

**JANSAMPARK PRINTING PRESS**  
  
 BYE PASS SIDHRA, JAMMU  
 Mob. 9419104223

**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:  
 - Headache and continuous fever above 101°C  
 - Persistent vomiting  
 - A sharp rise in temperature  
 - Dizziness  
 - Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit  
 - Redness on the face  
 If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest medical center IMMEDIATELY.

# JINDRAH IMAGES

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 12 | ISSUE NO: 44 | 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

## MeT predicts light to moderate rain, snow over J&K during next 24 hours

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 18

The Meteorological Department Srinagar on Wednesday predicted light to moderate rain and snow over Jammu and Kashmir during the next 24 hours.

It said the weather will generally turn cloudy towards evening today with the possibility of light to moderate rain and snow at many places during the night to the evening of February 20.

The isolated higher reaches of Jammu division may experience moderate to heavy rain and snowfall on February 20, the MeT office said.

The main activity of weather is expected over Jammu region, Chenab valley and higher reach-

es of south Kashmir. The plains of Jammu may receive light to moderate rain, thunder with gusty winds at a few places.

The higher reaches of Chenab valley and south Kashmir may receive moderate snowfall with a depth of 7 to 12 inches while higher reaches of north and Central Kashmir may experience 4 to 8 inches of snowfall during the period.

During past 24 hours, night temperature has increased by 1-2°C over scattered parts of Jammu and Kashmir with lowest minimum temperature recorded during the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday in ski resort of Gulmarg -3.4°C, the tourist resort of Pahalgam 1.7°C

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## 'JK is expected to face 29% un-served annual energy by 2034-35'

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 19 (KNO)

In an awful revelation, authorities have said that Jammu and Kashmir may face 29 percent of 'forced load shedding' of annual power in the year 2034-35.

Besides, the authorities have further projected that in the coming ten years, the Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of power demand is likely to increase by more than four percent in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

According to the official



documents accessed by the news agency, authorities in a report have projected that "Electrical energy demand for the UT of J&K and Ladakh is

increasing with a CAGR of 4.2 percent from 2024-25 to 2034-35 as forecasted by 20th Electric Power Survey (EPS) of India."

It has further said that the projections of J&K also indicate that electrical energy demand may increase with a CAGR of 4.07 percent from 2024-25 to 2034-35.

"For satisfying resource adequacy that is meeting the electricity demand reliably and at affordable cost, the UT needs to methodically plan

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## Water crisis threat looms large in J&K, first 50 days of 2025 record 83% deficit rainfall



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 19 (KNO)

In the first 50-days of the year 2025 Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a rainfall deficit of 83 percent thus posing a risk of severe water scarcity in the coming months.

According to the official

data accessed by the news agency, from January 1, 2025 to February 19, 2025, J&K has recorded a rainfall of just 29.8 mm against the normal precipitation of 175.8 mm. i.e. only the 17% precipitation.

Kargil in Ladakh has recorded zero

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## CM invites tourists to explore Jammu and Kashmir at SATTE 2025



**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 19

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today urged people to visit Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing that J&K has something for everyone and is a year-round destination.

He made these remarks while addressing the opening ceremony of SATTE (South Asia's Travel & Tourism Exchange) at

Yashbhoomi, New Delhi.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who was the guest of honour at the inaugural event, said: "Whether you're looking for a pilgrimage or religious tourism, whether you're looking for a wedding or engagement, whether you simply want to be an Instagram or TikTok influencer, or you want to visit for adventure tourism,

or just to sit back with a book and enjoy beautiful and natural surroundings, Jammu and Kashmir has it all for you."

Jammu & Kashmir is participating in SATTE 2025, showcasing J&K's breathtaking landscapes, rich cultural heritage and warm hospitality.

This year's SATTE event would host over 2,000 exhibitors and is expected to attract more than 40,000 visitors from across the globe.

It provides a comprehensive platform for domestic and international buyers and professionals from the travel, tourism, and hospitality industries, along with National and State Tourism Boards.

Talking about the background of the famous Persian couplet by poet

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## Rekha Gupta to be next CM of Delhi



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, FEB 19

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leader and Shalimar Bagh MLA Rekha Gupta will be the new Chief Minister of Delhi.

Meanwhile, New Delhi MLA Parvesh Verma has been named as the Deputy Chief Minister.

The announcement came after the BJP legislature party meeting, which was held at the party's Delhi unit office

on Wednesday evening. 50-year-old Gupta, an MLA from the Shalimar Bagh constituency, defeated Aam Aadmi Party's leader Bandana Kumari in the recently held Assembly election.

Rekha Gupta is a prominent leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party, whose life is dedicated to social service and politics.

She began her political journey through

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## Army opens fire on seeing suspicious movement along LoC in Rajouri

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 19

Alert Army troops early morning on Wednesday opened fire on seeing a suspicious movement along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Sunderbani sector of Rajouri district in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Troops deployed in the forward areas resorted to a brief firing on seeing a suspicious movement in the Sunderbani sector," said official sources.

"Terrorists movement is apprehended close to the border but troops are keeping a close watch and surveillance," they said.

On February 16, the Indian army troops effectively retaliated to the firing by the Pakistan Army along the Line of Control in Gulpur sector of Poonch district.

On Feb 14, an army



Jawan sustained injury in a sniper shot suspected to be fired from across the border in the Keri area of Akhnoor 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 Line of Control in Rajouri district.

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 Line of Control in Battal area of Krishna Ghati Sector in Mendhar area of Poonch district.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired a high-level meeting

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## 2024 Bihar FICN Seizure Case: NIA searches multiple locations in 3 states

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, FEB 19 (KNO)

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday said to have searched multiple locations in three states in connection with a 2024 case of seizure of high-quality Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICNs) in Bihar.

Extensive searches were conducted at 5 locations in Bihar and one each in Jammu & Kashmir and Telangana as part of the NIA investigations into a fake currency racket operated by accused and suspects from Nepal by using crypto currency, a statement issued to the news agency reads.

NIA teams today conduct-

ed searches at the premises of accused and suspects in Patna, Bhagalpur, Bhojpur and Motihari districts of Bihar, Anantnag district of Jammu & Kashmir, and in Hyderabad, Telangana.

"Cash amounting to Rs 1,49,400, along with digital devices including pen drives, mobile phones, SIM cards etc.,

was seized during the searches. The team also recovered several incriminating documents. The case RC-17/2024/NIA/DLI relates to seizure of FICN with face value Rs 1,95,000 from three accused persons, identified as Md. Nazar Saddam of Bhagalpur, Md. Waris of Bhojpur and Zakir Hussain

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## ACB files case against former MD JKCHC, others for illegal allotment of state land

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 19 (KNO)

Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday said to have registered a case against the then Managing Director J&K Cooperative Housing Corporation and others for illegal allotment of state land.

In a statement issued to the news agency, the ACB spokesman said that a Preliminary Enquiry (PE) was conducted to look into allegations that the J&K Cooperative Housing Corporation Ltd. (JKCHC) purchased 392 Kanal land from private persons for establishing a Housing Colony at Village Bain Bajalta, District Jammu and for that purpose, also illegally occupied Kah Charai, Maqbuza Sarkar and JDA land.

"It was alleged that the Board purchased 392 Kanals of land at scattered places. The management of JKCHC in connivance with officers/officials of Revenue Department illegally occupied about 584 Kanal land which includes state land. The JKCHC then allotted the same to different persons by making plots," the statement reads.

During the course of preliminary enquiry, ACB spokesman said that it was found that JKCHC acquired land at village Bain Bajalta for establishment of housing colony.

"During the process of taking possession of land, the Corporation illegally occupied state land measuring 111 Kanal and 17 Marlas. Apart from this, the Corporation also occupied 100 Kanal

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## DA case against IAS officer

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 19 (KNO)

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday carried out searches at seven places in connection with a probe into alleged accumulation of disproportionate assets by 2010-batch IAS officer, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, sources disclosed.

Sources told news agency that sleuths of the premier central agency today carried out searches at Jammu, Srinagar, Gurgaon, Varanasi and Patna as part of investigation

into the DA case against the IAS officer.

The office chamber of the bureaucrat at the civil secretariat was also searched by the CBI officials, they said, adding that searches were carried out after registration of FIR against the officer.

It is worthwhile to mention that the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) had earlier granted prosecution sanction to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against Kumar in the infamous arms license scam of Jammu and Kashmir. KNO

## CS for framing incentive based policy for digitization of manuscripts lying with public

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 19

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high level meeting to assess and expedite efforts for revival, restoration, preservation and maintenance of the rich heritage and architectural legacy of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting focused on key heritage projects besides working out modalities for ensuring promotion and preserva-



tion of the region's unique blend of cultural and traditional legacy in the form of exquisite manuscripts.

Present in the meeting were Commissioner Sec-

retary, IT Department; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, Culture; Secretary, PWD; Commissioner, JMC; Director,

Archaeology & Archives; Chief Engineers and other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary issued several key

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Govt undertakes comprehensive program for imparting modern skills to youth: Dy CM

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 19

Maintaining that the Government is committed for honing the technical abilities of the youth, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today said that a comprehensive program has been undertaken for imparting the modern and market based technical skill education to youth so that they can create employment opportunities for themselves and other aspiring ones as well.

The Deputy Chief Minister was interacting with the students during his comprehensive visit to Government Industrial Training Institute and Government Polytechnic for Women at Akhnoor road Jammu. He was accompanied by the senior officers



of administration.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the present government is aware of the challenges being faced by the youth and several schemes have been launched for ensuring their economic and social empowerment. He said that they should not get carried away by tendencies and resort to substance abuse but instead should channelize their

energies and efforts for making a strong and prosperous country.

The Deputy Chief Minister inspected the facilities being provided to the students pursuing their courses in different streams. He directed the faculty of the institutes to ensure that the students don't face any inconvenience viz a viz laboratories, workshops, library, hostel and other related

facilities.

While inspecting the pace of work on the ongoing infrastructural works, the Deputy Chief Minister directed for speedy construction of these assets. He said that due care should be taken for using quality materials and also adhering to the timelines set for construction of these meant to augment the existing facilities being provided to the students.

## 100 Days TB Intensified Campaign; Srinagar Admin Organizes TB Awareness and Screening Camps at major Cement Manufacturing Plants

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR FEBRUARY 19

Following the directions of Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, a team of the District TB Centre(DTC) Srinagar conducted multiple TB Awareness and Screening camps at major Cement Manufacturing Plants and sites a part of the 100 Days TB Intensified Campaign.

The team inspected various Cement Manufacturing Plants including Khyber Factory, Trambo Cement Factory, and Saifco Cement Factory in the District.

During the TB Awareness and Screening Camps, District TB Officer, Dr Abdul Rouf accompanied by Medical Officer DTC, Dr



Maheen Latif, emphasized the importance of early TB detection among vulnerable populations, particularly construction workers, who are at higher risk due to occupational exposure. He highlighted the role of AI-based spot X-ray screening, which enables rapid and accurate diagnosis, ensuring timely intervention and treatment.

Additionally, MO

JKESIS, Dr Rubina and Senior Treatment Supervisor HQ DTC Musadiq Rafiq spoke about the community's role in combating TB. They stressed that collective efforts and public awareness are crucial to achieving the goal of a TB-free Srinagar.

On the occasion, the camps provided free TB screenings, AI-based spot X-ray facilities, and expert

consultations. Workers were educated on TB symptoms, prevention measures, and the importance of completing the full course of treatment. Suspected cases were immediately referred for further medical evaluation and treatment under the National TB Elimination Program (NTEP).

This initiative aims to strengthen TB elimination efforts by expanding outreach, promoting early detection, and ensuring treatment accessibility for high-risk groups. The District TB Centre Srinagar urges individuals experiencing persistent cough, unexplained weight loss, night sweats, or prolonged fever to come forward for free screening and TB treatment services.

## JMC organises Public Samvaad at Rehari Colony

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 19

Under the Public Samvaad initiative launched by the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), a program was organized today in Ward No. 25, Rehari Colony.

Member of Legislative Assembly, (MLA) Jammu West Arvind Gupta and Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation Dr. Devansh Yadav presided over the function.

Addressing the gathering, the MLA emphasized the importance of community involvement in shaping the future of Jammu.

Appreciating the Jammu Municipal Corporation for launching Public Samvaad in the Municipal limits, the MLA said that Jammu Municipal Corporation continues to encourage active citizen engagement through such initiatives, ensuring that development efforts align with public needs and aspirations.

