

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
- Severe stomach pain
- Persistent vomiting
- A rapid rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Uplifting marginalized communities is our duty: CM Omar Abdullah

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 16

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today emphasized that uplifting marginalized communities like Gujjar-Bakerwal is not an act of favour but a fundamental duty of his government.

The Chief Minister said that despite the limitations in ministerial appointments after last year's elections, he ensured representation for the Gujjar community by appointing Javed Ahmed Rana as a minister in his cabinet.

Minister Javed Ahmed Rana, who also addressed the event, was in attendance. Minister Satish Sharma, Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Patron Chief GDCT Abdul Hamid Choudhary and Chairman GDCT Arshid Ali Choudhary also spoke at the event.

"After the election, we had to think about the cabinet ministers. However, there was very little scope. I requested Mr. Javed Rana to join the cabinet. Not only would he serve Jammu and Kashmir, but he

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CM holds pre-budget consultation with public representatives of Jammu district

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 16

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired pre-budget consultations with public representatives from Jammu district at a meeting held at the Civil Secretariat.

The session was attended by Minister Satish Sharma, Chairman

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Society's speedy and inclusive development largely depends on productivity of its youth: LG

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 16

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha attended the 6th Annual Day Celebration of Guidance & Career Counselling Cell for Youth Development (GCC), Gurha Slathia at Samba, today.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor lauded the efforts of volunteers and everyone associated with the Guidance and Career Counselling Cell for Youth Development in imparting skill development and coaching to the youth to ensure their brighter future.

"This unique youth organisation is a role model for the nation. GCC has adopted a futuristic approach for the youth-centric initiatives to enhance the quality of their pursuits and enabling them to pursue their dreams. The focused effort to study, understand, develop and conserve cultural and intellectual heritage is truly inspiring," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the way GCC has designed its entire programs clearly reflects the youth's desire to adopt



a futuristic approach. "I want youth of J&K to be daring, adventurous and strong. I want our youth to be unshakably strong in their morals and ideals. I firmly believe that our youth must show the way to the world by carrying age-old traditional values in one hand and modern scientific tools in the other," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the speedy and inclusive development of society

largely depends on productivity of its youth.

To realize the progress that we have envisaged for J&K, we need to secure the health and well-being of our youth at local level. GCC is working with administration to achieve this goal through infrastructure and coaching, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the steps taken by the government under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime

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Man killed as car crashes with truck on Jmu-Sgr National Highway

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 16

A man on Sunday died on the spot when his car crashed with a truck on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway near Chenani in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Police said that a man died after car crashed with truck on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway. "The body was taken to the Government Medical College, Udhampur, for post-mortem," said police.

The deceased was identified as Ashkoor, 27, son of Raj Ali, resident of Samroli, Udhampur.

Police said that a case has been registered, and investigation is underway.

Brief exchange of fire along LoC in Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 16

A brief exchange of fire took place along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, security officials said.

They said an Indian Army post came under fire from a forested area across the LoC around 11.30 am in Gulpur sector.

They said soldiers retaliated and the exchange of fire lasted for a very brief period.

There was no damage on the Indian side, the officials said.

They said it was not immediately clear whether the Pakistan army was

behind the firing, or it was terrorists hiding in the forests and waiting for an opportunity to sneak in.

There were a few cross-border incidents last week, including an IED explosion that killed two army personnel including a captain. Two other soldiers were injured in cross-border firing in violation of ceasefire. Indian troops retaliated befittingly, inflicting "heavy casualties" on the Pakistani side.

The ceasefire violation along the borders in J&K have become few and far between since India and Pakistan renewed the ceasefire agreement on February 25, 2021.

Sanctity of Jammu is attached to soul of every Indian: LG

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 16

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today attended Shri Raghunath Ji Ki Jammu Aarti, at Shri Raghunath Ji Mandir Chowk, Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the efforts of Shree Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council for bringing this sacred and divine ceremony to Jammu, which has been going on at Ganga Ghats of Varanasi and Haridwar.

Shri Raghunath Ji Ki Jammu Aarti will be a major attraction for tourists, seekers and definitely bolster the local economy,



he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "Jammu is not only a city of temples, but it is also the axis of our eternal culture. Jammu is a symbol of our faith in Sanatan Sanskriti. Jammu

is a pilgrimage for seekers. It is the divinity and self-confidence of India. It is the centre of our heritage and the soul of our traditional values. The sanctity of Jammu is attached

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Stampede at New Delhi Station: LG, CM condole loss of lives

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 16

Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday condoled the death of 18 people in a stampede at New Delhi Railway station.

The stampede on Saturday night was preceded by a swell in crowd of passengers waiting to board trains for Prayagraj - where the Maha Kumbh is underway - on platform number 14 and 15 of the station.

"Deeply saddened by



the loss of lives in the stampede at New Delhi Railway Station. My thoughts are with the bereaved families. Praying for the early recovery of the injured," the Lt Governor said in a post shared by his office on X.

In a separate post by the office of chief minister, Abdullah said "I am deeply saddened

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Bodies of two people found in Kathua

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 16

Two people were found dead in a remote village in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, a police officer said.

Bodies of Roshan Lal, 45, and Shamsher, 37, were retrieved from the banks of a stream at village Batheri, station house officer of Billawar police station Jitender Singh said.

He said preliminary information revealed that the deceased had been strangled by unknown persons. The exact cause of the

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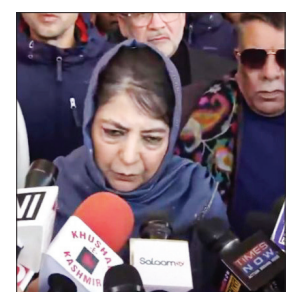
Omar should refrain from endorsing centre's abrogation of Articles 370, 35A: Mehbooba

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 16

Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday asked Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to refrain from endorsing the Centre's abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A in the formulation of business rules for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

The former chief minister warned that such a move would legitimise the "illegal and unconstitutional" actions taken by the BJP-led central government to abrogate Articles 370 and 35A.

In a strongly worded



statement, the PDP president said despite the Supreme Court's ruling in favour of the Centre's decision, several legal experts believe that Article 370 cannot be abrogated by any authority, including Parliament.

"Thousands of FIRs of stone pelters were quashed and Ramazan ceasefire was declared. A high-powered

statement, the PDP president said despite the Supreme Court's ruling in favour of the Centre's decision, several legal experts believe that Article 370 cannot be abrogated by any authority, including Parliament. "While the BJP may not restore these rights,

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Inauguration of Vande Bharat train service to Kashmir Valley postponed

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 16

The inauguration of Vande Bharat train service to Kashmir Valley has been postponed, officials said on Sunday.

Earlier reports, which the officials said were unconfirmed, had said that the Vande Bharat train service between Udhampur, Srinagar and Baramulla would be inaugurated on February 17 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The authorities have not given any official date for the inauguration of the train service while announcing the postponement.



The ambitious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) is the most challenging railway project ever built by the Indian railways.

It is also one of the world's most challenging railway projects technologically. It is a gigantic

infrastructure project built by the Indian railways. The project includes the country's first cable-stayed Anji Khad Bridge with a 331-metre-high pylon.

The world's tallest railway bridge, taller than the Eiffel Tower of Paris, the Chenab Railway Bridge

is 359 metres above the river bed. There are over a dozen tunnels on the railway route between Udhampur and Srinagar.

Specially designed for extreme weather conditions, the Vande Bharat train can operate at minus 20 degrees Celsius temperature.

The train has state-of-the-art facilities including fully air-conditioned coaches equipped with electric outlets, reading lights, CCTV cameras, automatic doors, bio-vacuum toilets, Sensor-based water taps and a Passenger information system.

The coaches have wider windows with roller

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Natrang Stages Hilarious Hindi Play 'Tauba-Tauba'

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 16

Natrang presented Hindi play 'Tauba-Tauba' here today under Natrang's weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre'. The play has been written by Rajinder Kumar Sharma and directed by Neeraj Kant. Coated with humor, the play presented some debatable issues which are faced by many theatre groups because of lack of commitment of a few artists which spoil the whole performance. But still it was more inclined towards comedy than being didactic.

The play opens at the home of one 'Anokhe Lal' who has converted it as rehearsal space as he is the director of the play which is scheduled to be staged within a few days. The drama erupts as the play proceeds as it appears that no one is serious in doing rehearsal other than the director. The artists who used to plead for a single entry in the play have turned pricy now and come up with different excuses to skip rehearsals. At the top of it, the newly appointed



servant adds to the confusion as he comes up with a new problem every time he enters the room. 'Anokhe Lal' was very much worried about the performance of the play as nothing was going right, actors were forgetting the lines, people were coming late in the rehearsal and on the top of it, the tickets of the show have already been sold. The ultimate crisis occur when the director comes to know that the actor who was doing the role of father of hero is not doing the play as he has to go out of station for some personal work. Shattered by this untoward news, he decides to prepare his newly appointed ser-

vant to do the character of father in the play, who reluctantly agrees but real trouble erupts when the real father of 'Anokhe Lal' arrives to whom the servant introduced himself as the father of 'Anokhe Lal' on which both the servant and Anokhe Lal received a thorough beating from the real father.

Natrang actors who performed in the play included Kananpreet Kaur, Aadesh Dhar, Adaksh Bagal, Kushal Bhat, Vishal Sharma and Sanket. The lights of the play were executed by Mohd. Yaseen whereas the sound of the play was scored by Kartik Kumar. The presentations were done by Aryan Sharma.

Hima Kaul Kalanidhi performed street play in Vishwa Jan Rang

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 16

The artists of actress Bhasha Sumbli's theatre troupe Hima Kaul Kalanidhi gave an impressive presentation of a street play at Lohan Park in Palaura. This street play, based on Pancham Veda i.e. Natyashastra, was a part of the Vishwa-Jan-Rang program of the ongoing international theater festival 'Bharat Rang Mahotsav' at the National School of Drama, New Delhi.

This street play highlighting the importance of theater was appreciated with great enthusiasm by the people



present in Lohan Park in large numbers. In the presentation, Bharatmuni, the author of Natyashastra, is shown imparting knowledge on the elements and Vedic roots of Natyashastra to his

disciples.

The artists who participated in this presentation were: Soham Kashyap, Harshita Khajuria, Shriya Devi, Sahil Bajaj, Shivan Gupta and Ashish Sharma.

PSAJK District President Srinagar Bilal Ahmad Commends Education Minister Sakeena Itoo's Intervention

Srinagar, 16 Feb, 2025: The Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK), District Srinagar, President Bilal Ahmad, extends its heartfelt appreciation to the Hon'ble Health And Education Minister, Mrs. Sakeena Itoo Ji, for her decisive and timely intervention in ensuring justice for the Class 10th students of a local private school. This proactive decision showcases the government's dedication to student welfare and its commitment to maintaining the integrity of the education sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

The PSAJK District executive Body, along with Zonal Heads, and general members acknowledges and welcomes this bold move, which has brought much-needed relief to students and parents. The intervention has not only protected the academic rights of the affected students but has also reinforced trust in the government's student-centric approach to governance.

PSAJK District Srinagar President Bilal Ahmad, stated "We hope that all our pending issues, which we have faced from time to time, will be resolved at the earliest. Our demands and expectations from this government, led by Hon'ble Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, are very high. We trust that his



administration will continue to address the challenges faced by private educational institutions and work towards policy reforms that ensure smooth and efficient operations."

PSAJK expresses its sincere gratitude to the J&K Government for prioritizing educational reforms and demonstrating a commitment to fair policies for private schools. We also appreciate the intervention of the Srinagar Court, which has played a crucial role in ensuring justice in this matter.

Furthermore, the Association congratulates PSAJK State President Dr. G.N Var Sahib for his swift and effective role in resolving the issue in a short period. His efforts exemplify the dedication of PSAJK towards safeguarding the interests of students and ensuring quality education in the region.

"While we acknowledge the government's progressive stance, we urge the administration to address other pressing concerns in the private education

sector, including streamlining the school registration and recognition process to prevent further delays; establishing a single-window system for obtaining necessary No Objection Certificates (NOCs); and providing long-term registration for operational schools to ensure stability, among other critical issues."

Private schools in Jammu and Kashmir play a vital role in providing affordable, high-quality education, especially to economically weaker sections of society. Additionally, they generate employment opportunities for thousands of youth across the region. Ensuring a fair and conducive environment for private educational institutions will not only benefit students but also contribute to the overall socio-economic growth of Jammu and Kashmir.

PSAJK District Srinagar remains dedicated to upholding the rights of students, parents and private educational institutions while actively collaborating with the government to drive impactful reforms in the education sector. We are committed to ongoing dialogue with the administration to address outstanding concerns and contribute to the development of a stronger, more equitable, and forward-looking education system.

Central University of Jammu Flags Off Tamil-Origin Students for Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS-3.0)

Jammu, 16 Feb 2025: The Central University of Jammu proudly flagged off a group of Tamil-origin students from various departments to participate in the prestigious "Kashi Tamil Sangamam" (KTS-3.0), a flagship cultural initiative of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, under the "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" program.



The flag-off ceremony was led by Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, in the presence of Prof. Ritu Bakshi, Dean Students' Welfare and University Coordinator for the event, Dr. R. Sudhakar, Associate Professor, Department of National Security Studies. This initiative is part of a broader effort to foster national integration and cross-regional awareness.

The Kashi Tamil Sangamam celebrates the age-old cultural and spiritual bond between Kashi (Varanasi) and Tamil Nadu, promoting their shared

heritage in literature, music, and pilgrimage. Participants will embark on a transformative journey that includes a sacred bath at Prayagraj—the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers—and visits to key cultural and religious sites such as Ayodhya.

Through rituals, lectures, and discussions, students will gain valuable insights into the historical, religious, and linguistic linkages between Tamil and Kashi cultures. The event provides a unique opportunity for intercultural engagement, allowing participants to interact with scholars, artists, and peers, fostering a deeper

understanding and appreciation of India's rich and diverse heritage.

As part of the preparatory academic engagements, the Office of the Dean, Students' Welfare (DSW) had organized a seminar on "Sage Agastya: The Mantra Drashtha (Revisiting the Contribution of Sage Agastya)", aligning with the central theme of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam. The seminar explored the spiritual and cultural legacy of Sage Agastya, highlighting his contributions to Vedic literature and his significance in both northern and southern Indian traditions.

Police organizes drug awareness rallies in Kupwara

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, FEB 16

In a steadfast commitment to combat drug abuse and promote a drug-free society, police in Kupwara organized comprehensive drug awareness rallies in Sogam and Kralpora. These initiatives aimed to educate the public about the perils of drug addiction and galvanize community efforts against this growing menace.

The Police Station Sogam took a rally commencing from Government Degree College (GDC) Sogam to the Main Market Sogam. The event saw active participation from local residents, Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Sogam,



and a large contingent of students. DySP PC Lolab Raeis Ahmad-JKPS, alongside SHO PS Sogam lead the rally. Participants marched through the main thoroughfares, vocally opposing drug abuse and displaying informative placards to raise awareness.

Similarly, Police Station Kralpora conducted an awareness rally targeting drug abuse within the community. The march

led by DySP DAR Kupwara Syed Mujahid-ul-Haq-JKPS and SHO PS Kralpora, commenced from Government Higher Secondary School Kralpora and proceeded through the main market area. The rally was attended by BDO Kralpora, the school principal, other officials, students, and the general public. Participants chanted slogans and displayed banners advocating for a drug-free lifestyle.

Pir Panjal Winter festival Volleyball tournament kicks off in Poonch



J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, 16 FEB 2025

The Under-21 Girls & Under-25 Boys Volleyball Tournament, a flagship event of the Pir Panjal Winter Festival, officially commenced on 15 Feb 2025 with a grand opening ceremony. The festival, which is being celebrated from February 9 to March 31, 2025, aims to promote youth participation in sports, cultural preservation, and social reforma-

tion. The volleyball tournament has brought together teams from across Poonch district, showcasing their dedication and competitive spirit. The event serves as a platform to nurture young talent and provide aspiring athletes with the exposure they need to excel.

"The Pir Panjal Winter Festival is a shining example of the enduring partnership between the Army and the populace. We firmly believe that sports can bridge gaps, foster understanding, and promote harmony."

The festival will feature a diverse range of events, including sports tournaments, cultural performances, and exhibitions. The initiative aims to promote a bright and drug-free future, highlighting the importance of youth participation in sports and the role of such tournaments in shaping future champions.

Police arrests 5 gamblers in Budgam, stake money seized



J1 NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, FEB 16

Police in Budgam have arrested five gamblers and seized stake money from their possession.

Police Post Narbal received specific information through reliable sources that some unknown persons are busy in gambling activities near village Jawaharpura Narbal in an open agriculture land. On receipt of this information, a police party headed by incharge Police Post Narbal raided the specific place and arrested five persons involved in gambling activities. They have been identified as Nisar Ahmad Dar son of Abdul Rehman Dar resident of Chanabal Mirgund Baramulla, Gh Mohd Bhat son of Abdul Aziz Bhat resident of Ghat

Sozeith Goripora, Shahnawaz Ahmad Sheikh son of Bashir Ahmad Sheikh resident of Matipora Pattan, Gh Rasool Parray son of Abdul Raheem Parray resident of Sumbal Sonawari and Gh Mohiddin Rather son of Abdul Rahim Rather resident of Alambal Mirgund. Officers have seized stake money of Rs 33,500/- and playing cards from their possession.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No 21/2025 under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Magam and further investigation has been initiated. Persons found indulging in criminal activities shall be strictly dealt as per law. Community members are requested to share information regarding the crimes in their neighbourhood with the local police units.

