

J&K fully prepared for HPV vaccination

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 27

Commissioner Secretary Health & Medical Education Department, M. Raju, today chaired a high level meeting of the State Task Force regarding rollout of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Programme.

The meeting was convened to review the preparedness and finalize implementation strategy for the UT-level launch of the HPV Vaccination Programme, which is scheduled to be observed across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on 28th February, 2026, in consonance with the nationwide launch by the Prime Minister.

Director Family Welfare MCH & Immunization J&K presented a PowerPoint Presentation highlighting all operational aspects regarding launch of HPV Vaccine including microplanning, availability of HPV Vaccine across all 20 districts, training of vaccinators and supervisors, robust cold chain management through eVIN, logistics distribution, AEFI (Adverse Events Following Immunization) surveillance mechanisms and digital registration and certification through the U-WIN portal.

Target age group was also discussed viz. 14 year old girls (those who have celebrated their 14th birthday



but have not yet celebrated their 15th birthday). Girls who will turn 15 years within 90 days of the launch will also be eligible for vaccination during these three months campaign period.

It was informed in the meeting that a total of approximately 1,35,340 eligible beneficiaries have been identified for vaccination across the Union Territory. Besides, roles and responsibilities of state, district and block-level stakeholders were discussed in detail. Special emphasis was laid on interdepartmental coordination, especially with the Education Department and ICDS for beneficiary mapping and community mobilization.

Key messages for caregivers were also highlighted, including the safety and efficacy of the vaccine, the need to wait for 30 minutes post-vaccination for observation, awareness about minor self-limiting

AEFIs and availability of vaccination certificates through U-WIN.

The Secretary reiterated the importance of supportive supervision, daily monitoring, timely reporting and functional AEFI committees at all levels. He also directed the Joint Director Information to spread awareness regarding the vaccination. He stressed the need for consistent communication to counter misinformation and ensure community confidence.

The Secretary directed all the stakeholders to ensure seamless implementation of the programme, robust monitoring and 100% coverage of eligible girls across the Union Territory. He also expressed satisfaction over the preparedness made by the concerned departments. The meeting concluded with a collective commitment to make the HPV Vaccination Campaign a success in J&K and contribute towards the

long-term goal of eliminating cervical cancer as a public health problem.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Jammu/Srinagar; Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K; Director, SKIMS Soura; District Development Commissioners J&K and Director, Health Services Jammu/Kashmir; Director, Family Welfare, MCH & Immunization, J&K; Director, School Education Jammu/Kashmir; Joint Director, ICDS, J&K; Joint Director, Information Jammu, Deputy Director, AYUSH, J&K; Principals of Government Medical Colleges and Principal, SKIMS Medical College Bemina along with their Medical Superintendents; Chief Medical Officers; State Immunization Officer J&K; Surveillance Medical Officer WHO Jammu/Kashmir and State Programme Officer, UNDP, among other senior officers.

DC Reasi reviews works under RDD, Shiv Khori Shrine Board Projects

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Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Kumar Abhishek today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of works being executed by the Rural Development Department under District CAPEX and key flagship schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Grameen) and Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen). He also conducted a detailed block-wise review of ongoing rural development projects across the district.

The DC instructed the concerned officers to prepare management plans for Common Service Centres, compost pits and grey water management, stressing the need to improve sanitation and wastewater systems. Emphasizing timely delivery, the DC called for



the expeditious completion of all pending PMAY (G) houses and close coordination between Block officers and the engineering wing.

Officers were further asked to prepare comprehensive plans for new projects, covering all stages from initiation to completion, ensuring quality and efficiency.

Later, the DC reviewed ongoing developmental works under the Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board, assessing the progress of key infrastructure projects. The concerned officers briefed him on the status of works following which he directed the executing agencies to adopt measures to accelerate progress.

He emphasized on maintaining quality standards, adhering to timelines and ensuring effective coordination among all departments involved.

The meeting was attended by SSP Paramvir Singh, ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, ACD Vijay Kumar, CPO Narinder Kumar, Executive Engineer (REW), BDOs and other concerned officials.

RBI Dy Governor emphasizes principled performance for Viksit Bharat@2047 at IFAC 2026

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The Indian Institute of Management Jammu today began the 3rd International Finance and Accounting Conference (IFAC 2026) on the theme "Financial Strategies for Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth to achieve Viksit Bharat@2047" at the IIM Jammu.