Dr. Yadav said that the program served as a platform for open dialogue between citizens and officials, focusing on ensur-



ing public participation in developmental initiatives. He said that all the demands projected by the locals in the Public Samvaad would be looked into and focused attention would be given for their redressal in the budget.

Highlighting various initiatives taken by the JMC for providing improved basic amenities to the people, Dr. Yadav said that JMC has taken up various projects in this regard.

As part of the event, saplings were planted by the dignitaries, reinforcing the commitment to environmental sustainability. Moreover, a cleanliness pledge was also taken by all participants, under-

scoring the need for collective efforts in maintaining a clean and green Jammu.

The locals projected a charter of demands which include repair of street lights, development and maintenance of parks, besides cleanliness of lanes and drains.

Among others present were Joint Commissioner (A) Krishan Lal; Joint Commissioner (H&S) Abdul Star; Deputy Commissioner (North) Sanjay Badyal; Secretary JMC, Chand Singh; Joint Commissioner (Works) Firdous Ahmad Qazi; and other functionaries of JMC, besides public representatives and a large number of locals.

## Kathua Admin hosting Mega Job Fair on Feb 21

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 19

In a landmark initiative aimed at bridging the gap between local talent and industry needs, the Kathua administration is set to host its biggest job fair on February 21st. The marquee event will offer over 1,000 vacancies to skilled and qualified youth, with participation from major industrial players such as Godrej, Varun Beverages, Cream Bell, LIC, and several other reputed organizations.

Addressing a press Conference here today, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rakesh Minhas outlined the extensive employment opportunities available. He stated, "This is a first-of-its-kind event in Kathua that brings together a diverse range of industries under one roof. We are happy to announce that the Kathua-based industries and establishments are offering over 1,000 job openings, catering to different qualification levels and expertise, and we encourage all eligible candidates to make the most of this opportunity."

Dr. Minhas further highlighted that the job fair is an integral part of the administration's broader strategy to boost local employment and stimulate economic growth in



the region, emphasizing the importance of skills development and continuous training to ensure the local workforce remains competitive in a rapidly evolving job market. He also noted that the event is designed to serve as a comprehensive platform for both fresh graduates and experienced professionals to interact with industry leaders and secure sustainable career opportunities, reaffirming the administration's commitment to fostering local talent and enhancing the region's industrial capabilities through innovative initiatives like this job fair.

The vacancy breakdown includes 500 posts for candidates with a minimum qualification of a 10th pass, 200 posts for candidates who have completed their 12th grade, and 300 posts for graduates from various streams and experiences. Job openings span across multiple sectors, with roles ranging from Civil,

Mechanical, and Electrical Engineers to Wellness Advisors, Plant Managers, Accounts and Purchase Managers, Graphic Designers, and NOC Analysts. Additional opportunities include positions for Insurance Advisors and Supervisors, Boiler and Machine Operators, Quality Control Operators, Electricians, Fitters, Helpers, Security Guards, Trainees, HR professionals, as well as various positions in the Pharmaceuticals sector.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Minhas concluded, "This job fair is an extension of our commitment to creating employment opportunities and fostering local talent. We urge every eligible candidate to come forward, prepare their resumes, and seize this chance to build a promising career." The event is expected to be a significant milestone in Kathua's employment landscape, attracting a large pool of job seekers and industry leaders alike.

## DC Kupwara reviews progress of ICDS Deptt



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 19

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today took a comprehensive review of the functioning of ICDS Department in a meeting of concerned officers and officials held here at Conference Hall of D. C Office Complex Kupwara.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner said that the ICDS is a major sector which is linked with the welfare and upliftment of children and women and impressed upon the officers and field functionaries to work with added dedication and coordination to ensure saturation of all targets under the Poshan Schemes.

She stressed upon the concerned officers to ensure saturation of the targets which include E-KYC, Adhaar/Mobile linkage and ABHA verifications.

She directed the officers to mobilize their field staff to intensify the door to door survey and ensure

coverage of all pending beneficiaries so that the benefits under different schemes are timely disbursed to them.

On the occasion, District Programme Officer Kupwara, Hakeem Tanveer presented a detailed powerpoint presentation and briefed the chair about various targets and achievements made by the department in the district.

He informed that 90147 beneficiaries are enrolled in the department for E-KYC including Adhaar verification, mobile verification and ABHA verification.

Under PMMVY, it was informed that 5806 beneficiaries (both 1st child & 2nd girl child) have been enrolled by the department during the current year which constitutes achievement of 97.51% target.

DPO Kupwara, Hakeem Tanveer; CPO Kupwara, Parvaiz Ahmad; CDPOs, Supervisors and other field functionaries of ICDS department were present in the meeting.

## Weekly Block Diwas Public outreach program held at Panchayat Dradhu of Block Bhaderwah

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BHADERWAH, FEBRUARY 19

A Weekly Block Diwas program was today held at Panchayat Ghar Dradhu in Block Bhaderwah, aiming to address public grievances and enhance grassroots governance. The event witnessed the participation of local residents, public representatives, and senior officials who actively engaged in discussions on developmental issues and service delivery mechanisms.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah, Sunil Kumar, presided over the program, emphasizing the significance of Block Diwas in bridging the gap between the administration and the public. He assured timely redressal of grievances and directed officials to expedite pending developmental works, particularly in sectors like water



supply, rural infrastructure, and social welfare. Discussions also included strategies to improve public service delivery and enhance coordination between government departments.

The event was attended by District Development Council (DDC) Member Yudhveer Singh Thakur; Block Development Officer (BDO) Bhaderwah, Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department, former PRI representatives and other

senior officers. Public representatives highlighted key concerns, and officials provided updates on ongoing projects and upcoming initiatives to ensure effective governance at the grassroots level.

The Weekly Block Diwas program continues to serve as a vital platform for direct dialogue between citizens and the administration, fostering participatory development and efficient resolution of public issues in the Bhaderwah region.

## SHEW Doda, JKRLM collaborate to promote Women empowerment initiatives

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, FEBRUARY 19

The Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW) Doda, in collaboration with the Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM) on Wednesday organised an awareness program at the Block Development Office Assar.

The event aimed to educate Women about different empowerment and protection schemes available through the Social Welfare Department.

The District Mission Coordinator SHEW Doda welcomed the attendees and engaged with women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs), providing insights into the department's initiatives focused on women's and children's welfare.



trator of the One Stop Centre Doda detailed services offered under the One Stop Centre scheme, while the District Coordinator of Child Helpline discussed the Mission Vatsalya Scheme's provisions.

The Block Development Officer highlighted the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), emphasizing that SHGs play a crucial role in sustainable livelihood development,

ensuring the groups' long-term prosperity. In addition to the informative sessions, sanitary pads were distributed to promote menstrual hygiene among participants.

Concluding the event, the District Mission Coordinator of SHEW Doda expressed gratitude to the attendees and collaborating departments for their support in making the program successful.

## DC Shopian takes stock of snow clearance operation on Mughal Road

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 19

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishar Gupta today visited Mughal Road to assess the ongoing snow clearance operations to open the road for vehicular movement.

On the occasion, he was informed that the stretch from Heerpora to Dubjan has been already cleared while the snow clearance operation on the rest portion of the stretch up to Peer Ki Gali is continuously progressing.



Meanwhile, DC instructed the concerned to complete the snow clearance of the vital road immediately to make it suitable for traffic movement.

ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; ADC, Dr. Zakir Husain Faaz and other officers were also present on the occasion.

Ahead of Holy month of Ramzaan

## Food Safety Inspections intensified in Srinagar to prevent the sale of unhealthy and expired food stuff in City markets

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 19

Ahead of the holy month of Ramzan, the Food Safety team of the Drug and Food Control Organisation, on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat intensified the drives across the City to check the sanitary and hygiene conditions of roadside vendors and food business operators dealing with prepared food.

The inspection drives are being conducted to ensure the quality of food, especially dates, dry fruits, ready to eat food items etc as per the guideline of the Food Safety and Standards Act.

The Food Safety team headed by Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Srinagar Yameen Ul Nabi along with Food safety Officers Fayaz Ahmad Bhat and Hakeem Adil Rashid conducted inspections



at Parimpora Market and Fruit Mandi Parimpora. The team found 10 food business operators violating sanitary and hygiene standards and were fined under Section 69.

Meanwhile, the team also conducted an evening inspection at various locations in Srinagar, including Jehangir Chowk, Amirakadal, HSHS, Lal Chowk and other areas. To check the sanitary and hygiene conditions of roadside

vendors and food business operators dealing with prepared food.

During the evening inspection drive as many as 8 Food Business Operators (FBOs) were compounded and two insanitary challans were submitted to the Adjudicating Office in Srinagar.

On the occasion, Street vendors were informed about food safety rules and regulations, and the importance of maintaining

high standards of sanitary and hygiene conditions in their stalls. Vendors were warned against using artificial colors in prepared food and instructed to protect food from environmental hazards.

Moreover, the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar has asked the Food Safety team to further intensify the inspections across the City to monitor the food items in the market to prevent the sale of unhealthy and expired food stuff. He also urged the food business operators to self-comply with the rules and regulations laid under the Food Safety and Standards Act. Failure to comply may lead to strict actions, including closure of their business.

In the meantime, the Food Safety Department has also appealed the consumers can contact the Drug and Food Control Organization or report their concerns on the toll-free number 104.

## DC reviews progress of renovation work at Sports Stadium Doda

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, FEBRUARY 19

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh conducted an on-site inspection of the ongoing beautification and renovation works at the Sports Stadium Doda, here today. The visit aimed to assess the current status of various projects designed to enhance the stadium's infrastructure and aesthetics.

During the inspection, the DC evaluated key components of the renovation, including the development of the cricket pitch, improvement of the drainage system, pavilion refurbishment, and the installation of Kota stone in the seating areas. He emphasized the importance of adhering to quality standards and completing the projects within the stipulated timelines.

The DC issued directives to the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work while ensuring high-quality construction. He highlighted the necessity of installing the main gate of the sta-



dium before the upcoming Republic Day celebrations to ensure security and facilitate smooth access during the event. Additionally, he instructed officials to renovate the main stage in the pavilion area and complete the railing work around the stage to enhance safety and aesthetics.

Accompanying the DC during the visit were officials from the Public

Works Department (PWD), Power Development Department (PDD), the stadium's management team, contractors, and representatives from the Youth Services and Sports Department. Their presence underscored the collaborative efforts being made to upgrade the sports infrastructure in Doda, aiming to provide improved facilities for athletes and spectators alike.

## Training Prog for Haj Pilgrims on Feb 26 who missed training in districts

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 19

All those selected Haj Pilgrims of Kashmir Division who could not attend first phase of orientation cum training programme held at district headquarters or at Haj House, Bemina, are hereby informed that an orientation cum training camp is being organized at Haj House, Bemina, Srinagar on February 26, 2025. Accordingly, all the concerned pilgrims are informed to attend the said scheduled orientation programme which shall commence at 11:00 am. Those Haj Pilgrims who have already participated in training programme in their respective districts need not to participate in the aforementioned scheduled training camp.

## DC Kulgam presides mega public grievance redressal camp at Yaripora

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 19

As the part of weekly Block Diwas initiative, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan presided over a mega public grievance redressal camp at Yaripora to address public issues, grievances and demands. The event witnessed massive participation from residents of Home-Shalibug, Yaripora, Nunmai, Yamrach, Dasen, Munadguffan, and other adjoining areas.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Viqar Ahmad Giri, Joint Director Planning (JDP) Zahid Sajjad, Tehsildar, Executive Engineers from various executing agencies, and other

officers were also present at the grievance redressal camp.

During the camp, public delegations and individuals raised various developmental needs including the installation of solar lights, construction of car parking in Yaripora, staff augmentation at the Sub-District Hospital (SDH), desilting of irrigation canals, augmentation of drinking water supply and various other developmental requirements of the area.

On the occasion, DC passed directions to the concerned departments for addressing the issues of immediate nature at the earliest. He assured the gathering that all concerns and demands were duly



noted for further necessary action as per feasibility and norms.

He stated that the purpose of these grievance redressal camps is to directly engage with the public, ensuring precise and on-ground assessment of issues for timely resolution.