Police arrests drug peddler in Kupwara, contraband substance recovered



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, FEB 16

Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, police have arrested drug peddler in Kupwara and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

A police party led by SHP Police Station Kralpora, intercepted a suspected person during naka checking at Reddi Chowkibal. During search, approximately 40 grams of charas-like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Abdul Rasheed Mir son of Sonaullah Mir resident of Zonareshi. He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 07/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Kralpora and further investigation has been initiated.

Police remains committed to eradicating the drug menace and urges the public to support police by reporting any information related to drug peddling or other unlawful activities.

Indian Army Conducted a Lecture On Government Welfare Schemes For Locals in Bihota, Doda

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, 16 FEB 2025

As part of an ongoing effort to educate the local population about various government welfare initiatives, a lecture on "Government Welfare Schemes" was organized in Bihota on February 15, 2025. During the session, Officer of Indian Army elaborated on key government schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), financial assistance for skill training, Vidya Kaushal, and skill development programs for minorities. He provided in-depth insights into these schemes, aiming to empower youth with knowledge and encourage them to pursue pro-



ductive and progressive careers.

The initiative was well-received by the attendees, with a total of 47 youth and locals participating. Expressing their appreciation, participants remarked that such informative sessions play a crucial role in guiding the younger generation towards making informed decisions and becoming responsible citizens. The event successfully contributed to raising awareness and fostering a sense of empowerment among the local youth.

Rijiju's statement is Centre's refusal to honor statehood commitments: Karra

JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEB 16

Taking cue from the statement of Union Minister Mr Kiran Rijiju's here yesterday, refusing to give any timeline for restoration of statehood, JKPC Chief Tariq Hameed Karra today hit out at the Modi government at the centre for its clear message that it is not ready to consider grant of statehood to Jammu & Kashmir in near future.

Lashing out at the BJP led centre government for its betrayal over its repeated commitments with regard to early restoration of statehood to Jammu & Kashmir, he said that center committed on the floor of the parliament, before the hon'ble Supreme Court and in numerous public rallies by Prime Minister & Home Minister, Mr Karra said that Rijiju's statement yesterday is a clear indication of centre's intentions not to honour its commitments to grant early statehood to J&K.

JKPC Chief who is on a campaign of Jammu Province, on the party's mission "Hamari Riyasat, Hamara Haq" for early restoration of statehood, called upon the people to be ready to fight for getting back their identity, dignity, status and rights as a state, while addressing a largely attended workers con-



vention at Doongi in district Rajouri today along with a team of senior congress leaders including Working President Raman Bhalla, MLA Rajouri Iftikhar Ahmed, District President & former Minister Shabir Ahmed Khan, DDC Rajouri Sain Abdul Rashid, Iqbal Shawl, Ashok Sharma, Ricky Dalotra & several others.

Shri Karra said that during UPA govt a medical college, besides half a dozen degree colleges, ITIs and other health & education institutions besides sports stadiums were opened apart from various other infrastructure & development works in the district but BJP leaders make false claims whereas BJP government neglected the border belt of Rajouri - Poonch during ten years of its rule in the field of connectivity, health and education infrastructure.

The Railway project initiated by Shri Rahul Gandhi after his visit to Rajouri in 2012 & its survey conducted proposing project cost of

13608 crore has been abandoned. He said that several hundred schools were closed and merged. He highlighted the large scale unemployment due to anti youth policies of previous administration as the daily wagers, a d h o c, t e m p o r a r y employees of all departments are still suffering for years, RET was stopped, teachers recruitment stopped, army recruitment was changed to Agniveer Scheme and likewise, as a result unemployment is highest.

Karra sahib appreciated the efforts of local MLA Iftikhar Ahmed to serve people and assured people to raise their genuine demand of a tehsil in the area as projected by MLA.

Working President Raman Bhalla in his hard hitting speech lashed out at the BJP for keeping powers of the elected persons and govt with Lt Governor despite elections and not restoring the state. They made repeated commitments for statehood but betrayed the faith of the people to keep people powerless.

He said BJP government has pushed youth to frustration and drugs due to large scale unemployment. There is unprecedented price rise and huge taxations, people are suffering a lot.

He also referred to the betrayal with refugees of POJK whose one time settlement package was recommended by Congress in 2014 but BJP government gave only meagre amount to them.

MLA Iftikhar Ahmed raised the issues of the area regarding tehsil status and other issues of water and power, ration besides large scale unemployment etc. He sought the attention of the government in this regard.

DCC President Shabir Ahmed Khan highlighted the neglect of Rajouri Poonch region by the BJP government especially neglecting the Railway project besides road and electricity projects.

People raised slogans to restore statehood besides supporting Congress abhiyan of "Jai Babu, Hai Bhim and Jai Samvidhan". Several prominent leaders attended & spoke including Shakeel Mir, Sajad Tariq, Vijay Sharma Seva Dal Bittu Shah, Amit Sayal, Sushil Sharma, Suraj Langeh, Balkrishan, Rajinder Singh, Vipin Kumar, Deeraj Sharma, Sat Pal Sharma, Ravinder Chouhan & several DCC, BCC leaders & other prominent leaders.

CEPC Showcases Indian Handmade Carpets at Bharat Tex 2025

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 16

The Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) proudly participated in Bharat Tex 2025, a global textile mega event held from 14-17 February 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. With more than 70 member exporters, CEPC exhibited a diverse range of carpets and floor coverings in Hall 1A, highlighting the exquisite craftsmanship of Indian artisans. Apart from CEPC's participation, several carpet exporters also showcased their products independently in the same hall, reinforcing India's leadership in the global handmade carpet industry.

The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh, and Hon'ble Minister of State for Textiles, Shri Pabitra Margherita, in the esteemed presence of senior officials,



including Ms. Neelima Shah, Secretary (Textiles), Ministry of Textiles; Shri Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles; Ms. Shubhra, Trade Advisor, Ministry of Textiles; Ms. Amrit Raj, Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles; and Chairmen and Executive Directors of various Textiles Export Promotion Councils.

CEPC set up an exclusive Theme Pavilion in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Carpet Tech-

nology (IICT), Bhadohi, showcasing a live weaving demonstration. This initiative attracted significant attention, allowing visitors to witness firsthand the intricate artistry and skill of Indian carpet weavers. On the second day of the event, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh, visited the Carpet and Floor Covering Hall, engaging with exhibitors and appreciating their efforts. The Minister was particularly pleased with the exhibitors' enthusiasm and the impressive display of handmade carpets featuring a wide range of innovative designs and new collections. Exhibitors expressed their satisfaction with the platform provided by Bharat Tex 2025, which facilitated strong networking opportunities and business prospects with international buyers. The event successfully reinforced India's position as a global hub for handmade carpets and floor coverings.

A moment of pride for the entire industry, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, formally inaugurated the event on 16th February 2025, further emphasizing the Government's commitment to promoting India's textile and handicraft sectors on the global stage. CEPC remains committed to supporting its members and promoting Indian handmade carpets worldwide through such prestigious platforms.

Indian Army conducted a Lecture on career counselling for students at Manjakot, Rajouri

AGENCIES
RAJOURI, 16 FEB 2025

In its continued efforts to guide and inspire young minds, the Indian Army organized a Career Counselling Session at Govt Senior Secondary School, Manjakot, for students aspiring to shape their future after Class 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 placed on opportunities in the Indian Armed Forces, including recruitment



through the NCC, National Defence Academy (NDA), Technical Entry Scheme (TES), and the Agniveer Scheme, among others. Additionally, guidance was provided 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 105 students from all streams. All staff members, the principal of the school, and the sarpanch of the village appreciated the efforts made by the Indian Army to guide and motivate the youth in achieving their dreams.

Opposition to reservations by Kashmir centric politicians is unconstitutional, selfish & opportunistic: GLR

AGENCIES
JAMMU, FEB 16

Condemning the anti-SC, anti-ST and anti-reservation stand of Kashmir centric politicians and parties BJP spokesperson and former MLC Girdhari Lal Raina has reacted sharply to orchestrated misinformation campaign against reservation policy. These parties resort to peddling lies and half-truths to appease a sectarian constituency, he added.

GL Raina outrightly rejected claims that 70 percent of the population does not have access to these jobs as baseless, provocative and misleading. This



is a political witch hunt as SCs and STs did not vote for these parties including National Conference in recent elections, Raina asserted.

Why are you mixing horizontal and vertical reservations? Are you saying Persons with Disabilities or wards of Police and secu-

rity personnel must not be given the meagre reservation that constitution gives them or are you against reservation to people living on IB and LoC, he asked.

BJP spokesperson stated that there was no change in overall quota provided in Jammu Kashmir prior to 2019. There has been just rationalization of reservation by shifting population to ST 2 category and reducing Backward Area quota from 20 percent to 10 percent in view of this shift, Raina explained.

Similarly, the OBC population that gets reservation automatically gets reduced from the total population competing for open merit

category. If there is anything unjustified in reservation policy of Jammu Kashmir it is continued backwardness of certain areas because of the misuse of these parties for around seven decades.

How do you justify backwardness of areas in same breath in which you claim Jammu Kashmir was better off prior to the 2019 historic decision, he asked?

GL Raina assured these disadvantaged sections of population about BJP's principled stand on reservations. No one will be allowed to tamper with the constitutional right of SCs and STs or Disabled sections of population.

MP Gulam Ali highlights Modi government's inclusive approach in J&K

AGENCIES
JAMMU, FEB 16

Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Er. Gulam Ali Khatana today said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ensured representation for all sections of society in Jammu & Kashmir, including Kashmiri Pandits and refugees, by providing them a voice in the assembly.

Speaking as the chief guest at the Herath Milan-2025 event organized by the Youth All India Kashmiri Samaj in Jammu, Khatana emphasized that Dogras



of Jammu and Kashmiri Muslims hold deep respect for Kashmiri Pandits. He noted that despite their painful displacement in the 1990s, Kashmiri Pandits continue to share strong ties with Kashmiri Muslims. He also praised the people of Jammu for extending immense

respect and love to the displaced community.

"Our government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, has fulfilled the promise of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas by reserving seats in the assembly for Kashmiri Pandits," Khatana said. He added that the

Modi government is actively working toward the dignified return of Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley.

"Under Modi's leadership, shutdowns, protests, and terrorism in Kashmir have become history," he stated, adding that terrorism is in its final stages and that the remaining terrorists will soon be wiped out from the land of Sufism.

The event was attended by Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Sogami, Secretary Relief Dr. Syed Sehrish Asgar and other dignitaries.

Indian Army Conducts Medical Patrol For Gujjar and Bakarwals at Bharneli, Chaklasalta Rajouri & Reasi

AGENCIES
REASI, 16 FEB 2025

The Indian Army successfully conducted a medical patrol for the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities in the remote areas of Bharneli, Chaklasalta, Reasi, and Rajouri District. This initiative aimed at providing much-needed healthcare services to the underserved population in the area, which is known for its rugged terrain and limited access to medical facilities. The medical team, comprising Army doctors, paramedics, and healthcare professionals, set up a temporary medical camp in the heart of Bharneli and Chaklasalta.

Local residents received free medical consultations, treatment, and medicines. The team also conducted health awareness sessions, emphasizing preventive care and hygiene. Speaking on the occasion, a senior officer of the Indian Army



said, "This medical patrol is part of our ongoing efforts to ensure the welfare of the remote and marginalized communities in the region.

The Gujjar and Bakarwal communities have long faced challenges in accessing quality healthcare, and we are committed to brid-

ing this gap." The medical patrol received an overwhelming response, with scores of people from surrounding villages arriving to seek medical help. The Army also provided basic medical supplies to assist the local community in managing their health needs until the next medical outreach. This event underscores the Indian Army's continuous efforts to support and serve the local population, not only in times of conflict but also in addressing their day-to-day challenges. The medical patrol is a testament to the Army's dedication to the well-being and safety of every citizen, especially those in remote and hard-to-reach locations. The Indian Army has pledged to continue these medical outreach programs, bringing essential healthcare services to the most underserved areas across the region.

Shri Ram School organised a flagship event- "All About India"

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 16

The Shri Ram Universal School proudly hosted their flagship event, "All About India," a vibrant celebration of the country's rich cultural diversity. The event transformed the school campus into a magnificent representation of India's various states, offering an immersive experience for students, parents, and guests alike.

This annual event, a signature initiative across Shri Ram Schools nationwide, aims to empower students with knowledge about India's heritage, traditions, and regional diversity. Each corner of the school was meticulously adorned with student-created artwork, decorations, mascots and delicacies guided by dedicated teachers, to showcase the uniqueness of each state. The enthusiastic participation of parents further amplified the spirit of collaboration and community engagement.

The event was graced by the esteemed presence of DIG Jammu, Mr. Shiv Kumar, as the chief guest. He commended the students and staff for their dedication and creativity in curating an educational



and visually captivating experience. Other distinguished guests included Mr. Ajay Sharma, SP South Jammu; Ms. Ekshu Sharma, Assistant Director Handicraft Samba; Mr. Kewal Krishan, CEO Samba; Ms. Shilpa Dubey, DDC Member Vijaypur; Dr. Dinesh Rao, HOD Forensic Medicine AIIMS; and Dr. Rajan Badyal, PRO Central University.

One of the key highlights of the event was the Skit of Maha Kumbh, which beautifully depicted the historical and cultural significance of the Kumbh Mela. Additionally, mesmerizing live stage performances showcased traditional dance forms from different states, captivating the audience and celebrating the nation's artistic legacy along with a thought provoking natak

on drug free India spreading awareness.

Parents and guests lauded the efforts of the students and faculty, expressing their appreciation for the meticulous planning and hard work invested in the event. They acknowledged the school's commitment to fostering cultural awareness and unity among students.

"All About India" not only celebrated India's vibrant heritage but also instilled a deep sense of national pride and belonging among the school community. Shri Ram Schools continue to uphold their mission of holistic education by blending knowledge with experiential learning, making such events a memorable and enriching experience for all.

ABRSM district Unit Jammu meets CEO Jammu, presents Forum Calendar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 15

The Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shaishik Mahasangh (ABRSM) District Unit Jammu held a significant meeting with the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Jammu, during which they presented a calendar of the forum as a token of respect and discussed various pressing issues concerning the teaching fraternity.

During the interaction, the representatives of ABRSM highlighted several key concerns faced by teachers in the district, emphasizing the need for timely resolutions to enhance the educational ecosystem. The discussion also focused on the ongoing process of the Annual Transfer Drive (ATD). The CEO Jammu provided an important update, inform-



ing the delegation that a tentative list of approximately 1,800 teachers is scheduled to be released in March, followed by the final ATD list thereafter.

The ABRSM delegation expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the education department in streamlining the transfer process and ensuring transparency. They also reiterated their commitment to working collaboratively with the administration for the betterment of the teaching community.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both parties reaffirming their dedication to addressing the concerns of educators and improving the overall education system in Jammu.

Delegation Members: Pawan Sharma - District President, Jammu, Ved Parkash Sharma - District Secretary, Jammu, Rakesh Sharma - Senior State Executive Member, Naresh Manhas - Senior Vice President, Jammu, Ajay Kumar Sharma, Shakti Kumar, Kanchan Sharma,

Labour Department conducts surprise inspection on Sunday Closure Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 16

The Labour Department Kishtwar conducted a surprise inspection to check compliance with official regulations regarding the Sunday closure day. The inspection was led by Assis-

tant Labour Commissioner Mamta Sudershan accompanied by Labour Inspector Sunil Chandail and other officials from the department.

During the inspection, the team identified multiple violations of the Sunday closure directive and took immediate action. A total

of 25 challans were issued on the spot to erring establishments found violating the mandated closure. The Labour Department emphasized that strict enforcement of the closure day is essential to safeguard workers' rights and maintain compliance with labour laws.

Govt to provide free water tanker service to water deficit areas: Jal Shakti Minister

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 15

In a move to address water scarcity and ensure access to clean drinking water in Jammu city, the Jammu and Kashmir government today announced free water tanker service to the water deficit areas.

This was revealed during a high level review meeting chaired by Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana at Civil Secretariat Jammu.

Besides the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, the meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, School Education Department, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti, Department, Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Vice Chairman Jammu Development Authority, Director Tribal Affairs, Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti, Jammu and other senior officers.

"We will provide free of cost water tankers to those areas which are facing water shortage. The leftover areas would also be covered soon under Jal Jeevan Mission or any other water supply scheme," he said, highlighting the situation faced by people due to

inadequate water supply. He said that this initiative aims to support vulnerable communities, especially during times of water shortage.

The Minister instructed the officers to visit the areas witnessing water shortage so that water supply plans are formulated accordingly. He also called for incorporating certain measures to streamline and keep the online portal user friendly for common man.

Expressing concern over slow pace of progress on water supply schemes under AMRUT in Jammu division, the Minister called for immediate preparation of pending DPRs and subsequent approval by the HUDD.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding progress on Jal Jeevan Mission in Poonch district.

The Minister sought details about the plans to be undertaken to ensure adequate water supply in view of continuing dry spell. He also called for inauguration of those schemes which are complete as per DPR saying that they should be dedicated to the public as soon as possible.

FROM THE PAGE 1...

Uplifting marginalized...

will also be responsible for representing the community, being your voice, and addressing all your issues," the Chief Minister stated at a felicitation ceremony held by Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust in his honor following his election as Chief Minister of J&K. Omar Abdullah further stated that by inducting Javed Rana into the cabinet, he aimed to ensure that the Gujjar community's concerns were heard and addressed within the government.

On the demand for a Tribal University, the Chief Minister expressed confidence that with the dedication of the trust and its people, this vision would become a reality soon.

"You should prepare a project. You should prepare a plan. I will sit with your trust when your plan is ready we will definitely do our part," he assured.

Reflecting on his previous visit to Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust (GDCT) as Chief Minister, he acknowledged the changes over time—some positive, some challenging.

