

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

Many people with dengue can be cared for at home with adequate rest and hydration. But, if you experience any warning signs, go immediately to the nearest medical center.

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

A drop in body temperature accompanied by any of the following symptoms:

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Dizziness
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit
- Redness

If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest medical center IMMEDIATELY

JINDRAH IMAGES

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After back to back meetings in Delhi, LG Sinha reviews Kashmir security

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 12

After Union Home Minister Amit Shah held back to back meetings in New Delhi to review J&K security, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday chaired a high level meeting here to review the security scenario in Kashmir.

After chairing the meeting said that he has given a freehand to the security forces to crush terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. "Chaired a high-level security meeting today at



PCR, Srinagar. Directed J&K Police and its various wings to work in close synergy with each other and intensify the efforts to crush terrorism and those

aiding and abetting terrorists," LG Sinha wrote on X. Pertinently, the meeting came a week after Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired back-to-back J&K

security review meetings in New Delhi with the top brass of Army, Intelligence Bureau, J&K administration and paramilitary forces.

LG Sinha will chair another meeting on Thursday to review the security situation in Jammu region.

The meeting, according to the news agency was attended by DGP J&K, Nalin Prabhat; ADGP Hqrs, MK Sinha; ADGP CID, Nitish Kumar; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari; IGP Kashmir, Vidhi Kumar Birdi; IGP Crime, Dr Sunil Gupta; IGP Security, Sujit Kumar; IGP Railways, Vivek Gupta; Range DIGs, SSPs, Commandants of

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PM Modi-President Macron talks India, France to collaborate closely in field of civil nuclear energy

J1 NEWS SERVICE
MARSEILLE/NEW DELHI, FEB 12

Making a major foray in the area of civil nuclear energy cooperation, India and France today agreed to collaborate in co-designing, co-developing, and co-producing Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and Advanced Modular Reactors (AMRs), following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Emmanuel Macron of France in Mar-



seille. Of the 10 outcomes arrived at during the bilateral talks, three are on civil nuclear energy coop-

eration. The two sides will also be cooperating in the field of capacity building of researchers and

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BRIEFLY

1 Dead as Car plunges into deep gorge in Ramban

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, FEB 12

A tragic accident in the Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir claimed one life on Wednesday when a Swift car bearing registration number JK-02BC 5010 on his way from Jammu to

Srinagar veered off the road and plunged into a deep gorge near Battery Chashma. According to reports received

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Mehbooba welcomes HC ruling on passport denial over family's militancy links

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 12

Former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday welcomed the JK and Ladakh High Court's ruling that an individual cannot be denied a passport just because a

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Battle For Attention! Ahead of J&K Assembly Budget Session legislators post questions on social media to 'test waters'

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 12

As the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly prepares to host its full-fledged Budget Session on March 3 after a gap of more than six years, legislators are posting questions on

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NC, PDP, AIP MLAs submit private bills, seeking ban on alcohol in J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 12

Ahead of the Budget session, three Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)

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Passport can't be denied over kin's militancy links

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 12

Political parties on Wednesday welcomed the decision of Jammu and Kashmir High Court that passport cannot be denied to an individual over kin's militancy links.

National Conference spokesperson and MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq, according to the news agency, termed the High Court ruling as a vital affirmation of individual rights. "Every citizen must be judged on their own conduct," he said, emphasizing that justice must be rooted in fairness. "The NC is committed to protect constitutional rights and dignity

for all," he added.

J&K Peoples Conference President and MLA Handwara, Sajad Lone, welcomed the High Court's ruling and called the judgment a significant step against discrimination, stating that his party had already challenged the misuse of police verification as a tool for "collective punishment" through a petition filed by advocate Syed Sajad Geelani.

He expressed optimism that a broader ruling would follow, ensuring uniform application across J&K. "This should have happened much earlier, but better late than never. Our petition seeks a Pan-J&K extension of this ver-

dict to help thousands facing similar restrictions," he said.

Lone emphasized that their petition specifically demands strict implementation of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Validation of Character and Antecedents) Instructions, 1997, and amendments in the Government Order of 2021 and Circular of 2024, which mandate clear timelines for police verifications.

He stressed that the ruling would rectify systemic flaws and provide relief, particularly to J&K's youth. "This will ensure they are not unfairly penalized and receive equal opportunities as others in the country," he stated.

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Took up Kathua, Sopore incidents with Home Minister, sought transparent probe: CM Omar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, FEB 12

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that he discussed Kathua and Sopore incidents with Union Home Minister Amit Shah during his recent meeting with him in New Delhi.

The Chief Minister as per the news agency, while talking to the reporters here in Central Kashmir said that his meeting with the Home Minister went well. "Multiple issues, including Kathua and Sopore incidents, were discussed.



We have sought transparent probe into both the cases. We are hopeful that those involved in these incidents will be dealt with strictly," he said.

"We discussed restoration of J&K's Statehood and also the upcoming Budget Session of J&K Assembly," he said.

Asked about the free 200 units of electricity as promised by the National Conference (NC), the Chief Minister said, "Wait for the budget."

Pertinently, the Chief Minister visited Beethman, Ganderbal to meet the

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Statehood won't end terrorism in J&K, need people's support: Farooq

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 12

National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday said that even if statehood to Jammu and Kashmir is restored, terrorism will still not end and that it needs peoples support.

Speaking with reporters, Farooq Abdullah, as per news agency, said that the issue of statehood has been there for many years. "Even if statehood is restored and we will get everything, but do people think it will end terrorism here. Those who have been making tall claims that



terrorism has ended here, ask them if it is still there or not," he said.

He added that yesterday only two soldiers got martyred in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast. "Where did that come from.

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CM holds pre-budget consultation with public representatives of Srinagar, Bandipora & Ganderbal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 12

Continuing with extensive pre-budget consultations, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today held a series of meetings with public representatives from various districts of Kashmir at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The Chief Minister chaired pre-budget consultations with the chairpersons of District Development Councils (DDCs) and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from the districts of Srinagar, Ganderbal and Bandipora, who participated both in person and virtually.

The meeting was also



attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D Vaidya,

Director General Budget M.S. Malik, Director General Expenditure Sajad Hussain and the Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Ganderbal and Bandipora with participants joining the meeting

either personally or virtually through video conference.

During the discussions, the MLAs of Srinagar sought liberal funding for priority developmental projects

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Dr. Jitendra urges J&K youth to tap Govt schemes for Entrepreneurship

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 12

In a luncheon interaction with a group of Jammu and Kashmir youth visiting Delhi as part of the Central Government's Youth Exchange Programme, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized the abundant opportunities available for young entrepreneurs, urging them to take full advantage of government initiatives to enhance their financial and professional prospects.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, who serves as the Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, and several other key departments, highlighted various Central Government schemes designed to empower youth

through skills development, entrepreneurship, and livelihood support. The Minister engaged in a detailed conversation with the 125 students, explaining the benefits of programs like StartUp India, PM Vishwakarma Yojana, and PM Mudra Yojana, which offer training, modern tools, and financial support for artisans, traditional craftsmen, and aspiring entrepreneurs.

Notably, Dr. Singh encouraged the youth to explore opportunities in Kashmir's rich heritage industries, including Pashmina weaving and wood carving, stressing how these sectors can provide sustainable livelihoods while preserving cultural heritage. He further discussed how the schemes provide financial incentives, skill training, and



employment opportunities, empowering individuals to secure long-term economic stability.

One of the major highlights of the interaction was Dr. Singh's focus on

the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, a scheme that facilitates collateral-free loans up to Rs 20 lakh for aspiring entrepreneurs. He urged the students to take advantage of this financial support to

overcome common barriers to starting businesses.

Additionally, Dr. Singh spoke about the Svamitva scheme, which offers land ownership rights, enabling individuals to resolve property disputes and gain financial backing for business ventures. He encouraged students to raise awareness about such programs in their communities to help more people benefit from these opportunities.

The Minister also commended the technological advancements in Kashmir's apple industry, noting how innovations have doubled production and extended shelf life, opening up new markets for farmers. He urged the youth to embrace such technologies and drive

innovation in their fields.

Dr. Singh also pointed out the importance of visiting modern Indian institutions, suggesting that the students explore places like the National Physical Laboratory and the Prime Minister's Museum to gain a deeper understanding of India's scientific progress and governance.

Concluding his remarks, Dr. Singh urged the youth to focus on self-awareness and career planning, advising them to identify their strengths and align their aspirations with the many opportunities provided by the government. He reassured them of the government's commitment to their development, urging them to seize these opportunities for a brighter future.

DC Baramulla visits Tribal villages in Tangmarg, assesses dev needs

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 12

In a significant outreach initiative, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, accompanied by SDM Gulmarg, Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi and other senior officers, visited the remote tribal villages of Baderkoot, Darakasi and Gugaldara in Subdivision Tangmarg.

The visit aimed to assess local issues, inspect infrastructure, and ensure the effective implementation of government schemes in these far-flung areas.

During the visit, DC Baramulla inspected school buildings, roads, and other essential infrastructure, taking stock of their condition and identifying areas that need urgent attention.

He interacted with the local population, listened



to their concerns, and assured them that the administration is committed to addressing their developmental needs, particularly in education, road connectivity, and public services.

DC emphasized the importance of ensuring that government schemes and welfare initiatives reach tribal communities, urging the concerned departments to expedite necessary improvements. He reiterated the administration's focus on inclusive

development, ensuring that even the most remote areas benefit from essential services and infrastructure projects.

This outreach visit reflects the district administration's proactive approach to governance and citizen engagement. By directly interacting with people in remote areas, the administration aims to bridge development gaps, strengthen grassroots governance, and improve the quality of life for all communities in Baramulla.

Sankalp HEW Doda strives to empower girls through Sports as it celebrates 10 iconic years of BBBP

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 12

As part of the 10th anniversary celebration of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), District administration Doda has intensified initiatives for empowerment of girls. The District has witnessed a major surge in girls' participation in sports and reaping of benefits under welfare schemes launched under the banner of iconic BBBP initiative.

The stakeholder departments, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh, have been organizing multiple programs to promote physical well-being, sports and education empowerment of women.



One of the key achievements has been the training of 100 girls in Taekwondo, empowering them with self-defense skills and boosting their confidence. The Chenab Sports Academy played a crucial role in encouraging young girls to actively participate in Taekwondo as a sport, fostering discipline and resilience.

Additionally, archery has been introduced in the girls' hostels, leading to

remarkable performances at division and state levels. Cricket has also been promoted by the Doda administration, ensuring equal opportunities for girls in mainstream sports. To minimize their school dropout, the facility of toilets has been ensured in majority of schools across the district.

Further enhancing physical fitness, gym equipment has been provided to girls' hostels, promoting a healthy lifestyle alongside

education. These initiatives aim to strengthen the physical and mental well-being of young girls, making sports an integral part of their growth.

Beyond sports, the Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW), under the Department of Social Welfare, has played a crucial role in empowering women by imparting their awareness and linkages to various women-centric schemes. Through structured programs, Sankalp HEW has helped in generating awareness about financial assistance programs, self-employment schemes, legal aid, and emergency helplines, ensuring that women across the district receive the support they need.

7 Change of Land Use cases approved at Rajouri

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 12

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting of District Level Committee to review cases related to the change of land use from agricultural to non-agricultural purposes.

A total of eight cases were presented for consideration and after a detailed discussion and scrutiny, seven cases were approved, while one case was rejected due to unclear land title. The Deputy Commissioner instructed Revenue officials to keep a close check to ensure that no construction activity is allowed without obtaining the necessary permissions.

DC Budgam inspects key infrastructure projects in Beerwah Sub-Division



J1 NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, FEBRUARY 12

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo, today conducted an extensive inspection of infrastructure projects in the Beerwah Sub-Division. The in-site visit included the Receiving Station at Charangam, the Chewdara Bridge, and the Takiyabal Kangund Bridge.

During inspection of the charangam receiving station, the DC took status of the progress of work and installation of all necessary equipment for smooth functioning of the project.

The DC said that the work on the charangam receiving station is in final stage and a test commissioning will be conducted by the engineers of KPDCL so that the project shall be formally dedicated to the general public soon.

DC said that with augmentation provided by the Charangam Receiving Station, the smooth, scheduled power supply along with optimum voltage

shall be ensured to these villages and other adjoining areas in Beerwah.

He said that the district administration is committed to development of power infrastructure across the district and will help KPDCL in meeting electricity demands of the consumers across the district.

He said replacement of wooden poles, old wires, improvement on HT, LT lines, up gradation of receiving and distribution stations has also begun across Budgam under RDSS scheme to ensure upgradation of power infrastructure in the district.

At Chewdara, the DC reviewed the progress of construction of Bridge being constructed NABARD scheme, and will connect habitations across Beerwah.

He instructed the concerned departments to adhere strictly to the established timelines and maintain high-quality standards.

The DC also visited Takiyabal Kangund Bridge site to inspect its development status. The work has been initiated on this bridge and is going on at an accelerated pace.

He underscored the significance of the project in facilitating efficient transportation and improving access between various regions within the subdivision especially khag and Beerwah areas.

DC directed the executing agencies to ensure the project's swift and successful completion.

He further said District administration is focused to ensure timely completion of these infrastructure projects, recognizing their pivotal role in the socio-economic development of the region.

Besides, Chief Planning Officer Budgam, Executive Engineer KPDCL, Executive Engineer R&B division Beerwah, Tehsildar Beerwah, EO MC Beerwah, AEEs and other concerned officials accompanied the DC.

DC Baramulla presides over awareness camp cum Block Divas at Kunzer

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 12

In a significant outreach initiative, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today presided over an Awareness Camp cum Block Divas at Town Hall, Kunzer. The event was organized to bring government services closer to the public, address grievances, and raise awareness about various welfare schemes.

At the outset, the DC inspected the stalls set up by various departments, where officials provided detailed information about key government schemes like PM Surya Ghar (Muft Bijli Yojana), Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Vishwakarma Scheme, PMAY and other flagship schemes. These stalls aimed to ensure that locals could easily access the information and resources available under these schemes.

In a further effort to ensure transparency and effective communication, concerned officers briefed the local public through video screens, offering clear and visual explanations of the application processes, benefits, and eligibility criteria for each program which allowed for a more interactive and engaging experience for the public,



helping them understand how to take advantage of these schemes.

During the camp, the DC interacted with the locals, listened to their concerns, and emphasized the importance of such outreach programs in addressing community issues and directed officers to ensure that grievances were resolved in a time bound manner, reiterating the administration's commitment to timely service delivery and people-centric governance.

Furthermore, Minga Sherpa encouraged the public to take full advantage of the various government schemes designed to benefit local citizens, with a particular emphasis on the PM-Surya Ghar initiative,

highlighting that the scheme has been specifically introduced to help households reduce their electricity expenses by promoting the adoption of solar energy.

Later, Minga Sherpa distributed Sanction Letters, Ayush Cards, Land Passbooks and other certificates among eligible beneficiaries during the block divas. Camp was attended by DDC Member, Nazir Ahmad Sheikh, Sub Divisional Magistrate Gulmarg, Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi, Superintendenting Engineer JKPDCCL, Dalbir Singh, Tehsildar Kunzer, Syed Eyaad Qadri and other district and tehsil level officers besides large number of public of adjacent areas of kunzer tehsil.

DC conducts on-site inspection of Water Schemes in Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, FEBRUARY 12

In a proactive move to address water scarcity in the district, Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal conducted a comprehensive inspection of the water schemes today.

Accompanied by Superintendent Engineer, Mohammad Taj Choudhary, Executive Engineer Rajeev Ghai, besides AEE, JE and other concerned officers, the Deputy Commissioner visited key water schemes including Dingla and Chaktrou.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner engaged with local residents to understand their water-related concerns. He emphasized the importance of effi-



cient functioning and proper maintenance of the installation to prevent shortage.

In a directive to ensure timely action, the Deputy Commissioner directed the SE to conduct a detailed review of the schemes with the Junior Engineers, to ensure effective implementation.

Furthermore, he mandated the Xen to make the Dingla and Chaktrou water schemes operational within 10 days.

DC Ganderbal flags off awareness vehicles under Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 12

In a significant step towards combating substance abuse, the Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today flagged off awareness vehicles under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan at the Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal.

The initiative aims to raise awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promote a drug-free society. The awareness vehicle will travel across various locations in the district, disseminating crucial information about substance abuse prevention, rehabilitation services,



and support systems available for affected individuals and their families.

During the event, IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) material was also distributed to further enhance public awareness regarding drug abuse and available de-addiction resources.

District Social Welfare Officer, Officials from the Social Welfare Department, Sankalp Hub for

empowerment of women, Mission Shakti Ganderbal, ICPS, Child Welfare Committee, Juvenile Justice Board and various stakeholders were present at the flag-off event.

The campaign is part of the broader nationwide initiative under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan, which seeks to create a healthier and addiction-free society through sustained awareness and intervention programs.

CEO reviews preparedness for Board Exams in Doda

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 12

Chief Education Officer Mohammad Hafiz, today conducted a comprehensive inspection of several examination centers in the Baderwah and Bhalla zones ahead of Board Exams being conducted by Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JK BOSE).

During the inspection, the CEO visited multiple centers to assess the arrangements made for the smooth conduct of the exams. While some centers were found to be well-prepared, others



did not meet the required standards.

The CEO issued immediate directives to the Heads of Institutions (HOIs) at the concerned centers, instructing them to address the identified deficiencies and ensure all necessary arrangements are made

by tomorrow. He underscored the importance of complying with JK BOSE guidelines and creating conducive environment for the students to excel in their examinations. The CEO emphasized that any lapses in preparedness would not be tolerated.

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 12

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Rajouri, Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, today chaired a meeting here in the Conference Hall, Dak Bungalow to review the implementation and progress achieved under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP).

The ADC assessed key aspects of the program, including the applications received, approvals granted, enrollment and completion of Daksh Kissan training, establishment of units, fund utilization, and the number of farmers benefiting from Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG). He

also reviewed the registration of farms on KKG, as well as the status of credit applications submitted and sanctioned.

