help Groups Take Root In Valley, Herald New Journey In 'Self-Reliance'

IANAS

JAMMU: Marking a beginning towards 'Atmanirbharta' or self-reliance, the women in Jammu and Kashmir are increasingly taking up entrepreneurial ventures to stand up on their own feet and bolster their financial independence.

Contributing to this change is the women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs), which have been instrumental in past few years, to steer this change.

Through these SHGs, women are not only earning their livelihoods but also becoming financially strong.

At present, there are around 1,500 women, who have employed themselves in self-sustaining ventures. The SHGs undertake a



variety of jobs, including cloth dung cakes, preparing clothes for deities, making handbags, and other handmade products.

These jobs have provided them with a regular income and also making them becoming self-reliant.

Entrepreneur Meenakshi Gupta, who is leading this initiative, said that many young women of the new generation are now joining this work through self-help groups.

She added that she has received a state-level award for this initiative, and that her family has always supported her in this work.

Women associated with these SHGs, say that they have been greatly inspired by the "Vocal for Local" campaign launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This campaign has encouraged them to promote local products and bring them to the market.

Customers, who come to purchase these products, also appreciate this initiative. They say that such efforts provide P-06

Pak Drone-Dropped Heroin Worth Rs 12 Crore Seized In Jammu

AGENCIES

JAMMU: Around 2 kg of heroin worth Rs 12 crore "dropped" by a Pakistani drone was recovered near the International Border here, officials said on Thursday.

The recovery was made by Jammu Police and 101 Battalion BSF from an agricultural land in Bahadurpura village in the Bishnah area late Wednesday night, they said.

"Acting on the inputs regarding a suspicious drone dropping, a search operation was launched, leading to the recovery of a bag attached with a rope and hook containing small packets of heroin," police said.

Police termed the recovery as a significant achievement on the anti-drug trafficking front and said the area is just a few kilometres from the International border.

The recovered packets contain around 2 kg of heroin worth Rs 12 crore in the international market, they said.

A case under relevant sections of the NDPS Act has been registered at the Bishnah police P-06

Attack On Farooq Abdullah Matter Of Grave Concern: Nadda Says Govt Committed To Safety Of Every Citizen; Politicising Incident Not Right

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

NEW DELHI: Union Health Minister and Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha Jagat Prakash Nadda on Thursday condemned the assassination attempt attack on National Conference president and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, describing it as a "matter of grave concern" and assuring that a thorough investigation will be carried out.

Addressing the Upper House of Parliament, Nadda said the Government of India is taking the incident very seriously and that the accused, who has already been taken into custody, will be investigated in detail.

"The incident that took place last night involving senior leader of Jammu and Kashmir and former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah is a matter of great concern. The



government is serious about this matter," Nadda said.

He said that authorities will examine all aspects of the case, including the intentions and possible plans of the accused, so that such incidents do not occur again in the future.

"The accused has been arrested and his plans and motives will be investigated thoroughly. Necessary enquiries will be completed and appropriate action will be taken," he said. Nadda also P-06

DC Anantnag reviews arrangements for Amarnath Ji Yatra

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag who is also the Yatra Officer Pahalgam Axis, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat on Wednesday chaired a meeting of officers at Dak Bungalow Khanabal to review the preparedness and departmental arrangements for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026 along the axis.



During the meeting, the DC held a comprehensive review of arrangements including the Yatra route preparation, power and water supply, healthcare facilities, sanitation, traffic management, communication services, emergency response and other logistical support for the smooth conduct of the sacred pilgrimage.

The meeting was informed that various departments have prepared a detailed action plan for the Yatra. It was highlighted that a total of 175 works have been proposed under Capex and Revex at an estimated cost of ₹5428.43 lakh, covering key sectors including power supply, water supply, road connectivity and infrastructure.

The DC was apprised that the track from Chandanwari to the Holy Cave will be opened in May 2026 and snow clearance, repair of tracks, restoration of culverts and construction of rain and shelter sheds along the route will be undertaken. Upgradation of the track to improve pilgrim movement and maintenance of pony tracks



and footpaths were also discussed.

The Public Works (R&B) Department informed that works are being undertaken for improvement of approach roads, development of parking facilities near base camps and operationalization of a new transit camp at Bijbehara to facilitate pilgrims.

Jal Shakti Department reported that adequate drinking water supply will be ensured at all camps and enroute locations. The department will also install RO filtration plants at transit camps and use anti-freezing pipelines at higher altitude camps to maintain uninterrupted water supply during the Yatra period.

The Power Development Department/KPDCL informed that arrangements are being made for uninterrupted power supply at all camps, installation of LED lighting along the track, solar lighting at high-altitude camps and generator backup for

RFID and registration counters.

The Health Department briefed the chair that a 100-bedded hospital will be operationalized at Chandanwari, besides establishing medical aid centres at Sheshnag and Panjtarni. Adequate deployment of doctors, paramedics and ambulances will be ensured, along with oxygen booths and emergency medical response facilities along the route. AYUSH medical aid camps will also be established at various locations.

Regarding sanitation, the Rural Development Department, PDA and other agencies will ensure installation of adequate number of toilets and bathing units at camps and halt points, besides making arrangements for solid waste management and maintaining cleanliness throughout the Yatra period.

The requirement of services of Pony, Pithu and Palki Walas besides health

care for horses and ponies were discussed in detail.

Arrangements for tents, ration and essential commodities at various stations enroute to the Holy Cave for both normal and contingency were also reviewed.

Further, the RFID and registration, fire fighting, telecommunication, publicity and media management plans were reviewed during the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, the DC emphasized the need for meticulous planning based on previous data and experience for ensuring smooth and hassle free Yatra. He stressed upon all departments to work in close coordination and put in place the necessary arrangements for pilgrims in a seamless manner. All works shall be completed in time while maintaining high standards of safety, hygiene and service delivery during the Yatra period, he remarked.

Dr. Bilal called for strengthening emergency response mechanisms and ensuring effective communication facilities along the Yatra route for the safety and convenience of pilgrims.

Among others, the meeting was attended by senior district officers including ADCs, CEO PDA; SP, SEs of Jal Shakti, PWD & PDD; ACD, SDM Pahalgam, CMO, CAHO, CEO, DFO, ARTO, Exen I&FC, ALC, AD FCS&CA, officers from Beacon, F&ES, EOs of concerned MCs, officers from Traffic, SRTC, NHA and Civil Defence and representatives from BSNL/Jio/Airtel.

Addl Comm State Taxes chairs performance review meeting of Kashmir Division

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Additional Commissioner, State Taxes (Administration & Enforcement), Kashmir, Parveez Ahmad Raina, Thursday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the performance and progress of the department in Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners State Taxes Enforcement (North/Central Kashmir) Shah-awaz Shah; Deputy Commissioner State Taxes IT, Data Analytics Kashmir, Reyaz Ahmad Shah and all jurisdictional State Taxes Officers of the Kashmir Division.

The meeting focused on key agenda items, including year-on-year revenue realisation, action taken on reports generated by GST Analytics & Fraud Detection (BISAG), growth in cash and IGST settlements, progress in cases initiated under Section 65 of the JK GST/CGST Act, efforts to curb the menace of fake Input Tax Credit (ITC), Nil-Filers, payments released by Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) and resultant tax paid by taxpayers, scrutiny of returns under Section 61 of the Act, enforcement activities and their outcomes, as well as utilisation of various analytical reports and their results.

During the circle-wise review, the Additional Commissioner evaluated the progress made by each circle towards target achievement, including DRC-03 realised as a result of assessments, follow-up on non-filers, and actions initiated as per the Act.

Parveez Ahmad Raina emphasised the critical need to leverage data, reports, and inputs generated by specialised teams such as the Special Investigation Unit (SIU), Business Intelligence Unit (BIU), and field enforcement units. He stressed meticulous scrutiny, integration of field inputs, and available reports to effectively curb fake ITC and other fraudulent practices.

The Additional Commissioner reiterated that the overarching purpose of these efforts is to ensure achievement of assigned revenue targets, containment of fraudulent activities, promotion of fair trade practices, and safeguarding the revenue of



the state exchequer. The department remains committed to strengthening GST compliance, enhancing enforcement, and utilising technology-driven analytics for transparent and efficient tax administration in the Kashmir Division.

Later, Commissioner State Taxes, Jammu & Kashmir, P.K. Bhat joined virtually, providing strategic guidance and reinforcing the department's resolve to achieve revenue excellence. He highlighted the positive impact of recent GST rate rationalisation, particularly in key sectors such as cement (reduced from 28% to 18%) and automobiles (with entry-level vehicles now at 18% and simplified structures boosting affordability and sector growth), which is expected to stimulate consumption, ease compliance, and support infrastructure and mobility.

He underscored the shift of taxpayers from

IGST settlements to local purchase and the need to address local fake input tax credit frauds, urging intensified scrutiny of data for FY 2020-21 TDS mismatches and prompt initiation of proceedings under Section 74 of the Act.

Emphasizing the use of Prime Data analytics, rigorous follow-up on show cause notices, and proactive action against dormant dealers and taxpayers yet to commence business (liable for registration cancellation under Section 29), the Commissioner called for prompt, meticulous, and technology-driven enforcement to curb evasion effectively.

The Commissioner reiterated the imperative for unwavering commitment to meet assigned revenue targets, eliminate fraudulent practices, and foster a transparent, fair tax ecosystem that safeguards the interests of the UT's exchequer and promotes genuine economic growth.

He underscored the shift of taxpayers from

B'pora admin conducts IEC Awareness Programmes under NMBA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Continuing its intensified campaign under the Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan (NMBA), the District Administration Bandipora Thursday organized a series of IEC (Information, Education and Communication) awareness programmes at multiple loca-

tions across the district.

The programmes were conducted at HSS Aloosa, HSS Mantriga, HS Ganastan, HSS Nowgam, Ward No. 7 Nasoo (Bandipora), Dumpora (Sumbal) and Bon Mohalla (Hajin).

A multi-departmental team comprising officials from Health, Police, Education, Social Welfare, Youth

Services & Sports and JKNRLM participated in the programmes.

During the sessions, resource persons delivered awareness lectures and interacted with participants, sensitizing them about the harmful effects of substance abuse, preventive measures, and the importance of community par-

ticipation in curbing the menace of drugs.

The programmes witnessed active participation from students, youth and members of the community, who engaged in discussions and pledged to contribute towards making their localities drug-free under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan.

DC Anantnag chairs NCORD Meeting, Reviews Anti-Drug Abuse Measures

GMK NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner (District Magistrate) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat, Thursday chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to review the measures undertaken by concerned departments to curb drug abuse and trafficking in the district.

The meeting was attended by SP, ACR, SDMs, CEO, CMO, CAO, ARTO, DSWO, Tehsildars, ETO, Assistant Drug Controller, specialists from the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF), CEO MCA, representatives of GMC Anantnag and GDCs, and EOs of MCs, besides other members of the district-level NCORD committee and concerned officials.

During the meeting, the DC sought a detailed Action Taken Report from all departments regarding the directions issued during previous meetings and reviewed the progress achieved.

A comprehensive review was held regarding enforcement measures against drug supply networks, seizures and legal action under relevant laws, surveillance mechanisms including the installation of CCTV cameras at vulnerable hotspots, awareness and IEC activities under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan in educational insti-

tutions and communities, the rehabilitation of victims, monitoring of medical establishments, the suspension or cancellation of licenses for violations, and the functioning of the ATF.

During the meeting, it was informed that 95% reduction in poppy cultivation has been reported with destruction on 1 Kanal 11 Marlas in 2025 from 58 Kanals 2 Marlas in 2024.