"After a long time, I have again had the opportunity to attend a function of Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust. If my recollection is correct, perhaps when I came here for the last time, I was a Chief Minister. A lot has changed since then" he said.

Paying tribute to Dr. Masood A. Choudhary, the visionary founder of GDCT, the Chief Minister praised his legacy and contributions.

"But unfortunately, the person who planted this seed, whose dream was Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust, who laid its foundation, is no longer with us. If I begin my speech without remembering Dr. Masood A. Choudhary, it would be an injustice," he remarked.

The Chief Minister also expressed his emotional connection to the trust, recalling the close relationship his grandmother, Madri-Meharban, had with it.

"I want this trust to grow stronger. My grandmother had a deep bond with it. Though she is no longer with us, her name is etched here. You have honored her memory by dedicating a library in her name. I consider it my responsibility to ensure that wherever possible, the government supports this trust in fulfilling its mission," he said.

Assuring continued government support, Omar Abdullah pledged: "I assure you that on my behalf, on behalf of all ministers, advisor, and the government—wherever you need assistance, you will always find us standing with you."

Later, Chief Minister also visited the library block established by GDCT for research on the Gujjar-Bakkerwal community.

CM holds pre-budget...

District Development Council (DDC), Members of Legislative Assembly from District Jammu, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta and Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D Vaidya; with some of the MLA's attending the meeting virtually through video conference.

Addressing the participants, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized the importance of engaging with elected representatives in the budget-making process to ensure that the aspirations and needs of the people are adequately reflected.

"We could have drafted the budget in our offices, but we are consulting elected representatives so that the people's needs and aspirations are taken into account," the Chief Minister stated.

He acknowledged that public representatives are aware of the ground realities and they have interacted closely with the people during election campaigns.

"During your electioneering, you traveled across your constituencies and met people. You understand their issues and demands because you are directly connected to them. That is why I decided to hold these consultations with you," he added.

He expressed confidence that these discussions would play a crucial role in shaping the budget and addressing key concerns of the people. During the consultation, the Chairman of DDC Jammu and MLAs put forward various demands and concerns affecting their constituencies. They stressed the need for improving irrigation systems and ensuring access to clean drinking water in several areas.

Many representatives raised concern about the poor condition of roads, need for construction of bridges and the overall upgradation of infrastructure to facilitate better connectivity. The discussions also covered healthcare improvements, construction of new educational institutions among other things.

Additionally, representatives voiced concerns regarding drainage and sewerage management, particularly in urban and semi-urban areas, calling for modernized drainage network to prevent waterlogging and sanitation issues.

The alarming rise in drug abuse was another key issue, with requests for establishing de-addiction centers, awareness campaigns and stricter enforcement measures. Several members also called for the development of sports infrastructure, including the construction of stadiums, playgrounds, and training centers to encourage youth participation in sports.

Tourism development was another key focus, with suggestions to promote local attractions, improve tourist amenities, and create new tourism circuits to boost the local economy.

The public representatives thanked Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for initiating the pre-budget consultations, stating that it was for the first time that they were being actively involved in the budget formulation process.

They expressed appreciation for the government's inclusive approach, which allowed them to voice their constituency needs directly. They also expressed optimism that their concerns and demands would be taken into account while drafting the budget.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Jammu presented a detailed sector-wise proposal based on inputs from MLAs. The proposals covered various development sectors, including rural and urban development, public works, irrigation, healthcare, education, and social welfare.

Special attention was given to flood protection measures, groundwater conservation, and strengthening the Jal Shakti department to address water scarcity.

Society's speedy and...

Minister, empowering the youth to lead the development journey of Jammu Kashmir and the nation.

"Future-oriented and progressive policies in sectors like education, industries, skill development, sports, agriculture, infrastructure, innovation, entrepreneurship, and transparent and merit-based recruitments have kindled brighter hope for our talented youth," the Lieutenant Governor further added.

He also appreciated the endeavours of Guidance & Career Counselling Cell for Youth Development aimed at women empowerment and initiatives like mass cam-

paign against drug abuse, competitive exams preparations, leadership-personality development, interview preparations, and sports related activities.

The Lieutenant Governor also paid homage to the Army Bravehearts, Freedom Fighters and other great personalities of Gurha Slathia and recalled their contribution to the nation.

Sh Surjit Singh Slathia, Member of Legislative Assembly, Samba; Sh Rajesh Sharma, Deputy Commissioner, Samba; Sh Sudarshan Singh Slathia DDC Member; senior officials; members of Guidance and Counselling Cell for Youth Development (GCC) and youth in large number were present.

Padma Shri Mohan Singh Slathia; Lieutenant General (Retd.) Anoop Singh Jamwal and various prominent personalities from diverse fields were also present.

Sanctity of Jammu...

to the soul of every Indian. Therefore, I believe that the initiative of Shree Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council will bring a huge change in Jammu and usher joy and happiness in the lives of common citizen".

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that all-round development of Jammu and the progress of its business class, shopkeepers, workers, entrepreneurs and transporters is the top priority of administration.

"The last 5 years have been the golden period of Jammu. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, we are working with a long-term vision for the rejuvenation of Jammu and prosperity of its people," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the key initiatives of the government including beautification of Mubarak Mandi to Raghunath Bazaar Heritage Trail, development of Spiritual Tourism Circuit, and augmentation of facilities at tourist and religious places in the region.

He further called upon every section of the society to identify and isolate the divisive elements who are posing threat to peace and harmony.

In view of the heavy rush of the people at Raghunath Bazar, the Lieutenant Governor suggested for exploring the possibility for organizing Shri Raghunath Ji ki Jammu Aarti at the banks of the Tawi river and make it a daily event. He further asked the Municipal Commissioner Jammu to reserve a spot in Tawi River front and Tawi Barrage Project for the people for regularly organizing Aarti programmes.

Sh Rajesh Gupta, Chairman Shri Raghunathji Corridor Vikas Council; Sh Baldev Khullar, former President, Shri Raghunath Bazaar Businessmen Association; Sh Rajesh Diwan, President, Hari Market Association; Sh Jatinder Gupta, President Ranbir Market Association; Sh Pankaj Mahajan, President, Vivekanand Marg Traders Association; senior officials; heads of various religious and business associations, members of civil society groups, Acharyas and Archakas were present.

Stampede at New...

by the tragic stampede that occurred at New Delhi Railway Station today, resulting in the loss of at-least 18 lives and leaving many others injured.

"My deepest condolences to the families who lost their loved ones. Praying for early recovery of the injured," he said.

Omar should refrain...

delegation was sent to engage with the people of J&K, including separatists, who unfortunately declined the

offer," she said.

"At the time, separatists believed that stone-pelting, burning schools and hospitals, and attacking army camps and police stations would resolve the Kashmir issue. However, things only worsened," she added.

The PDP president urged the BJP to come down from its "high horse" and acknowledge that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is not as normal as it appears.

"The façade of normalcy has been created by the force of agencies and the imposition of draconian laws such as the Public Safety Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

"But this will not last forever. The government must reconsider its approach, reach out to the people, and build on the confidence-building measures initiated during my tenure," she said.

Mufti also stressed the need to reopen key trade routes, such as Uri-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakot, to boost the region's economy.

"As Jammu is increasingly sidelined, the Jammu-Sialkot route should also be revived to provide a market for Jammu's products," she said and urged the government to take inspiration from her vision document and the Agenda of Alliance, which underlined dialogue and economic development.

The PDP president claimed that little had changed even after Jammu and Kashmir elected a government in October last year.

"What's the difference between LG rule and the NC government? The same crackdowns, property attachments, and persecution of the Jamaat-e-Islami continue. Employees are still being terminated, youth are arrested under UAPA, and the misuse of PSA remains unchecked. Kashmiri youth continue to languish in jails outside J&K with no relief," she said.

"Unemployment has skyrocketed, plunging youth into despair. Bureaucratic hurdles have made everyday life miserable. The Reorganization Act is being solidified, further eroding J&K's autonomy," she added.

She also criticised the government's misplaced priorities, such as opposing the ban on alcohol while ignoring critical issues like the dilution of the resolution on Article 370 and the hollow promise of statehood. (AGENCIES)

Inauguration of Vande...

blinds and overhead racks for luggage.

The windshield of the train's driver has an advanced defrost system that allows clear vision in moist and high-humidity weather conditions.

The 150 km distance between Udhampur and Baramulla would be covered within two and a half hours. The initial swapping of trains at Katra will be dispensed with by August 15 when the Jammu railway station will be upgraded.

The commercial trial of the USBRL has already been completed and this 70-year-old dream of the people of Kashmir is now waiting just for its formal inauguration by Prime Minister Modi. (AGENCIES)

Bodies of two...

death will be known only after the postmortem, the officer said, adding police have started investigations after registering a murder case.

Official sources said a terror angle cannot be ruled out yet.

Last year, several parts of Kathua, including Billawar, witnessed terror activities including an attack on an army patrol that left five soldiers dead.

Development gained momentum, peace established in J&K after 2019: Dr. Pardeep Mahotra

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 16

The development process initiated under Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014 has taken Jammu & Kashmir to new heights in all spheres, with people showering praises on the leadership of PM Modi. After, 05 August, 2019, development gained further momentum and peace was established in J&K.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra Media Incharge, J&K BJP said this while slamming leaders of regional political parties in the UT for making false and misleading statements by linking development, peace and progress with Article 370.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra said that Jammu & Kashmir has been damaged by the self-centered leaders



of regional political parties, the most since 1947. They are trying to hoodwink the people by declaring themselves to be the well-wisher of the region, and by making attempts to seek blessings of the people on issues which have no relevance today and are part of the history.

"For decades, Jammu & Kashmir and its people suffered badly due to the ill-decisions by the then successive Union governments and the state

governments of Jammu & Kashmir, which were mostly headed by Congress at the Centre and NC, PDP in the Jammu & Kashmir," said Dr. Pardeep Mahotra.

"The decision to abrogate Article 370 on August 05, 2019 and to turn J&K into two Union Territories, resulted in significant development in the fields related to Infrastructure, tourism, industrial development, agriculture, education, skill development, health & medical infrastructure, renewable energy, digital & IT development, women & youth empowerment, and a marked improvement in security peace and stability," said Dr. Pardeep Mahotra.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra said that those shedding crocodile tears for the

statehood must answer that why these developments remained elusive during their rule over erstwhile J&K state and why the communities like Dogras, Kashmiris, Women, Valmiki, Paharis, Gujjars, Bakerwals, OBCs, PoJK refugees, WPRs, PwDs and others had to bear intensive pain and sorrow under their misgovernance for 70 years.

"While Narendra Modi government has been focusing on extending the most prestigious projects of connectivity, health and education, the leaders of regional parties are finding it difficult to stand in the public by the growing popularity of PM Modi and BJP," Dr. Pardeep said and added that it is, in fact, the 'Will' (Ichha Shakti) to deliver which matters and the local leaders lack it.

Indian Army conducted an information technology course for students at Thanamandi Rajouri

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 16 FEB 2025

Indian Army as part of 'Operation Sadbhavana', had conducted Information Technology Course at Thanamandi, Rajouri district. This skill development course was a comprehensive program designed to provide students with a solid foundation in the principles and practices of Information Technology, including computer hardware and software, networking, database management and cyber security. The course was conducted from 22 January 2025 to 15 February 2025, which has witnessed active participation of seventeen youth from local communities. Indian Army has always been a pillar of support in guiding and empowering local youth by providing skill development opportunities.

Keeping the promising career scope of technology in the future, it also



taught about database management system and networking fundamentals for youth of Thanamandi and nearby areas. Information Technology course provides a foundation for further study in specialized areas such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, data analytics and enabling students to stay at the forefront of this rapidly evolving field. The skills and knowledge gained through this course will also enable participants to build stronger, more effective relationships with others, both in their personal and profes-

sional lives. Each participant's progress is a testament to the dedication and perseverance of these youth. As a token of recognition, certificates for participation and gifts were awarded to all participants and instructors. This initiative not only empowers the youth of Thanamandi but also strengthens the bond between the Army and the local community.

It serves as a testament to Indian Army's unwavering commitment to the service of the nation and its people. Operation Sadbhavana, with its mission to foster goodwill, develop-

ment and positive change in the region, continues to be a beacon of hope for the people of Thanamandi and nearby areas. The Information Technology Course is yet another remarkable chapter in this ongoing journey. Indian Army remains committed to empowering local communities through such initiatives, believing that a stronger, more self-reliant society is a testament to a brighter and more prosperous future for all. The event also serves as a platform to strengthen the bond between Army and the people of this region.

J&K Students Association writes to CM Omar Abdullah to intervene in the case of Kashmiri Engineer Jailed in Saudi Arabia

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 16

The Jammu & Kashmir Students Association here on Sunday has written to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, seeking his intervention in the case of Abdul Rafi Baba, a Kashmiri networking engineer imprisoned in Saudi Arabia under unclear circumstances.

Baba, a resident of Soura, Srinagar, had been working at King Faisal University, Saudi Arabia, for nearly a decade before his sudden arrest on March 1, 2020. His family was never officially informed of the reason, leaving them in distress despite repeated efforts to seek answers.

The Association has urged the Chief Minister

to take up the matter with External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar to ensure a fair investigation and Baba's safe return. Chairman of Association Mush-taq Habeeb said that on February 2, 2025, they had written to the EAM, and on February 6, 2025, the ministry responded to our letter.

According to the MEA, Baba has been imprisoned in Dammam Intelligence Jail since March 1, 2022, on charges related to cyber-crimes concerning terror activities and allegedly circulating objectionable videos. Initially sentenced to 11 years, his sentence was increased to 31 years following an appeal, and the case is now pending before the Saudi Supreme

Court. The Under Secretary from the External Affairs Minister's office informed us that Consular access has been granted multiple times, with visits on May 3, 2021, September 6, 2022, February 20, 2023, September 5, 2023, and most recently, on September 11, 2024. Baba remains in contact with his family.

He said that his prolonged detention has severely impacted his family, especially his two young children and his ailing widower father, who has been desperately seeking justice. Despite multiple appeals to the Government of India and the Indian Embassy in Riyadh, no response was received until February 6, 2025. His family also faces severe

financial hardship, preventing them from arranging legal representation in Saudi Arabia.

The Association has urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to press the MEA for diplomatic efforts to ensure a fair trial and Baba's repatriation. "Under the Chief Minister's leadership, this matter can reach the highest levels for resolution," said Habeeb.

Calling it a humanitarian issue, the Association emphasized that Baba's prolonged separation from his family is distressing. They urged the Chief Minister to consider the case from a humanitarian standpoint and initiate high-level diplomatic engagement to secure his release and return home.

Indian Army conducted a personality development including english speaking workshop for youth at Thanamandi Rajouri

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 16 FEB 2025

The Indian Army, as part of 'Operation Sadbhavana', conducted a Personality Development, including an English Speaking Workshop, for youth at Thanamandi, Rajouri district. This skill development initiative aimed to improve communication skills, build confidence, and help participants achieve greater success and fulfillment in their personal and professional lives. The course was conducted from 20 January 2025 to 15 February 2025 and saw the active participation of 22 students from local communities.

The Indian Army has always been a pillar of support in guiding and empowering local students by providing skill development opportunities. Recognizing the promising career prospects of English-speaking skills in the future, the Personality Development and English Speaking



Workshop was organized for students from Thanamandi and nearby areas. By combining Personality Development with English Speaking skills, this workshop provided a unique opportunity for participants to enhance their communication abilities, build confidence, and develop a more positive and empowered self-image.

The skills and knowledge gained through this workshop will also enable participants to build stronger, more effective relationships with others, both in their personal and professional lives. Each participant's progress is a

testament to the dedication and perseverance of these students. Refreshments were also provided to the students. As a token of recognition, certificates for participation and gifts were awarded to all participants and the instructor. This initiative not only empowers the youth of Thanamandi but also strengthens the bond between the Army and the local community.

It serves as a testament to the Indian Army's unwavering commitment to the service of the nation and its people. Operation Sadbhavana, with its mission to foster goodwill, development, and posi-

tive change in the region, continues to be a beacon of hope for the people of Thanamandi and nearby areas. The Personality Development and English Speaking Workshop is yet another remarkable chapter in this ongoing journey. The Indian Army remains committed to empowering local communities through such initiatives, believing that a stronger, more self-reliant society is a testament to a brighter and more prosperous future for all. The event also serves as a platform to strengthen the bond between the Army and the people of this region.

All J&K Megh Sabha Elects Office Bearers; Narinder Datt Re-elected President, Focus on Kabir's Philosophy & Community Upliftment

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 16

In the premises of Sadgur Kabir Dham H.Q All J&K Megh Sabha, Old Rehari, in the presence of large gathering of people from almost all areas of Jammu province particularly from Jammu, Kathua, Ramban, Doda, Kistwarh & other Districts to elected their office bearers in the Chairmanship of Sh. B D Bhagat (Chairman).

Whereas Sh. Narinder Datt, Sh. Ramesh Chander Mangotra & Sh. Amar Nath Bhagat again elected as President, General Secretary & Cashier of All J&K Megh Sabha respectively.

Further today, Narinder Datt (President of Sabha) in presence of Chairman of Advisory Board & many other renowned personalities of Megh community nominated State body whereas Sh. Rajinder Bhagat, Dr. Jeet Bazala nominated as vice-President, Sh. Ashok Kumar as store Keeper, Sh. Narinder Singh as Organizing Secretary, Sh. Param veer, Smt. Swarna Bhagat,



Sh. Sat Pal Bhagat & Sh. Surjit Bhagat as member.