Emphasizing the need for efficient execution, Dr. Thapa directed the Chief Agriculture Officer to distribute targets among Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officers (SDAOs) to ensure timely achievement of objectives under HADP.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Agricultural Officer Rajouri, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO), District Sheep Husbandry Officer (DSHO), District Sericulture Officer (DSO), Area Marketing Officer, Assistant Director Fisheries and SDAOs.

DC Kupwara reviews progress of registration under JK Samadhan Portal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 12

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today convened a review meeting of all concerned officers and other stakeholders to assess the progress of the registration process under the JK Samadhan Portal.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kupwara, ACD, CMO, BDOs Tehsildars, AD Food' DPO besides other District Officers, officials and CSC VLEs.

The JK Samadhan Portal, a government initiative aimed at streamlining and simplifying grievance redressal processes, is designed to ensure transparency, accountability, and efficiency in addressing public complaints.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the



importance of timely and efficient registration of grievances, which can be accessed and resolved through the portal.

In her address, the DC highlighted the critical role of the portal in facilitating citizens' access to government services and resolving disputes.

She urged all the concerned departments to ensure maximum outreach and participation in the portal's registration process. CSC VLEs were directed to register maximum number of people under the portal who are

unable to register themselves.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of registration in various tehsils and sub-divisions of the district, with a special focus on identifying areas where registration was lagging behind.

Meanwhile, timelines were fixed for different departments to ensure cent percent registration of the people.

The ADC Kupwara was designated as Nodal Officer for cent percent registration of all citizens on the Samadhan portal.

NEP-2020: Second batch of 57 students completes internship program at JKEDI

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SEMPORA, FEBRUARY 12

A fresh batch of 57 students from Government Abdul Ahad Azad (AAA) Memorial Degree College, Bemina and Government College for Women, Nawakadal, Srinagar completed their internship program at Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Sempora, on Wednesday.

As per the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, all undergraduate students have to complete 60 hours of internship program to complete their degree.

The interns were briefed about the role and functioning of various verticals & sections of JKEDI. They were made aware of the various activities undertaken by JKEDI including Entrepreneurship Awareness Programs (EAPs), Entrepreneurship Orientation Programs

(EOPS) and Entrepreneurship Development Programs (EDPs) to promote entrepreneurship as a career choice among unemployed youth of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

An idea pitching workshop and business simulations were held for the interns wherein real-time exposure to running a successful business venture was provided to them.

These activities helped the interns to gain insight with respect to the various challenges faced by an entrepreneur and the ways to overcome them.

The concept of Detailed Project Report (DPR) formulation was also shared with the interns by the Centre for Business Development (CBD) team of JKEDI.

The undergraduate interns were taken through a tailor made structured work schedule spreading over 10 days.

They were provided with a simulated environment that encouraged the Interns to come up with innovative ideas.

The interns also worked on different case studies related to entrepreneurship development and its ecosystem in the UT and submitted comprehensive reports about the same.

The internship program was conducted by the Centre for New Enterprise Creation (CNEC), a program vertical of JKEDI under the overall guidance and supervision of Director JKEDI, Rajinder Sharma.

The internship was coordinated by Aijaz Mulla and Smt. Saba Nazir, Assistant Faculty at JKEDI. Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) is dedicated to fostering entrepreneurship and self-employment in the region through training, research and development activities.

DC Kulgam chairs meeting on Wetland demarcation



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM FEBRUARY 12

Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, who is also Chairman of District Wetland Management Units, on Wednesday convened a comprehensive meeting to discuss the demarcation of wetland sites across the district.

Revenue, Forest, and Wildlife departments were tasked with the demarcation of identified wetlands and ground truthing of the

digital boundaries. Jal Shakti, Flood Control and Fisheries departments were asked to work out of the conservation plans for the wetlands.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Kulgam, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, District Officer Pollution Control Committee Firdous Ahmad, all Tehsildars, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, DFO Kulgam, AD Fisheries, and other concerned officials from various departments.

Health Minister addresses annual day celebration at IGGDC; inaugurates CBCT at hospital

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today remarked that the Omar Abdullah led government is actively working on a structured policy to address employment concerns of dentists and expand job prospects for them in government and allied sectors.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing the Annual Day celebrations at Indira Gandhi Government Dental College (IGGDC), Jammu.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister emphasised on the critical significance of medical education on society and role of dental professionals in strengthening public health services. "Medical is a very noble profession as it directly impacts the public welfare", she stated. She added that the medical professionals have a very active role in shaping the well being of the society.

The Minister further said that new technologies are coming every other day in medical field and medical professionals need to upgrade themselves as per these evolving technologies. "Medical and dental field is an ever evolving field requiring introduction of newer advancements to promote patient care", She maintained.



The Minister emphasized on the critical role of dentists in public health saying that the government is actively working on a structured policy to address employment concerns and create new job opportunities for dentists.

Commending the academic and clinical excellence of IGGDC, she encouraged the students to pursue knowledge with dedication and serve society with compassion. She also applauded the institution's role in fostering research and innovation in dentistry.

In her welcome address, Principal and Dean, IGGDC, Dr. Parveen Akhter Lone, presented a comprehensive report through PowerPoint Presentation, detailing the departmental overview and achievements of the college throughout the academic year, including major milestones and varied academic programs that have fostered academic and extracurricular development among the students. She sought Minister's intervention in introduction

of postgraduate course in the college. She also applauded the help of government in introducing written test for registrars to facilitate a fair process of faculty selection.

On the occasion, the Minister felicitated the Alumni of college who are serving the society under various capacities in different government departments. The Minister also felicitated the meritorious students of various batches.

Notably, the Minister also released the first edition of college magazine 'UMED' which serves as a platform for students to express their ideas.

Earlier, the Minister inaugurated Dental Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) at the hospital. Later, she conducted a detailed tour of the hospital to assess the functioning of the dental services being provided to the patients. She also interacted with the patients and had feedback about the services being provided at the facility.

DC Shopian holds Public Darbar at Narapora, Keller



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 12

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today chaired a public darbar at BDO's office Narapora in the Keller block of district to assess and address public issues and concerns.

On the occasion, scores of delegations and citizens projected various development issues and demands of their respective areas, requiring attention and redressal by the authorities, spanning across departments.

The major developmental issues flagged included augmentation of play grounds, widening of roads, car parking at Keller Hospital, water supply issues, establishment of veterinary centre, J&K Bank Branch, Fire

Service station, functioning of bus services on all routes besides irrigation facilities.

DDC Vice-Chairperson, Irfan Manhas and DDC, member, Fazul-ul-Din also highlighted the issues of public importance which included heating system for Keller Hospital, Nasrpora Zrakan bridge, lift irrigation Moshwara, road widening of Shadab Karewa, speeding up of work on Chanchmarag to Dabjan road, & other issues for early redressal.

DC assured appropriate action for redressal of all public issues in a phased manner while directing the concerned departments to ensure vigorous follow up on genuine public grievances and issues.

He also called for timely resolution of local issues,

particularly those requiring inter-departmental coordination at the district and block level.

DC also cautioned people to keep close watch on drug abuse and coordination with authorities. He also called upon people for maintaining cleanliness in their surroundings through adhering to safe disposal of waste in dustbins. He also reiterated the Government's commitment towards enhancing public services and ensuring an effective and responsive administration.

ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, ACP, Manzoor Ahmad, district officers, tehsil and block officers and other concerned officials besides a huge gathering of people participated in the public darbar.

Traffic Police issue SoPs for movement of Ambulances on NHW

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 12

The Traffic Police National Highway (NHW) has issued a detailed Standard Operating Procedure for hassle free movement of Ambulances on the NHW in light of the Section 194-E of Motor Vehicle Act-1988.

The circular issued today stated that the Act clearly envisages that whoever while driving Motor Vehicle fails to draw to the side of the road, on the approach of a Fire Service Vehicle or of an Ambulance or other Emergency Vehicles as may be specified by the State Government shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with a fine of ten thousand.

"As such, in order to ensure hassle free movement of Ambulances on NHW Ramban without

any Traffic chaos, following SOP is hereby issued to be implemented by the concerned Traffic Supervisory officers strictly in their respective AOR" it stated further.

"The Traffic Officers/ Officials shall ensure free movement of ambulances on priority basis, as soon as, receipt of any information regarding movement of emergency Service Vehicles, carrying critical, trauma patients and other dead bodies if any in their respective AORs.

The color codes shall be Red for critical patients, Blue for Non-critical patients and black for dead bodies during movement of Ambulances.

They shall frequently coordinate with each other about Traffic Pressure Points and availability of alternate routes (if any) for safe and convenient movement of Ambulances.

Karra decides to hold Rajouri District Convention at Vill-Doongi

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEB 12

Taking departure from the traditions, JK Pradesh Congress Committee President Tariq Hameed Karra has given instructions for holding the district level convention in border area in Rajouri district.

As a part of Public Outreach, Congress has initiated a chain of conventions in all districts of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir with the aim to assess the people's problems, feed back from ground level workers' and interactions with the senior leaders of the party to devise strategies to address the issues.

State President of JKPC Tariq Hameed Karra, has already kick-started this chain of conventions from different districts of Kashmir Province.

In Jammu province, the series of these conventions shall be initiated from Pirpanjal region, keeping in view the multiplicity of problems of the border region and the tough geo-political conditions in which the

people live under fear and threat.

Sh Karra imparted instructions to the senior leaders from Rajouri district to make preparations for or-ganising the convention in Doongi Block which is situated at the exact border line between India and Pakistan.

This shall mark a new beginning as in past the district level conventions were held either in Dak Banglows, Hotels and other close door accommodations simply like a ceremony where only a selective lot was invited to sit, talk and go. For the first time, such activities in the party are being thrown open to the common man and his sufferings.

This convention shall be held on 16th of February 2025 and direct contact shall be established with the border people. The state president has expressed his deep desire to be in direct interaction with the people from border areas in order to uphold their confidence, listen to their problems and find out the means to resolve their issues.

DSEK orgaines workshop 'Investing in leadership' for evaluated Principals

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 12

The key to successful leadership today is hard work and influence not authority. This was stated by Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK), Dr. G.N.Itoo today in Girls Higher Secondary Schools Kothibagh while presiding over the one day workshop themed 'Investing in leadership' for newly evaluated Principals in Kashmir division.

Such efforts will be

continued to make the upcoming academic session effective, DSEK said and added that school heads should act as role models.

He assured DSEK would take all possible measures for an effective teaching & learning process in the valley.

He urged the participants to embrace innovation and adopt best practices to create a conducive learning environment for students.

Senior officers of SED, Principals, Edu-

cational Experts and former Chief Education Officers participated in the training program emphasizing the importance of proper planning for effective administration and teaching learning process.

Joint Director School Education Kashmir Muhammad Mushtaq, Personnel Officer Engineer, Hilal Ahmad Butt and Chief Accounts Officer Syed Mubashira Hussain were also present in the training program.

Workshop on Safer Internet Day organized at AAA Memorial College Bemina

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 12

Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial Degree College Bemina organized a workshop on Safer Internet Day as part of Information Security Education and Awareness Project.

The event, themed "Together for a Better Internet," aimed to raise awareness about responsible digital practices and online safety.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Mudasar Afshan emphasized the importance of cyber hygiene, responsible digital engagement, and safeguarding digital identities.

She highlighted how the internet has transformed education and communication while also presenting challenges such as cyber threats, misinformation, and online harassment.

The event featured expert talks and interactive sessions covering digital safety practices, online privacy concerns, and strategies to counter cyber threats. Students actively participated in discussions, gaining valuable insights into secure and responsible internet usage. The event was attended by faculty members, students, and non-teaching staff of the college.

After back to back...

AP/IR Battalions and various other senior officers of J&K Police, in person and through virtual mode.

The DGP briefed the chair regarding the present security scenario of the valley and the roadmap put in place to counter the various security challenges like counter insurgency, law & order, protection of minorities, terrorist recruitment etc. at zonal, range and district level.

The IGP Kashmir also gave a detailed presentation highlighting the challenges and the achievements of the Kashmir Zone and strategic foresight for the future.

LG Sinha wrote on X: “Directed officials to follow a zero tolerance policy to tackle terrorism. I have given JKP & Security Forces free hand to neutralise the terror ecosystem operating in the shadows. Those supporting & financing terrorism will have to pay a very heavy price.”

“I have asked the senior officials to take strict action against the elements exploiting cyber space to carry out their disruptive activities and disinformation campaign. We must aggressively counter fundamentalist and extremist ideas and take action as per the law,” the Lieutenant Governor added.

The Lieutenant Governor took appraisal of the working of various wings of J&K Police and expressed his satisfaction with regard to the crime related performance indices especially related to UAPA and NDPS.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the senior police officials and head of its various wings to work in close synergy with each other and intensify the efforts to crush terrorism and those aiding and abetting terrorists.

“Under the leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Jammu Kashmir is witnessing an era of peace, progress and prosperity. I have full faith in your valour, effective, focused measures and better institutional arrangements to make Jammu Kashmir terror-free. Improved intelligence generation, coordination and precision in anti-terror operations are vital to meet the future security challenges,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said a 360-degree approach against terrorism is critical to enhance the capability and performance in all dimensions of security challenges. The Lieutenant Governor also asked the police officials to strictly follow the policy of property attachment in terror and narcoterror cases.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the officials to devise a result-oriented strategy to identify and neutralize foreign terrorists active in the Kashmir valley. He called for systematic attention to the terror ecosystem, which is providing support to adversarial forces and terrorists.

LG APPRECIATES J&K POLICE FOR PEACEFUL CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS, SANJY

Meanwhile, in a statement a police spokesman said that the main aim of the meeting was to take the comprehensive review of the working of various wings of J&K Police.”

He said the session started with a welcome address by IGP Kashmir which was followed by a presentation by DGP J&K.

The DGP briefed the chair regarding the present security scenario of the valley and the challenges present on the ground.

He also presented the Annual work plan devised by the JKP for the current year highlighting the roadmap put in place to counter the various security challenges like counter insurgency, law & order, protection of minorities, etc. at zonal, range and district level.

IGP Kashmir V.K Birdi also gave a detailed presentation highlighting the challenges and the achievements of the Kashmir Zone and the roadmap of zone regarding the operations and crime.

The Lieutenant Governor addressed the police officers and appreciated the role of J&K Police for peaceful conduct of general parliamentary elections, SANJY and assembly elections.

He also appreciated crime related performance indices & directed the officers to devise result-oriented strategy to counter the propaganda from across the border.

The LG also stressed upon the officers to focus on core policing issues and all aspects related to confidence building among public and redressal of public grievances.

During the session, DGP J&K briefed about the overall scenario and also took responses from the officers regarding their preparedness for the upcoming season.

ADGP HQ also briefed the chair regarding various issues pertaining to police administration, budget, IT, procurement & CCTNS. ADGP CID elaborated on the intelligence gathering efforts that have been crucial in pre-empting potential threats, detailing a new collaborative framework with local law enforcement to enhance data sharing to reduce the response times.

The IGP Crime also presented the roadmap on the implementation and training related to New Criminal laws.

The IGP Railways in his brief underscored the commitment of the Railway Police to ensure the safety and security of passengers and railway infrastructure in the region.

The range DSGs of Kashmir briefed the chair about the security measures put in place to maintain a peaceful atmosphere across the region. District SSPs highlighted the challenges and their respective strategies and also highlighted their efforts of community contact and crime prevention.

While concluding, DGP J&K emphasized the need for continuous improvement in public interactions and response capabilities. He appreciated the efforts made so far but urged for more innovative approaches in operational planning, community policing and crime prevention. The meeting concluded with directions to all officers to work more cohesively to maintain peace in the region. KNO

India, France to...

professionals in the field of civil nuclear energy.

India and France also inked an agreement on Triangular Development Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

According to Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, the triangular cooperation aims at providing solutions to countries in the Indo-Pacific region for their economic progress and development in furtherance of the India-France roadmap on the Indo-Pacific.

These projects would be in the fields of digital innovation, digital public infrastructure, clean energy, green technologies, preservation of biodiversity, women empowerment, education, health, nutrition, water, and sanitation.

These projects will be demand-driven and not supply-driven and would be owned by the countries in which they are situated, Misri informed.

PM Modi also inaugurated jointly with President Macron the new Indian Consulate General in Marseille. Both leaders have also given directions for early implementation of the agreement between the National Museum of India and France Muséums Développement, under which France has been identified as a knowledge partner in building India's new national museum, The Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum, Misri informed.

The two sides have also operationalized the young professional scheme, which will help in promoting legal mobility of professionals, of skilled workforce, and students in both directions, he added.

PM Modi and President Macron held discussions on board the Presidential aircraft as they were being flown to Marseille from Paris.

“You could say that India-France relations touched new heights, literally,” the FS remarked.

The discussions on-board the aircraft on a number of issues continued upon landing in Marseille, where the two leaders were joined by their larger delegations. And the discussions took place over the course of a dinner that was hosted by President Macron in honor of the Prime Minister, he added.

The discussions covered the entire gamut of our deep and diverse strategic partnership. The two leaders reviewed progress in the areas of defense, in the area of space, civil nuclear cooperation, and in the areas of health, as well as people-to-people cooperation between the two sides.

The two leaders appreciated recent progress that has taken place in all of these areas, in keeping with both the Horizon 2047 roadmap and in the defense area, in particular in keeping with the defense industrial roadmap that was adopted last year.

In the field of defence, the joint statement said: “Recalling the deep and longstanding defence cooperation between France and India as part of the Strategic Partnership, President Macron and Prime Minister Modi welcomed the continuation of the cooperation of air and maritime assets in line with the ambitious Defence Industrial Roadmap agreed in 2024.

“Both leaders commended progress in collaboration in construction of Scorpene submarines in India, including indigenous, and in particular the work carried out with a view to the integration of DRDO developed Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) into P75-Scorpene submarines and the analyses conducted regarding the possible integration of the Integrated Combat System (ICS) into the future P75-AS submarines.

“Both leaders welcomed the commissioning of the sixth and final submarine of the P75 Scorpene-class project, INS Vaghsheer, on 15 January 2025. Both sides welcomed the ongoing discussions in missiles, helicopter engines and jet engines. They also welcomed the excellent cooperation between the relevant entities in the Saffran group and their Indian counterparts.