Similarly, a large-scale destruction of wild cannabis (bung) was undertaken by enforcement agencies, with approximately 523 Kanals cleared during 2025.

The meeting was apprised of the functioning of the Drug De-Addiction Centre at Ashajipora, where 121 Outpatient Department (OPD) and 36 Inpatient Department (IPD) substance abuse victims were provided treatment, counseling, and rehabilitation services during January and February 2026. The ATF at GMC Anantnag has witnessed 33 fresh registrations since the last NCORD meeting held in February, of whom were given IPD treatment.

On the occasion, the SP Anantnag informed the chair that 35 NDPS cases have been registered and 43 accused persons have been arrested since January 2026. Supervisory notes have been issued in respect of all 35 cases; five cases have been challaned, while the remain-

ing 30 cases are under investigation. Also 25 hotspots have been identified, where a total of 17 cases were lodged along with 20 arrests during this period.

The Assistant Drug Controller informed the meeting that medical establishments are under CCTV and CBS surveillance, adding that nine medical licenses have been suspended and one cancelled since the last NCORD meeting. The meeting was further informed that 14 driving licenses and 13 vehicles have been suspended since 2025.

Departments such as Social Welfare, Education, Higher Education, Excise Taxation, RDD, ULBs, and Revenue highlighted the awareness programs and IEC activities conducted during the last year. These involved youth, students, community leaders, and other stakeholders to sensitize vulnerable groups. Awareness campaigns in schools, educational institutions, and other community platforms will be intensified following their reopening, with the active participation of all stakeholders.

Addressing the meeting, the DC stressed the need for the prompt identification of drug peddlers and strict legal action including property attachments against those involved in drug trafficking. He also emphasized

strengthening surveillance in vulnerable areas through the installation of CCTV cameras and improving monitoring mechanisms in educational institutions and medical establishments.

The DC further directed departments to intensify awareness campaigns in schools, colleges, Panchayats, and urban areas, particularly targeting vulnerable sections of society. He emphasized interdepartmental coordination and sustained collective efforts are essential to effectively combat the menace of drug abuse in the district.

Emphasizing the importance of timely treatment and rehabilitation for victims of substance abuse, the DC said such individuals shall be supported through various skill development and self-employment/livelihood initiatives, like Mission Yuva, to facilitate their reintegration into society.

Dr. Bilal issued directions to Tehsildars, Drug Control, and Police authorities to collectively analyze drug abuse patterns, especially in hotspots, and share vital information with each other so that target-oriented measures can be put in place. He further instructed the concerned departments to update the list of courier agencies and monitor their services regularly to prevent any misuse.

DC G'bal chairs DRAC meeting; approves 29 cases

GMK NEWS NETWORK



GANDERBAL: A meeting of the District Rent Assessment Committee was Tuesday held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, to review and finalize rent assessment cases of various government offices functioning in private rented buildings across the district.

During the meeting, the committee examined 38 pending cases related to rent fixation and reassessment of buildings housing government offices. All the cases were discussed in detail and out of these 29 cases were approved after scrutiny of the relevant records, reports and technical inputs from the concerned departments while remaining were deferred.

The DC emphasized the importance of maintaining transparency and adherence to prescribed norms while assessing rents of private buildings being used for gov-

ernment purposes. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that all pending cases are processed and disposed-off in a time-bound manner to avoid inconvenience to the building owners as well as the departments concerned.

The DC also stressed that government offices should preferably be accommodated in available government buildings and that private rented accommodation should be hired only in cases of genuine and unavoidable requirement. He called for strict adherence to established procedures while hiring such accommodations.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Superintendent Engineer R&B Circle Ganderbal, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Divisional Forest Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Executive Engineer R&B Kangan and other district officers and officials.

ADC Handwara reviews arrangements for Shab-e-Qadr, Eid-ul-Fitr

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi Thursday convened a meeting of all concerned officers at ADC Office chamber Handwara to review the arrangements put in place for Shab-e-Qadr



and Eid-ul-Fitr.

During the meeting, the ADC instructed all the officers to ensure adequate arrangements at major mosques, Eidgahs and prominent locations in the sub division Handwara.

He emphasized the importance of making all necessary arrangements for essential services to facilitate the general public, particularly devotees visiting the mosques and Eidgahs.

He directed the concerned officers to ensure sanitation at mosques, availability of drink-

ing water, uninterrupted power supply, efficient transportation of devotees, security measures and other necessary amenities.

He also instructed Tehsildars of the sub division and other officials to make detailed arrangements in their respective Tehsils for Shab-e-Qadr and Eid-ul-Fitr besides instructing them

to conduct personal visits to prominent places. Concerned were also instructed to intensify market checking to keep a check on rates in the markets.

The meeting was attended by Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Division Handwara, Executive Engineer PDD, Division Handwara, all Tehsildars of sub division Handwara, BDOs, Medical Superintendent Associated DH GMC Handwara, BMOs, Executive officer MC Langate, TSOs, officials of MC Handwara and President Traders Federation Handwara.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

HANDICRAFTS KUPWARA

NEAR DC OFFICE KUPWARA

Email: adhkupwara@gmail.com

NOTICE FOR AUCTION

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the Kashmiri willow wood (felled) lying in the premises of the Handicraft Block Office, Handwara shall be disposed of through public auction. Interested individuals, traders are invited to participate in the auction on the date and time mentioned below: -

Date of Auction: 23-03-2025 Time: 12:00PM

Venue: Handicraft Block Office, Handwara Value: 16.46 Cft's (approximate)

The auction will be conducted on "as is where is basis." Interested bidders may inspect the stock available for auction during office hours prior to the auction date.

Terms and Conditions:

- The highest bidder shall be declared successful, subject to approval of the competent authority.
- The successful bidder shall deposit the full bid amount immediately after the auction is finalized.
- The auctioning authority reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason thereof.
- The successful bidder shall be responsible for lifting the auctioned material from the premises at their own cost within the stipulated time.

For further details, interested parties may contact the office during working hours.

No: ADHK/Est/851-52 DHPK-11845-25
 Dated: 11-03-2026 DT: 12/03/2026 Assistant Director Handicrafts Kupwara

Govt's vision to position J&K as hub of quality higher education: Sakeena Ito

Reviews academic activities, research initiatives, institutional development of J&K Universities

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Ito Thursday remarked that the Government is committed to strengthen higher education sector in Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that our vision is to position J&K as a hub of quality higher education and research excellence.

The Minister made these remarks while chairing a high level meeting to assess academic performance, research initiatives and institutional development of all Universities of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu Prof. Umesh Rai; Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir Prof. Nilofer Khan; Vice Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Prof. Pragati Kumar; Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of

Science and Technology Prof. Shakeel Ahmad Ramshoo; Vice Chancellor, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University Prof. Jawaid Iqbal; Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Jammu Dr. K.S. Chandreshkar; Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar Prof. Mohammad Mobin; Dean Research Jammu University, Registrars and senior officials of the Higher Education department.

During the meeting, the Minister undertook a comprehensive review of academic functioning, research output, faculty development programmes, infrastructure expansion and student-focused initiatives being implemented across universities in J&K.

Speaking in the meeting, Minister Sakeena emphasized that universities must go beyond their traditional role as degree-awarding institutions.

"Universities are engines of innovation, centres of knowl-



edge creation and pillars of societal transformation. They must evolve into vibrant ecosystems where ideas flourish, research thrives and young minds are empowered to shape the future," she stated.

Highlighting the need to nurture a strong research culture in Jammu and Kashmir, the Minister urged Vice Chancellors to identify priority research areas aligned with the region's specific needs. She stressed that need is to focus

on sustainable development, climate resilience, agricultural innovation, tourism studies, technology integration and social science research relevant to the unique socio-economic landscape of J&K.

She called for greater interdisciplinary collaboration, stronger industry partnerships and better utilization of research funding to enhance outcomes and improve global academic visibility.

The Minister also reviewed

on strengthening digital learning infrastructure, expanding skill-based programmes and ensuring continuous faculty training to keep pace with technological and academic advancements.

She also urged the University Administrators to place special attention on improving student support systems, promoting inclusive education and enhancing access to higher education for students from remote and underserved areas.

The Minister further reviewed infrastructure development projects, campus expansion plans, hostel facilities and smart classroom initiatives. She stressed the importance of transparent governance, efficient administration and optimal resource utilization to enhance institutional performance.

Calling for measurable progress, she directed universities to establish structured moni-

toring mechanisms to track research and innovation outcomes.

"Our goal is to position Jammu and Kashmir as a hub of quality higher education and research excellence. By empowering our universities, the Government is investing in the intellectual capital that will drive sustainable growth and social progress," the Minister stated.

She assured continued Government support for research funding, infrastructure modernization and capacity-building initiatives aimed at elevating J&K's universities to national and international standards.

During the meeting, Registrars presented institutional progress reports and outlined future academic and research roadmaps, reflecting a shared commitment to transforming the higher education landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dy CM reviews progress on road, bridge projects in Padder-Nagseni constituency

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Thursday convened a meeting to review progress on the ongoing road and bridge development projects in the Padder-Nagseni constituency.

The meeting was attended by the Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma.

The Deputy Chief Minister assessed the status of all ongoing road and bridge projects being executed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and the Public Works Department sector.

While reviewing the works, the Deputy Chief Minister stressed the need for speedy and quality execution of all ongoing projects to ensure timely completion. "The government is committed to strengthen road infrastruc-



ture and ensure seamless connectivity to all the habitations across the region. Any lapses and delays in execution shall be viewed seriously," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the concerned officers to ensure that local MLAs are taken on board during planning and execution of projects, so that development works are aligned with the local needs and priorities.

"Ensure public representatives are consulted for every work execution

and plan formation for adequate and required development projection and implementation," he said.

He also asked for installation of a Bailey bridge to facilitate hassle-free movement of pilgrims and the general public. He directed the officers to take immediate steps for placing a Bailey bridge at village Chashoti in Kishtwar which was washed away during last year's floods, ensuring restoration of connectivity at the earliest.

"Ensure the pilgrims do not suffer and have seam-

less accessibility before the pilgrimage starts," he said.

He further directed for completion of all the ongoing projects within stipulated timelines besides taking up the projects already in the pipeline on priority to accelerate development in Padder-Nagseni constituency.

The LoP discussed the current status of various projects and raised issues of public interest with the Minister seeking timely resolution of the same.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Chief Engineer PMGSY Jammu, Purshotam Kumar, Chief Engineer Chenab Zone K.K. Attri, Director Finance PWD, Mazhar Khan, SEs and Executive Engineers besides other concerned officers.

The meeting also included detailed discussion on various NABARD and CRF projects being implemented in the constituency.

Yasha Mudgal reviews functioning of Jammu Central Co-operative Bank Limited

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary, Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal, Thursday chaired a comprehensive review meeting with the senior officers of Jammu Central Co-operative Bank Limited (JCCB) to assess bank's overall functioning, with emphasis on its financial health, operational efficiency and key performance indicators.

The meeting was attended by Registrar Cooperative Societies J&K, Mohammad Shafiq Chak; Managing Director/CEO, JCCB, Bal Krishan; Executive Manager, JCCB, Parmajet Singh Slathia; General Manager, NABARD, Vikas Mittal; Branch Heads of JCCB and other concerned officers and officials.

During the meeting, the Managing Director delivered a detailed presentation outlining the bank's



current operational status, key financial parameters, ongoing challenges and the strategic roadmap for enhancing performance. He also provided updates on physical and financial achievements vis-à-vis allocated targets.