The two day conference was inaugurated by Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Swaminathan J.

Dean Faculty and Research, IIM Jammu, Professor Ali along with Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, Professor Nitin Upadhyay presided over the inaugural ceremony. Professor Pranab Ranjan, Conference Chair and Dr. Ashish Kumar, Joint Conference Chair, also graced the momentous occasion.

In his keynote address, Swaminathan J highlighted Institute's growing stature as a premier academic institution in the country and across the globe.

Speaking to an audience of distinguished experts and MBA students, he framed his address as a conversation with the future leaders, emphasizing that the financial system India builds towards 2047 must rest on three pillars: safety, fairness and reliability. He underscored that development extends beyond GDP to quality of life and that finance, at its core, is a people-centric enterprise built on trust, clarity and integrity.

Encouraging principled leadership, he highlighted key lessons for sound decision-making: respecting customers, understanding financial sustainability, encouraging constructive challenge and discussing risks transparently. He stressed that in an era where technology scales rapidly, both value and vulnerabilities multiply, making responsible design and fair customer outcomes



critical for inclusive growth.

He concluded that achieving Viksit Bharat@2047 demands principled performance and platforms like IFAC 2026 connecting academic learning with real-world financial transformation.

Professor Jabir Ali, Dean Faculty and Research, IIM Jammu, emphasized that education must transcend classroom learning to foster a deeper understanding of public policy and its real-world impact, particularly in advancing inclusive and sustainable economic development.

Underscoring the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, he highlighted the critical role of higher education institutions in shaping responsible leaders and policy thinkers who can contribute meaningfully to India's growth journey. He reaffirmed that IIM Jammu is committed towards setting the tone for this national vision through research-driven insights, strong academia-industry-government collaboration and ethical leadership rooted in innovation and sustainability.

Referring to collaborative engagements with the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, he noted that such platforms as IFAC 2026 enable students to develop a holistic understanding of industry, governance and economic transformation.

Professor Nitin Upadhyay, Dean Academics IIM, acknowledged the guiding influence of the Reserve

Bank of India (RBI) in shaping India's financial architecture. He appreciated the conference's timely and forward-looking theme, "Financial Strategies for Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth to achieve Viksit Bharat@2047."

He emphasized that the deliberations at IFAC 2026 would explore multiple dimensions of finance and accounting, offering valuable insights for policymakers and practitioners to design robust mechanisms that contribute meaningfully towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

During the interactive question and answers session with the students, Swaminathan J addressed queries on monetary policy transmission, global spillovers, financial sector vulnerabilities and the balance between growth and inflation management, encouraging young scholars to contribute meaningfully to India's financial policy ecosystem.

Professor Pranab Ranjan Das, Conference Chair, IIM Jammu, while presenting the theme, Financial Strategies for Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth to achieve Viksit Bharat@2047, highlighted the financial reforms, sustainability and strategic pathways for long-term transformation. He expressed confidence that the conference would generate actionable policy insights and emphasized collaboration among academia, in-

dustri, and policymakers to build a resilient, future-ready economy aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Dr. Saugata Bhattacharya, Member, MPC; Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda; CMA Dr. S K Gupta, MD, ICAI Registered Valuers Organization; Prasanna Balachander, Executive Director, ICICI Securities; Dr. Narendra Ahlawat, MD & CEO, MCX Clearing Corporation Ltd. and Akshay Panth, CIO, SBI Ventures, along with Tamal Bandyopadhyay, Consulting Editor, The Business Standard, also graced the inaugural ceremony.

The discussion offered a multidimensional perspective on India's financial transformation toward Viksit Bharat@2047, highlighting structural shifts in global savings and liquidity amid quantitative tightening and the imperative for India to compete effectively for limited global capital while deepening domestic financial markets.

Panelists drew attention to slowing deposit growth and the migration of retail investors toward capital markets, underscoring the importance of strengthening the savings ecosystem alongside sustained credit expansion.

The panel converged on a clear message that India's journey toward inclusive and sustainable growth will require adaptive institutions, deeper and more diversified capital markets, strengthened domestic savings, and principled financial leadership aligned with long-term national development goals.

IFAC 2026 continued with concurrent technical sessions featuring research presentations by the scholars and practitioners, reinforcing IIM Jammu's commitment to academic excellence, policy engagement and national development.