“Prime Minister Modi also invited the French Army to take a closer look at the Pinaka MBRL, emphasizing that an acquisition of this system by France would be another milestone in Indo-French defence ties. In addition, President Macron welcomed the decision to include India as an observer to the Eurodrone MALE programme managed by OCCAR, which is another step forward in the growing strength of our partnership in defence equipment programmes.

“Both leaders appreciated the regular conduct of military exercises in all domains including maritime exercises and joint patrolling by maritime patrol aircraft. They noted the recent visit of the French Carrier Strike Group Charles De Gaulle to India in January 2025, followed by the Indian Navy’s participation in the French multinational exercise La Perouse, and the future conduct of the Varuna exercise in March 2025.

“They welcomed the launch of FRIND-X (France-India Defence Startup Excellence) in Paris on 5-6 December 2024, involving the DGA and the Defence Innovation Agency, in line with the vision enshrined in HORIZON 2047 and the India-France Defence Industrial Roadmap. This collaborative platform brings together key stakeholders across both defence ecosystems, including defence startups, investors, incubators, accelerators, and academia, fostering a new era of defence innovation and partnership.”

Both leaders had a detailed conversation on international issues, including on the Middle-East and the war in Ukraine. They agreed to pursue their efforts to coordinate and remain closely engaged on a regular basis.

They agreed to work together more closely on implementing the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC) initiative, to foster connectivity, sustainable growth trajectories and access to clean energy across these regions. In this regard, they acknowledged the strategic location of Marseille in the Mediterranean Sea.

They underlined the key importance of strengthening EU-India relations, in view of the upcoming India-EU summit at the earliest possible in New Delhi.

They appreciated the growing cooperation in trilateral format with Australia and with the United Arab Emirates. They commended the joint military exercises that took place between France, India and the United Arab Emirates, as well as the participation of India, France and Australia in each others’ multilateral military exercises.

“They directed their concerned officials to work together with officials from the Governments of United Arab Emirates and Australia, towards identifying concrete projects of trilateral cooperation in the field of economy, innovation, health, renewable energy, education, culture, and the maritime domain, including under the IPOI and IORA as identified during the focal points meeting held virtually last year for both the trilateral dialogues.”

The two leaders reaffirmed their unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism. They called for the disruption of terrorism financing networks and safe havens.

Passport can't be...

J&K PDP chief, Mehbooba Mufti in a post on X, said that the honourable High Court’s decision of not denying a passport to an individual for merely being related to a militant is certainly a step in the right direction.

Pertinently, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Tuesday ruled that an individual cannot be denied a passport solely because of a family member’s past involvement in the militancy.

The verdict came in the case of Mohammad Amir Malik, a 29-year-old graduate from Shagan village in Ramban, who was denied a passport due to his brother’s militant background and his father’s alleged role as an overground

worker (OGW) for a terror outfit. “Merely because the petitioner’s brother was a terrorist and his father is an OGW, he cannot be deprived of his fundamental right guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution,” Justice M.A. Chowdhary had stated, while delivering the judgment. KNO

Took up Kathua...

fire-affected family, who lost their home in a devastating blaze three days ago.

The fire damaged a residential house, leaving the family displaced and in distress.

During his visit, Omar expressed his solidarity with the affected family and assured them of the government’s support in rebuilding their home and providing necessary assistance.

The Chief Minister also directed local authorities to expedite relief measures and provide immediate help to those affected by the incident.

He was accompanied by Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal and other officials. KNO

Statehood won't...

We need people’s help to restore normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. It is high time we should have peace. Only peace can do something here. Our children are unemployed. How can these issues be addressed when there is no peace," he remarked.

He also said that pre-poll alliance between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress could have brought different results in the Delhi Assembly elections.

“The spirit of INDIA bloc is still same. But some mistakes have been done in the Delhi. Had there been proper understanding between the AAP and Congress, the results could have been different. We have to meet and these issues need to be discussed," he said. KNO

CM holds pre-budget...

and key public welfare initiatives in their respective constituencies, keeping in view the significance of the capital city. MLAs Ali Muhammad Sagar, Mubarak Gul, Shamim Firdous, Tanvir Sadiq, Ahsan Pardesi, Salman Ali Sagar discussed their plans in the meeting.

The consultation covered a wide range of issues, including traffic decongestion by exploring alternate routes, parking lots in downtown Srinagar, reducing vehicular pressure on roads, constructing flyovers, community halls. The restoration of water bodies, improvement of sports infrastructure, vertical housing projects, dredging of Dal interiors and the development of an efficient drainage system were also discussed.

MLAs highlighted the need for better drinking water quality, upgraded sewage treatment plants, improved electricity supply, and an effective solid waste management system. They further stressed the importance of scientific disposal of waste at Achan landfill site, identifying new dumping sites, introducing water ambulances in Dal Lake, dredging its canals, enhancing relief for fire victims, widening of interior roads & boulevard road and removing existing bottlenecks. A demand for creating employment avenues for the youth of Srinagar was also emphasized and making some provisions in the annual budget.

The meeting held with elected representatives from Bandipora and Ganderbal districts was attended by chairman DDC Bandipora, MLAs of Gurez, Sumbal, and Bandipora constituencies, and MLA of Kangan constituency from Ganderbal district. Notably, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah represents the Ganderbal constituency in the J&K Assembly and was briefed about budget proposals for Ganderbal district.

During the meeting, the MLAs presented various developmental proposals and infrastructure plans for their constituencies, focusing on providing of fire service stations, National Highway status for Bandipora-Gurez road, allowances for officials serving in far flung areas, employment to locals in HEP projects, providing critical medical equipment in Bandipora health institutions , basic facilities for tribal areas, reviving minor irrigation khuls, fish rearing and creating income generation opportunities in tourism centric locations.

They highlighted the need for improvements in health and education, as well as infrastructure development in respect of roads, water supply, power distribution, and irrigation.

The discussions also centered on boosting tourism and enhancing youth services and sports facilities. The MLAs emphasized the importance of ensuring employment opportunities for local youth in various projects and addressed key public demands concerning their respective constituencies.

The Deputy Commissioners from each district presented a detailed presentations outlining the district profiles, demographics, and existing infrastructure in key sectors, including health, education, roads, drainage, public health engineering (PHE), and power sector.

The presentations also provided insights into the District Capex, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and ongoing projects under the current plan.

All MLAs expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for involving them in the pre-budget consultations and acknowledged the inclusive approach of the government—(KNO)

1 Dead as Car...

by news agency KINS, the vehicle lost control and fell into the gorge, resulting in the death of one individual.

The deceased has been identified as Amit Koul, son Badrinath Koul, a resident of Pattan Kashmir, presently living at Jammu.

Rescue operations were immediately launched by local authorities and volunteers, who rushed to the spot following the incident.

A traffic police official at the scene said, “Despite our efforts, such accidents are unfortunately not uncommon. We are investigating the cause of the mishap.”

Mehbooba welcomes HC...

family member was involved in militancy.

She termed the ruling as a “step in the right direction” while strongly criticizing what she described as the weaponization of travel restrictions in Jammu and Kashmir since 2019.

“The honourable High Court’s decision of not denying a passport to an individual for merely being related to a

militant is certainly a step in the right direction. Given how even the basic fundamental right to travel is being weaponised brutally since 2019 in J&K,” Mehbooba said in a post on X.

The former Chief Minister alleged that the denial of passports has become a common practice in J&K, affecting not just individuals related to militants but also journalists, students, and job seekers.

“There are countless cases pending in passport offices awaiting clearance from the CID department. Not only are passports denied to such individuals but also journalists, students and also job seekers who despite fulfilling the pre requisites for government positions are also denied jobs only because of a negative report given by CID.

The status of the related militant—whether dead or alive—seems irrelevant. Unfortunately this policy has even been extended to individuals even remote related to Jamaat-e-Islami party members as well,” Mehbooba added.

The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Tuesday in its ruling, made it clear that a passport cannot be denied to an individual solely because of their sibling’s involvement in militancy. The court emphasized that the decision to issue a passport must be based on the applicant’s own actions rather than those of their relatives.

The High Court direction came in a plea filed by Mohammad Amir Malik, a resident of Ramban, who had filed an application for passport issuance in 2021. However, his application was kept pending due to an adverse police verification report. The Police in its report said that Malik’s late brother, Mohammad Ayaz Malik, was a militant of the Hizbul Mujahideen and was killed in an encounter in 2011, while his father was an enlisted over ground worker (OGW).

The petitioner in his plea asserted that there were no criminal charges against him and that he was being unfairly penalized for his family’s past.

The court upheld his plea and directed the Additional Director General of Police, CID to re-submit the report uninfluenced by the conduct or activities of Malik’s brother as well as his father to the Regional Passport Officer within four weeks.

The Court said the Passport Officer shall consider Malik’s case on the report of the ADGP and pass an appropriate order in favour of the petitioner within two weeks thereafter.

Battle For Attention...

social media to test waters.

“Even before stepping into the Assembly, legislators are trying to trigger a debate in the virtual world. The battle for attention has already begun,” a politician told news agency.

According to the details available with KNO the Assembly Secretariat had set a February 10 deadline for MLAs to submit their questions, private members’ bills, and resolutions. Each of the 90 legislators was allowed to file 20 questions—10 starred (requiring oral answers) and 10 unstarred (written responses)—along with three private members’ bills and four resolutions.

After submitting their questions and bills the lawmakers are shaping the narrative in real time, using digital platforms to generate public response around their proposals. The push for visibility has seen a flood of online campaigns, spearheaded by lawmakers.

PDP leader and Kupwara MLA Mir Mohammad Fayaz has introduced The Jammu and Kashmir Prohibition of Alcohol Bill, 2025, calling for a complete ban on alcohol sales across the UT, arguing that alcohol addiction is tearing apart families and damaging social harmony.

National Conference MLA Ahsan Pardesi has gone further, demanding a region-specific ban, tabling The Lal Chowk Constituency Alcohol Sale Ban (Prohibition) Bill, 2025, seeking prohibition in Kashmir and other Muslim-majority districts.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Doda MLA Mehraj Malik, on the other hand, has shifted the spotlight to governance failures in his constituency.

Through a series of pointed questions, Malik has raised the alarm over the dire conditions of daily wage workers, the environmental impact of power projects in Chenab Valley, and the lack of basic infrastructure.

Senior Congress leader and Bandipora MLA, Nizamuddin Bhat, stated that the party views liquor as a social evil and will thoroughly assess the proposed prohibition bill once it is formally introduced in the Assembly.

“Liquor has no place in our spiritually rich society. A land known as ‘Reshwari’ (the land of saints) should not be tainted by the alcohol trade,” said a spokesperson for the Awami Ittehad Party (AIP), led by Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid.

The AIP has also announced to push for a ban on online gaming, citing its devastating impact on families. KNO

NC, PDP, AIP MLAs...

and Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) have submitted the private bills, demanding ban on alcohol in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the news agency, three MLAs associated with different political parties have introduced private bills, seeking the closure of wine shops and also a complete ban on the sale and consumption of alcohol.

NC MLA from Lal Chowk Ahsan Pardesi has introduced a private bill. He told KNO that the alcohol sales violate the region’s deeply rooted traditions, where Islam strictly forbids intoxicants.

“The unchecked sale of alcohol disregards the religious and cultural ethos of Kashmir. Our heritage has always stood against intoxicants, and this bill is a step toward preserving those values,” he added.

“Alcohol is not merely a personal indulgence; its repercussions reverberate across society. At a time when we are already grappling with a severe drug crisis, facilitating access to alcohol will only exacerbate the problem. If decisive action is not taken, it will erode the moral and social fabric of our communities,” he added.

PDP MLA from Kupwara assembly constituency, Mir Mohammad Fayaz said that alcohol can be banned in Gujarat, when not in J&K, which is a Muslim majority state. “I have heard that the NC MLA too has filed a private bill, which is appreciable. We should get united and fight this nuisance to eliminate it from our society,” he said.

AIP legislator from Langate, Sheikh Khurshid Ahmad has also submitted a private bill in this regard. AIP Chief Spokesperson Inam Un Nabi said that MLA Langate Sheikh Khurshid Ahmad was the first to submit a bill in the J&K Legislative Assembly demanding a complete ban on alcohol.

Sunil Verma demands restoration of statehood to J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEB 12

Sunil Verma, District President, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Udhampur, has reiterated the demand for the immediate restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing that the BJP-led central government has only given hollow assurances to the people of the region.

The senior NC leader was speaking while addressing a gathering at Tehsil Latti in district Udhampur. On the second day of his tour to Tehsil Latti, a public meeting was organized by Khalid Husain Malik, Block President Latti, along with Salim Malik, Secretary, and Younus, President Vyapar Mandal Latti, Sunil Verma was the Chief Guest, while Adv. KD Sharma and Akash Verma were the Guests of Honour.

During his visit, Verma engaged with locals of Latti Market, including residents of Sira and adjoining panchayats, listening to their grievances and developmental concerns. The locals raised several



pressing demands, including the need for a stadium and other sports facilities for the children of Latti Tehsil. Jeet Singh, Naib Sarpanch of Panchayat Sira, urged the government to construct a road from Sira to Kulaq. Additionally, locals demanded the upgradation of High School Sira to a Higher Secondary School to ensure better educational opportunities for students in the region. Another major concern highlighted was the failure of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) scheme, as pipelines laid under the project remained non-functional due to a lack of proper water supply sources and an absence of necessary staff, disrupting smooth water distribution across the tehsil.

Ch. Barkat Ali, a senior leader, raised the long-pending demand for the construction of Chari Mangla Bridge, emphasizing its importance in improving connectivity and easing transportation hardships for the local population.

Addressing the gathering, Sunil Verma lambasted the BJP for its failed policies and neglect of the genuine concerns of the people. He stated that despite ruling for the past ten years, the BJP has done nothing substantial for the welfare of the people except making empty promises. He stressed the dire need to end the dual governance system in Jammu and Kashmir, as it has only led to confusion and inefficiency.

Randhawa calls for spreading message of love, compassion on Guru Ravi Dass Jayanti

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Senior BJP leader and MLA Bahu Constituency, Vikram Randhawa today paid rich tributes to Guru Ravi Dass Ji on the occasion of Guru Ravi Dass Jayanti at a function organized by Guru Ravi Dass Sabha, Bahu Fort. He called for imbibing the spirit of love, compassion, peace, and harmony as preached by great saints and seers throughout their lives, emphasizing that striving for social justice and equality would be the true tribute to Guru Ravi Dass Ji.

Addressing the gathering, Randhawa underscored the significance of Guru Ravi Dass Ji's teachings in contemporary times. "The relevance of the teachings of great Gurus and saints assumes greater significance today than ever before, as intolerance, hatred, and greed have unfortunately become widespread," he said.

He expressed hope that Guru Ravi Dass Ji's life and teachings would continue to inspire and motivate humanity to work for the betterment of all, irrespective of caste, creed,



or color. "As a society, we have a moral responsibility to uplift marginalized sections and ensure equitable opportunities for growth and progress for all," he asserted.

Randhawa highlighted the need to sustain, strengthen, and pass on the glorious heritage of inclusiveness. "The divine message of righteousness must be spread far and wide. Only the spirit of humanism can guide society to overcome hatred, animosity, and bitterness, making this world a better place to live in," he added.

He further elaborated on the impact of Guru Ravi Dass Ji's teachings, stating that they have played a transformative role in shaping society by fostering an environment conducive to unity and coex-

istence. "Guru Ji emerged as a beacon of light at a time when society was plagued by discrimination based on caste and creed. His efforts ensured that all segments of society could live with dignity and honor," he remarked.

Randhawa urged people to take a pledge to follow Guru Ravi Dass Ji's teachings in letter and spirit. "The best way to honor this apostle of peace is to build a society based on the principles of social justice, equality, compassion, love, and togetherness," he affirmed.

The event witnessed the participation of various dignitaries, community leaders, and devotees who gathered to pay homage to the revered saint and reflect upon his enduring legacy.

Indian Army conducts lecture on National Pulses Day for local youth at Moriyian, Rajouri



J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, 12 FEB 2025

On the occasion of National Pulses Day, which has been celebrated every year in India since its announcement by the Indian government in 2016 to promote the cultivation and consumption of pulses, Indian Army took this opportunity to interact with students and locals, thereby contributing to the cause by spreading awareness through a lecture delivered at Govt Middle School, Moriyian.

The lecture aimed to raise awareness about the importance of pulses in our diet, encourage farm-

ers to grow more pulses to meet the increasing demand, and promote research and development in pulse production. The local farmers and women engaged in open dialogues, showing their enthusiasm and interest in pulse farming, which was humbly reciprocated and encouraged. The event concluded with a closing address by Mukhtiar Ahmad, thanking the Indian Army for this awareness lecture, followed by a group photograph and new learnings for the attendees, thus fostering harmony and respect between civilians and the Indian Army.

JU outplay Technical University Uttarakhand by 115 runs

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

In a spectacular display of cricket, Jammu University secured their second victory in the North Zone Inter-University Cricket Tournament 2024-25, defeating Technical University Uttarakhand by a massive margin. Batting first, Jammu University posted a challenging total of 192/7 in their 20 overs, thanks to the standout performances from their top order.

Govind was the top scorer for Jammu University, accumulating an impressive 72 runs, while Ishan Bali contributed with a solid 62 runs. Their efforts guided the team to a formidable score, which proved to be more than enough against a struggling Uttarakhand bowling attack.



Aditya and Deepak Joshi were the pick of the bowlers for Uttarakhand, both claiming 2 wickets each, but their efforts were not enough to stop the strong batting lineup from Jammu University.

In response, Uttarakhand's chase faltered badly as they were bowled out for just 77 runs in 16.3 overs. The Jammu University bowlers dominated, with Govind shining once again.

He was sensational with the ball, claiming 3 wickets for just 18 runs in his 4 overs. Captain Vikshay Vashist also played a crucial role, taking 2 wickets for 16 runs from his 4 overs. The duo's disciplined bowling effort dismantled the Uttarakhand batting lineup.

The top performers from Uttarakhand were Yash Parthak, who scored 32 runs before being dismissed by captain Vikshay

Vashist, and Vickey Kumar, who managed to score 19 runs. However, the rest of the Uttarakhand side struggled against the tight bowling attack of Jammu University.