Regarding the ongoing works in the area, DC directed concerned officers for completion of works within given timelines. Meanwhile, he also reviewed the action taken to resolve issues highlighted by locals during last Block Diwas. The participants were informed regarding various beneficiary schemes and were urged to avail benefits offered under various schemes.

## DC conducts comprehensive inspection of key development projects in Poonch

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, FEBRUARY 19

In a proactive effort to monitor ongoing development initiatives, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal conducted a comprehensive tour of various projects in Poonch town today.

The inspection included critical infrastructures such as the Flood Protection work at Nangali Sahib under UT Capex, the Dingla University Campus, the Magpie Small Hydel Project in Mandi, Chandak - Mandi Hydel Project, the construction of Panchayat Ghar Kalani, among others.

Accompanied by senior

officials, including SE PHE, CPO, Xen PWD(R&B), Xen JPDCL and CEO Education and other officers, the Deputy Commissioner evaluated the progress of each project. He emphasized the need for expediting work on the Dingla University Campus, flood protection measures at Nangali Sahib, the Panchayat Ghar Kalani construction etc.

During the tour, the Deputy Commissioner also engaged with local residents who projected their demands. He listened attentively and assured the public that their genuine demands would be addressed promptly

## DC Ramban addresses public grievances at Block Diwas program

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 19

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary today chaired a mega public outreach programme here under the aegis of Continuing Block Diwas to listen to public grievances and ensure timely redressal of the same.

The event witnessed the participation of PO ICDS Jehangir Hashmi; ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak; ACR S. Harpal Singh; CPO Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Zargar; ACP Mohd. Ashfaq; GM DIC Ravinder Anand and other b officers.

The Deputy Commissioner addressed over a hundred grievances projected by the people by issuing on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for immediate action. Public concerns ranged from issues related to road connectivity, power and water supply, healthcare services, education infrastructure, and welfare schemes.

The DC also sought action-taken reports from officials to ensure that grievances were addressed in a time-bound manner. Furthermore, the DC assured the public that the administration is commit-



ted to strengthen services delivery and improve civic amenities, reinforcing a citizen-centric governance approach.

Taking note of infrastructure concerns, the Deputy Commissioner directed the ACR, Executive Engineer PWD to visit the ITI construction site and explore possibilities for road connectivity to the location. The DC also instructed concerned departments to expedite pending works and complete all necessary clearances for the speedy execution of the project.

Additionally, he instructed the PWD and PMGSY departments to ensure prior permissions regarding land availability before

initiating DPR for road projects under NABARD and other government schemes, ensuring hassle-free execution. He stressed the importance of avoiding delays due to land disputes or administrative bottlenecks and directed officers to work in coordination with local stakeholders for smooth project implementation.

The Deputy Commissioner encouraged citizens to actively participate in governance by voicing their concerns through platforms like Block Diwas, ensuring a transparent and accountable administrative process. Various Stalls were also set up by the department.

## DC G'bal presides over weekly Block Diwas at Manigam

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 19

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today presided over a public outreach program as a part of weekly Block Diwas program here at Community Centre Manigam. The outreach program focused on addressing public grievances focusing on fostering inclusive development and ensuring time-bound redressal of issues.

The residents of Block Lar apprised DC regarding various developmental issues pertaining to their areas and sought intervention for timely redressal of the genuine concerns.

The public representatives demanded creation of Zonal Education office in Lar, Horticulture zone office, creation of Tehsil Social Welfare office, dredging and repairment of irrigation canals, upgradation of PHC Lar, Fire Service Station, completion of lift irrigation at waliwar, completion of play ground at Chountwaliwar, verification of Units established under PMEGP, cleanliness of water bodies and upgradation of grounds and parks.

DC had a patient hearing to all the issues raised and gave necessary directions to the concerned



departments for timely redressal of genuine grievances as per their competence.

DC while speaking on the occasion said that the district administration is continuously monitoring the resolution of grievances raised at various levels by the general public and emphasized that the district administration remains accessible to the people and is dedicated to addressing their grievances effectively.

Regarding the repair of irrigation canals, the Irrigation & Flood Control department informed that several projects, including work on Baba and Dab canals, have been approved and will commence soon.

Addressing the issue

of garbage collection, the Block Development Officer Lar informed that the door-to-door garbage collection service has been outsourced for which tendering process has been completed and will be awarded to the successful bidder soon.

Regarding release of subsidy of cases sponsored under PMEGP, GM DIC briefed the audience that the verification process is ongoing through a third party agency and till date, 242 cases were found eligible for subsidy out of which 190 cases are disbursed and subsidy for rest cases will be released soon.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC member Lar appreciated the efforts of various departments in

ensuring equitable development in Block Lar and addressing public concerns effectively.

The Block Diwas was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Gulzar Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Development, GM DIC, program officer ICDS, Executive Engineers of various engineering wings and other district and sectoral officers.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner presented the electric wheelchair to the beneficiary which was donated by the Hope Disability Centre/District Disability Rehabilitation Centre. This donation will greatly enhance the beneficiary's mobility, as the wheelchair is easy to operate.

## DC Poonch applauds beneficiary for Solar Rooftop installation at village Chandak

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, FEBRUARY 19

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal visited village Chandak today to congratulate a local resident Mokham Din for availing the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

Mokham Din recently installed a solar rooftop system, marking a significant step towards sustainable energy use in the region.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner had a candid interaction with the beneficiary. The beneficiary and his family members expressed gratitude to the government for this vital initiative, which has afforded them the opportunity to generate and consume their own electricity. They noted how this initiative has greatly improved their living conditions and contributed to their financial savings.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that The Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana aims to promote solar energy utilization among households, ensuring a cleaner and more sustainable environment for future generations.

FROM THE PAGE 1...

MeT predicts...

and Srinagar 3.5°C. In Jammu division Bhandarwah recorded a low of 2.6°C, Banihal 3.5 °C. During Past 24 hours, no Precipitation was observed over Jammu and Kashmir. The day temperature has also risen by 4-6°C in many parts of Jammu and Kashmir with the highest temperature recorded at Kathua 25.6°C and Jammu 26.1°C on the previous day. The day temperature in Kashmir valley rose by 5-6°C with Srinagar having a maximum of 15.7°C and the frontier Kashmir border district of Kupwara 17.1°C on Tuesday, the MeT office said.

JK is expected...

its capacity expansion either by investing or by procuring power," it reads. The documents states that in view of the reduction in cost of solar panels and newer technology options like battery energy storage systems, planning for long term optimal generation capacity mix gains tremendous importance so as the future generation capacity mix is cost effective as well as environment friendly. It further said that a study was carried out considering existing capacity, planned capacity and capacity required to fulfill the Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO) for the UT. "It was observed that the total un-served energy in the year 2034-35 is expected to be about 9928 MU which is about 29 percent of annual energy during the year 2034-35," it reads. Un-served energy is referred to as the sum of electrical energy demand that cannot be supplied within a region due to a shortage of generation, demand-side participation, or interconnector capacity. The report further said that in order to find out the least cost option for generation capacity expansion for the period 2024-25 to 2034-35 to meet the demand reliably, long-term study for the UT of J&K and Ladakh was carried with an objective to minimize the total system cost of generation including the cost of anticipated future investments while fulfilling all the technical/financial constraints associated with various power generation technologies. "Additionally, a reliability study has been carried out to determine the probability of unmet demand and hours by implementing the variation in demand, RE (Solar, Wind) and forced outage of thermal generators (Coal, gas) etc. Thus, the Resource adequacy studies have projected likely optimal capacity mix for future years till 2034-35 which would be able to meet anticipated demand reliably at every instance while meeting Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO)," it reads. KNO

Water crisis threat...

percent precipitation in 2025 with the data revealing that the district has witnessed 100 per cent deficit as against the normal rainfall of 18.5 mm. In Jammu and Kashmir, Kathua has witnessed the highest deficiency with 98 percent as a rainfall of only 3.6 mm was recorded against the normal of 152.4 mm. Jammu and Udhampur stations have recorded a deficit rainfall of 95 per cent each in the last 50 days while 92 per cent deficiency was recorded in Samba district. Ramban and Kulgam districts have recorded a deficiency of 90 per cent each, the data shows. It adds that Shopian and Reasi have witnessed the deficit rainfall of 88 per cent while Doda and Budgam districts have seen the deficiency of 87 per cent and 86 per cent respectively. Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, has recorded the deficit rainfall of 85 per cent in the last 50 days while Anantnag, Bandipora and Pulwama have recorded the deficiency of above 80 per cent rainfall during the period. The other stations including Baramulla, Ganderbal, Kishtwar, Kupwara, Poonch and Rajouri districts have recorded a deficit rainfall in between 72-78 per cent. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that J&K is staring at a water crisis this year, and he will be reviewing the measures the Jal Shakti (PHE) Department intends to take to address the situation. A top official in the Jal Shakti Department (JSD) while talking to KNO said that the department is ready to tackle any such situation. "We have already formulated a contingency plan if such a situation arises," he added. The official also appealed to the people to use the water judiciously and not to waste it to ensure that all the people get adequate drinking water facilities. "Besides, if the dry spell persists, the department will ensure that the people don't face difficulties," he said. KNO

CM invites tourists...

Amir Khusrav in Kashmir, the Chief Minister said: "It is inscribed in the Red Fort from the 13th-14th century, basically saying that if there is a paradise on earth, it is here, it is here, it is here, talking about Jammu and Kashmir." Reflecting on Kashmir's past as a favorite leisure and film shooting destination, Omar Abdullah remarked: "What does one say about Jammu and Kashmir that hasn't already been said? No honeymoon in India was considered a honeymoon unless it was planned in the houseboats of Dal Lake. No movie in India was considered complete unless it had at least one sequence from our mustard fields or the snow-capped mountains, and no holiday was a holiday unless it was spent somewhere in Jammu and Kashmir." Addressing the challenges J&K faced over the last three decades, he stated that the region is emerging from difficult times. "Could we have this concept of nazar, evil eye. All that beauty had to result in something going wrong. 30-35 years of a very difficult time from which Jammu and Kashmir is now emerging." He highlighted the revival of domestic tourism, saying there can be no denying that Jammu and Kash-

mir is once again one of India's preeminent destination for domestic tourism.

"International tourism is picking up in spite of the difficulties that we have with travel advisories issued by various embassies and consulates."

He further emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir is not resting on its laurels, not trying to sell you a soft story because, as was made amply clear in the very warm introduction that I got before coming up here, Jammu and Kashmir has something for everyone. Touching upon the region's investment potential, the Chief Minister remarked: "Jammu and Kashmir today is also a destination ripe for investment in any and every sector to do with the tourism industry, and that is why for us, for the team that has accompanied me, it's a pleasure to be back at SATTE. We understand the importance that SATTE as an event holds in the annual calendar for tourism and travel promotion events."

Speaking about new and emerging tourist destinations in J&K, he said: "Jammu and Kashmir is beyond Pahalgam or Gulmarg in Kashmir or other locations. When you talk about Jammu and Kashmir, similarly when you talk about Kashmiri wazwan food, you talk about culinary dishes Gushtaba and Rista, and those are the two things everyone has heard about. When we talk about tourism in Jammu and Kashmir, immediately Pahalgam and Gulmarg as destinations spring to mind. But Jammu and Kashmir is more than that."

He highlighted Jammu's heritage tourism, saying: "For heritage tourism, Jammu is the city of temples, starting from Raghunath Mandir and going beyond. Jammu has more to offer in terms of border tourism that is often not projected but something that we believe offers great opportunity as new places to visit. Kashmir is more than just Gulmarg and Pahalgam."

The Chief Minister emphasized new tourist destinations such as Sonamarg as a year-round destination, thanks to the newly inaugurated tunnel. Gurez, which was once unheard of but is now among the fastest-growing tourist areas. Border tourism at Tangdhar, Machhil, Karnah, and Keran, attracting increasing visitors.

Meadows like Bangus and Doodhpathri, which are gaining popularity in J&K.

Highlighting J&K's adventure tourism potential, he said: "Jammu and Kashmir is about adventure tourism, rafting on our rivers, skiing down our mountains, water skiing on the Dal Lake or Mansar."

He further added: "I truly believe that a holiday is not a holiday unless it's spent in Jammu and Kashmir. And therefore, I am here with a whole host of people from Jammu and Kashmir to remind you that we are there. And tongue firmly in cheek, I've often said that Jammu and Kashmir was heaven on earth long before Kerala became God's own country."