Sh. Rakesh Kumar Shivan as President Doda District, Kuldeep Kumar general Secretary, Mohan Lal Bhagat Cashier, Baldev Singh Organizing Secretary, Jernal Singh joint Secretary also nominated from Doda. Sh. Swami Raj Bhagat incharge Ramban/Battote. Sh. Daulat Ram as President Kistwarh nominated.

Smt. Swarna Bhagat as President women wing Jammu, Smt. Neelam Bhagat vice president Jammu, Smt. Chancel Dogra city President, Smt. Rashmi Devi & Veena Devi as vice-President city wing Jammu. Sh. Parm-

veer Bhagat city President Jammu, Anil Kumar (Kala) vice-President city wing Jammu also nominated. Sh. Ravi Kant Bhagat nominated by president Sh. Narinder Datt as State coordinator whereas Sh. Surjit Bhagat as Chenab Valley coordinator. Vishal Bhagat President Pouni Chak/Gho Manasa along with SomNath as Cashier & Sh. Mohan Lal Bhagat as General Secretary nominated. Sh. Anil Bhagat President Toph Sherkhania, Sh. Manoj Bhagat President Mohalla Paharian, Sh. Surinder Bhagat as General Secretary, Sh. Rakesh Bhagat as coordinator nominated. Sh. Ashok Kumar as President from

Bhalwal (Gaink panchayat), Sh. Vinod Kumar President Chinore, Sh. Balbir Bhagat vice president Sh. Rishi Kumar as General Secretary, Sh. Under Jeet Bhagat as Cashier, Sh. Pritam Chand, Sh. Sukhdev Kumar, Sh. Naresh Chopra as member, Sh. Krishan Lal coordinator, Sh. Devraj Bhagat as President Rajpura also nominated by President Sh. Narinder Datt.

At the end president Narinder Datt request to all the elected members to work for the upliftment of the down trodden and deserving community members & also urge to promote philosophy of Sadguru Kabir ji Maharaj.

Shiv Sena demands to fly flights for illegal Bangladeshis, Rohingyas

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 16

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir has strongly criticized the US for repeating its humiliating behavior on the return of illegal immigrants and has also demanded immediate strict action to expel illegal Bangladeshis and Rohingya Muslims from our country.

While briefing the media at party centre office state chief Manish Sahni strongly criticized the continuation of the humiliating behavior by the US for removing illegal immigrants. Yesterday, 116 Indians, including residents of Jammu and



Kashmir, were once again sent back to the country in military planes and shackles, which is highly condemnable.

Sahni has demanded the Modi government at the Center to take strict

cognizance of the insult and summon the US ambassador and register strong protest and stop the humiliating behavior. Although this time the women and children were kept free from shackles.

Sahni has demanded from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take immediate and strict steps to throw out illegal Bangladeshis, Rohingya Muslims from Jammu & Kashmir and across the country, including former President of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, Pakistani woman Seema Haider, who are camping in the country.

Earlier, on 5 February, 104 Indians were brought to Amritsar from America in US Air Force plane Globemaster. They had handcuffs on their hands and chains on their feet. Sahni said that today i.e. on 16 February also, third plane is reaching India from America late tonight.

EDITORIAL

A Progressive Step Towards Inclusive Governance

In a commendable move towards participatory governance, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah recently chaired pre-budget consultations with public representatives from Jammu district at the Civil Secretariat. This initiative, which brought together ministers, MLAs, and key officials, reflects a commitment to democratic ideals, ensuring that the upcoming budget resonates with the aspirations and concerns of the people.

The Chief Minister's emphasis on consulting elected representatives before finalizing the budget is a welcome step. As he rightly pointed out, the people's representatives have firsthand knowledge of ground realities, having engaged extensively with their constituencies. This approach not only lends credibility to the budget-making process but also ensures that policy decisions are rooted in the actual needs of the populace rather than being dictated solely by bureaucratic assessments.

Among the key issues raised during the discussions were infrastructural development, irrigation, clean drinking water, healthcare, education, and the alarming rise in drug abuse. The deteriorating condition of roads, the necessity for bridge construction, and the upgradation of drainage and sewerage systems highlight the pressing need for improved civic amenities. Addressing these challenges will not only enhance the quality of life for residents but also bolster economic growth in the region.

Furthermore, the call for enhanced sports infrastructure and the promotion of tourism underscores a forward-looking vision. Investment in these sectors will not only provide better recreational facilities for youth but also contribute to employment generation and economic diversification. Tourism, in particular, has the potential to be a game-changer for Jammu's economy, provided adequate attention is given to modernizing amenities and improving connectivity.

Equally important is the rising concern over drug abuse. The demand for de-addiction centers and awareness campaigns highlights a growing social menace that requires urgent intervention. A well-structured policy focusing on rehabilitation, awareness, and stringent law enforcement will be crucial in curbing this issue.

The appreciation expressed by the MLAs and public representatives for being included in the budget-making process is indicative of a governance model that values inclusivity. This consultative approach fosters trust between the government and the public, paving the way for more effective policy implementation.

Going forward, it is imperative that such consultations become a regular feature rather than an exception. Engaging with representatives from various districts will ensure a holistic and balanced development strategy. Additionally, transparency in the allocation of resources and timely implementation of proposed projects will be key in translating these discussions into tangible progress.

Palestine in ruins: The unbearable cost of war

KCTYAGI

On October 7, 2003, Hamas fighters successfully launched a massive attack on Israel, but the price that Palestinians had to pay for it is heartbreaking. It will take three centuries to recover from the destruction caused by this war, which lasted for more than 15 months. According to a United Nations survey, it may take more than 350 years to rebuild Palestine, which has been reduced to rubble. The estimated loss in the first four months of the war was \$18.5 billion. At present, about 69 per cent of the structures in Gaza are either damaged or destroyed. More than 50 million tons of rubble have accumulated in the Gaza region, which may take more than 15 years to remove. Piles of rubble are visible throughout Palestine due to bombings and ground operations.

A United Nations report states that the accumulated rubble is approximately 12 times the size of the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt. According to estimates, even if more than 100 trucks work continuously, it may still take more than 15 years to clear the debris. Three generations born in tents will likely have to make them their permanent homes for a long time. Reconstruction will require billions of dollars, yet no international institution is willing to invest in an ungoverned region that has seen five wars in less than two decades.

Using satellite data, the

United Nations estimated last month that 70 per cent of structures in Gaza have been destroyed, including more than 245,000 residential buildings. The World Bank estimated losses of \$18.5 billion in the first four months of the war—an amount nearly equal to the combined economic output of the West Bank and Gaza in 2022. Major roads have been turned into deep trenches, essential water and electricity infrastructure has been destroyed, and most hospitals are no longer functional due to being targeted during the bombings. According to the United Nations, more than 50,000 people have died in Gaza, 44 per cent of whom are children.

The children who have survived are suffering from sickness, stress, insomnia, depression, and fear. They are terrified of every stranger. The children of Gaza have lost the will to live. Amidst the devastation, 96 per cent of children express a desire not to live, and 49 per cent say they would have preferred to die. Among those who feel this way, 72 per cent are boys and 46 per cent are girls. A Netherlands-based organisation, War Child Alliance, has collected shocking and heartbreaking data. The alliance gathered this information from 500 parents or caretakers, including families whose children were crippled in the war or separated from their families.

Their findings revealed that 92 per cent of the children surveyed are unable to accept the reality of war.

The smell of gunpowder lingers in Gaza's atmosphere. The situation is so dire that 79 per cent of children experience nightmares, and 73 per cent have become so overwhelmed that their behaviour has turned aggressive. Many scream and moan in their sleep. These children have witnessed their homes and schools reduced to rubble. Their young minds are shattered, unable to comprehend why they are being punished and what crime they have committed.

Devastated by this horrific situation, the entire Palestinian government, including Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh, has resigned. In his resignation letter, he acknowledged that Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are starving. Tensions escalated further when an American airman involved in military operations set himself on fire outside the Israeli embassy in Washington, DC, repeatedly shouting, "No more involvement in genocide." The United Nations has passed a ceasefire resolution, endorsed by 158 nations, including India.

Despite multiple resolutions calling for a ceasefire in the UN General Assembly, all previous efforts had failed. Israel was even included in the List of Shame, a document that records alleged rights violations against children in armed conflict. In this report, Israel is accused of committing severe violations of children's rights. This inclusion has angered Israel and damaged its international reputation. Several key European Union coun-

tries, which previously sympathised with Israel, have now condemned its actions. Despite continued American support, Israel's economy has begun to collapse. In recent months, GDP growth has been only 0.7 per cent. The Israeli army has requested \$16 billion, equivalent to 3 per cent of the country's GDP. Even after the ceasefire, the military requires \$8 billion annually to address new security challenges.

The fiscal deficit has now reached 8 per cent of GDP. Israel is also deeply concerned that fighting has spread to its major business hubs, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. In January, Israel's debt stood at 62 per cent of GDP, which is still lower than the average for most wealthy nations in the OECD. However, prominent credit rating agencies such as Fitch and Moody's have already downgraded Israel's credit rating once this year, with the possibility of further downgrades shortly.

Following the Hamas attack last year, Israel revoked work permits for 80,000 Palestinian workers. No replacements have been hired, leading to a 40 per cent decline in the construction industry. The same trend is observed in the high-tech sector and other industries. Inflation reached an annual rate of 3.6 per cent last month. If the war had continued any longer, the value of the Israeli shekel might have dropped further, forcing banks to rely on their reserves. Although a ceasefire is in place, this does not mark the end of the war.

A recent statement by US President Donald Trump has crushed any hopes of peace efforts. Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, is currently visiting the US, where he has been given priority among the foreign guests invited by the President. However, Netanyahu faces growing protests in Israel, driven by both economic instability and widespread public dissent. The situation worsened when Israel's Defense Minister, Benny Gantz, resigned from his position along with other members of his party, putting additional pressure on the government. Both leaders have sparked global controversy following a press conference at the White House, where they announced plans for the US to occupy the Gaza Strip and transform it into a resort city.

The proposed project would turn Gaza into a hub for employment and tourism in West Asia. The entire area would be levelled to develop infrastructure, and the 2.3 million people currently living in Gaza would be relocated to countries such as Egypt and Jordan. However, both Egypt and Jordan have firmly rejected this proposal. Experts argue that international laws and treaties will pose a significant obstacle to any U.S. attempt to occupy Gaza. Meanwhile, major Arab nations are mobilising against Trump's plan, with Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, and Turkey openly opposing it.

Hamas has strongly condemned the proposal, labelling it ethnic geno-

cide. Several US lawmakers, both Democrats and Republicans, have also voiced their opposition. In the past, Trump had similarly expressed intentions to occupy Greenland Island, take control of the Panama Canal, and annex Canada as the 51st state of America. The Israeli parliament has enacted several controversial laws that have further inflamed tensions with Palestine and Arab nations. For example, the Jewish State Bill officially declares Israel as a Jewish state, effectively relegating non-Jewish communities to second-class citizenship. Additionally, the decision to shift the capital from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem is widely seen as an act of provocation against Palestinians. Israel also occupies the Syrian territory of the Golan Heights, which has been under Israeli control since the 1967 war.

A massive city, known as Trump City, is currently being developed in the region. The month of Ramadan is approaching, which is likely to bring additional hardships. Tensions surrounding the Al-Aqsa Mosque also intensify during this time, as restrictions are often imposed on Muslim worshippers. At present, the likelihood of renewed conflict appears higher than the prospect of lasting peace. The international community is also deeply concerned about the Trump administration's decision to withdraw US representatives from the United Nations.

(The writer is a former Member of Parliament; views are personal)

Shaping India's AI Future

KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Prime Minister Modi's Paris and Washington visit, meetings with the two most powerful leaders from the developed world, comes at a time of shifting geopolitical sands. The buzzword around both these high-level bilaterals was high-end technology cooperation in a world, increasingly getting fragmented. India was the co-chair of the AI Action Summit in Paris, along with the host country France. This is the third global-level event on Artificial Intelligence, making it a Kumbh of technology leaders, policy-makers, experts, corporates and world leaders

in France. The theme was how to harness the power of this nearly mind-bending technology, whose evolution has been compared to the invention of the wheel and humans learning to use fire safely.

Almost simultaneously, China released a nimble version of the generative AI tool DeepSeek, which is currently a huge challenger to US billions of dollars infused into US technology companies' almost monopolistic dominance on AI tools and standards. US President Biden in his last week at the Oval Office had passed an executive order called the Interim Final Rule (IFR) on Framework for Artificial Intelligence Diffusion, essential-

ly imposing export controls on high-end software and hardware required for AI development across nations which may be considered inimical to US interests (i.e. China) but also, close allies like India.

While the global technology industry stakeholders have requested the new President to be consistent with the Trump Administration's previously stated, Regulatory Freeze Order, and suspend implementation of the AI Diffusion Rule until the Secretary of Commerce and other relevant officials can review the rule appropriately and pursue robust stakeholder engagement so that the rules reflect the government's objectives

and ensure companies can engage with key US trading partners. President Trump is yet to revoke the executive order signed by his predecessor, even though he did sign a fresh one on January 23, which potentially hints at a pause.

Three days into the Oval Office President Trump signed the executive order on AI development and deployment stating the purpose as "The United States has long been at the forefront of artificial intelligence (AI) innovation, driven by the strength of our free markets, world-class research institutions, and entrepreneurial spirit. To maintain this leadership, we must develop AI systems that

are free from ideological bias or engineered social agendas. With the right Government policies, we can solidify our position as the global leader in AI and secure a brighter future for all Americans. This order revokes certain existing AI policies and directives that act as barriers to American AI innovation, clearing a path for the United States to act decisively to retain global leadership in artificial intelligence. It is the policy of the United States to sustain and enhance America's global AI dominance in order to promote human flourishing, economic competitiveness, and national security."

India is aiming to have an equal say on global high

tables of AI governance, innovation and development. It has an ambitious AI mission of its own, which is heavily dependent on high-end chips and Graphic Processing Units (GPUs) currently available from US technology companies. Any restrictions on access to these high-end processors would upset the ambitious goal envisaged under the India AI mission. The conversation in Paris, India's announcement to host the fourth global AI summit in Delhi, and conversations with President Trump and other leaders this week, are steps in the right direction.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

India stands on the brink of an AI-driven revolution

VINAY PATHAK

India is emerging as a dominant force in Artificial Intelligence (AI), shaping its economy, security, and global influence. At the ongoing AI Summit in Paris, India's leadership in AI highlights its commitment to technological advancement and innovation. The Prime Minister's prominent role at the summit underscores the country's strategic focus on AI, positioning it as a counterforce to China's deepfake threats. Whether in AI, digital transformation, or healthcare, India is rapidly evolving into a global technology powerhouse, striving for AI self-reliance and economic growth.

AI is no longer a futuristic concept—it is an immediate reality reshaping India's digital landscape. Projections suggest that AI

will contribute \$500 billion to the Indian economy by 2025, accounting for 10 per cent of the national GDP. The technology is revolutionising industries, from agriculture to healthcare and revitalising cultural and linguistic heritage. India is not merely adopting AI; it is actively leading the revolution through ambitious government initiatives, collaborations with tech giants and extensive investment in AI infrastructure. The Indian government has launched several initiatives to position the country as a leader in AI.

The IndiaAI Mission and the establishment of India's first AI University in Maharashtra reflect a strong commitment to technological leadership. Partnerships with global tech firms like NVIDIA are helping develop AI solutions tailored to India's

unique challenges. AI-driven tools in agriculture, such as AgriPro and Intello Labs, assist farmers in predicting weather patterns, optimising irrigation, and detecting crop diseases, thereby boosting productivity and sustainability.

India's corporate sector is also investing heavily in AI. Companies like Infosys and TCS are deploying AI-driven solutions to streamline business processes, automate customer service, and optimise supply chains. Infosys' Nia platform enhances efficiency and reduces operational costs, while Zoho's AI-powered CRM tools empower small and medium enterprises to compete globally. Generative AI tools like ChatGPT are increas-



ingly being utilised by job seekers, with 87 per cent leveraging them to refine resumes and prepare for interviews.

Despite its rapid progress, India faces significant challenges in AI adoption. A critical skills shortage in AI-related professions remains a pressing issue. To address this, the National Programme

on AI, launched by NITI Aayog, aims to train over a million workers in AI skills. Additionally, states like Karnataka and Telangana are establishing AI hubs to nurture innovation and talent development. However, while India produces over 1.5 million engineers annually, only a small percentage have the specialised expertise required for

AI development.

AI's rise also brings security concerns. Cyber threats are growing, with increasing vulnerability to sophisticated cyberattacks. In 2023, a major Indian bank suffered a ransomware attack, disrupting services for millions of customers. AI-powered cyber tools, while beneficial, can be exploited by malicious actors. The dangers of misinformation and AI-generated deepfakes are also becoming more apparent. The viral deepfake video of actor Rashmika Mandanna in 2023 highlighted the risks of AI-driven disinformation. Similarly, AI-powered voice cloning scams are on the rise, posing significant fraud risks.

AI is also playing a crucial role in preserving India's cultural and linguis-

tic heritage. Institutions like IIT Madras are developing AI models to revive endangered languages such as Toda and Gondi.

The Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute is using AI to digitise ancient manuscripts, ensuring the preservation of India's historical knowledge. AI is further enhancing the entertainment sector through immersive experiences, such as virtual reality tours of historical sites and AI-curated regional literature and music recommendations.

In healthcare, AI-driven tools like Niramai are revolutionising early cancer detection, while telemedicine platforms like Apollo Telehealth are providing medical access to rural communities. The education sector is benefiting from AI-powered platforms. In disaster management, AI is helping pre-

dict natural disasters and coordinate relief efforts. The Indian Meteorological Department employs AI to analyze weather patterns and issue early warnings for cyclones and floods, thereby minimising casualties.