After the match, Jammu University's captain, Vikshay Vashist, expressed confidence in his team's abilities, stating, "We have a very strong team, and we are working hard to improve with every match. We will continue to give our best in the upcoming games."

Jammu University's all-around performance has firmly established them as one of the top contenders in this year's tournament, and with their momentum building, they will be looking to extend their winning streak in the coming matches.

BJP celebrates Shree Guru Ravidas Jayanti

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

J&K BJP celebrated Shree Guru Ravidas Jayanti with fervour at its party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

While paying floral tributes to Sant Shree Guru Ravidass ji Maharaj, Sat Sharma CA, President, J&K BJP, and Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization) addressed the party workers present on the occasion.

Sat Sharma said that Shri Guru Ravidas was a great Saint, philosopher, poet, and a social reformer. He said that Guru Ravidas was devoted towards the Almighty and was a great poet. Sant Ravidas tried to express himself through Bhakti and Sat-sang. He always worked for the betterment of society. He said that the Modi government is taking forward the teachings of



Sant Ravidas Maharaj and working incessantly for the welfare of the poor, downtrodden and those who were neglected and oppressed.

Ashok Koul said that Shri Ravidas birth anniversary is celebrated by BJP activists and his followers to remember his great teachings as well as renew the establishment of peace and brotherhood all over the world. He prompted others to follow the teachings of

Sant Shree Guru Ravidass Maharaj and dedicate their time to serve the needy persons.

Senior leader & former minister, Bali Bhagat, said that Guru Ravidas preached equality in communities and preached to promote social harmony in society.

Proceedings of the programme were conducted by Balbir Ram Rattan. He said that Sant Ravidas Jayanti is celebrated with a lot of zeal not only in India

but in many countries. He further said that Sant Ravidas has always worked to uplift the weaker sections of society.

Naresh Singh Jasrotia, Parduman Singh, Rakesh Sangral, Seema Devi, Gulshan Bhagat, Ashok Gandhi, Rekha Mahajan, Mohinder Bhagat, K. K. Digra and G. R. Bhagat, also spoke on the occasion.

Vote of thanks was presented by Adarsh Jathiar.

Indian Army organized a career counselling session for students at Kalaban Rajouri

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, 12 FEB 2025

In its continued efforts to guide and inspire young minds, the Indian Army organized a Career Counselling Session at Kalaban Middle School for students aspiring to shape their future after Class 10th and 12th.

The interactive session aimed to educate students about various career options available to them, including opportunities in the Armed Forces, Civil Services, Engineering, Medicine, and other professional fields. During the session, students were provided with valuable insights into different career paths, eligibility criteria, required qualifications, and preparation strategies for competitive exams. Special



emphasis was given to opportunities in the Indian Armed Forces, including recruitment through the NCC, National Defence Academy, Technical Entry Scheme, and the Agniveer Scheme, among others. Additionally, guidance was extended on higher education options, skill development programs, and government initiatives to support students in their career aspirations.

The students actively participated in the discussion, asking questions and seeking advice

on various career-related aspects. The session concluded with motivational words, encouraging students to work hard, stay determined, and make informed career choices. The lecture was attended by 62 students from different classes. All staff members, the principal of the school, and the sarpanch of the village appreciated the efforts being made by the Indian Army to guide and motivate the youth in achieving their dreams.

GCW Gandhinagar starts short-term training program on "Retail Management"

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Department of Commerce and Department of Computer Sciences, Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, has commenced a specialized Retail Management Training Program in collaboration with ICT Academy and Infosys Foundation. This initiative aims to equip students with essential skills and industry knowledge to excel in the dynamic retail sector. The inaugural ceremony of the program was held today, witnessed the esteemed presence of distinguished speakers, educators and professionals in the field.

Mr. Ajay Yousuf, ICT Academy and Infosys Foundation, officially started the program,



focuses on enhancing employability by providing hands-on training in retail operations, customer service, sales strategies, and business management. He highlights the program designed that bridge the gap between academic learning and industry expectations, ensuring students are well-prepared for opportunities in the retail industry.

Further, Prof. S.P. Saraswat, Principal, Padma Shri Padma Sachdev, GCW, Gandhi Nagar Jammu, applauded and congratulated

the efforts of entire team for organizing such useful programmes for the benefit of students.

Mr. Lovetesh Kumar, Senior Manager, ICT Academy and Infosys Foundation, emphasized the significance of such skill-based programs in fostering career readiness. He laid stress on how this training program will enable students to secure promising job opportunities in retail and related sectors.

Prof. Arjun Kotwal, Head of the Department, Computer Science, and

Dr. Asha Devi, Head of the Department, Commerce, were the also keynote speakers at the event. Both dignitaries emphasized the importance of industry-aligned training and assured their full support in ensuring the successful execution of the Retail Management Training Program. They highlighted how such initiatives empower students with practical knowledge and professional skills, making them competitive in the job market.

The trainer of the pro-

gram, Miss Suraj, also introduced the participants to the course structure, learning objectives, and key industry insights that would be covered during the training. She emphasized the importance of practical exposure and interactive learning in mastering retail management concepts. Her session provided a clear roadmap for students to develop essential skills for careers in the retail sector.

The event also welcomed Prof. Liaquat Jafri, HOD (Department of Urdu), Dr. Himani Arora (Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce) and Prof. Paramjeet Singh (Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science), whose presence further enriched the inaugural ceremony.

EDITORIAL

Fraud in Ayushman Bharat?

The Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) was launched as a flagship healthcare scheme to provide financial protection to the economically weaker sections of society. However, the recent revelations of large-scale fraud by private hospitals under this scheme highlight a serious challenge in its implementation. It is deeply concerning that private hospitals across the country, including those in Jammu and Kashmir, have engaged in fraudulent activities by submitting fake bills and making false claims, siphoning off public funds meant for the most vulnerable. According to the recent data of the Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, as many as 2.7 lakh fraudulent claims worth Rs 562.4 crore have been detected under AB-PMJAY. Jammu and Kashmir alone accounted for a staggering Rs 11.82 crore in fraudulent claims. In response to these financial irregularities, authorities have de-empanelled 1,114 hospitals and suspended 549 hospitals, sending a strong message that fraud and abuse will not be tolerated. The National Health Authority (NHA), in coordination with the National Anti-Fraud Unit (NAFU) and State Anti-Fraud Units (SAFU), has stepped up efforts to curb these malpractices. The deployment of artificial intelligence-based monitoring, near real-time tracking of hospital claims, and regular audits have played a critical role in identifying and addressing fraudulent activities. While these measures are commendable, the scale of fraud uncovered suggests the need for even stronger oversight and accountability mechanisms. The root cause of such large-scale fraudulent activity lies in the unethical practices adopted by private hospitals, which view public welfare schemes as opportunities for profit rather than as initiatives to serve the needy. This breach of trust not only undermines the credibility of AB-PMJAY but also deprives genuine beneficiaries of essential healthcare services. It is imperative that stricter legal actions, including hefty fines, blacklisting, and criminal proceedings, are taken against hospitals found guilty of fraud. Moreover, strengthening the role of State Health Agencies (SHAs) in conducting surprise inspections, increasing transparency in claim processing, and promoting whistleblower protections can act as further deterrents. The government must also ensure that its anti-fraud mechanisms remain dynamic and responsive to emerging threats. The Ayushman Bharat scheme was designed to provide a safety net for the underprivileged, but fraudulent practices threaten to erode its integrity. A zero-tolerance policy towards fraud must not remain a mere declaration but should translate into decisive action. Ensuring the rightful beneficiaries receive their due must remain the foremost priority in safeguarding the sanctity of India's largest healthcare scheme. The need of the hour is to identify the black-sheep and lapses on the part of those at the helm of affairs to ensure that their responsibility is fixed and they are taken to task so that this prestigious scheme is implemented in its true letter and spirit.

Trump's 'America first' policy causes chaos

BK SINGH

One of the first executive orders signed by Donald Trump after his inauguration as US President was the withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord, overlooking a whole lot of climate disruptions that the country has faced since his election campaign. At least 335 human deaths were attributed to Hurricane Beryl and Hurricane Milton, making 2024 the deadliest hurricane season in the continental US since 2005. What followed each time was damaged buildings, roads and bridges and power outages for several days, forcing people to live without electricity for days and weeks. The year 2025 welcomed the US with unprecedented snowfall in the central and eastern part forcing the shifting of Trump's second term inauguration indoors, and a week earlier, catastrophic wildfires ravaged the Los Angeles region in the western part of the country.

The fire lasted for ten days and climate experts have attributed it to strong Santa Ana winds and extremely dry weather making forest vegetation readymade fuel. Los Angeles fire killed at least 25 persons, damaged more than 15,000 structures and ravaged more than 200 square km area. 60,000 persons including Hollywood stars left home for safety. The largest fire in the region the Palisades and Eaton have

continued to burn for ten days. After El Nino and neutral weather conditions, La Nina arrived and pushed the storm back to the northern part of the US making the northern part wetter than usual and the southern part drier than usual. Santa Ana winds common in January and February in the region have been aggressive with wind speeds up to 120 km per hour.

This made damage control difficult. The temperature contrast between cooler inland areas (southern California deserts) and warmer coastal areas is the recipe for these winds. The extent of dryness of the area can be understood by the fact that the last half-inch of rain received in the region was only a year ago. In his America First policy, Trump has been continuously announcing to increase tariffs on goods imported from Canada, Mexico, China and several more. He has also named Brazil and India among the countries that harm the US, through their tariffs. Trump's action has the potential to initiate a trade war among countries and impact many developing economies.

He has offered two million federal workers the option to resign but get paid till September 2025, in his effort to cut the federal workforce and push out those who do not support his political agenda.

Though federal law has long protected civil servants from pressure and political interference,

yet President is testing his power. The process of deportation of illegal immigrants has started in a big way. Search for other undocumented immigrants is aggressively going on. Religious places like Gurudwaras have been searched in New York and New Jersey, at the cost of antagonising Sikh and other religious groups. He has also said that he will hold some in Guantanamo Bay away from legal and social services and support. Some of these migrants are so bad that countries cannot be trusted to hold them back. Time will tell whether Trump's agenda to bring manufacturing back to the US would succeed in the absence of a labour force that is largely being deported/ housed in Guantanamo Bay where 30,000 beds are being added to expand the government's detention capacity.

Renaming the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America would hardly carry any meaning, but it can irritate a neighbouring country and may be a spoilsport in their relationship. Donald Trump wants Canada to become the 51st state of the USA and his justification is that the US is the only country Canada shares its boundary along the land and makes it secure. The countries have a free trade agreement and Canada takes full advantage of it. Further Trump has expressed to take over the Panama Canal from Panama and purchase Greenland from Denmark for strategic reasons and

security of the USA.

These steps are needed to have a check over growing Chinese control on trade with Latin American countries. Greenland is approachable by China from the Arctic side, while the Panama Canal is crucial for Chinese ships to cross from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, which provides a shorter route for trade to all countries in South America. The taking over of the Panama Canal and Greenland can have serious environmental fallout. World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) secretary-general Celeste Saulo, while addressing the 150th Foundation Day celebration of the Indian Meteorological Department referred average global temperature rise of 1.55 degrees Celsius in 2024 over the preindustrial period and she termed it as a "very grave danger" and called for decisive climate action in 2025 and speed up the transition to renewable energy. Trump has again withdrawn from the Paris Climate Accord and prioritised energy self-sufficiency through domestic drilling and exploration of oil and natural gas with the sole justification of cutting the cost of energy and thereby bringing down inflation.

It is feared that the gains achieved by Biden through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) 2022, where \$369 billion was invested in clean energy initiatives and that also created jobs in the US, will be dismantled. He has declared a National Energy emergency, a first in US

history, which may lead to the suspension of environmental rules and grant permission for mining projects. He has halted the lease of federal water for offshore wind farms and called for shutting wind turbines that cause wildfire.

The prohibition on drilling of oil and gas in Polar Bear Wildlife Sanctuary in Alaska has been lifted. It will not only threaten the life of wildlife species but would accelerate the melting of ice in the region, causing undue concern such as sea level rise etc. Why US is keeping an eye on Greenland? It has a history. Immediately after World War II, they planned there to build 600 nuclear missile bases to be mounted on a train riding 3000 km of track.

It never took off. In the late 1950s and early 1960s US Army made a camp there for the 'Project Ice-worm'. A small nuclear reactor was brought to power the camp. Once they realized after a few years that the project was not feasible, they gave up but left a lot of nuclear waste water at the camp. They also left thousands of litres of diesel fuel in the middle of Greenland's ice sheet, expecting that it would remain buried in the ice forever. But climate change happened, the planet has warmed and ice has melted.

It has the potential to contaminate water in Greenland. While China has deployed its vast foreign exchange reserve to secure long-term control

over strategic minerals critical for advanced technologies in the defence sector, climate change etc. in resource-rich nations like copper and cobalt from Congo and Peru, nickel from Indonesia and lithium from Argentina, the Trump administration is looking to counter it by accessing rare earth and critical mineral deposits in Greenland.

The southern pointed mountains of Greenland are gold belts, which is another temptation for the new US administration. Panama Canal, an engineering marvel constructed in 1913 enables ships to cross from the lower water level of the Atlantic to the higher water level of the Pacific Ocean, saving the costs and journey time in trades. A dam was built on river Cagres and water was impounded in Gatun Lake, where ships pass.

The level of water in Gatun is managed through gates. With the rising water level ships from the Atlantic side gain height and sail towards the Pacific. The flow of water in River Cagres and many other rivers from Amazon forests has been depleted due to massive degradation and deforestation. Panama Canal efficiency is lowered and hardly half the ships can cross. Trump should strive to conserve river catchments, rather than owning the Panama Canal.

(The writer is Retd Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force, Karnataka. Views are personal)

Educating For The Future Through STEM And STEAM

BY MOOLRAJ

Global technical developments are changing the world. Experts estimate that as 2030 approaches, AI may completely replace human management, outperforming humans in many domains. Notwithstanding these noteworthy advancements, it is improbable that technology will ever fully replace some of the fundamental human abilities - such as creativity, collaboration and flexibility - that are necessary for innovation and problem-solving in the contemporary environment. To prepare students for the future of innovation, new educational strategies are being introduced that emphasise both technical expertise and soft skills. Two prominent models aimed at achieving this are STEM (Sci-

ence, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and its evolution into STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics).

STEM education emphasises the value of science, technology, engineering and mathematics in solving difficult global issues while giving students the information and abilities they need to succeed in technical disciplines. STEM education fosters critical thinking, issue analysis and creative problem-solving in students by encouraging experiential learning and multidisciplinary teamwork. Its objective is to develop the next generation of leaders in fields including science, engineering, technology and medicine. The need for experts in these sectors will only increase as long as technology continues to advance

at such a rapid rate. STEM education equips students for a future where creativity and problem-solving skills are essential, in addition to preparing them for particular vocations in these fields. As automation rises across numerous industries, STEM graduates will be needed to design, develop and manage the technologies that power modern society, making STEM an essential foundation for a future-driven economy.

While STEM emphasises technical skills, it does not fully address the importance of creativity, a quality equally vital for innovation. This is where the evolution of STEAM comes in. By adding the arts (Art) to the STEM framework, STEAM fosters a more holistic approach to learning that combines technical expertise with

creative thinking. The inclusion of art in the curriculum encourages students to think creatively, embrace design thinking and find innovative solutions that blend technical proficiency with aesthetic and functional considerations. In a world where human-centred technology is becoming more prevalent, the ability to incorporate creativity into technical fields is a key differentiator. For example, designing intuitive user interfaces or developing cutting-edge products that resonate with consumers requires both technical skills and a strong sense of artistic vision.

STEAM recognises that creativity is not a luxury but a necessity in a fast-evolving technological landscape. As industries continue to adopt automation and AI, human

ingenuity will remain at the heart of innovation. By integrating the arts, STEAM equips students with the tools to think beyond purely technical aspects of a problem and develop solutions that are both functional and creative. This broader educational approach ensures that future professionals are not only proficient in science and technology but also capable of adapting and innovating in ways that enhance society.

Despite the growing reliance on AI and automation, certain human skills will always be essential. Creativity, teamwork and adaptability are non-technical qualities that no machine can replicate. These skills enable individuals to collaborate effectively, navigate challenges and find solutions to problems that may not have

a clear, algorithmic answer. Incorporating these soft skills into STEM and STEAM education is crucial for preparing students for the future. By encouraging teamwork and interdisciplinary collaboration, STEM and STEAM programmes create environments where students learn to leverage each other's strengths, share ideas and innovate together.

Adaptability is essential in a world where technology is constantly reshaping industries. Those who can adapt to new tools and ways of working will be in high demand as job roles evolve. STEM and STEAM education equip students to embrace change, develop resilience and keep learning throughout their careers.

The author is a regular columnist and freelance writer

Union budget 2025: Transforming agriculture for a sustainable and inclusive future

PUSHPLATA SINGH

Agriculture has been the backbone of India's economy, sustaining growth and the livelihoods of millions, thus correctly referred to as the primary engine for India's accelerated and inclusive growth in the annual budget presented on February 1, 2025. However, the sector is facing numerous challenges, including deteriorating soil quality, stagnating crop yields, inadequate technologies, shrinking farmlands, poor infrastructure and heightened vulnerability to climate change, which poses a threat to food security and the wellbeing of our Anndatta. Further, these difficulties have led to a troubling trend: many marginal farmers and agricultural labourers from rural areas are being forced to migrate

to cities in search of better opportunities.

Agricultural sustainability is also closely tied to climate change, which affects nearly all of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With a population still heavily reliant on farming, the need for sectoral reforms is undeniable. New policies and regulations are crucial for inclusive and accelerated growth. India's 2025 budget addresses issues in the agriculture sector with a forward-thinking framework, by enabling improved credit access, and infrastructure development, and preparing farmers for future growth.

