

**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:

- Increased continuous fever above 102°F
- Severe joint and muscle pain
- Severe headache
- Severe stomach pain
- Severe skin rash
- Severe vomiting
- Severe dizziness
- Severe 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

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 12 | ISSUE NO: 42 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. L-29/JK-497/25-27 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

## Peace prerequisite for development, prosperity: LT Governor Sinha

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 17 (KNO)

Stating that peace is prerequisite for development and prosperity, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that security forces have been instructed to crush terrorism and its ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

Talking to reporters after inaugurating the first-edition of Sikh Cricket Premier League here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency, said, "I have always maintained that the development is not possible without peace. Establishing a secure environment is not only the job of security forces and the administration. People have to play their role."

"The Indian Army is capable and is giving a befitting reply. J&K Police and security forces are working in coordination and they have been instructed to crush terrorism and its ecosystem," he added.

LG Sinha said that there will be no halt in anti-terrorism operations, as safeguarding peace and tranquility in J&K is the top priority. "The security



agencies have been given clear and unwavering directives to root out terrorism and ensure lasting stability," he added.

Earlier, while addressing the gathering at the inaugural function of the Sikh Cricket Premier League, LG Sinha highlighted the contribution of disciplined and motivated youth in shaping the future of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sharing an inspiring story from his recent visit to a village in Samba district, he said, "The youth of that village, along with retired Army officers, have transformed its destiny.

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

Half of the village is serving in the Indian Army, and nine sub-inspectors from that village were selected in the recent recruitment list."

Calling the Sikh Premier League an important initiative, he lauded the spirit of sportsmanship and teamwork, emphasizing the role of such events in youth development.

"It is not just a sporting event but a cultural and social initiative that reflects the commitment to holistic community development and aims to build a brighter future for the youth of Sikh community in J&K," the Lieutenant Governor said.

### URGES YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN MISSION YUVA

LG Sinha also urged the youth to actively participate in Mission Yuva, an initiative launched by the J&K administration six months ago to boost employment and entrepreneurship.

"I call upon the youth to get themselves registered with Mission Yuva. Our goal is to establish one lakh enterprises and create 4.25 lakh employment opportunities," he stated.

### BHARAT HAS EMERGED AS A GLOBAL LEADER IN INNOVATION

Reflecting on India's

remarkable economic growth, LG Sinha underlined that Bharat has emerged as a global leader in innovation.

"India now has the world's third-largest startup ecosystem, contributing \$350 billion through unicorns. Our GDP growth rate is higher than that of the United States, UAE, and China," he noted.

Projecting India's economic trajectory, he added, "By 2030, Bharat will become the third-largest economy. Over the next 10 years, India will supply 25% of the world's skilled workforce." He further highlighted

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## In special gesture, PM Modi receives Qatar Amir at airport

**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, FEB 17

In a special gesture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi received Qatar Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani at the airport on Monday evening, and the two leaders exchanged warm hugs.

The MEA spokesperson said in a post on X:

"A special gesture for a special friend!"

"PM @narendramodi welcomed HH Sheikh @TamimbinHamad Al-Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar, at the airport, as he arrived in New Delhi on his second State visit to India.

"The visit will further strengthen the bonds of India-Qatar partnership."

Qatari Ambassador in New Delhi Mohammed bin Hassan Al-Jaber and Indian Ambassador in Doha Vipul were also present at the airport.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is to call on the Qatar Amir at the Hotel Leela Palace later in the evening.

On Tuesday morning, the Qatar Amir will be accorded a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The Qatar Amir and PM Modi will hold bilateral talks at Hyderabad House



at noon, which will be followed by the exchange of MoUs.

In the evening, there will be a meeting between the Qatar Amir and President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

He departs later at night.

The Amir of Qatar is on a two-day State Visit to India from February 17-18 at the invitation of Prime Minister Modi.

He is accompanied by Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani and an official delegation.

This is his second visit to India. He had earlier come to India on a State Visit in March 2015.

India and Qatar have deep-rooted historical ties of friendship, trust and

mutual respect. In recent years, the ties between the two countries including in the areas of trade, investment, energy, technology, culture and people-to-people ties have continued to strengthen.

The Indian community residing in Qatar forms the largest expatriate community of Qatar, and is appreciated for its positive contribution in the progress and development of Qatar. The visit of the Amir will provide further momentum to our growing multifaceted partnership, the statement said.

The Amir of Qatar's visit comes days after EAM Jaishankar paid an official visit to Qatar from December 30-January 1, 2025, during which he met the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

### MoS Home Reddy meets LG Sinha

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, FEB 17 (KNO)

Union Minister of State (MoS) Home G Krishan Reddy met J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in the national capital on Monday.

After the meeting Reddy, according to the news agency, posted on X: "Had a courtesy meeting with Shri Manoj Sinha Ji, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, at New Delhi, today."

"We discussed the opportunities for mineral exploration in the region and the importance of harnessing these resources," he added.

### Several schemes in J&K stalled due to lack of coordination: Rijiju

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 17 (KNO)

Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, said that a lack of coordination between Jammu and Kashmir administration and the ministry of Minority Affairs had affected the implementation of schemes and disbursement of funds.

Speaking to media, Rijiju, as per news agency said that ministry-related meetings were held, and officers from J&K's social welfare department provided updates about ongoing schemes. "Earlier, there was not enough funding. I have seen where the problem is," he said. Rijiju stated that projects

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Amit Shah to review implementation of new Criminal Laws in J&K

LG Manoj Sinha, CM Omar Abdullah to attend high-level meet in Delhi

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 17 (KNO)

In a significant development, Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair a high-level meeting on Tuesday to review the implementation of new criminal laws in Jammu & Kashmir.

Sources told news agency that the meeting will be attended by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and top



officials from the central government and Jammu and Kashmir as well.

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Fresh Western Disturbance to hit J&K, 2-day wet spell likely from Tuesday

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 17 (KNO)

Amidst the deficit rainfall, the weatherman here has predicted a two-day wet spell in Jammu and Kashmir from Tuesday.

Director Meteorological (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad told the news agency that amidst generally cloudy weather conditions, there is a possibility of light to moderate rain and snow at many places during 19th evening to 20th late afternoon. "The fresh Western Disturbance is all set to hit the Union Territory," he added.

Dr Ahmad said that the plains of Kashmir & Jammu may receive light to moderate



rain and thunder with gusty winds at few places, adding that the higher reaches of Chenab Valley & South Kashmir may receive moderate snowfall up to around 10 inches while the higher reaches of north & Central Kashmir may receive snowfall up to 8 inches.

Meanwhile, an Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng said that a fresh Western Disturbance is set to develop over Afghanistan on February 19 and quickly move towards Jammu and Kashmir by February 20, bringing

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Fear returns to LoC villages in J&K amid cross-border firing debate

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 17 (KNO)

For the first time in four years, fear is creeping back into the villages along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir as debates over cross-border firing raise concerns that tensions between the Indian and Pakistani armies could escalate, endangering the fragile peace since the 2021 ceasefire.

The 2021 ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan had brought an unprecedented sense of security, allowing resi-

dents to rebuild their lives without the constant fear of shelling but the current discourse has reignited anxieties about a return to violence.

"A fresh exchange of fire occurred along the LoC in Poonch's Pir Panjal Valley on Sunday, with no casualties reported," officials told news agency.

In Rajouri district, residents said they lived without the terror of mortars falling on their homes in the past four years.

"Now, with these discussions, we fear being caught in the

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Amid snowless winters, hydro power generation dips by 84% in JK

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 17 (KNO)

Owing to the less snowfall and low water level, in the past one month, the hydel power generation from the power plants across Jammu and Kashmir has further reduced by five percent.

Overall, the hydro power generation from the local plants in Jammu and Kashmir has reduced by 84.17 percent.

In the month of January, the Power Development Department (PDD) was generating nearly 250 Megawatts of power from the local hydel projects that amounts to 20 percent of the total genera-



tion capacity. However, in the ongoing month, the power generation has further reduced by five percent.

A top official of the department informed the news agency said, "In the month of January, PDD on an average was generating nearly 250 MWs of power

from the power plants across Jammu and Kashmir."

"However, the power generation has further decreased with the officials saying that the department was able to generate only 190 MWs of power in the

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Entrepreneurship Festival 2025: Experts see JK's potential as IT Hub, youth encouraged to join startups

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 17 (KNO)

The Entrepreneurship Festival 2025 at IIT Jammu has sparked new optimism about the region's potential to emerge as an IT hub, with entrepreneurs from Bengaluru and Hyderabad expressing their confidence in the changing business landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

The event showcased immense opportunities for young innovators and startup enthusiasts, with industry leaders pledging investment and mentorship support for budding

entrepreneurs.

At the festival, prominent investors and startup founders, who initially viewed Jammu and Kashmir as an unlikely destination for tech-driven enterprises, were struck by the enthusiasm and innovation among the region's youth. "After coming here, my perception completely changed. JK has the potential to become an IT hub. We are thinking of mentoring the youth here," says an IIT Roorkee graduate and MBA from Chicago, who has already invested in 32 startups across India and is now eager to sup-

port young innovators in Jammu.

"We had heard about IIT and AIIMS in Jammu, but we assumed that enthusiasm for startups here would be low. However, interacting with the youth changed our view. The energy and innovation we witnessed assure us that Jammu has full potential to make a mark in the IT sector," he told the news agency.

Meanwhile, Saurabh Raj, Founder of Nuvo, a company specializing in data privacy, announced plans to launch a smart card scheme in Jammu.

"We are working on how to securely transfer people's data, especially in rural areas where phones are not accessible. Within two weeks, we are planning to launch a new initiative in Jammu. The Entrepreneurship Festival has made me realize that while Jammu and Kashmir has long been known for tourism, its future as an IT hub is bright," Raj said.

The second day of Udyamotsav 2025, a festival of innovation and collaboration, saw schoolchildren exhibiting their scientific creativity alongside

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Series of anti-drug IEC campaign events held across Jammu District

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 17

Additional District Magistrate Jammu, Ansuya Jamwal, who is also Executive Secretary of the District Red Cross Society, today inaugurated a drug awareness programme at The Bethel Living Word School Qasim Nagar.

The initiative was part of the three-month-long Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign aimed at combating the menace of substance abuse.

As many as 40 awareness events were held today across different Panchayats of the District, educating the public about the perils of drug menace and its ill effects on individuals and society. The IEC activities were started on Febru-



ary 10, 2025—with the district administration having planned 305 events in the district to be held every Monday, over a period of three months.

The programme featured lectures by medical experts, enlightening students and parents about drug addiction and its devastating consequences. A former addict also shared his experiences with substance abuse and the challenges of rehabilitation,

underscoring the dangers of addiction. The event was also attended by former corporators.

Speaking on the occasion, ADM Ansuya Jamwal emphasised the collective responsibility of schools and civil society in curbing drug abuse. She further elaborated on the destructive cycle of addiction and its far-reaching impact on individuals, families and society.

The ADM underscored

that disrupting the drug supply chain requires public vigilance and commitment. "Drugs are not cool. Any individual luring children under such pretences should be reported," she asserted.

Highlighting the provisions of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003, ADM Jamwal urged school authorities to report violations, ensuring strict action against non-compliant vendors.

Psychiatrist Dr Manmeet Singh advised parents and teachers to monitor behavioural changes that may indicate substance abuse, while Senior Lecturer Dr Shefali Gupta elaborated on preventive measures. SDPO Jammu East Shazeen Bhat outlined the legal repercussions of drug abuse.

## Chairman DDC B'pora holds council meet, reviews progress of developmental schemes

J1 NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 17

The chairman District Development Council Bandipora Ab Gani Bhat, on Monday chaired DDC council meeting at Mini secretariat Bandipora to review the progress of developmental schemes implemented in District Bandipora.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chairperson Kousar Shafeeq, DDC members, ADDC Mohammad Ashraf Bhatt, ACD Irfan Bahadur, and senior officers from various departments.

The meeting focused on assessing the progress of developmental works and threadbare discussed various issues of developmental schemes of district Bandipora.

Chief Executive Offi-



cer District Development Council Bandipora/ADDC Mohammad Ashraf Bhatt presented a detailed powerpoint presentation outlining schemes and projects currently underway besides their physical and financial status.

The meeting was informed that, District Capex Budget for the year 2024-25 has been fixed at Rs 6800.64 Lakhs for which works / activities

have been identified for improvement of Rural Infrastructure, Electrification networks, drinking water facilities, Augmentation of infrastructure in educational institutions and other works of public importance.

During the meeting, DDC members raised a number of issues concerning their respective constituencies, urging for quick resolutions and

the timely completion of ongoing projects.

DDC members collectively urged the concerned departments to prioritize and expedite the pace of developmental work, ensuring that the people's needs are met without delay.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman DDC, Ab Gani Bhat emphasized the importance of ensuring the timely and efficient completion of all developmental schemes in the district.

He urged the concerned departments to maintain coordination and ensure that the benefits of these schemes reach the public as early as possible besides stressed the need for accelerating the pace of work on developmental projects to prioritize their timely completion.

## 5-Day HRD Programme on Integrated Pest Management takes off at Kisan Kendra

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 17

A Five-Day Human Resource Development (HRD) Programme on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) was inaugurated today at Kisan Kendra, Talab Tillo.

The event, organized by the Central Integrated Pest Management Centre Jammu, was inaugurated by Director Agriculture Jammu, S. Arvinder Singh Reen.

The participants included Joint Director (Extension) Agriculture, Satish Sharma; Professor & Head of Plant Pathology, SKUAST-J, Dr. Vishal Gupta; Deputy Director (Training), Alok Pandotra; Plant Protection Officer (PPO) Jammu, Madan Lal; Assistant Director Law Enforcement (ADLE), Kul-



deep Singh; and Deputy Director (Plant Protection) CIPMC Jammu, Dr. Mithilesh Kumar Arya.

The HRD programme has been designed to enhance participants' understanding of the safe and judicious use of pesticides, promote the use of CIB&RC-approved pesticides, and highlight the role of botanicals in

agriculture for achieving sustainable agricultural practices. Specifically, the programme aims to provide practical insights and technical knowledge to 40 pesticide dealers and progressive farmers from the Jammu Division.

In his inaugural address, the Director emphasised the crucial importance of adopting

best practices for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to maintain environmental sustainability and enhancing crop productivity. He stressed the need to educate both farmers and pesticide dealers on the correct application of chemicals and the long-term benefits of using approved and safe pesticides. He elaborated on the role of IPM in maintaining a balanced ecosystem while safeguarding crop health. He highlighted several IPM techniques, including biological control, cultural practices, and the use of resistant crop varieties. Director Agriculture also underscored the need for farmers to adopt these environmentally friendly practices to ensure long-term agricultural sustainability.

## DC Rajouri reviews administrative functioning of BGSBU as Registrar of University

J1 NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 17

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, who has been assigned the additional charge of Registrar, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), held an introductory meeting at the university, marking the beginning of his tenure in this additional role. Notably, he is the first IAS officer to be appointed as the Registrar of BGSBU.

During the visit, Abhishek Sharma conducted a comprehensive review of the university's administrative functioning and assessed the progress of ongoing major initiatives. He also visited various academic and admin-



istrative departments, interacting with faculty and staff to understand key challenges and areas requiring improvement.

In a significant move, he conducted a late-night inspection of the residential hostels to assess

student facilities, security arrangements, and overall living conditions. Taking a firm stand on accountability, he also took action against a hostel warden for lapses in duty.

Stressing the importance of efficient governance and student welfare, Abhishek Sharma directed the university administration to ensure a transparent, student-friendly environment and expedite pending developmental projects.

The visit was attended by officers and officials from BGSBU, faculty members, and administrative officers.

## National Lok Adalat in Anantnag on March 08

J1 NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, FEBRUARY 17

The District Legal Services Authority Anantnag in collaboration with Tehsil Legal Services Committees of District is going to hold 1st National Lok Adalat of the year 2025 at District Court Complex Anantnag as well as Taluka courts on March 08, 2025.

The cases regarding pre-Litigation and post Litigation Cases, NI Act cases under Section 138, Bank Recovery matters, Labour disputes cases, Electricity and Water bills excluding Non-compoundable, Criminal Compoundable, Matrimonial and other civil disputes were taken up during this National Lok Adalat for amicable settlement.

## CS thoroughly scrutinises 'Sehat App' before its formal launch

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 17

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today had an in depth analysis of the features and functioning of the 'Sehat App' before it is being dedicated to the public.

The application, which was developed by BISAG-N on the request of the Health & Medical Education Department, would serve as a single stop solution for availing all patient and health practitioner related services in J&K.

During live demonstration of this application, the Chief Secretary assessed several of its features and appreciated both the Health Department and BISAG-N for making it a reality. He observed that this first version is itself a comprehensive application offering certain better services to the patients and health practitioners through their smart phones.

The Chief Secretary further enjoined upon the concerned for onboarding all the health practitioners on this portal in order to make the application more comprehensive and useful for the users. He also advised them to look into making certain up gradations regarding registration of doctors/ paramedics for home support and tele consultation.



Regarding other services, the Chief Secretary asked for adding information about the high-end services of chemotherapy, dialysis available in both public and private sectors here. He also directed for offering the insurance services extended through schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima yojana.

The Chief Secretary also asked to introduce an inventory of professionals certified in providing 'Basic Life Support (BLS)' support in case of emergencies and those of Advanced Life Support (ALS) givers also to build the capacity of BLS givers in order to enhance their number and reach in different parts of the UT.

The Chief Secretary underscored the need of enriching it with the details

of blood donors besides having API integration with other applications like e-WIN, ABDM and other relevant ones. He called on them to further augment it with services like home delivery of drugs, activity calendars of different Medical Colleges and National Institutions for the benefit of medical students and practitioners.