The review placed significant focus on the bank's financial health, including its advances portfolio, priority sector lending, Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), recovery performance, and deposit mobilization, particularly Current and Savings Account (CASA) deposits to bolster the financial base. The bank currently serves over 2.28 lakh deposit accounts, with total deposits standing at approximately ₹1282.90 crore.

The Commissioner Secretary underscored the critical need for strengthening financial discipline and improving core banking parameters. She emphasized expanding the credit portfolio in productive sectors while maintaining prudent risk management and robust recovery mechanisms. She directed the bank authorities to intensify efforts to reduce NPAs by exceeding recovery targets through sustained follow-up, borrower engagement, and inculcating a culture of timely repayment among borrowers and cooperative members.

The Commissioner Secretary further instructed for preparation of a well-

defined action plan for the upcoming financial year in advance to ensure achievement of enhanced targets in loan disbursement and NPA recovery.

Highlighting the customer service and compliance, she mandated 100 percent saturation of Know Your Customer (KYC) completion across all accounts within the next three months. She also stressed that every branch of the bank must strive to achieve operating profit, signaling a push toward greater self-sustainability and efficiency.

The Commissioner Secretary advocated adoption of modern technology and digital banking solutions to enhance operational efficiency, transparency and service delivery. She reiterated the importance of robust recovery drives to bring down NPAs and strengthen the bank's overall financial resilience.

CM Omar Abdullah extends greetings on Jum-at-ul-Vida

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Jum-at-ul-Vida.

In his message, the Chief Minister emphasized the profound spiritual significance of Jum-at-ul-Vida, the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan, which holds special importance for the Muslim community.

He urged people to utilize this sacred occasion for prayers, introspection and seeking divine bless-

ings for peace, prosperity and harmony in society.

"May this blessed occasion bring peace, prosperity and well-being to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Let us pray for unity, harmony and the continued progress of our society while strengthening the bonds of compassion and brotherhood," the Chief Minister said.

The Chief Minister also appealed to the people to remember the underprivileged and extend support to those in need, underscoring the values of kindness, charity and generosity that define the spirit of Ramadan.

AJKAOWF delegation meets Agri Min; raises promotion, pay anomaly issues

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: A delegation of the All Jammu & Kashmir Agriculture Officers Welfare Forum (AJKAOWF) on Thursday called on Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Cooperatives and Election Javid Ahmad Dar and discussed several long pending issues concerning Agriculture Officers in the department.

The delegation highlighted the delay in convening Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) meetings, stating that the prolonged pendency has adversely affected the career progression and morale of officers in the Agriculture Production Department. The forum urged the Minister to expedite the process so that the eligible officers receive timely promotions.

The delegation also raised the issue of pay anomalies across different cadres within the department. It stressed that addressing these disparities is essential to ensure fairness, maintain motivation and establish parity among the officers working in various wings of the agriculture sector.

Another key concern flagged by the forum was to strengthen Human Resource Management (HRM) Section in the department. The representatives suggested that such a section (HRM) would facilitate the systematic handling of service matters, including promotions, seniority, transfers and other administrative issues.

Judicial Academy, Labour Dept organise training programme on "Labour Codes"

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Under the patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy) Arun Palli and guidance of Chairperson and Members of the Governing Committee of the J&K Judicial Academy in collaboration with the Labour Department organised a one day training programme on "Labour Codes" was organized Thursday at the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy, Moominabad, Srinagar, for the officers and officials of the Labour Department of Kashmir Province.

The programme commenced with an introductory address by Naseer Ahmad Dar, Director, J&K Judicial Academy. He emphasized the growing importance of capacity building in understanding the evolving labour law framework. He highlighted that the consolidation of multiple labour legislations into four comprehensive labour codes marks a significant transformation in India's labour law regime and necessitates continuous training of administrative and quasi-judicial authorities responsible for implementation.

Naseer Ahmad Dar also acknowledged the presence of Charandeep Singh, Labour Commissioner, J&K and underscored the importance of institutional collaboration between the Judicial Academy and the Labour Department in strengthening effective enforcement and interpre-



tation of labour laws.

In his special address, Labour Commissioner Charandeep Singh stressed the need for continuous capacity building of labour officers in light of the recent labour law reforms. He appreciated the role of the J&K Judicial Academy in providing structured training programmes that enhance the professional competence of administrative and quasi-judicial officers.

The first technical session, "Overview of Labour Law Reforms: Transition from Multiple Legislations to the Four Labour Codes," was delivered by Mir Mubashir Altaf, Assistant Professor, School of Law, University of Kashmir. He provided a detailed overview of the rationale behind labour law reforms and explained the transition from 29 central labour legislations to four consolidated labour codes. The session highlighted the objectives of simplification, rationalization, and improved compliance mechanisms within the labour law framework.

The second session was conducted by Dr. Yasir

Latief Handoo, Assistant Professor, School of Law, University of Kashmir, who spoke on the Code on Social Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. He focused on the compliance framework, responsibilities of labour authorities, and enforcement challenges in implementing these codes.

The third and concluding session was conducted by Anamika Gautam, Assistant Professor, School of Law, University of Kashmir, who discussed the Code on Wages, 2019 and the Industrial Relations Code, 2020. She elaborated on their salient features, the powers and functions of authorities under the codes, and the adjudicatory mechanisms provided therein.

The programme concluded with an interactive session and feedback, where the participants engaged with the resource persons on practical issues relating to implementation of labour codes, interpretation of statutory provisions and challenges faced in the field.

Dy Chief Minister lays foundation stone for slab over Nallah, Bathindi

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Thursday laid the foundation stone for construction of a slab over the Nallah near Mecca Chowk, Bathindi (upstream side).

MLA Bahu Constituency, Vikram Randhawa, accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister during the foundation stone laying ceremony.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Chief Minister said that with the initiation of work on this important project, a long-pending demand of the local residents has been fulfilled. He stressed that quality

and timely execution of the project are crucial, as it will not only beautify the area but also facilitate smoother movement for the local residents. He reiterated the government's commitment towards strengthening civic infrastructure and ensuring better public facilities across Jammu and Kashmir.

"Such initiatives significantly enhance accessibility and improve the overall living conditions of the residents," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Vikram Randhawa appreciated the Deputy Chief Minister for initiating the project and addressing the concerns of

the people. Local residents expressed gratitude to the government for addressing their long-standing concerns and taking steps towards development of the area.

The locals including representatives of Bathindi Development Forum also raised various issues with the Deputy Chief Minister.

The Deputy Chief Minister instructed the officers to put up all genuine demands with the concerned departments for early redress.

Among others present on the occasion were Chief Engineer PWD Rajesh Kumar Agastan and other officials.

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS(R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA
 Email: rb-awantipora@jk.gov.in
 NO: T-1/EEA/11292-96 | Dated: 12/03/2026

EXTENSION NOTICE

Subject:

- Construction of Elementary Girls Toilet at MS Overigund.....(under S.No. 1028).
- Construction of Girls Toilet at Boys Primary School Sigripora (under S.No. 701).
- Construction of Girls Toilet at Primary School Brenward Bathnoor (under S.No. 703).
- Construction of Girls Toilet at Primary School Zajikhower (under S.No. 704).

Reference: -

- This office e-NIT No. 168/EEA/RNB of 2025-26/9817-27 Dated 10-02-2026.
- This office e-NIT No. 172/EEA/RNB of 2025-26/10031-41 Dated 14-02-2026.

The critical dates for the above noted Work is hereby extended as under:

| | | |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | Bid Submission End Date | 13-03-2026 up to 4.00 P.M |
| 2 | Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) | 14-03-2026 upto 12.00 P.M |

All other terms & Conditions shall remain same as per above mentioned NIT.

Sd/- Technical officer Sd/- Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora

DIPK-11842-25
DT: 12/03/2026

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Cowardly Attack On Farooq Abdullah

The reported attack on National Conference president Farooq Abdullah has sparked serious concern across Jammu and Kashmir, with fresh details from the investigation raising troubling questions about the circumstances surrounding the incident. According to police sources, the man accused in the case, Kamal Singh Jamwal, was allegedly intoxicated at the time and has given conflicting statements during questioning. Investigators say the accused initially appeared confident when first questioned shortly after the incident. During that interaction, he reportedly claimed that he had wanted to kill Abdullah for the past two decades, even describing it as his "objective in life," though he failed to explain why he held such intentions. However, by the next morning his demeanor had reportedly changed. Sources said the accused appeared remorseful and began giving statements that contradicted what he had told investigators earlier. These inconsistencies have complicated the investigation and prompted police to examine the matter more closely. Police sources also indicated that investigators have formed a preliminary view that the accused may have been under the influence of alcohol when he allegedly fired the shot. To better understand the sequence of events, different teams of officers have been questioning him repeatedly as part of the ongoing probe. The accused had told investigators that he attended the event as an invitee and claimed that the hosts were his relatives. Authorities are now examining how he gained access to the venue and whether he had any prior links with those present at the gathering. Meanwhile, police have also begun questioning neighbours and relatives of the suspect in an effort to gather more details about his background and his movements before the incident. The attack has triggered strong political reactions across Jammu and Kashmir, with leaders from different parties condemning the incident and demanding a thorough investigation. Many have stressed that the matter must be examined carefully to uncover the full truth and ensure accountability. As the probe continues, authorities are expected to piece together the exact sequence of events and determine whether the act was driven by personal motives, intoxication, or other factors. The incident has highlighted the importance of strict security measures and the need for a clear and transparent investigation.

Auctioning Relationships: The Dark Side Of Quest For Virality

DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

The digital age has opened new doors to expression. The internet and social media have given everyone the opportunity to reach the world. While previously limited sources of information and entertainment, today anyone can create videos, write blogs, and reach millions of people using their mobile phones. This change is both democratic and inspiring. But with every change comes new challenges.

Today, in the world of social media, popularity has a new definition—followers, likes, shares, and views. The higher these numbers, the more successful a person is considered. This competition has led many content creators to a path where even the confines of personal life are becoming part of their content.