One standout initiative is the Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY). India's agricultural sector is marked by significant regional disparities, with

certain districts lagging in infrastructure, productivity, and economic opportunities. This ambitious program stands as a transformative initiative for rural India, focusing on the 100 most underdeveloped districts, and directly benefiting around 1.7 crore farmers. PMDDKY focuses on these underdeveloped areas, directing resources to regions that have been overlooked in the broader development process. This initiative seeks to ensure that farmers in these areas have access to the same opportunities as their counterparts in more prosperous regions.

The program aims to address long-standing agricultural challenges and empower farmers, particularly those affected by climate change and those from marginalised communities. With proper execution, PMDDKY can

spark a ripple effect of development, improving infrastructure, technology access, and financial services in these districts thus enabling equitable growth across the country. By focusing on sustainability, inclusivity, and empowerment, PMDDKY strives to uplift farmers, women, and marginalised communities while ensuring resilience against future challenges.

The program also offers access to high-yielding

varieties of seed and irrigation techniques and training to address the root causes of agricultural stagnation.

By supporting farmers in overcoming unpredictable weather patterns, outdated techniques, and limited market access, PMDDKY provides a pathway to more stable and productive farming. A distinctive feature of PMDDKY is its focus on empowering marginalised groups, particularly the

poorest farmers.

These communities often face barriers such as limited access to credit, technology, and education. PMDDKY seeks to address these gaps by providing women farmers with greater control over land, improved training, and better market access. For marginalised communities, the program aims to ensure they are included in the benefits of agricultural development, promoting equality and

empowerment. PMDDKY is not only about boosting agricultural output but also ensuring sustainable practices.

One of the unfortunate consequences of rural stagnation is the mass migration of farmers to urban areas in search of better opportunities. By strengthening agriculture in rural areas, PMDDKY aims to create conditions where farmers can thrive while cultivating their farmlands. If executed well, PMDDKY could be the catalyst for a brighter, more inclusive future in agriculture, where every farmer has the tools to thrive. The hope is that migration for farmers will become a choice, not a necessity—allowing agricultural communities to thrive where they are.

The budget also emphasises investment in innovation and technology,

particularly in developing high-yield, climate-resilient crop varieties. The creation of germplasm banks to restore and introduce local crop varieties will strengthen domestic production. Additionally, the government is working to enhance the agricultural value chain, focusing on better storage, transportation, and export infrastructure, benefiting both farmers and consumers. Targeted schemes for crops like cotton, pulses, oilseeds, and vegetables will help mitigate the effects of climate change on farmers. These programs aim to boost food security and export potential, all while securing farmers' livelihoods.

(The writer is Associate Director, The Energy and Resources Institute; views are personal)



Boost Hair Growth and Volume with Flaxseed: 10 Simple Ways

Flaxseed is known for its incredible health benefits, and it's increasingly becoming a popular ingredient in hair care. Packed with omega-3 fatty acids, fiber, and antioxidants, flaxseed nourishes the scalp and promotes healthy hair growth. Here are 10 effective ways to incorporate flaxseed into your routine for thicker, healthier hair.



A flaxseed hair rinse helps balance the pH of your scalp, promoting healthy hair growth. Boil flaxseeds in water, strain, and use the cooled liquid to rinse your hair after shampooing. This rinse can enhance hair texture and volume.

1. Flaxseed Oil Massage

Flaxseed oil is rich in essential fatty acids that promote hair growth. Gently massaging flaxseed oil into your scalp stimulates blood circulation, which can help nourish hair follicles and boost hair growth. Apply it in circular motions and leave it on for about 30 minutes before rinsing it out.

2. Flaxseed Gel Hair Mask

A flaxseed gel hair mask is a natural way to condition and hydrate your hair. The gel helps reduce frizz, adds shine, and makes hair smoother. Simply boil flaxseeds in water, strain the gel, and apply it to damp hair for 20-30 minutes before rinsing.

3. Flaxseed Oil Hair Serum

Flaxseed oil can be used as a lightweight hair

serum. It works wonders to tame frizz and add shine to your hair. Just apply a few drops of flaxseed oil to the ends of your hair to seal moisture and protect against heat damage.

4. Flaxseed and Yogurt Hair Pack

A flaxseed and yogurt hair pack is a perfect combination for nourishing and strengthening hair. Yogurt hydrates while flaxseed promotes hair growth and volume. Mix both ingredients and apply the pack to your hair for 30-45 minutes for best results.

5. Flaxseed Smoothies

Flaxseed smoothies are a great way to nourish your body and support hair growth from the inside out. The omega-3s in flaxseed nourish the scalp and stimulate hair growth. Add a tablespoon of ground flaxseed to your

smoothie and enjoy its health benefits.

6. Flaxseed Hot Oil Treatment

A hot oil treatment using flaxseed oil can deeply nourish your hair. Heat flaxseed oil slightly and apply it to your hair and scalp. Wrap your head with a warm towel and leave it on for 30-45 minutes before washing it out to improve hair strength and shine.

7. Flaxseed Infused Shampoo

You can infuse your shampoo with flaxseed oil for a moisturizing and hair-strengthening effect. Add a few drops of flaxseed oil to your regular shampoo bottle. It can boost your shampoo's ability to promote healthy hair and improve texture over time.

8. Flaxseed Hair Rinse

9. Flaxseed and Chia Pudding

Flaxseed and chia pudding is not only a healthy snack but also a great way to nourish your hair. The combination of omega-3 fatty acids from both seeds helps to maintain a healthy scalp and promote hair growth. Enjoy it regularly to support hair health.

10. Flaxseed Energy Bars

Flaxseed energy bars are a nutritious snack that supports overall health and boosts hair growth. By adding flaxseeds to your diet in the form of energy bars, you're feeding your body with the essential nutrients needed for healthy hair, including proteins and omega-3s.

Note: Before starting any new treatment or dietary change, it is advisable to consult a doctor, especially if you have underlying health conditions.

India promoting digital, financial literacy among women entrepreneurs in rural areas: Govt at UN

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

India is promoting digital, and financial literacy among women entrepreneurs in rural areas, said Savitri Thakur, Union Minister of State for the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

She said this at the ongoing 63rd session of the UN's Commission for Social Development (CSOCD), being held from February 10 to 14, in New York, US. The session is aimed at encouraging discussions and collaborations on pressing social development challenges, with an emphasis on advancing inclusive social policies and fostering

global social well-being. "India has embraced 'women-led development', ensuring women are key players in shaping the development trajectory," said Thakur.

"India has launched large-scale programmes to bridge the gender digital divide, promoting digital and financial literacy, especially in rural areas. This has empowered millions of women entrepreneurs, from start-ups to scalable businesses," she added.

Thakur stated that initiatives like the JAM TRINITY (Jan Dhan, Aadhar, Mobile), have helped "India achieve financial inclusion for disadvantaged communities, espe-

cially women, persons with disabilities, and the elderly".

The Minister highlighted increasing women's workforce participation is a key priority of the government and thus they have developed a robust social protection model. This includes 26 weeks of paid maternity leave, maternity benefits for 37.5 million mothers, a network of one-stop centres, and an integrated national women's helpline.

In addition, India also provides early childhood care, nutrition, and education which benefit over 100 million children, mothers, and adolescent girls.

"India is fully committed to accelerating global progress and supporting the Commission's efforts toward a just world for all," Thakur said.

The session witnessed the participation of 49 Countries including Ministers from 16 countries like France, Turkiye, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, etc.

India has been an active participant since the 1995 Copenhagen Summit on Social Development. The country has also made significant progress in addressing poverty, malnutrition, and universal healthcare, while also pioneering digital public infrastructure for sustainable development.

Australian research discovers brain swelling in long Covid, chronic fatigue patients

AGENCIES
SYDNEY

Patients with Long Covid and chronic fatigue tend to have swelling in an area of the brain associated with memory and concentration, according to a study published on Tuesday.

Researchers from Griffith University in Australia used an ultra-high-field magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine to analyse how long Covid and myalgic encephalomyelitis -- also known as chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) -- similarly impact brain structure, Xinhua news agency reported.

The research involved 17 long Covid patients, 29 CFS patients, and 15 people with neither condition. The team identified



significantly larger hippocampal volume in long Covid and CFS patients compared to healthy individuals.

The hippocampus is a small but important part of the brain that helps with learning and converting short-term memories into long-term memories, as well as verbal and spatial memory.

The research, published in the scientific journal

PLOS ONE, found that hippocampal volume was similar among long Covid and CFS patients and that hippocampal swelling was linked to symptom severity in both groups.

Kiran Thapaliya, lead author of the new study, said that the findings show that hippocampal impairment in long Covid and CFS patients "may play a significant role in cognitive difficulties such as

memory problems, difficulty concentrating, and delayed responses to questions or conversations."

He said that the larger volume could be caused by neurogenesis -- the process by which new cells are formed in the brain -- or by a virus in the brain.

Further, the study also found the size of the hippocampus was associated with symptom severity in both patient groups.

People with high hippocampus volume had "impaired concentration, unrestorative sleep, pain, and fatigue," Thapaliya said.

The researchers noted that the overlap between CFS and long Covid may pave the way for exploring potential treatments for both conditions.

S.Korea to amend law to place teachers with mental disorders on compulsory leave

The South Korean government on Wednesday said it seeks to amend a law to place teachers with mental disorders on compulsory leave, following a fatal stabbing of an 8-year-old student by a school teacher that shocked the nation this week.

Education Minister Lee Ju-ho announced the plan during a meeting of top education officials in Seoul, after a female teacher in her 40s fatally stabbed a student at an elementary school in the central city of Daejeon on Monday, Yonhap news agency reported.

"We will amend the law

so that necessary measures can be taken, such as compulsory leave, for school teachers who have difficulty carrying out their duties due to mental disorders," Lee said, noting the amendment would be tentatively named the "Ha-neul Act" after the late student.

Lee said authorities would come up with fundamental measures to ensure that such a tragic incident does not ever happen again.

Ruling and opposition political parties have also called for the introduction of a law for preventative measures in light of the incident, with the People

Power Party planning to hold talks with the government for such measures.

Police have said the suspect, surnamed Myeong, was found to have received treatment for depression since 2018 and thought of killing herself while on a sick leave that began last December before she returned to work early from her leave.

Myeong reportedly assaulted a colleague days before the stabbing murder, but education authorities were found to have not taken any meaningful response measures at the time.

Meanwhile, another school teacher has been

charged with the murder of a toddler son and attempted patricide in South Korea.

The 30-something middle school teacher based in North Gyeongsang Province has been charged with murdering her 3-year-old son, months after she attempted to kill her father but failed, Yonhap reported citing sources.

The teacher, whose identity is being withheld, is charged with murdering her son and the attempted murder of her father. The trial is set to begin in March at the Gimcheon branch of the Daegu District Court, according to police sources and education authorities.

Study shows potassium-enriched salt can reduce recurrent stroke risk

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Potassium supplements in salt can significantly reduce the risks of stroke recurrence as well as death, according to an international study.

The study comes amidst the new recommendation by the World Health Organization (WHO) to take potassium-enriched salt to combat hypertension and related heart risks.

Stroke is a leading cause of death and disability, and recurrent events remain a major concern. High sodium intake and low potassium intake are considered key risk factors.

"The study suggests that potassium salt substitute significantly reduced the risks of stroke recurrence and death, and is a novel and practical therapeutic option for patients with stroke," said the researchers, including



"Results of this cluster trial demonstrate that salt substitution was safe, along with reduced risks of stroke recurrence and death, which underscores large health gains from scaling up this low-cost intervention among patients with stroke," the researchers said.

The WHO, in its recent guideline, suggests using K-salt or potassium chloride instead of regular table salt, which is rich in sodium. The K-salt may help reduce the risk of hypertension, which can lead to cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) and chronic kidney disease, by lowering blood pressure.

It also lowers the risks of other conditions associated with high sodium intake, such as gastric cancer.

As per the WHO, every year, 80 Lakh people die due to poor diet. Of these, 19 lakh deaths are attributable to high sodium intake.

from China, Australia, and the UK.

The randomised clinical trial involved 15,249 participants from China who had previously reported suffering from a stroke.

The participants were assigned to use either a salt substitute, consisting of 75 per cent sodium chloride and 25 per cent potassium chloride by mass, or regular salt.

The findings, published in JAMA Cardiology, showed that recurrent stroke was reduced by

14 per cent in the potassium substitute group compared with those in the regular salt group.

A total of 2,735 recurrent stroke events occurred, with 691 fatal and 2,044 nonfatal episodes.

Haemorrhagic stroke showed a 30 per cent relative reduction, and stroke-related deaths decreased by 21 per cent.

The researchers also found no meaningful difference in hyperkalemia (high potassium levels) between groups.

Common antibiotic shows hope for inflammatory bowel disease

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

An antibiotic used to treat infective diarrhoea may be an effective drug for a type of inflammatory bowel disease, according to a new study.

Researchers from the University of Birmingham, UK, showed that an antibiotic called vancomycin may also be effective in treating people who have a specific type of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), which develops due to an incurable autoimmune liver disease called primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC).

Notably, four in five patients who participated in the study achieved remission after taking the drug as part of a clinical trial published in the Journal of Crohn's and Colitis.

The study is significant, as several participants with this disease had not responded to other IBD treatments.

Moreover, IBD and PSC are closely correlated, with most individuals who have PSC developing IBD, and up to 14 per cent of patients with IBD also developing PSC.

Together, the condition raised the need for colon



surgery and or developing colon or liver cancer, which would then need a liver transplant. It also raises the overall risk of death.

"Our findings suggest that vancomycin could offer a new therapeutic option for patients with this challenging combination of IBD and autoimmune liver disease," said Dr. Mohammed Nabil Quraishi from the Univer-

sity of Birmingham.

During the trial, participants were treated with oral antibiotics for four weeks. About 80 per cent of patients achieved clinical remission after the treatment.

They also showed a significant decrease in inflammatory markers, and 100 per cent showed mucosal healing.

However, when the treatment was stopped

after 8 weeks, the symptoms returned.

Vancomycin was also shown to induce changes in certain bile acids, which are now being further investigated to develop and refine treatments for IBD-associated PSC.

Although the results are preliminary, they provide a strong foundation for further research, said the team.

BSS celebrates 130th Birth Anniversary of Acharya Srimat Swami Pranavanandaji Maharaj

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

The 130th Birth Anniversary of Acharya Srimat Swami Pranavanandaji Maharaj, the revered founder of Bharat Sevashram Sangha (BSS), was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm at BSS Ashram Panjgrain, Nagrota, near here. The event was part of the global celebrations held across all national and international branches of the Sangha.

The occasion was graced by the presence of Swami Mrinmayanandaji Maharaj, Shri Niladri Barman, Principal, teachers, and students of Swami Pranavananda Vidyamandir. The event also witnessed the participation of prominent dignitaries, including Chander Mohan



Gupta, Ex-Mayor of Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. B. B. Sharma, Dr. Salathia, and Dr. Deepak De from BSS Medical.

The celebrations began with Vedic prayers and devotional songs, followed by enlightening discourses

on the life and teachings of Swami Pranavanandaji Maharaj.

Swami Mrinmayanandaji Maharaj highlighted the spiritual and humanitarian contributions of the revered saint, emphasizing his mission of service,

self-discipline, and dedication to humanity.

The students of Swami Pranavananda Vidyamandir performed cultural programs, including Bhajans and speeches, showcasing the impact of Swamiji's teachings on

young minds.

The dignitaries present lauded the efforts of BSS Jammu in carrying forward the mission of selfless service, education, and healthcare for the underprivileged.

Speaking on the occasion, Chander Mohan Gupta gave a brief account of idealism and gospels of Swami Pranavanandaji Maharaj and urged everyone to follow the path of truth and disciplined life.

The program concluded with a community feast (bhandara), reflecting the values of unity and selfless service, as envisioned by Swami Pranavanandaji Maharaj.

The celebrations served as a reminder of his profound teachings and legacy, inspiring attendees to dedicate themselves to the welfare of society.

Indian Army conducts medical patrol for Gujjar, Bakarwal communities at Mathiyani Rajouri

JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 12 FEB 2025

The Indian Army conducted a medical patrol for the benefit of the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities in Mathiyani, Rajouri District. The medical team provided essential care to 31 individuals, including 8 females, 14 males, and 9 children. The medical patrol was organized by the Indian Army as part of its ongoing efforts to provide medical aid and support to remote and inaccessible areas. The team of medical professionals provided free check-ups, consultations, and medication to the local population.

The Gujjar and Bakarwal communities, being nomadic in nature, often



face challenges in accessing basic medical facilities. The Indian Army's initiative aimed to bridge this gap and provide essential care to these communities. The medical patrol was well-received by the local population, who expressed their gratitude

for the Indian Army's efforts in providing medical aid and support. The event reinforced the Indian Army's commitment to serving the nation and supporting local communities, particularly in remote and inaccessible areas.

Saini Sabha honours Ch. Lal Singh, others at Arnia

JNEWS SERVICE
ARNIA, FEB 12

Kamal Saini, former IGP of J&K Police and Chief Patron of Saini Sabha J&K, today honored Ch. Lal Singh, former MP, Senior Congress leader Taranjit Singh Tony, Rajeev Kumar MLA Bishnah and members of Saini Community' meritorious people for their contributions to society, in a grand event organized at Suhagpur, Arnia. The event witnessed a large gathering of community members and prominent personalities who came together to celebrate the achievements and contributions of the Saini community.

Addressing the gathering, Kamal Saini reiterated his commitment to the upliftment and empowerment of the Saini community. He emphasized the need for unity and collective efforts to ensure the socio-economic progress



of the community. Pledging his unwavering support, he urged the youth to focus on education, skill development, and self-reliance to secure a better future.

Speaking on the occasion, Ch. Lal Singh lauded the contributions of the Saini community and

emphasized the significance of agriculture and entrepreneurship. He encouraged the youth to focus on their ancestral land and farming, asserting that it offers far better opportunities than government service. Highlighting the menace of drug addiction, he urged the young-

er generation to remain vigilant and steer clear of destructive influences, emphasizing the importance of a disciplined and purposeful life.

Senior Congress leader Taranjit Singh Tony praised the Saini community for its loyalty, bravery, and dedication to the welfare of society. He acknowledged the community's role in strengthening the socio-political fabric of Jammu & Kashmir and assured full support in addressing their concerns and developmental needs.