The Chief Secretary also asked for introduction of payment gateway in the same application so that users do not have to look helter-skelter to complete their appointments or carry out diagnostic tests in medical facilities. He asked for sending health alerts to the users at times of need or any emergency.

Secretary, H&ME, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah, gave detailed description of the features embed-

ded in the 'Sehat App'. He revealed that the application has been developed on the lines as envisaged by the Chief Secretary himself. He gave out that it is a comprehensive one stop solution for different services offered by the Department in addition to extending resources to the medics for building their capacity and training.

He further gave out that the app offers patient services, facilities for general public, facilities for healthcare professionals, medical students, their skill development, health insurance and helpline assistance to people for different purposes together with a chat bot to ask queries and seek customised answers.

Explaining further Dr Yashpal Sharma, Ex Director (Coordination) Medical Colleges disclosed that

services like seeking of appointments, online registrations in outside hospitals as that of PGIMER, Chandigarh and AIIMS along with other ABDM empanelled ones and some major private hospitals existing outside the UT can be secured through this application which was appreciated by Chief Secretary for it would be pivotal in transforming healthcare system here in the UT.

Moreover, it was added that a detailed information, contacts and GIS based locations had been provided about thousands of health institutions, Ayush Centres, diagnostic facilities (MRI/CT Scan etc), dental centres, physiotherapy centres, drug de-addiction centres, blood banks, immunization centres and pharmacies is available over this

application.

Medical practitioners available for tele consultation over the country especially from AIIMS is also available with provision for registration of others. It was divulged that registration forms of practitioners would be forwarded to concerned CMO for their authentication so that only genuine professionals are available to serve public.

The meeting was apprised that the application offers IEC material for dealing with different diseases and emergency situations like neglected tropical diseases, snake bites, seasonal threats, health advisories to be issued from time to time.

It is a one stop solution for different kinds of facilities including the awareness regarding adolescent, geriatric and other specialized care required by different population groups here. The app has been supplemented with AI based smart bot to generate customised information about different health situations and centralized helpline to seek assistance by the public at large. They can even give their feedback over the app by filling in the feedback form to be directly submitted to the developers for making necessary corrections to make the user interface better with each passing day.

## District Capex Plan 2024-25 Progres of RDD Sector works reviewed in Ramban



J1 NEWS SERVICE

RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 17

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Ramban Roshan Lal chaired a comprehensive review meeting today here in the Conference Hall to assess performance of Rural Development Department (RDD) in the execution of works taken under the District Capex Plan 2024-25.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Srinath Suman; Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) Mohd. Ashfaq; besides Block Development Officers (BDOs) and other concerned officers.

The ADDC evaluated the physical and financial progress of each project

and asked the Department to expedite completion of new works and ensure 100% expenditure. The Rural Engineering Wing (REW) officers were instructed to get the allotment of works and ensure proper documentation, with allotment orders emailed to all BDOs without any further delay.

Given the time constraints and limited working season, the ADDC emphasized double-shift execution to accelerate progress. Additionally, he directed that all billing processes be completed and submitted to the respective treasuries before March 15, 2025.

The CPO provided a block-wise progress report and urged officers to meet developmental targets and ensure the timely delivery of services under the District Capex Plan 2024-25.

## Panchayat level IEC Campaign launched in Kishtwar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 17

In a proactive step, the District Administration Kishtwar, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan has kick-started a Panchayat/Village Level Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Campaign across all 13 blocks of the district.

The initiative aims to raise awareness about the devastating effects of substance abuse and mobilize community participation in the fight against drug addiction.

As part of this sustained effort, awareness drives will be organized in panchayats every Monday, ensuring continuous engagement with local communities in all 13 Blocks across the District.

The launch event received an enthusiastic response, with active



involvement from local residents, students, and community leaders across all blocks.

At the district headquarters, the campaign was kick-started at Revenue Village Kishtwar (ITI Kishtwar) in the presence of Additional Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Idrees Lone, who presided over the event.

Addressing the gathering, the ACR underscored the importance of fostering drug control measures

to realize the goal of "Nasha Mukta" (drug-free) society. He urged the youth to play an active role in spreading awareness about the perils of drug abuse.

Many speakers, including Medical Officers from the Health Department, teachers and others shared their insights against drug abuse and awareness of the NASHA MUKT initiative.

A Nasha Mukta Abhiyan pledge was also administered on the occasion to

the participants by TSWO Rajesh Kumar Sharma.

He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to tackle the issue through consistent information dissemination and active community engagement. Similar events were held across 13 villages in different blocks of the District, involving the participation of SDMs, Tehsildars, BDOs, and other Officers. The departments, including Social Welfare, Health, Education, Excise, ICDS, NRLM, RDD, Police, and Revenue, NGOs actively participated in the initiative across the District.

The District Administration Kishtwar called upon all stakeholders, including educational institutions, civil society organizations, and local governance bodies, to actively participate in this crucial initiative and contribute to building a healthier, drug-free society.

## Satish Sharma for evolving robust mechanism to ensure prompt delivery of DLs

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 17

Minister for FCS& CA, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Information Technology, Science and Technology, ARI & Training, Satish Sharma, today chaired a meeting to review the functioning of Motor Vehicles Department here.

Secretary Transport Department, Neeraj Kumar; MD JKRTC, Rakesh Kumar Srangal; Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan; RTO Jammu, Pankaj Bhagotra; RTO Kashmir, Kazi Irfan besides ARTOs from different districts and senior officials were present in the meeting.

The Transport Commissioner gave a brief presentation on e-challenging, establishment of RTDCs/DTCs and ICC, action



against traffic violators, RSVF, VLTP, printing of Driving Licenses, rules related to E-rickshaws and other allied matters.

The Minister emphasised the need for evolving a robust mechanism to ensure prompt delivery of driving licenses to the general public. He also asked for raising the Driving Training Centres (DTC's) in far flung districts both in Jammu and Kashmir division so that the facility is made available to the desirous applicants at their door

step. Regarding traffic violations, the Minister emphasised upon MVD and traffic police to work together in order to curb this menace.

Regarding e-rickshaws, the Minister exhorted that persons with only valid driving licence should be registered and given the e-rickshaws and strict action should be initiated against those violating the rules. Satish Sharma also issued instructions for intensifying road checking in all the districts. He asked

the officers to ensure that the offenders are booked as per provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act.

The Minister asked the RTOs/ARTOs to make road checking a routine feature with focus on speed limit devices, overloading, overcharging of passenger fare and route violations. He also issued instructions for improving the public delivery system for providing services to the public as per fixed timelines thereby bringing added efficiency into the system.

The Minister asserted that the government under the leadership of CM Omar Abdullah is committed to facilitate people at their doorsteps. He assured government's unwavering support to the officers in line of discharging their duties with utmost dedication and integrity.

## Multi-Storey Automatic Parking planned for Kishtwar Town



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 17

Deputy Commissioner (DC) R.K Shavan today inspected the proposed site for construction of an Automatic Puzzle-Type Multi-Storey Parking facility in the Kishtwar Town. The project aims at decongesting traffic in the main city.

The proposed project, envisaging a 08 Storey automated parking facility with parking capacity of 240 Vehicles, is

expected to significantly ease vehicular congestion and improve urban mobility.

During the site visit near Bun Astan, the DC issued necessary directions to the Mechanical and Hospital Division Kishtwar for the framing and submission of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) at the earliest.

Tehsildar Nirbhay Sharma, AEE Mechanical Umar Mushtaq, revenue officials and others were present during the visit.

## Class 10th Annual Examination: Dr. G. N Itoo inspects facilities in examination centers in Srinagar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 17

As the annual examination of class 10th commences, Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK) Dr. G.N. Itoo visited several examination centers of district Srinagar to inspect facilities provided to students during examination.

DSEK visited Presentation Convent Higher Secondary School Rajbagh, Boys Higher Secondary School Jawaharnagar and several other schools of district Srinagar.

On the occasion, he interacted with students and enquired about the facilities provided to

them during examination.

Dir expressed satisfaction with the overall arrangements made in the examination centers.

He stated that the department is committed to provide every possible facility to the students across the valley.

It is pertinent to mention that 636 examination centers have been established for the annual examinations of class 10th in Kashmir Division, in which about 74 thousand students are appearing and more than 4 thousand staff members have been engaged for the smooth conduct of examination.

## NDMA to conduct Disaster Management Mock Exercise at Jammu Airport in Non Aviation Domain on 18, 19 Feb

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 17

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) will be conducting Disaster Management related Mock Exercise at Jammu Airport in Non Aviation Domain on 18 and 19 February, 2025 based on Earth quake scenario in collaboration with Jammu & Kashmir Disaster Management department-JKDMA and Airport Authority of India at Jammu Airport.

The main objective of the Mock Exercise is to highlight the key roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in various simulated hazard situations and institutionalize adoption of the Incident Response System (IRS) in the response mechanism

and generating public awareness regarding the Disaster Management.

The Mock & TTEX's are designed to appraise all key functionaries related to disaster management of the Jammu Airport of their roles and responsibilities on various simulated/other natural & man made hazards, discern areas for further improvement and set the stage for the conduct of the Mock Exercise.

This exercise is aimed to gauge the responses of various stake holders to a simulated hazard/emergency.

Further, there will be deliberation on various facets of Disaster Management to include preparedness, mitigation, evacuation, relief procedures etc to draw important lessons for further improvement.

## DIG Traffic interacts with Tour Operators at Bus Stand Jammu

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU FEBRUARY 17

Following the reports of overcharging of fare by the travel agencies and use of tinted glasses/curtains in Buses, DIG Traffic Range Jammu, Dr. Mohammad Haseeb Mughal today visited Bus Stand Jammu to check the fares being charged from the interstate passengers owing to shortage of passenger vehicles due to ongoing festive season.

The DIG was accompanied by SSP Traffic City Jammu Mohammad Fiesel Qureshi, Arvinder Singh Kotwal, Addl. SP Traffic City Jammu, Anubhuti, Dy. SP Traffic City North Jammu, Vikram Singh Bhau, SDPO City North Jammu, SHO P/S Bus Stand and DTI Bus Stand Jammu.

The DIG inspected the travel operators' stalls, offices and checked the rate lists for services on different routes being plying by them. During the exercise it was found that Rate lists are missing from these stalls, offices.

After on the spot interaction, the travel operators were asked to display the government approved Rate lists at Prominent places within three Days, failing which strict legal action shall be initiated against them.

During the inspection, the DIG checked the counter foils of most of the dealers/operators of the travel agencies to verify the overcharging of fares. He strictly asked the travel agency operators to charge only Government approved rates for the different destinations otherwise face legal action.

They were also asked to comply with the road safety guidelines of the



conditions have been given to the field traffic Police officer that no unregistered and illegal operation of travel agency be allowed to operate at Bus Stand Jammu. DIG Traffic Jammu said that the inspection tour has been conducted for the convenience and safety of the commuters.

The DIG Traffic Jammu said that SSP Traffic City has also been directed to ensure that the fare rate list and the traffic Police helpline numbers be displayed in the Bus stand premises near ticket counters for the awareness of the general public.

Such drives, tours, inspection of Tour operators shall be conducted on regular intervals so as to make the Tour Operators fully compliant of the government norms and directives. The DIG sought the cooperation of all such stakeholders so as to make the drive purposeful and satisfying for the commuters.

## J&K Backward Classes Commission Assesses OBC Representation in Local Bodies

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 17

The Jammu & Kashmir Local Bodies Dedicated Backward Classes Commission visited District Headquarter Srinagar as a part of their outreach and met the stakeholders from different panchayats and surrounding blocks of Districts Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal to assess the implications of backwardness among OBC's in direct elections to the local bodies.

The Commission was appraised by the delegations about the problems faced by the

OBC community in getting representation in the local bodies and the circumstances that prevent them in getting elected to the rural local bodies.

The delegations expressed their concern about the absence of comprehensive census of OBC classes so far and stressed that the OBC classes survey should be done in light of more castes that have been included in 2024.

The Commission gave a patient hearing to the views and grievances of the delegations and, assured to accord consideration to their concerns.

and generating public awareness regarding the Disaster Management.

The Mock & TTEX's are designed to appraise all key functionaries related to disaster management of the Jammu Airport of their roles and responsibilities on various simulated/other natural & man made hazards, discern areas for further improvement and set the stage for the conduct of the Mock Exercise.

This exercise is aimed to gauge the responses of various stake holders to a simulated hazard/emergency.

## DM Jammu issues order for mandatory CCTV camera installation

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 17

District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya has issued an order for mandatory installation of CCTV cameras at key establishments across Jammu to enhance public security. The directive, issued under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha San-

hita (BNSS), 2023, seeks to improve surveillance through technology.

The order applies to banking and financial institutions, business establishments and public spaces with high foot traffic. These include banks, ATMs, jewellery shops, petrol pumps, shopping malls, restaurants, hotels, cinemas, liquor shops,

Educational institutions, places of worship, transportation hubs, hospitals, offices etc.

Establishments and market associations have been asked to install CCTV cameras within two weeks, covering entry and exit points up to 40 meters. The systems are required to operate continuously with power backup, main-

taining a resolution of at least 1920x1080 and store footage for 30 days.

The CCTV footage must be provided to law enforcement agencies when requested and any suspicious activity observed should be reported to the local Station House Officers (SHO). The SHOs will compile a list of non-compliant establishments

for submission through SSP Jammu.

The order takes effect on February 17, 2025, for an initial period of eight weeks, with the possibility of extensions or modifications. Non-compliance will be subject to legal action under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

Supreme Court of India issued in the case titled Avishek Goenka Vs Union of India & Anr 2012.

They were told that use of black films or any other material upon safety glass, windscreen and side windows is impermissible, as directed by the SC.

The DIG Traffic Jammu further directed Dy. SP Traffic City North Jammu/DTI Bus Stand to install helpline numbers of Traffic Police at conspicuous places for public assistance and grievances regarding the overcharging of fare issue.

During the inspection of records of the travel agencies, the GST filing was also found lacking.

The Dy.SP Traffic City North Jammu, SHO P/S Bus Stand Jammu and

DTI Bus Stand Jammu were directed to verify the authenticity and registration of each travel agency to ensure that the registration conditions of travel agencies are fulfilled to avoid any chaos and confusion and to ensure transparency in the transaction process in this regard.

DIG Traffic Range Jammu also said that since Jammu City is famous for religious tourism, necessary direc-

### NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DEE/TR/JAT acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders ([www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No. 251J-Elect-T-15-2024-25 Name of Work "Electrical work in c/w construction of Type II Quarters 16 nos, Type III 18 nos & 16 no, Type IV Quarters at BDGM". App. Cost. (in ₹) Rs. 93,36,966.96 Earnest Money (in ₹) 1,86,700.00 Completion period 6 Months Opening of tender 10.03.2025 after 15:00 Hrs. Website Particulars [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

251J-Elect/T/Notice No. 15-Elect/2024-25 Dated:- 15.02.2025 533/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders ([www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No.	Name of Work	App. Cost (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Completion Period	Opening of Tender	Website Particulars
251-Elect-T-56-2024-25	Electrical work in c/w Resurfacing of PF 1 and PF 2 & 3 at Pathankot Railway Station.	Rs. 23,03,309.56	Rs. 46,100.00	6 Months	11.03.2025 after 15:00 Hrs.	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

No.: 251-Elect/T/Notice No. 48-Elect/2024-25 Dated: 13.02.2025 542/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice

DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) with closing date- 10.03.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
14.02.2025	24.02.2025	10.03.2025/15:00 Hrs

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
1.	313-2024-25-ADEN-IASR	Upgradation/Improvement in infrastructure & augmentation of manufacturing capacity of Amritsar Mech. Workshop.
		Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money Validity of Offer Period of Completion
		1,42,35,336.56/- 2,21,200.00/- 60 Days 06 Months

Similar nature of work :- "Any civil work other than track work."

Note 1:- Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. Tender No:- 313-2024-25-ADEN-IASR Date: 17.02.2025 536/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## FROM THE PAGE 1...

## Peace prerequisite...

India's leadership in digital transformation, stating, "India ranks number one in digital transactions and has become the largest consumer of the internet in the world. Major global companies are investing in Bharat, recognizing its potential as an economic powerhouse." **CONGRATULATES SIKH COORDINATION COMMITTEE FOR PLAYING VITAL ROLE IN EMPOWERING THEIR COMMUNITY**

He congratulated the All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee for playing a vital role in empowering the Sikh community and preserving its rich heritage, through such innovative programs, while fostering a sense of pride and responsibility towards the society and the nation among its youth.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted his resolve to develop a robust ecosystem where the Sikh community members, especially the youth have access to opportunities and make meaningful contributions to the society.

"Our youth from Sikh community represent the very pivot around which socio-economic growth and transformation of the society takes a new shape and to ensure this we are working with dedication for mainstreaming of Sikh youth into the development process," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He further asked the Youth to follow the footsteps of their great ancestors and make the entire Sikh community and the nation proud.

**J&K WORKING FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH**

"Today, Jammu Kashmir is working for inclusive growth, which means socio-economic growth of all sections of society. Such initiatives hold the key to equitable growth and socio-economic change. It also promotes the ideals and values of unity, discipline and harmony," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised the role of Public-Private Partnerships to empower youth by improving infrastructure, providing opportunities and opening up new avenues in diverse sectors.

"I strongly believe that socio-economic goals of development and empowerment of youth should be made through public-private partnerships. It can provide us with an extensive network of skilling and entrepreneurship projects and we can take these facilities to the grassroots levels. In 2020 I initiated public-private partnership projects. Even today, we are also creating an enabling policy environment in which youth's concerns can be reflected, and redressed in a speedy manner," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Ajit Singh, Chairman, All Jammu Kashmir Sikh Coordination Committee; presidents of District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committees, heads of various Sikh organisations, players, coaches and youth in large number were present.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor, Jammu University, senior officials of Police and civil administration were also present on the occasion.

## In special gesture...

Qatar Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani.