Inviting SATTE 2025 attendees to J&K, he said: "For your next visit, for your next conference, for your next seminar, or for just time on your own. If you just want to come and sit and relax, Jammu and Kashmir is now increasingly becoming a destination for wellness, for health. We have a number of events on our calendar."

Speaking about sports tourism, he noted: "Last year, it had the inaugural Kashmir Marathon, both a half marathon and full marathon. This year, we intend to start with the Jammu Half Marathon and the Jammu Ultra Marathon while continuing with the Kashmir Marathon."

J&K's enhanced connectivity, he said: "Gone are the days when you had a flight once or twice a day from Delhi, and that was the only connectivity that was available to you. Today, you have direct flights from Amritsar, from Chandigarh, from Bangalore, from Ahmedabad, from Mumbai, from Delhi, and of course, countless connections."

He added: "And in the not-too-distant future, in fact, we are hoping to be counting that time on the fingers of our hands, we will have Jammu and Kashmir connected to the rest of the country by a rail link that has been a few decades in the making."

Concluding his speech, the Chief Minister extended a warm invitation saying that it is much easier to get to Jammu & Kashmir as opposed to other mountainous and hill destinations.

CM invited the participants to see for themselves and enjoy the locales and hospitality on offer which would clear the negative image that was being projected by some to dissuade travel to this place with J&K getting mentioned for the wrong reasons.

"So please come and visit and see what it is all about. And I assure you, we will send you back with the best of memories and the best experience."

Rekha Gupta to...

the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) at Daulat Ram College, Delhi University, in 1992.

In 1996-97, she became the President of the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU), where she actively raised student issues.

After being elected as a councillor from North Pitampura in 2007, she worked on developing basic facilities in the area, such as libraries, parks, and swimming pools.

For the welfare of women and children, she launched initiatives like the "Sumedha Yojana," which supported economically weaker female students in pursuing higher education.

As the head of the Women Welfare and Child Development Committee, she led empowerment campaigns for women.

The BJP returned to power in Delhi after 27 years, having won a clear majority of 48 out of 70 seats in the Assembly election, the results of which were declared on February 8.

The swearing-in ceremony for the new chief minister is scheduled for February 20 at Ramlila Maidan.

Army opens fire...

and reviewed the security scenario in Jammu Division.

The Lieutenant Governor said that focus should be on complete wipe-out of terrorism from Jammu Division.

2024 Bihar FICN...

of Patna," reads the statement. The accused were arrested by the local police during vehicle checking near Kharwa bridge in Banjariya area on 5th September 2024. The police later also arrested another accused, Muzaffar Ahmad Wani @ Sarfaraz, from Anantnag in J&K, it reads.

NIA, which took over the case from Bihar police in December 2024, is continuing with its investigation, it added. KNO

CS for framing incentive...

directives regarding framing of incentive based policy for digitization of valuable manuscripts lying with the public. He emphasized for acknowledging the contributors by returning their original manuscripts post-digitization to encourage wider participation in this heritage preservation initiative.

Observing the current status of different architecture and heritage conservation projects, the Chief Secretary asked the department of Archaeology & Archives to intensify the restoration efforts, ensuring visible progress on ground. The department was also impressed upon to utilize released funds effectively to meet project deadlines.

As far as the cultural revitalization of Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex (MMHC) is concerned, the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, was directed to transform MMHC into a culturally vibrant space by organizing cultural evenings in collaboration with the Academy of Art, Culture & Languages.

The Chief Secretary also emphasized upon the need for adaptive reuse of restored structures at MMHC. He tasked the Department of Archaeology with developing a robust reuse plan for restored structures at MMHC. He noticed that failure to repurpose these structures would undermine the restoration efforts made so far. He maintained that keeping such structures idle would render them into dilapidation which is highly unacceptable.

Regarding engagement of Transaction Advisor (TA) for heritage hotel at MMHC, the Chief Secretary advised the concerned to approach the Finance Department seeking their guidance on engaging TA for the adaptive re-use of this valuable heritage property. This included the proposed heritage hotel, to be developed under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model on a Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis for development of sustainable tourism in the Jammu city.

In order to promote the region's cultural heritage, the Chief Secretary called for instituting awards recognizing outstanding contributions in preserving J&K's cultural identity. He also suggested holding painting competitions highlighting the lives and contributions of saints like Lalla Ded to educate younger generations and inculcate in them the aesthetic value of our significant heritage and traditions prevalent here in the past.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the progress made in formulation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for modernization of SPS Museum, Srinagar, and instructed its finalization within 15 days. He emphasized upon taking up this work for execution in the upcoming summer season.

The meeting also included an assessment of major heritage-related projects including restoration and development of Shergarhi Palace, construction of Tehzeeb Mahal, construction of a 250-meter span fly-over bridge connecting Jullaka Mohalla with MMHC at a cost of Rs. 23.50 crore and installation of a vertical lift between the Cable Car Project (Peerkho) and Mubarak Mandi Complex besides creation of exclusive parking for heritage complex by JMC.

The Chief Secretary directed the IT Department to create an online portal for documenting and showcasing activities held across all the districts during celebration of Constitution Day and the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

In his presentation, Commissioner Secretary, Culture Department, K.Ramesh Kumar, informed the meeting about the pace and progress on projects being executed under different phases of Revival, Restoration, Preservation and Maintenance of Architecture and Heritage in Jammu and Kashmir.

He apprised the meeting that under the first phase 33 projects had been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 64.25 crore. Under phase second, a total of 73 projects had been identified, of which, DPRs for 65 projects stands prepared while administrative approval has been received for 61 projects by the Department.

Director, Archives, Archeology & Museums, K.K Sidha, informed the meeting about the status of works accomplished to modernize the SPS Museum, Srinagar and the scope of works to be taken up in the newly formulated DPR. He also threw light on the status of projects including the upcoming Tehzeeb Mahal, restoration works going on at Shergarhi Palace and those at Mubarak Mandi complex.

Additionally, the Commissioner JMC highlighted the status of the works being taken up under Smart City Mission inside MMHC. He revealed that operationalization of Library cum Cafe on PPP mode inside this heritage complex would be done by April this year as the structure is nearing completion. He also laid out a plan for construction of a parking lot for nearly 200 cars and around 150 two wheelers near the main gate of the complex.

ACB files case against...

15 marla land falling under Khasra No's. 16 min, 17 min, 219 min, 573/34 min from the owners vested with proprietary rights of the land under J&K Agrarian Reforms Act 1976 and Govt. Order No. S-432," the statement added.

During the course of enquiry, it was surfaced that the officers/officials of JKCHC and Revenue Department in furtherance of a well-knit conspiracy hatched among themselves and the beneficiaries, by abuse of their official position, paved way for transfer of rights of the land for establishing a housing colony by the JKCHC in violation to the government provisions dishonestly and fraudulently by misrepresenting facts,

Sansad Khel Spardha 2025

DYSS hosts Volleyball Tournament at Eidgah Mughal Maidan



J1 NEWS SERVICE KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 19

To encourage youth participation in sports, the Department of Youth Services & Sports organized a Volleyball Tournament at Eidgah Mughal Maidan, Zone Inderwal under the aegis of Sansad Khel Spardha 2025.

The tournament was held under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan and the guidance of DYSSO Jaffer Haider Sheikh and

supervision of ZPEO Inderwal, witnessing enthusiastic participation from young athletes and sports lovers.

All officials from the department were present at the venue ensuring smooth conduct and fair play throughout the event.

The event not only provided a platform to the emerging players to showcase their skills but also reinforced the importance of sports in building teamwork, discipline and a healthy lifestyle.

Chatroo, Nagseni KV Schools all set to start classes



J1 NEWS SERVICE KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 19

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, R.K. Shavan on Wednesday conducted a comprehensive review of the operational preparedness of Kendriya Vidyalayas (KV) at Chatroo and Nagseni to ensure their timely functioning.

After detailed discussion with the stakeholders, the meeting decided that the classes for KV Chatroo (At MughalMaidan) will commence at the Girls' Hostel building, which will serve both as a school and hostel facility.

This arrangement aims to facilitate a smooth start

to academic activities while ensuring adequate accommodation for students.

Furthermore, for KV Nagseni, the DC has already identified a rented building to house the school temporarily.

The DC reiterated that the district administration is committed to providing the best possible learning environment to the students.

The meeting was attended by CPO Shahnaz Bali; SDM Chatroo Nayeem Ur Rahman; CEO Kishtwar Javed Ahmed Kichloo; CHO Sajid Mustafa and representatives from the working agency.

thereby conferring undue benefits upon themselves, the corporation and the beneficiaries, it reads.

"These omissions and commissions on the part of officers/officials of the JKCHC and the Revenue Department including Bharat Bhushan Sharma the then Managing Director J&K Cooperative Housing Corporation, Shesh Paul Salgotra, the then Tehsildar Jammu, Sanjay Badyal, the then Tehsildar Jammu, Mahesh Chander the then Naib Tehsildar Sidhra, Farooq Hussain the then Patwari Halqa Bain Bajalta Jammu, Nek Mohd then Patwari Halqa Bain Bajalta Jammu, the beneficiaries and others constitute offences punishable under Section 5(1)(d) read with section 5(2) of J&K Prevention of Corruption Act Svt. 2006 and U/s 420, 465, 467,468, 471 and 120-B/RPC. Accordingly a case FIR No. 02/2025 has been registered in Police Station ACB Central," the statement reads, adding that further investigation in the case is going on. KNO

## Kishtwar Admin hosts awareness event, plantation drive to mark Int'l Year of Cooperatives-2025

JINews SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 19

To celebrate the International Year of Cooperatives 2025, an awareness-cum-plantation drive was today organized in Kishtwar Town under the supervision of Deputy Registrar, Cooperative Societies Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Pawan Kotwal was the Chief Guest. He inaugurated the drive by planting saplings at a prominent park in the heart of the township, emphasizing the critical role of cooperatives in promoting environmental conservation and sustainable practices.

The awareness initiative focused on educating the public about environmental conservation and the importance of sustainability in long-term development. Attendees, including officials from the Department of Cooperatives, the Municipal Council, as well as representatives from various cooperative societies and the general public, actively participated in



the event.

A significant highlight of the drive was the collaboration with The Chenab Walnut Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) Cooperative, which contributed flower saplings for plantation. The initiative underscored the power of cooperatives as key drivers of social and environmental

responsibility.

The event was held as part of a series of activities planned across the District as part of the International Year of Cooperatives 2025 celebrations. The initiatives aim to reinforce the impact of cooperative societies in fostering sustainable development and community engagement.

## Commissioner SMC Reviews Capex Plan to Drive Urban Development in Srinagar

JINews SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 19

In a proactive effort to enhance urban infrastructure and public services, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Dr. Owais Ahmed chaired a comprehensive review meeting today to evaluate the Capital Expenditure (Capex) Plan.

This initiative is a key component of SMC's broader strategy to address urban challenges and ensure the timely execution of projects aimed at significantly improving the quality of life for Srinagar's residents.

The meeting began with the commissioner underlining the critical role of the Capex Plan in transforming urban landscape. "Our Capex Plan is not merely a financial blueprint; it is a commitment to the people of Srinagar. We are dedicated to implementing projects that will elevate their quality of life," said Dr. Owais.

During the meeting, officers from various departments presented detailed progress reports on ongoing projects. Key



focus areas included the development of city roads, improvements in waste management systems, upgrades to drainage networks, installation of streetlights, enhancements to public parks, and advancements in water supply infrastructure. Each department highlighted achievements, identified challenges, and proposed strategies to address bottlenecks, ensuring projects are completed within the stipulated timelines.

The Commissioner stressed the importance of accountability and transparency in project execution. "We must ensure that every rupee spent is accounted for and that our projects genuinely reflect the needs and aspirations of our citizens," he said. Dr. Owais urged all SMC

departments to foster open communication, enhance collaboration, and streamline processes to minimize delays.

In addition to reviewing current projects, the meeting also laid the groundwork for future initiatives. Dr. Owais reiterated SMC's commitment to integrating sustainable practices into all upcoming developments. "It is imperative that our growth is environmentally responsible. We will prioritize projects that promote sustainability and resilience," he asserted.

The SMC remains steadfast in its mission to transform Srinagar into a modern, sustainable urban hub that meets the evolving needs of its residents while preserving the city's unique cultural heritage and natural environment.