Tony stressed the importance of leadership within the community and encouraged active participation in political and social spheres.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks, with attendees expressing their gratitude to Kamal Saini for his continuous efforts in promoting the welfare of the Saini community.

Samsung Bespoke AI WindFree AC Range ideal for all cooling needs of Modern Lifestyles

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, has unveiled its 2025 range of Bespoke AI WindFree™ air conditioner lineup, crafted to meet the evolving needs of discerning Indian consumers. Featuring cutting-edge AI technology, energy-efficient performance, and seamless integration with modern living spaces, this range is designed to redefine cooling for Indian summers while elevating lifestyles.

Equipped with AI Fast & Comfort Cooling, these air conditioners deliver instant relief by rapidly lowering the room temperature and then transitioning to WindFree™ Cooling. This unique feature ensures a draft-free



cooling experience that maintains optimal comfort while intelligently adapting to indoor and outdoor conditions. The system continuously learns user preferences and usage patterns to offer personalized cooling solutions, making it ideal for families navigating the unpredictable Indian climate.

The WindFree™ cooling technology, with its advanced micro air hole design, evenly disperses air to create a "Still Air" environment, ensuring effective cooling without

uncomfortable drafts. This is complemented by the AI Energy Mode, which reduces energy consumption by analyzing real-time conditions and usage habits, delivering up to 30% savings while keeping homes comfortable even in peak summer months.

With SmartThings connectivity, users can effortlessly control and monitor their air conditioners through smartphones or voice assistants like Bixby, Alexa, and Google Home. Whether it is scheduling Welcome Cooling for a

pleasant arrival home or tailoring cooling settings for individual spaces, these ACs ensure convenience and a seamless connected experience.

Today where space optimization and quiet operations are paramount, the advanced twin compressor design and Twin Tube Muffler significantly reduce noise and vibrations, creating a serene indoor environment. This makes the range particularly suitable for work-from-home setups, relaxing evenings, or restful nights. Designed to integrate effortlessly into modern lifestyles, they deliver not just comfort but a sense of sophistication, making them an essential addition to every home, combining sleek, customizable aesthetics with intelligent functionality.

Movement Kalki participates in Satsang, Bhandara on Maha Purnima

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

On the auspicious occasion of Magh Purnima and Guru Ravidas Jayanti, a grand Satsang and Bhandara was organized under the divine presence of Yoga Guru Shri Shri 1008 Vijay Krishna Parashar Ji Maharaj at Bhagwat Yogdham Ashram, Ward No. 7, Shiv Enclave, Muthi Morh, Roop Nagar. Members of Movement Kalki participated in this spiritual gathering and actively promoted the cause of declaring Gau Mata (Mother Cow) as 'Rashtra Mata' (National Mother).

Yoga Guru Vijay Krishna Parashar Ji Maharaj Extends Support to Movement Kalki's Campaign

Speaking on the occasion, Yoga Guru Shri Shri 1008 Vijay Krishna Parashar Ji Maharaj said: "The demand of the saint community for declaring Gau Mata as 'Rashtra Mata' has existed for years. A 'Sanatan Board' should also be formed to protect our temples and traditions. There should be strict laws against cow slaughter. I stand with Movement Kalki and am committed to accelerating this movement further."

Movement Kalki's Pro-



test for 'Rashtra Mata' Continues for the 115th Day!

The historic protest of Movement Kalki at Amphala Chowk, Jammu, has now entered its 115th day. This movement has reached the national level, with voices rising across the country in support of Gau Mata's honor.

Demand for 'Rashtra Mata' Raised at Maha Kumbh, But Why is the Government Silent?

At both Haridwar and Prayagraj Kumbh Melas, the saint community strongly demanded that Gau Mata be declared 'Rashtra Mata' and cow slaughter be completely banned. Religious leaders firmly believe that

the stain of cow slaughter must be eradicated from India.

Despite this, the government has remained silent on this critical issue.

Although several prominent political leaders have extended their support to Movement Kalki's campaign and assured that work is in progress, the bigger question remains - "When will this demand be fulfilled? Will it be ignored once again?"

Demand for Strict Laws on Cow Protection and Temple Lands in J&K Assembly

The upcoming Jammu & Kashmir Assembly session will be crucial. Movement Kalki demands that the government clarify:

When will a 'Sanatan Board' be established to reclaim temple lands from those misusing them and destroying our traditions?

When will the law be enacted to declare Gau Mata as 'Rashtra Mata'?

When will strict penalties for cow slaughter be implemented?

Movement Kalki's Clear Message: If No Action is Taken, the Movement Will Intensify!

Movement Kalki has made it clear that if the government does not take immediate action, the agitation will be taken to the next level. The movement's commitment is firm. The struggle will continue until Gau Mata is declared 'Rashtra Mata'!

Northern Command investiture ceremony at Mathura on 12 Feb 2025

JNEWS SERVICE
MATHURA: 12 FEB 2025

Northern Command Investiture Ceremony was held in Mathura on 12 Feb 2025 to honour the individual acts of gallantry and distinguished services as well as to commend the efforts of the Units for their exceptional performance in the Northern Theatre.

Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, YSM**, VSM, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Northern Command, felicitated the officers and soldiers with gallantry and distinguished service awards, for their acts of bravery beyond the call of duty and also for their distinguished services to the Nation. A total of 38 Sena Medals (Gallantry), 05 Sena Medals (Distinguished), 02 Yudh Seva Medals and 10 Vishisht Seva Medals were awarded to the individuals. The General Officer also presented GOC-in-C Unit Appreciation to Units in recognition of their exceptional professionalism & unparalleled achievements in operations, maintenance and communications while being deployed in the Northern Theatre under adverse terrain and challenging security situation.

The GOC-in-C during his address commended the efforts of the individuals for



their acts of gallantry & distinguished services and also the Units for their collective exceptional performance. He emphasised that their efforts and contributions has made the Northern Army stronger in its area of responsibility. The GOC-in-C expressed his condolences to the Veer Naris for their loss and assured them of the Army's commitment for assisting them in their resettlement in the society. The GOC-in-C, also congratulated the family members of the award winners and further exhorted all ranks to be ever vigilant and prepared for any security challenges.

Among the awardees were Officers, Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs), and Jawans who have displayed exceptional courage and sacrifice in the line of duty. Major Prasoon Pandey of Ladakh Scouts, risked his life to save a medical evacuation team under attack during a UN peacekeeping mission,

showcasing the highest standards of bravery and selflessness. Major Laldinggheta of the Madras Regiment exhibited leadership and presence of mind despite being grievously injured thereby foiling an infiltration bid, and Captain Rohan Rabintra Hanagi an officer of the Corps of Electrical Mechanical Engineers (EME) exhibited bravery in the face of extreme adversity in Siachen Glacier that led to safe extrication of him and his men who were all buried under twenty feet snow. Similarly, Sepoy Tarachand Ranwa of Rashtriya Rifles engaged a terrorist in intense firefighting audaciously in Jammu and Kashmir, and Sepoy Muttu Sappuri of Rashtriya Rifles displayed quick thinking and raw courage in eliminating a terrorist at close quarters again in a village in Jammu and Kashmir, exemplifying the Indian Army's commitment to protecting human life and upholding the high-

est standards of military professionalism. Both the Sepoys were awarded Sena Medal for Gallantry in their courageous acts. In another noteworthy effort Naik Lahmangaihsanga Chinzha of Assam Regiment displayed camaraderie under challenging conditions to save his critically ill post commander which saved his life.

The Northern Command Investiture Ceremony is a solemn reminder of the valour and sacrifice of the soldiers and the Units in upholding the safety and security of the nation's Northern borders. Northern Command with its ethos 'Always in Combat', is the most operationally active Command of the Indian Army dealing with two adversaries and also countering the menace of terrorism in the hinterland. The Command also renders aid to civil authorities when needed while ensuring peace and security in the region.

Indian Army conducts skill devp program for womens at Akhnoor Military Station



JI NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, 12 FEB 2025

The Crossed Swords Division of the Indian Army successfully concluded a 45-day Skill Development Course (Hairstylist & Beautician) under Operation Sadbhavana at Akhnoor Military Station. This initiative aimed to uplift underprivileged sections of society by fostering self-

reliance and sustainable livelihoods. The program provided participants with hands-on training and mentorship, equipping them with essential skills for employment and entrepreneurship.

To mark the culmination of the course, a grand closing ceremony was organized, where participants were awarded skill certificates in recognition

of their achievements. The event was graced by dignitaries from both the Indian Army and civil administration, who commended the initiative for its role in empowering communities. Through such programs, the Indian Army continues to contribute beyond the battlefield, strengthening communities and promoting self-sufficiency across the nation.

GDC Thathri holds awareness program on Safer Internet Day

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

The College Literary Committee in collaboration with the department of Economics organised a graceful awareness program and a discussion session on the eve of Safer Internet Day under the theme "TOGETHER FOR A BETTER INTERNET". The whole event was organised under the able guidance and patronage of the College Principal Dr. Javid Iqbal. The guest speaker on the occasion was Prof. Mohd Saleem, HoD Economics who in his detailed presentation highlighted the significance, the integrity and the relevance of the internet in today's world. Prof Saleem also shared his thoughts about the role of parents in channelising their wards in the



technological arena. The lecture was followed by an informative question-answer session in which Prof. Saleem cleared the doubts and various queries of the students about the internet and its value and authenticity.

The College Principal Dr. Javid Iqbal in his address emphasised the need for every person to manage the use of the internet for the betterment of society and eventually making this country a step forward to development. Dr. Iqbal also lauded the efforts of the Literary Com-

mittee for organising such interactive and informative event on this day and motivated the students to spread awareness regarding the use of Internet.

The whole event was organised and managed by the convenor College Literary Committee Prof. Deepak Raj in the presence of the college staff and students. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Sanjay Kumar, HoD Urdu who congratulated everyone associated with this event for making it a grand success.

Nasir Wani says, 'CM Omar should have been invited for security review meeting in Srinagar'

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 12

Advisor to the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Nasir Aslam Wani, on Wednesday said that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha should have invited Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for a key security review meeting in Srinagar.

Speaking to reporters as per news agency KINS, Wani said that Omar Abdullah's extensive experience in managing law and order situations in the region would have been invaluable to the discussions.

"We have already acknowledged that the Lieutenant Governor is responsible for overseeing law and order. However, in principle, Omar Abdullah should have been invited to the meeting due to his vast experience in handling security matters in Jammu and Kashmir," Wani stated.

The security review meeting, chaired by LG Manoj Sinha at the Police Control Room (PCR) in Kashmir, was attended by senior officials from the Police, Army, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), and other security agencies. The meeting discusses the current security situation and strategize for upcoming challenges in the region.

IMS Jammu organizes IGNITE Your Career; A Two day Corporate Exposure Event



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Institute of Management Sciences, Jammu successfully conducted "IGNITE Your Career," a two-day Corporate Exposure Event, on 11th and 12th February for its MBA 2nd and 4th semester students. This dynamic event was designed to equip students with the essential skills and knowledge to thrive in the competitive corporate world.

The event was a whirlwind of activity, featuring engaging workshops, insightful presentations, and interactive sessions that provided students with valuable opportunities for personal and professional growth. Day one commenced with an impactful session on Financial Literacy conducted by Mr. Vibhu Goel, owner of VG Training Academy. Following this, participants delved deeper into self-discovery through a personality assessment designed to help them identify their strengths and build a unique career path. This

helped them to not only understand their own personality traits but also aided in explaining the kind of careers they are suitable for.

Day two continued with an enlightening session led by Dr. Meenakshi Sharma, Director of IMS, on the Topic -- "First Impressions Matter" where she discussed the critical importance of making a strong first impression. To simulate real-world scenarios, a mock interview session was held that provided invaluable insights and constructive feedback, allowing students to refine their interview skills and build their confidence.

Beyond skill development, "IGNITE Your Career" fostered a sense of community among aspiring professionals. The event provided a platform for students to connect with each other, learn from industry experts, and gain valuable insights into the corporate world. This event exemplifies IMS Jammu's unwavering commitment to shaping future leaders and preparing them for a successful career journey."

Congress intensifying Statehood Movement in Jammu province from tomorrow

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Hitting out at BJP led Centre Government of betraying people of Jammu & Kashmir over the issue of restoration of statehood, Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee President Shri Tariq Hameed Karra has said that centre has no intention to fulfill the commitments in this connection and the people will have to intensify the struggle for achieving their goal of securing their identity, dignity, status etc.

Addressing a press conference at PCC HQ here today, on the eve of an launching of 15 days mass contact campaign in the province, from Udhampur tomorrow. JKPC Chief said that Congress will reach out to the people to intensify the movement for statehood and send a message to centre to fulfill the commitment and gear up people for a bigger struggle for the purpose.

The campaign shall also focus on the nation-wide party campaign "Jai Babu, Jai Bhim and Jai Samvidhan" to safeguard the constitution, democracy and the independence of institutions.



The mass contact campaign is also aimed at listening to the problems faced by the cross section of society and to highlight those and discuss the issues in coming assembly session next month.

During the district wise review meetings in Kashmir Valley earlier last week, the workers highlighted numerous day to day problems faced by the people including those of farmers, unemployed youth, traders, transporters, daily and casual workers besides unprecedented price hike and huge taxations of various kinds, excise policy, education system and health issues especially power tariff and promise of free power units.

Despite Assembly election & coming into power of elected government, the people are facing hardships for day today issues,

due to absence of dual control system and lack of powers etc. Explaining further he said center government promised time to time to restore statehood without delay to restore immediately after assembly elections but even after four months of elections & elected government taking over, the centre has no intention to fulfill the promise.

He said that people will have to fight for their rights & getting back their status, dignity and identity as a full fledged state and the Congress party is already on the forefront for their rights and will intensify people's struggle. He asked people to support the Congress party for achieving the goal of early restoration of statehood. He said that the coalition government is also facing hardships to come upto the expectations of people

and restore the responsive system to deliver to people, in the absence of restoration of full-fledged statehood.

Flanked by Congress Working President Raman Bhalla, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, Th. Balwan Singh, Yogesh Sawhney, Ved Mahajan, Shri Karra expressed security concerns in the wake of terrorist incidents especially blast attack in Akhnoor Sector killing two Jawans including a Captain. He condemned the incident and paid tributes to martyrs, expressing deep sympathies to their families.

PCC President also expressed concern over the recent incidents in Jammu, exposing the law and order situation and demanded immediate check on Mafia and criminals to restore sense of security. He also condemned the incident

The party announced schedule of Conventions of different districts of Jammu Province are as under

13th Feb. 2025	Convention at Udhampur.
15th Feb. 2025	Convention at Poonch
16th Feb. 2025	Convention at Dongi-Rajouri
17th Feb. 2025	Convention at Ramban.
18th Feb. 2025	Convention at Doda.
19th Feb. 2025	Convention at Kishtwar
21st Feb. 2025	Convention at Reasi.
22nd Feb. 2025	Convention at Kathua.
23rd Feb. 2025	Convention Jammu (Rural)
27th Feb. 2025	Convention Jammu (Urban)

of suicide in Billawar and demanded a judicial enquiry into the incident.

JKPC Chief also questioned the present excise policy and the reports of revenue loss to the government and demanded review of the present policy immediately besides strict monitoring on illegal activities of drug trade spoiling the future generations.

Mr. Karra also raised the long pending issue of 'Gair Mumkin' 'Khads' affecting rights of hundreds of common people, despite some directions of the Hon'ble Court. He demanded quick action in the matter to rightfully settle the issue without further delay.

He also raised serious concerns over the mining issue, destroying the ecology of the regions, affecting water bodies and large scale loot of the natural resources besides the common man is getting building material on very high prices like gold. The government should immediately take stock of the situation to streamline the system to check the loot and make available building material on affordable prices to the people.

He also mentioned about the issues of ration scale, power tariff and free units of electricity and smart meters and said that these issues should also be taken upon on priority basis.

Pradesh Vishwakarma Sabha's sub office inaugurated at Bhagwati Nagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

On the auspicious occasion of Shree Vishwakarma Prakat Divas, celebrated on Magh Shukla Trayodashi, Pradesh Vishwakarma Sabha (PVS), J&K UT, inaugurated its newly constructed Sub Office at Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu, within the Vishwakarma Temple Complex.

The inauguration was conducted by Puran Chargoetra, former President of the Sabha, in the presence of Shashi Verma, President of the Sabha, and other distinguished members of the Vishwakarma community.

A conference was also organized under the chairmanship of Shashi Verma, with Puran Chargoetra as the chief guest.

Addressing the gathering, Chargoetra expressed



his joy over the completion of the Sabha Hall, a long-cherished dream of his, built solely through public donations. He lauded the efforts of Shashi Verma for his key role in bringing this project to fruition.

Speakers at the event acknowledged the significant contribution of the Vishwakarma community to the national initiatives of "Viksit Bharat" and "Make in India."

They also paid homage to Bhagwan Vishwakar-

ma, the divine architect who, according to mythology, created the universe through his immense scientific and artistic wisdom.

In his address, Shashi Verma emphasized the Sabha's commitment to supporting the elected government, as per its constitution.

He appealed to the government to declare a Gazetted Holiday on Vishwakarma Jayanti, allowing employees from the community to celebrate the

occasion with devotion.

He also reiterated the demand for the restoration of scholarships for OBC students to prevent disruptions in their education. Prominent speakers at the conference included R.L. Chargoetra (Chairman PVS), Vijay Kumar (Gen Secretary), Labha Ram Gandhi (West Pak Refugees Leader), Kuljit Rai, R.C. Angotra (Ex-President), H.R. Chargoetra, Sham Chargoetra (Cashier), Joginder Angotra, Balwant Kataria, Vinod Jatra, Mangal Dass Verma, Jagdish Kargotra, and presidents of various units.

The event marked a significant milestone for the Pradesh Vishwakarma Sabha, reinforcing its commitment to the welfare of the community and its continued efforts towards cultural and social development.

