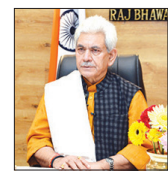


# Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K  
@OfficeOfLJandK



This year's campaign must intensify, more focused, deeply rooted in communities across Jammu Kashmir. I urge all stakeholders to position our Union Territory, not just as a participant, but as a leader in this national drive.

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68 Cases Registered In 2023

## Rise In Cybercrimes Against Women In J&K: Centre



RAJA SYED RATHER

**SRINAGAR:** The Government of India on Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that a total of 68 cases of cybercrimes against women were registered in Jammu and Kashmir in 2023.

The information was provided in response to an unstarred question raised by MPs Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar and Bapi Halder.

Replying to the query, Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar, said that as per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, J&K recorded 39 such cases in 2021, 39 in 2022 and 68 cases in 2023, showing an increase in reported incidents.

He said that cybercrimes

fall under the jurisdiction of States and Union Territories, as 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Constitution.

The minister further informed that the Centre supplements the efforts of States and UTs through advisories and financial assistance for strengthening law enforcement agencies and cyber infrastructure.

As per official data, Jammu and Kashmir currently has two cyber police stations, while forensic support is being strengthened through laboratories and mobile forensic units.

The government also said that NCRB compiles and publishes data on such crimes in its annual "Crime in India" report, with the latest edition pertaining to 2023—(KNO)

World Tuberculosis Day

## Making Jammu Kashmir TB-Free Collective Responsibility: LG Sinha

Attends Launch Of 'TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan-100 Days Campaign' At Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** On World Tuberculosis Day, the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha called upon the health department, district administrations and citizens to ramp up testing, help in identifying TB-sensitive areas, and spread awareness door-to-door.

He said every family must be informed that testing for TB symptoms and treatment are free, and full recovery is possible.

"Awareness, I believe, will be our most powerful medicine. Leave no patient behind. Detecting TB is only half the battle. Walking beside a patient through the entire course of treatment and recovery is the real challenge. The Ni-Kshay Mitra programme is precisely that answer. I expect everyone involved to bring their full commitment to it," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the launch of 'TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan-100 Days campaign', at Convention Centre Jammu.



The nation-wide campaign, launched by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, aimed to further accelerate progress towards TB elimination

through intensified, targeted and technology-driven interventions.

In the 100 Days Campaign, AI-enabled portable X-ray tools will bring testing directly to

tribal hamlets, migrant camps, urban slums, and high-risk spots. Mobile units—Ni-Kshay vans—will deliver on-the-go care. Ayushman health camps will offer chest X-rays, NAAT tests, blood sugar, haemoglobin, blood pressure, and BMI checks.

The Lieutenant Governor urged all stakeholders to position the UT of Jammu Kashmir, not just as a participant, but as a leader in this national drive.

"It is our resolve to transform this campaign into people's movement in Jammu Kashmir. This year's campaign must intensify, more focused, deeply rooted in communities across the Union Territory," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that public health is not just the Health Department's duty but it is also our shared responsibility.

"Our pledge for a 'TB-Free Jammu Kashmir' rests on this conviction. Health teams and people from the community in every district should work tirelessly with one goal—P-06

Nation-wide campaign aimed to further accelerate progress towards TB elimination

Our resolve to transform this campaign into people's movement in Jammu Kashmir

This year's campaign must intensify, more focused, deeply rooted in communities across J&K

I urge all stakeholders to position our UT, not just as a participant, but as a leader in this national drive

Public health is not just the Health Department's duty but it is also our shared responsibility

... 2018 Conspiracy Case  
NIA Court Awards Life Imprisonment To Asiya Andrabi



AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** A special court of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in New Delhi on Tuesday awarded life imprisonment to Dukhtar-e-Millat chief, Asiya Andrabi while two of her aides, Sofi Fehmeeda and Nahida Nasreen, were sentenced to 30 years in prison each.

The quantum of sentence was announced after her conviction on January 14, 2026 under several sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

In a statement issued, a NIA spokesman said, "The special NIA court has sentenced three operatives of the proscribed Dukhtar-e-Millat (DeM) terrorist organisation to imprisonment in connection with a 2018 Kashmir secession conspiracy case."

"The DeM is an all-women outfit with the declared objective of achieving secession of Kashmir from India. Aasiya Andrabi @ Aasiyeh Andrabi P-06

## Govt Mulling Introduction Of Legislation To Establish Private Universities In J&K

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** In a significant move to expand the higher education landscape in Jammu & Kashmir, the government is likely to bring legislation for the establishment of private universities in the Union Territory, sources disclosed.

Sources said that the NC-led government is expected to introduce the legislation during the second leg of the budget session starting on March 27. The proposed law would pave the way for setting up self-financed private universities in Jammu & Kashmir.

Minister for Education, Sakina Masood Ittoo, confirmed the development. "We will try our best to introduce the bill during the budget session," she said.

In February this year, the minister informed the Legislative Assembly that there

are currently no private universities in the Union Territory.

She, however, emphasised that the establishment of private universities is the need of the hour and that demands have been received for their creation.

Unlike many states

**"WE WILL TRY our best to introduce the bill during the budget session,"**

where private universities have become a major part of the higher education system, Jammu & Kashmir continues to rely on government-run institutions. Every year, thousands of students from J&K go to other states and Union Territories to pursue higher education due to the absence of private universities in the region—(KNO)

## Cyber Shield Strengthened For J&K In National Push: Centre

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** The Government of India Tuesday said that multiple measures have been put in place to strengthen cyber security across the country including in Jammu & Kashmir, as part of efforts to build a 'Cyber Secure Bharat'.

Replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that the Reserve Bank of India was reviewing cyber threats continuously and has directed the banks to adopt robust security systems, like 'security by design' in mobile and UPI applications.

He said banks have been advised to use advanced technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for real-time monitoring of transactions and detection of suspicious

activities, particularly the mule accounts used by cyber criminals.

The Minister further informed that the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre has been set up by the Ministry of Home Affairs to tackle cybercrimes in a coordinated manner.

He added that the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal and helpline number 1930 have been made operational to assist citizens in reporting cyber frauds.

As per the government data, the Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System has helped save more than Rs 8,690 crore across over 24.65 lakh complaints till

January 31, 2026.

The government has also established a Cyber Fraud Mitigation Centre where banks, telecom service providers and law enforcement agencies work together for immediate response against cyber frauds.

The Minister said that CERT-In, the national agency for cyber security incident response, continues to issue alerts and advisories, conduct mock drills and training programmes for States and UTs.

He added that Jammu & Kashmir has also participated in the 'Cyber Bharat Setu' programme aimed at promoting cyber security awareness and strengthening preparedness across regions—(KNO)

## Chief Secretary Assesses Fuel Stock Position Across J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the availability and distribution of petroleum products across the districts of the Union of J&K.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners; senior officers of the Legal Metrology and Food Supply Departments along with the representatives of Oil Marketing Companies.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary was apprised about the present stock position of all major petroleum products including Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD), aviation turbine fuel, and LPG available across the Union Territory.

Reiterating a zero-tolerance policy, the Chief Secretary directed strict legal action against any instances

of hoarding, black marketing, overcharging, or diversion of petroleum products. He emphasized the need for strict vigilance at all levels to safeguard consumer interests

While reviewing district-wise supply, he asked the Deputy Commissioners to furnish detailed reports on availability and distribution. He noted that nodoubt overall situation remains satisfactory but stressed that all eligible domestic and commercial consumers must receive LPG supplies without delay, with priority accorded to genuine beneficiaries.

The Chief Secretary further underscored the importance of doorstep delivery of LPG and directed Oil Marketing Companies to maintain adequate P-06

'Disrupted Key Trade Routes'

## West Asia Conflict Has Triggered Serious Global Energy Crisis: PM

SAJID RAINA

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that the ongoing conflict in West Asia has triggered a serious global energy crisis, disrupted key trade routes, and raised concerns over the safety of Indians in the region, including crew members stranded in the Strait of Hormuz.

Addressing Rajya Sabha, PM Modi, said, "Attacks on commercial vessels and obstruction of international waterways like the Strait of Hormuz are unacceptable. India has condemned attacks on civilians, civil infrastructure, and energy and transport facilities. Any threat to human life runs against the



interests of humanity." He said more than three weeks into the conflict, the movement of ships through the Strait of Hormuz has become challenging, with

many vessels stranded and a large number of Indian crew members among them. "India is working through diplomatic channels to ensure safe passage of Indian ships despite the prevailing situation," PM Modi added.

The Prime Minister said around one crore Indians live and work in Gulf countries, making their safety and livelihoods a major concern. Since the outbreak of hostilities, over 3.75 lakh Indians have been brought back to the country, including more than 1,000 from Iran, among them over 700 medical students.

He said countries in the region have assured security for Indians on their soil, while noting that there have been casualties P-06

## Panchayat Polls On Cards: Javed Dar

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** Minister Javed Ahmad Dar on Tuesday said the government is preparing to hold panchayat elections, with necessary formalities currently underway.

Speaking during his Rafiabed visit, the Minister, said the administration is putting required mechanisms in place before announcing the election schedule. "We are ready for panchayat elections. Some formalities need to be completed. Once that is done, elections will be held," he said.

On the OBC reservation issue, the Minister said the matter is being evaluated. He said discussions are ongoing and the policy will be implemented after completion of the required process.

Highlighting development works in Zaingeer Rafiabed, Dar said several projects have been initiated over the past year, adding that efforts are underway to revive tourism potential in the region, particularly in P-06

## Article 370 Kept J&K Away From Peace, Development: MP Sharma In RS

REHAN QAYOOM MIR

**SRINAGAR:** Asserting that Article 370 deprived Jammu and Kashmir of peace and development, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member Parliament Satpal Sharma on Tuesday said that the Centre's economic and welfare roadmap has put the region on the path of peace and prosperity.

While backing the Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2026 in Rajya Sabha, Sharma, outlined the Centre's economic and welfare roadmap in a detailed speech.

He said, "While the rest of India attained independence on August 15, 1947, Article 370 was imposed on Jammu and Kashmir, holding back its integration and growth."

He said the removal of Article 370 has transformed the region. "Earlier, peace and development were missing. Today, a new environment has been created," he said.



Sharma said for 2026-27, Rs 43,290 crore has been allocated for Jammu and Kashmir, while Rs 10,000 crore additional provisions have been made under Home Affairs.

Expressing full support for the Appropriation Bill, Sharma said it reflects a stable governance model, fiscal prudence and inclusive development.

"This budget lays the foundation for long-term growth, welfare expansion and a strong, self-reliant India," he said.

He said the Appropriation Bill is a crucial legislative exercise that authorises government expenditure in line with the Union Budget.

"This bill enables the government to spend funds across departments and sectors where allocations have been made. It reflects governance priorities and ensures implementation on the ground," he said.

Sharma said sustained reforms and policy continuity have placed India on a strong economic P-06

.....Pulwama observes World TB Day

# MLA Pampore felicitates TB Mukt Panchayats, flags off TB Mukt Abhiyaan Campaign

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**PULWAMA:** A programme was Tuesday organised at Town Hall Pulwama under the theme "Yes! We Can End TB" to mark World Tuberculosis (TB) Day.

The event was attended by Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Pampore, Hasnain Masoodi.

During the event, experts and medical professionals from the Health Department sensitised participants about tuberculosis, its symptoms, prevention, and the importance of timely diagnosis and complete treatment. Emphasis was laid on community awareness and collective efforts to eliminate TB.

Addressing the gathering, the MLA appreciated the sustained efforts of the Health Department and the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme



(NTEP) in combating the disease. He highlighted the challenges posed by TB in earlier years and noted that the significant decline in mortality rates reflects the dedicated work of health-

care workers and stakeholders. He stressed the importance of early detection and urged frontline workers to remain vigilant and proactive to ensure timely identification and

treatment of cases.

On the occasion, the MLA flagged off the TB Mukt Abhiyaan-100 Days Campaign, aimed at accelerating case detection, improving treatment adherence, and strengthening last-mile delivery of TB services.

The programme also featured felicitation of TB Mukt Panchayats and field functionaries who have played a pivotal role in spreading awareness and contributing to TB control efforts in the district.

Among others present were Chief Medical Officer Pulwama; Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Pulwama; District Health Officer Pulwama; District Tuberculosis Officer, Pulwama; Block Medical Officers, besides officials from the Rural Development Department and health staff associated with the National TB Elimination Programme.