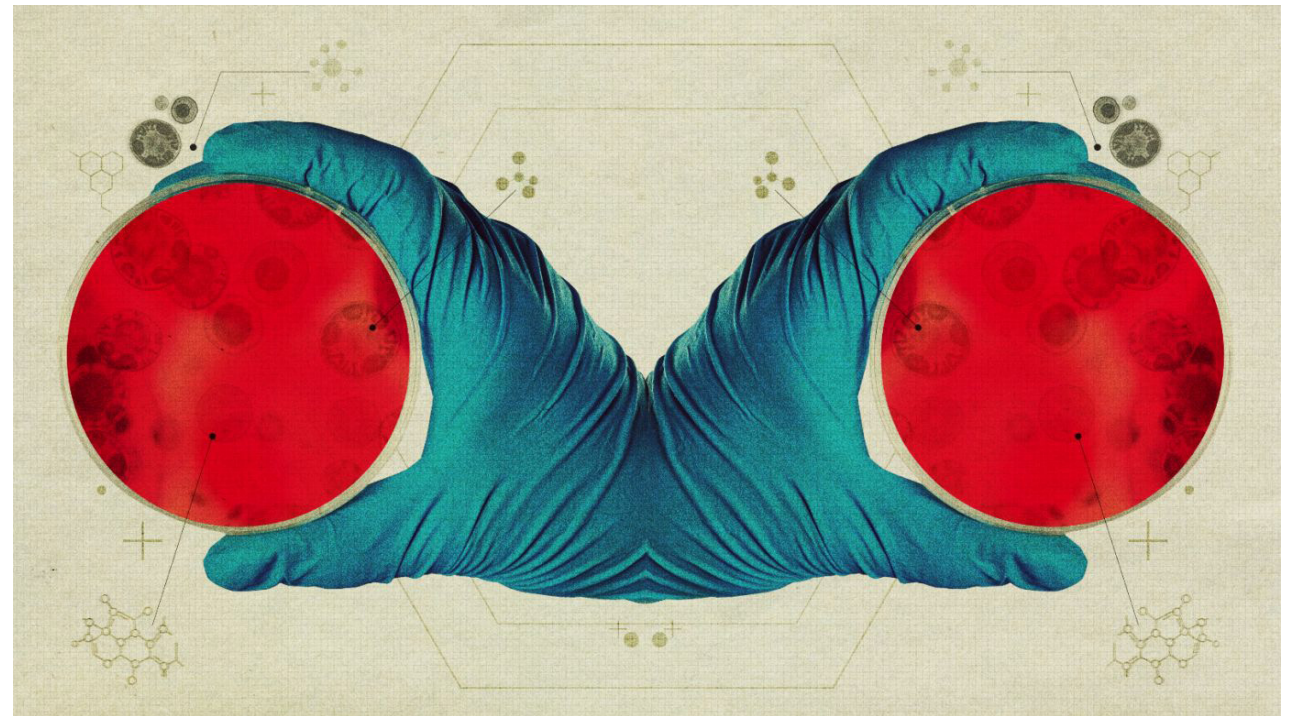
In the past few years, a new trend has rapidly emerged—bringing family feuds and personal conflicts to the camera and sharing them on social media. Husband-wife disputes, sibling conflicts, mother-in-law-daughter-in-law squabbles, or even small internal family arguments—things that were previously resolved within the confines of the home—are now being broadcast to millions of viewers in the form of videos and posts.

Many YouTubers and bloggers call this "real life content." They argue that viewers want to see reality. But the question is: is it necessary to make every real event public? Is it appropriate to expose personal relationships to the curiosity of viewers?

In fact, social media algorithms also encourage this trend. Content that evokes controversy, emotional reactions, or sensationalism tends to go viral faster. People comment more on such videos, offering their opinions, and sometimes even arguing for or against them. This is why some creators deliberately choose topics that can stir up emotions.

Unfortunately, sometimes these conflicts are genuine, and the privacy of family members is at stake. A minor dispute can be blown out of proportion by being exposed to the cameras. This not only compromises the dignity of relationships but can also negatively impact other family members—especially children.

In some cases, it's been observed that disputes are deliberately exagger-



ated or even completely scripted. This means that the conflict isn't real, but an attempt is made to appear real to attract audience attention. This blurs the line between entertainment and reality.

In this age of social media, going "viral" has become synonymous with success. When a video receives millions of views and thousands of new followers, the creator feels they've chosen the right path. But this popularity is often fleeting. A controversy that captured audience attention one day is overshadowed by another controversy the next.

There's also a social aspect to this trend. When viewers repeatedly see such content, they gradually begin to perceive it as normal to bring personal relationships into the public arena and make them a topic of discussion. This can undermine the sense of privacy and decorum in society.

In our society, the family has always been considered a strong institution. Family is not just a living arrangement, but also a foundation of emotional security, trust, and mutual understanding. When internal family problems are made a public spectacle, it undermines the trust that is the foundation of relationships.

Furthermore, young people and

teenagers make up a significant portion of the social media audience. They are influenced by what they see. If they repeatedly see that it's normal to publicize personal conflicts in order to gain popularity, they may develop the impression that it's acceptable to go to any lengths to achieve success in life.

It's also true that not all content creators are like this. There are many YouTubers, bloggers, and digital creators who produce informative, creative, and positive content. Many people working in education, science, art, culture, travel, and social issues are using social media as a positive platform. Their efforts prove that controversy and drama aren't the only path to popularity.

The real question is one of responsibility. When someone has the power to reach thousands or even millions of people, it also carries a social responsibility. Content creators must understand that their content not only entertains but also influences people's thinking and perspectives.

Viewers also play a significant role in this. After all, they are the ones who decide what type of content gets watched and what gets ignored. If viewers only promote sensational and con-

troversial videos, it's natural that such content will continue to grow. But if they give more support to constructive and positive content, the digital landscape could change.

Today, there's a need for balance and understanding in the use of social media. We should set boundaries for our personal lives and understand that not everything needs to be made public. Popularity and followers are important, but the dignity of relationships and personal respect are far more important.

Ultimately, it's important to remember that social media is a tool, not an end. It can be used to spread knowledge, communicate, and foster positive change. But when it becomes a mere pursuit of popularity, its negative consequences begin to emerge.

If this hunger for followers and views continues to grow, it's possible that one day people may become popular but lose touch with their own relationships and values. Therefore, it's important to understand in time that true success is achieved with respect and sensitivity—not by auctioning off relationships.

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

Is Instant Fame Destroying Our Cultural Fabric?

DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

The digital age has profoundly transformed the structure of our society, our ways of thinking, and our ways of expressing ourselves. Today, through mobile phones and the internet, anyone can reach millions of people in a matter of seconds. Social media platforms have democratized expression—where previously, opportunities for entertainment and fame were limited to a limited few, now everyone has a platform to showcase their talent. But with this new opportunity has also emerged many new challenges. One of the most significant is the debate surrounding content that some sections of society consider "vulgar" or "indecent."

Over the past few years, social media has seen a rapid rise in videos that, in the name of dance, acting, or entertainment, showcase gestures and performances that many consider to be contrary to cultural values. These videos often garner millions of views, likes, and shares, further expanding their reach. In this race for popularity, content quality and social responsibility are often overlooked.

A large segment of society believes that this type of content has a particularly damaging impact on young people and teenagers. When they see others achieving immense fame and financial gain by creating videos that last only a few seconds, they may develop a desire to do the same. Sometimes this inspiration is channeled into a creative direction—creating content related to music, art, dance, or education. However, in many cases, this motivation turns into a mere pursuit of virality, where any means are used to gain attention.

It's also been observed that



trends and algorithms have a significant impact on social media. Content that is viewed and shared more often spreads faster. Therefore, if viewers repeatedly watch the same types of videos that they themselves consider "vulgar," they are inadvertently perpetuating that trend. Therefore, blaming only the content creators isn't a complete solution to this problem. Viewers are also a vital part of this digital ecosystem.

On the other hand, there is also the argument that art and entertainment have their own freedoms. There are many forms of dance, acting, and expression, and each person views them differently. What one person finds inappropriate may be merely a form of entertainment or art to another. This is why this topic sparks heated debate in society. Some consider it a part of freedom of expression, while others see it as an erosion of social and cultural values.

This raises an important question—should any kind of popularity be considered a

benchmark for success? Social media has greatly accelerated the process of achieving fame. Previously, it took years for an artist to gain recognition; today, a viral video can make someone a star overnight. But this instant fame is often not lasting, and its social impact can be complex.

Many young people may fall into the trap of believing that only controversial or attention-grabbing content is the path to success. As a result, they chase instant popularity instead of developing their talents. This trend not only impacts personal growth but also impacts the quality of entertainment in society.

Culture isn't the product of a single individual or generation. Culture is shaped by centuries of experience, traditions, and social values. It's constantly changing—as each era brings with it new ideas and new forms. But it's essential to maintain a balance between change and excess. When entertainment becomes solely about sensationalism or atten-

tion, it's natural for society to worry about whether we're drifting away from our values.

In this context, the role of family, education, and society also becomes crucial. It's crucial to teach children and young people that not everything they see on the internet is worthy of emulation. Digital literacy—that is, understanding how the online world works—has become a crucial necessity today. If young people understand how algorithms work, how views and likes are generated, and what types of content can influence them, they will be able to make more informed decisions.

Content creators also have a responsibility no less. Those who reach millions of viewers also have the power to influence society. If they use their popularity to promote positive messages, creative art, and inspirational content, social media can become a powerful platform for society. There are many examples where creators have promoted education, folk culture, languages, and traditions,

influencing millions of people.

Therefore, the solution lies not in mere protests or boycotts, but in a balanced approach. Society must decide what type of content it wants to promote. If audiences are more supportive of creative, informative, and culturally rich content, more of that content will naturally be seen. Social media algorithms ultimately depend on audience preferences.

Platform companies also have a responsibility to develop standards and policies that take into account the broader interests of society. Many platforms already implement community guidelines, but their effectiveness depends on how seriously they are enforced.

Ultimately, it's important to understand that culture isn't protected solely by slogans or hashtags. Culture is strengthened when society sustains it through its behavior, choices, and priorities. If we truly want to preserve our cultural identity, we must promote positive alternatives—whether it's folk art, traditional music, literature, or modern, yet sensitive and responsible, entertainment.

Social media is a powerful medium. It can both unite and divide society. The only difference lies in how we use it. If creators create content responsibly and viewers choose wisely, these platforms can become the greatest platforms for cultural preservation and creative expression.

Ultimately, culture isn't created or destroyed by one person, one video, or one trend. It's shaped by society's collective consciousness and decisions. Therefore, the responsibility lies with all of us—creators, viewers, and society.

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

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World Of Voices: India Championing Inclusivity In Global Governance



DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

India plays a pivotal role in shaping the multipolar world order by balancing major powers, championing inclusivity in global governance, and leveraging its economic, cultural, and strategic strengths. It has moved from a non-aligned posture to a "multi-aligned" approach, engaging simultaneously with the U.S., Russia, China, and regional blocs while asserting its own independent vision. India maintains a strategic position in multipolarity. India, once the leader of the Non-Aligned Movement, now practices strategic autonomy while engaging with diverse global players. It maintains ties with the U.S. through the QUAD, with Russia via defense cooperation, and with China through trade, even amid border tensions. This multi-alignment reflects India's pragmatic diplomacy. India's role in South Asia and the Indian Ocean is central to multipolarity. Its partnerships with ASEAN, Africa, and Latin America expand its influence beyond traditional alliances. India's growing economy makes it a key market and manufacturing hub. It advocates for economic inclusivity in forums like the G20 and BRICS+, pushing for reforms in global financial institutions to better represent developing nations. India's IT sector, digital payment systems (like UPI), and space achievements enhance its global standing, showcasing how emerging economies can contribute to global technological progress.

India consistently calls for reforms in institutions like the UN Security Council to reflect contemporary realities. It argues that multipolarity must be matched by pluralism in governance. India positions itself as a leader in renewable energy and climate negotiations, balancing developmental needs with global environmental responsibilities. India navigates tensions between Washington and Beijing by strengthening defense ties with the U.S. and Japan while maintaining dialogue with China. This balancing act stabilizes regional dynamics. India continues to rely on Russian defense technology while diversifying suppliers, ensuring resilience in a multipolar security environment. India's civilizational ethos, rooted in concepts like Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam ("the world is one family"), resonates globally. This philosophical foundation enriches multipolarity by emphasizing cooperation, moral responsibility, and inclusivity.

Border disputes with China, dependence on imported energy, and uneven domestic development can constrain India's global role. By leveraging its demographic dividend, digital innovation, and diplomatic agility, India can shape multipolarity into a more equitable and representative order. In summary, India's role in multipolarity is defined by balance, inclusivity, and innovation. It is not merely adapting to a multipolar world but actively shaping it—ensuring that global governance reflects diversity, that economic systems are fairer, and that strategic competition does not undermine collective progress. In today's multipolar world, the dominance of singular authoritarian regimes is increasingly challenged by distributed power structures, global cooperation, and the rise of the Global South. The age of unchecked dictatorship is giving way to a more balanced, participatory international order.