DC Kishtwar reviews preparedness for launch of National HPV Vaccination Campaign

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Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting of the District Task Force on Immunization (DTFI) to review inter-departmental preparedness for the launch of the National HPV Vaccination Campaign in the district.

The nationwide campaign, scheduled to start from 28th February, aims to protect adolescent girls from cervical cancer through timely vaccination. The campaign will cover girls who have completed 14 years of age but have not yet attained 15 years. The initiative focuses on providing early and effective protection against cervical cancer by administering the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.

The DC stressed the need for strong coordination among all concerned de-



partments to ensure smooth and successful implementation of the campaign. He laid special emphasis on awareness generation among parents and students, proper micro-planning, efficient logistics management and a robust monitoring mechanism to achieve full coverage across the district.

Highlighting the importance of collective responsibility, the Deputy Commissioner directed all line departments to extend full cooperation and work in close coordination with the Health Department to ensure timely and effective rollout of the vaccination drive.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner also chaired a separate meeting with the Heads of educational institutions across the district.

He directed them to play an active role in the implementation of the vaccination campaign by facilitating awareness, identification of eligible students and coordination with health teams.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Yudhvir Singh Kotwal briefed the participants about the objectives, target group and operational aspects of the vaccination campaign.

The Deputy Commissioner also took stock of the issues being faced by

the Educational Institutions with regard to school building and other institutional needs.

He issued necessary on-the-spot directions and assured full support from the district administration to address genuine issues and improve the functioning of educational institutions.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, PO ICDS Kishtwar Dr. Rishi Kumar Sharma, ACR Kishtwar Idrees lone, SDM Paddar Dr. Amit Kumar, CMO Kishtwar Dr. Yudhvir Singh Kotwal, CEO Kishtwar Sanjay Dogra, BMOs besides other officers and concerned staff.

CMO Poonch chairs meeting of field staff, stresses disease prevention and water safety measures

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Chief Medical Officer Poonch, Dr Parvaiz Ahmed Khan today chaired a meeting of field staff including Multi-Purpose Health Inspectors (MPHIs), Junior Health Inspectors (JHIs) and Block Health Workers (BHWs) in the Conference Hall of the CMO Office to review public health measures and strengthen preventive healthcare services across the district.

The Chief Medical Officer stressed the importance of spreading awareness among the public regarding healthy lifestyle practices and preventive healthcare. He directed the field staff to intensify Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities to educate people about sanitation, hygiene and dis-



ease prevention at the grassroots level.

Dr. Khan emphasized regular testing of water from natural sources, springs and other drinking water supply points to ensure the availability of safe and clean drinking water.

Highlighting the need to prevent the spread of seasonal diseases, he directed health workers to ensure timely testing of persons suffering from fever for malaria and dengue. He also stressed strengthening surveillance systems to avoid any potential outbreak or epidemic situation in the district.

The meeting concluded with directions to enhance field monitoring, improve public awareness and ensure strict adherence to health and safety guidelines to protect the community from communicable and water-borne diseases.

DC Ganderbal chairs monthly District NCORD meeting, calls for stronger enforcement & awareness

GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 27:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal today chaired the district level NCORD meeting to assess the progress on decisions taken in the previous meeting regarding the Nasha Mukta campaign and anti-drug initiatives in the district.

At the outset, DC reviewed the directions issued earlier and sought a detailed action taken report from the concerned departments.

Reviewing drug de-addiction and counselling services, DC stressed the need for proper training of counsellors to ensure effective rehabilitation and support.

DC directed the education department to ensure installation of CCTV cameras at

the earliest.

Reviewing awareness initiatives at the grassroots level, the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat apprised the meeting of the progress achieved in conducting public awareness campaigns. The DC directed that these activities be intensified and completed across all panchayats without delay to ensure wider community outreach.

The meeting was also informed about the action being taken under the relevant legal provisions against individuals involved in drug-related offences including suspension of driving licenses and coordination between police and transport departments for appropriate follow-up ac-

tion.

Emphasising a coordinated and sustained approach, the DC called upon all stakeholders to work in close synergy to strengthen enforcement, enhance public awareness and ensure effective implementation of the Nasha Mukta campaign across the district.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Additional Superintendent of Police, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kangana, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Tehsildars, BDOs and other officers and officials.