# Budgam admin Conducts Comprehensive Training for Census 2027 Phase-I

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM:** District Administration Budgam successfully organized a comprehensive three-day district-level training programme for Phase-I of Census 2027, focusing on the House-listing and Housing Census (HLO), at the Regional Extension Training Centre (RETC) Budgam.

The training programme was held under the overall supervision and chairmanship of Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, and was attended by District Census Nodal Officer (ADC) Budgam, Mehraj-ud-din Shah.

The programme aimed at strengthening the capacity of District, Municipal, and Charge Level Officers by equipping them with the necessary technical knowledge and field-level skills required for accurate and efficient data collection during the census exercise.

During the sessions, detailed deliberations were held on house-listing methodologies, enumeration procedures, and the use of digital tools and mobile-based applications for real-time



data capture and integration. Special emphasis was laid on the roles and responsibilities of field functionaries, including Tehsildars and Executive Officers, in ensuring the accuracy and reliability of the data.

The training sessions were conducted by experienced resource persons and master trainers, including the District Statistics & Evaluation Officer, District Informatics Officer, and other subject experts with domain expertise in census operations, data management, and digital enumeration systems.

These trainers provided

practical demonstrations, hands-on guidance, and interactive sessions to familiarize participants with the operational framework and technological aspects of Census 2027.

The programme witnessed active participation from senior officers and officials, including Tehsildars from various tehsils, Municipal representatives, and other concerned stakeholders, reflecting a strong institutional commitment towards the successful conduct of the census.

During the programme, the officials underscored that accurate house listing serves

as the backbone of the entire census exercise and plays a crucial role in evidence-based planning and policy formulation.

The District Administration reiterated its commitment to ensuring transparency, efficiency, and precision in the conduct of Census 2027 and emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts among all stakeholders.

The final phase of the training programme is scheduled to be held on April 2, 2026, as part of the district's continued efforts to ensure full preparedness for the upcoming census exercise.

# World TB Day 2026 observed in Anantnag

DDC launches Phase II of 100 Days TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG:** To observe World TB Day 2026, the District TB Control Society Anantnag organized a formal function under the theme "Yes! We Can End TB" Tuesday at Mattan.

The event was attended by District Development Commissioner (DDC), Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat as Chief Guest and also witnessed participation by senior officials from administration and health including ADC, CMOs and DTOs Anantnag/Kulgam, BMOs besides Medical Superintendents, Medical Officers and filed staff.

On the occasion, the DDC formally launched the TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan Phase II, a 100-Day Intensified Campaign, which envisages community participation through Janbagidari. The phase focuses on intensified screening process, prioritizing high-load clusters and vulnerable populations across the district.

During the briefing, it was informed that the district will deploy AI-enabled handheld X-ray machines and upfront NAAT (Nucleic Acid Ampli-

fication Test) to ensure early and accurate diagnosis, even for asymptomatic cases.

Addressing the function, the DDC emphasized that TB elimination is a social responsibility and called for a Jan Andolan (People's Movement) by creating awareness and involving local stakeholders and community leaders to destigmatize and eliminate the disease.

Dr. Bilal reaffirmed the district administration's commitment for supporting the Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana, ensuring that every patient receives consistent nutritional support and clinical care to improve treatment adherence.

Lauding the efforts of the health department in achieving significant milestones in TB notification, the DDC urged the field staff, including ASHA workers and Mid-Level Health Providers (MLHPs), to ensure that no cases remain active or untraced. This is the key responsibility of the health professionals including field staff along with the general public to make collective efforts for sustaining TB free status for the district, he remarked.

# MLA Pulwama inaugurates One-Day Job fair

Distributes sanction letters among beneficiaries under Mission YUVA

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**PULWAMA:** District Administration Pulwama, in collaboration with the District Employment and Counselling Centre Pulwama, Tuesday organised a one-day job fair at Government Degree College (Boys) Pulwama, aimed at promoting employment opportunities, entrepreneurship, and self-employment among the youth of the district.

The programme was attended by the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Pulwama, Waheed Ur Rehman Para. The job fair witnessed an enthusiastic response from the youth, with more than a hundred participants shortlisted by around 16 companies that participated in the event.

Addressing the gathering, the MLA encouraged the youth to explore opportunities in the self-employment sector and strive to become job providers. He urged them to focus on skill development to bridge the gap between

industry requirements and the available workforce.

On the occasion, the MLA also inspected stalls set up by various departments, including Agriculture, Horticulture, Sheep Husbandry, Handicrafts, Handloom, Fisheries, NRLM, and Industries, showcasing different self-employment schemes.

These stalls provided detailed information on scheme benefits, financial assistance, and application procedures to facilitate and encourage aspiring entrepreneurs. Furthermore, the MLA distributed sanction letters among beneficiaries under Mission YUVA.

Among others, the programme was attended by Principal, Government Degree College (Boys) Pulwama; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Pulwama; Assistant Director Employment, Pulwama; District Employment Officer; Career Counselling Officer (CCO), besides other senior officers from the Employment Department and other concerned departments.

# DC Ganderbal chairs monthly District NCORD meeting

Calls for intensified enforcement & awareness measures

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore Tuesday chaired the monthly District Level NCORD meeting to review the progress of ongoing anti-drug initiatives and measures aimed at curbing drug trafficking and substance abuse in the district.

At the outset, the DC assessed the status of enforcement and preventive measures and emphasized strengthening inter-departmental coordination to effectively tackle the drug menace. The meeting also reviewed progress under the Nasha

Mukt Bharat campaign and sought action taken reports from concerned departments.

Reviewing enforcement efforts, it was informed that drug testing has been intensified through test kits across the district. The DC directed for further strengthening tracing mechanisms to identify supply chains in the district.

Drug Control Department was instructed to ensure close monitoring of chemist shops and conduct routine inspections to prevent misuse and illegal sale of substances.

The DC further directed for expediting suspension

of driving licenses of all those involved in drug-related offences.

On awareness and prevention, the DC instructed the Education Department to conduct regular awareness programmes in schools and colleges.

Reviewing health interventions, the Health Department was directed to enhance counselling and rehabilitation services. The DC also reviewed the status of training of counsellors to ensure effective de-addiction support.

The Assistant Commissioner Development was directed to get wall paintings done at strategic loca-

tions across the district to raise awareness against drug abuse and promote a strong anti-drug message among the public.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Additional Superintendent of Police, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kangan, Assistant Commissioner Development, Deputy Director Prosecution, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Assistant Director Drugs Control department and other officers and officials from concerned departments.

# DC Budgam launches TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan Phase-II

283 Panchayats declared TB-Free in district

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**BUDGAM:** On the occasion of World TB Day 2026, a grand function was organized at Sheikh-ul-Alam Hall, DC Office Budgam by the District Administration Budgam in collaboration with District Tuberculosis Centre (DTC) Budgam, marking a significant step towards the elimination of tuberculosis in the district.

The event also witnessed the formal launch of the TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan Phase-II (100 Days Campaign) under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan.

The programme commenced with the official launch of the campaign by the DC Budgam, aimed at intensifying efforts for early detection, effective treatment, and community awareness to eradicate tuberculosis.

On the occasion, an awareness rally was



flagged off by the DC from the DC Office Budgam to the Old Bus Adda Budgam.

Students, youth and locals participated enthusiastically, spreading awareness messages on TB prevention, timely diagnosis, and adherence to treatment among the general public.

The event witnessed the participation of senior health officials and district officers, including the Chief Medical Offi-

cer (CMO) Budgam, District Tuberculosis Officer (DTO), all Block Medical Officers (BMOs), Deputy CMO, District Immunization Officer (DIO), District Health Officer (DHO), Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, members of Panchayati Raj Institutions, and other concerned staff.

Addressing the gathering, the DC Budgam emphasised the importance of sustained com-

munity engagement, inter-departmental coordination, and grassroots-level participation in achieving the goal of a TB-free district.

He highlighted the significance of the TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan Phase-II and appreciated the dedicated efforts being carried out under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP).

Later, a felicitation ceremony recognizing the outstanding performance of Panchayats in TB elimination. A total of 283 Panchayats were declared TB-free and felicitated with Gold, Silver, and Bronze mementos along with Certificates of Appreciation. Among these, 100 Panchayats received Gold, 59 were awarded Silver, and 124 were conferred Bronze, showcasing remarkable achievements at the grassroots level in combating tuberculosis.

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

## JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FBI DIVISION TANGMARG

Office Phone No.01954-254611 Email Address: exen-fbidtangmarg@jk.gov.in

**e-TENDER NOTICE No.30 of 2025-26 of FBI Division Tangmarg**

**(STAGE CONTRACT)**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders on Percentage basis are invited from approved registered eligible contractors with J&K UT Govt. for following works: -

S. No	Name of work	Upper Ceiling, Cost of Work (In Lacs)	Earnest Money (Amount in Rupees)	Time of completion	Class of Contract	Cost of Tender document (Amount in Rupee)	Ref.to Authorization no.	M.H. of Account	Position Of Funds
1	Annual Stage Contract for Restoration and Maintenance of Babul Irrigation Canal for the financial year 2026-27 Head Works Sub Division Tangmarg	12.00 Lacs	24000/-	05-04-2026 to 31/03/2027	BEE/ CEE & DEE	500/-	CE/1&FCDK/DB/17964-18000, Dated:- 10-02-2026.	2701 M&R	Assured
2	Annual Stage Contract for Restoration Maintenance Preemptive Flood Works on Ferozpora Nallah and its tributaries of Tail Race Sub Division Kunzer for the financial year 2026-27	15.00 Lacs	30000/-	05-04-2026 to 31/03/2027	BEE/ CEE & DEE	500/-		2711 M&R	Assured

1	Publishing date:	24-03-2026	04:00 PM
2	Download date start:	24-03-2026	06:00 PM
3	Bid Submission date start:	25-03-2026	10:00 AM
4	Bid Submission date Ends:	03-04-2026	04:00 PM
5	Date of Opening	04-04-2026	11:00 PM

- Bids must be accompanied with 2% CDR/FDR and cost of tender document non-refundable/non-transferable) to be deposited under M.H 0702 Rev Misc in the shape of treasury challan / e-challan (mentioning therein NIT No. S.No of work and Adv. Cost of work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti FBI Division Tangmarg and date on it must be prior to date of issuance of this tender notice .
- The Bidders will firmly note that the above items of work involved for aforesaid Work(s)shall include but not limited to the following: -Excavation and disposal of all types of soils, rocks/ dewatering/ tree trunks from open excavation Nallah diversions etc. All safety arrangements as per relevant IS, IR Cand IRS Code so practice and as specified in the tender documents. Construction of all access roads as required to different construction spots and construction of all temporary diversions of roads,laying of temporary Pipe crossings, maintenance of all roads and dismantling same after completion & making same good. Constructions of all temporary cross drains as required and construction of all temporary divisions of streams /Nallah/ Canals, maintenance of all diversions etc. as per site conditions and as directed by the Engineer. The rates shall include the Charges for Sub mission of progress photographs (digital), video graphic record through the professional person before, during & after construction and progress reports in both hard and so ft copies. Taking Cross-Sections/L-Sections by Auto Level/ ETS before and after execution. Preparation of work abstracts of executed work, preparation no Bills. The information and data stated and incorporated intender document elsewhere is for the General guidance only and may various result of more detailed construction drawings and as per site requirements. Also Providing of First Aid medical facilities to the Labourers, working staff ats it of working addition as mentioned at above site(s) & the insurance as well. Maintaining pollution free, dust free conditions at site.

No:- FBID/CC/8258-75  
 Dated:- 24-03-2026  
 DIPK-12059-25  
 Dt: 24/03/2026

Sd/-  
 Executive Engineer,  
 (Jal Shakti)  
 FBI Division Tangmarg.

**INT'L DAY OF FORESTS**

# Rana calls for collective action to push, promote forest conservation in J&K

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana Tuesday called for collective and sustained efforts to protect forests across Jammu & Kashmir, underscoring their indispensable role in sustaining life, preserving biodiversity and ensuring a secure future.

The Minister was speaking as the chief guest at a function held at the FRMC Building, Narwal, to mark the International Day of Forests.

Commissioner Secretary Forests, Sheetal Nanda, PCCF, Sarvesh Rai, Chairman PCC, Vasu Yadav along with senior officers of the Forest Department, awardees and trainees were present on the occasion.