According to the India-Qatar Joint Business Council, the bilateral trade between India and Qatar stood at over USD 14 billion during the last financial year.

There has been an increase in Qatari investments in India, and currently Qatari FDI in India stands at around USD 1.5 billion.

There are around 20,000 Indian-owned SMEs operating in Qatar across the varied sectors of the economy. The India-Qatar Joint Business Council has 19 top businessmen from each country.

## Amit Shah to...

They said that the meeting will start at 11 am in the ministry of Home Affairs office in North Block, New Delhi.

A close aide to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah confirmed that he has been invited to attend the meeting.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam replaced the colonial-era Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Code of Criminal Procedure CrPC) and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872 after new criminal laws came into effect from July 1 last year.

## Fresh Western...

widespread rain and snow across the Union Territory.

"The first signs of the disturbance will be felt in the higher reaches from late night on February 19, with precipitation gradually intensifying as it spreads across the region. Most parts of Jammu and Kashmir are likely to witness a moderate spell of rain/snow, along with the possibility of a heavy spell in some parts," he said.

"Overall, on average, Jammu region may record higher precipitation than Kashmir Valley. The Chenab Valley districts - Ramban, Kishtwar, and Doda - are also expected to receive moderate to heavy precipitation. In Kashmir Valley plains, rains may dominate on that day, but a sharp drop in temperature could trigger a transition to snowfall, especially under prolonged heavy precipitation," Keng added.

Temperatures, which will remain in the range of 15 - 18°C on February 19, are expected to drop below 7°C on February 20. The Pir Panjal range is expected to receive heavy snowfall, affecting areas such as Gulmarg, Sinthan Top, Peer Ki Gali, and other parts of Mughal Road, Keng added.

Due to higher temperatures, lightning and thunder-showers may remain a common feature on that day, especially in Jammu region. There is a risk of shooting stones/landslides on Jammu-Srinagar National Highway on 20th February. Weather is expected to improve from 21st February onward," he said.

## Fear returns to LoC...

crossfire again," Mohammad Suleiman, a local, said. Similarly, in Poonch, Kashmir Khan a local farmer, said the ceasefire gave their children a future. "If hostilities resume, we will be forced to flee, and their studies will suffer," he said. "Business had picked up

as people felt safe to move around. We've rebuilt our lives and livelihoods. The mere thought of returning to those dark days is distressing."

Another resident of Poonch added, "A potential breakdown of the ceasefire agreement is deeply unfortunate for border residents like us. We are the ones who bear the brunt of shelling, losing our homes, livelihoods, and sometimes our loved ones."

Mushtaq Ahmad, a resident of Karnah, said the recent debates over cross-border firing have gripped LoC residents with fear. "We have lived in peace for four years, but now uncertainty looms over our lives once again," he said.

Meanwhile, locals in Gurez Valley expressed a strong desire for the ceasefire along the LoC to remain intact, saying it has brought much-needed stability to their lives. "We pray and hope that peace continues, as it has allowed our areas to witness significant development," said Ajaz Ahmad.

"Infrastructure has improved, and even border tourism has gained momentum, benefiting local businesses and providing employment," he added.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary said the cross-border firing has caused immense suffering since 1947.

Speaking with reporters in Baramulla, the Deputy CM said, "It is unfortunate that we have been witnessing it since 1947. It has ruined lives whenever it erupts. Hopefully, we will get rid of it."

Speaking to the media after inaugurating the first edition of the Sikh Cricket Premier League at Jammu University, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said the Indian Army is fully capable of giving a strong and appropriate response on the border. "Indian Army is effectively responding to the situation," he said when asked a question about the recent violence along the Line of Control (LoC).

The comment came a day after Pakistan troops targeted Indian posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Gulpur sector of Poonch, which was retaliated with equal calibre.

The fresh tensions between both nations escalated along the LoC in the past few days.

On Feb 14, an army jawan was injured in a sniper shot suspected to have been fired from across the border in the Keri area of Akhnour sector.

On Feb 11, a young captain and a soldier were killed while another was injured in an IED explosion near the LoC in Akhnour sector.

On Feb 10, an army jawan sustained a bullet injury in suspected firing from across the border in Nowshera sector of Rajouri district.

On Feb 8, Indian troops effectively retaliated to the firing by suspected terrorists along the LoC in Rajouri district.

Meanwhile, on the intervening night of February 4 and 5, a major infiltration bid was foiled when a group of suspected terrorists believed to be killed in a landmine explosion on the LoC in Battal area of Krishna Ghati Sector in Mendhar area of Poonch district.

## Amid snowless...

ongoing month," the official said. It also said that in the month of February, the department was facing less production. "As of now, we are generating around 190 MWs of power across Jammu and Kashmir out of a total generation capacity of 1200 MWs."

The official further admitted that the department was not able to generate power as in previous years during the peak time. We are reeling under global warming and climate change.

"Over a period of time, we have not been able to generate the normal power that we used to generate in previous years because of less water availability. Water availability period is also shortening," the official said.

It also said that the generation capacity cannot be measured in one day only. "The power generation varies. We reserve the water in the daytime to generate power during the peak hours. In the peak time, we are generating 50 MWs of power from the lower Jhelum and 5 MWs during the regular time. Besides, we are able to generate only 8 MW of power from the Kangan and 6 MWs from Sumbal power projects respectively," the official said.

In Jammu and Kashmir we have a total of 1200 Megawatts (MWs) hydel power production capacity of which 900 MW is from the Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project.

"Across Jammu and Kashmir, as far as snowfall occurrence and early winters are concerned, last year we were in the same situation with regard to the power generation in the month of February," the official said. Adding, "This year we look forward to at least generating what we did last year. If the snow occurs now onwards there will be the added advantage of power generation."

The official also said, "We have made some of the machines functional that were earlier defunct in the shut-down period. We are hoping that we get good outcome of it." - (KNO)

## Entrepreneurship Festival...

industry leaders. Students from various government and private schools displayed their self-developed innovations, proving that the entrepreneurial spirit in Jammu and Kashmir begins at a young age.

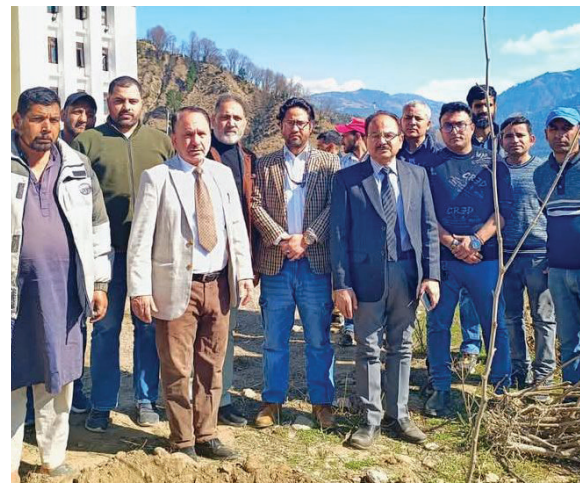
The Indian Army also participated in the expo, showcasing cutting-edge innovations developed for security and defense.

The Entrepreneurship Festival will conclude with Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh as the chief guest. The closing ceremony will feature a guest talk, panel discussions, and cultural programs.

Earlier, last month, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha highlighted the transformative initiatives of the government through the Department of Industries & Commerce that have redefined innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem and empowering youth of the UT.

"In the past few years J&K's Industrial ecosystem has witnessed an unprecedented surge, supporting the culture of innovation, research & development and scientific advancements. I want to see our youth

## GMC Doda conducts Plantation Drive under National Mission for a Green India



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, FEBRUARY 17

A plantation drive, under the aegis of National Mission for a Green India (GIM) was organized in the premises of Government Medical College Doda today. The initiative was spearheaded by a renowned environmentalist Prof. Zaheer Abass Hashmi, in collaboration with the Medical College Management. The event witnessed the presence of the GMC Principal, Prof. Dr. Rakesh Bahl; Deputy Director Planning Jameel Malik; HOD Anatomy, Dr. K.K. Thakur; HOD Paediatrics Dr. Najmus Saqib; Dr. Hamid Parray; Faizan A Trambool along with faculty members and staff. Prof. Hashmi donated 35 Chinar

saplings, which were planted on the campus in the presence of the GMC authorities.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Hashmi emphasized the importance of trees in maintaining ecological balance and promoting a healthy environment. He highlighted that the Chinar tree, known for its majestic presence and environmental benefits would enhance the campus greenery.

Prof (Dr) Rakesh Bahl expressed his gratitude to Prof. Hashmi for initiating the plantation drive. He appreciated the gesture, stating that such efforts would significantly improve the environment of the institution and inspire future initiatives for a greener campus.

## Thathri Police organise awareness program on New Criminal Laws



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, FEBRUARY 17

Thathri Police organised an awareness program on the New Criminal Laws at Panchayat Ghar Jangalwar Tehsil Phagsoo. The event was held under the supervision of SHO Police Station Thathri Suresh Kumar, and the guidance of SSP Doda, Sandeep Kumar Mehta. The program aimed to educate the public about significant reforms introduced under the New Criminal Law.

The session saw the participation of approximately 30 to 40 people, including senior citizens, shopkeepers, and local residents. The participants were briefed on important provisions of the New Criminal Law, such as faster investigation and trial procedures, enhanced protection of victims' rights, stringent penalties for crimes against women and children, and digital recording of witness statements for transparency. Officers emphasized how these reforms aim to ensure swift justice, reduce crime rates, and build trust between the community and law enforcement agencies.

As part of the district-wide initiative, similar awareness programs on the New Criminal Law were conducted at various locations across Doda district, highlighting the importance of legal literacy and public cooperation in ensuring law and order.

among the top-notch entrepreneurs of the country, contributing to its growth," the Lieutenant Governor said. He added that the sincere efforts and policy interventions of the government have made J&K a vibrant startup hub.

## Several schemes in...

and schemes must be uploaded on the portal before they can be considered for funding.

He said that the ministry aimed to provide support in the health, education, and sports sectors, as well as in local handicrafts and handloom. He also mentioned that a project has been proposed to address drinking water issues in certain areas.

"We also provide facilities for training," he said, adding that two key schemes—Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) and PM Vikas—play a central role in infrastructure development and skill training.

"In PMJVK, we sanction a lot of infrastructure, and in PM Vikas, we focus more on training and skilling," he said.

Rijiju further stated that schemes for 18 districts were ready and would be prioritised. "There is a committee headed by the chief secretary. He will clarify the project and then talk to us," he said.

## DC Samba reviews status of registrations on JK Samadhan Portal



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 17

Deputy Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma, today conducted a comprehensive review of registration on JK Samadhan portal, reinforcing the administration's commitment to transparent and accountable governance.

During the review, the DC assessed the status of registrations on the portal and directed all concerned departments to expedite their resolution. He emphasized a citizen-centric approach,

urging officials to ensure complaints are addressed within stipulated timelines to enhance public trust.

To enhance the system's efficiency, the DC directed the designation of nodal officers within departments for close monitoring of grievance redressal. He also stressed the need for regular reviews to assess departmental performance in resolving public concerns.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Samba and other District and Sectoral officers from various departments.

## Group of 35 Doda Farmers leaves for Inter-UT Agro-Exposure Visit



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, FEBRUARY 17

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh today flagged off a group of 35 farmers for an inter-UT agro-exposure visit within Jammu and Kashmir. The initiative is being organised under the Development of Seed & Seed Multiplication Chain by the Department of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Doda.

The DC interacted with the farmers, emphasizing the importance of such exposure visits in enhancing their knowledge about modern agricultural practices and boosting agro-entrepreneurship. He encouraged the participants to make the most of the opportunity by learn-

ing advanced techniques and innovations that can be implemented in the district to improve agricultural productivity and profitability.

Chief Agriculture Officer Anil Gupta, along with officers and officials of the Agriculture Department were also present at the flag off event. The participating farmers drawn from different parts of the District expressed enthusiasm for the visit and its potential to positively impact their farming practices.

This exposure visit aims to strengthen the farmers' understanding of progressive farming methodologies and promote the adoption of innovative agro-techniques across the district.

## DC Kulgam reviews preservation of Geoheritage site at Aharbal



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM FEBRUARY 17

Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan on Monday chaired a meeting regarding preservation of Panjal Trap Geological heritage site at Aharbal.

The meeting was attended by ACR, SDM D.H, Director (Geology), Tehsildar DH Pora, Senior Geologists from Geological Survey of India (GSI), Srinagar.

Director GSI appraised the chair regarding the activities of GSI and its role in identifying the Geo-

heritage and Geotourism sites.

It is pertinent to mention that the GSI has declared the Panjal Trap-A volcanic rock formed 280-255 million years ago, as an important Geological landform.

The Panjal Trap, Aharbal hosts multiple volcanoes and scenic landscape of waterfall and balanced rocks.

On the occasion, DC directed the concerned revenue officer to select a suitable site for the installation of Geoheritage sign board developed by GSI.

## MLA Dr. Bharat Bhushan reviews Industrial Development, Employment Generation scenario in Kathua District

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 17

Member Legislative Assembly Kathua Dr. Bharat Bhushan on Monday convened a meeting with key stakeholders here in the Conference Hall of the SIDCO Complex to review the industrial scenario, address challenges faced by local industries, and explore opportunities for employment generation.

The meeting was attended by General Manager, District Industries Centre Mohammed Ashraf; President Kathua Industrial Unit Association, Ajeet Bawa; Functional Manager, DIC and several industrialists representing different industries established across Kathua District.

During the meeting, the MLA emphasized that the primary objective was to evaluate the human resource needs and skill sets required for the absorption of local unemployed youth in industries. He underscored the importance of aligning the industrial workforce requirements



with the skill development of local youth to enhance employment opportunities. To facilitate this, he directed the GM DIC to appoint a Nodal Officer responsible for collecting resumes of unemployed youth, enabling a centralized system for job applications and placements.

A detailed discussion was held regarding the necessary infrastructure improvements to make the industrial estates more viable for new ventures while also consolidating the existing infrastructure. Industrialists raised pressing issues demanding renovation of roads within the industrial estates, up-gradation of sewerage system and the establishment of a fire station to facilitate smooth industrial operations.

The MLA Kathua also took stock of the workforce composition in local industries, assessing the ratio of local and non-local employees. He assured the stakeholders of the government's commitment to addressing these concerns while ensuring that the local population benefits from increased employment opportunities.

The MLA reiterated that the primary goal of the meeting was to foster effective two-way communication between industries and the government. He reaffirmed the government's dedication to creating an industrial environment conducive to business growth while simultaneously generating employment for local youth.

## MLA Jammu East reviews arrangements for Peer Kho Mela

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 17

Member Legislative Assembly Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi today visited Peer Kho Temple to review preparations for the upcoming Mahashivratri Mela at Peer Kho.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Ansuja Jamwal briefed the MLA on the arrangements being made by the district administration for the mela being held from February 25 to February 28, 2025.

Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta also informed the MLA that the Tourism Department would organise multiple events during the four-day Mela, featuring cultural programs. Moreover, Indian-style wrestling matches would also be held during the Mela.

Pertinently, a meeting



was earlier convened by the ADC to coordinate preparations for the festival with officers from various departments. Arrangements related to health services, traffic management, security and sanitation were reviewed.

The MLA directed the

concerned officer from Jammu Municipal Corporation to ensure cleanliness in and around the temple premises. He instructed the Floriculture Department to carry out elaborate floral decorations to enhance the temple's festive ambience. Additionally, he empha-

sized that the Power Development Department must ensure proper street lighting, particularly along Circular Road, to facilitate the safe movement of pilgrims and visitors during the Mela.

During the review, the MLA also assessed arrangements for other religious events, including the Jhanki on February 25 and festivities at prominent heritage temples like Panjbakhtar temple and Ranbireswar temple.

Officers present at the meeting included Director Tourism Jammu Vikas Gupta, SP North, Vivek Shekhar, Joint Director Tourism Sunaina Mehta, Tehsildar Jammu Khas Paramdeep Singh, and officers from various other departments, besides members of the Peer Kho Temple Management Committee.

## GDC Ramgarh commemorates 75 Years of adoption of Indian Constitution

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 17

To commemorate the 75 years of the adoption of the Indian Constitution, the Department of Political Science of Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh organized a joint recitation of the Preamble to the Constitution. The event was held under the guidance of the Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra and coordinated by Dr. Shivali Panigotra.

Head of the Department of Political Science Priya Sharma began the event with a brief introduction, highlighting India's constitutional journey and the significance of Constitution Day. She elaborated on the guiding principles and ultimate objectives of the Constitution. Addressing the audience, she emphasized the key features of the Indian Constitution, describing it as the bedrock of the nation's democracy.

The event saw active participation from faculty members including Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Ashok Kumar, Dr. Shivali Panigotra, Dr. Neeraj, Priya Sharma, Anjali, and Sayema, along with the students and staff of the institution. Together, they gathered to honor the enduring ideals of the Indian Constitution, celebrating the occasion with enthusiasm and patriotism.

Recital of the Preamble was led by Bhoomika Sharma, with all participants joining in unison to reaffirm their commitment to the principles of justice, equality, and fraternity.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Priya Sharma, expressing heartfelt gratitude to everyone for their contributions, which made the celebration a resounding success.

## Rajouri Admin finalises arrangements for JKPCS Exam

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 17

Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Rajiv Khajuria today finalized the arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPCS) exam being held in two shifts on February 23, 2025.

Chairing a meeting, the ADC directed the concerned authorities to install proper signages near all designated examination centers to facilitate candidates. He instructed the Principals of the identified exam centers to ensure proper seating arrangements, cleanliness, adequate ventilation, and proper lighting to provide a conducive examination environment.

To strengthen the monitoring mechanism, the ADC informed that in addition to the observers deployed by JKPCS, the district administration has also designated additional observers to oversee the examination process. He directed the District Treasury Officer (DTO) to ensure the secure receipt and distribution of sensitive examination materials under CCTV surveillance.

