

## DC Kishtwar inaugurates 'League of Classics' under Youth Engagement Programme 2026

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, MAR 03

The Department of Youth Services & Sports Kishtwar today organized the Youth Engagement Inter-Block District Level Tournament under the flagship "League of Classics" in the disciplines of cricket, football and volleyball at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Girls Kishtwar.

The long drawn tournament is being conducted under the direction of Anuradha Gupta, Director General, Youth Services & Sports J&K and under the guidance and supervision of District Youth Services & Sports Officer, Jaffer Haider Sheikh.

The event was formally inaugurated by District Development Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma as the Chief Guest. The host School Principal Radha Sen was the Guest of Honour.

The DC declared the "League of Classics" tournament open, marking the beginning of an exciting series of competitions aimed at promoting sportsmanship, discipline and youth participation in constructive activities.

Addressing the gathering, the DC emphasized the importance of sports in shaping character, imbib-



ing confidence and leadership qualities among youth.

The DYSSO said that the Youth Engagement Programme – League of Classics has been initiated with the objective of channeling the energy of youth toward healthy competition, physical fitness and team spirit, while also identifying talented players for higher-level competitions.

A large number of young players from different blocks of the District participated in the tournament with great enthusiasm and zeal.

The opening day witnessed exciting matches in volleyball, drawing appreciation from spectators and officials present at the venue.

The DC also administered Nasha Mukta Bharat

Pledge to all the participants.

The event was successfully coordinated by the field staff of the Youth Services & Sports Department, including Physical Education Masters, Physical Education Teachers, REKs, GMs and NYC officials, whose dedicated efforts ensured the smooth conduct of the tournament.

## CM meets delegations, individuals at Raabita Jammu; developmental, other issues raised

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Several delegations and individuals today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Public Outreach Office Raabita in Jammu, and apprised him of a range of public, developmental and sector-specific issues.

Former Minister Raman Bhalla, accompanied by a delegation of civil society met the Chief Minister and highlighted various concerns pertaining to their welfare. The delegation sought sustained policy attention to address pending issues and ensure equitable development.

Former Minister Jagjivan Lal also called on the Chief Minister and discussed matters of public importance concerning his area as well as the broader region.

A delegation led by Dr. Parveen Akhter Lone, Principal, IG Government Dental College, Jammu, briefed the Chief Minister about the significance of the upcoming national-level academic event and its importance for advancing dental education and research in the region.

A delegation headed by Dr. M. A. Alim, Chairman, CII J&K, met the Chief Minister and discussed the role of industry in economic revival, investment promotion and employment generation, while seeking continued government support for strength-



ening the industrial ecosystem.

Former Cabinet Minister Jugal Kishore Sharma, along with a delegation from Katra apprised the Chief Minister of matters of public importance relating to their area.

A delegation of sportspersons, along with others selected under SO-12 (Outstanding Sportspersons), met the Chief Minister to express their gratitude. They thanked the government for recognising their achievements and facilitating opportunities in public service. The Chief Minister congratulated them on their accomplishments and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence in their respective fields.

President, Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Jammu, Arun Gupta, accompanied by members, also called on the Chief Minister and discussed is-

issues concerning trade, industry and routine business matters. The delegation sought measures to ease procedural bottlenecks and further strengthen the commercial ecosystem in Jammu.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the deputations and individuals and assured that their genuine

concerns would be addressed on priority. He reiterated that his government remains accessible and responsive to public representatives, professional bodies, industry leaders and citizens, and that constructive dialogue will continue to guide policy decisions in the larger interest of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Sakeena extends Holi greetings

**SRINAGAR, MARCH 03:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the joyous occasion of Holi-festival of colours.

In her greetings, the Minister said that Holi symbolizes unity, harmony and triumph of goodness, encouraging people to celebrate the festival with mutual respect, compassion and spirit of togetherness. "These cultural festivals strengthen our social fabric by promoting inclusiveness and brotherhood across communities", she said.

The Minister prayed that this festival of colours brings joy, prosperity and renewed positivity to every household and fills lives with colours of optimism and strengthens bonds of unity across regions.

She also prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of entire Jammu and Kashmir.

## HPV Vaccination Drive launched in Baderwah

**BHADERWAH, MAR 03:** Baderwah today joined the nationwide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign aimed at preventing cervical cancer among girls.

The vaccination drive was inaugurated at Sub District Hospital (SDH) by ADC Sumil Kumar Bhutyal. Block Medical Officer (BMO), Dr. Varsha Sharma highlighted the significance of the HPV vaccine, stating that it is a crucial preventive measure against cervical cancer and helps reduce health risks among women.

