

District Level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2026 held at GDC Ramban

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 27

The NSS Unit of Government Degree College (GDC) Ramban, in collaboration with My Bharat and the Department of Political Science on Friday organized an Inter-College District Level Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2026.

The Youth Parliament was conducted in two sessions, ensuring active and structured participation. A total of 24 students from different colleges took part in the deliberations, showcasing exceptional oratory skills, critical analysis and a sound understanding of parliamentary procedures. The sessions witnessed healthy debate, thoughtful arguments and disciplined conduct, closely reflecting the proceedings of a real legislative assembly.

Earlier, the programme commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and Saraswati Vandana. The auspicious ritual was performed by the Chief Guest, MLA Ramban, Arjun Singh Raju.

Former MLA, Ashok Kumar, graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. The College Principal Prof. Romesh Kumar Atri and Former Principal, Prof. Udhay



Bhanu also graced the function.

The Youth Parliament was formally declared open by the MLA Ramban and the Principal of the college. Students assumed the roles of Members of Parliament and actively engaged in structured debates, Question Hour proceedings and discussions reflecting the functioning of the Indian parliamentary system.

The event was adjudicated by Former MLA Ashok Kumar, Prof. Udhay Bhanu and Senior Advocate Rajinder Singh Bali. The top five positions were secured by Amit Katoch (GDC Ramban), Misty Thakur (GDC Ramban), Seerat Syed (GDC Banihal), Shaz-

aib Runyal (GDC Ramban) and Farhad Muzaffar (GDC Ukhral).

Later, the participating students were awarded mementos and certificates by the Chief Guest in the presence of the Principal and other dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA Ramban appreciated the efforts of the college faculty for successfully organizing the Youth Parliament. He urged the youth to actively participate in such activities to strengthen the roots of democracy in the country.

Responding to the issues and demands raised by the students, MLA Ramban Arjun Singh Raju assured that a bus for the college would

be provided from his Constituency Development Fund (CDF). He further stated that all genuine demands projected by the students and the college administration would be taken up with the concerned authorities for early redressal.

The entire session was efficiently moderated by HOD Political Science, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Mir.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by HOD Urdu, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, who expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, Principal, faculty members, organizing committee, media persons and students for their valuable participation.

IGNOU Jammu Proposes Govt to Sponsor Teachers for Specialized PG Diploma on Holistic Child Development

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The Regional Centre of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Jammu, has proposed that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir sponsor in-service teachers to undergo a specialized diploma programme aimed at strengthening foundational stage education in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The Post Graduate Diploma in Early Childhood and Foundational Stage Education (PGDECFE) offered by IGNOU is aligned with NEP-2020 and is designed for teacher educators working with children from birth to eight years (preschool and primary), curriculum developers, and preschool/primary teachers seeking specialization in early childhood development.

Globally, early childhood is recognized as the period from birth to eight years, marked by developmental continuity. Experts emphasize the need to comprehensively address children's health, nutrition, stimulation and learning needs during this stage. The programme underscores the importance of maintaining pedagogical continuity by extending play-based and activity-based approaches from preschool into early primary grades, particularly Classes 1 and 2.

The NEP-2020 has explicitly recog-



nized the period from birth to eight years as the 'Foundation of Learning' and structurally grouped children aged 3 to 8 years under the Foundational Stage of Education.

The objectives of the PGDECFE programme include equipping educators with the knowledge and skills required for effective participation in diverse settings such as crèches, preschools and early primary classes. It also aims to enable teachers and functionaries in the sector to critically examine and enhance their practices by understanding the developmental and pedagogical basis of early learning.

Practicing teachers, professionals, supervisors, curriculum developers and aspiring teacher educators in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and early primary classes (Grades 1 and 2) are expected to benefit from the programme.

Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu, proposed a strategic capacity-building initiative for government school teachers of the Union Territory, focusing on strengthening foundational education as envisaged under NEP-2020. He urged the Government to sponsor in-service teachers for the PGDECFE programme.

He clarified that the diploma is offered through the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode, allowing teachers to upgrade their qualifications without leaving their jobs. The curriculum includes supervised practicals and internships to ensure classroom application of theoretical knowledge. It also provides training to address diverse learning needs, including those of children with disabilities, thereby promoting inclusive education.

"By sponsoring this training, the Government can enhance the competence of teachers working in the foundational stage, leading to improved learning outcomes," Dr. Gupta said.

Highlighting IGNOU's affordable fee structure and quality course material, he described the initiative as a cost-effective investment in strengthening teacher quality across the region and requested the Government to review the PGDECFE curriculum for wider implementation.

DC Budgam reviews preparedness for National HPV Vaccination Campaign

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan today reviewed the preparedness for the National HPV Vaccination Campaign against Cervical Cancer in the district.

During the review meeting, arrangements related to micro-planning at health facility level, availability of vaccines, cold chain management, deployment of trained staff, U-WIN registration, IEC activities and AEFI preparedness were discussed in detail.

The DC directed that all eligible girls in the target age group be identified and covered strictly as per guidelines.



He emphasised that vaccination sessions shall be conducted only at designated government health facilities with adequate logistics and functional cold chain points.

The DC further stressed the need for advance U-WIN registration and digi-

tal consent to ensure smooth conduct of vaccination sessions. He directed to intensify awareness and mobilisation activities through ASHAs, AWWs and other frontline workers for achieving maximum coverage.

The DC called for close coordination among all concerned departments to ensure the smooth, safe and successful implementation of the HPV Vaccination Campaign in Budgam district.