AI is not merely a technological tool; it is a transformative force shaping India's future. However, the country must strike a balance between innovation and regulation to ensure ethical AI deployment. As AI evolves, India must establish a robust framework to address ethical concerns, security risks, and workforce reskilling. Collaborative efforts between the government, industry, and academia will be key in ensuring AI benefits for the society.

(The writer is an assistant professor at IIT, Sonapat; views are personal)

A blood test could improve Alzheimer's disease diagnosis

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 16

A new blood test may have the potential to transform Alzheimer's disease diagnosis, patient care, early interventions and more targeted treatments, say researchers.

Researchers at Trinity College Dublin, the Talaght Institute of Memory and Cognition and St James's Hospital, Dublin are exploring the ability of a new blood test to detect Alzheimer's Disease (AD).

This test could potentially replace the current diagnostic method, a lumbar puncture/spinal tap (which is invasive and poses risks and challenges) in over half of patients with early symptoms, thus allowing more patients to be diagnosed more accurately and with greater efficiency.

The study, published in the journal *Alzheimer's & Dementia: Diagnosis, Assessment and Disease Monitoring*, is one of the



first in Europe to examine the "real-world" performance of one of the leading automated blood tests for Alzheimer's Disease, plasma p-tau217, in patients with mild symptoms undergoing assessment in a specialist memory service.

About 148 patients generously donated blood and cerebrospinal fluid

(CSF) samples, enabling researchers to directly compare new blood tests to established CSF biomarkers.

The study found that measuring plasma p-tau217 using a fully-automated system, was more than 90 per cent as accurate as results obtained from LP.

Integrating the blood

test into clinical pathways could potentially avoid the need for over half of diagnostic LPs. This has clear implications for the diagnosis and management of early Alzheimer Disease.

From their results, the research team believe that this new blood test could replace over half of the 150-200 diagnostic LP procedures that they currently carry out in the Talaght Institute of Memory and Cognition every year.

This blood test is not available currently in Ireland and the findings from this research will lend support to making it available in the future.

"This 'translation' from a research to a diagnostic test is dependent on the scientists, the clinical teams and the support from hospital management," said Dr Jean Dunne, Chief Medical Scientist, Department of Immunology, St James's Hospital and Trinity Translational Medicine Institute (TTMI).

South Korea's imports of fruits hit new record amid climate change

AGENCIES
SEOUL, FEB 16

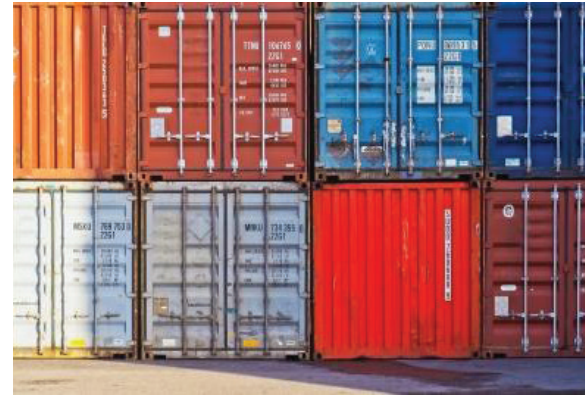
South Korea's imports of fresh fruits hit a record high last year, data showed on Sunday, amid poor harvests caused by climate change and rising demand.

The country's imports of 12 kinds of fresh fruits came to US\$1.45 billion in 2024, up 20.1 per cent from a year earlier, according to the data compiled by the Korea Rural Economic Institute (KREI).

It marked the largest amount ever, with the previous record set in 2018, when the inbound shipment of fruits came to \$1.33 billion, reports Yonhap news agency.

The 12 kinds of fruits include bananas, mangoes, pineapples, oranges, cherries and kiwis.

The growth in imports



came as the country experienced a supply shortage of fruits due to poor harvests amid unfavourable weather conditions, leading to high fruit prices.

The government has also reduced tariffs on fruit imports to meet increasing demand and rein in inflation.

"Imports of fruits are projected to rise further, as domestic production of fruits will trend down-

ward in the long run given weather conditions and the constant fall in their cultivation area," a KREI official said.

In a latest report, the institute expected total imports of fruits, including frozen fruits, to climb 6.8 per cent on-year to 817,000 tons this year.

Meanwhile, South Korea's import prices rose for the fourth consecutive month in January due

mainly to the weak local currency and high global oil prices, central bank data showed.

The import price index climbed 2.3 per cent last month from a month earlier, according to the preliminary data from the Bank of Korea (BOK).

From a year earlier, the figure advanced 6.6 per cent in January.

Import prices of raw materials increased 4.4 per cent on-month in January, and those of intermediate goods gained 1.6 per cent, according to the BOK. Import prices are a major factor that determine the path of the country's overall rate of inflation.

Consumer prices, a key gauge of inflation, rose by the largest margin in six months of 2.2 per cent on-year in January, government data showed.

New antibody discovery platform can delve deeper into Alzheimer's and Parkinson's

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, FEB 16

A new antibody discovery platform can delve deeper into the mechanisms underlying the processes behind Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, say researchers.

In diseases like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, specific proteins misfold and clump together, forming toxic aggregates that damage brain cells.

The process of proteins spontaneously clumping is called protein aggregation and researchers have now developed novel methods to generate aggregate-specific antibodies as specific probes or modulators of the aggregation process.

Advertisement
This new method overcomes significant challenges in characterising these complex and often

transient protein structures.

Antibodies, known for their precise target binding, offer a powerful tool for investigating these structures, but generating antibodies against such transitory targets has been a major hurdle.

This new platform integrates computational design and directed evolution to develop new antibodies, which are then screened for their ability to bind to target aggregates or inhibit aggregation process.

"We can substantially speed up the process of discovery and production, which can save time and resources," said Francesco Aprile, PhD, Associate Professor in Biological Chemistry at Imperial College London, who led the study.

Using this platform, Aprile and colleagues successfully generated

single-domain antibodies (nanobodies) targeting intrinsically disordered proteins, or proteins that are not defined by one specific three-dimensional structure, but that are constantly changing.

"What these intrinsically disordered proteins do is they start to self-assemble and form oligomers and aggregates such as amyloid fibrils, which are a hallmark of Alzheimer's," Aprile noted.

The nanobodies the researchers developed can target different assemblies of amyloid-beta and alpha-synuclein, proteins associated with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, respectively.

These nanobodies can provide valuable insights into what makes these proteins form toxic oligomers.

"Our platform rep-

resents a significant advance in our ability to study protein self-assembly," said Aprile. "By efficiently generating nanobodies against these challenging targets, we can now delve deeper into the mechanisms underlying these processes and their role in disease."

Importantly, the research has identified specific regions within amyloid-beta and alpha-synuclein that could be promising therapeutic targets. This discovery opens new avenues for drug development aimed at treating Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

By targeting these key protein assemblies, we may be able to slow or even prevent disease progression, said Aprile.

The Biophysical Society has been established to lead development and dissemination of knowledge in biophysics.

Heart has 'sweet taste' receptors, can sense artificial sweeteners: Study

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, FEB 16

Researchers have found that the heart possesses "sweet taste" receptors, similar to those on our tongues, and stimulating these receptors with sweet substances can modulate the heartbeat.

The discovery opens new avenues for understanding heart function and potentially for developing novel treatments for heart failure.

The new research found that these receptors are not just present on heart muscle but also functional.

When the researchers stimulated these receptors in both human and mouse heart cells using aspartame, a common artificial sweetener, they observed a significant increase in the force of heart muscle contraction and accelerated calcium handling - key processes for a healthy heartbeat.

While taste receptors are traditionally associated with the tongue and our ability to perceive flavours,



recent studies have shown that these receptors exist in other parts of the body, where they likely play different roles.

This new study is the first to identify specific "sweet taste" receptors, known as TASIR2 and TASIR3, on the surface of heart muscle cells.

"After you eat a meal, it's been shown that your heart rate and blood pressure actually are increasing," said Micah Yoder, a graduate student in the lab of Jonathan Kirk at Loyola University Chicago.

Previously, this was thought to be a neural axis that's being signaled.

"But we're proposing a more direct consequence, where we have a spike in our blood sugar after eating a meal, and that's binding to these sweet taste receptors on the heart muscle cells, causing a difference in the heartbeat," he added.

Intriguingly, the researchers also found that these receptors are more abundant in the hearts of patients with heart failure, suggesting a possible link to disease.

Further investigation revealed that stimulating the receptors triggers a cascade of molecular events within the heart cells, involving key proteins that

control calcium flow and muscle contraction.

Additionally, their research may explain why high consumption of artificially sweetened beverages is linked to arrhythmogenesis, or an irregular heartbeat.

Not only are these sweet taste receptors particularly stimulated by artificial sweeteners like aspartame, overstimulation of these sweet taste receptors lead to an increase in arrhythmic like behaviour in the heart cells, researchers found.

However, further research is needed to fully understand the long-term effects of stimulating these receptors in the heart as well as how these receptors might be targeted to strengthen the heart in the case of heart failure.

The work was set to be presented at the 69th Biophysical Society Annual Meeting in Los Angeles. The Biophysical Society has been established to lead development and dissemination of knowledge in biophysics.

Will continue to deliver quality healthcare services to insured workers: Union Minister

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, FEB 16

Emphasising the government's commitment to delivering quality healthcare services to insured workers, Union Minister of Labour and Employment, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, has instructed the officials to prioritise efficient medical service delivery and expedite the timely completion of hospital renovation and construction projects.

Mandaviya visited ESIC Hospital in Andheri and Directorate General, Factory Advice and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI).

During his visit to ESIC Hospital, Dr Mandaviya assessed various facilities, including registration counters, the online registration facility under the Dhanwantri module, the dental unit, and the internal medicine department.

He also interacted with patients and staff to understand their experiences



and feedback on the services provided.

The Union Minister also visited DGFASLI, where he was briefed on the institution's pivotal role in occupational safety and health (OSH), regulatory frameworks, and ongoing training programmes. He underscored the importance of strengthening OSH frameworks and enhancing technical expertise in the sector.

To improve efficiency and transparency, he directed officials to accelerate digitisation of pro-

cesses, including inspections, ensure better upkeep of laboratories, and maintain a strong focus on transparency in regulatory activities.

Meanwhile, the payroll data of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) reveals that 16.07 lakh new employees were added in November last year out of which over 47 per cent are young employees up to the age group of 25 years, which is a good indicator of new jobs being created in the economy.

As many as 20,212 new establishments have been brought under the ambit of the ESI Scheme in the month of November 2024 thus ensuring social security to more workers, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Further, the year-on-year analysis shows a growth of 0.97 per cent in net registrations compared to November 2023.

Indian healthcare system comes of age with institutes like NCI-AIIMS: JP Nadda

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 16

Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the narrative is changing regarding the Indian healthcare system where bone marrow transplant is possible in institutes like the National Cancer Institute (NCI) of AIIMS, Jhajjar campus, Union Health Minister JP Nadda has said.

Nadda said the institute has matured into a world-class healthcare provider in a short span of 6 year and over time, it has evolved into a referral centre offering multidisciplinary care and providing better and patient-centric care."

He appreciated the dedication of doctors, health workers and administration of the institute to make the progress happen.

Speaking at the 'AIIMS Oncology Conclave 2025', the minister also admired the high-quality precision and high-quality services of the nuclear medicine target-



ed treatment ward at NCI, and underlined that "these facilities are the hardware while the faculty members and doctors are the software of the developing robust healthcare system."

Nadda further stated that cancer is a daunting diagnosis that brings fear - not just of the illness, but of the future, of livelihood, of losing loved ones, and the inevitable economic and emotional strain.

He also visited and appreciated the Vishram Sadan at the NCI, developed by the Infosys Foundation, provides essential accommo-

modation for patients' attendants in a cost-effective way, enhancing support for families during challenging times. It also provides psychological and educational support to the needy, setting a benchmark for others.

As an "Incubator," the Centre for Medical Innovations and Entrepreneurship (CMIE) is responsible to handhold and support indigenous innovations in the healthcare sector, which is tremendous.

By enabling Indian startups to leverage the mentorship and guidance of AIIMS faculty and scientists, and

by giving them access to advanced laboratory equipment and resources at AIIMS at nominal payment, CMIE is fostering a culture of innovation, said the minister. He underlined that the government has introduced screening for individuals aged 30 years and above under NHM at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and over 26 crore people have been screened for oral cancer, 14 crore for breast cancer, and 9 crore for cervical cancer at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. The minister also emphasised that "to make cancer treatment available to the poor and the vulnerable, under AB PM-JAY, cancer-related treatment is provided for Medical, Surgical, Radiation and Palliative Oncology across 219 packages. Since the inception of AB PM-JAY, approximately 68.43 lakh hospital admissions amounting to Rs. 13160.75 crore have been authorised for cancer-related packages under the scheme."

Rise above caste, strengthen Sanatan: Balbir

JINNEWS SERVICE

GHO MANASA, FEBRUARY 16

The need to unite society and rising above caste-based discrimination has always been there in the country. All sections of society should move beyond the narrow confines of caste and strengthen the core values of Sanatan Dharma.

Balbir Ram Rattan, National General Secretary of Guru Ravidass Vishwa Mahapeeth, General Secretary of the Indian branch of the British Ravidassia Heritage Foundation, and a member of the Begampura Vishwa Mahasabha, shared these views at Guru Ravidass Temple in Gho Manasa. He was speaking to prominent persons from different sections of society, discussing Guru Ravidass ji's life and his teachings on social harmony.

He emphasized that these thoughts are particularly inspired by the teachings of Sant Shiro-



mani Guru Ravidass I, who, in his time, conveyed a significant message of social equality and justice. Guru Ravidass taught that there should be no place for caste discrimination in devotion to God and service to humanity. His teachings inspired self-respect and freedom among the oppressed and marginalized sections of society.

Guru Ravidass' life and words teach us that everyone in society should have equal rights and opportunities. He envisioned an ideal city called "Begam-

en it, we must rise above caste and embrace the spirit of unity.

Balbir Ram Rattan stated that he continuously travels to various places to spread Guru Ravidass ji's teachings, inspiring people to move forward in this direction and bring positive change in society.

The effort to rise above caste and strengthen the core values of Sanatan will be a significant step toward social justice and equality.

Rajinder Singh Chib, former president of the Gho Manasa Municipal Committee, also emphasized the need to spread message of Guru Ravidass to the masses. He stressed that everyone should contribute to strengthening the core values of Sanatan.

On this occasion, prominent attendees included Banarsi Lal, Yash Pal Angural, Sanjay Bakshi, Saul Singh, Tandav Dutt, Vijay Kumar, Madan Lal, Trilochan Singh, Harmam Singh, Bachan Lal, Rakesh Singh, and Ghar Singh.

Movement Kalki's Struggle for Gau Mata Gains Momentum

JINNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEB 16

The historic movement led by Movement Kalki continued for the 119th consecutive day at Amphalla Chowk, Jammu. The protest is focused on demanding the recognition of Gau Mata (Mother Cow) as the 'Rashtra Mata' (National Mother), the establishment of a Sanatan Board, the construction of Gaushalas (cow shelters), and the enforcement of strict laws for cow protection.

As part of the movement, a significant meeting was held today, bringing together various social and religious organizations under the leadership of Yog Guru Shri Shri 1008 Vijay Krishna Parashar Ji Maharaj. The discussions centered on future strategies, with all participating organizations reaffirming their commitment to the cause.



Representatives from multiple groups, including Jammu Province People Forum, 2024 MLA Constituents United, M.P. Fan Group, Rajput Karni Sena, Anadhi Seva Samiti, and Gau Raksha Organization, participated in the meeting. Several other social and religious organizations also extended their support.

The meeting resulted in key resolutions, including a firm decision to continue the struggle until Gau Mata is officially recognized as 'Rashtra Mata.' The

demand for the formation of a Sanatan Board to safeguard traditions and protect Sanatan Dharma was reiterated. Calls for the construction of Gaushalas and the implementation of strict cow protection laws were also emphasized. Concerns were raised over the government's inaction, with a warning that the movement would intensify if immediate measures were not taken.

Yog Guru Shri Shri 1008 Vijay Krishna Parashar Ji Maharaj, addressing the gathering, urged every-

one to unite in this sacred mission. He described the movement as a yajna for the protection of Sanatan Dharma and culture, emphasizing that sacrifices must be made to uphold faith and traditions. He reminded the supporters of the guiding principle, "Jaan Jaye Par Vachan Na Jaye" (We may lose our lives, but we will never break our word).

Movement Kalki has called upon Sanatan devotees and Gau Bhakts to actively participate in this movement, stressing that it is not just about cow protection but also about preserving the dignity and traditions of Hindu society. Supporters have been urged to come forward in defense of Dharma and to raise their voices for their rights. The movement continues to gain momentum, with an increasing number of individuals and organizations joining the cause.

Environmental building programme for CWSN held at GHS Brij Nagar, Zone Miran Sahib

JINNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEB 16

Environmental building program under inclusive (IE) Samagra Shiksha organised at Govt HS Brij Nagar Zone Miran Sahib. On this occasion, Principal GGHSS Miran Sahib Ashok Chopra addressed community members and explained briefly inclusive education and urged HOIs of HS/MS/PS to spread awareness about inclusive education and provide all type of support to CWSN in schools. Dr. Harjeet Kour discussed in brief about the 21 types of disabilities of CWSN. A cultural item presented by the students of Govt MS Brij Nagar. Principal Ashok Chopra also distributed prizes among specially abled students and teachers of zone. Lunch was also provided to the participants.