Emphasizing the ecological significance of forests, he noted that Jammu & Kashmir possesses a rich and diverse forest resource base that plays a critical role in climate regulation, water conservation, soil protection and biodiversity preservation.

Highlighting the importance of community participation, Rana stressed the need for strengthening community-driven conservation and biodiversity management while maintaining harmony with nature alongside sustain-



able development.

He reiterated the government's commitment to protecting the region's natural wealth through scientific research, inter-departmental coordination and community-based initiatives.

Drawing attention to the role of forests in regulating the water cycle, the Minister said that forests act as natural reservoirs and filters, ensuring clean water, sustaining rivers and groundwater, and supporting food security. He called for greater public involvement in safeguarding these vital ecosystems.

Referring to ongoing initiatives, he said that under the Green J&K Drive, over 78 lakh saplings have been planted during the current financial year, covering thousands of hectares, with a target of one crore

saplings set for the coming year.

He also highlighted efforts to expand eco-tourism through the development of eco-parks, trekking routes and forest infrastructure, aimed at generating livelihood opportunities while ensuring conservation.

The Minister further informed that J&K has a recorded forest cover of over 20,194 square kilometres, accounting for nearly 48 percent of its geographical area and expressed satisfaction over the increase in forest cover over the past decade. He reaffirmed Omar Abdullah-led government's resolve to further expand green cover through large-scale afforestation drives.

Highlighting welfare measures, Rana said that the department has supported local communities

by providing timber and forest produce in a sustainable manner.

During the current year, 9.09 lakh cubic feet of timber was sanctioned to 7,149 beneficiaries, while 95,655 quintals of firewood and 2.77 lakh quintals of green fodder were distributed among thousands of beneficiaries across J&K.

He also spoke about the implementation of national programmes such as the National Forest Policy, Green India Mission and Nagar Van Yojana, which aim to restore degraded landscapes and enhance green cover through active public participation.

While acknowledging the progress made, the Minister stressed the need to address challenges such as forest degradation, encroachments and climate change through coordinated and sustained efforts.

He reiterated that forest conservation is a shared responsibility requiring stronger collaboration among government departments, civil society and local communities.

The Minister also congratulated the UT-level Forestry Award winners for their contributions towards conservation and lauded the trainees passing out from Forest Training Institutes, describing them as the backbone of forest protection efforts.

# Science should empower people, not stay lab confined: Babila Rakwal

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Emphasising a decisive shift towards outcome-driven research and transparent scientific governance, Commissioner Secretary, Science and Technology Department, Babila Rakwal, on Tuesday said that science in Jammu and Kashmir is being consciously repositioned as a tool of public service delivery rather than remaining confined to academic institutions.

The Commissioner Secretary was speaking at the inauguration of a two day Workshop-cum-Interaction Programme on Research and Development (R&D) projects at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu. The initiative is an exercise that brings together nearly 187 Principal Investigators from across the universities, technical institutions and research bodies of the Union Territory for a structured review of public funded research.

The programme marks one of the most extensive institutional efforts undertaken by the Department to evaluate, streamline and reorient its research support framework, covering a wide spectrum of disciplines. These included agriculture, biotechnology, health sciences, engineering, renewable energy, environmental sciences, climate change and emerging digital technologies.

The inaugural session was followed by a structured sequence, beginning with a documentary showcasing the Department's interventions in research promotion, scientific outreach, innovation and clean energy across urban, rural and remote regions of Jammu and Kashmir. The session also included release of the Mid-Term Appraisal Report of R&D Projects, launch of online R&D Management portal and distribution of certificates among the beneficiaries under the Science Talent Promotion Scholarship Programme.

Releasing the Mid-Term



Appraisal Report, Babila Rakwal said that public funded research must be subject to periodic and rigorous evaluation to ensure that it remains aligned with its objectives and delivers tangible outcomes. She noted that the Department is moving towards a system where monitoring is not treated as a procedural requirement but as an integral component of research governance, ensuring accountability, quality and relevance.

Highlighting the launch of the end-to-end online R&D Project Management Portal, the Commissioner Secretary described it as a major administrative reform that will transform the way research proposals are handled. The portal enables digital submission, structured evaluation, real-time tracking and continuous monitoring of projects, thereby reducing delays, minimising manual intervention and ensuring greater transparency in decision-making.

In her address, Babila Rakwal outlined a comprehensive vision for the future of science and technology in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that research must directly contribute towards improving the governance, strengthening public institutions and addressing the local challenges. She observed that science is increasingly becoming embedded in everyday life, whether through reliable energy access, improved agricultural practices, efficient public infrastructure or enhanced service delivery.

The Commissioner Secretary stressed that the Department's approach

is guided by the principle that research must be relevant, collaborative and outcome-oriented. "The value of research lies not in the number of projects sanctioned but in the impact they create on the ground," she said, calling upon the researchers to focus on practical applications, interdisciplinary collaboration and policy relevance.

Underscoring the importance of skill development, the Commissioner Secretary said that building a capable and future ready talent base is essential for sustaining innovation. She emphasised that the Department is committed towards nurturing scientific aptitude at multiple levels, from school education to advanced research and to linking knowledge with employability, entrepreneurship and community engagement.

The Commissioner Secretary also reiterated the Department's commitment to sustainable and environmental responsibility. She noted that scientific interventions must contribute to cleaner energy systems, efficient resource utilisation and ecological balance, particularly in a region with fragile ecosystems and diverse geographical challenges.

Referring to the Department's renewable energy initiatives, she said that large-scale solarisation of Government buildings, promotion of solar agricultural pumps, expansion of solar lighting in rural areas and development of Small Hydro Power projects are not only contributing to energy security but also

reducing expenditure and supporting environmental conservation.

On the research and innovation front, she highlighted that institutional support is being strengthened through funding of R&D projects, development of scientific infrastructure and expansion of outreach activities. Facilities such as Regional Science Centres, Innovation and Dissemination Centres and Biotechnology Parks are being developed as platforms to support innovation, incubation and dissemination of knowledge.

Importantly, she emphasised the need for transparency and a structured roadmap in the selection and monitoring of research projects. She stated that objective criteria, peer review mechanisms and alignment with priority sectors will guide project approvals, ensuring that public funds are utilised efficiently and yield measurable outcomes. She added that this approach will strengthen confidence among researchers and institutions while enhancing the credibility of the system.

Describing the workshop as both an academic and administrative milestone, the Commissioner Secretary said that it provides a unique platform for direct interaction between researchers, experts and policymakers. Unlike conventional file-based reviews, the programme enables investigators to present their work, engage with expert panels and receive constructive feedback, thereby improving the quality of evaluation and strengthening accountability.

## Centre says low incidence of dowry deaths in J&K, no plans to extend legal time limit

RAJA SYED RATHER

**SRINAGAR:** The Centre on Tuesday said that cases of dowry deaths in Jammu and Kashmir remain relatively low, while ruling out any proposal to extend the legal time limit under the relevant law.

The information was provided in response to an unstarred question raised by MP Dr Byreddy Shabari in the Lok Sabha.

Replying to the query, Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that as per data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 9 cases of dowry deaths were registered in Jammu and Kashmir in 2023, while 9 cases were also reported in 2022.

He said that during 2023, trials were completed in 9 cases in J&K, out of which only one resulted in a conviction, reflecting a conviction rate of around 11 per cent.

The minister, further informed that the NCRB

collects and publishes such data under its annual report "Crime in India," with the latest report pertaining to 2023.

Highlighting legal provisions, he said that Section 80 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (earlier Section 304B of IPC) applies to dowry deaths occurring within seven years of marriage, while other provisions continue to address cruelty and harassment related to dowry without any time limit.

The government, however, clarified that there is no proposal under consideration to review or extend this seven-year time limit.

He added that 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects, and the responsibility of investigation and prosecution of such crimes rests with respective State governments and UT administrations, while the Centre continues to support them through advisories and capacity-building measures—(KNO)

## Eight custodial deaths in J&K since 2021: Centre informs Lok Sabha

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** The Union Government on Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that eight custodial deaths have been reported in Jammu and Kashmir since April 2021, with year-wise data indicating a consistent pattern over the past four years.

The details were shared in response to an unstarred question raised by MPs Selvaraj V. K. Subbarayan and Rajkumar Roat.

Responding to the query, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai stated that, according to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Jammu and Kashmir recorded two custodial deaths in 2021-22, two in 2022-23, two in 2023-24, and two in 2024-25. Additionally, there have been no reported custodial deaths in 2025 up to March 15.

He said that at present, there are 4,568 undertrial prisoners and 199 convicts lodged in jails across Jammu and Kashmir,

as per NCRB data as on December 31, 2023.

Providing details, the minister, said that among convicts, 193 are male and 6 female, while among undertrials, 4,399 are male and 169 female.

He said that to ensure accountability, every custodial death—whether in police or judicial custody—is required to be reported to the NHRC within 24 hours.

The government has also mandated video recording of post-mortem examinations and the use of standardised autopsy formats to rule out foul play or negligence.

In cases where negligence by public servants is established, the NHRC recommends prosecution, while disciplinary action is taken by the concerned State or UT administration.

The minister reiterated that 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects, and responsibility for action in such matters lies with respective State governments and UT administrations—(KNO)

## Centre highlights implementation of National Livestock Mission in J&K

Says focus on entrepreneurship, genetic upgradation, farmer training

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** The Government of India on Tuesday said that the National Livestock Mission (NLM) is being implemented across the country, including Jammu and Kashmir, with a focus on employment generation, entrepreneurship development and enhancement of livestock productivity.

Replying to an unstarred question in Lok Sabha, the Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying said that the realigned NLM, launched in 2021-22, aims at promoting sheep, goat, pig and poultry

farming, besides strengthening fodder development and supporting value-added livestock enterprises.

As per official data accessed, Jammu and Kashmir has received financial assistance under the Mission over the past few years. In 2022-23, funds amounting to Rs 675.35 lakh were utilised against a release of Rs 675.35 lakh. However, no funds were released during 2023-24, while in 2024-25, Rs 250 lakh have been allocated and fully utilised so far.

For the current financial year 2025-26 (till March 16), Jammu and Kashmir has been allocated Rs 950 lakh,

out of which Rs 775.18 lakh have been utilised, indicating steady progress in implementation of the scheme in the Union Territory.

The minister said that under the entrepreneurship development component of NLM, projects related to sheep and goat farming, piggy, poultry and fodder development are being supported with capital subsidy, which is expected to generate employment and enhance the income of livestock rearers.

He said the Mission also focuses on genetic upgradation of livestock, establishment of semen banks, promotion of artificial

insemination and development of quality fodder to improve productivity.

The government further informed that training programmes under the livestock and dairy sectors are being conducted through various institutions to equip farmers and entrepreneurs with modern skills.

Meanwhile, the Centre has put in place monitoring mechanisms, including an online portal, dashboard and field-level monitoring to ensure transparency and effective implementation of the Mission across states and Union Territories, including Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Adil Farooq Dar, son of Farooq Ahmad Dar, resident of 76 Housing Colony, Chanapora, Srinagar, hereby inform the general public that I have lost my original 2nd Year Marks Card (Registration No. 31920-A-2003) pertaining to the academic session/year 2004. I am in the process of applying for a duplicate marks card from the concerned authorities. Therefore, if any person(s) has/have any objection, claim, or lien over the said document, they are hereby requested to contact the undersigned or the concerned authorities within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received within 7 days, I shall proceed with obtaining the duplicate marks card.

Adil Farooq Dar  
S/o Farooq Ahmad Dar  
R/o 76 Housing Colony,  
Chanapora, Srinagar

0191-2546793/2579921 | email:jkforest.adm@jk.gov.in

### Government of Jammu & Kashmir DEPARTMENT OF FOREST, ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K

**Subject: - Verification of Character & Antecedents of Mrs. Prity Kumari, W/o Late Dr. Jitendra Kumar Singh, IFS (AGMUT: 2010), under Jammu and Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme, 2022.**

### NOTICE

Mrs. Prity Kumari, W/o Late Dr. Jitendra Kumar Singh, IFS (AGMUT:2010), R/o Village Mahesua, P.O Kudasan District Kaimur, Bihar, is hereby informed to submit her email id and contact no details In the Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, Civil Secretariat, Srinagar/Jammu in person or on email Id: jkforest.adm@jk.gov.in. within a period of 07 days positively, for the purpose of e-verification rolls, to obtain her Character & Antecedents report from the Criminal Investigation Department, J&K.