The Traffic Department was tasked with ensuring smooth traffic regulation, especially near the examination centers, to prevent congestion and facilitate the movement of candidates and examination staff.

## DC reviews progress of PMGSY projects in Poonch District

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, FEBRUARY 17

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Poonch Vikas Kundal chaired a meeting today in the Meeting Hall of the DC Office complex to review the status of projects taken up under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). The focus of the review was to enhance rural connectivity in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner conducted an in-depth evaluation of the project-wise progress of the ongoing initiatives. The status of bridge constructions associated with different road projects was discussed in the meeting.

During extensive review of all PMGSY projects, the DC directed the concerned authorities to expedite the progress



of work and achieve 100 percent targets set by the Government.

The DC emphasized the need for executing agencies to eliminate unnecessary delays in pending works. He urged all involved to adhere strictly to quality standards in their projects to ensure the development of durable assets, ultimately

benefiting the local population through improved connectivity.

The meeting was attended by the Executive Engineer of PMGSY Poonch/Mendhar, along with all Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs), Assistant Engineers (AEs), and Junior Engineers (JEs) from the PMGSY Department.

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 17

To monitor the most vibrant and fascinating species on earth that are also one of best barometers of environmental health, NSS unit in collaboration with Bird watching club of college organized two day workshop on 'Campus Bird Count' here at Government Degree College Marh.

The programme was inaugurated by Prof Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul along with Dr Pankaj Chandan, the Chief Guest.

The workshop was conducted by Asst. Prof. in Political Science Sachin Kumar Bhagat, a famous bird enthusiast of Jammu and Kashmir. The College Principal gave a comprehensive explanation of the spiritual role of birds. He emphasized that birds have profound spiritual significance across various cultures and religions, symbolizing concepts such as freedom, transcendence, and divine connection and highlighted that their presence in art, literature, and religious iconography serves as a reminder of the



human connection to the divine and eternal quest for spiritual elevation.

The guest speaker of the event Dr. Pankaj Chandan, a wildlife biologist and an expert on Himalayan ecology, inspired students to pursue higher studies in ornithology and also stressed on the importance of wetlands and bird species. He focused on the role of birds for conservation of humanity such as pest control, maintaining ecological balance and pollination.

Dr Chandan further shared his magnificent stories of several species of birds like Black-tailed

godwit and tallest flying bird Black necked crane. He discussed anthropogenic threats to habitat of birds such as deforestation, pesticides, wetland drainage and urbanization. He also donated posters on species of vultures and Raptors of J and K and reading material to the college for knowledge sharing among the students.

During the programme a PPT and photographic exhibition showcasing birds of J&K along with equipment required for bird watching was also organized by Sachin Kumar Bhagat (HOD Political Science). To Study the

ecological behavior of birds, campus bird count was also organized in the college by the Bird Club.

HOD Environmental Sciences Anjana Chib stressed that rich biodiversity of birds around college is the indicator of a clean and pollution free environment along with the clean water body. She said it is for these endowments of nature that the college has been registered as a birding hotspot.

During the one hour birding, students counted around 59 species around the campus including; Black winged stilt Red Naped Ibis.

In the end students shared their feedback and experience about how such types of programmes inspire, motivate them to connect with nature and choose their career. Dr. RamDayal, Dr. Rahul Sharma, Dr. Sheetal Sharma and Dr. Priya Sharma were also present during the event. Dr. Balwinder Saini (HOD Chemistry) presented the formal vote of thanks. Technical support was provided by Mohit Kalotra.

## 7 Day Training on Scientific Beekeeping concludes at Krishi Bhawan Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 17

The seven-day training program on Scientific Beekeeping organized by the Apiculture Development Scheme, Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department Jammu, under the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) ended today here at the Conference Hall of Directorate of Agriculture Krishi Bhawan Jammu with the felicitation of 50 attendee farmers and beekeepers drawn from across the Jammu Division.

The program, held from February 10 to February 16, 2025, was designed to raise awareness and enhance the skills of prospective beekeepers. Participants received training in bee hive operations and colony management at the DCTC, Apiculture Development Scheme Jammu.



They were imparted hands-on experience and practical insights into beekeeping.

The event was presided over by Director Agriculture Jammu, S. Arvinder Singh Reen, who felicitated the beekeepers. He presented them with Tool Kits, bee flora saplings, and certificates of participation, acknowledging their commitment to advancing scientific beekeeping practices.

The Director assured the beekeepers that the department would extend support in the marketing and branding of honey products. He encouraged beekeepers to work in clusters or form Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to strengthen the marketing and sales of honey. He also pledged the department's technical and financial assistance, particularly to support the migration of bee colonies

and optimize honey production.

The Director highlighted the economic potential of various hive products such as royal jelly, bee venom, propolis and pollen, which could provide valuable additional sources of income for beekeepers.

Deputy Director (Central) Jammu and Liaison Officer for the Apiculture Development Scheme, Dr. Ashwani Sharma, also addressed the gathering, focusing on the migration challenges faced by beekeepers. He emphasized the need for creating a green corridor to ensure that bees do not suffer during migration. Dr. Sharma urged Director Agriculture to consider this initiative to facilitate smoother and healthier migration of bee colonies, thereby supporting beekeepers' mobility without harming their colonies.

## District Administration Poonch Initiates Panchayat-Wise Anti-Drug Campaign

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, FEBRUARY 17

The District Administration Poonch has initiated a comprehensive IEC campaign against drug abuse with the launch of a Panchayat-wise calendar to address the pressing issue. The campaign was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal in Panchayat Bandichechian, marking the beginning of a series of events aimed at educating the community about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

Among others present at the launch event were Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats Rakesh Sharma; District Social Welfare Officer, Wakeel Ahmed Bhat, besides other officers.

Meanwhile, similar campaigns were conducted in all 11 blocks in collaboration with local leaders



engaging over 1,500 participants. The speakers emphasized the detrimental impact of drugs on society and the youth, urging collective action to combat this crisis.

In his inaugural address, Deputy Commissioner Kundal emphasized the shared responsibility in contributing to the campaign. He encouraged parents to monitor their children closely. He encouraged people to immediately report any drug-related activities to rehabilitation centers to achieve the goal of "Nasha Mukat Panchayat." The

campaign is set to run till July 2025, with a call for community involvement in making Poonch drug-free.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner highlighted the initiative as a crucial effort, stressing the importance of community vigilance in controlling drug abuse. The Social Welfare Officer highlighted the need for collective action, stating, "It is vital for us to eliminate drugs from our villages with everyone's contribution."

The Assistant Commissioner also listed the harmful effects of drugs and appealed to the public to actively engage in the campaign, which will take place every Monday in all 11 blocks until July 2025.

The District Administration has urged all citizens to join forces in this vital effort to eradicate drugs from Poonch and foster a healthier, drug-free environment for future generations.

## EDITORIAL

## The Urgent Need for Sustainable Tourism in Kashmir

The tourism industry in Kashmir, a vital pillar of the region's economy, is facing an unprecedented crisis. The prolonged dry spell and the alarming decline in snowfall have resulted in a steep drop in tourist bookings, particularly in Gulmarg, a premier winter destination. The recent postponement of the 2025 Khelo India Winter Games has only exacerbated the situation, leading to widespread cancellations and financial setbacks for local businesses.

Aqib Chaya, President of the Hoteliers Club Gulmarg, has voiced concerns over the severe economic impact of climate change on tourism. He highlights a 20-30% decline in business in Gulmarg and an even sharper 50% downturn in Pahalgam and Srinagar. Similarly, Manzoor Pakthoon, Chairman of the Kashmir Houseboat Owners Association, has pointed out the devastating effect on winter tourism, particularly the loss of international visitors from key markets like Europe and Russia. This trend threatens to destabilize the region's tourism-dependent economy, making it imperative to rethink long-term strategies for sustainability.

The ongoing crisis is not just an economic concern; it is an environmental warning. The unchecked commercial expansion in the region, which Chaya rightly describes as 'unorganised' and 'unchecked,' has contributed to worsening climate change factors. The lack of snowfall not only disrupts tourism but also raises alarms about water scarcity, which will inevitably affect agriculture and horticulture, further deepening the crisis. The time for complacency is over. Without urgent intervention, Kashmir's natural beauty—its biggest tourism asset—could become a casualty of climate change.

The government must take decisive action. Sustainable and eco-friendly infrastructure should be prioritized, ensuring that the development of tourist facilities does not come at the cost of the region's fragile ecology. Green architecture, controlled expansion, and stricter environmental regulations are necessary steps to curb the damage. Additionally, policy frameworks must support alternative tourism models that are less reliant on snowfall, such as cultural tourism, eco-tourism, and adventure tourism beyond winter sports.

The tourism industry must also adapt. Hoteliers, tour operators, and stakeholders should collaborate on sustainable initiatives, such as reducing carbon footprints, implementing waste management strategies, and promoting year-round attractions. Investment in artificial snowmaking technology, like that used in other global winter tourism destinations, could also help mitigate seasonal downturns.

Kashmir's tourism sector stands at a crossroads. If sustainable measures are not urgently adopted, the region risks losing not just tourists but also the very environment that makes it a sought-after destination. The call for action is clear: policymakers, business leaders, and local communities must work together to safeguard Kashmir's future, ensuring that the Valley remains a thriving destination for generations to come.

## What Bharat Tex 2025 brings to the Indian Textiles Industry's table

**MITHILESHWAR THAKUR**  
SECRETARY GENERAL,  
APPAREL EXPORT PROMOTION  
COUNCIL (AEPIC)

The Indian textiles industry has always been the cornerstone of the country's economy, tradition, culture and heritage. It stands tall as one of the topmost employment-generating sectors, next only to agriculture, and a significant contributor to India's GDP and export basket. But somehow it did not perform to its potential over the years, particularly in the global market, on account of variety of factors. Indian apparel industry particularly, which is the most important element of the textile value chain, found itself losing the race of cost competitiveness to some of the least developed and under-developed countries enjoying tariff advantage in important markets, and thereby not realizing its true potential.

There was thus a press-

ing need for a total rejig and an urgent capacity augmentation to realign product offering with the global import pattern. This was largely addressed by PLI and PMMITRA initiatives of the government. The emerging confident India was inclined to go for it whole hog and unleash the animal spirit. That's what gave birth to the idea of Bharat Tex in 2024.

In a very short time, Bharat Tex emerged as a transformative platform driving innovation, collaboration and global outreach. Bharat Tex 2025, the second edition of this flagship event, is set to continue this legacy and elevate India's textiles sector to greater heights. Riding on the resounding success of the inaugural Bharat Tex held in February 2024, the upcoming edition promises to be bigger, better and even more impactful. Let us delve into what Bharat Tex 2025 will bring to the table for India's textiles

industry.

Bharat Tex 2025 is poised to bring cutting-edge technologies, business opportunities and strategic partnerships to the forefront. It will serve as a convergence point for stakeholders from across the global. Manufacturers, exporters, designers and policymakers from India and abroad will put their minds together to exchange ideas and foster collaborations. This will be the most appropriate platform to showcase India's diverse textile offerings, from traditional handlooms to advanced technical textiles.

The presence of high-profile international delegations will further strengthen India's positioning as a reliable, stable and dependable partner in the global textile market. MoUs and strategic partnerships forged during the event will pave the way for increased foreign investments, joint ventures and technology transfer in the sector.

Sustainability has become a central theme in the global textiles industry and Bharat Tex 2025 is committed to promoting eco-friendly practices. Kasturi Cotton brand promoting home-grown organic cotton—an important milestone in India's quest for sustainable fibre—will be in full display in all its glory. The event will also showcase sustainable innovations, including organic fabrics, recycled materials and energy-efficient production technologies. Green and sustainable story presence at Bharat Tex is closely aligned with India's national strategy on decarbonisation and net zero emission. As India advances its leadership in sustainable textiles and responsible clothing, the sustainability pavilion will provide a roadmap for businesses to integrate sustainability into their operations and supply chains.

Knowledge sessions during the event will serve

as a forum for policy advocacy, bringing together industry leaders and policymakers to discuss critical issues and ideas. These will touch upon even emerging complex architecture of global compliances and ways and means to navigate them. The key takeaways of these discussions will influence future policy frameworks, benefiting the textiles industry in the long run. Bharat Tex 2025 will encourage Indian textile manufacturers to not only be abreast of the latest global trends but also help them stay ahead of others.

As the textiles industry embraces Industry 4.0, Bharat Tex will highlight the role of technology in shaping the future of textiles through display of the state-of-the-art machinery, smart manufacturing solutions and digital tools. Artificial intelligence for fashion forecasting and blockchain technology for supply chain management, among others, will be key highlights.

Bharat Tex 2025 will provide Indian textile exporters with an unparalleled platform to connect with international buyers and retailers. Dedicated B2B matchmaking sessions and export-focused seminars will enable exporters to showcase their products to a global audience, opening doors to non-traditional markets and expanding existing ones.

Bharat Tex 2025 most appropriately embraces and enshrines the idea of "Make in India and Make for the World" and "Vocal for Local and Local for Global" amply showcasing the true spirit of "Atmanirbhar Bharat".

As India aspires to become a \$5 trillion economy, the textiles sector will play a pivotal role in achieving this goal. Bharat Tex 2025, with its comprehensive agenda and vision, is set to be a catalyst for this transformation and position India as a global textile powerhouse.

## The legacy of leadership: What truly endures

**VINAYSHIL GAUTAM**

Anyone who has attempted to perpetuate his memory in any institution or community has believed himself to be an institution builder. To be an institution builder, as the words themselves will show, one has to build a purpose, establish a process, gather resources, and pull them together in pursuit of an objective.

This pursuit cannot be the pursuit of self-glorification. Usually, a successor tries to outdo his predecessor; this can be by upscaling, ignoring, or finding flaws in the predecessor's efforts. Sooner or later, this destroys everyone involved because everyone must necessarily end up with a successor. That successor, sooner or later, becomes a competitor to the predecessor.

This may be an obvious truth, but not many people seem to have recognised it. Hence, if one is seeking glorification, perhaps the most important pursuit should be the search for a successive successor who

is not only in sympathy with one's approach but will carry the mission forward. The great leaders of the world have recognized this instinctively, and the epithet 'Great' has come their way. Martin Luther was a good example, as was Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. Nelson Mandela could also be a good illustration.

The examples are many. In each case, the conclusion is the same. Each so-called great leader needed a succession of people generously following their greatness from the treetops. This may be easy to propound but difficult to action. One reason for this is that it needs a succession of people after one's own life who would concur with the approach, and indeed have been beneficiaries of that person's influence. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi has been widely celebrated for his theories of agitation against foreign rule. There is evidence of his having worked together in tandem, where the situation so demanded, with



the rulers. This has since been noted and at times overlooked.

There is a hypothesis which has done the rounds in certain quarters that the title of "Mahatma" was conferred upon him because of his request by the foreign rulers. Such observations are difficult to critically appraise decades or centuries later. However, one approach remains. Recognition of one's leadership and contributions is a complex process that has yet to be fully understood. One's

greatness is therefore a matter of consensus building which is always difficult in its fullness. The bottom line is there must be something enduring in the actions of an individual to receive kudos across communities generations and geographies.

That something must include what is noble in human existence. The succeeding leaders may be helpful but they cannot determine the full range of perceptions. The long and short of it is that petty pursuits of petty objec-

tives for limited periods rarely have given enduring recognition for one's greatness. Sooner or later, for most aspiring leaders, some process of a counterpoint emerges as other contenders for the spot of greatness arise.

Very often, these people, as alternate leaders, are from a different vantage point of perception, and debate is generated. Few have claimed eminence for greatness without having survived the crucial test of times and acceptance across generations.

History is a telltale testament as to how the pre-eminence of one's contribution or the significance of one's contribution can change with the changing cultures of the times. One may not be so well recognised in one's lifetime, but subsequent generations awaken to that greatness as per their vision and their own needs. The case of Birsa Munda is an interesting example. Not so long ago, he was one of the freedom fighters who was remembered in certain parts of India only by

certain people.

But times changed, and now he is being celebrated with the glory of a true visionary leader who fought for the independence. Times change, and so does the vision.

However, if one thing remains constant, it is that few have attained leadership across generations and geographies without having a sound streak of spiritual vision. One may be celebrated for martial glories or administrative contributions, and there is nothing wrong with that. However, for loftiness beyond the constraints of time and space, some elevated spiritual insights valid across people and generations seem a common need. It is obvious that the subject matter of the greatness of leaders and what constitutes the same needs continuing depths of research, iteration and honest conviction.

**(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal)**

## A reluctant pilgrim's awakening: Discovering faith at the Kumbh

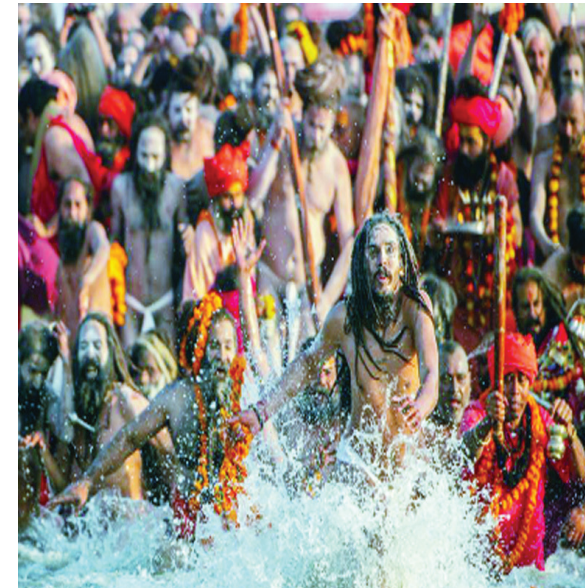
**SANJAY CHANDRA**

Tiriveni is where the three sacred rivers, Ganga, Yamuna, and the now-extinct mythical Sarasvati, merge. It is believed that bathing in the holy waters of Sangam, particularly during certain auspicious days, brings blessings. I am not too fond of visiting religious places. I am used to a certain level of comfort. I have, probably mistakenly, come to associate spirituality and religion with a minimalistic way of living. Standing in serpentine queues for a microsecond glimpse does not appeal to me.