## KVIB Shopian organises awareness programme on JKREGP, PMEGP schemes



JINews SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 19

Khadi & Village Industries Board (KVIB) Shopian today organized an awareness programme at Government Upper Primary School Chek-i-Saidpora Bala Shopian to educate the public especially youth about prominent livelihood generation schemes of Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP).

Member Legislative Assembly, Shopian, Shabir Ahmed Kullay while speaking at the event said aimed of such programmes is to make the people aware about the benefits of the schemes which offer financial assistance for self-employment

ventures in manufacturing, services and trading sectors.

Other speakers also urged youth to avail the benefits of schemes for self-employment generation for their economic upliftment. On the occasion, Divisional Officer J&K, KVIB KD, Srinagar, Raashid Qadri provided insights into the application procedures and the support available under these programmes and encouraged the youth of the area to take advantage of KVIB's schemes to promote entrepreneurship.

He said that under PMEGP and JKREGP during the last three years, margin money of Rs. 11.49 Crores has been released by J&K KVIB Shopian for establishment of 529 units creating employment opportunities for 3968 persons.

## Rana co-chairs session on "Flood Plain Zoning" in All India State Ministers' conference

JINews SERVICE  
RAJASTHAN, FEBRUARY 19

Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, today co-chaired a session on 'Flood Plain Zoning' in the second All India State Ministers' Conference on Water at Udaipur, Rajasthan.

While speaking on the occasion, Javed Rana emphasized the need for adoption of flood plain zoning approach for comprehensive flood management and minimizing flood damage, ensuring a safe and more resilient region for the people.

"In Jammu and Kashmir, work on Flood Plain Zoning is being pursued vigorously aligning with the guidelines issued by the Ministry for Water Resources. It is a big step towards achieving the goal of effective flood management through a combination of structural and non-structural measures," maintained the Minister.

The two day conference from February 18 to 19 themed "Water Vision@2047- A Water Secure Nation," was organized by the National Water Mission, Ministry



of Jal Shakti.

The session deliberated on the need for integrated river and coastal areas management highlighting strategies for basin level planning, integrating water and land use planning besides flood plain development and other measures

Rana highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir witnesses recurrent floods which gave rise to formulation of a comprehensive flood management plan to tackle the problem. He said that there is a need for judicious use of land, reducing the impact of floods and balancing the risk with the need of land for public good simultaneously. "Flood plain zoning" is not just about restrictions but regulating so that protecting people,

property and nature is accorded top most priority," he said. "The Governments both at the Union and at the UT level have to keep a focused approach on basic objectives of flood management like minimizing damage, protecting natural flood defense, encouraging sustainable development and lowering economic costs," he added.

He also highlighted the initiatives being taken up by the government of Jammu and Kashmir for mitigating the impact of floods. He said that the government has installed modern gauge stations which transmit real time flood data to all stakeholders including the general public through a mobile app.

Another, important

forecasting tool known as the Integrated Operation Forecasting System (IOFS) has also been developed under the World Bank funded JTFRP. It also provides forecasted flood inundation maps with extent and depth that help identify vulnerable areas so that the administration can take proactive actions, including evacuation of communities, if necessary.

Rana also expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Water Resources for holding this important conference to strengthen the collaboration with the states and UTs. "We can collectively work towards a future for minimizing the devastating impact of floods and achieving the vision of Water Secure India @ 2047", asserted the Minister.

## National Lok Adalat in Srinagar on March 08

JINews SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 19

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar is going to hold 1st National Lok Adalat of the year 2025 at District Court Complex Srinagar on March 08.

Lok Adalat will be held for Pre-Litigation cases including bank recovery matters, labour disputes cases, electricity and water bills (excluding non-Compoundable), matrimonial cases (except divorce matters), land acquisition cases, other civil cases including rent, easementary rights, injunctions suit, specific performance suit etc.

Besides cases pending in courts including criminal compoundable offence, NI Act cases under Section 138, bank

recovery matters, MACT cases, labour disputes cases, electricity and water bills (excluding non-Compoundable), matrimonial cases (except divorce matters), land acquisition cases, other civil cases including rent, easementary rights, injunctions suit, specific performance suit etc.

Accordingly, all concerned parties & advocates who desire to get their cases, disputes & claims settled through this 1st National Lok Adalat are asked to approach District Legal Services Authority Srinagar or concerned courts by or before March 01 for amicable settlement of through National Lok Adalat.

## J&K LBDBC Commission assesses implication of backwardness of OBC's in South Kashmir districts



JINews SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 19

The Jammu & Kashmir Local Bodies Dedicated Backward Classes (J&K LBDBC) Commission chaired by Justice (Retd.) Janak Raj Kotwal, and its Members; R.K. Bhagat IAS (Retd.) and Professor M.S. Bhadwal visited District Headquarter Anantnag as a part of their outreach and met the stakeholders from different panchayats and Urban Local Bodies of Districts Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama and Shopian to assess the implications of backwardness among OBC's in direct elections to the local bodies.

The Commission was apprised 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.

## Agriculture Minister inaugurates Mother Block



JINews SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 19

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development Department & Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, today inaugurated Mother Block besides launching the plantation drive at Horticulture Fruit Plant Nursery Bandipora.

The Minister was accompanied by MLA Bandipora, Nizamuddin Bhat; MLA Gurez, Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurez; Deputy Commissioner Bandipora; Director Horticulture Kashmir and Chief Horticulture Officer Bandipora. The Minister said that presently agricultural advancements have become indispensable to navigate the farming sector towards progress and prosperity. "Our primary responsibility is to make agriculture sector more vibrant, productive in order to encourage and promote agricultural practices and activities on modern patterns with scientific and technological orientations", added the Minister. Javid Dar said that after introducing High Density farming

in Horticulture sector, it has become imperative to propagate true to type quality fruit plant material at par with the imported fruit plant material locally. In this direction, it is of paramount importance that we must possess dedication and commitment along with scientific and technological knowhow to deal with the challenges, he said.

The Minister said that High Density farming is a game changer and it will uplift the socio-economic status of the farming community in terms of better returns. Besides, it will upgrade quantity manifold with quality production.

As a growing demand of establishing High Density orchards, the Minister said we have to cater to the demand by providing quality high density fruit plant material.

Later, the Minister also kick started a plantation drive by planting a sapling in the fruit plant nursery Bandipora. He emphasized that we must protect our fauna and flora and plant more and more trees to safeguard the ecology and environment.

## Satish inaugurates free medical camp at JKRTC office

JINews SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 19

Minister for FCS&CA, Transport Youth Services and Sports, Information Technology, Science and Technology, ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, today inaugurated a free medical camp at JKRTC office.

The camp was organised by SIBA in collaboration with JKRTC to promote health awareness and well being among the transport workers. Various private hospitals and clinics rendered their services to the participants. These institutions included Amandeep Hospital,



Sharp Sight, Shine and Glow, Sarvaang Ayurghra, Path Square, Hear Clear and others.

The medical camp was organised with an aim to provide quality medical care and free medicines to the present and retired employees of JKRTC and their family members.

A team of expert doc-

tors and paramedical staff provided healthcare facilities related to eye care, Blood Pressure,

Diabetes, dental care, hair and skin care. Free medicines were also distributed among the patients during the camp.

While addressing the gathering, the Minister appreciated the dedication of drivers who, regardless of season or circumstance, work relentlessly for the welfare of society.

He urged the participants to develop a sense of responsibility by adhering to road safety measures, including wearing seat belts and avoiding mobile phone use while driving.

The Minister asserted that monthly health check-up camps would be organised for the drivers so that they can get the facility of routine health checkup at office premises and get free treatment/medicines. MD JKRTC, Rakesh Kumar Srangal, senior officials, employees, retired employees and other staff members of the Corporation were present on the occasion.

## EDITORIAL

## The Looming Power Crisis in Jammu & Kashmir: A Call for Urgent Action

The recent revelation that Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) may face a staggering 29 percent forced load shedding of annual power in the year 2034-35 is a wake-up call for policymakers and stakeholders. This alarming projection, backed by official data from the 20th Electric Power Survey (EPS) of India, under-scores the pressing need for a strategic and sustainable approach to power generation and distribution in the Union Territory (UT).

According to official reports, the demand for electrical energy in J&K and Ladakh is projected to grow at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 4.2 percent over the next decade. With such a rapid increase in consumption, the region's current and planned power generation capacity may fall drastically short, resulting in a substantial power deficit. The estimated un-served energy in 2034-35—around 9,928 Million Units (MU)—represents nearly one-third of the annual energy requirement, a scenario that would severely impact economic growth, essential services, and the daily lives of residents.

The authorities have rightfully highlighted the importance of resource adequacy—ensuring that electricity demand is met reliably and affordably. However, the UT must act swiftly to expand its power generation capacity through a combination of investment in infrastructure and power procurement. In particular, given the global push toward renewable energy and the declining costs of solar panels and battery storage systems, J&K must integrate long-term planning that prioritizes cost-effective and environmentally sustainable solutions.

J&K has immense potential for renewable energy generation, especially solar and hydroelectric power. Harnessing these resources effectively could not only help bridge the anticipated supply-demand gap but also align with India's Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO). The study mentioned in the report emphasizes the necessity of an optimal generation capacity mix, incorporating clean energy alternatives that can reduce dependence on conventional fossil fuel-based sources.

To avert a full-blown power crisis, a multi-pronged approach must be adopted:

**Accelerated Investment in Infrastructure:** The UT must expedite investment in new power projects and upgrade the existing infrastructure to enhance efficiency and capacity.

**Policy Reforms and Incentives:** The government should introduce favorable policies to attract private investment in the renewable energy sector and incentivize local production.

**Regional Collaboration:** Strengthening interstate power exchange agreements could help mitigate shortfalls during peak demand periods.

**Technological Innovations:** Advanced energy storage solutions, smart grid technologies, and demand-side management strategies should be deployed to optimize energy distribution.

**Public Awareness and Participation:** Consumers must be encouraged to adopt energy-efficient practices, which could significantly reduce overall demand and alleviate pressure on the power grid.

The projected power shortfall in J&K is not merely a technical challenge but a governance and policy issue that demands immediate attention. The need for proactive planning and execution cannot be overstated. While the authorities have recognized the problem, swift and decisive action is necessary to prevent an impending power crisis that could hamper economic growth and the well-being of millions of residents.

The time to act is now. A future with uninterrupted power supply is achievable, but only if the right steps are taken today.

## Balancing growth with fiscal discipline

UTTAM GUPTA

A theme that reverberates in the Union Budget for FY 2025-26 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, 2025, is 'sustaining the momentum of high economic growth alongside sticking to fiscal consolidation'. During FY 2024-25, the GDP growth (gross domestic product) is estimated at 6.4 percent which is more or less close to the 6.5 percent - 7 percent projected in the Economic Survey (ES) for 2023-24 presented by Sitharaman in the Parliament on February 1, 2024. For FY 2025-26, according to the Economic Survey presented by her on February 1, 2025, the GDP is projected to expand between 6.3 percent - 6.8 percent. On top of a growth of 8 percent plus for three consecutive years beginning FY 2021-22 and 6.4 percent during FY 2024-25, this is a fairly impressive number in sync with the overarching goal of making India a 'developed economy' by 2047.

As for fiscal deficit or FD (excess of total expenditure over total receipts), in her interim budget presented on February 1, 2024, she had set a target of 5.1 percent of the nominal GDP (NGDP). Subsequently, in the full budget for FY 2024-25 presented on July 23,

2024, she revised it downward to 4.9 percent of the GDP taking into account the extra cushion of Rs 130,000 crore in the dividend transferred by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to the Central Government from its operations during the FY 2023-24 (the actual dividend transfer was Rs 210,000 crore against a provision of Rs 80,000 crore made in the interim budget).

Going by the revised estimate (RE) presented by the FM on February 1, 2025, the FD for FY 2024-25 has turned out to be even lower at 4.8 percent of the NGDP. Even as the total revenue expenditure at Rs 3698,000 crore is only marginally lower than the budget estimate (BE) of Rs 3709,401 crore, the RE for capital expenditure is about Rs 1018,000 crore - a significant Rs 93,000 crore less than the BE of Rs 1111,111 crore. Indeed, this is a major reason behind a reduction of one percentage point in the FD over the BE. In the budget for FY 2025-26, the FM has provided for a total expenditure of Rs 5065,000 crore which is a significant increase of 7.4 percent over the RE for FY 2024-25 at Rs 4716,000 crore.