No. FST-Ser/94/2022-02 (CC-7241112) | (Raj Kumar)  
Dated: 12.03.2026 | DPK-12075-25 Under Secretary to the Government  
DT: 24/03/2026

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Efforts To Save Vandalisation Of Forests

Once known for its rich and thriving forests, Jammu and Kashmir is today witnessing a worrying decline. The green cover that once symbolized the region's natural strength is steadily shrinking, as large-scale tree felling and forest damage continue to raise serious concerns.

On the International Day of Forests, Minister Javed Ahmed Rana spoke about the importance of protecting forests and preserving biodiversity. He highlighted their role in sustaining life, regulating climate, and securing the future. These are important reminders—but they also bring into focus the growing gap between what is said and what is happening on the ground. Despite repeated assurances, illegal logging and encroachments remain a reality in many areas. Forests are being degraded quietly, and often without accountability. While efforts like plantation drives are presented as progress, planting saplings cannot replace the loss of mature forests that have taken decades to grow. Forests are not just trees—they are complex ecosystems that support life in countless ways. The idea of involving local communities in conservation is encouraging, but it needs to be more than a statement. People living close to forests must be genuinely included and empowered, not just mentioned in policy discussions.

There is also a growing focus on eco-tourism, which can create opportunities for livelihoods. However, without proper safeguards, it risks putting additional pressure on already fragile ecosystems. Conservation must remain the priority. Jammu and Kashmir's forests are vital—

not only for the environment but also for water security, soil protection, and overall well-being. Protecting them requires more than plans and announcements. It calls for consistent action, stronger monitoring, and a sense of shared responsibility. The message is simple: if we truly value our forests, we must move beyond words and ensure they are protected on the ground.

The Myth Of The Ummah And The Reality Of Power Politics In Pakistan



RISHI SURI

In recent days, a deeply revealing controversy has emerged from Pakistan's power corridors. Reports indicate that Pakistan's Army Chief, General Asim Munir, told Shia clerics during a closed door meeting, "If you love Iran so much, why don't you go to Iran."

This statement is not merely an offhand remark. It is a window into a much larger truth, one that exposes the hollowness of the oft invoked idea of the ummah in Pakistan's political and strategic thinking.

For decades, Pakistan has projected itself as a champion of the global Muslim ummah, a unified Islamic brotherhood transcending borders. This narrative has been central to its ideological identity since 1947.

But the reality is starkly different. When geopolitical tensions rise, such as the ongoing Iran crisis, Pakistan's leadership does not act as a custodian of Muslim unity. Instead, it reverts to a cold and calculated doctrine, national interest above all else.

Munir's remark lays this bare. By equating sympathy for Iran with questionable national loyalty, Pakistan's top military leadership effectively reduces religious solidarity to a liability.

This is not the language of ummah. It is the language of state control. Pakistan is home to one of the largest Shia populations in the Muslim world, estimated at around fifteen to twenty percent. Yet, historically, this community has always faced marginalisation, targeted violence, and systemic neglect.

Munir's statement must be understood in this context. It suggests that religious identity is tolerated only within the boundaries of state defined loyalty. Transnational religious connections, especially with Iran, are viewed with suspicion. Sectarian identity becomes politicised when it intersects with foreign policy.

This is not unity. It is conditional belonging. And for Shias in Pakistan, the message is unmistakable. Your faith is acceptable only as long as it



*But the reality is starkly different. When geopolitical tensions rise, such as the ongoing Iran crisis, Pakistan's leadership does not act as a custodian of Muslim unity. Instead, it reverts to a cold and calculated doctrine, national interest above all else.*

aligns with state interests. The timing of this controversy is equally important. Pakistan today

finds itself caught in a geopolitical balancing act. On one side is Saudi Arabia, a long time financial and strategic partner. On the other is Iran, a neighbouring Shia majority state with deep religious ties to Pakistan's Shia population.

In such a scenario, the idea of Islamic unity becomes inconvenient. The state cannot afford ideological consistency. It must prioritise strategic alliances. Munir's comment reflects this tension. It is an attempt to contain domestic unrest amid pro Iran sentiment, reassure Gulf allies, and reinforce internal control in a volatile regional environment. But in doing so, it exposes a fundamental contradiction. Pakistan invokes the ummah when convenient, but abandons it when interests are at stake.

For Shias in Pakistan, this moment should prompt serious reflection. For decades, they have been told that Pakistan is an Islamic republic built on the idea of Muslim unity. Yet, when that unity conflicts with state interests, it is quickly discarded.

Munir's remark is not an isolated incident. It reflects a broader pattern, from sectarian violence to policy neglect, from diplomatic ambiguity to internal suspicion. Every nation prioritises its interests. But what makes Pakistan different is the gap between its rhetoric and reality.

The idea of the ummah is powerful. It inspires solidarity, compassion, and a sense of shared destiny among Muslims worldwide.

But in the realm of statecraft, it is often little more than a slogan. Pakistan's current predicament demonstrates this clearly. It cannot fully back Iran without risking its ties with Gulf partners. It cannot suppress domestic sentiment without exposing internal fractures. It cannot maintain the illusion of unity while practicing selective nationalism.

Munir's blunt words cut through this contradiction. The controversy surrounding these remarks is not just about one statement. It is about the unraveling of a long standing narrative.

Pakistan's leadership has, perhaps inadvertently, revealed what has always been true. The ummah is an ideal. The state is a reality. And when the two collide, the state always wins. For observers, and especially for the Shia community in Pakistan, the lesson is clear. In the calculus of power, identity is negotiable. Interests are not.

Rishi Suri is a senior editor covering international affairs at The Daily Milap, India's oldest and largest circulated Urdu daily newspaper.

Chittisinghpura Massacre: A Long Wait For Justice



AMANJEET SINGH

20 March remains a day of deep mourning in the collective memory of Kashmir's Sikh community. It recalls the heartbreaking events of 20 March 2000, when 35 innocent Sikh men of Chittisinghpura village in Anantnag district were killed in a brutal act of violence that shook the conscience of the entire region. More than two decades later, the pain of that night still lingers, not only in the homes of those who lost fathers, sons, brothers, and husbands, but also in the wider history of Kashmir.

Chittisinghpura was known as a peaceful village where Sikh families had lived for generations with strong ties to the land, their faith, and their neighbours. Life moved with simplicity and dignity. Fields, orchards, and shared social bonds shaped the rhythm of daily existence. That calm was shattered in a single evening when armed men entered the village and turned an atmosphere of trust into one of terror.

The victims had gathered after celebrating Holi Mohalla, a festival marked by spirit, devotion, and community. Instead of returning to the comfort of ordinary life, many families were pushed into a nightmare from which they never fully recovered. Men were separated, lined up, and shot at close range. In a matter of moments, an entire commu-



nity was thrown into grief. The killings did not only take lives; they left behind a wound that has remained open through the years.

For the survivors and the families of those killed, remembrance is not limited to a date on the calendar. It is tied to voices that never returned, empty spaces at family gatherings, and memories too painful to forget. Children grew up without fathers. Mothers and widows carried the burden of loss in silence. The trauma of that night became part of everyday life, passed from one generation to the next as both pain and testimony.

The massacre also marked a turning point for Kashmiri Sikhs. It created fear, uncertainty, and a sense of vulnerability in a community that had long considered itself woven into the valley's social fabric. Some families left in search of

safety and stability elsewhere. Others remained, determined not to let terror uproot them from their homeland. Their decision to stay was itself an act of courage.

Even in the face of such tragedy, the Sikh community of Kashmir did not surrender its humanity. Across villages and towns, Sikh families continued to live with resilience, preserving bonds with their Muslim neighbours and maintaining the shared traditions of coexistence that have long defined the valley. In times of celebration and hardship alike, these relationships have offered strength and hope. They stand as a reminder that violence may wound society, but it does not have to destroy its moral foundation.

Yet remembrance must also carry responsibility. The passage of time should not weaken the demand for truth, justice,

and dignity. More painfully, even after 26 years, justice remains incomplete and unanswered questions continue to haunt the families of the victims. The report of the Justice S. R. Pandian Commission, which was constituted to investigate the massacre, was submitted to the government, but its findings have still not been made public. This continued silence has only deepened suspicion, anguish, and the feeling that the truth has been buried rather than revealed.

For the families who have waited year after year, this delay is not merely administrative; it is a denial of closure. Justice delayed for so long becomes justice denied in the eyes of those who continue to live with loss. The demand to make the report public is, therefore, not just a political demand but a moral one. It is necessary to restore faith,

acknowledge suffering, and show that the lives lost at Chittisinghpura are not forgotten by the institutions meant to protect justice and truth.

The families who suffered deserve more than ceremonial sympathy. They deserve recognition, support, and a sincere effort to address the concerns of a minority community that continues to seek security, representation, and equal opportunity. Memorials and anniversaries matter, but they must be matched by meaningful inclusion, transparency, and compassionate governance.

Chittisinghpura is not only a symbol of grief; it is also a lesson for the future. It reminds us that the suffering of minorities must never be ignored, that human lives must never become footnotes in larger political narratives, and that true peace depends on fairness, trust, and remembrance. To honour the victims is to uphold the values that hatred tried to destroy and to continue demanding that truth be spoken, accountability ensured, and justice finally delivered.

As lamps are lit and prayers are offered on 20 March, Kashmir bows its head before the memory of the 35 men who were taken too soon. Their names may be spoken softly, but their absence is immense. Their memory lives on in the tears of families, in the conscience of the valley, and in the hope that such darkness will never return.

Chittisinghpura will always be remembered not only for the tragedy it endured, but for the quiet strength, dignity, and endurance of its people.

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# Losing Education In The Race For A Job

The Educational Foundation Weakens Under The Pressure Of Competitive Examinations.

DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Today's youth is experiencing a time when opportunities abound, but the path to access them has become more complex and competitive than ever before. The increasing number of competitive exams, their lengthy procedures, and uncertain results, particularly for government jobs, have left both students and parents deeply confused. The CET (Common Eligibility Test) was presented as a major hope in this context, but the experiences of the past years raise serious questions about this hope.

In Haryana, the examination process failed to gain the desired momentum during the five-year period between 2019 and 2024. As a result, only one examination was fully completed during this period, and some related recruitments are still entangled in judicial proceedings. Even in the 2024-25 cycle, only the preliminary examination has been conducted so far. Given the slow pace at which the entire process is progressing, it is not unfounded to fear that the final results may take a long time to be released.

But this problem isn't limited to Haryana. The situation with government recruitment processes is more or less similar in almost all states. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and even the northeastern states have consistently faced problems such as delayed recruitment exams, paper leaks, judicial disputes, and delayed results. In many states, exams aren't held for years, and when



they are, the process is so lengthy that it tests both the age and patience of candidates.

This has a profound impact on the mental, educational, and social lives of young people. Every year, millions of students graduate and seek employment, but the number of available government positions remains extremely limited. For example, if millions of candidates across the country appear for a single exam, the number of those selected is limited to thousands. In such a situation, considering government employment as the ultimate goal and relying solely on it becomes an extremely risky decision.

The most worrying aspect of this entire scenario is the rapid spread of a "non-attendance" culture. A trend is being observed in almost every state of the country, where students are avoiding regular college and university classes in the name of preparing

for competitive exams. They assume that to achieve success, they must completely break away from the traditional education system. But this thinking is gradually proving detrimental to their future.

In fact, college life isn't just about earning a degree. It's a time when a student's intellectual, social, and emotional development takes place. Class participation, interaction with teachers, group discussions, presentations, and co-curricular activities—all of these contribute to the development of a person's personality. When students lose these opportunities, they lose out not only on subject knowledge but also on essential life skills.

Another serious side effect of the non-attendance culture is that students' academic foundations weaken. They become focused solely on passing exams rather than delving deeply into the subject matter. Often, after failing competitive exams, they

are left with neither a strong academic record nor any alternative career options. As a result, they lose confidence and suffer from mental stress.

It's also worth noting that today's world is extremely technologically advanced. Digital platforms have revolutionized education. Online coaching, video lectures, digital notes, test series, and virtual classrooms are available in every corner of the country. Therefore, the idea that it's necessary to drop out of college to prepare for competitive exams is completely misguided. Students can prepare effectively alongside their regular studies.