I remember a visit to Tirupati during my railway probation with two other friends. A look at the painfully slow-moving long queue was enough for us to wait outside as the third friend went in to also pray on our behalf. I believe

that my God resides within me. Thus, the idea of visiting the Kumbh was not even remotely in my thoughts. An article on the biggest religious and spiritual fair in the world made me realise that this was the Mahakumbh, an event that would repeat 144 years later. It was this novelty that I could not resist. My wife decreed that we should also visit Varanasi. A premium tent was reserved in one of the luxury camps. We booked waitlisted train tickets without any hopes of confirmation. My younger brother working in the railways assured us to try to get us the seats.

I was hoping he might not be able to help, till we boarded the train early in the morning, much apprehensive about the next three days. We had read and heard enough about the stampede and the



long walks due to the barricades. The experience in Prayagraj was nothing like my apprehensions. The camp by the banks of the river Ganges, away from the crowded centre, was more of a luxury resort. The roads were crowd-

ed, which resulted in traffic jams. But we managed to take a dip at the confluence and then visit the Akharas, the religious order of Sadhus, the monks. We did not have to walk long distances. The next day was slightly

more chaotic. The cab for Varanasi arrived late and we had to take an e-rickshaw to reach the parking lot. The evening saw us jostling with the massive crowd, all walking towards the riverbank for the customary Ganga Aarti, a daily ritual performed at dusk to honour the sacred river. We even managed to brave the humongous crowd the next day to pray at the Kashi Vishwanath temple. I realised that the two cities are more than a confluence of the rivers or a visit to the temple. It is a Sangam of diverse people, united through a single objective.

The majority are poor people, who are content in their devotion and belief in a supreme power. They have not seen Him, but have an unshakeable belief that their God will not forsake them, come what may. It is this faith that

sees them bear the drudgery of living and eking out a livelihood. Many from the upper strata of society do not have to struggle each day, but they also have this absolute faith.

A few like me are curious and visit for the novelty. It was more than a different experience. There I was, moving in the vast sea of humanity, looking around me with awe. It dawned upon me that like the multitude, I too needed this visit. I learned that I must perform actions with the same single-minded devotion. This is the reason that I was born a human in the vast universe. I was transformed. I had found my goal.

**(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)**

## Godawari Electric Motors Partners with Shriram Finance Ltd. to Provide PAN India Financing Solutions for eblu Electric Vehicles

J1NEWS SERVICE  
RAIPUR, FEB 18

In an effort to accelerate the adoption of electric mobility, Godawari Electric Motors, manufacturers of innovative electric vehicles, today announced a strategic partnership with Shriram Finance Ltd. to provide exclusive financing solutions for customers across India. This collaboration aims to offer comprehensive financing options for Godawari Electric Motors' entire range of electric 2-wheelers and 3-wheelers, including low-speed and high-speed electric vehicles (EV - L3 & L5), under the "Shriram Green Finance" initiative.

Through this partnership, Shriram Finance Ltd. will serve as the preferred finance partner for Godawari Electric Motors, providing tailored financing solutions that will help customers make the



transition to electric vehicles more affordable and accessible. The financing options will be available PAN India, ensuring that customers across the country can benefit from attractive loan offers with easy terms and low processing fees.

Mr. Hyder Khan, CEO, Godawari Electric Motors, said, "We are excited to announce this strategic collaboration with Shriram Finance Ltd. to bring convenient and flexible financing options to our customers.

As part of our ongoing commitment to promoting sustainable e-mobility solutions, this partnership will make it easier for customers to own high-quality electric vehicles. With Shriram Finance as our preferred partner, we are confident that more people across India will be able to transition to eco-friendly mobility solutions."

The financing solutions will include competitive interest rates, long loan tenures, and an easy application process, with Shri-

ram Finance Ltd. offering Attractive finance options which will boost the EV Sales. These solutions will cater to customers looking to purchase Godawari Electric Motors' electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and L3 and L5 category electric vehicles.

About Godawari Electric Motors:

Godawari Electric Motors, the Eblu electric vehicle range maker, is dedicated to empowering millions through self-employment opportunities while significantly reducing the nation's carbon footprint with sophisticated e-mobility technologies. Established in 2022 and headquartered in Raipur, the company promises a clean and pollution-free future by providing a diverse range of electric two- and three-wheelers. For additional information, please visit <https://www.geml.in>.

## Devotees must visit Mahakumbh Mahatma, Shrimad Bhagwat Katha and Mahashivpuran Katha: Perika Suresh

J1NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEB 18

National President of Mission Namo Bande Go Mataram, General Secretary of All India Dharma and Treasurer of Shri Ayodhya Rama Charitable Trust, Sanatan Dharma enthusiast Perika Suresh informed all Sanatan Dharma lovers that a religious program is being organized on 24th February with their courtesy and God's grace, in which the spiritual significance of Prayagraj, the virtuous results of bathing at Triveni Sangam, how the Kumbh Mela was organized and what is its spiritual aspect, who is called Amrit Snan etc. will be highlighted by great saints. He said that how Naga sadhus who are completely detached from the worldly world reach Prayagraj during Maha-



kumbh, Dharmacharya will also give details about this law of God and nature. On 25th February, you will get a rare opportunity to relish Srimad Bhagwat Katha from the Mukhre Bindu of Shri Rambhadracharya Ji Maharaj. Sant Shri Rambhadracharya Ji Maharaj will thank all of us

by highlighting the touching knowledge of Shrimad Bhagwat. On 26th February, Shiv Mahapuram will be narrated by Sant Shri Kamlesh Das Ji Maharaj. All the devotees were present on the occasion and were immersed in the Ganga river of knowledge and devotion. Perika

Suresh, an ardent follower of Hindu religion, has been engaged in helping the devotees in the Mahakumbh for about a month. From his Kar Kamlo, blankets were distributed to 10,000 sadhus and saints, he is continuously arranging food for 2000 sadhus and devotees every day.

## Africa's progress against malaria in 'jeopardy' amid need for renewed commitments

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Officials and experts on Sunday called for renewed commitments in Africa's fight against malaria, as they warned that the continent's progress against malaria is 'in jeopardy' due to a combination of natural and man-made challenges.

This came during a high-level briefing on malaria that was held Sunday on the sidelines of the 38th African Union (AU) Summit at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia.

Addressing the event, Duma Boko, president of Botswana, stressed that Africa's positive progress in the fight against the deadly disease has been hampered by a combination of factors, including inadequate financing, and natural and man-made catastrophes.

"The task before us is both challenging and urgent. Our progress has



stopped, and the hard truth is that we are not on track. A perfect storm of threats, including insufficient resources, climate change, biological risks, and humanitarian crisis, threatens to undermine our efforts," said Boko, who is also the incoming chair of African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA).

He said as the African continent is threatened by a growing number of malaria outbreaks, the Southern Africa region is currently bracing for an upsurge as heavy rainfall creates mosquito breeding sites.

"Securing the resources necessary to combat malaria and fill these critical gaps with renewed energy is imperative. Africa must urgently rise to the challenge by mobilising domestic resources, including by drawing down on the resources in our emergency funds and increasing our health budget allocations," he added.

A new report on the state of malaria in Africa, which was launched on the margins of the AU Summit, revealed that despite preventing 1.8 billion malaria cases and saving 11.9 million lives since 2000,

Africa's progress against malaria has now stagnated.

Noting that the continent is "at a defining moment" in its fight against malaria, the report said the interim targets for 2025 are slipping out of reach, and the dream of eliminating malaria by 2030 is in jeopardy.

Chikwe Ihekweazu, the World Health Organization (WHO) acting regional director for Africa, said African countries have continued to grapple with challenges obstructing the elimination of malaria. He said such challenges include fragile health systems, weak surveillance, chronic funding shortfall, and anti-malarial drug resistance, Xinhua news agency reported.

Noting that 11 African countries bear about two-thirds of the world's malaria burden, Ihekweazu said the burden of malaria and the challenges of addressing it are most acute in Africa.

## The Ayurveda Co's losses surge over 3-fold in FY24 as overall expenditure rises 97 pc

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Direct-to-consumer (D2C) brand The Ayurveda Co suffered a sharp rise in losses in FY24, as its net loss surged over three-fold to Rs 68 crore, up from Rs 21 crore in FY23.

According to the company's financials, the widened loss is primarily due to material costs, which more than doubled to Rs 28.6 crore compared to Rs 12 crore in FY23.

Advertising expenses soared by 73 per cent to Rs 26 crore, while employee benefits increased by 80 per cent to Rs 15.5 crore.

Manpower and recruitment costs also surged, adding Rs 11.3 crore to the company's total expenses.

With overall expenditure rising 97 per cent to Rs 109.5 crore in FY24, The Ayurveda Co reported a negative EBITDA margin of (-) 100.65 per cent and a return on capital



employed (ROCE) of (-) 700 per cent.

On a unit level, the company spent Rs 1.84 to earn a single rupee, which underscores its financial struggles.

Despite securing Rs 100 crore in a Series A round led by Sixth Sense Ventures in 2023, the company's financial health appears weak.

It ended FY24 with current assets worth Rs 45 crore, but its cash and bank balance stood at just

Rs 52 lakh, which raised concerns about its liquidity.

Despite the losses, the company's revenue grew by 66 per cent to reach Rs 59.6 crore in FY24 as compared to Rs 36 crore in FY23.

The firm's total income, including Rs 2.4 crore from interest earnings, stood at Rs 62 crore in FY24.

The Ayurveda Co, backed by Sixth Sense Ventures, specialises in

ayurvedic beauty and personal care products, including skincare, hair-care, makeup, and wellness items.

In a competitive market dominated by brands like Ayurveda Experience, Wow Skin and Sugar, The Ayurveda Co faces mounting pressure to improve its financial performance.

According to reports, the next fiscal year will be critical in determining the company's long-term viability.

## Want More Antioxidants? Eat These 5 Colours For A Healthier Diet

Eating more whole foods like fruits and vegetables, instead of processed foods, is one of the simplest ways to promote healthy eating. Fruits and vegetables are not only rich and diverse in flavour, but they also carry protective powers, helping your body stay healthy and prevent diseases. Many fruits and vegetables get their colour from antioxidants. In fact, you can learn about different antioxidants and their health benefits by simply looking at the colour of the fruit or vegetable. Read on to find out more. Here Are 5 Colours For Antioxidant-Rich Foods: 1. Green The first colour to add to your diet is green - found in many types of green vegetables including leafy greens like kale, bok choy, spinach, and other vegetables like cucumber, peas, and avocado. According to the USDA, these healthy green foods



are rich in phytonutrients like lutein, chlorophyll, and indoles, which help protect the eyes, boost immunity, increase energy, support hormone balance, build collagen, and detoxify your body. 2. Orange/Yellow Think of mangoes, squash, carrots, and peppers! All these bright and beautiful yellow and orange fruits and vegetables are loaded with carotenoids and xanthophylls. According to the book Healing Foods by DK Publishing, these phytonutrients have anticancer and heart-protective properties, protect

the eyes and brain, and strengthen the immune system.

3. Red Red is an attractive colour in fruits and vegetables like strawberries, cherries, tomatoes, cranberries, raspberries, apples, beets, red grapes, red peppers, red onions, and watermelon. According to Harvard Health, these foods contain antioxidants like lycopene and anthocyanins, which protect against heart disease, vision loss, neurodegenerative diseases, prostate cancer, and lung disease. 4. Blue/Purple Another wonderful colour

in natural foods is blue or purple. You can find it in blueberries, grapes, red wine, raisins, and eggplant. Rich in anthocyanins and resveratrol, including these foods in your daily diet supports healthy ageing, helps balance hormone levels, and fights free radicals, according to the US NIH. 5. White White fruits and vegetables may lack bright colour but are still packed with phytonutrients. Many white-coloured foods such as garlic, bananas, onions, mushrooms, turnips, potatoes, and ginger are good sources of allyl sulfides and anthoxanthins. According to the book Healing Foods, consuming these foods can help boost immunity, and lower cholesterol and blood pressure.

Add all these colourful foods to your plate and enjoy the wonderful benefits of antioxidant-rich foods.

## Eating veggies may reduce risk of liver cancer by 65 pc: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Eating vegetables can help reduce the risk of liver cancer by 65 per cent, according to a study.

The study, led by researchers from the INSERM, the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research, focused on patients diagnosed with cirrhosis -- scarring (fibrosis) of the liver caused by long-term liver damage.

They examined the benefits of eating vegetables and or fruits among these patients. Of the 179 patients analysed, 20 were diagnosed with hepatocellular carcinoma (liver cancer). The team found that a total of 42.5 per cent of patients with cirrhosis had insufficient fruit and/or vegetable consumption.

"A 65 per cent reduction in the incidence (new cases) of liver cancer (hepatocellular carcinoma) was observed in patients diagnosed with cirrhosis consuming more than 240 gram per day of vegetables," the researchers said.



knowledge is crucial for adapting HCC prevention messages," they noted, in the paper published in the journal JHEP Reports.

Liver cancer is the sixth most frequent cancer worldwide, mainly represented by HCC, accounting for about 85-90 per cent. HCC occurs when a tumour grows on the liver. HCC most commonly occurs in those with chronic liver disease especially those with cirrhosis or fibrosis, which occur in the setting of chronic liver

injury and inflammation. Main causes of disease of underlying chronic liver disease are alcohol and viral hepatitis, while it also includes overweight and obesity, consumption of foods contaminated with aflatoxins (that is, toxins produced by moulds).

The researchers called for larger studies "to assess the benefits of fruit regarding the risk of HCC", and to provide evidence for promoting fruit and vegetable consumption in patients with liver cirrhosis.

# BJP disrespecting people mandate: Karra

JNEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, FEB 17

JKPCC Chief Shri Tariq Hameed Karra along with Working Presidents Shri Tara Chand, Raman Bhalla, Former M.P. Ch. Lal Singh, Former MLAs Dina Nath Bhagat and Ashok Dogra, DCC President Pravez Ahmed Wani, Former Natinal President NSUI Feroz Khan, Zahida Khan, Rashid Malik, along with other senior leaders of Ramban Dist. today launched the party's mission "Himari Riyasat Hamara Haq" to pressurize the Centre Govt. for early restoration of statehood besides awareness for safeguarding the constitutional values in the country.

Addressing District Congress Workers Convention at Ramban today as part of the party's provincial campaign Shri Karra questioned BJP for its refusal

to obey its commitment to the people of J&K on the floor of Parliament and before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and repeated public announcements regarding early restoration of statehood even after more than four months of taking over by the elected Govt. in Jammu and Kashmir. It was not only disrespect of the Constitution and Supreme Court but to the people of Jammu and Kashmir who were denied from its identity, status & alike. He said it is betrayal of BJP with the people of J&K for which the BJP leadership in J&K and at the National level should answer the people for the delay being deliberately caused.

Karra said that congress will intensify the struggle for restoration of statehood if the commitment is not fulfilled within short-est possible time.

JKPCC Chief blamed



BJP and Central Govt. of disrespect the mandate of people of Jammu and Kashmir and by delaying the restoration of statehood in order to run the affairs of J&K by proxy. He further said that the people have voted the NC-Congress coalition to power with great hopes and to get rid of the sufferings of the bureaucratic regime but unfortunately BJP does not transfer full powers to the elected Govt. in order to deliver to promises. He said that

the common people, unemployed youth, daily wagers, need based, casual workers, adhoc, consolidated and other temporary workers like NHM, Anganwar, Ashas, SPOs, NYCs data annalists and other youths working in different departments for years have been deceived by the BJP Govt. and awaiting justice from the Govt. but due to Centre and BJP's attitude they all are suffering. Similarly the unemployed youth are suffering because of record

unemployment in the last 45 years, bungling in selection lists, slow pace of recruitment through thousands of vacancies, abolishing of selection of regular teachers, RET etc. and it is our duty to deliver the commitment to the youth. The delay in the restoration of statehood is exravating the problems of common people especially unemployed, semi-employed besides farmers and others are facing difficulties of power tariff and huge rise of prices of essential items of life.

JKPCC Chief said that most of the Hydro Electric Projects are in Chnab region, as such congress party is in favour of grant of free & subsidized electricity to the residents of region and the Centre and UT Govt. should consider the genuine demand of the people.

Shri Tara Chand, Shri Raman Bhalla and Ch. Lal Singh while speaking said that the BJP Govt. down graded the status, dignity of the Dogra State and deprived the people from their basic rights. They said congress party will fight relentlessly for the rights of people of each and every section and every region of the state.

Other prominent leaders who attended include Khalid wani ( councillor )

Youth leaders Ankur Dogra, Pardeep Singh Raju, Janak Singh block president Batot,

Tilak Raj -block president Rajgarh, Jaun Mohd OBC chairman, Mohd Rafi ex assembly president, Irfan Bhat district president youth, Irfan rounyal block youth president, Nasser Malik senior leader, Jagjeet singh senior leader Balwinder DCC Gen Secy Chuni Lal Goswami and others.

## Having lost masses support, Congress leaders desperate to gain public sympathy: Dr. Tahir Choudhary

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 17

Having lost the confidence and support of the masses, leaders of Congress party are desperately trying to gain public sympathy by flaring up emotional issues, said Dr. Tahir Choudhary.

Dr. Tahir Choudhary, Spokesperson, J&K BJP accompanied by Veenu Khanna, Secretary, and Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge was addressing the media persons at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Dr. Tahir Choudhary slammed Congress party for raising the issues which are already being addressed by the Modi government. He said that the Congress has lost its base completely

in the public and is now desperately trying to flare up the public emotions by doing its divisive politics on certain issues. He reminded the Congress leaders that their party has successfully secured consecutive zeroes in the Assembly elections.