Shiromani Sant Kabir Bhawan, celebrates Guru Ravi Dass Jayanti



JI NEWS SERVICE
HANNYM FEB 12

Shiromani Sant Kabir Bhawan, Chak Avtara, today marked the 548th Jayanti of Shri Sadguru Ravi Dass with great devotion and spiritual fervor at Sadguru Kabir Bhawan, Chak Avtara, Bishnah. The event featured insightful discourses by renowned spiritual preachers Mahant Baisakhi Ram and Dimple of Kotli Shah Doula, who shared the timeless teachings of the revered saint.

F.C. Bhagat, Chairman

of Shiromani Sant Kabir Bhawan, Chak Avtara, highlighted the universal message of saints, emphasizing that they are not confined to any particular religion, caste, or community. "Their teachings are for all of humanity, guiding us toward unity, peace, and righteousness," he stated.

The event witnessed the participation of devotees and followers, who gathered to pay homage to Shri Sadguru Ravi Dass and reflect on his teachings of equality, love, and devotion.

HRD Prog on Integrated Pest Management conducted at KVK Kupwara

JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 12

A Human Resource Development (HRD) Programme on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) was successfully organized by the Central Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMC), Srinagar, at KrishiVigyan Kendra (KVK), Kupwara.

The event was held in collaboration with the State Agriculture Department, Kupwara, and KVK Kupwara, with an aim to promote sustainable pest management practices among farmers and agricultural professionals.

Pakistan's malicious intentions will never succeed in J&K: Dr. Parneesh

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Dr. Parneesh Mahajan, Convener of the Department of Training, BJP, J&K, has strongly condemned the brutal IED attack near the Line of Control (LoC) in Akhnoor, which claimed the lives of two brave Army personnel, including a Captain. He stated that Pakistan's persistent attempts to destabilize Jammu & Kashmir through terrorism are doomed to fail as the region moves forward on the path of peace and progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Lamenting the loss of precious lives, Dr. Parneesh asserted that Pakistan, out of sheer desperation, continues to orchestrate acts of terror in an attempt to disrupt the prevailing atmosphere of stability. However, he assured that the security forces are fully equipped to counter such threats, and the Modi government remains committed to



giving a befitting response to any act of aggression.

"The people of Jammu & Kashmir have rejected the ideology of fear and violence that Pakistan-backed terrorists try to impose. The unprecedented development, infrastructural growth, and economic revival in the region stand as a testament to India's unwavering commitment to ensuring a brighter future for its citizens," he emphasized.

The BJP leader further stated that every drop of the martyrs' blood will be avenged, and terrorism will not be allowed to

rear its head in the Union Territory. He lauded the armed forces for their relentless vigilance and sacrifice in protecting the nation's sovereignty and urged citizens to stand in solidarity with the security personnel.

Dr. Parneesh Mahajan also criticized Pakistan for continuously violating international norms and called for stringent measures to hold it accountable for fostering terrorism. He reiterated that under the BJP-led government, no act of terror will go unpunished and that the days of Pakistan's proxy war in J&K are numbered.

Offering his heartfelt condolences to the families of the fallen soldiers, he reaffirmed that their sacrifice would strengthen India's resolve to wipe out terrorism from its soil. He urged the people to remain vigilant and continue supporting the government's efforts to uproot extremism and maintain lasting peace in Jammu & Kashmir.

Adv. Purnima slams Congress for shielding 1984 Riots perpetrators

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12

Senior BJP leader and Spokesperson J&K, Adv. Purnima Sharma, has strongly welcomed the conviction of former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots case. She hailed the court's verdict as a long-overdue step towards justice and accused the Congress of shielding those responsible for the massacre for decades.

In a press release issued here today, Adv. Purnima Sharma lambasted the Congress party for its alleged role in the brutal attacks against the Sikh community, stating, "For decades, Congress leaders orchestrated and protected those responsible for the heinous crimes of 1984. They thought they could bury the truth, but



justice has finally caught up with them."

She further accused Congress leaders of inciting and executing the massacre, recalling how mobs were encouraged to set Sikhs on fire, loot their properties, and commit atrocities with impunity. "One by one, all the sins of 1984 are coming to light. The Congress party not only orchestrated the massacre but systematically shielded criminals like Sajjan Kumar. Today's verdict proves that truth will always prevail," she asserted.

Adv. Purnima Sharma also credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for ensuring justice for the victims by reopening the cases through a Special Investigation Team (SIT). "Congress governments deliberately suppressed these cases for decades. It was only after PM Modi came to power that a dedicated SIT was constituted, leading to the long-awaited convictions," she remarked.

She expressed hope that the courts would now deliver the strictest possible punishment to Sajjan Kumar and others involved, advocating for either the death penalty or life imprisonment. "These criminals deserve the harshest punishment for the unspeakable atrocities they committed. The BJP stands firmly with the Sikh community in their quest for justice," she concluded.

Indian Army organised a lecture on International Day of Women and Girls at Keri Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, 12 FEB 2025

The Indian Army organised a lecture on International Day of Women and Girls in Science at Tender Feet School, Keri. The event aimed to highlight the importance of women's rights and the global struggle for gender equality. The event also presented an opportunity to reflect on the progress made towards gender equality, the challenges that persist and the ongoing efforts to ensure women's right in all spheres of life. The event was conducted in two stages: interaction with the students and discussion among the teachers.

The girl students were acquainted with some of the most influential women in history of India, Kalpana Chawla, Sunita Williams, Dr Tessa Thomas "Missile woman of India" to name



a few, who made significant contributions in their fields and have been role models for generations to come. The lecture was focused on giving impetus to education and financial independence which is a powerful tool in the journey of empowerment.

Important Aspects like the wellbeing of women, women's equality, opportunities for women for self-development and how empowered women can be the building block of the nation were brought out by the girl students through discussions. The event not only motivated the girl students to work hard in studies and focus

on education but also provided information about government schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Mahila E-Haart and various skill development programs. The event motivated the girl students and the teachers to work hard for the betterment of society and work collectively for women empowerment. Students pledged to work hard in studies so that they can grow up and set an example for other people from rural backgrounds to give equal opportunities to women to develop and follow their dreams. The event was well received by 11 teachers and 26 students.

BGSBU holds Awareness Program on New Criminal Laws

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEB 12

The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), in collaboration with District Police Rajouri, organized an awareness program on the three newly enacted criminal laws of India. The session aimed to educate students, faculty, and the general public about the significant changes introduced in the Indian judicial system. The program focused on the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA).

In his message, Vice Chancellor of BGSBU, Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, appreciated the collaboration between NSS BGSBU and District Police Rajouri. He reiterated the university's



commitment to promoting legal awareness among students and the broader community, highlighting the importance of such initiatives in fostering responsible citizenship.

Registrar, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza (JKAS),

also lauded the efforts of NSS BGSBU and District Police Rajouri in organizing the awareness program. He emphasized the need for students to stay informed about legal developments and actively contribute to a law-abiding society.

ABDPSS organizes Shriram-Stuti, Hanuman Chalisa Path on Maghi Poornima

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti organized a grand Shriram-stuti and Hanuman Chalisa program at Channi Himmat, Jammu. The event was led by Sanjeev Sharma, Social Worker and Aayushman Sharma, Special Guest Sunil Sharma, National Co-ordinator Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti graced the occasion with his esteemed presence alongwith Pt. Manoj Krishan Sharma from Ayodhya (U.P.).

The program commenced with the recitation of Vedic mantras , Prarthna "Hey Prabhu Anand-data Gyan Humko Dijije" and thereafter Samoohik Path of Shriram-stuti and Hanuman Chalisa, in which a large number of devotees participated alongwith family members. Specially young generation also attended the event, adding to its significance. After the path, the speakers highlighted the devotion of Lord Hanumanji, his incredible contribution towards society, and his selfless service to Lord



Rama. They emphasized how Hanumanji's exemplary deeds in difficult circumstances continue to inspire society and remain relevant today.

After the completion of ShriRam stuti and the Samoohik Hanuman Chalisa, a Satsang session was held where devotees gained spiritual knowledge and inspiration from the Acharya Manoj Kumar coming from Ayodhya. The gathering provided the attendees with an opportunity to engage deeply in worship, fostering inner peace and devotion to Lord Ramji and Hanumanji.

The National Co-ordinator of the Samiti Sh. Sunil Sharma informed that over the years, many initiatives have been launched by Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti to expand the knowledge of the sacred

scripture- Bhagwat Gita which can infuse the feelings of love for humanity and God in every body. For the last 10 years Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti launched one more service towards society i.e. free distribution of Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta Granth (not book) in the society to spread the message of Lord Krishna on the directions and teachings of Brahmgyani Guruji.

The event saw active participation from key figures such as Kewal Krishan Sharma Bhuvneshwari Sharma, Aayushman Sharma, Rohit verma, Om parkash Sharma, Manmohan Sharma, Sanjay Yadav, rahul yadav, Vimbo Devi, Seema jamwal, Sonia Kumari, shalini devi, Sawitri Sharma whose active contributions were pivotal in making the event a grand success.

Airtel awards contracts to Nokia to expand 5G Fixed Wireless Access devices, powering high-speed internet connectivity nationwide

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Bharti Airtel has awarded a contract to Nokia, and Qualcomm focusing on the expansion of 5G Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) and Wi-Fi solutions to facilitate high-speed internet access to millions across India.

As part of the arrangement, Nokia will supply Airtel with its 5G Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) outdoor gateway receiver and Wi-Fi 6 Access Point, utilizing Qualcomm® Modem-RF and Wi-Fi 6 chipsets. This initiative will enable Airtel to provide superior broadband services in areas where fiber connectivity is either scarce or challenging to implement. The deployment of fixed wireless broadband access via 5G networks stands out as a significant application of 5G technology, especially in India, which faces low fiber penetration and a high demand for digital services.

Airtel will leverage Nokia's FastMile 5G outdoor receivers, which are tailored for multi-dwelling units and capable of serving two households concurrently, thus facilitating a reduction in connection expenses. These receivers feature high-gain antennas that enhance broadband access over extended distances while efficiently managing radio resources. Furthermore, the FastMile 5G outdoor receiver utilizes Power-over-Ethernet (PoE) technology, enabling simple installation on various surfaces such as walls, balconies, or poles.

Airtel will implement Nokia's Wi-Fi 6 access point within residences to enhance the in-home experience. This solution offers intelligent mesh capabilities and self-optimizing network features, ensuring that customers can enjoy an exceptional broadband experience throughout their homes.

Nokia's 5G Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) and Wi-Fi 6 access point devices will be produced in India and packaged in fully recyclable materials. Randeep Sekhon, CTO of Bharti Airtel, said: "This collaboration with Nokia and Qualcomm underscores our dedication to delivering an exceptional network experience for our customers. We are confident that Nokia's 5G Fixed Wireless Access and Wi-Fi 6 Access Point solutions will help provide high-speed internet to underserved areas and fulfil the need of a superior and uninterrupted broadband experience."

Sandy Motley, President of Fixed Networks, Nokia, said: "India's vast size and population density presents unique challenges for broadband connectivity. In those communities where fiber is difficult to deploy, FWA can be used to provide reliable wireless broadband connectivity. With our 5G FWA and Wi-Fi 6 solutions built in collaboration with Qualcomm Technologies, Bharti Airtel will be able to provide customers with fiber-like speeds which are becoming essential in today's digital economy. We look forward to supporting Bharti Airtel in its vision to connect more communities to high-speed broadband access."

"We are excited to be part of this new generation of products by Bharti Airtel and Nokia which are designed to deliver optimized performance, coverage, and user experiences. 5G FWA combined with Wi-Fi 6 access point is ideal for connecting the unconnected, making it an extremely versatile solution for Indian homes and businesses," said Rahul Patel, Group General Manager, Connectivity, Broadband & Networking, Qualcomm Technologies, Inc.

Nokia has been a trusted partner by Airtel for providing all network equipment. Recently, they also got an extension on the deal for deploying 4G and 5G equipment across key Indian cities and states.

Sajad Lone welcomes HC decision against passport denial over family ties with militants

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 12

J&K Peoples Conference President and MLA Handwara, Sajad Lone, has lauded the recent judgment by the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, which ruled that no individual should be denied a passport due to the involvement of their family members in militancy-related activities.

Lone emphasized that this judgment sets a powerful precedent for thousands facing similar discrimination.

"I feel optimistic that a comprehensive ruling along these lines will soon be issued in response to our party's petition," he said.

He underscored that his party had already challenged the "growing misuse" of police

verification as a tool for "collective punishment" through a petition filed by advocate Syed Sajad Geelani.

Welcoming the court's decision, he reaffirmed that an individual's rights must be determined solely by their own actions, not by the circumstances of their relatives.

"This should have happened much earlier, but better late than never. I am hopeful that this ruling will be extended across J&K and that our petition will be addressed at the earliest to ensure uniform application," he stated.

Lone further stressed that their petition specifically called for the strict implementation of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Validation of Character and Anteced-

ents) Instructions, 1997, along with subsequent amendments in the Government Order of 2021 and the Circular of 2024.

"These legal provisions mandate clear timelines for police verifications, ensuring a fair and transparent process," he said.

He expressed confidence that the ruling would rectify systemic flaws and provide long-overdue relief, particularly to the youth of J&K, who have often been subjected to unwarranted restrictions.

"If the effect of this judgment is extended across J&K, it will help ensure that our youth are not unfairly penalized and that they are given the same opportunities as their peers in the rest of the country," he stated.

Kesri condemns IED blast, expresses grief over martyrdom of 2 soldiers

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri has condemned the IED blast in Laleali area of Akhnoor sector, in which two soldiers were martyred. Addressing a press conference in Jammu today, Kesri expressed his heartfelt tribute to the two brave soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. He extended his deepest condolences to the bereaved families and acknowledged the unwavering commitment and valour of the armed forces in safeguarding the nation. Condemning the attack, Kesri strongly criticized Pakistan's continued support for terrorism, which he said has been responsible for repeated attacks on Indian security forces. The cowardly act of targeting our soldiers through IED blasts is yet another proof of Pakistan's malicious intent to destabilize peace in the region. It is time for strict action to put an end to such cross-border terror-



ism, he added. He stated that such attempts by anti-national elements to disrupt peace in J&K will never succeed. He emphasized that the sacrifices of the brave soldiers will not go in vain, and the nation stands united in its resolve to root out terrorism. "The martyrdom of our brave hearts is a reminder of the challenges we face in safeguarding our borders. The entire nation salutes their supreme sacrifice, and we stand in solidarity with their families during this moment of grief," he added. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Balveer Kumar , Rajkumar Baba, Balwant Fauji.

SMVDU Mechanical Engineering Alumnus Donates Rs 1.75 Lakh to Support Innospark 2025

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) proudly acknowledges the generous contribution of Mr. Dhananjay Singh (B.Tech., Mechanical Engineering, 2014 Batch), Director of Chenab Valley Agro & Infra Private Limited, who has donated Rs 1.75 lakh in support of the SMVDU Technology Business Incubation Centre (TBIC) for the upcoming Innospark 2025 event. Innospark 2025 is a prestigious technology-driven startup competition organized by SMVDU-TBIC, Kakryal, Jammu & Kashmir. The event aims to provide a platform for aspiring innovators to present groundbreaking ideas, compete for prestigious prizes, and connect with industry leaders and investors. As part of this initiative, the prize money for the competition is being sponsored by SMVDU alumni. The top three winning startup ideas will be awarded:

- 1st Prize: Rs 1,00,000/-
 - 2nd Prize: Rs 50,000/-
 - 3rd Prize: Rs 25,000/-
- The University extends its heartfelt gratitude to Mr.



Singh for his remarkable support and commitment to his alma mater. Officials including Prof. Yugal Khajuria (Dean, International and Alumni Affairs), Dr. Yatheshth Anand (Head, SME), Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq (Associate Dean, International and Alumni Affairs), and Dr. Sanjay Mohan (CEO, SMVDU-TBIC) expressed their appreciation for his generous contribution. In a message of gratitude, Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, lauded Mr. Dhananjay Singh's dedication and enduring connection with the university, stating: "SMVDU is proud to have alumni like Mr. Dhananjay Singh, whose contributions inspire and uplift future entrepreneurs." With such alumni support, SMVDU continues to foster an ecosystem of innovation, empowering young minds to transform ideas into successful startups.

Indian Army conducts lecture on Career Opportunities for Students at Kundal, Rajouri



J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, 12 FEB 2025

Indian Army remains dedicated to empowering women by guiding them towards career opportunities and self-reliance. In line with this objective, an awareness session was conducted at High School, Kundal to educate students about various career prospects and employment avenues. The session aimed to inspire young girls to explore different fields and equip them with the knowledge of right career choices. The session provided valuable insights into various job opportunities in government and private sectors, emphasising the importance of education and skill development.

Students were encouraged to focus on their studies and briefed on advantages of available career

paths, including professional training programs and self-employment initiatives. The interactive discussion allowed students to ask questions and gain clarity on different career options suited to their interests and abilities. A total of 30 Girls and 06 Teachers attended the session.

The students and teachers of High School, Kundal, expressed their gratitude towards the Indian Army for organising the session and their sustained efforts to empower the women. This will go a long way in empowering the women of the region and will help them understand the importance of education and employment. These endeavors by the Indian Army will not only aid the women in achieving economic independence but also ensure preservation of hard earned peace and tranquility in the region.

BJP holds workshop on Union Budget 2025



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

J&K BJP held a workshop on Union Budget 2025 at its party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), J&K BJP, Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana MP (Rajya Sabha), and Priya Sethi, BJP NEM put the main points of the budget before everyone.

Adv. Sunil Sethi, Chief Spokesperson, Dr. Abhijeet Jasrotia, Spokesperson and CA Rajeev Gupta spoke in depth on the Union Budget as resource persons for the workshop.

The workshop was attended by the BJP State Spokespersons, and District Presidents & Speakers from the ten organizational districts of the party.

Ashok Koul shared the role of the Modi government in uplifting the economy of India in the last 11 years. He said that the BJP is working on the Antyodaya mission to ensure the benefits to the last person in the most neglected sections of the society and termed the Budget 2025 as the step to achieve the mission.

Ghulam Ali Khatana said that the Modi govern-

ment has addressed the needs and aspirations of every section of society through this Budget.