By adopting a balanced and practical strategy, students can make the best use of the three years of their undergraduate education. In the first year, they should focus on their studies and engage with general knowledge, newspapers, and current affairs. This strengthens their intellectual foundation. In the second year, they can strengthen their grasp of subjects like mathematics, reasoning, and language. They can also clarify their basic concepts through NCERT books. By the final year, they should make a clear decision whether they want to pursue higher education or pursue competitive exams.

Higher education and private sector opportunities are also rapidly expanding across various states in the country. New doors are opening for youth in fields such as IT, management, healthcare, startups, skill-based jobs, and freelancing. Therefore, it's essential that students don't limit their options to government jobs, but instead explore various fields according to their skills and interests.

The role of parents becomes crucial in this entire scenario. It's often seen that children, under pressure from their friends or society, decide to remain absent, and parents, trusting them, allow this. However, it's essential that parents understand the long-term implications of this decision and encourage their children to adopt a balanced approach. It's not wise to rely solely on one exam or one career choice.

In today's competitive world, success comes only to those who embrace flexibility and keep a variety of options open. It's essential for students to strengthen their academic abilities while also focusing on skill development. Communication skills, technical proficiency, problem-solving abilities, and self-confidence—all these qualities help them advance in every aspect of life.

Ultimately, it's crucial to understand that the CET (Common Eligibility Test) or any competitive exam is merely an opportunity, not the ultimate goal. It should be considered a part of life, not the entire foundation. If students pay equal attention to their studies, skills, and personality development, they can not only succeed in competitive exams but also excel in other areas of life.

The need of the hour is to adopt a balanced approach—one that combines preparation and education, goals and choices. Only then will our youth not only succeed in the job race but also contribute significantly to the nation's development as strong, self-reliant, and informed citizens.

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

## Old Revolutions And Their Ideals



NAVEED QAZI

Revolutions are often cast as the great turning points of history, moments when ordinary people rose against entrenched power and demanded a new order. They are remembered as heroic ruptures, birthing new languages of liberty, equality and justice. Yet not all revolutions live up to their promises.

History bears witness that few revolutions have been as iconic, or as contradictory, as the French Revolution. It promised liberty, equality and fraternity, dismantling feudal privileges and inspiring democratic movements across Europe. Yet its legacy is marred by contradictions. The Reign of Terror epitomised the descent into authoritarianism, as Robespierre's Committee of Public Safety executed thousands, silenced dissent and ruled through fear. Francois Furet, writing in *Interpreting the French Revolution* (1981), argued that revolutionary violence in France was embedded in the logic of radical politics. Simon Schama, in *Citizens* (1989), similarly stressed how ideals of rational liberty gave way to bloodshed. Lynn Hunt in *Politics, Culture, and Class in the French Revolution* (1984) highlighted how revolutionary rhetoric was shaped by social tensions, often collapsing into violence.

Moreover, the Revolution's universalism was compromised from the start: women were denied political rights, colonial slavery continued, and fraternity was often reserved for French citizens alone. Joan Landes in *Women and the Public Sphere in the Age of the French Revolution* (1988) showed how women were confined to symbolic roles rather than granted political agency, while Laurent Dubois in *A Colony of Citizens* (2004) examined how slavery in the colonies contradicted revolutionary ideals of equality. Ultimately, the Revolution paved the way for Napoleon's dictatorship, showing how easily revolutionary fervour can be hijacked by authoritarian ambition. Timothy Tackett in *The Coming of the Terror in the French Revolution* (2015) reinforced this view, demonstrating how fear and suspicion transformed democratic aspirations into authoritarian rule.

If the French Revolution betrayed liberty through terror, the Russian Revolution betrayed equality through authoritarianism. The upheaval of 1917 toppled the Tsarist autocracy and promised a workers' paradise. Its rhetoric of equality, literacy and women's emancipation inspired global socialist movements. Yet its practice was far harsher. Lenin's one-party rule quickly eliminated pluralism, and Stalin's regime institutionalised terror. Robert Service, in *The Russian Revolution, 1900-1927* (2000), highlights how purges, gulags and famines defined the Soviet experience. Sheila Fitzpatrick, in *The Russian Revolution* (1994), underscores how the promise of workers' control was replaced by bureaucratic cen-

tralism, with the Communist Party monopolising power.

Orlando Figes, in *A People's Tragedy* (1996), further emphasised how revolutionary ideals collapsed under the weight of civil war and authoritarian consolidation. Richard Pipes, in *Russia Under the Bolshevik Regime* (1994), argued that Lenin's centralisation laid the foundations for Stalinist despotism, while Stephen Kotkin in *Paradoxes of Power* (2014) showed how ideology fused with personal dictatorship to create a system of pervasive control. Alexander Rabinowitch in *The Bolsheviks in Power* (2007) revealed how early pluralism in Petrograd was swiftly crushed by party dominance. Internationally, the Soviet Union exported revolution through proxy wars, fuelling Cold War instability. The Russian Revolution's tragedy lies in its betrayal of socialism's emancipatory ideals—equality was proclaimed, but authoritarianism reigned. As Geoffrey Hosking in *The First Socialist Society* (1985) observed, the Soviet Union became less a workers' paradise than a bureaucratic state, where revolutionary hopes were subordinated to authoritarian rule.

The American Revolution, often romanticised as the birth of modern democracy, was equally compromised. Its Declaration of Independence proclaimed that 'all men are created equal.' Yet slavery persisted, untouched by revolutionary ideals, and enslaved Africans remained property. Gary Nash, in *The Unknown American Revolution* (2005), documents how enslaved Africans sought liberation during the Revolution, but their struggle was largely suppressed. Sylvia Frey, in *Water from the Rock* (1991), shows how African Americans attempted to claim revolutionary rhetoric for themselves, only to be excluded. Indigenous peoples were dispossessed as the new republic expanded westward, treating Native lands as spoils of liberty. Women were excluded from political rights, confined to domestic spheres despite their contributions to the revolutionary struggle. Moreover, the Revolution was led largely by elites—wealthy landowners and merchants—who sought to protect their interests against British taxation. Gordon Wood, in *The Radicalism of the American Revolution* (1992), argued that the Revolution transformed political culture, but its egalitarianism was limited by race, class and gender. Edmund Morgan, in *American Slavery, American Freedom* (1975), highlighted the paradox of liberty proclaimed alongside slavery entrenched.

Against these betrayals, the Haitian Revolution stands as a radical counter-example. Between 1791 and 1804, enslaved Africans rose against French colonial rule, defeating Napoleon's armies and establishing the first Black republic. Laurent Dubois, in *Avengers of the New World* (2004), argues that Haiti articulated a universal right to freedom from enslavement, forcing France to confront its hypocrisy. C.L.R. James, in *The Black Jacobins* (1938), famously described the Haitian Revolution as the most thorough of all revolutions, because it abolished slavery and proclaimed racial equality without compromise. Yet Haiti's triumph was not without costs. The new republic faced isolation and economic strangulation from Western powers, while internally leaders like Dessalines resorted to authoritarian measures. Michel-Rolph Trouillot, in *Silencing the Past* (1995), noted how Haiti's radicalism was deliberately margin-



alised in Western historiography, precisely because it challenged the hypocrisies of European revolutions. Ada Ferrer, in *Freedom's Mirror* (2014), further demonstrated how Haiti's revolution reverberated across the Atlantic, inspiring enslaved populations while terrifying colonial elites.

As a revolutionary movement, the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1920, though complex and fragmented, is also remembered as one of the most transformative struggles in contemporary history. It was not merely a revolt against dictatorship but a demand for social justice, land reform and dignity for peasants and workers. Alan Knight, in *The Mexican Revolution* (1986), describes it as a genuinely national revolution that sought to dismantle entrenched hierarchies and redistribute land. Leaders like Emiliano Zapata embodied the cry for 'Tierra y Libertad,' insisting that liberty meant nothing without economic justice. John Womack, in *Zapata and the Mexican Revolution* (1969), shows how villagers negotiated land redistribution during the armed struggle, laying the foundation for Mexico's post-revolutionary constitution and long-term social rights. Friedrich Katz, in *The Life and Times of Pancho Villa* (1986), illustrates how revolutionary leaders embodied both radical aspirations and pragmatic compromises. Yet Mexico's revolution was also deeply violent, with shifting factions and immense human cost. Land reform was uneven, corruption persisted, and the Institutional Revolutionary Party later monopolised power for decades. The Revolution's legacy was profound—social rights and labour protections were enshrined—but its ideals were only partially realised.

Importantly, the Chinese Revolution of 1949 adds another layer to this comparative frame. Led by Mao Zedong and the Communist Party, it promised liberation from feudal landlords, imperialist domination and corruption. Maurice Meisner, in *Mao's China and After* (1989), notes that it succeeded in unifying a fractured country, redistributing land and raising literacy rates. Elizabeth Perry, writing in *The China Quarterly* (1994), highlights how it reshaped political culture and empowered peasants. Yet its darker legacy is undeniable. The Great Leap Forward (1958-62) led to catastrophic famine, with tens of millions of people dead. The Cultural Revolution (1966-76) unleashed purges, persecution of intellectuals and widespread violence. Roderick MacFarquhar, in *The Origins of the Cultural Revolution* (1974-97), argued that Mao's

radicalism betrayed the egalitarian ideals of socialism by entrenching authoritarian control. Jung Chang and Jon Halliday, in *Mao: The Unknown Story* (2005), documented the immense human suffering caused by Mao's policies. The Chinese Revolution transformed a nation, but at immense human cost.

As Hannah Arendt observed in *On Revolution* (1963), the true measure of revolutions lies not in their rhetoric but in their ability to institutionalise freedom. The French and Russian Revolutions faltered because they substituted terror for liberty and bureaucracy for equality. The American Revolution faltered because it excluded vast populations from its promises. Haiti and Mexico, despite their struggles, remain closer to Arendt's vision because they sought to extend emancipation to the marginalised. The Chinese Revolution, meanwhile, illustrates the dangers of radicalism without restraint, where ideals of equality were consumed by authoritarian ambition. Eric Hobsbawm, in *The Age of Revolution* (1962), argued that revolutions must be judged by their capacity to transform social structures, not merely their rhetoric. Jack Goldstone, in *Revolutions: A Very Short Introduction* (2014), reinforced that revolutions succeed only when ideals are institutionalised into durable political frameworks. Theda Skocpol, in *States and Social Revolutions* (1979), emphasised that revolutions endure when they restructure state institutions and embed social rights.

Charles Tilly, in *European Revolutions, 1848-1992* (1993), argued that revolutions must be understood as collective struggles shaped by state structures and social movements, not simply as eruptions of ideology. His analysis underscores that the endurance of revolutionary ideals depends on how they are embedded in institutions and sustained by popular mobilisation. Similarly, Barrington Moore, in *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy* (1966), highlighted that revolutions often produce divergent outcomes—democracy, fascism, or authoritarian socialism—depending on the alliances forged between classes. These insights remind us that revolutions are not predetermined pathways to liberty or equality but contingent processes vulnerable to betrayal.

The comparative study of revolutions also reveals how ideals are compromised when power becomes centralised. Crane Brinton, in *The Anatomy of Revolution* (1938), observed that revolutions often follow

a pattern: initial optimism, radicalisation, terror, and eventual stabilisation under authoritarian rule. This cyclical trajectory explains why the French Revolution descended into the Reign of Terror, why the Russian Revolution hardened into Stalinism, and why the Chinese Revolution culminated in Mao's cult of personality. The Haitian and Mexican Revolutions, though violent, broke this cycle more authentically by insisting on inclusion of the marginalised, even if their institutional frameworks remained fragile.

The endurance of revolutionary ideals also depends on how societies remember them. As Lynn Hunt argued in *Politics, Culture, and Class in the French Revolution* (1984), revolutions are not only political events but cultural transformations that reshape collective memory. The Haitian Revolution was deliberately silenced in Western historiography, as Michel-Rolph Trouillot noted, because it challenged racial hierarchies. The American Revolution was romanticised as a triumph of liberty, despite its exclusions. The Russian and Chinese Revolutions were mythologised by their regimes, obscuring their betrayals. Memory itself becomes a battleground, where revolutions are celebrated, distorted, or erased to serve political ends.