Besides, PO, ICDS Budgam, Samar Naik; CMO Budgam, Dr. Gulzar; CEO Budgam, MS Budgam, all BMOs and other concerned officials were present in the meeting.

DTF conducts inspection drive at Sumbal under Pan-India Rescue and Rehabilitation Campaign 3.0

BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 27: District Task Force (DTF) Bandipora on Thursday conducted an inspection drive at Sumbal under the ongoing Pan-India Rescue and Rehabilitation Campaign 3.0 being implemented under Mission Vatsalya.

The drive was carried out in collaboration with the Labour Department and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora, with the aim of identifying and preventing instances of child labour, trafficking and other forms of child exploitation.

During the inspection, the team visited various commercial establishments and workplaces to assess adherence to child protection laws and labour regulations.

The officials also interacted with shopkeepers, workers and members of the public, sensitizing them about the legal provisions related to child labour and the importance of protecting child rights.

Officials from the Labour Department highlighted the provisions of child labour laws and penalties



for violations, while the DLSA informed stakeholders about the availability of free legal aid and support services for vulnerable children and their families.

The District Task Force reiterated its commitment towards ensuring a safe and secure environment

for children in the district and emphasized that strict action will be taken against violators as per law.

Authorities further informed that such inspection drives will continue across the district to strengthen child protection mechanisms and en-

sure rehabilitation and reintegration of rescued children.

The district administration urged the public to cooperate with authorities and report any cases of child labour or exploitation for timely action and protection of children.

Director SEK conducts surprise inspection at Dream School GGHSS Kothibagh

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To ensure smooth re-opening for Classes 1st to 8th on Monday (02 March 2026) after the winter break, the Director School Education Kashmir conducted a surprise visit to Dream School GGHSS Kothibagh.

During the inspection, the Director directly visited Kindergarten classes and assessed basic facilities for young learners. He interacted with the concerned teacher and reviewed preparations for students returning to school.

The institution is equipped with modern facilities including smart classrooms with digital learning support, a STEM and Robotics Lab, air-conditioned classrooms, art-integrated learning, and



provision of free books, uniforms, and mid-day meals.

"Every arrangement must be personally verified to ensure a smooth and inspiring start for our young

students. Let us work in close coordination to make 2026 the Year of Academic Excellence," the Director stated.

He directed all Chief Education Officers (CEOs),

Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs), and Cluster Heads across the Kashmir Division to personally inspect schools and confirm readiness before reopening.

The Directorate reiter-

Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament on "50 Years of Emergency, Lessons for Indian Democracy" Held at GDC Kulgam

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Government Degree College Kulgam today organized the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament under the aegis of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and MY Bharat.

The programme was conducted by the NSS Unit of the College at the Conference Hall and witnessed enthusiastic participation from students representing various colleges across District Kulgam and the programme.

The theme of the Youth Parliament was "50 Years of Emergency: Lessons for Indian Democracy."

During the programme, MLA Kulgam Mohammad



Yousuf Tarigami addressed the participants virtually.

Drawing from his firsthand experiences, he reflected on the challenges faced by the nation during the period of Emergency. He emphasized the importance of safeguarding constitutional values, protecting civil liberties, and ensuring the independence

of democratic institutions.

Sharing his personal insights, he urged the youth to remain vigilant, informed, and actively engaged in upholding democratic principles, stressing that the lessons of the Emergency must guide future generations in preserving the democratic fabric of the country.

Addressing on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam highlighted the importance of youth engagement in democratic processes and underscored the vital role of educational institutions play in fostering responsible citizenship and critical thinking.

Principal of the College, Prof. Dr. Mohd Abass Shah underlined the significance of organizing such theme-based academic programmes to deepen student's understanding of constitutional history and democratic responsibilities.

He also appreciated the dedicated efforts of the NSS Unit for successfully organizing the event.

DC Kupwara chairs DLRC meeting

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District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting for the third quarter of 2025-26 to review the performance of banks and line departments in achieving financial inclusion and saturation of government schemes.

In his address, the DDC underscored the importance of universal coverage of flagship schemes, with particular focus on social security and self-employment initiatives. He di-

rected banks and departments to work in close coordination to ensure that benefits reach the grassroots in a timely and transparent manner. Detailed deliberations were held on the progress of schemes including PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, PM Vishwakarma, PMEGP, KCC, PM-SVANIDHI, HADP, PMFME, NRLM, and PM Mudra Yojana.

The DDC also instructed the Lead District Manager and Cluster Head JK Bank to conduct daily reviews of branch-wise performance under Mission YUVA, ensuring accountability and accelerated implementation.

Highlighting the district's progress under the Annual District Credit Plan (ACP) 2025-26, it was informed that Kupwara has already achieved 79.5% of its annual credit target, with disbursements amounting to ₹2279.7 Crores by the end of the third quarter.

The meeting also reviewed achievements under social security schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, and Atal Pension Yojana, reflecting the administration's commitment to inclusive welfare.

Expressing concern over

the poor performance of certain banks in meeting key indicators, the DDC conveyed strong displeasure and directed them to improve outcomes in the final quarter. He reiterated that intensive efforts, transparency, and timely monitoring are essential to ensure full saturation of schemes and to maximize benefits for citizens.

The meeting was attended by CPO Kupwara, Parvaiz Ahmad Lone; LDM Kupwara, Tanveer Bashir Mir; LDO RBI, DDM NABARD, Cluster Head JK Bank, CAHO, DSHO, AD Fisheries, officers from line departments, and representatives of various banks.