This includes capital expenditure of Rs 1121,000 crore, the remaining Rs 3944,000 crore being the provision for revenue expenditure.

Sitharaman has received flak for going slow on investment. This is unjustified and out of sync with the underlying facts. We need to compare the budget provision with RE for FY 2024-25. On this basis, the provision of Rs 1121,000 crore is 10.1 percent higher than the actual capital expenditure during 2024-25.

That apart, the position about the government's capital spending has to be viewed in totality. In her Budget for FY 2019-20, Sitharaman had laid a roadmap for catapulting the Indian economy to US \$5 trillion by 2024-25. In sync with this target, she had projected an investment requirement of over Rs 100,00,000 crore to build the infrastructure over five years. Of this, 39 percent or Rs 39,00,000 crore was to come from the Centre and states each and the balance was Rs 22,00,000 crore from the private sector. The Centre's actual capital expenditure was for 2020-21: Rs 439,000 crore; 2021-22: Rs 554,000 crore; 2022-23: Rs 750,000 crore; 2023-24: Rs 1000,961 crore and Rs 1018,000 crore for 2024-25.

Over five years, the total comes to Rs 3761,000 crore which is more or less close to the amount the Centre intended to contribute. Continuing with the above trend, a substantial allocation of Rs 1121,000

crore for 2025-26 shows the determination of the government to maintain the momentum of investment in building roads, highways, expressways, waterways, ports, airports, railways, irrigation projects, hospitals, schools, technical and research institutions and so on in symphony with strengthening the foundations of the economy for a VIKSIT BHARAT by 2047.

But, investment by the central government alone won't be enough to give the intended boost to the economy. The States and private sector also need to do their bit. The Centre has been helping the former to boost their capital spend. During 2022-23, it provided them with 50-year Rs 100,000 crore interest-free loans. During 2023-24, such transfers were Rs 130,000 crore. For FY 2024-25, the transfers were kept at Rs 150,000 crore though the states didn't fully utilize the amount.

For FY 2025-26 also, the budget allocation is kept at Rs 150,000 crore. To promote investment in the private sector, the Centre has given a host of incentives to industries and businesses. Amongst others, these included a reduction in the corporate tax rate to 15 percent for new manufacturing enterprises. In 2024-25, the tax rate on foreign firms was reduced from 40 percent to 35 percent.

But, the private sector has complained of 'demand constraint'. Team Modi has addressed this as well.

In the budget for FY 2024-25, Sitharaman altered tax slabs under the New Income Tax (IT) regime besides increasing the standard deduction by Rs 25,000.

This resulted in a relief of around Rs 17,500 in personal income tax or PIT. In the budget for FY 2025-26, she has given a bonanza by announcing that a person earning Rs 1200,000 per annum need not pay any tax (taking into account the standard deduction of Rs 75,000/- now, the threshold comes to Rs 1275,000). Besides, she has altered the tax slabs to give relief even to persons earning more. Thus, a person earning Rs 2400,000 per annum will pay Rs 110,000 less. Consequent to these changes, the taxpayers will gain Rs 100,000 crore annually.

These savings will be distributed amongst a total of 7 crore persons who won't have to pay any tax. This will give a big boost to demand. However, this by itself won't give the required fillip. The government's efforts need to be complemented by the owners of businesses. They should go for better distribution of income through measures such as keeping prices low, increasing salaries at the lower

rungs, reinvesting profits for growth etc. Coming to FD, apart from lower capital expenditure (than BE), the contribution of buoyant tax collections in containing it at 4.8 percent of the NGDP during FY 2024-25, can't be brushed aside. The RE of gross tax revenue (GTR) during the year at Rs 3850,000 crore is higher than the BE of Rs 3840,000 crore which itself was 14.6 percent higher than GTR of Rs 3350,000 crore during 2023-24. For 2025-26, FM has kept the FD target at 4.4 percent. To achieve it, she has set the GTR collections at still higher Rs 4270,000 crore.

This despite lower tax rates shows that the government's efforts at broadening the tax base and ensuring tax compliance are working. In an interview, Sitharaman cited capital expenditure of 4.3 percent as being more or less close to FD of 4.4 percent. From a fiscal consolidation angle, this is a good sign as borrowings are used only for building assets. However, the government needs to go beyond by generating a 'revenue surplus' so that borrowings even for building capital assets can be cut. This is necessary as 'interest payments' alone account for over 25 percent of total spending by the Centre.

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

## The Selective Narratives That Shape Our Legacy

APSMALHOTRA

It is a well-established fact that History, often, is written from the perspective of the victor, making it a one-dimensional testimony of what transpired. Thus, while for the British Imperial power, the tumultuous events of 1857 were an unsuccessful mutiny by sepoys from across the subcontinent, for us, it is the celebrated 1st War of Independence. Before being put down with unprecedented vengeance and ferocity, it ignited a spark of 'freedom' which continued to inspire generations to come, although, in the process, they sowed venomous seeds of communal discord, deftly using their devious policy of divide and rule, which continue to rile us to this day.

Not surprisingly, the

events instilled such fear in the minds of our forefathers that it was several decades before any credible stirrings for a fight to overthrow the yoke of imperialism were felt. To take this forward, while Bhagat Singh & his young comrades might have been treated as terrorists/ militants/ extremists by the British, their cohorts and courts, we extoll them as valiant freedom fighters and martyrs, so much so, that more than a century after Bhagat Singh sacrificed his life for the liberation of the motherland, we are witnessing a massive surge in his following, especially in the youth.

It is not difficult to gauge this- there is a proliferation of his photographs - on the rear of cabs and auto-rickshaws, trucks and buses, emblazoned on T-shirts, and so on. Given



all this, what startled me, and raised my hackles was Rajmohan Gandhi's book, Punjab: A History from Aurangzeb to Mountbatten.

Otherwise, a well-researched and thoughtfully written book, his

treatment of the life and times of Bhagat Singh is rather disappointing- in a tome of more than 400 pages, there are just a few lines- a cursory mention of Bhagat Singh and his comrades. Sadly, even in these lines, they are not

repeated as freedom fighters,

but rather disparagingly, as delinquent and misguided youth, militant in their approach, hellbent on derailing the course of the freedom struggle. Well, while all of us have the liberty or freedom to form our opinion, in a broader sense, it needs to be noted that sensitivities of a significant mass of our population don't get hurt. Because, if the Butcher of Amritsar became a celebrated hero among a section of his countrymen, hailed as "the man who saved India" and a beneficiary of a fund of over £26,000, then, we need serious introspection as to how we portray our martyrs for the generations to come, because, as I repeatedly quote the words of George Santayana- "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to

repeat it."

The way history is written shapes how future generations perceive their past. The events of 1857 and Bhagat Singh's sacrifices remain crucial in our national consciousness, inspiring countless individuals. Yet, the selective representation of these figures in historical narratives raises concerns. When colonial figures like Dyer are glorified, while our martyrs are downplayed or misrepresented, it calls for reflection. As a society, we must ensure that our heroes are remembered with the respect they deserve. After all, history is not just about the past—it is a guide for the future, reminding us never to forget our hard-fought struggles.

(The author is a freelance writer; views are personal)

## BJP sets its sights on West Bengal and Bihar after Delhi triumph

KSTOMAR

Buoyed by its sweeping success in Delhi, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has now turned its focus towards the crucial state elections in West Bengal in 2026, where it aims to dethrone Mamata Banerjee. What once seemed like an uphill battle is now a tangible possibility for the party. Emboldened by the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) debacle in Delhi, BJP leaders are proclaiming, "Delhi ki jeet hamari ho gayi, ab 2026 main Bengal ki baari hai" (We have won Delhi; now it's Bengal's turn in 2026).

Bihar, too, is set to witness an intense electoral showdown. With recent victories boosting the party's confidence, BJP and its allies plan to enter the battle with renewed

aggression to retain power. The fragmented INDIA alliance, which was evident in Haryana and Delhi, provides the BJP with an additional advantage. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), which has maintained a strong presence in West Bengal for decades, is expected to play a pivotal role in BJP's bid to oust Mamata in the upcoming assembly elections.

**Modi's Appeal:** BJP's Trump Card Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains the BJP's strongest electoral force. His leadership, credibility, and mass appeal, especially among the middle and lower-income groups, were decisive in Delhi's outcome. Welfare schemes like free ration under the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana directly strengthened BJP's voter base. Modi's ability

to project governance stability ensured that BJP's campaign resonated powerfully across the capital.

Modi's credibility as a vote magnet and his guarantee to implement manifesto promises worked like magic for the BJP, which continues to heavily rely on him even for state elections. In his characteristic style, Modi remarked, "Congress has achieved a double hat-trick of defeats with zero seats," predicting its further decline. Meanwhile, he celebrated BJP's string of victories in Haryana, Maharashtra, and Delhi, reinforcing his status as the party's ultimate campaigner.

**Decoding BJP's Triumph in Delhi:** The Modi Factor Several key factors contributed to BJP's victory in Delhi, with Modi playing a central role. His strong stance on national secu-



rity, Hindutva, and governance stability shaped the electoral landscape, particularly among urban and middle-class voters.

**Modi's National Security & Hindutva Image**

As the national capital, Delhi is heavily influenced by nationalistic narratives. Modi's firm policies on

Pakistan, terrorism, and Hindutva solidified BJP's core voter base. By framing the election as Modi vs. Kejriwal rather than a contest over local governance, BJP ensured that Modi's persona resonated strongly with voters.

**PM's Welfare Schemes vs. AAP's Freebies**

While AAP is known for its populist freebies, the Modi government strategically countered this with large-scale welfare initiatives such as PM Awas Yojana (housing for the poor), Ujjwala Yojana (free LPG connections), and Ayushman Bharat (health insurance). By shifting the narrative from local governance, the BJP successfully attracted lower-income and migrant voters.

A masterstroke was Modi's assurance that AAP's welfare schemes would not be discontinued but rather enhanced, promising to elevate Delhi into a world-class city. This neutralized Kejriwal's traditional advantage and reassured voters. BJP also aggressively targeted AAP over corruption

allegations, particularly the liquor scam, altering voter perception. Modi's leadership was positioned as a guarantee of cleaner governance, contrasting sharply with AAP's tainted image.

**Impact of BJP's Victories in Other States:** BJP's recent wins in Haryana, Maharashtra, and other key states created a momentum effect, reinforcing voter confidence in Delhi. Haryana's proximity made its results particularly influential, given the shared demographics.

The party's national winning streak also boosted cadre morale, creating a perception of electoral invincibility, which further weakened AAP's positioning as an alternative force.

**Why AAP Lost:** AAP's defeat was not solely due to BJP's strate-

gic campaign but also its political miscalculations. Kejriwal underestimated Congress's relevance, assuming it was a non-factor. This resulted in AAP's defeat in 14 assembly segments where the victory margin was lower than the votes secured by Congress candidates.

AAP had previously employed a similar strategy in Haryana, splitting Congress's votes and aiding BJP's gains. However, this tactic backfired in Delhi, as the ignored Congress vote share ended up damaging AAP more than BJP. One of the biggest takeaways from AAP's crushing defeat is the blow to Arvind Kejriwal's national ambitions.

(The writer is a senior political analyst and strategic affairs columnist; views are personal)

## Study explains why youth are more vulnerable to nicotine addiction

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Young adults are more susceptible to the impact of nicotine, as their bodies are more sensitive to the dangerous and highly addictive chemical than middle-aged adults, according to a new study.

In a mice study, researchers from the Pennsylvania State University in the US showed that the effects of drugs on the body -- both medication and misused substances -- change as per age.

They stressed the need to consider this factor when developing and prescribing treatments against nicotine. The findings, appearing in the journal Behavioral Pharmacology, showed that nicotine lowers the body temperature of young adult mice more quickly and reduces their movement more significantly than middle-aged mice.



Further, young adult mice -- aged two months -- were found to respond more acutely to a nicotine dose of the same strength relative to their body size than middle-aged mice -- aged eight months.

These results indicate how the effects of nicotine change as people age, said the researchers.

"People continue to

develop and change across their entire lifespan, and this affects how our bodies respond to medications and other chemicals, including nicotine. This research adds one piece to the puzzle of all the factors -- age, biological sex, genetics, and many others -- needed to create effective medical treatments and policies for

all people," said Thomas Gould, Professor of Biobehavioral Health and head of Penn State Department of Biobehavioral Health.