The lesson of these revolutions is not to dismiss them outright, nor to romanticise them uncritically. Instead, it is to recognise the paradox at their heart: revolutions are both emancipatory and destructive, both visionary and compromised. As Arendt insisted, freedom must be institutionalised to endure. As Hobsbawm argued, revolutions must transform social structures to be meaningful. As Skocpol and Tilly showed, revolutions succeed only when they restructure states and embed rights. And as Trouillot and Ferrer reminded us, revolutions must be remembered honestly, including their exclusions and betrayals, if their lessons are to guide future struggles.

In our contemporary world, where movements for justice continue to rise—from climate activism to struggles against inequality—the lessons of past revolutions remain urgent. Liberty without equality risks becoming hollow rhetoric. Equality without liberty risks becoming tyranny. Authentic revolutions are those that insist on both, even at immense cost, and refuse to compromise their principles. The challenge for future movements is to hold fast to principles, to guard against betrayal, and to institutionalise justice in ways that endure.

Revolutions, then, are not simply historical ruptures but moral tests. They reveal the possibilities of human emancipation and the perils of authoritarian ambition. They also remind us that liberty, equality, and justice are fragile promises, easily betrayed but never extinguished. As Jack Goldstone observed, revolutions are moments when societies attempt to reinvent themselves. Whether they succeed depends not only on ideals proclaimed but on the vigilance with which those ideals are defended. The history of revolutions is thus both a warning and an inspiration: a warning against the corruptions of power, and an inspiration to continue the struggle for justice.

Naveed Qazi is an author of fourteen books, and for feedback can be mailed at naveedqazi@live.com.

# ADC Handwara chairs Grievance Redressal Camp on Digital Jamabandis

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**KUPWARA:** Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi Tuesday chaired a Public Grievance Redressal Camp at Ramhall, to address issues related

to digital Jamabandis and other revenue matters. During the camp, a large number of residents from Ramhall and adjoining areas participated and raised their grievances regarding discrepancies in digital land records, corrections

in Jamabandis, and related concerns. The ADC patiently heard the issues put forth by the public and assured them of prompt and time-bound redressal. The ADC emphasized the importance of digitization

of land records for ensuring transparency, accountability, and ease of access for the public. He directed the concerned Tehsildar and officials to resolve genuine grievances on priority and ensure that necessary corrections in digital Jamabandis

are carried out without delay. On-the-spot instructions were issued to the field functionaries to verify records and expedite the process of rectification wherever required. The ADC also urged the people to come

forward and avail the benefits of digital services being provided by the government. The camp concluded with a reaffirmation of the administration's commitment to public service delivery and strengthening of the grievance redressal mechanism at the grassroots level

occasion and assisted in addressing the grievances. The camp concluded with a reaffirmation of the administration's commitment to public service delivery and strengthening of the grievance redressal mechanism at the grassroots level

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE .....

### Making Jammu Kashmir

reach the last person, detect the last case, stand firmly by every patient until full recovery, and provide every support they need," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised on transforming the next 100-Days Campaign as a mass movement in every vulnerable district where a health worker trekking rugged mountain paths to a remote home becomes our campaign's greatest champion, where a Ni-Kshay Mitra delivering nutrition aid transforms a patient's life. "We should build a 100 Days movement where every citizen feels ownership and contributes wholeheartedly," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the health department and district administration to rope in self-help groups, students, schools, industries, NGOs, and public enterprises to amplify 100-days campaign. He also directed for a comprehensive review of testing equipment and medicine availability, emphasizing the need for a dedicated portal where citizens can report the related grievances.

"Today, we pledge that no man, woman, or child in Jammu Kashmir will lose their future to TB. Every breath is precious; every life is unique. No case will go unnoticed and no patient will be unsupported," the Lieutenant Governor said.

During the UT level programme, the Lieutenant Governor flagged off the Ni-Kshay vaahan and distributed Poshan kits. District Doda and District Srinagar received the awards for TB Mukh Panchayats.

Ni-Kshay Pledge was administered and Ni-Kshay Mitras were also felicitated on the occasion.

Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dr Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Shri M. Raju, Commissioner Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Ms. Akriti Sagar, Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K; Dr Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu; senior officials, medical professional, members of social organisations and youth in large number attended the launch ceremony.

### NIA Court Awards

@Syedah Aasiya, the founder and Chairperson of Dukhtar-e-Millat, has been sentenced to life imprisonment, while her accomplices, Sofi Fehmeeda and Nahida Nasreen, have been awarded 30 years in jail, along with fine. The three women were arrested in July 2018 by NIA, which had registered a suo moto case (RC-17/2018/NIA/DLI) in April 2018," the statement said, adding,

"The accused, all hailing from Kashmir, were earlier, in January 2026, convicted by the trial court at Karkardooma, Delhi, under Sections 18, 38 and 39 of the UA(P) Act and Sections 153A, 153B, 120B, 121A and 505 IPC. The court had found the three accused guilty of actively operating DeM to promote the separation of Jammu & Kashmir from the Union of India."

"As per the judgement pronounced today, Aasiya has been sentenced concurrently under various sections of IPC and UA(P) Act to the maximum sentence of Life Imprisonment and a total fine of Rs. 8 lakh. She was married to Ashiq Hussain Faktoo, a terrorist of the proscribed Hizbul Mujahideen organisation, who is serving life imprisonment in connection with the killing of H.N. Wanchoo, a prominent human rights activist. She is additionally named in 32 other FIRs registered at various police stations in Jammu & Kashmir," the NIA spokesman said, adding, "Nahida Nasreen, General Secretary of DeM, and Sofi Fehmeeda, the outfit's Press Secretary, have each been convicted and sentenced concurrently under different provisions of IPC and UA(P) Act, with a maximum of 30 years of Simple Imprisonment and a total fine of Rs. 7 lakh each. While Sofi Fehmeeda has eight other cases registered against her, Nahida Nasreen has four."

"All three had been chargesheeted by NIA in November 2018 on the basis of extensive examination of various incriminating materials, including social media chats, videos and media interviews of the accused. The investigation had clearly established the accused's active role in supporting and furthering DeM's terrorist and secessionist activities," the spokesman said, adding, "NIA's investigation had further revealed that the accused had used various social media and public

platforms to spread hate, and incite violence and jihad, with the aim of seceding J&K from India, thereby threatening the integrity, security, and sovereignty of the nation."—(KNO)

### Chief Secretary

stock levels at retail outlets, dealer points, and buffer depots to ensure uninterrupted supply.

He also instructed the Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, to conduct regular reviews with district administrations, maintain close coordination, and keep the higher authorities informed. He emphasized the need for officers to remain accessible to the public and ensure prompt redressal of grievances.

On infrastructure development, the Chief Secretary directed the Divisional Commissioner and concerned Deputy Commissioners to resolve land acquisition and other bottlenecks to facilitate the early operationalisation of the under-construction gas pipeline. He also asked Urban Local Bodies to prioritise domestic connections once the trunk pipeline becomes operational in the districts of Kathua, Samba, Jammu, and Udhampur.

A detailed presentation by Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA, Saurabh Bhaghat, highlighted that the overall stock position across the Union Territory remains stable. Petrol stocks are sufficient for approximately 9-10 days, diesel for 16-17 days, and LPG for around 12-13 days, including transit stock, ensuring uninterrupted availability.

On LPG supply, it was informed that 100 percent domestic LPG demand is being met across J&K, with seamless distribution and no major complaints reported. Supply coverage stands at about 24 days in urban areas and 35 days in rural areas, with OTP-based delivery systems ensuring transparency.

The Chief Secretary was also informed that a robust monitoring mechanism has been put in place, including real-time tracking and daily reporting of stock positions. District administrations have been directed to closely monitor supply and distribution, supported by district-level committees and task forces to ensure fair and transparent allocation.

Highlighting enforcement efforts, it was reported that 1,418 inspections and raids were conducted across districts between March 17 and 23, resulting in action against violators and seizure of commodities in several cases. Additionally, over 1,000 public grievances were addressed promptly, reflecting an efficient grievance redressal mechanism.

As part of alternate fuel arrangements, all Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families are being provided 2 litres of kerosene oil per month through Aadhaar-seeded ration cards under the RCMS system.

The meeting also noted significant progress in streamlining LPG distribution through large-scale e-KYC verification, with nearly 20 lakh consumers already verified. The process is continuing at a rapid pace to enhance transparency and prevent misuse.

It was further informed that under the commercial category, the Government of India has enhanced allocation from 20 percent to 50 percent of assessed supply, including a general increase and a special incentive component.

Regarding the pipeline project, it was apprised that the Union Territory is compliant with all incentive conditions. The pipeline is currently being laid in Kathua, Samba, and Jammu districts and is expected to become operational within the next two to three months.

### West Asia Conflict

and injuries among Indian nationals, with assistance being extended to affected families.

PM Modi said he has held two rounds of phone conversations with heads of state of most countries in West Asia and that India remains in constant contact with Gulf nations, as well as Iran, Israel and the United States. Discussions have focused on de-escalation, restoration of peace through dialogue, and reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

He said the conflict has affected the supply of essential commodities such as petrol, diesel, gas, and fertilisers. The government is making efforts to ensure that oil and gas supplies continue to reach India from multiple sources. In recent days, ships carrying crude oil and LPG have arrived from various countries, he said, adding that

such efforts will continue.

The Prime Minister said India has expanded its energy sourcing from 27 countries earlier to 41 countries now, covering crude oil, LNG and LPG. Strategic petroleum reserves exceeding 53 lakh metric tonnes have been developed, with work underway to increase this to over 65 lakh metric tonnes. Oil companies are maintaining adequate stocks of petrol and diesel, he said.

He said the government is also focusing on increasing the use of piped natural gas alongside LPG and boosting domestic production. Steps are being taken to reduce dependence on foreign-flagged vessels, noting that over 90 per cent of India's oil is transported on such ships. A mission worth about Rs 70,000 crore has been launched to build ships domestically and strengthen shipbuilding and maintenance capacity.

PM Modi said India is working to build self-reliance across sectors, including defence manufacturing, life-saving medicines, and critical minerals.

He said an Inter-Ministerial Group is reviewing the evolving situation regularly, while seven empowered groups have been set up to deal with supply chains, fuel, fertilisers, gas, and inflation, similar to arrangements made during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On agriculture, he said adequate preparations have been made to ensure fertiliser availability during the sowing season and that farmers will not bear the burden of the crisis. He said the government remains committed to supporting farmers in addressing challenges arising from global disruptions.

The Prime Minister called on state governments to ensure uninterrupted supply of essential commodities and timely distribution under welfare schemes such as the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana. He also asked states to remain vigilant against hoarding and black marketing and to take proactive measures to support migrant workers and vulnerable sections.

He said the situation requires coordinated action between the Centre and states, recalling cooperation during the COVID-19 period. The evolving crisis, he said, demands preparedness, restraint, and a unified approach.

PM Modi said the government is closely monitoring developments and is working with short-term, medium-term, and long-term strategies to address the impact. He said India's economic fundamentals remain strong and expressed confidence that coordinated efforts will help the country navigate the situation—(KNO)

### Panchayat Polls On

Zaloor, which was once a popular trekking destination linked to Lolab Valley.

The Minister said the more projects are in the pipeline including a Dak Bunglow at Bomai village, with focus remains on improving infrastructure over the next two to three years.

He also acknowledged gaps in health-care and education, including demands for a secondary school and a primary health centre, and said these will be addressed in a phased manner.

The Minister further said a Rs 22 crore proposal for Zainger has been submitted under the Central Road Fund. The plan includes development of around 30 kilometres of roads covering multiple villages, including Brath, Shankergund, Harwan, Zaloor, Bomai, Yedipora and Yamran.

He said visible improvements will be seen in the coming years as efforts continue to strengthen infrastructure and public services in the region—(KNO)

### Article 370 Kept

footing despite global uncertainties. He said the nominal GDP has reached Rs 357.14 lakh crore, while foreign exchange reserves stand at 686 billion USD and the country continues to grow at around 7 per cent annually.

He added that these indicators demonstrate resilience and position India strongly on the path towards becoming a developed nation.

Referring to fiscal discipline, Sharma said the debt-to-GDP ratio for 2026-27 is estimated at 55.6 per cent.

"The government aims to bring it down to 50 per cent by 2031 and the fiscal deficit has been reduced to 4.3 per cent, improving upon earlier projections," he said.