The 21st century has witnessed a profound shift in global power dynamics. The post-Cold War unipolar moment, dominated by a single superpower, has gradually eroded, making way for a multipolar world where influence is shared among several nations. This transformation has significant implications for governance models worldwide. The days when dictators could rule with impunity, shielded by geopolitical alliances or global indifference, are fading. In their place, a new era is emerging—one where transparency, accountability, and multilateral engagement are becoming the norm.

Multipolarity means that power is



no longer concentrated in the hands of a few dominant states. Countries like India, Brazil, South Africa, and Indonesia are asserting themselves on the global stage, not just economically but also diplomatically and culturally. This diffusion of power makes it harder for authoritarian regimes to operate without scrutiny. In a world where influence is distributed, no single nation can unilaterally protect or promote dictatorships without facing consequences from other actors. The rise of regional powers and coalitions—such as BRICS, ASEAN, and the African Union—further reinforces this trend, creating checks and balances that discourage autocratic behavior.

Technology has played a pivotal role in this transformation. The internet, social media, and mobile communication have empowered citizens to challenge oppressive regimes and demand accountability. Information flows freely across borders, making it difficult for dictators to control narratives or suppress dissent. Global civil society, fueled by digital activism, can mobilize support for democratic movements in real time. From the Arab Spring to protests in Belarus and Iran, technology has become a weapon against tyranny, amplifying voices that were once silenced.

Moreover, international institutions and norms have evolved to prioritize human rights and democratic governance. Organizations like the United Nations, the International Criminal Court, and various human rights watchdogs now monitor and report on abuses, applying pressure on regimes that violate global standards. While enforcement remains uneven, the mere existence of these mechanisms creates a deterrent effect. Dictators can no longer rely on secrecy or impunity; they are subject to global scrutiny and potential sanctions. Economic globalization also undermines authoritarianism. In a connected world, prosperity depends on cooperation, trade, and investment. Countries that isolate themselves or suppress their populations often face economic stagnation. Investors and multinational corporations increasingly consider governance and human rights when making decisions. Authoritarian regimes that fail to provide stability, transparency, and rule of law risk losing access to global markets and capital. This economic pressure incentivizes reform and discourages dictatorial excesses.

The rise of the Global South is particularly significant. As nations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America gain influence, they bring diverse perspectives to global governance. Many of these countries have experienced colonialism, dictatorship, and democratic transition. Their voices challenge the old order and advocate for inclusive, equitable systems. India, for example, has championed multipolarity as a means to democratize international relations. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar recently emphasized that the era of a few powers shaping the global landscape is over, and multipolarity is here to stay. This sentiment reflects a broader shift toward pluralism and shared leadership.

The phrase "a broader shift toward pluralism and shared leadership" captures one of the most defining transformations of our time. In a world once dominated by singular powers and centralized authority, we are now

witnessing a recalibration of global governance, where multiple voices, perspectives, and regions contribute to shaping the future.

This shift is not merely political—it is cultural, technological, and economic. It reflects a growing recognition that no single nation, ideology, or leader can unilaterally dictate the course of humanity. Pluralism, at its core, is the celebration of diversity—not just in ethnicity or religion, but in ideas, governance models, and developmental paths. Shared leadership, meanwhile, is the antidote to authoritarianism. It is the practice of distributing power, encouraging collaboration, and valuing consensus over coercion. Together, these principles form the foundation of a multipolar world, where influence is no longer concentrated but diffused across continents and communities.

This transformation is visible in the rise of regional powers. Countries like India, Brazil, South Africa, and Indonesia are no longer peripheral players; they are central to global decision-making. Their voices matter in climate negotiations, trade agreements, and peacekeeping efforts. These nations bring unique experiences—of colonialism, resistance, and democratic evolution—that enrich global discourse. They challenge the dominance of traditional powers and advocate for more inclusive institutions that reflect the realities of the 21st century. Technology has accelerated this shift. In this interconnected world, leadership is no longer con-

finned to formal institutions; it emerges from networks, collaborations, and shared values. Economically, globalization has created interdependence. Supply chains span continents, and financial markets respond to events across borders. This interconnectedness demands cooperation. No country can afford isolation, and no leader can ignore the ripple effects of their decisions. Shared leadership becomes a necessity, not a choice. Multilateral organizations, despite their flaws, provide forums for negotiation and compromise. Regional blocs like the European Union, ASEAN, and the African Union exemplify how collective governance can enhance stability and prosperity. Culturally, pluralism is reshaping identities. Migration, media, and education expose people to diverse worldviews. Young generations grow up with a sense of global citizenship, valuing empathy and

inclusion. They challenge rigid hierarchies and demand representation. This cultural shift influences politics, pushing leaders to be more responsive, transparent, and accountable. It also fosters solidarity across borders, as people recognize common struggles and shared aspirations. In governance, the shift toward pluralism and shared leadership is evident in the growing emphasis on decentralization.

Education is a powerful driver of pluralism. As literacy rates rise and access to information expands, people become more critical, engaged, and empowered. They question dogma, challenge injustice, and seek alternatives. Educational exchanges, international scholarships, and collaborative research foster mutual understanding and respect. They build bridges across cultures and create networks of shared leadership. The shift toward pluralism and shared leadership also redefines power. It moves away from domination and toward influence. Soft power—based on culture, values, and diplomacy—becomes as important as military might. Countries that promote human rights, environmental stewardship, and inclusive development gain respect and trust. They attract partnerships and investments. They shape global norms and inspire emulation. This transformation is not without challenges. Pluralism can lead to fragmentation, and shared leadership can slow decision-making. The broader shift toward pluralism and shared leadership is a defining feature of our era.



finned to formal institutions; it emerges from networks, collaborations, and shared values.

Economically, globalization has created interdependence. Supply chains span continents, and financial markets respond to events across borders. This interconnectedness demands cooperation. No country can afford isolation, and no leader can ignore the ripple effects of their decisions. Shared leadership becomes a necessity, not a choice. Multilateral organizations, despite their flaws, provide forums for negotiation and compromise. Regional blocs like the European Union, ASEAN, and the African Union exemplify how collective governance can enhance stability and prosperity. Culturally, pluralism is reshaping identities. Migration, media, and education expose people to diverse worldviews. Young generations grow up with a sense of global citizenship, valuing empathy and

However, the decline of dictatorship is not absolute. Authoritarian regimes still exist and, in some cases, thrive. Countries like China, Russia, and North Korea continue to suppress dissent and centralize power. Yet even these regimes face growing resistance—both internally and externally. Civil society movements, international sanctions, and diplomatic isolation challenge their legitimacy. The global community is increasingly unwilling to tolerate blatant violations of human rights and democratic norms. Furthermore, the concept of soft power has gained prominence. Nations now compete not just through military might but through cultural influence, innovation, and moral leadership. Democracies that uphold freedom, diversity, and human rights attract admiration and emulation. Authoritarian regimes, by contrast, struggle to project a positive image. In a multipolar world, legitimacy is

earned through values, not imposed through force.

Education and youth engagement are also reshaping the political landscape. Young people around the world are more connected, informed, and aspirational than ever before. They demand transparency, participation, and justice. Dictatorships, which rely on fear and control, find it increasingly difficult to suppress this energy. As generational change unfolds, the appetite for democracy grows, and the tolerance for authoritarianism diminishes. For much of the 20th century, geopolitics was defined by silence and strategic alliances that often enabled authoritarian regimes to thrive. Dictatorships could survive because powerful nations either turned a blind eye or actively supported them for strategic gain. The Cold War epitomized this dynamic: alliances were forged not on the basis of values but on expediency, with human rights frequently sacrificed at the altar of geopolitical competition. Yet, in the 21st century, this paradigm is unraveling.

The new era is one where global silence is no longer possible, and strategic alliances are being redefined by transparency, accountability, and shared responsibility.

The end of global silence is largely driven by technology. Information flows across borders instantly, making it impossible for governments to conceal abuses or suppress dissent without scrutiny. Social media platforms, independent journalism, and digital activism have created a global audience that demands accountability. When citizens rise against oppression, their voices echo worldwide, mobilizing solidarity movements and pressuring governments to act. Silence, once a tool of diplomacy, is now a liability. Nations that ignore human rights violations risk reputational damage and domestic backlash. Strategic alliances, too, are undergoing transformation. In the past, alliances were often transactional, built on military or economic interests with little regard for democratic values. Today, alliances are increasingly shaped by shared principles—climate responsibility, digital governance, and human rights. Multilateral organizations and regional blocs emphasize cooperation over coercion, inclusivity over exclusivity. The European Union, ASEAN, and the African Union exemplify this shift, prioritizing collective well-being and sustainable development.

Even global institutions like the United Nations, despite their limitations, reflect a growing insistence on accountability and pluralism. The rise of multipolarity reinforces this change. Power is no longer concen-

trated in a handful of nations; instead, it is distributed among diverse actors. India, Brazil, South Africa, and other emerging economies assert themselves as global leaders, challenging the dominance of traditional powers. This new era is not without challenges. Authoritarian regimes still exist, and some attempt to manipulate technology or exploit divisions to maintain control. Strategic alliances can still be transactional, and global institutions often struggle with enforcement. Yet, the trajectory is clear: silence is no longer tolerated, and alliances are increasingly shaped by values rather than expediency.

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CS reviews progress on proposed strategy for commercial cultivation of MAP in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Thursday held a meeting to review the progress on the proposed strategy for large-scale commercial cultivation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) across Jammu and Kashmir, aimed at strengthening the sector and enhancing farmers' income through scientific cultivation, value addition and market integration.

The meeting was convened to assess the progress made by the Agriculture Production Department in formulating a comprehensive strategy for developing the MAP sector in the Union Territory following consultations with private pharmaceutical companies, MAP dealers, Minor Forest Produce depot holders, Biodiversity Management Committees and other industry

stakeholders.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took a detailed appraisal of the concerns raised by these stakeholders and the measures proposed by the department to address them. He observed that medicinal and aromatic plants represent a high-value sector with immense potential for livelihood generation in the region.

Emphasizing the importance of scientific planning, the Chief Secretary noted that the major bottlenecks in scaling up commercial MAP cultivation include availability of quality planting material, development of crop-specific package of practices and establishment of reliable market linkages for farmers. He said that addressing these challenges would be critical for encouraging farmers to adopt MAP cultivation on a

large scale.

The Chief Secretary underlined that research institutions have a significant role to play in identifying commercially viable species suited to different agro-climatic zones of the Union Territory. He asked the research institutions to assist the department in developing cultivation protocols, identifying suitable zones for different MAP species and ensuring that the recommended crops are both environmentally sustainable and commercially viable.

He further advised the department to hold wider consultations with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and the Ministry of AYUSH while framing the strategy and also suggested taking guidance from eminent agricultural experts such as Dr Mangla Rai and Dr Ashok Dalwai to make the initiative

more impactful.

Additional Chief Secretary, APD Ashish Chander Verma briefed the meeting about the initiatives taken so far by the department. He informed that consultations had been held with leading industry players including Dabur, Emami, Patanjali Ayurved, Sami-Sabinsa Group and Dehlvi Naturals to understand the scope, demand patterns and challenges related to the commercial production of MAPs in the Union Territory.

He added that based on the feedback received from these stakeholders, the department has undertaken a preliminary exercise to identify solutions to the challenges and frame a structured roadmap for the development of this sector.

Managing Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Sandeep Kumar, made a detailed

presentation outlining the proposed intervention framework.