The nationwide campaign aims to create awareness about cervical cancer prevention and provide free vaccination to eligible beneficiaries. The Health Department officials appealed to the public to cooperate and actively participate in the drive to make it successful.



## Walkathon marks Day 2 of Women's Week celebrations in Kathua

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The second day of the Women's Week celebrations initiated by the District Administration Kathua to mark International Women's Day was marked by walkathons and awareness activities, celebrating the role and contribution of women in society.

At the District Headquarters, a walkathon was flagged off by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma in the presence of Chief Education Officer Kewal Krishan, District Social Welfare Officer Varun Chaudhary, District Education & Planning Officer Anjana Manyal and other officers. Women from different walks of life, including representatives from self-help groups, anganwadi workers, students and members of civil society, participated enthusiastically in the event.

Addressing the participants, the Deputy Commis-



sioner highlighted that the multi-faceted week-long programme aims not only to celebrate the achievements of women but also to generate awareness about the numerous opportunities available to them in diverse sectors.

Similar walkathons were also held at Hiranagar and Bani Sub divisions witnessing active participation from women, youth and officials. Sessions on Cyber Security and awareness on women-centric laws were also held across the sub-di-

visions to educate women about their rights and their vital role in the upliftment of society.

The Women's Week celebrations will continue with a series of thematic programmes and outreach activities across the district.

## Director Agriculture Kashmir inspects Key Schemes at Lalmandi

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Director Agriculture Kashmir (DAK), Sartaj Ahmad Shah, today conducted a detailed inspection of several flagship schemes at the Lalmandi complex in Srinagar.

The visit focused on assessing progress under the Floriculture Development Scheme, Kitchen Garden Scheme, and Integrated Mushroom Development Centre (IMDC), while also reviewing overall preparations for the upcoming agricultural season.

During the inspection, the Director visited various sections of the Floriculture Development Scheme to evaluate infrastructure, nursery operations, and ongoing initiatives aimed at promoting commercial floriculture and allied activities in the region. He emphasized the importance of enhancing flower production, quality standards, and market linkages to boost farmers' income under government-supported programs.

At the Kitchen Garden



Scheme facility, the Director reviewed seedling production, distribution mechanisms, and promotional efforts to encourage household and community-level vegetable cultivation. The scheme continues to play a vital role in promoting self-sufficiency in fresh vegetables, nutritional security, and sustainable home gardening practices among rural and urban households.

The inspection also included the Integrated Mushroom Development Centre (IMDC), where the Director assessed spawn production, compost facil-

ities, training programs, and technical support extended to mushroom growers. He directed officials to strengthen extension services and ensure timely availability of quality inputs to farmers interested in mushroom cultivation as a high-value enterprise.

While interacting with officers and field staff, the Director reviewed the overall readiness for the forthcoming agricultural season, including input availability (seeds, fertilizers, and planting material), pest and disease management strategies, weather-

adaptive practices, and farmer outreach programs. He stressed the need for coordinated efforts to maximize productivity, minimize post-harvest losses, and align departmental activities with the objectives of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and other schemes.

The Director commended the dedication of the staff at Lalmandi and called for sustained focus on innovation, quality, and farmer-centric service delivery to achieve the goals of sustainable agriculture in Kashmir division.

## Nukkad Natak promotes "Hearing Care for All Children" at Govt Hospital Gandhi Nagar

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The World Hearing Day was observed today by the Health Department in collaboration with the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR). A Nukkad Natak was presented at Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar to spread awareness on this year's theme: "Communities to Classrooms – Hearing Care for All Children."

The programme focused on educating people about the common symptoms of hearing loss and ear diseases among children, along with the crucial steps required to detect hearing impairment early—before it affects a child's cognition, speech and language devel-



opment. The Nukkad Natak by artists of the Cultural Unit effectively conveyed the message in an engaging and impactful manner, drawing the attention of patients, attendants, medical staff and visitors at the hospital. The programme was conducted

under the direction of Joint Director Information, Deepak Dubey and under the supervision of Cultural Officer, Mohit Sharma. The event was attended by Director Health, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar; Medical Superintendent Dr. Narinder Bhatiyal; senior officers

from the Health Department and Nodal Officer national programme for prevention & control of deafness Dr. Mridula Singh. A large number of people and medical interns were also present on the occasion and participated in the awareness interactions.