"This reflects a stable, long-term economic framework and responsible fiscal management," he added.

Sharma stressed the government's long-term goal of transforming India into a developed country by 2047, mark-

ing 100 years of independence.

"This is not just the vision of the Prime Minister but of every Indian. Development must be inclusive and capable of withstanding global shocks," he said, stressing decentralisation and self-reliance through initiatives like "Vocal for Local."

Highlighting social sector gains, he claimed that around 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty due to government policies.

He also contrasted the present system with earlier welfare leakages.

"Today, through Direct Benefit Transfer, the entire amount reaches the intended beneficiary Rs 100 sent is Rs 100 received," he said, adding that Rs 43.45 lakh crore has been transferred directly so far.

He also pointed to financial inclusion through widespread opening of Jan Dhan accounts, particularly benefiting women and rural households.

Listing flagship programmes, Sharma said under Jal Jeevan Mission, over 13 crore households have been provided tap water connections. Under Swachh Bharat Mission, more than 12 crore toilets have been constructed, improving dignity and sanitation. Under PM Awas Yojana, around 4 crore houses have been built for the poor.

Recalling his experience in Jammu and Kashmir, he said water scarcity in hilly areas was a major issue that is now being addressed through such schemes.

Sharma said the government has transferred Rs 14.27 lakh crore to the agriculture sector to strengthen farmers' income and ensure rural stability.

He added that fertiliser stocks have been increased by 26 per cent to 163 lakh metric tonnes, ensuring food security and insulating the country from global supply disruptions.

He stressed that strengthening MSMEs is key to employment generation and economic expansion.

On national security, Sharma said Rs 26,236 crore has been allocated for defence requirements and Rs 6,144 crore for the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS).

He highlighted the government's focus on "Make in India" in defence manufacturing to reduce import dependence and strengthen strategic autonomy.

Referring to financial relations with states, Sharma said 41 per cent vertical devolution has been maintained as per Finance Commission recommendations.

"This ensures that states have adequate resources for development and reflects cooperative federalism," he said—(KNO)

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# Dev Momentum picks up in Nowshera as Dy CM inaugurates projects

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**RAJOURI:** Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Tuesday inaugurated a series of developmental projects in Nowshera, reaffirming the Government's commitment towards strengthening the infrastructure and ensuring holistic development of the region.

Upon his arrival in Nowshera, Deputy Chief Minister paid obeisance at Gari Mata Mandir and sought blessings for peace and prosperity of the Union Territory.

He, later, inaugurated a Mega Job Fair at Dak Bungalow Nowshera, providing a significant platform for local youth to explore employment opportunities and engage with potential employers.

During his visit, the Deputy Chief Minister paid obeisance at Thakurdawara Mandir and prayed for peace, prosperity and well-being of the people.

Further strengthening infrastructure, the Deputy Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for a Receiving Station at Hashtanagura, Gagrote. This



was followed by a Public Outreach Programme where he listened to the grievances and demands of the local residents and assured their timely redressal.

Continuing the developmental push, he inaugurated the road from Gagrote to Shamshan Ghat, which is expected to significantly improve connectivity and facilitate ease of movement for the local population.

A Public Outreach Programme was also held near Ram Mandir, where the people projected various issues pertaining to civic amenities and development.

Later, Surinder Choudhary laid the foundation stone for a 3.15 MVA, 33/11 KV Receiving Station at Kuldabi, aimed at strengthening the power infrastructure and ensuring reliable electricity supply to the

area. A Public Outreach Programme was also conducted at Behanigala, Kuldabi, where the Deputy Chief Minister reiterated the Government's commitment towards inclusive development and responsive governance.

The Deputy Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for upgradation of road from Main Road Sehla (Tutani Galla) to Guard Mohalla, Ward No. 4 Sehla, to be executed by PWD (R&B) at an estimated cost of Rs 228.00 lakh.

Surinder Choudhary emphasized that such initiatives reflect the Government's resolve to boost employment opportunities, improve basic infrastructure and maintain close engagement with the public to address their concerns effectively.

Among others present on the occasion included ADC Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa, Joint Director Employment, Joint Director Mining Fareed Kohli, Deputy Director Employment Mohd Nawaz, DSWO Abdul Raheem, Tehsildar Nowshera, BDO Nowshera Gokul Kumar and other district and sectoral officers.

# DC Sgr kicks off "TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan 2.0" with 100-Day Special Campaign

GMK NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** As a part of World Tuberculosis (TB) Day 2026 under the National TB Elimination Programme, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Tuesday kicked off the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan 2.0 programme with the 100 day intensified campaign here at DC Office Complex.

The Deputy Commissioner also flagged off TB testing Van" which would tour different parts of the District during the next 100 days to create public awareness regarding the campaign. The Van, equipped with a pre-installed CBNAAT facility, is capable of providing results within two hours. The van proceeded directly to Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) Batamalo area of the District for conducting screening, diagnosis and awareness generation.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner, interacted with the senior health functionaries and was apprised about the



ongoing campaign preparations and micro-plan. He lauded the dedicated efforts of the health department and appreciated their contributions towards TB control and elimination in the district.

Emphasizing the significance of the initiative, the Deputy Commissioner stated that the primary objective of the 100-day campaign is to accelerate

efforts towards tuberculosis elimination by ensuring outreach to every section of society, focused testing and screening, increasing presumptive testing, enhancing awareness about the disease, and guaranteeing access to free and quality TB care services.

The DC called upon all stakeholders to work in close coordination to ensure the success of the

campaign. He further highlighted that Tuberculosis continues to remain a public health concern, particularly affecting vulnerable and high-risk populations.

During the 100-day intensified campaign period, health teams will undertake active case finding by reaching out to high-risk groups, vulnerable sections. The initiative aims at early detection of TB cases, spreading awareness about symptoms, prevention and treatment, and providing sustained medical and psychological support to patients for complete recovery.

Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tahir Sajad, District Tuberculosis Officer, Dr Raouf, Block Medical Officer Hazratbal, Dr Abdul Majeed, ZMO S.R. Gunj, Dr Shafaqat, ZMO Zadibal, Dr Rubeena, Medical Superintendent Government Gousia Hospital, Dr Arshid, besides other officials of the Health Department were present on the occasion

## Job fair organised in Anantnag; DDC calls for effective implementation of schemes



GMK NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG:** To provide a dynamic platform for job seekers and employers to connect and explore employment opportunities, the District Employment and Counselling Centre in collaboration with District Administration, Anantnag Tuesday organized a mega Job Fair at Govt. ITI Ashajipora.

The event was inaugurated by District Development Commissioner (DDC), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat and witnessed participation by ADC, Principal ITI, DD Employment, Employment Officer besides officials from concerned departments and a large number of aspiring youth and prospective entrepreneurs.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC highlighted the importance of such initiatives in addressing unemployment and making the youth self-reliant. He emphasized the need to explore self-employment opportunities by aspiring youth and job seekers.

Dr. Bilal called for effective implementation of self-employment and livelihood generation schemes and asked the concerned departments to ensure the job seekers are facilitated fully through awareness

and IEC initiatives. He advised the youth to come forward and avail benefits of the flagship Mission YUVA programme adding the district has made appreciable progress on this initiative so far.

Asking the youth to aptly utilise the opportunity of Job Fairs, the DDC said such platforms are vital for on spot placement of eligible youth in suitable firms and agencies. The youth should acquire new skills and improve their employability by various companies, he further remarked.

Retiring administration's support and commitment to facilitate the job seekers through multiple schemes, the DDC said that concerned departments and financial institutions are working in tandem to ensure the credit lending and loan disbursement are done in a smooth and time bound manner.

During the fair, the DDC inspected various stalls set up by line departments and reputed companies, interacting with both employers and participants. He also handed over keys in the automobile sector and distributed sanction letters among beneficiaries of Mission YUVA, encouraging entrepreneurship in the district.

## Cabinet Sub-Committee formed to review reservation policy in J&K: GoI

Union Minister confirms panel has submitted report

RAJA SYED

**SRINAGAR:** The Government of India (GoI) on Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that a Cabinet Sub-Committee has been constituted in Jammu and Kashmir to examine and review issues related to the rationalisation of reservation policy in the Union Territory.

The information was provided in response to an unstarred question raised by Member of Parliament Syed Agha Ruhullah Mehd.

Replying to the query, Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Ramdas Athawale, said that the UT government has already set up a panel to look into various aspects of the reservation

framework. He added that the committee has submitted its report to the Council of Ministers.

Regarding concerns over the disproportionate impact of the existing reservation structure on the open category, the minister said that no such representation has been received by the department so far.

The query had also sought details on whether reservation policies in J&K are subject to periodic review in line with constitutional principles laid down by the Supreme Court, and the steps taken to ensure that reservation remains a tool for social justice without causing long-term imbalance in education and employment—(KNO)

## Thousands of works under MGNREGA executed across J&K: GoI

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** The Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday that thousands of works under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme are being executed across Jammu and Kashmir, with substantial expenditure recorded during the ongoing and previous financial years.

Replying to an unstarred question, Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan said that in Jammu and Kashmir, a total of 1,81,828 works were completed in 2024-25 with an expenditure of Rs 33,058.18 lakh, while 3,89,873 works remained ongoing involving Rs 92,209.66 lakh.

For the current financial year 2025-26 (till March 20, 2026), the House was informed that 46,178 works have been completed with an expenditure of Rs 7,361.56 lakh, while 4,80,135 works are ongoing with an outlay of Rs 1,25,056.86 lakh.

The minister, further stated that in Nowshera block of Rajouri district, 655 works were completed during 2024-25, while 2,032

works remained ongoing. In 2025-26 so far, 229 works have been completed, and 2,873 works are under execution, reflecting continued implementation of the scheme at the grassroots level.

He said that MGNREGS is a demand-driven wage employment programme aimed at providing at least 100 days of guaranteed work to rural households, leading to the creation of durable community assets.

Regarding fund flow, the government informed that material component funds are released to the Union Territory through the SNA-SPARSH system, and subsequently disbursed to districts by the UT administration. The Centre does not directly release funds to blocks or districts.

As per the data, Rs 190.68 crore were released for the material component in 2024-25, while Rs 125.30 crore have been released so far in 2025-26.

The minister added that implementation of the scheme lies with the respective State and UT governments, which are responsible for execution and timely payment of liabilities—(KNO)

# Hundreds of missing girl children in J&K, many traced through national initiatives: GoI

RAJA SYED

**SRINAGAR:** The Centre on Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that hundreds of cases of missing girl children have been reported in Jammu and Kashmir over the past five years, with a significant number of them traced by authorities.

Replying to an unstarred question, the Minister of State for Home Affairs said that data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) shows that in 2023, a total of 509 girl children (below 18 years) were reported missing in Jammu and Kashmir, of which 209 were traced, while 300 remained untraced.

As per the data accessed, 502 cases of missing girl children were reported in 2022, while in 2021 the number stood at 443. In 2020, 350 cases were reported, and 355 cases were recorded in 2019 across the Union Territory.

The minister, however, said that the Central government supports the States and UTs through various initiatives, advisories and schemes to address the issue of missing children.

The House was informed that platforms like Track-Child portal and Khoya-Paya have been integrated under Mission Vatsalya to help trace missing children, while the system is also linked with the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) for better coordination among law enforcement agencies.

Besides, the government has issued standard operating procedures for handling cases of missing children and directed all States and UTs to register FIRs in such cases with immediate effect, treating them as cases of abduction or trafficking unless proven otherwise.

The minister further said that Child Helpline 1098 and Emergency Response Support System 112 are operational round-the-clock to assist children in distress, while Anti Human Trafficking Units have been strengthened across the country, including in Jammu and Kashmir.

He added that awareness programmes, monitoring mechanisms and coordination among stakeholders are being strengthened to ensure better safety and timely tracing of missing children—(KNO)



children were reported in 2022, while in 2021 the number stood at 443. In 2020, 350 cases were reported, and 355 cases were recorded in 2019 across the Union Territory.

The minister, however, said that the Central government supports the States and UTs through various initiatives, advisories and schemes to address the issue of missing children.

The House was informed that platforms like Track-Child portal and Khoya-Paya have been integrated under Mission Vatsalya to help trace missing children, while the system is also linked with the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) for better coordination among law enforcement agencies.

Besides, the government has issued standard operating procedures for handling cases of missing children and directed all States and UTs to register FIRs in such cases with immediate effect, treating them as cases of abduction or trafficking unless proven otherwise.