In the study, both young adult and middle-aged study subjects displayed decreased movement after receiving nicotine, but young adults reduced their movements more than middle-aged subjects. This indicates that the young adult subjects experienced the effects of nicotine more intensely, the researchers said.

The study shows that the younger a person is, the more acute is the response to nicotine. This has implications both for prevention messages and for supporting young nicotine users who want to quit.

Increased susceptibility to nicotine may also spike the risk of developing an addiction that can have serious health implications, said the team.

## Life insurance sector to get booster shot with FDI limit at 100 per cent

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

While the high capital intensity of the life insurance sector necessitates substantial investments to sustain growth, the increase in FDI limits will provide the much-needed capital boost to the sector, enabling insurers to expand their mortality coverage and increase penetration, according to a report released by rating agency ICRA on Wednesday.

ICRA expects growth in sum assured in the retail segment for insurers to continue to outpace the growth in retail new business premiums (NBP).

Private insurers saw a surge in retail sum assured by 41 per cent YoY in 9M FY2025 (30 per cent in FY2024), higher than the retail NBP growth of 17 per cent (7 per cent in FY2024).

Given the shift in product mix from the high



value of new business (VNB) margin non-participating (non-par) products to low VNB margin unit-linked investment plan (ULIP) products, the pressure on the VNB margins is likely to continue, resulting in increased sum assured and rider attachments in a bid to offset the negative impact of the product shift, the report states.

As the capital requirements for life insurers are also a function of the

sum assured in force, with higher growth in sum assured, the capital intensity for incremental growth is expected to remain high, resulting in elevated incremental capital requirements for the sector. The recently proposed increase in the foreign direct investment (FDI) limits to 100 per cent could boost the inflow of capital to the sector and reduce the protection gap in India, the report states.

While historically, the growth in life insurance premiums has been driven by investment considerations, with increased consumer awareness, the industry has seen an uptick in demand for the coverage of mortality risks. While the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) continues to dominate the market with a substantial share in retail and group NBP, however, private insurers lead in terms of sum assured, the report further states.

With a market share of 84 per cent in terms of retail sum assured and 80 per cent in terms of group sum assured in 9M FY2025, private players have a relatively higher share when compared to their market share of 63 per cent and 28 per cent in terms of retail NBP and group NBP, respectively.

ICRA Vice President Neha Parikh said: "Mortality protection demands significant upfront capital, risk management and reinsurance tie-ups, resulting in concentration of the sum assured market. Within the retail and group sum assured, the capital requirement is even higher in the retail segment, given that the risk is underwritten for a much longer tenor. Some large private insurers benefit from their long operating history, resulting in backbook surplus, hence, partly supporting their ability to underwrite a higher sum assured."

## Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal dedicates IWT Terminal at Jogighopa to the Nation

J NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU: FEB 19

The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the Inland Waterways Terminal (IWT) at Jogighopa as he dedicated to the people of the nation here today. Marking the occasion, a ship with two barges was flagged off MV Padma Navigation II, along with Barges Ajay & Dikshu, by the Union Minister with 110 metric tonnes of coal along with stone chips to Bangladesh. The foundation stone for the Terminal was laid by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February, 2021.

The terminal holds strategic importance as it is located at a distance of 91 km from Gelephu in Bhutan, 108 km from Bangladesh border and 147 Km from Guwahati. This makes it crucial for our bilateral trade ties with Bangladesh and Bhutan. The Jogighopa terminal is also one of the declared Ports of call under PIWT&T between India and Bangladesh. By the year 2027, this terminal is expected handle cargo of 1.1 million tonnes per annum. The MV Padma Navigation II ship along with Barges Ajay and Dikshu are carrying 110 Metric Tonnes of Coal, while MV Trishul is carrying Stone Chips to Bangladesh.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, said, "Today marks a historic day for the waterways transportation sector in the country as we dedicate the IWT Terminal at Jogighopa to the people and to the nation.

Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, the waterways transportation has been undergoing a tremendous transformation propelling India's logistics growth, propelling us towards Modi ji's vision of 'Viksit Bharat'. The IWT terminal at Jogighopa is set to transform the connectivity in the region and bolster our trilateral trade with Bhutan and Bangladesh. Its strategic position allows it to play the role of an economic multiplier for the region, a testament to



PM Narendra Modi's doctrine of 'Neighbourhood First.'

Through strategic regional projects and agreements with neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and others, India is diligently establishing itself as a pivotal waterway gateway for the facilitation of enhanced regional trade and seamless transport connectivity thus contributing to the overall development and integration of South Asia, while ensuring the sustainability and vitality of the region's economic landscape.

Built at a cost of more than 82 crores, the Jogighopa terminal has an RCC jetty with an RCC approach designed for Electric Level Luffing (ELL) crane for cargo handling. The terminal also has infrastructural facilities such as administrative building, immigration office, truck parking area, 1100 sqm covered storage area with power back up, and 11,000 sqm open storage.

Highlighting the role of inland waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal said, "The development of inland waterways holds great promise for transforming the logistics sector in India. By leveraging our extensive network of rivers and water bodies, we can create a sustainable, cost-effective, and efficient mode of transportation for goods. Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, the government has brought in many path breaking legislations like National Waterways Act, 2016, Inland Vessels Act, 2021 and others have been promulgated to empower and enable the ecosystem of inland waterways transportation for both cargo and passenger traffic."

The event was attended by His Excellency Lyonpo Namgyal Dorji, Minister of Industries, Commerce & Employment, Royal Govt of Bhutan; Ranjeet Kumar Dass, Minister of Panchayat & Rural Development, Govt of Assam; Bimal Borah, Minister of Industries & Commerce, Enterprises, Govt of Assam; Jogen Mohan, Minister of Transport, Govt of Assam; Phani Bhushan Choudhury, MP (Barpeeta); Rakibul Hussain, MP (Dhubri); Pradip Sarkar, MLA (Abhyapuri South); Vijay Kumar, IAS, Chairman, IWAI among other dignitaries.

In the Northeast, projects such as Comprehensive Development of NW-2, Ship repair facility at Pandu, Bogibee Terminal development, last mile connectivity to Pandu are some of the projects which are currently in different stages of development. With huge investments are envisaged for development of North-Eastern waterways, it stands as a resounding testament to the critical role of these waterways in propelling economic growth and prosperity. Operationalisation of the new IWT Terminal at Jogighopa will be a step in that direction.

Speaking on the role of IWT Jogighopa in Assam's as well as the as the North-east India's economic development, Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, the North-east has transformed into a growth multiplier with Assam spearheading this transformation. As we cruise towards realising the vision of Viksit Bharat, the immense potential of the Northeast has a major role to play. With our rich and complex inter web of riverine system with the Brahmaputra (National Waterways 2) playing a

crucial role, the government has been developing infrastructure as well as curating an ecosystem to support the development of Inland Waterways transportation in the region. We are confident that the Inland Waterways as part of PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan will enable the economic and trade elements of our economy towards becoming an Atmanirbhar Bharat by 2047."

The IWT sector has experienced an unprecedented surge in terms of trade and transport in the past decade. There has been a 767% increase in number of operational national waterways, 727% increase in volume of cargo handled on NWS, a phenomenal rise of 62% in multimodal terminals with a 860% increase in budget allocation for Inland Waterways. Cargo traffic on national waterways has witnessed an exponential growth in the last ten years - from 18 million tonnes a decade ago to 133 million tonnes in FY 2023-24 at a CAGR of over 22%.

Inland Waterways also holds significance for the tourism sector. The historic journey of MV Ganga Vilas explained the potential of cruise tourism being the 'World's Longest River Cruise' and travelling through 27 different river systems, 5 states and two countries. Substantial growth has been made in last one decade in river cruise tourism sector. The number of river cruise vessels has increased from 3 in 2013-14 to 25 in 2023-24.

The average annual spending in the IWT Sector increased from a meagre Rs 58 Cr per year for 28 years from 1986 till 2014, to Rs 648 Cr per year during the last 11 years from 2014 till December 2024.

A World class river cruise terminal is being developed in Guwahati as a one stop solution for passengers on their voyage along the rivers. In addition, development of 4 dedicated river cruise terminals at Silghat, Bishwanath ghat, Neamati and Guijan are being developed with adequate offshore facilities and modern amenities.

## HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Senegal stands at 0.3 pc

AGENCIES  
DAKAR

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Senegal stands at just 0.3 per cent, Executive Secretary of the National Council for the Fight Against AIDS Safietou Thiam said.

The low prevalence is attributed to the 70 per cent access to antiretroviral therapy (ARV) for people living with the disease, as well as a collective commitment from the population, particularly Senegalese youth, and the efforts of the Senegalese government, Thiam said during the launch ceremony of the Youth Mobilisation Week Against AIDS held in Dakar.

However, she pointed out disparities in HIV prevalence among young people, noting a growing number of new infections in the 15 to 24 age group.

In Senegal, "seven out of ten new infections have occurred among young people under the age of



35," Thiam said, stressing that the silence surrounding the sexual health of young girls and boys makes them vulnerable to infections such as HIV/AIDS, Xinhua news agency reported.

According to the World Health Organisation, HIV is a virus that attacks the body's immune system. Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) occurs at the most advanced stage of infection. HIV targets the body's white blood cells, weakening the immune system. This makes it easier to get sick with diseases like tuberculosis, infections, and some cancers.

HIV remains a major

global public health issue, having claimed an estimated 42.3 million lives to date. Transmission is ongoing in all countries globally.

There were an estimated 39.9 million people living with HIV at the end of 2023, 65 per cent of whom are in the WHO African Region.

In 2023, an estimated 630,000 people died from HIV-related causes and an estimated 1.3 million people acquired HIV.

There is no cure for HIV infection. However, with access to effective HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care, including for opportunistic infections, HIV infection has

become a manageable chronic health condition, enabling people living with HIV to lead long and healthy lives.

WHO, the Global Fund and UNAIDS all have global HIV strategies that are aligned with the SDG target 3.3 of ending the HIV epidemic by 2030.

By 2025, 95 per cent of all people living with HIV should have a diagnosis, 95 per cent of whom should be taking lifesaving antiretroviral treatment, and 95 per cent of people living with HIV on treatment should achieve a suppressed viral load for the benefit of the person's health and for reducing onward HIV transmission. In 2023, these percentages were 86 per cent, 89 per cent, and 93 per cent, respectively.

In 2023, of all people living with HIV, 86 per cent knew their status, 77 per cent were receiving antiretroviral therapy and 72 per cent had suppressed viral loads.

## 1 in 5 newborns with neonatal seizures to develop epilepsy by age one: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

One in five or 20 per cent of newborns with neonatal seizures will go on to develop epilepsy by age one, finds a study on Wednesday.

Seizures in newborns are one of the most frequent acute neurological conditions among infants admitted to neonatal care units.

Researchers from the Copenhagen University Hospital - Rigshospitalet in Denmark showed that after neonatal seizures, the risk of epilepsy is persistently increased throughout adolescence. The team analysed data on all 1,998 children born in the country who experienced neonatal seizures.

The results, published in the journal Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology showed that the cumulative risk of epilepsy was 20.4 per cent



among children with neonatal seizures compared with 1.15 per cent among children without.

Among these children, epilepsy was diagnosed before 1 year of age in 11.4 per cent of children with neonatal seizures, in an additional 4.5 per cent between 1 and 5 years, 3.1 per cent between 5 and 10 years, and 1.4 per cent between 10 and 22 years. Stroke, haemorrhage, or structural brain malformations in newborns, as well as low scores on the Apgar test (Appearance, Pulse,

Grimace, Activity, and Respiration), were associated with the highest risks of developing epilepsy.

Neonatal seizures are often caused by acute cerebral injury or stress, such as hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy, stroke, and cerebral infection, as well as transient and reversible brain alterations of metabolic or toxic origin; however, congenital brain malformations and genetic disorders are also recognised causes.

Furthermore, the study showed that the risk of

epilepsy after neonatal seizures was highest among those with cerebral malformation or perinatal brain injury, although children with perinatal asphyxia (lack of oxygen) alone also had an increased risk.

In addition, the risk of febrile seizures (convulsions caused by a fever) was also significantly higher in neonatal survivors with neonatal seizures, although not to the same extent as the risk for epilepsy.

"Our study highlights that there are risk factors that may be used to identify infants for tailored follow-up and preventive measures," said Jeanette Tinggaard, from the varsity.