In Jammu & Kashmir, Dr. Tahir said that the Congress party is relying upon the region-based parties for its political survival but still its performance is far from satisfactory and even the Congress party is failing to get the due recognition with the regional parties due to its lackluster performance. He added that in the last Assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir, the Congress party could score minimum vote count on the crutches of NC infact.

## Several people join JKNC in presence of Abdul Gani Telli Chairman OBC Cell

JNEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, FEB 17

Today, a program was organized by the NC party in the Kernal Danga Panchayat of Udhampur in which Chairman OBC Cell Abdul Gani Telli joined as the chief guest, along with Din Mohd.vice president Jammu, in which hundreds of women's and men's from the village participated in this program who told their problems and joined the NC party.

While addressing the gathering Abdul Gani Telli said, the National Conference J&K people elected government led by CM Omar Abdullah commitment to improving the quality of life for residents by offering concrete solutions basic amenities of the life and employment for better welfare of the general public.

scathing attack on the Bhartiya Janata Party central government for its failure to provide basic



amenities to the people of Udhampur, he said BJP led government ten years tenure in the country, the residents of Udhampur have been left standard due to persistent shortage of basic amenities of the life.

The meeting witnessed the active participation of several prominent senior leaders members, including Captain Pavitar Singh, Anitullah, Suram Chand, Captain Balbir Singh, Anchal Kumar among others.

The gathering underscored the party's commitment to grassroots engagement, fostering unity, and addressing the concerns

of workers and the local community.

He said, that National Conference is the only secular party in J&K and deep-rooted across the region right upto the grass roots level that the party has always followed the ideology that paves the way for equitable welfare and prosperity of every section of the society. Calling upon party workers Abdul Gani Telli urged the cadre to further strengthen the party at the grass roots level and works towards consolidating the support base of National Conference's, we must stand united to strengthen the hands of Dr. Farooq

Abdullah and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in their mission to serve the people of J&K he said. The Provincial Chairman OBC Cell Abdul Gani Telli further encouraged the party workers to gear up for the upcoming panchayat elections emphasizing that a strong NC presence at the grass roots is crucial to ensuring good governance and equitable development across the union territory,

Those who joined NC in presence of OBC Cell Chairman. Smt Sapna Kumari, Sudesh Kumari, Babita Rani, Geeta Devi, Gorgu Devi, Koushalya Devi, Pooja Devi, Neelam Devi, Tara Chand, Darshan Kumar, Bittu Kumar, Ravi Kumar, Atul Dogra, Rakesh Kumar, Jagdev Singh, Anshu Bharti, Sabdar Ali, Ramzan Ali, Ramesh Kumar, Subash Chandra, Krishan Kumar, Ariya Dogra, Nasib Chand etc

## Bhalla condoles killing of three people from Trikuta Nagar in a road accident while returning home to Jammu from Prayagraj

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 17

JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla has condoled killing of three people from Trikuta Nagar in a road accident on the Yamuna Expressway near Tappal town in Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh district when a speeding bus rrammed into a car traveling towards Noida, causing it to

overturn while returning home to Jammu from Prayagraj when the mishap took place. JKPCC working president Raman Bhalla in a condolence message has expressed his condolences over the tragic loss of three lives from Trikuta Nagar, who died in a road accident while returning from Kumbh terming the incident a stark reminder of the

need for improved road safety measures in the region. His condolences reflect the party's commitment to standing with the families of the victims and working towards preventing such tragedies in the future. Bhalla's gesture reflects his compassion and empathy towards the grieving family, who have suffered an irreparable loss. By extend-

ing condolences, he is standing in solidarity with the family during this difficult time, offering them support and comfort. Bhalla's words of condolence will undoubtedly bring some solace to the family, and his expression of sympathy is a testament to his commitment to being with the people in their times of sorrow.

## International Conference on Emerging Trends in Biosciences and Chemical Technology - 2025, held at SMVDU

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 17


A two day International Conference on Emerging Trends in Biosciences and Chemical Technology (ETBCT-2025) commenced with great enthusiasm at the School of Biotechnology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, J&K. The prestigious event brought together researchers, academicians, and industry professionals to discuss groundbreaking advancements in biosciences and chemical technology. The conference was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Shri. Satish Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of Department of Science & Technology, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, ARI & Training, Government of Jammu & Kashmir. Dignitaries present on the occasion included the Chief Patron of the Conference, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor



of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, and Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Executive Director, SMVD Institute of Medical Excellence as the Special Invitee. In his inaugural address The Chief Guest emphasized on the significance of biodiversity and its crucial role in maintaining ecological balance. He highlighted the urgent need for awareness through educational camps and community-driven initiatives, urging researchers and academicians to actively participate in conservation efforts. The Vice Chancellor of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Prof. Pragati Kumar, highlighted the significance of the conference as a platform to explore innovations in the field of science

and technology and urged the young minds to develop technology of implementation. Prof. Ratna Chandra, Head School of Biotechnology and Organizing Secretary proposed the vote of thanks. During the inauguration the Proceedings of the Conference was also released as a souvenir. Plenary and Invited lectures by internationally acclaimed eminent experts in different areas shall be presented during the two day conference. Scientific sessions of the conference have been divided into different themes on Health Sciences, Enzymology, Molecular Biology, Microbial Biotechnology, Nanotechnology, Chemical Sciences, Environmental Sustainability,

Bioinformatics, Genomics /Proteomics and Animal and Plant Sciences. The Inaugural Plenary Lecture was presented by Prof. RD Tyagi, Dongguan University of Technology, Quebec, Canada. There are 25 invited speakers of various fields from all around the globe and more than 200 participants from all over the country who shall come together during the conference to share their research experience through oral and poster presentations. Along with the conference, a Workshop on Skills in Biosciences is also being conducted at the School of Biotechnology, offering participants hands-on experience in various bioscience applications.

  
UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) ELECTRIC DIVISION JAMMU

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
[xenpwdelecdiv.jammu@gmail.com](mailto:xenpwdelecdiv.jammu@gmail.com)  
e-NIT No.EDJ/156 of 2024-2025 Dated 15-02-2025

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** e-tenders are invited on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estimated Cost (₹ in lacs)	Cost of document (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of Tehsil Office Nagrota Jammu Electrical Part.	PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu	11.51	600/-	23200/-	Linked with Civil Works.	26-02-2025 At or after (12:00 A.N)	"A" Class Electrical Contractor
2	Repair/Renovation of Baldev Balram Ji Temple Jammu.	PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu	13.08	600/-	26160/-	Linked with Civil Works.	26-02-2025 At or after (12:00 A.N)	"A" Class Electrical Contractor
3	Construction of Tehsil Office Chilli Pingal Electrical Part.	PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu	5.77	600/-	11540/-	Linked with Civil Works.	26-02-2025 At or after (12:00 A.N)	"A" Class Electrical Contractor
4	Construction of Garage and other allied works at soil and water conservation Complex Raika Narwal Jammu Electrical Part.	PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu	17.16	600/-	34320/-	Linked with Civil Works.	26-02-2025 At or after (12:00 A.N)	"A" Class Electrical Contractor

The Bidding documents Consisting 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	15-02-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 16-02-2025 to 25-02-2025, 4:00 P.M
3	Bid submission <b>Start Date</b>	16-02-2025
4	Bid Submission <b>End Date</b>	25-02-2025 up to 4:00 P.M
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	26-02-2025 at or after 12:00 A.N in the <b>Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&amp;B) Electric Division Jammu</b>
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work and NIT No. duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favouring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu. uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt.** The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, and relevant documents of **LI** be submitted to the **Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Electric Division Jammu.** at the time of allotment.

No :- EDJ/11827-41  
Dated :-15-02-2025

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
PWD (R&B) Electric Division  
Jammu

DIP/J-10227/24  
Date: 17-2-25

**PM urges everyone to stay calm and follow safety precautions after tremors felt in Delhi**

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, 17 FEB 2025

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has urged everyone to stay calm and follow safety precautions after tremors felt in Delhi. Shri Modi said that authorities are keeping a close watch on the situation.

The Prime Minister said in a X post; "Tremors were felt in Delhi and nearby areas. Urging everyone to stay calm and follow safety precautions, staying alert for possible aftershocks. Authorities are keeping a close watch on the situation."

## Last date for online admission and re-registration for Jan 2025 session extended till 28th Feb, 2025

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, 17 FEBRUARY 2025

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has extended the last date for fresh admission as well as re-registration for the January 2025 admission cycle till 28th of February, 2025 in respect of all notified programmes offered in ODL as well as Online modes.

To enroll in the next year or semester, learners need to register on the Portal and click the "New Registration" button to proceed and provide the correct mobile number and e-mail ID so that the University is able to send confirmation and other important updates only if the correct mobile number and e-mail ID are entered.

In case the learners face difficulty in reg-

istering on the portal (not getting OTP/ forgot Username/Password or any other difficulty), they need to approach Regional Centre Jammu for re-setting of their account/updating email ID or mobile number. They can apply for IGNOU re-registration January 2025 by visiting the official website of the IGNOU [www.ignou.ac.in](http://www.ignou.ac.in). The direct link for online re-registration is <https://onlinerr.ignou.ac.in/> which can be accessed under the drop-down menu option "Register Online" on IGNOU website.

For filling the admission form online, candidates need to create a User ID and Password on the SAMARTH portal and be ready with a Mobile No., Email ID, prop-

erly scanned academic documents, photograph and Bank Debit /Credit/ Net Banking for payment of fee. Applicants can access the IGNOU admission portal 2025 at IGNOU website [www.ignou.ac.in](http://www.ignou.ac.in) or by directly following the link <https://ignouadmission.samarth.edu.in>.

To enroll in the next year or semester, candidates must fill and submit the IGNOU re-registration January 2025 form by the submission deadline. The students who did not attempt the term-end examinations or did not submit their assignment can also apply for re-registration for January 2025 provided the minimum duration is completed and programme validity has not expired. They can apply for IGNOU re-regis-

tration January 2025 by visiting the official website of the IGNOU [www.ignou.ac.in](http://www.ignou.ac.in). The direct link for online re-registration is <https://onlinerr.ignou.ac.in/> which can be accessed under the drop-down menu option "Register Online->Re-registration" on IGNOU website. "The desirous learners who wish to seek admission or want to re-register themselves for subsequent year/semester must avail this opportunity of extended date and apply online well before the last date and eligible learners can apply for Government of India Scholarship on the National Scholarship Portal at <https://scholarships.gov.in/> after confirmation of admission", said Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director.

## School of Law, Manav Rachna University hosts International Colloquium

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 17

The School of Law at Manav Rachna University in Faridabad organized an International Colloquium on February 12-13, 2025. The event aimed to educate the general public about the benefits and drawbacks of digitization and artificial intelligence.

The program featured esteemed speakers from India and abroad, including law experts, professors, government officials, and more. Notable speakers included Mr. Joseph C. Keeley, Director of Antitrust, Innovation Policy, United States; Dr. Christian Bergqvist, Professor, University of Copenhagen; Dr. Moin Rahim, Professor, Regent University, United States; Mr. Keshav Mohan, Vice



President, Chase India, and Mr. Sumit Jain, Director, CCL India

Dr. Christian Bergqvist praised the event, stating that such international programs would benefit students. Mr. Keshav Mohan noted that these events would provide students with knowledge about new research at the national and international levels. Dr. Moin Rahim emphasized that these programs would facilitate exchange between national and international students.

Professor (Dr.) Asha Verma, Dean of the School of Law, commended the students' enthusiasm and participation. Other notable attendees included Professor (Dr.) Ruchi Lal, HOD, School of Law; Dr. Harshit Singh, Associate Professor; Dr. Suparna Vinayak, Associate Professor; and Mrs. Asmita Patel, Assistant Professor.

Students actively participated in the event, with notable contributions from Aashish Himanshu, Ria Sharma, Garvit Jonty, Jatin, Isha, and Prateek.

## Sawhney holds preparatory meeting in Reasi for 'Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq' campaign

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 17

Former minister J&K and senior Congress leader Yogesh Sawhney held a crucial preparatory meeting for the upcoming district-wise convention under the 'Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq' campaign in Reasi District. The campaign, launched by Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hameed Karra, will begin on February 21 to demand the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting, held by Sawhney in two phases—one in Katra and another in Reasi—focused on mobilizing public participation and strengthening the party's stance on statehood. Sawhney emphasized that if the demand is not met, the campaign could escalate into a larger agitational movement.

Speaking at the meeting, Sawhney asserted that Congress is fully committed to the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and will not rest until it is achieved. He criticized the delay in reinstating statehood, calling it a betrayal of the people's trust. "Jammu



and Kashmir has a proud history as a full-fledged state, with a unique identity and constitutional safeguards. Stripping it of its statehood was an undemocratic decision, and the people of J&K will not accept this status indefinitely," he said. Sawhney reiterated that Congress is ready to take the fight to every district, ensuring that every citizen's voice is heard.

Sawhney highlighted the growing discontent among the people, stating that the Congress campaign is not just a party initiative but a people's movement. "The government cannot suppress the aspirations of the people forever. The voices demanding statehood are getting louder,

and ignoring them will only deepen the resentment among the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he remarked. He urged citizens, particularly the youth, to actively participate in the upcoming conventions and make their stand clear. "If the government continues to ignore the rightful demand of the people, this campaign will intensify, and we will not hesitate to take it to the streets," he warned.

Sawhney said that the participation of senior Congress leaders, local workers, and supporters is encouraged, and they discussed strategies for ensuring maximum public engagement in the district convention. Sawhney stressed that the February 21 launch marks the begin-

ning of a strong, organized movement that will extend across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir. He urged party workers to gear up for an aggressive campaign, emphasizing that if statehood is not restored, the movement will transform into a mass agitation. He concluded with a resolution reaffirming Congress's stand and calling upon the government to fulfill its promise of restoring full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

Along with Former Minister Yogesh Sawhney, several prominent leaders present in the meeting at Katra and Reasi were District President Bhupinder Singh, Rajesh Sadhotra, Rakesh Wazir, Madan Dogra, Vice President Vijay Sharma Ji, Ex-President Pritam Singh, Munshi Ram Salalia, Vice President Jagdish Sharma, Sohan Chand, Karan Singh, Mahila President Subha Sharma, Block President Varinder Singh, Angrez Singh, Mohan Singh, Anil Sharma, Rafiq, Ranjeet Singh, Vikram, Karan Thappa, Seva Ram, Anuj Dutta, Abhishek Sadhotra, Nikhil Sharma, and Prikshit.

## International Workshop on "Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Plant Systematics and Biodiversity Conservation" commences at CUJ

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 17

The five-day International Workshop on the Integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in Plant Systematics and Biodiversity Conservation commenced today at the Department of Botany, Central University of Jammu (CUJ). The inaugural session witnessed enthusiastic participation from over a hundred scholars, students, and researchers from various institutions. The workshop serves as an interactive platform for researchers, students, and experts to explore the transformative role of AI in plant sciences. With interdisciplinary collaboration at its core, the event is expected to foster innovative research and sustainable solutions for biodiversity conservation.

The workshop was inaugurated under the visionary leadership of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, CU Jammu, whose commitment to academic excellence and sustainable development has been pivotal in supporting such interdisciplinary initiatives. Esteemed dignitaries, including Prof. Pardeep Kumar, Dean Academics, Central University of Himachal Pradesh; Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, CUJ; Prof. Sunil Dhar, Dean, School of Life Sciences, CUJ; and Prof. Deepak Pathania, Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, CUJ graced the occasion.

Prof. B.S. Bhau, Professor, Department of Botany, CUJ extended a



warm welcome to the guests, emphasizing AI's potential in plant species identification and conservation efforts. Dr. Yogesh Kumar, Head of the Department of Botany, CUJ, introduced the workshop to the audience, highlighting the pressing global environmental challenges, and emphasising the critical need for integrating AI solutions in biodiversity conservation. He also expressed gratitude to the Agriculture and Natural Resources Foundation (ANRF) for their generous financial support, which was instrumental in making this workshop possible.

The inaugural session featured thought-provoking addresses from experts in the field. Prof. Sunil Dhar highlighted the importance of AI and ML in analysing climate-driven changes in Himalayan vegetation and their applications in medical sciences. Prof. Deepak Pathania elaborated on AI's potential to detect climate change impacts and enhance agricultural productivity through sensor-based soil and plant health monitoring. Prof.

Yashwant Singh described AI as a revolutionary tool for a greener future, encouraging participants to explore collaborative research opportunities in this domain.

Prof. Pradeep Kumar, Guest of Honour delivered an engaging talk on AI's applications in plant taxonomy, pest management, and breeding techniques. He cited examples such as QR code-based plant identification systems in botanical gardens and the "Namo Drone Didi" initiative, which empowers women in agriculture through AI-driven drone technology. Additionally, he stressed the wise use of AI, urging researchers to view it as a tool rather than a replacement for scientific expertise.

Remaining sessions of the day featured insightful talks by Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Shah, Professor, University of Kashmir, who emphasized the importance of accurate data collection in AI-based research. He discussed the role of AI in monitoring ecological interactions, particularly in Kashmir and the Himalayan ranges, and its potential

in preserving fragile ecosystems. Sh. O.P. Sharma Vidhyarthi, IFS (Retd.), Former PCCF, highlighted the significance of AI in biodiversity conservation, stressing its ability to analyse vast datasets for monitoring and protecting endangered species. Dr. Arvind Selwal from CUJ, conducted a demonstration on training an AI model for Iris flower classification and explored the application of AI algorithms in precision farming.

Dr. Ashok Kumar, Organizing Secretary of the Workshop, delivered the vote of thanks during the inaugural ceremony, expressing his sincere appreciation and heartfelt welcome to all the speakers and participants for their valuable contributions. Overall, the first day of the workshop was a resounding success, with engaging discussions, thought-provoking presentations, and practical demonstrations that showcased the vast potential of AI and machine learning in plant systematics and biodiversity conservation.