He informed that the proposed strategy is structured around six key intervention areas, including conservation and sustainable management of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) in forest areas, promotion of their commercial cultivation on private lands and village woodlots, strengthening of nursery systems to ensure availability of certified planting material, establishment of primary processing and value-addition facilities, promotion of branding, cluster development and market integration, besides enhancing research, capacity building and skill development in the sector.

Under the proposed plan, geo-spatial mapping of niche MAP zones will be undertaken by the Department of Ecolo-

gy, Environment and Remote Sensing (DEERS) between 2026 and 2028, while a baseline survey will be carried out by the J&K Agriculture Production Department in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu during 2026-27.

The strategy also includes nursery raising of medicinal plants with an annual capacity of about 50 lakh plants, to be implemented by the Forest Department from 2026 to 2032 to ensure the availability of quality planting material.

It was further given out that initially Plantation activities are proposed to be taken up on a large scale, including 1,500 hectares in forest areas, 62 hectares on government land outside forest areas, and 80 hectares on private lands, with further yearly augmentations upto the year 2032.

Experts from Indian

Institute of Integrative Medicine, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir also shared their inputs regarding the role their institutions could play in strengthening research, developing technologies and supporting farmers in the cultivation of MAPs.

The Chief Secretary urged all stakeholders to work in close coordination to successfully implement the proposed strategy, stating that a collaborative effort between government departments, research institutions and industry partners would help overcome existing hurdles and unlock the vast potential of medicinal and aromatic plants for the benefit of farmers across the UT.

Accident Victim Fund

5 NoK provided compensation at Kishtwar

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR: In a considerate gesture to ease the hardship of grieving families, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma Thursday disbursed Rs. 5 lakh under the J&K Road Accident Victim Fund (JKRAVF) as compensation in favor of the Next of Kin (NoK) of accident victims.

An amount of Rs 1 lakh each was disbursed to the legal heirs of five deceased victims of the road accidents. The same were recommended by the Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO).

The government initiative aims to extend support to those affected by such tragic incidents and underscores its ongoing commitment to assist bereaved families.

The families who received compensation included Shivani Devi D/o Lt. Banshi Lal R/o Bhagna Gujjar Basti Nagseni, Nowsheena Begum W/o Lt. Masood Ahmed R/o Palmar, Dolat Ram S/o Prem Nath R/o Tagood, Anju Bala W/o Lt. Jarman Singh R/o vill Neera Rahalthal Kishtwar and Kajal Devi W/o Suman Kumar R/o Bhatna Nagar Dharbadan Thakrie.

Assassination Attempt On Dr Farooq Echoes In Parliament

REHAN QAYOOM

NEW DELHI: The assassination attempt on former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah echoed in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, with Congress Chief Mallikarjun Kharge and National Conference MP Choudhary Ramzan expressing concern over the incident and demanding stronger security arrangements for the veteran leader.

Speaking in the House, Kharge, said the attack on Dr Farooq was a serious matter and raised concerns over the

law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

"An attack was carried out on Farooq Abdullah Sahib. If the attacker had got even a minute or two more, he could have killed him," Kharge said while addressing the Rajya Sabha.

He said the incident indicated that the safety of senior political leaders was under threat and urged the government to take the matter seriously.

Meanwhile, participating in the discussion, National Conference MP Choudhary Ramzan also called for an

immediate upgrade in the security cover of Farooq Abdullah.

Ramzan, as per KNO told the House that the veteran leader survived the attack because people around him acted swiftly and managed to overpower the attacker.

"At the time of the incident, Dr Farooq Abdullah had security cover and his workers were around him. It was due to their efforts that the attacker was overpowered and his life was saved," Ramzan said.

Ramzan also claimed that a senior political leader

accompanying Dr Farooq was injured during the scuffle before the attacker was subdued.

Ramzan further highlighted Abdullah's long political career and contributions to Jammu and Kashmir, saying he had served the region multiple times as Chief Minister and played an important role in maintaining political stability.

He urged the government to ensure better protection for the veteran leader and upgrade his security cover to prevent such incidents in the future.(KNO)

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

LG Vows To Hunt

All India Police Kabaddi Cluster 2025-26 (Men & Women) at MA Stadium Jammu. The Lieutenant Governor felicitated the sports persons from State Police Forces and CAPFs participated in different sports disciplines including Kabaddi, Gymnastics, Fencing and Kho-Kho. He said the discipline, and determination displayed by the participants truly reflect the core values of policing.

"This is an education possible only on the ground, and it has the power to shape the character of the young generation. Such sporting events carry another vital lesson: lasting public security, peace and prosperity is strengthened from trust and values," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Lauding Jammu Kashmir Police, the Lieutenant Governor said that through the Civic Action Programme, the J&K Police has kept alive the conviction that we belong to community, that we care for youth, and that we believe in their future.

"The people here have always seen the Jammu & Kashmir Police as a guide, a mentor — an integral part of the community. These competitions are an expression of exactly that spirit," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the youth of Jammu Kashmir to recognize and fully seize the extraordinary potential of the Union Territory they have inherited.

"Dream big, with the health, freedom, and opportunities to make those dreams real," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Emphasizing that a bright future requires a healthy foundation, the Lieutenant Governor urged the younger generation to stay vigilant against the menace of narcotics and lead a collective war against drugs.

"Sports teach the power of shared purpose: a dedicated team achieves what no individual can. These lessons extend beyond the field, forming the foundation of life's greatest triumphs," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The Lieutenant Governor also felicitated the J&K cricket team on clinching their maiden Ranji trophy title. The Lieutenant Governor extended heartfelt congratulations to the champions for this landmark triumph.

An e-Souvenir of the 2nd All India Police Kabaddi Cluster 2025-26 was also released on the occasion.

Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP J&K; Shri S.J.M Gillani, Special DG (Coordination); Shri Abdul Ghani Mir, Commandant General, Home Guards, Civil Defence & SDRF J&K; Shri Anand Jain, ADGP Armed Police; Shri MK Sinha, ADGP Headquarters; Shri Pankaj Thakur, Joint Director, IB; senior officials of J&K Police and Civil administration and eminent sports personalities attended the closing ceremony.

The investigating agency has intensified its investigations into high-profile terror-related cases, narco-terrorism networks, and violent incidents across the union territory in 2025-2026.

NIA is investigating the April 22, 2025, attack in Pahalgam, which resulted in the deaths of 26 tourists. The agency has taken over the case, arresting local harborers and identifying Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants involved, including a former Pakistani Special Service Group (SSG) commando.

In June 2025, the NIA conducted extensive raids at 32 locations across Jammu and Kashmir, targeting overground workers (OGWs) linked to various terror outfits. The agency has been active in dismantling narco-terror networks that fund terrorism. Recent actions include the arrest of a key accused in a 2020 case and the seizure of narcotics and cash, with investigations focusing on Pakistan-based handlers pushing drugs and weapons.

NIA continues to investigate cases involving the conspiracy to wage war against India, including actions against separatist leaders and their associates. Recent actions include framing charges in the 2020 murder of Advocate Babar Qadri.

NIA has attached properties in Kashmir belonging to individuals involved in terror networks to disrupt their operations.

The agency is working closely with J&K Police to dismantle these networks, with a focus on cutting off logistical support and financing to the terrorists.

Srinagar Court Issues

Mohd Saleem Khan, and Bashir Ahmad Misgar.

The case has been ongoing, with the CBI filing charge sheets alleging a multi-crore misappropriation of funds.

The recent court actions mark a significant step towards trial, following investigations into financial mismanagement. The J&K cricket team recently won the final of the Ranji Trophy defeating rivals Karnataka.

Jammu and Kashmir won their maiden Ranji Trophy title in the 2025-26 season by defeating Karnataka on the basis of a first-innings lead in a drawn final. J&K posted 584 runs in their first innings and restricted Karnataka to 293, securing a 291-run lead.

CS Assesses Roadmap

in close coordination with IIT Jammu to ensure timely implementation of the proposed phases and development of the required ecosystem for technology-led growth in the Union Territory.

At the outset, Secretary, Information Technology, Dr Piyush Singla presented the background of the initiative and highlighted the progress achieved so far towards setting up technology-driven innovation infrastructure in the Union Territory.

During the meeting, Prof. Arvind of IIT

Jammu presented a detailed plan for establishing an Innovation and Research Park beginning from the campus of IIT Jammu and subsequently expanding to other locations across the UT.

It was informed that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the proposed initiative has already been approved by the Board of Governors of IIT Jammu on January 5, 2026, while the Government of Jammu & Kashmir has accorded in-principle approval for collaboration in this initiative.

The project envisages a phased development strategy to gradually build a robust IT and innovation ecosystem in the region.

Explaining it was revealed that Under Phase-I, scheduled to be launched during May-June 2026, about 50,000 square feet of existing built-up space within the IIT Jammu campus will be upgraded and developed to initiate operations of the proposed IT and innovation park.

Phase-II will involve construction of approximately 120,000 square feet of additional infrastructure, with work proposed to begin during 2026 and targeted for completion by 2028. For Phase-III, the project proposes expansion of the IT Park outside the campus, enabling larger scale industry participation and technology-driven growth.

During the presentation, it was informed that a land parcel has been identified in Kashmir Division too for expansion of this park under next phase. Additionally, land is proposed to be identified in Jammu for expansion of the park in close proximity to the existing IIT Jammu campus.

The proposed Innovation Research Park (Phase-B) at IIT Jammu is planned with a built-up area of over 11,000 square metres, including multiple functional floors designed to accommodate innovation labs, technology companies, startups and research collaborations. The facility with supporting spaces aims at fostering research-industry partnerships and technology incubation.

Women-Led Self-Help

women with an opportunity to become self-reliant and also help preserve local culture and traditions.

Today, around 1,500 women are associated with these self-help groups.

They say they are proud of their work and want more women to join this initiative to promote local products and strengthen India's cultural identity.

Through these SHGs and traditional handicrafts, the women here are not only creating employment opportunities for themselves but also preserving their rich cultural heritage.

Pak Drone-Dropped

station, and further investigation is underway to trace the backward and forward linkages.

The police urged citizens to come forward with any information regarding illegal drug activities in their localities, includ-

ing those residing near the International Border. (PTI)

Attack On Farooq Abdullh

stressed that the safety of citizens, including senior political leaders, remains a priority for the government.

"The Government of India is concerned about the life and safety of every citizen. As far as the security of Farooq Abdullah is concerned, all necessary investigations and measures will certainly be taken," he said.

The BJP leader also cautioned against politicising the incident, saying that giving the issue a political angle would be inappropriate.

"It is not right to look at everything from a political point of view and give it a political angle," he said, responding to allegations raised by opposition leaders in the House.

Nadda said accusations suggesting that the government had any role in the incident were baseless and unfortunate.

He further said that the government remains committed to maintaining law and order and ensuring security for all citizens across the country—(KNO)

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PM Modi links legacy of Dandi March to Viksit Bharat vision amid global turmoil

IAN S

growing role in shaping the future world order.

The President of Finland has said that the Global South would shape the future direction of the world, while Mark Carney of Canada has described India as the shifting centre of global economic gravity in the coming decades.

French President Emmanuel Macron has referred to India as an indispensable partner in addressing global challenges.

PM Modi said that to be part of the future, the world must engage with and be present in India.

Amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia, which has triggered a global energy crisis and supply chain disruptions, the Prime Minister stressed the need for peace, patience and heightened public awareness.

He called for united efforts from political parties, the media and industry -- similar to the collective response during the Covid-19 pandemic -- to safeguard national interests.