The minister further said that Child Helpline 1098 and Emergency Response Support System 112 are operational round-the-clock to assist children in distress, while Anti Human Trafficking Units have been strengthened across the country, including in Jammu and Kashmir.

He added that awareness programmes, monitoring mechanisms and coordination among stakeholders are being strengthened to ensure better safety and timely tracing of missing children—(KNO)

## MeT predicts another wet spell from March 26 onwards

SAJID RAINA

**SRINAGAR:** The Meteorological Centre Srinagar on Tuesday predicted that Jammu and Kashmir will witness another wet spell from March 26 onwards. Pertinently, the Union Territory has witnessed multiple spells of snow and rain during the ongoing month.

A MeT official said, "From March 26 to 28 the region is expected to witness generally cloudy conditions, with light rain or snow at a few places towards the afternoon."

"From March 29 to 31 generally cloudy conditions will prevail with the possibility of light to moderate rain and snow in higher reaches at several places. Thunder and gusty winds with speeds of 40-50 kmph are also expected during this period," the official said, adding, "The weather is expected to remain partly to generally cloudy from April 1 to 4."

The MeT department has also issued an advisory warning of moderate snowfall over a few higher reaches and thunder, lightning and gusty winds at many places between the night of March 28 and the forenoon of March 31.

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION PATTAN.**

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**  
NIT No: 85 /R&B of 2025-26 4936-41 Dated: 16.03.2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Projecting Authority
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Beautification of Pattan Town and allied Works (Under FC Grants).	61.86 lacs	1600/-	123720/-	180 days	FC Grants	A	Municipality Department

Position of AAA: Accorded

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q.) Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	16.03.2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	18.03.2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	18.03.2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	06.04.2026 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	07.04.2026 11:00 AM Office of The Executive Engineer RnB Division Pattan

Position of T.S: Accorded

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No., Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender inviting authority) Falling under the Competence of under sign.

3. All the bidders must upload Earnest money / Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, as per PWD norms).

4. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender receiving authority). The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP / maintenance period for different nature of works i.e. for M&R works six months (6 months) Bituminous works Three Years (03 Years) and Building works Eighteen Months (18 months) etc as per Physical nature of work.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender receiving authority).

6. The earnest money/ Bid security in favor of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of original Treasury Challan.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

8. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if-

i. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

ii. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

iii. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

44. The tender / bid is liable rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

45. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25(Double agreement Form).

Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Pattan  
DIPK-12079-25  
DT: 24/03/2026

Computer operator/ Camp/ Draftsman/ Head Draftsman/ Technical Officer /  
No: R&B / Divn./4936-41  
Dated:16.03.2026

# Consortium led by Aditya Birla Group acquires RCB for Rs 16,660 crore



IAN S

**MUMBAI:** A consortium led by Aditya Birla Group and the Times Internet Limited has acquired the defending Indian Premier League (IPL) and Women's Premier League champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) for INR 16,660 crore, the owners of the franchise informed regulatory bodies on Tuesday.

United Spirits Limited, the owners of the franchise, made this disclosure in mandatory regulatory filings with the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange of India on Tuesday.

The decision to sell off its 100% equity stake in Royal Challengers Sports Private Limited was approved by the board of United Spirits Limited, owned by Diageo India, a subsidiary of the UK-based Diageo plc. This decision was taken by its board in a meeting on Tuesday.

"We wish to inform you that the board of directors of United Spirits Limited at its meeting held today, i.e., March 24, 2026, has inter alia approved the sale of 14,690 equity shares of Royal Challengers Sports Private Limited ("RCSPL"), a wholly owned subsidiary of USL, for an aggregate consideration of INR 166.6 bn, subject to adjustments and other conditions set out in the Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) dated March 24, 2026 executed by and amongst USL, RCSPL, and Bolt IPL Holdings LLC; Aelius Investments Pte Ltd; Asia Investment Topco II Pte. Ltd.; Times Internet Limited; and Metropolitan

Media Company Limited (the "Proposed Transaction") and such parties, the "Parties"), the company said in its statement to the regulatory bodies.

"Upon completion of the Proposed Transaction in accordance with the SPA (which is subject to customary conditions including the receipt of all requisite approvals as required to give effect to the Proposed Transaction, including from the Competition Commission of India and the Board of Control for Cricket in India), USL will cease to hold any shareholding in RCSPL and consequently RCSPL will cease to be a subsidiary of USL," the company said.

According to reports, under the new ownership structure, Aryaman Vikram Birla, Director at the Aditya Birla Group, will serve as Chairman, while Satyan Gajwani of Times Internet Limited will take on the role of Vice Chairman. The consortium also includes David Blitzer,

founder of Bolt Ventures, and Viral Patel, CEO of BXPE.

Diageo plc had put RCB on the block as per a decision taken by its board in November 2025, with many suitors expressing interest in taking over the franchise. Those included Adar Poonawalla of Serum Institute of India. But in the end, the company got into a one-to-one negotiation, which eventually resulted in its accepting the offer by this consortium.

RCB is the first and only franchise to hold the IPL and WPL titles at the same time. RCB men won their maiden IPL title in 2025, while the women followed suit to win their second WPL title in February 2026.

The RCB franchise was won in the original team auction by United Spirits Limited, then controlled by the erstwhile liquor baron Vijay Mallya. The Diageo plc acquired the RCB franchise when it took over United Spirits from Mallya.

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# IPL 2025-26: Aizawl FC mount a stunning second-half comeback to triumph in Mizo Derby

IAN S

**AIZAWL:** A brace from Laldawngzuala helped Aizawl FC stage a stunning second-half comeback to overturn a two-goal deficit and secure a thrilling 3-2 victory over Chanmari FC in the Mizo Derby of the Indian Football League (IPL) 2025-26 at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Aizawl on Tuesday.

Goals from Malsawmsanga Renthlei and Jota had given Chanmari a commanding 2-0 lead at the break, but strikes from Vincent Lalduhawma and a brace from Laldawngzuala ensured the People's Club claimed all three points in a pulsating derby encounter.

The victory lifted Aizawl FC into second place temporarily with eight points from five matches, while Chanmari FC remained in seventh spot with five points from the same number of matches. Laldawngzuala was adjudged as the Player of the Match.

Aizawl FC head coach R. Lalruatfela handed starts to two foreign players for the first time this season, bringing in Colombian defender Rodriguez Luis Angel in place of T. Lalmuanawma and Uzbek midfielder Tumur Talipov for Lalawmpuia Sailo.

Meanwhile, Chanmari FC head coach Victor Lalbiakmawia made three changes to his starting XI, with Ghanaian Emmanuel Badu and Malsawmsanga Renthlei replacing Marlon Rangel and Lalruatsanga, while Suannghmuana returned from suspension in place of KC Malsawmsanga.

Chanmari made a bright start, forcing Aizawl FC



to sit deep and rely on counter-attacks. The hosts stretched the opposition defence with clever runs into space, effectively utilising the pace of their forwards to create early pressure.

Chanmari took the lead with some luck in the 18th minute. Malsawmsanga Renthlei attempted to pick out a teammate with a lofted pass into the box, but overhit his delivery, which seemed routine for Aizawl goalkeeper Vanlalhratpuia. However, the keeper took his eyes off the ball at the crucial moment, allowing it to slip through his hands and into the net.

Aizawl began to grow into the game around the half-hour mark, with their midfielders gaining a foothold and the team pushing higher up the pitch. However, Chanmari held firm, sticking to their game plan and making it difficult for the visitors to break down their defence.

Chanmari doubled their lead just before half-time from the penalty spot to take firm control of the game. Aron Vanlalrinchhana made a clever

run into the box and was brought down from behind by Rohmingthanga, earning his side the spot-kick. Jota stepped up and calmly slotted the penalty past the goalkeeper to make it 2-0.

Aizawl halved the deficit six minutes after the restart following a chaotic sequence inside the box. Chanmari goalkeeper Zothanmawia failed to deal with a corner, missing his punches on two occasions, allowing Lalruatsanga to loft the ball back into the six-yard area. Eric Remruatpuia Chhange's header was first blocked on the line, and his follow-up effort was once again cleared off the line as Chanmari desperately held on. However, with the defence unable to clear their lines, the ball eventually fell to Vincent Lalduhawma, who made no mistake in slotting it into the net.

Aizawl rode the momentum to stage a stunning comeback within a space of three minutes just after the hour mark. Substitute Laldawngzuala capitalised on poor marking, scoring twice with well-taken head-

ers to turn the game on its head.

The first came when Dawnga rose highest to power in a header from a Lalruatsanga corner. Moments later, the midfielder turned provider again, delivering a dangerous free-kick into the box. The goalkeeper was caught in no man's land, allowing an unmarked Dawnga to guide the ball into the empty net.

Stung by going behind, Chanmari upped the pressure on Aizawl, particularly down the right flank. Lalruatdika repeatedly delivered crosses into the box, while Christopher Kamei posed a threat with his set-piece deliveries, but the Aizawl defence held firm, clearing the danger each time.

Lalruatsanga and C. Lalmuanpuia both squandered chances to equalise during this sustained spell of pressure, sending their efforts wide of the target. Later, Ruatsanga came closest, only to be denied by an acrobatic save from Vanlalhratpuia in stoppage time, as Aizawl held on to their lead.

# IPL 2026: LSG pace bowling setup 'very healthy', aligning them with team's needs the biggest challenge, says Arun

IAN S

**NEW DELHI:** Bharat Arun shaped India's fast-bowling unit across two stints as the side's bowling coach and helped them achieve memorable Test wins, especially in overseas conditions. As the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 begins on March 28, Arun has now taken on a new challenge as the bowling coach of Lucknow Super Giants (LSG).

Drawn to join LSG by a pace bowling attack that has an exciting Indian presence, Arun feels they are good enough to represent the country. In an exclusive conversation with IANS, Arun spoke about joining LSG, the depth of Indian pace talent, his coaching style, the challenge of managing pacers who are returning from injuries, and more. Excerpts: -

**Q.** What was it about LSG's vision that convinced you to move on from your role in KKR after four years?

**A.** Well, one thing is definite: I had a much better role than I had in KKR to play here, and also the fact that, from the fast-bowling perspective, exciting Indian fast bowlers are here. We have more than half a dozen really talented Indian fast bowlers.

Anybody can play for the country as well - so that is the kind of talent that we have. To be able to guide this talent and help them achieve their potential is a big challenge for me. I love challenges, and this is very exciting and challenging, so that's why I shifted from KKR to Lucknow.

**Q.** Rishabh Pant recently said in a video for the broadcasters that bowlers 'trust you and open up to you.' In a franchise setup where you only have a few months with them, how quickly do you need to build that trust, and what's your way of doing it?

**A.** See, that is the biggest challenge for any coach. You can only begin coaching once you begin with that trust. You have to connect with people, so you can only coach after you connect. So, I feel my strength is that I quickly connect with people. Everyone is different - every player is different. Their mindsets, dreams, they are all different.

So, how soon I understand their mindsets helps me to connect better with them, and that connection works. Once the connection is made and coaching becomes - I wouldn't say simple, as coaching is a lot more - but you can bring a lot more to the table for a player to achieve his potential.

**Q.** On paper, LSG's pace attack looks strong with Shami, Nortje, Mayank, Mohsin, Avesh, Arjun, Naman, Prince, and Akash. But most of them are coming back after having injuries. How do you manage workloads when some of them have had fragile fitness in the past?

**A.** Well, I know that most of them are all coming from injuries, and that's why we had a pre-season camp about a month before we assembled in Lucknow, and that was to assess where they were at that point in time. Managing the fast-bowling workload is not only my job - it's also three of us together - the physiotherapist, the strength and conditioning expert, and myself.

All of us together understand what the requirements of a bowler are, his physical state, and his conditions, and then we assign programs to them. So they have been extremely helpful to me, and I can say that probably most of them who went through injuries and were not so fit before have come back fit for this season.

# THE REVENGE

## DHURANDHAR

19 . 03 . 26

IN CINEMAS WORLDWIDE

### INOX SRINAGAR

Movies Timings for Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March

## DHURANDHAR THE REVENGE (A)

HINDI - 12:30 PM, 01:30 PM, 05:00 PM, 06:00 PM

HINDI ATMOS - 10:00 AM, 02:30 PM, 07:00 PM