## Indian Army organizes Ex-Servicemen Rally at Thatri, Kishtwar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, 17 FEB 2025

In its endeavor to increase outreach and spread awareness amongst the Ex-servicemen, Veer Naris/ Veer Matas and Widows to enable them to utilize various Government schemes, Indian Army organized an Ex-Servicemen Rally at Thatri. The day-long event started with an inaugural address followed by an open house session wherein the Ex-servicemen, Veer Naris/ Veer Matas, Widows and their dependents gave out their suggestions. The Zila Sainik Welfare Officer Wing Commander Teerath Singh delivered a lecture on the issues pertaining to pension disbursement and various benefit/ schemes available for Ex-servicemen, Veer Naris/ Veer Matas and Widows.

Zila Sainik Welfare Officer also educated them about functioning of Ex-



Servicemen Help Line and Pensioner benefits with special emphasis on post retirement schemes. During the Rally, a medical camp was organised wherein a lady doctor from District Hospital, Doda and Regimental Medical Officer, Indian Army examined the patients and addressed their health issues. During the rally, various stalls i.e. ICICI Bank, ICICI Life Insurance, HDFC Bank, HDFC Life Insurance, Ex-

Servicemen Cell Indian Army were placed for convenience of Ex-Servicemen. Representative of Prahari Param explained various job opportunities available for the Ex-Servicemen. Furthermore, Unit Run Canteen and Utility Shop facilities by Indian Army were also provided at the Rally site. Ex-servicemen helpline counters were functional throughout the event wherein the grievances of Ex-Servicemen

were noted for redressal. Commander Indian Army interacted with the participants and felicitated the Veer Naris/ Veer Matas and widows.

Indian Army also felicitated Smt Kunta Devi w/o Late Shri Kuldeep Kumar and Smt Shaina Begam w/o Shri Nazir Ahmed martyr VDGs of village Ohli, Kuntwara District, Kishtwar. The rally successfully concluded with assurances of working positively towards alleviating the problems of Ex-servicemen, Veer Naris/ Veer Matas and Widows. The event culminated with lunch for the Ex-servicemen, Veer Naris/ Veer Matas, Widows and their dependents. A total of 298 Ex-Servicemen, 05 Veer Naris/ Veer Matas, 01 Widow, 02 widows of VDGs and 66 dependents from Kishtwar/Doda district attended the event.

## Ensure Teachers are paid dignified salaries: Dr Shazad

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 18

Ahead of financial budget 2025-26 to be announced by the J & K government, Jammu and Kashmir Border Area Development Conference (JK-BADC), a registered organization working for the welfare of the tribals and border residents of J & K, has urged the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to ensure minimum fixed salary for the teachers in J & K.

Dr. Shazad Ahmed Malik, Chairman of JK-

BADC and former Vice Chancellor while appreciating the pre-budget feedback meetings held by the Chief Minister said that it is imperative that Omar Abdullah government is listening to the people and it is expected that the budget inputs of stakeholders are practically reflected in the budget document.

The BADC Chairman also put forth demands of his organization related to the budget and urged the Chief Minister to ensure that the teachers are paid

a dignified salary.

The former VC said "It is open secret that teachers in private educational institution in J & K are exploited, the most dignified professional is reduced to a mere laborer, struggling to make ends meet due to inadequate pay".

Dr Shazad demanded an end to this exploitation of the private teachers in private schools and colleges and stated that this injustice with the teachers not only affects their personal lives but also the

quality of education they can provide to students.

He said "Teachers, who are meant to be the pillars of society, should not be subjected to financial hardships."

The BADC Chairman requested the J & K government to ensure that in the budget 2025-26 the government ensures dignified salaries for the teaching professionals. He also demanded establishment of more hostels and scholarship schemes for Schedule Tribe (ST) students.

# Dr. Jitendra participates in Science and Technology Expo at IIT Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 17

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh today inaugurated the "Science and Technology Expo 2025" at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu today. He commended the institute's rapid growth within a short span of its existence.

The Minister highlighted India's remarkable achievements in science and technology, crediting the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "India has made a mark globally, and this is largely due to the efforts of the last 10 years. Today, we are ranked third in the world in startup ecosystems, with over 1.7 lakh startups. More than 55% of patents are now filed by resident Indians, and we are home to over 5,500 of the world's top 2% scien-



tists," he said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also highlighted India's advancements in space technology, biotechnology and preventive healthcare, noting that the country is now recognized as a global leader in these fields. "From the success of Chandrayaan to our vaccine development and gene advancement, India's achievements are being acknowledged worldwide," he added.

The Science and Tech-

nology Expo of IIT Jammu showcased cutting-edge innovations and technological advancements from leading academic institutions, startups and industry players. The event is aimed at inculcating entrepreneurship and scientific temper among students, researchers and industry stakeholders.

Dr. Jitendra Singh commended the institute for its remarkable growth and contributions to education and innovation, reflecting

on the transformative journey of IIT Jammu since its establishment.

In his address, Dr. Jitendra Singh talked about the early days of IIT Jammu, stating, "I have been a witness to the growth and development of IIT Jammu from its initial stages. With the coming of BJP government in 2014, we ensured that Jammu got its rightful share, including the establishment of this prestigious institution."

Dr. Jitendra Singh high-

lighted the equitable development witnessed across regions in the last decade, emphasizing the transformation in the country. He praised the first director of IIT Jammu, Prof. Manoj Gaur and acknowledged the institute's progress, which now offers a wide range of courses and boasts a talented faculty.

Dr. Jitendra Singh urged students and faculty to explore new fields and embrace innovation. "IITians are pioneers in exploring new frontiers. Do not inherit skepticism about private-sector collaboration, especially when the government is so supportive. Find exclusivity and identity through your own innovations," he advised.

The Minister highlighted the government's initiatives to support startups, including, Startup India mission and Aroma Mission, which have created equal socio-economic

opportunities and attracted professionals from corporate jobs to contribute to the personal and national growth. He emphasised that the government provides a huge opportunity to talented youth to take India to new heights. "The ecosystem is already in place, and it is up to us to leverage it for the nation's progress," he said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh commended the conviction and efforts of IIT Jammu's leadership and encouraged students to contribute to India's rising global stature.

Director of IIT Jammu, Dr. Manoj Singh Gaur expressed his gratitude to Dr. Jitendra Singh for his visit, calling it a "massive boost to the faculty and students." He elaborated on the institute's achievements, including its collaboration with the defense department for innovative projects and defence equipment development.

## OBC Dept JKPCC pays tribute to Karpoori Thakur on his death anniversary



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 17

On the death anniversary of the great socialist leader and former Chief Minister of Bihar, Karpoori Thakur, the OBC Department of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) organized a tribute event under the leadership of Madan Lal Chalotra, Chairman of the OBC Department.

The event was attended by Darshan Mehra, Amit Mehra (State Coordinator, OBC Department, JKPCC), Jagdish Kashyap, Susheel Panday, Rajan Kashyap, Rashi Kumar Mehra, Prem Sagar (Joint Coordinators), Sumit Kumar, Bansi Lal (OBC leaders), and many other party workers.

Speaking on the occasion, Madan Lal Chalotra highlighted the immense contributions of Karpoori Thakur to the upliftment

of the backward classes. He recalled how Thakur Ji dedicated his life to social justice and empowerment, ensuring that marginalized communities received

their due rights in governance and society. He also emphasized the need to follow Karpoori Thakur's ideology and work towards the betterment of the OBC community in Jammu and Kashmir.

The entire team discussed Karpoori Thakur's visionary leadership and his role in implementing reservation policies for backward classes, which transformed the lives of millions. The members also expressed their commitment to continuing his legacy by fighting for the implementation of Articles 243D(6) and 243T(6) in J&K, conducting a door-to-door caste survey in Jammu and Kashmir, a nationwide caste census, securing political reservation, and ensuring the full implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendations.

At the end of the program, all members paid floral tributes to Karpoori Thakur and pledged to carry forward his mission of equality and justice for all.

## APS Damana attends an Open Day Visitor Programme - Pragmaan hosted By IIT, Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 17 FEB 2025

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 got mesmerized with a cosmic view of the planetarium exhubrating the significance of the Black-hole. Further the students felt delighted to witness the open exhibition of the Scientific Models including 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 interac-



tive 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, robotics,

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 got mesmerized with the view of the Art zones comprising of Painting, Elocution, 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.

## Indian Army conducts Mobile Repairing Cadre for Youth at Thanamandi Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, 17 FEB 2025

The Indian Army, as part of 'Operation Sadbhavana', conducted a Mobile Repairing Cadre for youth at Thanamandi, Rajouri district. This skill development program was designed to equip technicians with the necessary skills and knowledge to efficiently and effectively repair mobile devices, covering topics such as mobile device hardware, software, and troubleshooting methodologies. The course, held from 27 January 2025 to 16 February 2025, saw the active participation of fifteen youth from local communities.

The Indian Army has always been a pillar of support in guiding and empowering local youth by providing skill development opportunities. With the promising career prospects of technology in the future, the Mobile Repairing Cadre offers comprehensive training in mobile repairing, including hands-on experience with the latest technologies and tools for the youth of Thanamandi



and nearby areas. The cadre was conducted by a specialized group of technicians trained to diagnose and repair faults in mobile devices, including smartphones, tablets, and other handheld devices.

The skills and knowledge gained through this course will also help participants build stronger, more effective relationships, both personally and professionally. Each participant's progress is a testament to their dedication and perseverance. As a token of recognition, certificates of 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 Indian Army and the local community.

It serves as a testa-

ment 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 positive change in the region, continues to be a beacon of hope for the people of Thanamandi and nearby areas. The Mobile Repairing Cadre 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 key to a brighter and more prosperous future for all. This event also serves as a platform to further strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and the people of the region.

## Resumption of transport service much-needed relief for commuters, says Arvind



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB

After a prolonged gap of five years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, public transportation services in Shakti Nagar area of Jammu West have officially resumed. On the occasion, senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West, Shri Arvind Gupta, flagged off the Four-Wheeler Passenger Auto Service from Shakti Nagar (near AG Office) to Parade Ground, covering key locations such as Rajpura, Rehari, Ambphalla, Panjirthi, and Kachi Chawni.

The event witnessed the presence of prominent BJP leaders and public representatives, including Mandal President Kushant Daffara, Ex-Corporator Surinder Choudhary, and senior leaders Bawa Sharma, Vedu Sharma, Zorawar Singh Jamwal, Rekha Sharma, Mohit Vaid, Karan Sharma, and Renu Choudhary.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Arvind Gupta emphasized the BJP-led government's commitment to addressing public transportation challenges. He acknowledged the difficulties faced by commuters due to the absence of reliable transport ser-

vices and assured that the resumption of this auto service would bring much-needed relief to daily passengers, office-goers, and students.

"The past five years have been challenging for public transport, but under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, our government has been proactive in restoring essential services. Today's initiative is a step towards improving connectivity and ensuring ease of travel for the residents of Jammu West. The introduction of these four-wheeler passenger autos will provide a cost-effective and convenient commuting option," he said.

Residents of the area welcomed the move, expressing gratitude towards the efforts of the MLA and the local administration. Many commuters shared their relief and appreciation for the newly resumed service, stating that it would significantly reduce their dependence on private vehicles and expensive alternatives. MLA Arvind reiterated his dedication to the welfare of the people and pledged to continue working towards the betterment of infrastructure and public services in Jammu West.

## Embedded Systems and Robotics Laboratory inaugurated at CUJ via e-Yantra Initiative of IIT-Bombay

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 17

The School of Engineering, Central University of Jammu (CUJ), has collaborated with IIT-Bombay to offer an Embedded Systems and Robotics course. As part of this collaboration, IIT-Bombay selected and trained B. Tech students of CU Jammu in the field of embedded systems and robotics. Under the esteemed mentorship of Prof. Kavi Arya from IIT-Bombay, six students - Ajitesh Sharma, Ayush Modi, Osho Raj, Samarth Prashar, Shreya Rai, and Sundram Kumar Ray had successfully completed the course. Notably, Sundram Kumar Ray, a B. Tech (CSE) 4th Semester student, achieved an outstanding grade.

Further strengthening



this collaboration, IIT-Bombay inaugurated an Embedded Systems and Robotics Laboratory at CU Jammu under the e-Yantra Lab Setup Initiative (eLSI). This state-of-the-art laboratory aims to enhance students' practical skills in embedded systems, IoT, and AI, aligning with the evolving Industry 5.0 landscape.

Under the leadership of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Central

University Jammu, the inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of Prof. Yashwant Singh (Registrar) along with Prof. Rakesh Jha (HoD Electronics and Communication), and Prof. Dinesh Kumar (HoD Computer Science and Engineering). Several faculty members of the School of Engineering actively participated, including Dr. Neerendra Kumar, Dr. Palak Mahajan, Dr. Harnain Kour,

Dr. Priyank Sharma, Prof. Palvinder Singh Mann, Dr. Pradeep Kumar Singh, Dr. Sachin Gupta, Dr. Sunil Datt Sharma, Dr. Pravesh Pal, Dr. Sanjeev Yadav, Dr. Arvind Selwal, Dr. Deepti Malhotra, Dr. Misbah Shafi, Dr. Jasvinder Pal Singh, Dr. Rajive Kumar, Dr. Suresh Limkar, and others.

During his address, Prof. Yashwant Singh highlighted the significance of Embedded Systems, IoT, and AI courses in shaping future-ready engineers, emphasizing their crucial role in Industry 5.0. On behalf of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, CUJ, the Registrar, CUJ, extended heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Shubha Pandit and her team from IIT-Bombay for their invaluable cooperation in setting up the e-Yantra facilities at Central University of Jammu.

## Indian Army immediately responds to Fire incident at Village Kewal, Rajouri



JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, 17 FEB 2025

At approx 1030H, a fire broke out at the stable (Dhok) where livestock were housed, at the residence of Abraham Maulvi, a resident of Kewal Top. Upon receiving the info, a team comprising 10 people along with a water bowser and a few porters, was dispatched to the incident site. The team of Indian Army, swiftly

reached the location and, with assistance from local residents, immediately commenced firefighting efforts. All livestock were successfully evacuated from the stable. In addition, adjacent houses in the neighbourhood were also vacated to ensure minimal damage due to spreading of fire. With concerted efforts of Indian Army Soldiers and civilians fire has been successfully doused with no casualty of human life or livestock.

## Plantation Drive held at GMC Doda under National Mission for a Green India

JI NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, 17 FEB

Under the National Mission for a Green India (GIM), a plantation drive was organized in the premises of Government Medical College Doda on 17-02-2025. The initiative was spearheaded by Prof. Zaheer Abass Hashmi, a renowned environmentalist and Rtd Principal, Higher Education Department, in collaboration with GMC Doda.

The event witnessed the presence of Principal GMC Doda, Prof. Dr. Rakesh Bahl, Deputy Director Planning, Mr. Jameel Malik, HOD Anatomy, Dr. K.K. Thakur, HOD Paediatrics Dr Najmus Saqib, Dr. Hamid Parry, Faizan A Tramboos along with faculty members and staff of GMC Doda. During the drive, Prof. Hashmi donated 35 Chinar saplings, which were planted within the campus in the presence of the GMC authorities.

While addressing the gathering, Prof. Hashmi



emphasized the importance of trees in maintaining ecological balance and promoting a healthy environment. He highlighted that the Chinar tree, known for its majestic presence and environmental benefits, would enhance the campus greenery and contribute to a sustainable future.

Prof. Dr. Rakesh Bahl, Principal GMC Doda, expressed his gratitude to Prof. Hashmi for initiating

the plantation drive. He appreciated the gesture, stating that such efforts would significantly improve the environment of the institution and inspire future initiatives for a greener campus.

The event concluded with a collective commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development, reinforcing the significance of afforestation in combating climate change.

## Inauguration of One-Week Workshop on Digitally Preserving Regional Dialects at SMVDU

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 17

The School of Languages and Literature, under the PM-USHA Scheme, inaugurated a one-week workshop titled Digitally Preserving Regional Dialects on February 17, 2025. The workshop, scheduled to run from February 17 to 22, 2025, aims to explore the use of digital tools and technologies for the preservation and promotion of regional dialects. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs, as the Chief Guest, who highlighted the importance of conserving linguistic diversity in the digital age. Dr. K. K. Pandey, a distinguished scholar from the Central Hindi Sansthan, served as the Guest of Honour and



emphasized the critical role of digital archives in sustaining regional dialects for future generations. Dr. Amitabh Vikram Dwivedi, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, served as the Coordinator of the workshop. Dr. Anurag Kumar, Head of the School of Languages and Literature, served as the Convener. Both outlined the workshop's objectives, focusing on equipping participants with skills to document

and preserve linguistic heritage through innovative digital practices. The workshop features interactive sessions, hands-on training, and expert talks, aiming to bring together linguists, academicians, and researchers to contribute toward safeguarding India's linguistic wealth. The event reflects the School of Languages and Literature's commitment to fostering academic and cultural initiatives under the PM-USHA Scheme.

## Pilot project NAKSHA will come up in 152 ULBs across 26 States and 3 UTs in India

JI NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 17 FEB 2025

Union Minister of Rural Development and Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan will inaugurate the National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations (NAKSHA) in 152 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across 26 States and 3 Union Territories (UTs) at Raisen, Madhya Pradesh tomorrow. The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, has initiated this pilot program. Union Minister of State for Rural Development & Communications, Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Mohan Yadav, Revenue Minister, Madhya Pradesh, Shri Karan Singh Verma, Minister for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Shri Narayan Singh Pawar, State Minister (Indepen-

dent Charge) for Fisheries and Fishermen welfare and Minister In-charge, District Raisen, Madhya Pradesh, MLA, Sanchi, Shri Prabhu Ram Chaudhary, Secretary, Department of Land Resources, Government of India, Shri Manoj Joshi and other officers from Government of India and Madhya Pradesh State Government will present in the occasion.