The Prime Minister also urged responsible public discourse based on facts rather than misinformation, particularly on issues such as LPG availability, and emphasised the importance of continuous dialogue with global leaders to address emerging challenges.

Highlighting the growing confidence among citizens, PM



Modi said the interest of Indians in the country's economic progress today resembles the enthusiasm people show for cricket.

"Just as people eagerly follow T20 match scores, they now want a running commentary on India's growth story," he said.

He added that this rising self-belief forms the foundation of global trust in India and increases the country's responsibility at a time when the world is closely watching its progress.

PM Modi said India has moved beyond incremental progress and is now building world-class physical and digital infrastructure.

He cited major milestones, including the abrogation of Article 370, connecting more than 50 crore people to the banking system through Jan Dhan accounts, and the passage of the 33 per cent reservation for women in legislatures.

In the technology sector, he said India is advancing through dedicated missions in space, semiconductors and quantum computing, pushing the country towards new frontiers.

The Prime Minister said the country has moved from aspiration to implementation through reforms across sectors.

Expressing confidence in India's resilience, he said the

Govt taking all steps to safeguard India's energy security: PM Modi

IAN S

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that the government is "doing everything possible" to safeguard India's energy security amid the disruptions in oil and gas supplies caused by the Iran war.

Addressing a media event here, PM Modi said that his government has worked in a holistic manner to make India "self-reliant" in the energy sector, which has resulted in huge savings for the country.

"Before 2014, India had negligible storage capacity for strategic petroleum reserves. Now, we have significant reserves," he remarked, referring to the government having established Strategic Petroleum Reserve facilities with a total capacity of 5.33 million metric tonnes (MMT), which can act as a buffer for short-term supply shocks such as geopolitical con-

flicts. This is meant to provide for about 9.5 days of crude oil requirement.

In addition, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in the country have storage facilities for crude oil and petroleum products for 64.5 days. Hence, the current total national capacity for storage of crude oil and petroleum products is 74 days.

PM Modi also said that the government was determined to ensure that the citizens of India do not face any problems due to wars in different parts of the world.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said on Thursday that all steps are being taken by the government to ensure uninterrupted energy supplies, with 50 lakh LPG cylinders being delivered every day, so consumers should avoid "panic booking" of cooking gas.

It is the 13th day of war, and for the first time in recorded his-

tory, the Strait of Hormuz has been effectively closed to commercial shipping.

However, for India, crude is being sourced from more than 40 countries, and 70 per cent of the crude suppliers are now coming from routes other than the Strait of Hormuz, the ministry statement said.

India's daily oil consumption is 5.5 million barrels, and it is the fourth largest refiner in the world with 22 refineries in the country. Further, refineries are operating at high-capacity utilisation; in several cases, they are exceeding 100 per cent. This large refining capacity is allowing the country a much more comfortable position in terms of the availability of petroleum products during the current war crisis.

There are over 1 lakh retail outlets providing petroleum products, all of which have adequate stocks, as per the government.

country had demonstrated its strength during the pandemic and would similarly overcome the present global challenges.

He reaffirmed that the government would continue

to prioritise public interest and minimise the impact of global upheavals on citizens, farmers and vulnerable sections.

PM Modi said India's momen-

tum is unstoppable and driven by the aspirations of its people, reiterating his commitment to working towards the vision of a self-reliant and fully developed India.

50 lakh LPG cylinders being supplied per day, avoid panic booking: Govt

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said on Thursday that all steps are being taken by the Government to ensure uninterrupted energy supplies, with 50 lakh LPG cylinders being delivered every day, so consumers should avoid "panic booking" of cooking gas.

Crude is sourced from more than 40 countries, and 70 per cent of the crude is now coming from routes other than the Strait of Hormuz, which is currently closed, a ministry statement said.

India's daily oil consumption is 5.5 million barrels, and it is the fourth largest refiner in the world with 22 refineries in the country. Further, refineries are operating at high-capacity utilisation; in several cases, they are exceeding 100 per cent. This large refining capacity is allowing the country a much more comfortable position in terms of availability of petroleum products during the Iran war crisis. availability and sustain the crisis, it said.

There are over 1 lakh retail outlets providing petroleum products, all of which have adequate stocks.

The supply of natural gas has been affected due to force majeure condi-



tions, but the procurement through alternative routes and suppliers is underway to offset this disruption. To manage this situation effectively, the government has issued a Natural Gas Control Order under the Essential Commodities Act to prioritise the supply, the statement said.

The global situation is challenging, but the Government has taken many steps to maintain the demand-supply balance. These include enhancing production of LPG by the refineries with the entire output of C3 and C4 hydrocarbon streams, comprising propane, butane, propylene, and butane being provided exclusively to the three oil marketing companies for domestic cooking gas. Hence, in the last five days, LPG production has been increased by 28 per cent through refinery directives. Further pro-

urement is actively underway, the statement said.

There are more than 25,000 distributors all over the country, and no 'dry out' has been reported. More than 50 lakh cylinders are delivered every day. However, there has been a sharp rise in bookings of LPG cylinders due to panic. Consumers have therefore been urged to avoid panic booking, cooperate with authorities, and conserve fuel where possible during this period of global uncertainty, the statement said.

For non-domestic LPG, priority is being given to essential sectors such as hospitals and educational institutions.

A three-member committee of Executive Directors from IOCL, HPCL and BPCL has been constituted to review allocations to restaurants, hotels and other commercial users.

The committee is consulting with state authorities and industry bodies to finalise a plan to ensure that available LPG is distributed in a fair and transparent manner. In a major decision, 20 per cent of the average monthly commercial LPG requirement will be allocated from today by OMCs, in coordination with the state governments, so that there is no hoarding or black marketing.

Alternative fuel options are being activated to ease pressure on LPG and gas channels. Kerosene is being made available through retail outlets and PDS channels, and fuel oil is being made available for industrial and commercial consumers.

The Ministry of Environment has advised State Pollution Control Boards to permit, for the duration of this crisis period, the use of biomass, RDF pellets, and kerosene/coal as alternative fuels for the hospitality and restaurant segment for one month, which would enable a wider range of establishments to switch and free up LPG for priority consumers.

The Ministry of Coal has also issued orders to allot higher quantities of coal to state-nominated agencies and allocated these to small, medium, and other consumers.

'This is Parliament, not a picnic spot', says BJP MPs amid Oppn protest row over energy security

IAN S

NEW DELHI: A political war of words erupted in Parliament on Thursday, as leaders from the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the Opposition traded sharp remarks over protests and the issue of energy security raised by the Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal took a swipe at the Congress leader, questioning his seriousness towards Parliamentary proceedings.

"By sitting here and having tea, he (Rahul Gandhi) has shown how serious he is about Parliament," Goyal said, refer-

ring to Rahul Gandhi during the ongoing political confrontation over energy-related issues.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Lok Sabha MP Nishikant Dubey also criticised the Congress leader while displaying a photograph of Rahul Gandhi drinking tea inside the Parliament complex.

"He (Rahul Gandhi) appears to be enjoying a picnic. This is Parliament, not a canteen," Dubey said.

He also pointed out that the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla had issued strict directions that the Makar Dwar should not be used for any kind of protest, yet demonstrations were being staged there.

BJP Lok Sabha MP Ravi Kishan dismissed concerns raised by the Opposition over a possible energy shortage and gas availability. "All these are misleading claims. There is no need for anyone to panic. Adequate arrangements have been made for everything, including gas," he said.

He also added that the country remains secure under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The country is completely safe under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi-led Union government. Congress is creating panic; people should stay away from Congress,"

Kishan said. Meanwhile, Congress leaders defended Rahul Gandhi and said the Opposition was raising a serious national issue.

Congress General Secretary (Organisation), K. C. Venugopal, said the country had witnessed the Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition raising concerns about a major energy crisis.

"He (Rahul Gandhi) raised the most important issue of energy security happening in this country. While doing so, he made a serious remark that our Petroleum Ministry is completely compromised, and he said he would present evidence and take the matter to the people," Venugopal added.

Govt tracking safety of Indian ships, sailors operating in Gulf region

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways said on Thursday that the number of Indian-flagged vessels operating in the Persian Gulf region remains unchanged at 28, and all Indian vessels and crew are being actively monitored for their safety and security.

As many as 24 of these Indian ships are located west of the Strait of Hormuz, carrying 677 Indian seafarers, and four vessels are on the east of the Strait with 101 Indian seafarers on board.

Authorities, ship managers, and recruitment agencies are closely coordinating with Indian embassies and local authorities to ensure safety and render medical assistance, the statement said.

Advisories issued on precautionary measures to

safeguard Indian seafarers, Indian-flagged vessels and maritime trade operations issued by DG Shipping on February 28 remain in force.

Overall, port operations across India remain stable. A Standard Operating Procedure has been issued for all major ports and State Maritime Boards to proactively facilitate shipping lines and exporters through stakeholder coordination and time-bound grievance redressal. A nodal officer as a Single Point of Contact has been appointed by all major ports, the statement said.

Major ports have also been directed to provide priority berthing for LPG vessels.

Ports have also implemented facilitation measures such as permitting storage of affected Middle East-bound cargo as transshipment cargo, allotting

additional storage space, enabling ad-hoc vessel berthing, prioritising handling of perishable and returning export cargo, expediting "Back to Town" movement in coordination with Customs, and enhancing bunkering support wherever feasible.

Besides, major ports have been advised to coordinate with agencies like Customs and DGFT, consider relief in port charges, and submit daily action-taken reports to the Ministry to ensure seamless logistics support during the crisis period.

The government has taken coordinated measures across infrastructure, financial facilitation, energy security monitoring, and vessel safety operations.

A dedicated 24-hour control room is operational both in the Ministry (28 February 2026) and the Directorate General

of Shipping. The Directorate is also maintaining constant contact with ship owners, operators, and the families of seafarers to provide timely updates and necessary assistance.

There have been maritime incidents involving Indian crew on foreign-flag vessels. On these vessels, there were 78 Indian seafarers. Of these, 70 escaped unhurt, and 4 sustained injuries but are stable. Unfortunately, there have been 3 casualties, and one seafarer is missing, the ministry's update added.

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways continues to closely monitor the prevailing maritime situation in the Persian Gulf region and has strengthened monitoring and preparedness measures in view of the evolving maritime situation in that region, the statement added.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B)
MECHANICAL DIVISION CENTRAL KASHMIR

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|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Development of Water Sports for promotion of Tourism [SITC of 03 No. Canoeing (FRP, 03 Seater)] | 2,70,000 | 200 | 10 days | 5400 | R&B/MDCK/NIT/31. Dt:- 11.03.2026 |
| Development of Water Sports for promotion of Tourism [SITC of 04 No. Kayak (Double, HDPE)] | 2,20,000 | 200 | 10 days | 4400 | R&B/MDCK/NIT/30. Dt:- 11.03.2026 |
| Development of Water Sports for promotion of Tourism [SITC of 08 No. Kayak (Single, HDPE)] | 3,20,000 | 200 | 10 days | 6,400 | R&B/MDCK/NIT/29. Dt:- 11.03.2026 |
| Development of Water Sports for promotion of Tourism [SITC of 06 No. Pedal Boat (FRP, 4-Seater)] | 6,60,000 | 300 | 10 days | 13,200 | R&B/MDCK/NIT/28. Dt:- 11.03.2026 |

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Sd/-
 Executive Engineer
 R&B Mechanical Division
 Central Kashmir

Sumit Antil throws 69.25m as India dominates Day 2 of New Delhi 2026 World Para Athletics GP 2026

IAN S

NEW DELHI: India delivered an exceptional performance on Day 2 of the New Delhi 2026 World Para Athletics Grand Prix, securing multiple podium finishes across track and field events, including several clean sweeps of the podium.