Principal GGHSS Miran Sahib Ashok Chopra in his address said that "Envi-



ronmental Building Program under Inclusive (IE) Samagra Shiksha" refers to a specific initiative within the Samagra Shiksha scheme in India, focused on modifying and adapting school buildings to be accessible and inclusive for children with disabilities, considering environmental factors to create a suitable learning environment for all students. The core focus is on ensuring all children, including those with disabilities, can access education in a comfortable and supportive school environment. This is a comprehensive Indian government scheme aiming to provide quality

education from pre-school to senior secondary level, with a strong emphasis on inclusivity, added Chopra. Dr. Harjeet Kour in her address said that overall, the "Environmental Building Program under Inclusive Samagra Shiksha" aims to create inclusive learning environments within schools by addressing both physical accessibility and environmental factors, ensuring that all students can participate effectively in their education regardless of their abilities.

The programme is aimed at raising mass awareness among the community regarding initiatives of the Educa-

tion department and SAMAGRA Shiksha in particular for the benefit & upliftment of specially-abled children. She highlighted various schemes and benefits for the betterment of the CWSN to achieve the goal aimed under Inclusive Education. The participants appreciated the conduct of the programme. During the day-long programme, all guests and officers/officials gave a message to the parents of children with special needs (CWSN) that they may enroll their children in Schools for want of Education, so as to provide them opportunity to achieve their goals, strive and thrive for independent livelihood and society as well. The parents were made aware of schemes and benefits under the Inclusive Education Component of SAMAGRA Shiksha for the upliftment, betterment and benefit of this community.

Martand Singh hails inclusion of Dogri Language in Parliament

JINNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEB 16

Martand Singh, the great-grandson of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji, has warmly welcomed the decision of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to extend translation services in Parliament to six additional languages, including Dogri.

Hailing this move as a historic step towards linguistic inclusivity, Martand Singh emphasized that the inclusion of Dogri in parliamentary proceedings is a matter of immense pride for the people of Jammu & Kashmir and Dogras worldwide. He



stated, "This recognition of Dogri at the national level strengthens our cultural heritage and ensures that the voice of Dogras is heard in the highest democratic institution of the country."

Notably, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has

recently announced the extension of translation services to six more languages—Dogri, Bodo, Maithili, Manipuri, Sanskrit, and Urdu. Until now, translation services were available in ten regional languages—Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Tamil, and Telugu—along with Hindi and English.

Martand Singh further highlighted that Dogri, one of the 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, has a rich literary and cultural legacy. "This decision will encourage greater repre-

sentation of Dogri-speaking parliamentarians and foster a deeper connection with our heritage," he added.

He also expressed gratitude to the Central Government for recognizing the linguistic diversity of the country and reaffirmed his commitment to promoting and preserving the legacy of the Dogras. "This decision marks another significant milestone in acknowledging the cultural identity of Jammu & Kashmir and reflects the government's continued efforts to strengthen regional languages in national discourse," he added.

APS Damana attends an open day visitor programme – Pragyaan hosted by IIT Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEB 16

31 students of Army Public School Damana along with the two educators named Mr. Sourab Gupta HOD Science & Ms. Geeta Gupta TGT Science enthusiastically attended an open day visitor programme called PRAGYAAN 2025 hosted by IIT Jammu showcasing an Innovative and esteemed exhibitions celebrating a fiesta of innovation and creativity on 16 February 25. The young prodigies gets mesmerized with a cosmic view of the planetarium exhubrating the significance of the Black-hole. Further the students can address contemporary challenges, such as traffic congestion, environmental




the Drones and Robotics. The students also acknowledged the project on the Transportation System showcasing their understanding of modern mobility solutions and futuristic advancements in transport technology. With interactive models and detailed explanations, the young minds effectively demonstrated how evolving transportation networks can address contemporary challenges, such as traffic congestion, environmental

sustainability, and urban planning. The exhibits highlighted the integration of smart technologies, eco-friendly vehicles, and efficient infrastructure, leaving the visitors impressed with their research and execution.

Pragyaan encouraged the students to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) via Technology demonstrations showcasing the Live demonstrations of AI, robot-

ics, AR/VR, and UAVs. It was also comprised of Science and innovation exhibition wherein the innovative projects were showcased exhibiting a cosmos of new discoveries of the scientific world. The programme was indeed a pedantic collaboration between educators and IIT Jammu. Further, the students gets mesmerized with the view of the Art zones comprising of Painting, elocation, and creative showcases. The students felt grateful for the STEM career guidance helping them to explore the future career paths. The event propelled scientific temperament among the young minds and was designed to spark their curiosity in STEAM.



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

PWD (R&B) CIRCLE NORTH JAMMU

Lok Nirman Bhawan, Rail-Head Complex, Jammu (Tawi) 180012
E-Mail ID:- sepwdnorthjmu@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING SHORT TENDER
e-NIT No. SENJ/25 of 2024-25 dated 13-02-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders are invited on **percentage rate basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with **Union Territory of J&K/CPWD / BRO/ Railways/ MES and other State/ Central Government** for the work mentioned below:-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earliest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Construction of Fencing Training Area at Sainik School Nagrota.	PWD (R&B) Nagrota	171.93	3000/-	3,43,860/ (2% of the Advertised Cost)	12 Months	(1400 Hrs) on or after 28-02-2025	"A" Class

Position of AAA = Accord of Administrative Approval by Sqn. Leader, Adm. Officer for Principal Sainik School Nagrota, vide Order No. SSN/810/QM/225, dated: 10.06.2024 for an amount of Rs. 207.54 Lacs

Position of Tech. Sanction = Sanctioned by Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Zone Jammu vide Order No. 367 of January, 2025 dated:- 27.01.2025 for an amount of Rs. 195.88 Lacs.

Project Authority = Sainik School Nagrota

The Bidding documents consist of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q.), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> as per below schedule:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	13.02.2025
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 14.02.2025 to 27.02.2025, 1800 Hrs
3.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	19.02.2025 at 1400 hours in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) North Circle, Jammu
4.	Bid submission Start Date	14.02.2025 from 0900 Hrs
5.	Bid Submission End Date	27.02.2025 up to 1800 Hrs
6.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	28.02.2025 at 1400 hours in the Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle North Jammu
7.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

No:-SENJ/DB/8896-8903
Dated:-13-02-2025

.....sd/...
(Er. Jugal Kishore)
Superintending Engineer
PWD (R&B) Circle North Jammu

DIP/J-10197/24
Date: 15-2-25

RSS chief calls for unity of Hindus to safeguard India

AGENCIES
BARDHAMAN, FEB 16

Rashtriya Swyamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday called upon the Hindu community to unite for safeguarding the country and show the world the path of peace and prosperity.

"India had been targeted since the time of Alexander but so far no outside force, even the British, could settle permanently owing to the unity in diversity of the Hindu community," Bhagwat told a massive gathering of the RSS karyakartas at the SAI Complex here in Purba Bardhaman district.

He also urged the people to join the RSS and feel the organisation from inside as there is no bar for anyone, nor any fee for the entry and each and everyone is also free to leave on his own if they find they are not fitting into it.

"Yes, if you come to



the RSS you must also contribute for the betterment of India and do not expect any return," Bhagwat told the assembly, in which many women from the Matrushakti wing took part.

He said the RSS is the biggest organisation of the world as it has 70,000 branches and stressed the importance of embracing the world's diversity, saying Hindu society believes that unity itself embodies diversity.

The Sangh chief underscored the need for unity within Hindu society,

saying challenges come even in good times.

He underlined the need to unite and organise Hindu society and said while problems are everywhere, one should be prepared to overcome the bottlenecks together.

"What matters is how prepared we are to face them," he said.

Bhagwat said the people often ask why you focus on only Hindu organisations and "my answer is the responsible society of the country is Hindu society. We want to unite Hindus because the true succes-

sors of India are Hindus."

"Today is not a special event. A question arises in the mind of those unaware of the Sangh. If we need to answer what the 'Sangh' wants then I would say that the 'Sangh' wants to organise a Hindu society because the responsible society of the country is Hindu society," the RSS chief said.

Without naming Pakistan, he referred to India's partition in 1947.

"India has nature. They (a section of society) could not live with all those characteristics, so they made a separate country. Hindus live by accepting the diversity of the world, we nowadays say unity in diversity, and Hindus understand that diversity is unity," he maintained.

The RSS rally was organised after the Calcutta High Court allowed the meeting rejecting the West Bengal Police's objection citing the ongoing Class 10 examinations

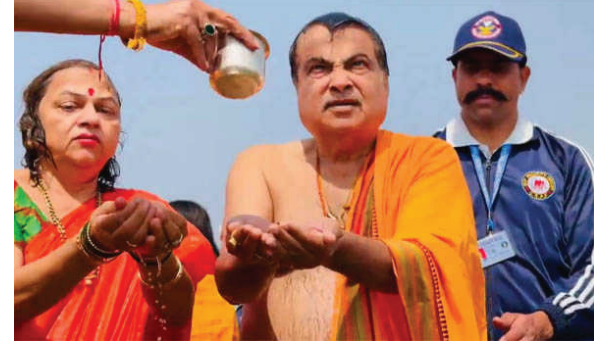
Gadkari prays for welfare of people, and seeks Maa Ganga's blessings

AGENCIES
PRAYAGRAJ, FEB 16

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Sunday expressed his joy after bathing in the Triveni Sangam, the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswat, along with his wife and family during Maha Kumbh.

Upon arriving at Prayagraj Airport, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath warmly welcomed him and honoured him with a shawl. Following this, Gadkari proceeded to Triveni Sangam, where he performed the ritual bath and offered prayers with his family. His deep sense of fulfilment was evident, as his face radiated happiness after the sacred dip.

Impressed by the meticulous arrangements made for the Mahakumbh 2025, Gadkari lauded the efforts



of the Yogi government and the local administration. He acknowledged the massive scale of the event and emphasised that organising such an event seamlessly is no easy feat.

He said, "The UP government and local administration have put in immense hard work, which is visible. This is why people from across the country are excited to visit this Maha Samagam and witness the unprecedented arrangements being made here."

The Union Minister expressed Maha Kumbh as a sacred festival that embodies the faith of the entire nation. He said that thousands of devotees from his hometown, Nagpur, had also travelled to Prayagraj in their vehicles, drawn by the spiritual significance of the event.

He said, "I pray that everyone receives the blessings of Maa Ganga. May there be universal welfare and prosperity for all."

He also greeted the mas-

sive crowd of devotees gathered at the ghats for their ritual baths. Accompanying Gadkari during this spiritual journey were Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi and Transport Minister Daya Shankar Singh.

To share his spiritual experience with the world, Gadkari posted pictures and videos of his bath and prayers on various social media platforms. "Prayagraj... Har Har Gange! Today, I had the privilege of bathing and offering prayers at the holy Sangam during Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj. I received the blessings of the sacred Maa Ganga," he wrote.

He also posted a video of his meeting with CM Yogi Adityanath, expressing gratitude for the warm reception at Prayagraj Airport.

EAM meets Israeli FM, Fijian PM, Mongolian counterpart at Munich Security Conference

AGENCIES
MUNICH/NEW DELHI, FEB 16

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met with Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar, Fiji's PM and FM Sitiveni Rabuka, Fatih Birol, Executive Director of IAEA, and Battsetseg Batmunkh, the Foreign Minister of Mongolia, on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference.

In posts on X, the EAM said that he and the Israeli FM discussed the situation in Middle East:

"Great to meet FM @gidonsaar of Israel on sidelines of #MSC2025.

"Exchanged views on the current situation in West Asia/Middle East. Underlined the strength and significance of our bilateral partnership."

On his meeting with the Fijian PM and FM Rabuka, he posted:

"An honour to meet PM & FM @slrabuka of Fiji this evening.

"Always nice to hear his recollections, views and insights."

He also met with Johann Wadephul, Deputy Chairman, Jürgen Hardt MdB and Thomas Erndl of the CDU-CSU of Germany.

"A pleasure interacting with Deputy Chairman @JoWadephul Johann Wadephul, @juergen-



hardt Jürgen Hardt MdB and @TERndl Thomas Erndl of @cducusubt CDU-CSU.

"Underlined mutually beneficial opportunities in a stronger India - Germany and India - EU partnership."

The CDU (Christian Democratic Union) and CSU (Christian Social Union) are sister parties. Together they form the CDU/CSU block of the German Parliament

On his meeting with the IAEA executive director, he posted:

"Nice to see @fbirol Fatih Birol, Executive Director of @IEA on the sideline of #MSC2025."

Fatih Birol in a post

said: "Pleasure to see India's External Affairs Minister @DrSJaishankar in Munich & discuss the strong India-@IEA relationship, including the recent affirmation of firm U.S. support for India to become a full IAEA member highlighted at the meeting of President Trump & Prime Minister Modi."

The EAM also met with the Mongolian FM Battsetseg Batmunkh.

"A warm conversation with FM @Battsetseg-Batm2 of Mongolia today.

"Appreciate the steady advancement of India-Mongolia cooperation. Spoke about deepening our engagement in cul-

ture, business, development partnership and technology."

The EAM also participated in a conversation on 'Exception and Exceptionalism: Deciphering the 2025 World Order' at the MSC.

"Joined President @alexstubb Alexander Stubb of Finland, Lana Nusseibeh, @JonHuntsman and @NathalieTocci for a conversation on 'Exception and Exceptionalism: Deciphering the 2025 World Order' at #MSC2025.

"Highlighted the reshaping underway, impacting politics, economy, technology and diplomacy."

Don't wait for catastrophe, make earth green from now: Yogi

AGENCIES
PRAYAGRAJ, FEB 16

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said that instead of waiting for a catastrophe, the people should work towards a greener earth now, which is also Kumbh's message.

After inaugurating the Climate Conference on Faith and Climate Change at the Prayagraj Maha Kumbh, the CM said, "Humanity's survival is linked to all living beings' well-being. 'If they thrive, we thrive, if they are in danger, so is our existence. We must not wait for a catastrophe but work towards a greener earth now. This is also Kumbh's message."

He stressed integrating environmental consciousness with faith and taking concrete steps to address climate change. He also highlighted that safeguarding nature and wildlife is essential to protect human civilization.

During the event, Yogi expressed his grief over the recent tragedy in Delhi and paid tribute to the departed souls.

Discussing climate responsibility in daily life, he pointed out behavioural patterns at Maha Kumbh, where aerial surveys showed empty parking spaces while visitors parked on roads, causing congestion.

The CM urged people to use designated parking areas, even if walking



a little further, to ensure smoother movement and a better experience at the holy site. He called for collective responsibility in tackling climate change, urging attendees to implement sustainable practices daily as part of the Maha Kumbh ethos.

He said that between January 13 and February 16, a record 52 crore devotees took a holy dip in the sacred confluence of Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati. He emphasised that this is possible only due to the uninterrupted flow of water in these rivers, a divine blessing.

Yogi said, "Each devotee who bathes here experiences spiritual energy and shares this sacred connection in their villages, inspiring more people to participate and elevating the event to unprecedented success."

Addressing environmental concerns, he stressed that climate change is the root cause of carbon emissions and environmental pollution.

He likened rivers to the arteries of Earth, cautioning that just as a body cannot survive if its arteries dry up, a polluted or drying river system threatens the planet's lifeline.

The CM said, "The government has taken proactive measures to combat ecological challenges and banned single-use plastic to protect the environment. Besides, 210 crore saplings have been planted in UP over the past eight years, with 70-80 percent survival rates for trees planted by the Forest Department and 60-70 percent for those grown by other organisations."

He said, "The government also promotes electric buses over diesel-powered vehicles through dedicated policies and expansion programs. Furthermore, drying rivers are being revived to restore natural water flow."

He also highlighted the transformation of the Sangam area, where crores of devotees can take a holy dip daily, some-

thing previously seen only on Mauni Amavasya.

Yogi said, "The channelization of rivers and expansion of the Sangam area have ensured a steady flow of 10,000 to 11,000 cusecs of water, making this grand spiritual event even more accessible and sustainable."

He emphasised that while the government is making continuous efforts, public participation is equally crucial in protecting the environment. He urged people to reflect on their contributions, eliminating plastic from daily lives, stopping encroachment on rivers, preventing pollution, and showing compassion towards wildlife.

The CM stressed that as humans have a life cycle, so does Mother Earth. "Their survival is interconnected. Only by preserving both can the universe thrive," he said.

Encouraging collective action, he suggested a simple yet meaningful step, planting a tree in honour of one's mother and another as an offering of faith.

On this occasion, Jagadguru Shankaracharya Swami Vasudevanand Saraswati, head of Paramarth Ashram Swami Chidanand Saraswati Muni, Jagadguru Swami Mukundanand, Forest and Environment Minister Dr. Arun Kumar Saxena, and Minister of State KP Malik along with MLAs and officials were present.

Stampede at ND rly station highlights failure of railways, insensitivity of govt: Rahul Gandhi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 16

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday expressed shock and grief over the loss of lives in a stampede in the New Delhi Railway Station on Saturday night and said, "the incident highlights failure of railways and insensitivity of government".

Rahul Gandhi termed the incident as "extremely sad and distressing".

On social media handle

X, Gandhi said, "The news of several people dead and many injured due to a stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station is extremely sad and distressing."

"I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families and hope for the speedy recovery of the injured. This incident once again highlights the failure of the Railway and the insensitivity of the government," he said.

The Raebareilly MP said,

"Considering the large number of devotees going to Prayagraj, better arrangements should have been made at the station. The government and administration should ensure that no one should lose their life due to mismanagement and negligence".

Meanwhile, party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra too termed the incident as "extremely sad" and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Moreover, general secretary KC Venugopal on X said, "The stampede at New Delhi Railway Station is shocking and deeply tragic. This kind of a disaster taking place in the national capital, under the direct watch of the Central Government, shows that the government is utterly incompetent and is only capable of PR, not actual management".