The occasion will be marked by flying of drones, launch of Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) booklet, Video and flyer on NAKSHA Programme, flagging of WDC Yatra, screening of WDC video and playing of Watershed Anthem.

The NAKSHA program aims to create and update land records in urban areas to ensure accurate and reliable documentation of land ownership. This initiative will empower citizens, improve ease of living, enhance urban planning, and reduce land-related disputes. The IT-based system for prop-

erty record administration will foster transparency, efficiency and support sustainable development.

The Survey of India is the technical partner for NAKSHA programme which is responsible for conducting aerial surveys and providing orthorectified imagery, through third party vendors, to state and Union Territory governments. The end-to-end web-GIS platform will be developed by the Madhya Pradesh State Electronic Development Corporation (MPSEDC) and storage facilities will be provided by the National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (NICSI). States and Union Territory governments are scheduled to conduct field surveys and ground truthing using the orthorectified imagery, ultimately leading to the final publication of urban and semi-urban land records.

The NAKSHA pilot program is expected to cost approximately Rs 194 crore, fully funded by the Government of India.

## IIM Jammu inaugurates Sixth Batch of Nurturing Future Leadership Program

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 17

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu inaugurated the sixth batch of the Nurturing Future Leadership Program on 17th Feb 2025 at its permanent campus, Vedanta, MDP Centre, Jagti. Organized under the aegis of the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme, Ministry of Education, Government of India, this initiative reflects IIM Jammu's commitment to academic excellence and leadership development.

This unique residential program, scheduled from 17th Feb 2025 to 21st Feb 2025, is designed to cultivate leadership capabilities among educators at various levels, creating a pool of potential leaders ready to drive generational transitions. Delivered by IIM Jammu's faculty, the program aims to help institutions enhance their leadership potential. Participants introduced themselves and shared their reflections on the program, discussing their experiences and expectations. The inaugural ceremony commenced with



the lamp lighting ceremony.

Dr. Parvathy B, Program Director, IIM Jammu welcomed everyone and provided a brief introduction to the program and expressed gratitude to the Director and Dean for their continuous support. She outlined the objectives of the five-day program, emphasizing its focus on equipping faculty with essential leadership skills to enhance their academic journeys and foster impactful learning envi-

ronments. Dr. Pratik Maheshwari, Co-Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy, IIM Jammu, highlighted the program's focus on leadership development, real-life challenges, and team building. He also provided an overview of Executive Education and Consultancy and IIM Jammu's journey.

Dr. Jaganth G, Program Director, IIM Jammu, emphasized the need for strong leadership in a growing nation and high-

lighted how the program is designed to nurture future leaders. He concluded the event by delivering the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants and contributors for their support and engagement.

The sixth batch comprises of 26 participants from institutes across India and is fully funded by the Ministry of Education, Government of India. The curriculum is structured into four key themes: leadership, communication, skill development, and recent government initiatives. Over five days, participants will engage in lectures, interactive workshops, group discussions, case studies, role-plays, and practical exercises, ensuring the active application of concepts. Following the inaugural ceremony, participants toured the institute's campus, gaining insights into its state-of-the-art infrastructure.

The Nurturing Future Leadership Program aligns with the Malaviya Mission's vision of empowering educators and leaders to shape India's educational landscape, reinforcing IIM Jammu's position as a hub for leadership and innovation.

## Modi govt schemes have transformed lives of millions across the country: Sat Sharma

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 17

Jammu and Kashmir BJP President, Sat Sharma CA, while chairing a meeting of senior activists of the party, highlighted the far-reaching impact of the welfare schemes launched by the Narendra Modi government, emphasizing their role in uplifting all sections of society. He underscored the union government's commitment to inclusive development through various social and economic initiatives.

"The Modi government's welfare schemes have transformed the lives of millions across the country, ensuring that benefits reach every section of society, from farmers and women to the poor and middle class," Sharma said. He noted that programmes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Ayushman Bharat, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, and Ujjwala Yojana have provided support to people, enhancing their quality of life.

One of the flagship initiatives, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, has provided affordable housing to millions of urban and rural families.

Sharma pointed out that the government's mission of "Housing for All" is being realized through financial assistance and subsidies for home construction.

Discussing the impact of Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), he said that the world's largest health insurance scheme has enabled millions of underprivileged families to access free medical treatment. "Healthcare expenses push many families into poverty, but Ayushman Bharat has ensured that quality healthcare is now accessible to the needy," he added.

Sat Sharma said that the farmers have greatly benefited from PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, which provides direct income support of rupees 6,000 per year to small and marginal farmers.

Empowering women has been a key priority for the Modi government, Sharma stated, citing the Ujjwala Yojana, which has provided LPG connections to women from poor households. This scheme has transformed lives by promoting clean energy, improving health conditions, and reducing the burden on women.

## Indian Army conducts Medical Patrol at Nigali, Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, 17 FEB 2025

The Indian Army conducted a medical patrol in Nigali, Rajouri District, providing free medical aid and treatment to 55 beneficiaries, including 15 males, 25 females, and 15 children. The medical patrol, comprising Indian Army medical personnel, was part of the Indian Army's ongoing efforts to reach remote areas and provide essential medical services to those in need. The initiative aims to build trust and strengthen the Indian Army's bond with local communities, while also ensuring their health and well-being. The medical patrol is a testament to the Indian Army's commitment



ment to serving the nation and supporting local communities, particularly in remote and inaccessible areas. By providing medi-

cal aid and support, the Indian Army demonstrates its dedication to the welfare of the people and its role as a force for good.

## Civil Defence, Jammu starts 05 Days CD Training Program

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 17

Civil Defence, Jammu, inaugurated a five-day Civil Defence Training Program under the supervision of Dy.SP. Anita Pawar, Dy. Controller Civil Defence Jammu at Govt. Degree College Bishnah, Jammu. The primary objective of this initiative is to train students in emergency response, rescue operations, and life-saving techniques. 100 students actively participating in the program, showing deep interest in learning disaster management strategies.

The event was graced by Dy. SP Anita Pawar, Deputy Controller, Civil Defence Jammu, as the chief guest. On the inaugural programme of the training, she delivered a



lecture and highlighted the role of Civil Defence and importance of this training. She stated that disaster preparedness is not just an institutional responsibility but a social commitment, and such programs empower students with essential life-saving skills.

Speaking on the occasion, Smt. Anju Bala Vice-Principal of the Degree College emphasized the significance of Civil Defence training in the current era. She appreciated the collaborative efforts of Civil Defence Jammu and Dr. Geeta, Lakhotra NSS programme

Officer in organizing this training and encouraged students to actively participate and implement their learning's in real-life situations.

The five-day program will continue with practical training sessions, expert-led awareness lectures, and live demonstrations to equip students and staff with extensive knowledge and experience in disaster management.

Paramjit Kumar, Chief warden, CD Jammu, Sh. R. Vijay Magotra, Dy. Chief warden CD Jmmu, Dr. Koshal Red cross Coordinator, Sh. R.D. Saini (Training In-charge), Sh. Rajinder Kumar and Sh. Surjeet Singh and staff of the College present on the occasion.

## Deputy Chief Minister reviews development landscape of Baramulla

J I NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 17

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today chaired a meeting at Baramulla held to review the developmental landscape of the District with emphasis on assessing progress on ongoing projects, addressing challenges in implementation and ensuring timely execution of key initiatives across the various sectors.

Present in the meeting were Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Elections, Javed Ahmad Dar, MLA Uri, Sajad Ahmad, MLA Wagoora-Kreeri, Irfan Hafeez Lone, MLA Sopore, Irshad Ahmad Kar, MLA Pattan, Javid Riyaz Bedar, MLA Tangmarg, Farooq Ahmad Shah (who joined virtually), District Development Commissioner, Minga Sherpa, Heads of Departments and sectoral officers.

The Deputy Chief Minister conducted a comprehensive review of projects being executed by Public Works (PWD), Health, RDD, Education, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry departments besides Jal Jeevan Mission, KPDCCL and other key departments.

Legislators from the concerned constituencies projected their grievances and demands including issues related to mining in Uri sub-division, devel-



opment of Parihaspora, Pattan, as a heritage village, expediting work on drainage work in Sopore, macadamization of roads in Wagoora-Kreeri and other development related issues.

While addressing the concerns raised by the Legislators, the Deputy Chief Minister issued directions to the concerned officers to expedite the work on ongoing projects to ensure timely completion.

The Deputy Chief Minister underscored the need for strong collaboration between elected legislators and the officers, urging them to work in close coordination to fulfill aspirations of the people and transform the district into a thriving economic hub.

Earlier, the DC apprised the Deputy Chief Minister regarding development scenario of the district and highlighted various

long pending demands. These included establishment of mini secretariat in Sopore, Tangmarg, Baramulla and Uri; Multi Level Parking in Sopore and Baramulla; additional hospital and upgradation of GMC Baramulla, availability of specially skilled doctors; Gulmarg road upgradation; provision for eco-tourism in places like Mund Daji, Kitar Daji, Shrunz Fall; boundary wall and road upgradation around SKAUST Wadoora, upgradation of sewage network in towns besides upgradation of stadium with installation of flood lights.

While addressing these demands, the Deputy Chief Minister sought updates from the respective departmental heads on the issues raised and instructed them to prioritize the necessary work and ensure its completion within a set timeframe, avoiding any unnecessary

delays.

He asserted that the Legislators represent the voice of the people and it is important for the officers to address their issues timely. He directed the officers to treat these issues with the highest priority and ensure their swift resolution without any delays.

Reiterating the government's commitment towards fast tracking development and improving public infrastructure in Baramulla, the Deputy Chief Minister assured that all genuine demands and grievances would be addressed at the earliest. He asked all stakeholders to maintain a result-oriented approach and work towards making Baramulla a model district in terms of governance, infrastructure, and public services.

Speaking on the occasion, Javed Ahmad Dar emphasized the importance of transparency in all developmental works. He directed the officers to take strict action against those displaying a lenient approach or engaging in unethical practices.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister launched the Sheep Husbandry Wall Calendar and distributed Ayush Cards, marriage assistance sanction letters, subsidy release letters under PM-NREGA and distributed education assistance amounting to Rs. 4.05 crore as education assistance for 9507 beneficiaries.

## DC Budgam launches solarization of Government Buildings Under PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana



J I NEWS SERVICE  
BUDGAM, FEBRUARY 17

The District Administration Budgam in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA), Department of Science & Technology, has launched the solarization of government buildings in District Budgam under the PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

The initiative was launched by Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Akshay Labroo at DC office Complex. On the occasion, 50KW capacity panels were installed on both old & new buildings of DC Office.

More than 90 government buildings across District Budgam shall be covered under this initiative in the next 3 months, the district administration said.

Speaking at the occasion, DC highlighted the

benefits of the scheme, emphasizing its role in reducing the financial burden of electricity bills for government institutions, decreasing reliance on conventional energy sources, and promoting environmental sustainability.

He stressed upon the agency to ensure the smooth and timely implementation of the project while maintaining efficiency of the project.

Labroo said all major government buildings have been identified for solarization. These buildings will be connected to the utility grid through the Net-Metering mechanism facilitated by KPDCCL, ensuring accurate energy accounting through solar power.

On the occasion, GM DIC, ACR, CPO, Executive engineer KPDCCL, AEE JAKEDA and officers of JAKEDA were present.

## DC Ganderbal chairs review meeting of Health Deptt

J I NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 17

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Health Department to assess the overall performance and progress of various healthcare initiatives in the district.

At the outset, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. B. A. Khan highlighted the physical and financial status of health programs, including the progress of civil works and their completion under different schemes through a presentation.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the timely completion of civil works, efficient utilization of financial resources, and ensuring quality healthcare services to the public.

He directed all concerned officers to expedite the execution of ongoing projects and

address any bottlenecks hindering progress.

Further, discussions were held on strengthening healthcare infrastructure, immunization coverage, and implementation of NCD programs to enhance service delivery in the district.

DC stressed inter-departmental coordination and urged all stakeholders to work collaboratively for the smooth execution of health projects, ultimately benefiting the residents of Ganderbal.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Executive Engineer PWD, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, District Health Officer, District Immunization Officer, Medical Superintendent District Hospital, Medical Superintendent Sub-District Hospital Kangan, Block Medical Officers and officials from health department.

## Commissioner SMC Chairs Revenue Committee Meeting



J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 17

Commissioner SMC, Dr. Owais Ahmed convened a pivotal meeting today with the revenue Committee members to discuss strategies for enhancing the organization's financial performance.

The meeting was attended by the Joint Commissioner (Adm), FA/CAO, Joint Commissioner Planning, Chief Revenue Officer, Additional Law Officer, Estates Officer, and other senior officials of the Corporation.

During the meeting, the Commissioner underscored the critical challenges and opportunities faced by corporation's

revenue streams.

Committee members engaged in productive dialogue, sharing valuable insights and proposing innovative solutions to boost efficiency in revenue generation.

The committee reviewed current revenue reports and explored best practices, alongside discussing potential policy changes that could enhance revenue collection and management processes.

The Commissioner emphasized the importance of transparency and accountability in all financial operations, ensuring that the SMC remains committed to responsible governance.

## DC Bandipora Reviews Wullar Project; Multi-Departmental Strategy Finalized

J I NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 17

The Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Monday convened a meeting to review the progress and challenges of the Wullar Project.

During the meeting, different aspects of Rs. 350 crore Wullar project were deliberated upon including resource management, regulatory compliance, and multi-departmental coordination to ensure seamless execution.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of addressing mate-



rial identification delays, ensuring regulatory compliance, and maintaining sustainability while executing the project. He directed all stakeholders to work diligently towards

effective project execution while upholding regulatory and environmental safeguards.

He emphasised that all activities must be conducted in strict adherence to

government instructions, SROs, and notifications.

On the occasion, the DC said that a multi-departmental committee will be convened to deliberate and finalize action plans. He said that opinions from all concerned departments will be sought before further implementation and will be incorporated in the action plan.

M A Qadri urged the concerned officers to take measures that will minimize ecological impact, with basic costs maintained at reasonable levels besides urged concerned officers to ensure necessary facilitation for smooth operations.

Deputy Commissioner directed key departments, including I&FC, Fisheries, and R&B, to jointly oversee project execution to ensure compliance.

He also emphasized the need to prevent any damage to Fisheries, Public Health Engineering (PHE), or other departmental infrastructure during the process.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Executive Engineer R&B, Tehsildar Bandipora, Assistant Director Fisheries, DMO Bandipora, representative from Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) Department and other concerned.

## Orientation cum Training prog for selected Hajj Pilgrims held in Shopian

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 17

District Administration Shopian organised an Orientation cum Training Programme for 132 selected Haj Pilgrims of district for Haj-2025 at Jamia Masjid Shopian today to provide proper guidance and information to the pilgrims.

The training programme was held under the supervision of experienced trainers and was attended by both male and female pilgrims.

Various experts including Khursheed Ahmad Deva delivered brief lectures on Manasik-i-Hajj while authorities distributed special pamphlets of guidance for the pilgrims.

## Agri deptt organizes two-day awareness prog on "Scientific Beekeeping" at Kulgam

J I NEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 17

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Department Kulgam today organized a Seminar cum Awareness programme on "Scientific Beekeeping", under National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) at Community hall here at DH Pora Kulgam.

This programme was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan. The programme was attended by Sub Divisional Magistrate Bashir-ul-Hasan, Tehsildar DH Pora, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Agriculture Offi-



cer, Cordinator, Scientists from KVK Pombay and other officers besides farmers, beekeepers and unemployed youth.

Addressing the occasion, the DC stressed upon the concerned authorities to extend their range of operation and involve more farmers especially the unemployed youth under various welfare

programmes sponsored by the department so that they can avail benefits for their sustainable livelihood.

He emphasized to disseminate awareness among the people regarding various new and scientific beekeeping cultivation methods so that productivity is increased.

He also urged the concerned to ensure hand-holding of farmers not only in increasing the production but to work on marketing aspect to fetch best prices of their products.

DC also spoke at length regarding the support available under HADP and National Mission for

Honey and Beekeeping for the potential beekeepers in the district.

DC on the occasion appreciated the efforts of agriculture department for organizing such informative camps for the unemployed youth.

On the occasion, he also felicitated the beekeepers by certificates for their excellent work in the Apiculture cultivation.

Speaking on the occasion, DAO Reyaz Ahmad Malik asked the farmers to take maximum benefit under the programme by getting training and awareness of different Government schemes to establish their income generating units under the Apiculture sector.

## DLSA Srinagar organizes awareness prog on Senior Citizens' Rights, Benefits under NALSA

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 17

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized an awareness programme at AhateWaqar, a day care and recreation centre for senior citizens, focusing on the legal rights and benefits under the NALSA Senior Citizens Scheme.

The event aimed to empower senior citizens by providing them with comprehensive information on their legal entitlements and welfare benefits.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman DLSA Srinagar



and Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Srinagar

The program commenced with a soulful tilawat of the Quran by Qazi Abdul Rashid, who also captivated the audience with a few lines from his latest poetry. His recitations set a reflective tone

for the proceedings.

Urba Rashid, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel & the resource person emphasized the importance of spreading awareness about the schemes offered under the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) for senior citizens, which are designed to ensure their protection, dignity, and access to jus-

tice. She also elaborated on the legal remedies available in case of elder abuse and the various state and national-level benefits offered to senior citizens.

The participants expressed their gratitude for the informative session, which encouraged them to stay informed and utilize the benefits available for their welfare.

The DLSA reiterated its commitment to organizing more such programmes to ensure that all vulnerable sections of society are made aware of their legal rights and protections.

The programme was moderated by Dr. Laila Sultana.