The highlight of the day came in the Men's Javelin Throw F43/F44/F64, where Paralympic champion Sumit Antil led an all-Indian podium. Antil clinched gold with a powerful throw of 69.25 metres, while Pushpendra Singh secured silver with 56.91m and Poonam Ram won bronze with 49.48m.

After the victory, Sumit Antil said: "This time we have multiple tournaments lined up. I will try to perform well in the upcoming competitions. It is an off-season loading phase for me. I was not expecting such a throw; I expected around 67-68m, but the throw was good today at 69.25m. So I am happy, and my team is happy as well."

He further added, "I am not changing my technique because we know we are moving in the right direction in our training. Right now, we just need

the right conditions where the throw falls perfectly in place. That is why I am participating in tournaments so I can find those conditions somewhere. I am targeting the Asian Games, and the goal is 75m. I haven't achieved it yet in practice, and no athlete has done it yet, but I am working on whatever improvements are possible in technique or strength to reach that mark."

India also dominated the Men's 400m Run T13, with Subodh Bhatt winning gold in 51.88 seconds, followed by Priyanshu Kaushik with silver in 53.19 seconds and Avnil Kumar claiming bronze in 56.91 seconds.

In the Men's 400m Run T46/T47, Bhavikkumar Din Bhargava secured gold with a time of 49.89 seconds, while fellow Indian Jasbeer finished close behind to take silver in 50.09 seconds. Ivan Cvetkovic of Serbia won bronze with 50.93 seconds.

India continued its dominance in the wheelchair category of the Men's 400m Run T53/T54, sweeping the podium with Manojkumar Sabapathi winning gold in 54.33 seconds,



Anil Kumar taking silver in 57.57 seconds, and Manikandan Jothi securing bronze with a time of 1:01.94.

Amraji Damor won gold with a time of 57.53 seconds, Lalitha Killaka secured silver in 1:07.92, and Shalini Chaudhary completed another Indian podium sweep with bronze in 1:16.79.

In field events, Lakshmi won gold in the Women's Shot Put

F36/F37/F40 with a throw of 7.76 metres, while Akutai Sitaram Ulbhagat claimed silver with 5.49m and Chimi Dema of Bhutan secured bronze with 5.27m.

Even after winning gold in the women's 100m T35 event, 2024 Paralympics double bronze medallist Preethi Pal was disappointed after she couldn't deliver her personal best at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix here, having done that consistently for a month while practicing, and said she is already looking at ways to improve in the upcoming races.

The Indian para sprinter clocked 14.46 seconds to claim the top spot at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on the opening day of the competition on Wednesday. However, Preethi said fatigue towards the end of the race affected her execution.

"It was my 100m race. Towards the end I got exhausted and didn't realise it at that moment. Later I watched the race again to see how it went," Preethi told IANS.

While the gold medal added to her tally, the Indian athlete stressed that timing remains

the more important benchmark, especially with bigger competitions ahead.

"In the Grand Prix, winning a gold medal is not the most important thing — what matters more is the timing. Because our real goal is to win gold at the Asian Games and the Paralympics," she said.

India also swept the podium in the Men's Long Jump T42/T63, with Shalish Kumar winning gold with a jump of 5.47 metres, Ramsingbhai Govindbhai Padhiyar securing silver with 4.68m, and Solairaj Jagannathan taking bronze with 3.23m.

Another clean sweep came in the Men's Shot Put F46, where Rohit Kumar clinched gold with a throw of 14.35 metres, Devendra Singh Gurjar won silver with 13.97m, and Lokesh Akula secured bronze with 10.92m.

India continued its strong showing in throwing events with Sahil Salim Sayyad winning gold in the Men's Discus Throw F51/F55 with 36.83 metres, followed by Sukhchir with silver (30.49m) and Sudhir with bronze (28.78m).

In the Men's Javelin Throw F12/F13, Manjeet secured gold

with a throw of 57.86 metres, Pratik Amrutrao Patil won silver with 50.43m, and Irfan Diwan claimed bronze with 45.39m, completing yet another podium sweep for India.

India also dominated the Men's Javelin Throw F40/F41, with Sunil Kumar winning gold with 32.58 metres, Prince Kumar securing silver with 31.23m, and Kathir Dhanasekaran finishing with bronze with 18.73m.

Among other performances, Mohit Pal won gold in the Men's 400m Run T12 with a time of 54.39 seconds, while Lucky Yadav secured silver with 1:04.27.

International athletes also impressed during the competition. In the Men's 400m Run T20, Russia claimed all three medals, led by Sergei Makarov, who won gold in 49.20 seconds. Meanwhile, Natalia Sainchina of Russia secured gold in the Women's 400m Run T20, clocking 1:00.52.

With several podium sweeps and standout performances, Indian para athletes continued to demonstrate their growing strength on the international stage at the New Delhi 2026 World Para Athletics Grand Prix.

IPL 2026: Rishabh Pant trains hard under Yuvraj Singh to sharpen white-ball skillsets

IAN S

NEW DELHI: India wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant shared glimpses of him training under former India batting all-rounder Yuvraj Singh in a short camp in Mumbai as he looks to revive his white-ball career ahead of IPL 2026 starting on March 28.

Pant, who captains Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) and is the most expensive IPL player via a Rs 27 crore deal, has not played competitive cricket since suffering a side strain while batting on the eve of India's ODI series against New Zealand in Vadodara in January.

A video of the training session that has gained huge traction on social



media showed Pant facing deliveries while Yuvraj watched everything closely from the umpire's position and gave him some advice. IANS understands that the sessions Pant had under Yuvraj focused on both skills and temperament for succeeding in modern-day white-ball cricket.

"Basically, Rishabh has been practicing very, very hard on his game and for improving his fitness too. One would have noticed that he has become leaner also, if the videos are to go by. He was very keen to work more on his white-ball game, and not just the T20 side of things.

"So he reached out to Yuvraj and said he wanted to train under him for three-four days. Subsequently, they trained at the CCI ground in Mumbai, before he departed for Chennai to attend LSG's ongoing pre-season camp and will be followed by another camp in Lucknow," said a source familiar with the matter to IANS on Thursday.

It is also understood that the short camp was not necessarily for upping Pant's T20 game only, as the wicketkeeper-batter is targeting a larger picture - of excelling for a longer period in limited-overs cricket.

Pant, a member of 2024 Men's T20 World Cup and 2025 Champions Trophy winning sides, endured a poor run in IPL 2025, scor-

ing 269 runs in 14 matches at a strike rate of 133.16, his lowest returns since debuting in the competition in 2016. Despite hitting an unbeaten 118 in LSG's final league game against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, it didn't help the side's cause as they finished seventh in the points table.

Yuvraj, India's 2007 T20 World Cup and 2011 ODI World Cup triumphs hero, has been mentoring several players in recent years, including Test and ODI skipper Shubman Gill, Abhishek Sharma, Prabhsimran Singh. He even had a short mentoring stint with wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson, who went on to become Player of the Tournament in India's recent T20 World Cup triumph on home soil.

IAN S

AIZAWL: Chanmari FC and Dempo SC played out a 2-2 draw in the first match of Gameweek 3 of Indian Football League (IFL) 2025-26 Stage 1 at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Aizawl on Thursday.

Chanmari took an early lead through Suangaih-muna's header in the 15th minute and doubled their advantage in the 43rd minute when Malsawmsanga finished a well-worked move from close range. Dempo pulled one back just before half-time as Marcus Joseph set up Sebastián Gutiérrez in the 45th minute.

The hosts were reduced to ten men in the 69th minute after Malsawmsanga Renthlei was shown a red card. Dempo capitalised on the advantage in the 81st minute when Marcus Joseph scored with a powerful strike to level the match at 2-2.

Chanmari FC provisionally moved to the top of the table with five points, while Dempo SC climbed to eighth with two points after the two sides shared the spoils.

The hosts had an early scare in the opening minutes as Dempo threatened, but Chanmari captain and goalkeeper Zothanmawia produced a crucial save to maintain status quo.

Chanmari gradually took control of the contest thereafter, with Brazilian winger Joao Vitor de Paula Moraes, popularly known as Jota, causing constant



problems for the Dempo defence down the left flank. The breakthrough arrived in the 15th minute, Chanmari's midfielder Christopher Kamei curled a superb free-kick that struck the post and ricochet into play. Striker Suangaih-muna reacted quickest and headed the rebound into the net to give Chanmari the lead.

The home side continued to press forward, with Jota spearheading most of the attacking moves. In the 38th minute, Suangaih-muna threaded a clever through ball inside the box for Malsawmsanga KC, whose attempt towards an open net was thwarted by a determined Dempo defence.

Chanmari eventually doubled their advantage four minutes later through a slick team move. Suangaih-muna released Kamei down the left flank, and the midfielder delivered a low cross into the centre where Malsawmsanga arrived to tap home with his right foot, making it 2-0.

Dempo, however, responded just before half-time. In the final minute of

regulation play, the Chanmari defence failed to clear a dangerous cross and the ball fell to Dempo midfielder Sebastián Gutiérrez. He combined with Marcus Leric Jr Joseph, who laid the ball back for the Colombian striker to fire a shot into the net, reducing the deficit at the break.

The hosts came out strongly after the restart. Dempo goalkeeper Ashish Sibi made a couple of crucial saves in the opening five minutes of the second half to deny Malsawmsanga and Jota and keep his side within touching distance.

Chanmari continued to threaten through Jota, but Sibi stood tall between the posts. Within the first five minutes of the second half, the Dempo custodian made multiple saves, to deny Malsawmsanga and Jota and keep his side in the hunt.

The momentum of the game shifted in the 69th minute when Chanmari's Malsawmsanga Renthlei was shown a red card for denying a potential goal-scoring opportunity, reducing the hosts to ten men.

BCCI exploring T20I series in Sri Lanka, Ireland amid busy calendar: Report

IAN S

NEW DELHI: World Champions India could play additional T20Is in Sri Lanka and Ireland as the team prepares for a packed international schedule over the next 12 months, said a report. The proposed matches would come alongside a series of already scheduled bilateral tours and tournaments.

According to a report by Cricbuzz, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is considering adding three T20Is to India's upcoming tour of Sri Lanka. The matches are likely to take place before the two Tests that are already part of the World Test Championship (WTC) and could be sched-

uled in July-August.

The additional T20Is have reportedly been proposed by Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) as part of a fundraising initiative to support flood relief efforts in the island nation. Sri Lanka was severely affected by Cyclone Ditwah last November, which caused widespread damage and displacement across several regions. India's T20I side, currently led by Suryakumar Yadav, may therefore begin the Sri Lanka tour with the three short-format matches before moving into the red-ball leg comprising two Tests.

Before heading to Sri Lanka, India are scheduled to tour England for a white-ball series consisting of three ODIs and five T20Is between July 1 and

19. However, the team could make a brief stop in Ireland en route, with discussions underway for a three-match T20I series in Dublin.

Sources quoted in the report indicated that talks between the BCCI and Cricket Ireland are ongoing, with optimism that the series will materialise. If finalised, the matches could be staged in the final week of June. India have previously played short bilateral series in Dublin in 2018, 2022 and 2023 as part of efforts to support the growth of cricket in Ireland.

The proposed Ireland games would take place shortly after India hosts Afghanistan for a home series featuring one Test and three ODIs, scheduled from June 6 to 20.

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