He said, "The Government has again tried to downplay the situation. When will we know the

exact figures of the dead and injured? Why were crowd control measures not in place? Why did the railways not run special trains when they knew this crowd was to be anticipated in light of the Mahakumbh?"

It may be mentioned that at least 15 passengers, including three children, were killed and many more injured in a stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station on Saturday evening, an official said.

Couple among five killed in two road accidents

AGENCIES
VIJAYAWADA, FEB 16

Five people, including a couple, were killed in two road accidents in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday.

Police said that three persons including a woman and his two sons were killed when the car in which they were travelling collided with a lorry at Nimalipuri village in Rajupalem mandal in

Palnadu district.

The deceased were identified as Sheik Najima, Nurullah and Habibullah. The accident took place when the deceased were going to Rajupalem village from Hyderabad. The police registered a case and shifted the bodies to the GGH in Narasaraopet for postmortem.

In another road accident, a couple was killed when the car in which

they were travelling collided with a lorry at Dodlavarammitta village in Pelakuru mandal in Tirupati district. The deceased were identified as Gannu Madhav Krishna (48) and Sarita Sumangal (43). The accident took place when the deceased were going to Tirupati from Hyderabad. The police removed the vehicle from the road and cleared the traffic after the accident.

Indian Ocean a global lifeline, says EAM, outlines 10 ways in which India is contributing

AGENCIES
MUSCAT/NEW DELHI, FEB 16

The Indian Ocean is a global lifeline, with its production, consumption, contribution and connectivity being central to the world, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said today, adding that at its one end the Middle East conflict is going on and could escalate, while at its other end the Indo-Pacific is witnessing tensions, including over unilateral changes to the status quo.

Addressing the Indian Ocean Conference 2025: 'Voyage to New Horizons of Maritime Partnership' in Muscat, the EAM outlined 10 ways in which India is contributing by rapidly strengthening its own capabilities and forging partnerships with Indian Ocean neighbours, near and far.

"In the Middle East/West Asia, there is a serious conflict underway with the potential for further escalation and complication. At the same time, longstanding issues are being revisited, some-

times with a radically different approach. Its maritime consequence is visible in a serious disruption of global shipping, with considerable cost to our economies.

"The Indo-Pacific has been witnessing deeper tensions and sharper contestations. The scenario is intrinsically maritime in nature, involving respect for and observance of international law. There are other concerns, some related and some autonomous. Stronger assertions of interests is one issue; concern about unilateral changes to the status quo another," the EAM said, in an oblique reference to China and its hegemonistic behaviour in the South China Sea.

"From India's own experience, we can say that adhering to agreements and understandings is a central element to ensuring stability and predictability," he added, in reference to the India-China LAC agreements.

The EAM said like other parts of the Global South, the Indian Ocean

nations too face resource constraints and economic headwinds, with many struggling to meet their SDG targets. "In quite a few cases, debt is a serious concern. Some of that arises from stresses of the international economy, but in certain cases, from imprudent borrowing and unviable projects," he said, in an allusion to countries falling into deep debt due to projects financed by Beijing.

He said in order to make rebuilding connectivity in the region "a truly shared endeavor, it is vital to ensure that connectivity initiatives are consultative and transparent, not unilateral and opaque"—in reference to China's BRI connectivity projects.

Indian Ocean nations are also facing challenges to monitor their EEZ and secure their fishing interests. "Nor can they be impervious to illegal trafficking of various kinds and the spectre of terrorism. Each of these dimensions - and certainly their cumulative impact - has a strong maritime implica-



tion. Our journey to new horizons must necessarily focus on addressing these challenges," the EAM said. He outlined how India has been doing its bit in the Indian Ocean region.

From the time of Covid and its aftermath, India has been the source of vaccines, medicines, food, fuel and fertilizer for many countries in the region, with the biggest commitment being made to Sri Lanka - a financial package of USD 4 billion to stabilize its economy that had slid into a crisis.

He said the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and the India Myanmar Thailand Trilateral Highway (IMTT) would be

among the two key collaborative connectivity initiatives under consideration, as well as the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC). "India is obviously the common element in all of them. IMEC and INSTC have an explicit maritime segment, while the IMTT would provide a land link between India and the Pacific."

India has been active as a First Responder in the Indian Ocean region, ranging from the conflict in Yemen, natural disasters in Mozambique, Sri Lanka or Myanmar, earthquake in Nepal and Turkiye or a water crisis in the Maldives. Both off Mauritius and Sri Lanka,

India has responded to significant oil spills.

India has been active in encouraging plurilateral cooperation, with the Quad as the most notable of the initiatives that encourages interoperability and cooperation.

The Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region, located outside Delhi, is a common operating platform. "By establishing coastal surveillance radars and partnering on White Shipping agreements, maritime traffic is made safer and more secure for our collective benefit."

For more than a year, India has been participating in coordinated responses, including through the deployment of its naval forces, in the Northern Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden, he said referring to the Houthi attacks on maritime shipping in the Red Sea region.

India has been participating in training and equipping other navies and coast guards as part of this, in collaboration with countries like Vietnam,

Mauritius, Mozambique and Sri Lanka.

"Ensuring trusted communication in a digital era is a crucial national security objective. Participating in consortiums is therefore an inevitable outcome. Both as government and as vendor, India is contributing its fair share and more in this regard," he added.

"The Indo-Pacific is experiencing activity of both resident and non-resident powers. Harmonizing them is a challenge that India, in particular, is well placed to address. It has the confidence of the Global South as well as the credentials to engage major powers. We strive to ensure that agendas alien to our ethos and outlook are not inserted in the region. And equally encourage respect for UNCLOS in both spirit and letter," the EAM said, in another barb at China that does not care to abide by international laws.

India has been energetic in institution-building in the Indian Ocean region, like the Indian Ocean

Rim Association (IORA) whose current Secretary General is a senior Indian diplomat; the BIMSTEC; the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), the Colombo Security Conclave; the India Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative and the Indian Ocean Conference, the EAM outlined.

"Our voyage to new horizons is best done as a coordinated flotilla of the Indian Ocean. We are understandably a diverse group in terms of history, geography, development, politics or culture. But what unites us is a common devotion to the well-being of the Indian Ocean region. In a volatile and uncertain era, we seek stability and security as the baseline. But beyond that, there are ambitions and aspirations that we strive to achieve. They will be easier reached when we look out for each other, supplement our strengths and coordinate our policies. I can assure you all that India will be in the forefront of these endeavours," EAM said.

New Delhi station stampede toll rises to 18, Railways announce compensation

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 16

The toll in the stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station has gone up to 18, with 12 others sustaining various degree of injuries, a hospital official said on Sunday.

Five children and 11 women are among the dead, said the Chief Casualty Medical Officer at LNJP Hospital.

"The death count is 18. It includes five children and 11 women. Twelve others have varied degrees of injuries," the official said.

Railways have announced compensation of Rs 10 lakh each to the next of kin of the people who lost their lives. Those sustaining serious injuries will get compensation of Rs 2.5 lakh each, while those with minor injuries will receive Rs 1 lakh.

CPRO, Northern Rail-



way, Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay said a high-level investigation was on into the Saturday night stampede. The situation was now normal.

"At the time of the incident, Patna-bound Magadh Express was standing on platform 14 and Jammu-bound Uttar Sampark kranti Express was standing on platform 15," he said

Himanshu said the incident occurred when a few passengers slipped on the stairs leading from the foot overbridge to the platform, and the passengers following them got caught in the stampede.

The situation was triggered by a huge rush of passengers arriving at the station to board special trains for the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj.

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his distress over the incident on X. He stated, "Distressed by the stampede at New Delhi Railway Station. My thoughts are with all those who have lost their loved ones. I pray that the injured have a speedy recovery. The authorities are assisting all those who have been affected by this stampede." UNI JA SSP

Prez Murmu witnesses inaugural new format Change of Guard Ceremony

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 16

President Draupadi Murmu on Sunday witnessed the inaugural show of the Change of Guard Ceremony in a new format at the Forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

The ceremony will be open to a larger number of visitors from next Saturday i.e. February 22, in which people can witness a dynamic visual and musical performance, with the backdrop of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, an official statement said.



Military drills by troops and horses of the President's Bodyguard, and

troops of the Ceremonial Guard Battalion, along with Ceremonial Military

Brass Band, spread over a larger area are part of the new format.

New Delhi rly station stampede: Cong demands Ashwini Vaishnav's resignation

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 16

The Congress on Sunday described as a "massacre" the stampede at the New Delhi Railway station that claimed 18 lives and accused Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav of "hiding the death toll" and demanded his resignation.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC office here, party spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said, "Instead of resigning, the Railway Minister is hiding the death figures and has engaged the entire department for whitewashing everything".

"Instead of taking responsibility, the Railway Minister of this country has resorted to shamelessness and is writing 'everything is fine'. Ashwini Vaishnav has no moral right to continue in his position. He should resign



or the government should dismiss him," she said. She further said, "The shamelessness of the Railway Minister was not new, he has been doing the same again and again. Whenever there is any train accident, he calls it a small incident".

She also alleged that to "hide the truth, phones of some reporters were confiscated and they were asked to delete the footage and also ID of a female reporter was snatched".

"Instead of expressing

condolences and apologising for such an incident, the Railway Minister and the government were busy hiding the death figures which is even more gruesome," Shrinete alleged.

Shrinete claimed that hours before the accident, a "safety review meeting of the Railway Ministry was held" and wanted to know what was the conclusion of that meeting.

She said that first there was a stampede at the Mahakumbh on January 29 and yesterday a stampede

at New Delhi Railway station. Seeing such incidents happening again and again as it seems that the life of a common man has no value, the Congress spokesperson alleged.

Meanwhile, senior Congress leader Manish Tiwari termed the incident as "tragic and heartbreaking".

Taking to his X handle, Tiwari said, "So tragic and heartbreaking. Totally unnecessary loss of human lives. By tomorrow it would be forgotten yet another statistic while shattered families are left to pick up the pieces of their lives. Human life does not really matter in our country".

Notably, the toll in the stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station has gone up to 18, with 12 others sustaining various degree of injuries, a hospital official said on Sunday.

Tripura CM discusses a wide range of issues with Amit Shah

AGENCIES
AGARTALA, FEB 16

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi, discussed the development road-map and security issues, and reviewed relief efforts of the post-flood situation in the state.

Despite several peace agreements and development packages that have been implemented to maintain peace and tranquility, there have been threats from different groups after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh. Bangladesh's hostile situation and recent anti-Indian activities added concern to the bordering states.

"The matter became more concerning with the report of ISI activity and



several meetings between Bangladesh Army officials and ISI in different locations bordering Indian locations. Cross-border movement of Bangladeshi nationals has also emerged as a threat to Northeast and West Bengal," said a senior police official here.

However, Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha said, "Had a productive meeting with Amit Shah ji in New Delhi and we discussed various issues. I appreciate his

valuable inputs & continued support." Before Shah's meeting, Dr Saha had called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday.

Dr Saha said that about 17 lakh people were affected and over four lakh people had to be shifted to 889 relief camps due to the catastrophic flood in August last year. At least 38 people died in landslides and washed away while a total of 58,687 houses

were damaged.

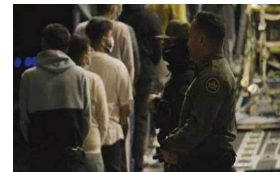
The state estimated a loss of around Rs 15,000 crore in the flood and sought a package from the central government for restoration and rehabilitation works. Several organizations, NGOs, and individuals donated a huge amount of money to CM's relief fund, besides clothes, household items, study materials, and relief items.

Still, a large portion of loss has not yet been recovered for which the state is persuading central government to provide funds. The Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited Tripura and inspected the situation and damages. An amount of Rs 564 crore, including funds from state exchequer, was allocated to address the disaster so far, officials added.

2nd US army plane lands at Amritsar airport

AGENCIES
AMRITSAR, FEB 16

Second USA army plane carrying 116 illegal immigrants landed at Amritsar



airport late Saturday night. The plane landed at 11:30 PM. Out of 116 people, 65 belonged to Punjab and 33 belonged to Haryana.

Eight persons were from Gujarat. Two each from UP, Goa, Maharashtra and Rajasthan and one each from Himachal Pradesh and Jammu Kashmir.

BCCI announces schedule for Tata IPL 2025

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, FEB 16

Defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) will set the ball rolling in the 18th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) as they host Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in the tournament opener at Eden Gardens, Kolkata, on March 22, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced on Sunday.

Aa per the schedule released by the BCCI, the final is slated for May 25. A total of 74 matches will be played across 13 venues during the tournament, including 12 double-headers. The afternoon



fixtures will begin at 3-30 P.M. The evening matches begin at 7-30 p.m.

The season's first double-header will take place on March 23, featuring Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) taking on Rajasthan Royals (RR) in an afternoon fixture at Hyderabad, followed by

a high-voltage encounter between five-time IPL champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Mumbai Indians (MI) at MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai, in the evening.

Delhi Capitals (DC) and Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) will open their campaign against each other in

Visakhapatnam on March 24. Gujarat Titans (GT) will play their first home game at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, against Punjab Kings (PBKS) on March 25.

Three franchises will split their home games between two venues. Delhi Capitals will play their matches in Visakhapatnam and at Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.

Rajasthan Royals will host two games in Guwahati against KKR and CSK before moving to their primary home venue, Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur.

Punjab Kings will play four home matches at the New PCA Stadium in New Chandigarh, while

the remaining three home fixtures—against LSG, DC, and MI—will be staged at Dharamsala's picturesque Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium.

Following the conclusion of the league stage, the playoffs will be held across Hyderabad and Kolkata.

Hyderabad will host Qualifier 1 and the Eliminator on May 20 and 21, respectively, while Kolkata will stage Qualifier 2 on May 23. The grand finale of the tournament is scheduled for May 25, bringing down the curtain on yet another edition of the premier T20 league. The venue for the final will be announced later.

Premier League: Everton's Alcaraz late goal give high burden to Crystal Palace

AGENCIES
LONDON, FEB 16

Carlos Alcaraz scored the winner on his first Premier League start for Everton as the Toffees beat Crystal Palace to continue their fine form under David Moyes.

Alcaraz, who joined on loan from Flamengo in January, side-footed home from a close-range with 10 minutes remaining, after Will Hughes had diverted Ashley Young's low drive into his path, the BBC reported.

In-form Beto had given the Toffees a first-half lead with a composed finish from Alcaraz's pass, barely a minute after Ismaila Sarr had struck the underside of the crossbar for Palace.

But the hosts were back on level terms early in the second half, with the video assistant referee (VAR) eventually award-



ing Jean-Philippe Mateta's close-range finish after a lengthy check for offside against the Frenchman.

Oliver Glasner's team were the better side before half-time and briefly thought they had gone in front when Jefferson Lerma sent a header past Jordan Pickford, but Justin Devenny's corner was ruled to have gone out of play before reaching the midfielder.

Dean Henderson produced a fine one-handed save to keep out Jesper

Lindstrom's effort not long after Mateta's equaliser, before Beto shot straight at the Palace goalkeeper as Everton sought to regain their advantage.

The visitors finally got the goal they deserved for their second-half display when Alcaraz slotted home to earn Moyes' side a fourth win in five league matches.

The victory puts Everton level on points with Palace, who remain in 12th because of their superior goal difference.

Premier League: Ipswich 10 men's play draw game with Aston Villa

AGENCIES
BIRMINGHAM, FEB 16

Struggling Ipswich Town delivered a battling performance to hold Aston Villa to a Premier League draw at Villa Park, despite playing nearly an hour with 10 men. A largely uneventful first-half was brought to life when Ipswich's Axel Tuanzebe brought down Jacob Ramsey on the edge of the penalty area, earning the former Villa defender a second yellow card, the BBC reported. The visitors had defended well up to that point and had to survive heavy pressure early in the second-half, but they stunned Villa Park when Liam Delap beat Axel Disasi to Omari Hutchinson's low cross and steered the ball into the far corner. Amid growing exasperation among the Villa supporters, Ollie Watkins equalised from close range after half-time substitute Marcus Rashford had rattled the crossbar from a free-kick. Fellow February arrival, Marco Asensio blazed over the bar from an excellent position before forcing Ipswich goalkeeper Alex Palmer into a superb one-handed save, as Villa pushed for a winner. Palmer produced another magnificent stop deep into added time after a Rashford cross was deflected towards goal by Conor Townsend, but the visitors held on to claim a share of the spoils. The point lifts Ipswich above 19th-placed Leicester on goal difference, while Villa climbed to ninth.

Former world no 1 Jitu Rai appointed as new pistol coach by NRAI

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 16

Former world number one and Padma Shri and Khel Ratna awardee, Jitu Rai, was appointed as new coach of 10 metre Air Pistol national squad by National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) on Sunday. Among several key decisions taken at the Governing Body meeting of the NRAI held at Constitution Club in the national capital earlier today, several former shooters were appointed as coaches of the national team. Also appointed as Head Coach (Rifle) and High-Performance Coach (25m), respectively, were Dronacharya award recipients Deepali Deshpande and Jaspal Rana, who have made a comeback into the national coaching setup, according to an NRAI media release. In all, a total of 16 new members were appointed to the coaching team, with 19 being retained, including one coordinator (Amar Jung Singh) and two coaches (Priti Sharma and Anuja Jung) for Deaf Shooters. As well as former internationals Pooja Ghatkar (10m Air Rifle), Pemba Tamang (25m Pistol), Amarinder Cheema (Skeet) and Varsha Tomar (Trap) among others. Two High-Performance Managers, namely Mansher Singh and Ronak Pandit, have also been appointed for the disciplines of Shotgun and Pistol, respectively. Besides Jaspal, others who have been appointed High-Performance Coaches include D S Chandel (Air Rifle), Anwer Sultan (Trap) and Manoj Kumar (50m Rifle). Seasoned Vikram Chopra (Shotgun) and Samaresh Jung (Pistol) have also been retained and will form a troika of Head Coaches alongside Deepali.