Priya Sethi conducted the workshop proceedings and emphasized on understanding the beneficial aspects of the Union Budget.

Sunil Sethi said that the Modi government, through the Union Budget 2025 has proven its commitment for the welfare of the 'GYAN' which encompasses the Modi government's four main focus points, which includes, 'Garib' (Poor), 'Yuva' (Youth), 'Annadata' (Farmer) and 'Nari' (Women). He presented in-depth details about the benefits to the agriculture sector in building Rural Prosperity and Resilience in the Budget.

Abhijeet Jasrotia explained the emergence of India as a strengthened youth force under the Modi government as proved by the QS World Future Skills Index ranks in which it marches just fractions behind US among all nations. He said that the Union Budget 2025 takes care of all the daily needs of masses rights from the pulses to Artificial Intelligence.

38th Convocation of IGNOU to be held on 5th March, 2025

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 12

11293 learners declared qualified to receive Degree/Diploma/Certificate in 38th Convocation under Regional Centre Jammu.

The 38th Convocation ceremony of IGNOU will be held on 5th March, 2025. The Convocation ceremony would be organised at selective Regional Centres across the Country including the Regional Centre Jammu. The main function will be held at New Delhi Headquarters of IGNOU in which Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Govt. of India will be the Chief Guest.

The learners who have completed their respective programmes of study in the Term End Examinations held in June 2024 and December 2023 are eligible to apply for receiving the Degree/Diploma in the 38th Convocation. The Online portal for registration and remitting the requisite fee has been thrown open and can be accessed following the link <https://onlineservices.ignou.ac.in/convocation/> on IGNOU website www.ignou.ac.in under the Register Online drop down menu. The fee per certificate is Rs.600/- which can be paid online following the same link. The online portal for registration and remitting the requisite fee will remain open till February, 25, 2025 only.



A total of Twelve Thousand Two Hundred and Eighty Seven (11293) learners from Regional Centre Jammu have been declared successful and eligible to receive Diplomas and Degree Certificates under the 38th Convocation which includes 4988 learners of Master Degree programmes, 5852 learners of Bachelor Degree programmes, 316 learners of Diploma/Post Graduate Diploma programmes and 137 learners of Certificate/Post Graduate Certificate programmes, said Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director, Regional Centre Jammu.

SHRD Public School, Mandal hosts 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025'



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU FEB 12

Today Sant Hare Ram Dass Public School Mandal hosted a live screening of Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025, an interactive session between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and students from across the country.

Principal Prof. Aekta Gupta expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister for initiating this unique plat-

form, saying, "Pariksha Pe Charcha is an excellent opportunity for students to learn from the experiences of others and gain valuable insights into managing exam-related stress.

The event, held at ICR rooms, was attended by 550 students, teachers, and parents. The students enthusiastically participated in the Q&A session, seeking guidance on exam preparation, stress management, and personal growth.

Vi Adds Baggage Protection to all Postpaid International Roaming Packs in Partnership with Blue Ribbon Bags

Vi customers can now receive compensation of Rs 19,800 per bag for lost or delayed luggage across all Postpaid International Roaming packs, available for an additional fee of just Rs 99

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12:

Vi, India's leading telecom operator, has enhanced its International Roaming offering by integrating baggage protection services on all its Postpaid International Roaming packs. Through its partnership with Blue Ribbon Bags, a leading US-based lost baggage concierge service, Vi Postpaid customers can now avail compensation of Rs 19,800 per bag if their luggage is delayed or lost beyond 96 hours of filing a complaint.

For many travellers,

lost or delayed baggage is one of the most frustrating and stressful experiences during a trip. A 2024 SITA report found that over 36 million bags were mishandled worldwide, highlighting growing concerns over baggage security. With an increasing number of Indians traveling abroad post-pandemic, having an added layer of baggage protection can provide much-needed relief. The Baggage Protection service by Vi provides customers a safety net in the unfortunate event of lost or delayed baggage, making their travel experience



worry-free.

Vi Postpaid customers can activate the baggage protection service while purchasing any International Roaming pack. This

optional benefit is available at an additional cost of just Rs 99, and can be activated along with the pack. Customers who choose this benefit can

raise a claim request via the Vi App if their baggage is lost or delayed. To avail this service, customers must register with Blue Ribbon Bags before their flight. In case their baggage is delayed or lost by the airline, they must file a report with both the airline and Blue Ribbon Bags within 24 hours of landing. Blue Ribbon Bags will then track and expedite the return of the luggage using its global network and advanced technology. If the baggage is not returned within four days, Blue Ribbon Bags will provide a compensation of Rs 19,800 per bag (for up

to two bags), with no questions asked.

This initiative further strengthens Vi's commitment to offering customer-centric innovations that go beyond connectivity. Vi's International Roaming plans are designed to offer comprehensive benefits, including unlimited data and calls across 29 countries, unlimited incoming calls in over 122 countries, and round-the-clock live agent support via WhatsApp, ensuring customers stay connected without worrying about high roaming charges and accessibility issues.

DC reviews implementation of HADP in Kishtwar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 12

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the achievements made in the implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district.

Speaking at the meeting, the DC emphasised the need for adopting a time-bound approach to achieve the set targets efficiently.

He directed the concerned departments to focus on key indicators to ensure effective execution of the programme.

The DC stressed the expansion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and instructed officials to process and submit all pending applications to the District Level Committee for approval in the next



week.

Highlighting the importance of diversified farming practices, he urged the functionaries to promote Millet, Lavender, Marigold and Oil seed cultivation across the district to promote sustainable and climate-resilient Agriculture.

The review meeting was attended by CPO Shahnawaz Bali, ACR Idrees lone, ACD Phulail Singh, CAO Amjad Hussain Malik, CHO Sajid Mustafa, DSHO Dr. Jameel Nasir, LDM, DAO and other officials from agriculture and allied sectors.

DDC Pulwama reviews Irrigation System augmentation for upcoming agricultural season

J1 NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, FEBRUARY 12

A comprehensive meeting was held today under the chairmanship of the District Development Commissioner (DDC), Dr. Basharat Qayoom to review the augmentation of the irrigation system and assess advance preparations for the upcoming agricultural season.

The discussions centered on enhancing water use efficiency through desilting, track lining to plug pilferages, restoring the lift irrigation system and ensuring sustainable agricultural productivity. The significant role of the Rural Development and Revenue Departments was emphasized in planning and executing irrigation-related initiatives at the grassroots level.

Dr. Qayoom directed the Irrigation and Flood Con-



trol (I&FC) Department to coordinate with all BDOs to identify irrigation channels that require intervention for its incorporation in annual plan.

To facilitate a structured approach, the District Development Commissioner proposed the formation of a three-member team, led by an engineer of at least AE rank, to submit detailed reports to the District Mineral Officer (DMO), prioritizing critical irriga-

tion schemes. In addition, the District Development Commissioner directed all Tehsil-dars to compile and submit a Tehsil-wise data report to identify and address encroachments or other issues that could hinder irrigation infrastructure and related projects.

The RDD was tasked with preparation and approval of identified works by mobilizing field functionaries to conduct

field visits and contribute to the development of detailed irrigation plans.

These plans will be submitted to the Assistant Commissioner for Development (ACD) for review and subsequent implementation.

As the nodal officer, the ACD will coordinate with all relevant officers to develop the plan, obtain the necessary approvals and oversee its execution.

Furthermore, the Rural Development Department (RDD) was instructed to also focus on micro distributaries to develop an efficient plan.

The District Development Commissioner emphasised the importance of proactive measures and inter-departmental coordination for strengthening irrigation infrastructure and supporting the farming community. The meeting con-

cluded with clear directives for timely execution, ensuring efficient irrigation management and sustainable agricultural growth in the district.

The meeting was attended by the Superintending Engineer (SE), Hydraulic Circle, Pulwama (HQ); Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Pulwama; Chief Agriculture Officer, Pulwama; Chief Engineer, REW, Pulwama; and Executive Engineer (EXEN), Irrigation Division, Pulwama/Tral, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Awantipora; Irrigation Construction Division, Pampore; and Flood Control Division, Pulwama, Kakapora and Tral. Additionally, All Tehsil-dars, the District Mineral Officer (DMO), Block Development Officers (BDOs) and Executive Officers of Municipal Committees (MCs) participated in the discussions.

JKBOSE organizes awareness prog on Open Schooling, centrally sponsored Scholarship Schemes at Bandipora

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 12

In a bid to promote accessible education for all, the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), in collaboration with the Education Department Bandipora, on Wednesday organized a comprehensive awareness programme on the Open Schooling system and centrally sponsored scholarship schemes at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

The event was presided over by Dr. Arif Jan, Deputy Director Academics JKBOSE, and was attended by Assistant Director JKBOSE Dr. Aliya Qayoom, Deputy CEO Bandipora, Dr.G.M.Pujoo, along with principals, ZEOs, HOIs of various institutions, parents, and other concerned stakeholders.



Addressing the gathering, Dr. Arif Jan discussed various aspects of open schooling, emphasizing its importance in supporting out of school children. He outlined how the Open

Schooling system can provide an alternative chance for these children to continue their education, thus contributing to the goal of universalization of elementary education.

Abhiyan), RMSA (Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan), and samagra Shiksha, highlighting the critical role they play in achieving educational equity.

Dr.Arif also deliber-

ated on the importance of enhancing the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), emphasizing that increasing the GER is crucial to ensuring that more children have access to quality education.

Dr. Aliya Qayoom, Assistant Director JKBOSE, presented insights into the various centrally sponsored scholarship schemes available for students. She underscored the importance of spreading awareness about these scholarships to ensure that all eligible students have the opportunity to benefit from financial assistance in their academic journey.

Earlier welcome address was presented by DyCEO Bandipora Dr. G. M. Pujoo while as vote of thanks was presented by Zonal Education Officer, Zone Quilmuqam.

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

Kishtwar responds well with around 2K applications, 85 loan clearances

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 12

A meeting to review the progress of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan.

The JPDCL engineers informed the meeting that 5000 consumers have registered for the scheme, with 1,940 applications already submitted.

It was further informed that as per J&K Bank 85 applicants have successfully availed bank loan amounting to Rs 1.20 crore.

The DC directed the vendors to start the installation of Solar Rooftop Systems



(SRTs) for sanctioned applicants in three days.

Additionally, the vendors were instructed to increase installation teams to clear all pending cases.

To ensure the smooth implementation of the scheme, the DC advised the JPDCL to coordinate with vendors and address any minor operational challenges in a time-bound

manner. The initiative aims to facilitate consumers in availing the benefits of the government's solar energy scheme, promoting clean and sustainable energy solutions in the region.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs), along with registered empaneled vendors, including.

DC Kupwara chairs weekly Block Diwas at Lalpora

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 12

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today chaired the weekly Block Diwas programme at Lalpora in Lolab sub division. The programme is aimed to listen to the people at their doorsteps to address their developmental issues.

The programme was attended by VC DDC, Haji Farooq Ahmad, besides, SDM Lolab, ACD Kupwara, CPO, CMO, CEO, CAO, CHO, DSHO, AD Fisheries, AD Food, DSWO Executive Engineers, Tehsildar Sogam, BDO and large number of people also attended the block diwas function.

In her address, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted various Government schemes and appealed the people to take opportunity of these

schemes for their own benefit.

Regarding the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana which provides solar plant to the households at a subsidized cost, she appealed to the people to register themselves under the scheme to take benefit of free electricity which will reduce their electricity bills.

Regarding JK Samadhan portal, the DC said that the portal provides opportunity to the citizens to raise their grievances through online mode and appealed to the people to register on the Samadhan portal to redress their grievances which will save their time and efforts from physically visiting the government offices.

She appreciated the people for taking keen interest in HADP scheme which provides them opportunity to earn their



livelihood in Agriculture and allied sectors adding that more than 5000 applications under the scheme have been received from Lalpora area alone.

She asked the beneficiaries to register for the PMFME scheme which provides technical and market access support to the beneficiary in addition to financial support.

The Deputy Commissioner inspected various stalls installed by Agriculture and allied departments and got feedback from the concerned officers regarding the achievements and targets of their departments.

Earlier, the VC welcomed the Deputy Commissioner for visiting the far flung area Lalpora to

conduct the block diwas proceedings.

He said block diwas is a good platform for the administration and the people to come together for resolving the long pending issues of the development. Meanwhile, VC DDC, prominent and senior citizens of Lalpora area put forth different developmental issues pertaining to Water/Power supply, health, roads etc.

Regarding power supply, she said augmentation of different receiving stations were done recently to ensure smooth flow of the electricity in the sub division Lolab adding that Diver Receiving Station has also been started a few months ago which has also relieved the burden on old receiving stations to streamline the power network. She stressed upon the Electric Division Kupwara to ensure

power supply as per the curtailment schedule so that people do not suffer in this bone chilling winter period.

Replying the major issue of water supply, DC said major schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission are under progress which on completion will address the water supply issues of the people living in the Lolab sub division. After giving patient hearing to the issues raised by the public, the Deputy Commissioner assured them that all their genuine concerns would be addressed in a phased manner with active coordination from relevant departments.

Earlier on the arrival, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various stalls installed by different line departments and enquired about the progress of coverage of the beneficiaries in Lolab sub division.

Jan Van Abhiyan kicks off in Pirpanjal Forest

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 12

The Pirpanjal Forest Division has launched the Jan Van Abhiyan, an outreach program designed to engage tribal community and other traditional forest dwellers in forest conservation efforts. The initiative began with a community meeting in Brenwar, Budgam district.

Syed Wasim Gul, Divisional Forest Officer Pirpanjal Forest Division, on the occasion stated that the program aims to recognize the crucial

role that forest fringe communities play in conservation.

To understand their needs and challenges, the department contemplates to create more effective and collaborative conservation strategies.

Accordingly, DFO said community meetings will be conducted in all forest fringe villages within the Budgam district. The feedback gathered during these meetings will be used to develop an action plan to ensure the success of the community conservation program.

Deputy CM highlights visionary role of Guru Ravi Dass in societal renaissance

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 12

Highlighting the visionary contribution of Shree Guru Ravi Dass ji in socio-economic transformation, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today said that the need of the time is to follow his teachings for creating an egalitarian and humane world to live in.

The Deputy Chief Minister was speaking at a function organised in connection with the celebration of 648th Prakash Utsav of Shree Guru Ravi Dass ji at Guru Ravi Dass Sabha Krishna Nagar, here today.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that in present times, when the materialistic pursuits have played a havoc on the fabric of our society, there is dire need to follow the teachings of our Saints and Seers for living a contented and Spiritual life. "We need to follow the teachings of our saints and sufis for making our lives more spiritual which would lead to a contented and blissful life", he added.

"The people of the subcontinent are aware of the contribution of Guru Ravi Dass ji in ensuring a society based on humane



values and we need to propagate theses for betterment of mankind", stated the Deputy Chief Minister adding that this will form the basis of making our world more inclusive.

The Deputy Chief Minister also appealed the youth to follow the spiritual teachings of great saints and not get carried away by the tendencies detrimental to their future and health. He expressed concern over mounting substance abuse while assuring strict measures to deal with this social evil.

Earlier, the Deputy Chief Minister paid obeisance at the Ashram and prayed for peace and prosperity of the country and Jammu and Kashmir in particular.

He also interacted with the devotees.

The Management of All Jammu and Kashmir Shree Guru Ravi Dass Sabha also presented a memorandum to the Deputy Chief Minister projecting several issues like Proper implementation of Reservation for SC/STs in Employment, SC/ST Atrocities Act and other related demands.

Earlier, a deputation of former BDCs, Sarpanchs and Panchs called on the Deputy Chief Minister and projected several developmental issues of their respective areas seeking immediate redressal.

The Deputy Chief Minister assured the deputation to look into their issues and concerns for their early redressal.

Forest Minister conducts public outreach camp in Kathua

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 12

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today conducted an exhaustive public outreach camp at Barnoti in Kathua, to assess local issues besides taking stock of development scenario of the area.

The Minister had exclusive interactive sessions with the local populace which apprised him of their grievances and demands seeking speedy redress of the same.

Several delegations comprising industrialists, farmers, youth and community representatives called on the Minister and projected their issues and concerns. They highlighted various issues which inter alia included water supply, forest rights, tribal welfare, enhanced road connectivity, environment preservation and other vital matters concerning welfare of their respective areas. The Minister was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Superintendent of Police and other senior officers from the district administration.

During the tour, the



Minister also met people in Samba and Vijaypur and listened to their grievances and development issues.

The Minister instructed the concerned departments to address the grievances raised by the locals of Samba and Vijaypur on priority basis.

He assured the delegations of government's commitment towards resolving their concerns in a time bound manner while emphasising inclusive and sustainable development.

"Our government under the leadership of Omar Abdullah is duty bound to resolve all the issues faced by the people. We are taking administration to people's doorsteps to ensure rapid development of every nook and corner of the region," Rana said in

his address to the people of Kathua.

Rana said that with the recently inaugurated 7 water supply schemes in Kathua, many issues related to water scarcity have been resolved.

"I assure the people that all other issues related to Jal Shakti or any other department will be resolved on priority. We will take every step to enhance the living standards of the locals," maintained the Minister.

He appreciated the district administration for its relentless efforts towards improving the living condition of the people. He said that all the departments should work in unison for further improvement of service delivery in the district.



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 12

Deputy Commissioner (DC), Shishir Gupta today conducted a surprise inspection of District Hospital to assess the provision of healthcare services in the hospital.

During the visit, he inspected key facilities of the hospital including the emergency ward, Diagnostic centre, OPDs, and other wards.

DC interacted with patients & attendants and enquired about the quality of healthcare services provided in the hospital.

He directed the hospital authorities to provide efficient services and ensure the availability of essential medicines, heat-

ing, lighting, and other necessities.

He also instructed that duty rosters be prominently displayed and warned that any laxity would not be tolerated and exhorted upon the health functionaries for working with dedication and remaining punctual in their duties.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned authorities to ensure strict enforcement of the COTPA in the hospital premises and instructs to tough action against violations.

ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, ADC, Dr. Zakir Husain Faaz, Tehsildar Shopian, Anjum Khan and others accompanied the Deputy Commissioner.