Tripura to host 73rd B N Mullik Memorial All India Police Football

AGENCIES
AGARTALA, FEB 16

Tripura is set to host the prestigious 73rd B N Mullik Memorial All India Police Football Championship from February 24 with 43 teams including 9 women groups participating in five grounds in different parts of the state up to March 7. Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Tinku Roy said that the department has undertaken all preparations for the success of the tournament and to ensure a memorable stay in Tripura for visiting football teams. The teams of BSF, CRPF, RPF, and CISF along with different state police forces will participate in the events. As many as 34 men football teams and 9 women teams of police will play matches at Umakanta mini stadium of Agartala, Tulabagan stadium of Mohanpur, Sachindra Colony ground, and Jampujala football ground in Jirania and Chandrapur ground in Udaipur. The prestigious tournament, named after B N Mullik, a former Director of the Intelligence Bureau, is a significant event in India's police sports calendar, bringing together police teams from across the country, police officials stated.

Hyderabad Runners hosts Club Run 2025 at Hyderabad Central University

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, FEB 16

The 16th edition of the annual Club Run 2025, organized by Hyderabad Runners, was held on Sunday at the Hyderabad Central University Campus, Gachibowli.

The event featured 10K and Half Marathon (21.1 km) races, attracting enthusiastic participation from runners across the city.

As a part of the event, the Couch25K training program was conducted at 26 locations, where 626 participants underwent an eight-week training regimen before completing their 5K graduation run. The event aimed to encourage fitness and long-distance running among enthusiasts of all levels.

The run was flagged off by Vijay Raju, Direc-

tor of Anvita Group, Atul Sharma, COO of Shriram Life, and Dr G Vineet, DCP Madhapur Law & Order.

Approximately 3,000 runners from the twin cities took part in the race, including a significant number of students and staff from Hyderabad Central University.

As a qualifying race for the Hyderabad Marathon, participants gave their best efforts to clock personal record timings.

Apollo Spectra Hospitals provided emergency medical support for the event, ensuring the safety and well-being of all participants.

In the Half Marathon (21.1 km) category, Avik Pal won the Men's Race with a timing of 1 hour 18 minutes 57 seconds, while Neliswe Magono secured first place in the Women's Race with a time of 1 hour 38 minutes 39 seconds.

In the 10K Race, Chaudhary Balmiki emerged victorious in the Men's Category with a time of 38 minutes 05 seconds, while Kitu Sheoran won the Women's Category in 49 minutes 32 seconds.

The top three runners in each category were felicitated by Vijay Raju, Atul Sharma, and Rishitha Reddy Basireddy, an ITF-ranked tennis player with a World Rank of 188 and a National Rank of 3. She has won 7 singles titles and 4 doubles titles in junior tournaments.

Dignitaries present at the felicitation ceremony included Ram Katikeni (Executive Member, Hyderabad Runners), Arun Kumar Kaliappan (Secretary, Hyderabad Runners), Raghu Peetambar (Treasurer, Hyderabad Runners), and Ajit Mishra (Race Director, Club Run 2025).

District Level Sports meet organised by NYKS concludes



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 16

The 2 days District Level Sports Meet organised by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt of India successfully concluded today at Jammu. The program was held under the aegis of MY Bharat (Mera Yuva Bharat) an initiative of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

A total of 6 Sports Events were organised in which the winners of 6 clusters level sports meet participated. The cluster level meet were held in the months of December, 2024 and January 2025 in Nagrota, R.S Pura, Bhalwal, Akhnoor, Satwari and Bishnah.

In the Volleyball Mens Group event, Shri Ram youth club emerged victorious while the Bishnah



Youth Club emerged runner up. In the Kho Kho Women's Round, Bishnah Youth Club emerged victorious while Akhnoor Kho Kho club was the Runner Up.

In the Badminton Singles Women Round, Mini Manzoor, Shravya secured First and Second Spot while Mehvish Malik was third. In the Skipping Rope Women Round, Mini Manzoor

secured the top spot, while Roshan Bibi and Manisha Khanna were the runner ups. In the 100 Metre Men's Event, Aadil khokhar, Himanshu Sharma, Rakesh Singh secured first, second and third prize respectively. In the Men's Shot Put Event, Mohd. Yaseen, Arbaaz and Tanush Salgotra secured first, second and Third prize respectively.

India lose to Spain in FIH Pro League opener

AGENCIES
BHUBANESWAR, FEB 16

The Indian men's hockey team began its FIH Pro League 2024-25 campaign with a 1-3 defeat to Spain at the Kalinga Stadium here on Saturday.

Sukhjeet Singh netted the lone goal for world No. 5 India, while Borja Lacalle (28'), Ignacio Cobos (38') and Bruno Avila (56') found the target for the eighth-ranked Spanish outfit.

India started aggressively and earned an early penalty corner in the third minute, but Jugraj Singh's drag-flick was well intercepted by Spain's first rusher.

The hosts had another chance to take the lead in the 14th minute when a well-directed pass by Abhishek found Lalit Upadhyay, who made a skilful run but failed to convert.

Goalkeeper Suraj Karkera replaced Krishan Pathak in the second quarter, as India pressed forward. Abhishek and Sukhjeet Singh spearheaded the attack, creating multiple chances.



The breakthrough came in the 25th minute when Sukhjeet latched onto a pass from Jarmanpreet Singh, recovered from a missed trap, and fired a reverse hit into the net.

India immediately won another penalty corner but failed to capitalise. Spain levelled proceedings in the 28th minute through Borja Lacalle, ensuring both teams went into half-time locked at 1-1.

Spain piled on the pressure in the third quarter, forcing Krishan Pathak into multiple saves. They earned back-to-back penalty corners in the 33rd

and 35th minutes but were denied by the Indian defence. However, Ignacio Cobos put Spain ahead in the 38th minute, converting a penalty corner with precision.

Spain continued their dominance in the final quarter and sealed the contest in the 56th minute when Bruno Avila's drag-flick beat the Indian defence, marking his maiden international goal.

India will have an opportunity to make amends when they face Spain again in their next FIH Pro League fixture on Sunday.

Real and Atletico Madrid both slip up in LaLiga

AGENCIES
MADRID, FEB. 16

FC Barcelona has the chance to go to the top of LaLiga if it beat Rayo Vallecano on Monday after Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid were both held to draws on Saturday.

Real Madrid dropped two points as it was held to a 1-1 draw away to Osasuna in a game Carlo Ancelotti's side had to play for over 50 minutes with 10 men after Jude Bellingham was sent off for swearing at referee Jose Luis Munuera Martinez.

Kylian Mbappe had put Madrid ahead with a powerful finish after 15 minutes after Fede Valverde's low cross, but Ante Budimir equalized for Osasuna in the 58th minute from the penalty spot after he

had been caught late by Eduardo Camavinga.

Both sides looked for a winning goal, but Madrid went closest in the closing moments with Osasuna goalkeeper Sergio Herrera producing a reflex save to deny Mbappe.

Real Madrid's draw meant that a home win for Atletico Madrid against Celta Vigo would take it to the top of the table, but Diego Simeone's side got off to the worst possible start when Pablo Barrios was sent off for a dangerous challenge after only seven minutes.

Atletico didn't have a shot on target in the first half and fell behind when Iago Aspas scored from the penalty spot after a foul on Borja Iglesias, but Alexander Sorloth saved a point for Atletico when

he bullied his way past the Celta defense to score an excellent individual goal nine minutes from time.

Valencia helped its cause of avoiding relegation with a 1-1 draw away to fifth place Villarreal, who is now three places behind Athletic Club.

Umar Sadiq began to justify his January signing with a powerful 83rd minute header to save a point for Valencia after Pape Gueye had put Villarreal ahead in the 31st minute with a spectacular left-foot shot.

Leganes and Alaves shared six goals in a thrilling game between two sides battling to avoid relegation. Getafe continued its unbeaten start to 2025 with a 2-1 win away to Girona on Friday.

Sakeena Itoo flags off 250 EWS students for cultural tour under 'Watan ko Jaano'

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 16

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today flagged off a group of 250 school children for cultural tour to Delhi, Jaipur and Ajmer under 'Watan ko Jaano' Youth Exchange programme.

The 13 day tour is being organised by the Social Welfare department in collaboration with Union Ministry for Home Affairs.

Speaking on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo highlighted that this Youth Exchange programme will provide an exposure of



social and cultural diversity of country to these young students.

"This exposure tour is a unique opportunity for EWS students from government schools of remote regions to learn and experience new things, which will

benefit them throughout their lives," Sakeena stated. She underlined that the Omar Abdullah led government is committed to provide quality education for students of all backgrounds and regions. "Our government is determined

to broaden the horizons of education for students of backward classes as well as of remote and rural areas", the Minister maintained. She further emphasized on the importance of such educational tours in broadening students knowledge as well as fostering holistic development. She also encouraged the students to document their experiences throughout the trip.

After the flag-off ceremony, the Minister also inspected the buses and assessed facilities available for the students. She also interacted with the students and asked them to take maximum benefit from this exposure tour.

While speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appealed for strengthening the collaborative approach of all stakeholders including government departments, agencies, communities and families in order to tackle the drug

Awareness cum Training prog on New Criminal Laws, Drug Abuse held at Shopian

JINNEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 16

In an ongoing effort to combat the growing issue of drug abuse among the youth through multi pronged strategy and creating awareness on New Criminal laws, District Administration Shopian on Saturday organised an enlightening awareness programme for the general public at Government Degree College, Shopian.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

The event aimed to educate the public and students about the dangers of drug abuse, prevention strategies, and appropriate responses in case of encountering drug-related situations alongwith popularising the new criminal laws.

While speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner appealed for strengthening the collaborative approach of all stakeholders including government departments, agencies, communities and families in order to tackle the drug



addiction among the vulnerable sections of the society.

DC said that drug addiction is a severe problem and has disastrous social and economic consequences.

To eradicate drug abuse, a combination of awareness, legal actions, rehabilitation measures and social support is essential, he said.

A collective effort from the Government, communities and individuals can help in creating a drug-free society, DC stated.

Deputy Commissioner also stressed for maintaining cleanliness around surroundings and called

for public cooperation in eradicating the menace of non biodegradables.

Legal professionals while speaking said that rehabilitation should be prioritised over punishment for addicts and laws and regulations should be enforced strictly to control drug trafficking in the district.

Experts from the Police and legal professionals also delivered engaging lectures, empowering gathering with essential knowledge of new criminal laws in vogue.

Later, a rally was conducted which originated from GDC and passed through the bazaars of

Shopian town and culminated at Clock Tower, Shopian with themes of Plastic Free Society and Drug Free Shopian.

On the occasion, other speakers highlighted the main features of New Criminal laws and deliberated on handling of non-biodegradable material also.

ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, ADC, Dr. Zakir Husain Fayaz, CEO, CMO, ACP, Tehsildar Shopian, College Faculty, youth and students of various educational institutions participated in the awareness and training programme along with other stakeholders and public.

DC B'pora Chairs Meeting on Waste Management Action Plan for Wular Lake

JINNEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 16

The Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri today chaired a meeting to discuss the preparation of an action plan for waste management in and around Wular Lake in the VC room of the Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The meeting focused on the strategic plan to address waste management and conservation issues concerning Wular Lake.

It was informed that the district is set to address waste management in 30 villages, including 8 villages from Baramulla and 22 villages in Bandipora, including the town.

During the meeting, it was revealed that the action plan will focus on several key aspects



including Solid Waste Management and address the treatment of 23 major inlets, local drainage system renovation, and waste segregation at the source, focusing on biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste.

Speaking on the occasion, DC emphasized the need for a comprehensive and sustainable approach to solid waste management, outlining

the importance of collaboration between various departments and agencies to ensure the successful implementation of the action plan.

DC stressed that this Action Plan will transform Wular Lake into a model of environmental management.

He emphasized the need for innovative solutions to address the waste management challenges

in and around Wular Lake and highlighted that this is a new issue requiring creative and effective strategies.

Deputy Commissioner M. A. Qadri directed the Pollution Control Board to submit inputs regarding waste hazards, which will be incorporated in the action plan.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Chief Executive Director WUCMA, Mohammad Younis Malik; Assistant Commissioner Development Bandipora, Irfan Bahadur; , Chief Planning Officer Bandipora, Mohammad Maqbool Lone, Project Coordinator WUCMA, Owais Farooq Mir; Coordinator Water Management WUCMA; Altaf Hussain Dentoo, District Officer Pollution Control Board and other concerned.

DC B'pora Reviews Progress of JJM in District

JINNEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 16

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, today convened a meeting at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora to review the ongoing progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the district.

The meeting focused on evaluating various ongoing schemes under JJM to ensure their timely completion. The meeting discussed the status of JJM schemes in the Sumbal Sub-Division, where 11 out of 29 schemes have been completed. Additionally, the civil work of 18 schemes has been finalized, with mechanical work currently underway.



DC directed the officers to bring any issues or challenges to the attention of the district administration for their prompt resolution, ensuring that the

schemes are completed on time.

Reviewing the progress of Gurez Sub-Division, DC was informed that 90% of the work on all

JJM schemes has been completed besides the meeting also reviewed the progress and discussed various issues concerning the implementation of JJM schemes in the Bandipora Division.

DC reiterated the need for collective efforts to expedite the completion of these essential water supply projects to ensure the provision of safe drinking water to every household under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Among others the meeting was attended by ADC Mohammad Ashraf Bhatt, ACD Irfan Bahadur, CPO Mohammad Maqbool, ExEn PHE, District Officers of various departments and other concerned officials

Dir Animal Husbandry reviews HADP scheme at Anantnag

JINNEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, FEBRUARY 16

In a significant move to enhance the livestock sector in the region, Dr. Parvinder Singh Sudan, Director of the Animal Husbandry Department (AHD) Kashmir, conducted a comprehensive review of the Holistic Animal Development Program (HADP) scheme in a meeting at Anantnag.

The meeting aimed to assess the progress and implementation of various initiatives under the HADP, which is designed to improve animal health, productivity, and overall livelihoods for farm-

ers. The review meeting included discussions on challenges faced in implementing the HADP scheme and strategies for overcoming these obstacles. On the occasion, Dir appreciated the exemplary work of Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Anantnag, Dr. Javed Zarger & his team in the district. Dr. Sudan emphasized that continuous monitoring and evaluation are crucial for achieving desired outcomes from such schemes. He encouraged all stakeholders involved to remain committed to their roles in fostering sustainable development within animal husbandry.

MD KPDCL reviews Power Senario in Pulwama, Shopian



JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 16

MD KPDCL Mahmood Ahmad Shah conducted review of the power scenario and progress on various projects in Pulwama and Shopian.

He also reviewed buffer stock of repaired transformers and the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes like PM Surya Ghar.

While assessing power situation, he emphasized maintaining smooth power supply to both urban and rural areas & stressed on ensuring a stock of repaired transformers in view of ensuing Ramadan. Officers were directed

to swiftly restore power in case of weather-related damages and to replace transformers promptly.

MD also discussed the PM Surya Ghar scheme, which provides free electricity connections to consumers. A total of 1101 applications have been received, with 68 units installed so far. Shah instructed officers to complete installations by March 2025 and continue raising awareness to maximize benefits for consumers.

He also inspected key infrastructure, including the 250 MVA Grid Station in Shopian and several receiving stations and feeders. He reviewed ongoing RDSS distribution works, especially for LTAB cabling, which would enable the installation of smart meters and ensure a more reliable power supply.

Finally, the MD emphasized the importance of following all safety protocols for workers and co-workers during these projects.

Commissioner JMC launches Garbage Hotspot Challenge ahead of Swachh Survekshan 2024

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 16

Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav, today undertook an extensive tour of various wards under JMC's jurisdiction to assess sanitation measures and ensure cleanliness across the city.

During the visit, Dr. Yadav directed municipal officers to expedite the removal of accumulated garbage, stressing the need for prompt and efficient waste disposal. Expressing concern over improper waste disposal by certain hotels and restaurants in Greater Kailash, he instructed authorities to impose fines of up to Rs 50,000 on establishments found dumping garbage into drains.

The Commissioner also



visited several localities,

including Gangyal, Digi-na, Dashmesh Nagar, Kunjwani, Channi Himmat, Deeli, Narwal, Janipur, and Paloura Top, where he interacted with sanitation workers and officials. In view of the upcoming Swachh Survekshan 2025, he emphasized the importance of maintaining high sanitation standards and instructed staff to work in double shifts to ensure comprehensive

cleanliness.

Dr. Yadav urged residents to actively participate in maintaining cleanliness in their respective wards and support JMC's efforts in making Jammu a cleaner and healthier city. He also announced that citizens can report garbage hotspots in their areas, and JMC will ensure their removal within 24 hours.

To facilitate this, JMC has introduced a dedicat-

ed helpline number and an online portal for easy reporting. "Citizens can lodge complaints regarding garbage hotspots in their wards on www.myjammu.in or through the My Jammu Android app," he said, adding that within 24 hours of an online complaint, JMC will clean the reported garbage hotspot and engage Swachhta volunteers to prevent further dumping at the site.

Power Shutdown

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 16

According to CE KPDCL that in order to carry out shifting of 132 KV CT's / LA's in Delina Pattan Ckt-II, the power supply of 33kv feeders including Pattan, HMT, Markandal, Gulmarg and areas including Magam, Mirgund, Markandal, Sumbal, Tangmarg, Hamray, Palhallan, Singhpora, Hanjiwera shall remain affected on February 17 from 10:00AM to 2:00PM.