"Importantly, four out of five neonatal survivors with a history of neonatal seizures did not develop epilepsy, and we suggest future studies to explore a potential genetic predisposition," Tinggaard added.

## Traffic Police City Jammu conclude 3 day orientation sessions on New Criminal Laws

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 19

The Traffic Police City Jammu organized a series of orientation sessions on the three new criminal laws, acquainting the officials about the core provisions.

The orientation was imparted to 5 batches which started on Feb 17, and concluded today with a simple but impressive valedictory function held in Conference Hall of District Police Lines Gandhi Nagar.

Lectures regarding implementation of the three new criminal laws were delivered by Additional SP Traffic City Jammu Arvinder Singh Kotwal; Dy. SP Traffic City South/ North / Rural Jammu and other officers/ officials of Traffic City Jammu also attended the valedictory event.

In his address, DIG Traffic Range Jammu - the Chief Guest briefed the participants about the new criminal laws including Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS), National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS), Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD) and use of technology in

Chief Guest at the valedictory function, while District & Sessions Judge (Retd.) Subash C. Gupta and Joint Director Prosecution, (Retd.) Pawan Kumar Khajuria were the guests of honour.

SSP Traffic City Jammu Faisal Qureshi; Addl. SP Traffic City Jammu Arvinder Singh Kotwal; Dy. SP Traffic City South/ North / Rural Jammu and other officers/ officials of Traffic City Jammu also attended the valedictory event.

investigation process. Explaining the spirit of the new laws, he said these centre around the concept of speedy justice,



accountability and transparency and victim centric approach.

District & Sessions Judge (Retd) and Joint

Director Prosecution (Retd) provided valuable information regarding the major changes introduced in the three new criminal

laws and held discussion with the participants about their doubts and queries.

The participants/ traffic officials were thoroughly briefed about the new changes introduced in the laws like Zero FIR, electronic registration of FIR, introduction of videography during search and seizure, use of handcuffs and other aspects related to introduction of community services in petty offences, the concept of organized crime and the addition of terrorist act in BNS.

Earlier, Dy. SP Traffic City South Jammu welcomed the guests and presented a brief on the changes in the three new criminal laws.

The function ended with the Vote of thanks to the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour and other participants by SSP Traffic City Jammu.

## Police recovers 10 Stolen Smart Phones worth 2.80 lakhs in Bandipora

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEB 19

Police in Bandipora during the current year had received multiple complaints from the general public regarding missing/stolen mobile phones. Acting on these complaints, police achieved significant breakthrough by recovering 10 stolen smart phones worth 2.80 lakhs from different places of UT J&K and outside UT. The smart phones were today handed over to their owners after completion of necessary legal formalities. Recipients expressed their gratitude & appreciation to polices' relentless efforts in recovering their mobile phones.

Police advises the general public to use their mobile phones and other electronic media gadgets with precaution in order to safeguard themselves from cyber related frauds and crimes. If anyone becomes the victim of any Cyber related crime/fraud he should immediately register complaint on National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal [www.cybercrime.gov.in](http://www.cybercrime.gov.in) or Call Toll Free No. 1930.

Also, citizens should report missing/stolen mobile phones on CEIR Portal online on [www.ceir.gov.in](http://www.ceir.gov.in), dedicated online Portal on lost / stolen mobile phones by (Dept. of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications GOI).

## India is no longer just a follower; it is now leading the way in multiple fields: Dr. Jitendra

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEB 18

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh has asserted that India is no longer just a follower but is now setting global benchmarks, offering leadership and pioneering innovations across sectors. He highlighted the remarkable advancements India has made in recent years, in the fields of space, biotechnology, and nuclear energy etc positioning itself as a key player on the world stage.

Dr. Jitendra Singh pointed out that India's space sector has witnessed an unprecedented transformation, with a surge in

ambitious missions and international collaborations. The Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) is a testament to India's technological progress, paving the way for future space missions, including Gaganyaan, Chandrayaan-4, and the Bharatiya Antariksh Station, India's upcoming international space station.

India has also emerged as a preferred destination for satellite launches, earning global credibility. The nation has successfully launched 433 foreign satellites, of which 396 were deployed in the last decade alone, generating \$157 million and €260 million in revenue from 2014-2023. The historic success of Chandrayaan-3, which made India the first country to land near the Moon's south pole, has positioned ISRO at the forefront of lunar exploration. The world's leading space agencies, including NASA,

are now awaiting India's findings from the Moon's southern pole, a milestone that underscores the nation's rising dominance in space research.

The Minister also highlighted India's pioneering role in biotechnology and bioeconomy. India became the first country to develop a DNA-based COVID-19 vaccine, demonstrating its leadership in vaccine research and development. Furthermore, India has introduced the first herpesvirus vaccine for cervical cancer, reinforcing its position as a leader in preventive healthcare.

India's bioeconomy has surged from \$10 billion in 2014 to nearly \$140 billion today, with projections to reach \$250 billion in the coming years. The number



of biotech startups has skyrocketed from just 50 in 2014 to nearly 9,000 today, making India a global hub for biotech innovation. In bio-manufacturing, India now ranks third in the Asia-Pacific region and 12th globally, with its influence expanding rapidly.

India has also taken a bold step into space biology, laying the founda-

tion for human survival beyond Earth. ISRO and the Department of Biotechnology have signed an MoU to advance space biotechnology research, focusing on growing plants in space to sustain long-term space missions. The study of space medicine and human physiology in extraterrestrial environments is becoming a critical area of

research, and India is now setting global standards instead of just following them. India's nuclear energy program, once met with scepticism, is now recognized for its peaceful and sustainable ambitions. The country has set an ambitious target of 100 gigawatts of nuclear energy by 2047, aiming to reduce carbon emissions by 50%, a commitment that is influencing global climate strategies. The world has now acknowledged India's nuclear policy, which was envisioned by Homi Bhabha for peaceful purposes, as a model for responsible energy development.

India's scientific output

is gaining global recognition, with the country now ranked fourth worldwide in scientific publications. Projections suggest that by 2030, India could surpass the United States to become the world's top-ranked country in scientific research.

India's space economy is set to grow 5 to 10 times in the next decade, further solidifying its leadership. The nation's rapid economic ascent is evident in its global rankings, including its 12th position in bio-manufacturing and fourth place in scientific research publications. Dr. Jitendra Singh concluded by emphasizing that India's rise is no longer just about catching up but about setting the agenda for the world. "The clock has turned 360 degrees. Earlier, we learned from others; now, the world is looking up to us. The traffic is both ways," he remarked.

## Mission Director reviews implementation of JJM in Kulgam

J I NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM, FEB 19

Mission Director (MD), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K Khurshid Ahmad Shah took a virtual meeting today to review the implementation of JJM in Kulgam.

He took a comprehensive review of all components and directed the concerned officers to give a new impetus to the works stalled due to harsh weather conditions. MD emphasized the need to complete the schemes on time so that people are benefited.

He directed concerned officers to speed up the process of Har Ghar Certification of reported villages within ten days.

It was given that 143 schemes in the district are in different phases of execution out of which 102 schemes have been completed till day.

## Under Modi regime, Delhi witnesses a transformative change in coming years: Bali Bhagat

J I NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEB 19

Senior BJP leader and former Minister Bali Bhagat today reaffirmed that under the dynamic leadership of PM Modi, the BJP will continue to uphold its commitment to good governance and people-centric policies, ensuring that Delhi witnesses a transformative change in the coming years.

He was speaking while chairing a meeting with senior party leaders at New Delhi today. He extended his heartfelt congratulations to BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh, BJP Delhi State President Virendra Sachdeva, and senior BJP leader RP Singh for the party's historic victory in the Delhi Assembly elections. He lauded the tireless efforts of BJP leadership and karyakartas in securing a decisive mandate, marking a new era of governance in the national capital.

While expressing his admiration for the party's commitment to the people of Delhi, Bali Bhagat emphasized that this victory reflects the unwavering trust of citizens in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Viksit Bharat.'



He remarked that the BJP's governance model is based on action and accountability, which has once again resonated with the electorate.

The former minister also discussed the meticulous preparations underway for the grand oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected Chief Minister at Rameela Ground in Delhi on February 20. He highlighted that this event is not just a political milestone but a celebration of democracy, where the people's mandate is honored with a solemn commitment to progress and development.

Taking a dig at the opposition, Bali Bhagat asserted that for the first

time in India's history, even before the Chief Minister takes the oath of his office, the government has already started working on its promises. He cited the cleaning of the Yamuna as a prime example of the BJP's 'Modi Guarantee'—a guarantee that promises will not just be made but fulfilled with determination and speed.

"The opposition should take a lesson from this. While they are busy making hollow promises, the BJP has set a new precedent by initiating action even before the swearing-in ceremony. This is what sets the BJP apart—the party of governance, commitment, and results," he stated.

## Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Smiti continues "Shriramstuti and Hanuman Chalisa path" Abhiyaan in temples

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEB 19

Today, Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti organized a grand Shriram-stuti and Hanuman Chalisa program at Channi Himmat, Jammu. The event was led by Vinay Sharma Social Worker and Aayushmaan Sharma. Special Guest Sunil Sharma, National Co-ordinator Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti graced the occasion with his esteemed presence alongside Swami Mahesh diwedi.

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



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

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

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

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

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

## Khurshid Ahmad Shah takes comprehensive review of Jal Jeevan Mission In Kulgam



J I NEWS SERVICE

19TH FEBRUARY, 2025

Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K Mr. Khurshid Ahmad Shah along today reviewed the implementation of JJM in district Kulgam through virtual mode. The chair was appraised about the various components under execution through a power point presentation.

As per the figures 143 schemes are in different phases of execution in the district out of which 102 schemes have been completed so far. 337 civil works which include Dug wells, bore wells, Rapid sand filtration plants, Slow Sand Filtration plants, Over Head Tanks and laying of pipe networks have been allotted out of which 244 works stand completed.

The chair took a com-

prehensive review of all components and directed the concerned officers to give a new impetus to the works stalled due to harsh weather conditions. The Mission director emphasized the need to complete the schemes on time so that the beneficiaries of these schemes are benefited.

The Chair directed all officers to speed up the process of Har Ghar Certification of reported villages within 10 days, as per the guidelines of National Jal Jeevan Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

The meeting was attended by top Jal Shakti Officials of the district, Consultant JJM, and Project Manager DPMU besides representatives of Third Party Monitoring Agency (TPIA) also attended the meeting.

## realme unveils the much-awaited realme P3 Pro 5G and realme P3x 5G: Power-Packed Performance with Cutting-Edge Features Starting from INR 21,999 and INR 12,999 respectively

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 19

realme, the most popular smartphone brand among Indian youth, proudly introduces the realme P3 Series 5G—designed exclusively for India. Led by the realme P3 Pro 5G and realme P3x 5G, the series embodies the brand's philosophy of delivering cutting-edge innovation tailored for Indian consumers. With a focus on performance, durability, and style, these smartphones set new benchmarks in the mid-range segment, reinforcing realme's commitment to bringing segment-first innovations to its users.

The realme P3 Pro 5G and realme P3x 5G—not only redefine performance but also introduce groundbreaking design elements that ensure they stand out in a highly competitive market. Staying true to realme's commitment to leap-forward technology,

both devices blend impeccable craftsmanship, cutting-edge features, and unmatched durability to cater to the needs of modern, tech-savvy consumers.

Commenting on the launch, realme spokesperson said, "We are thrilled to introduce the realme P3 Pro 5G and realme P3x 5G, two devices that embody our commitment to innovation and user-centric design. The realme P3 Pro 5G, with its luminous color-changing fiber and Snapdragon 7s Gen 3 chipset, offers a unique and powerful experience. The realme P3x 5G, with its massive battery and top-tier waterproof performance, is built to withstand the toughest conditions. Both devices are designed to deliver exceptional performance, stunning visuals, and durability, making them the perfect choice for our users."

"We are excited to bring the realme P3 Series 5G to

Flipkart, offering our customers the latest innovation and performance. With realme, we continue to push the boundaries of design and technology, the realme P3 Series 5G stands out with its powerful features and innovative design. This launch reaffirms our commitment to providing users with cutting-edge smartphones at great value, ensuring they access the best technology through our platform", said the Flipkart spokesperson

The realme P3 Pro 5G redefines smartphone design with the world's first luminous color-changing fiber back panel, inspired by the dynamic beauty of a nebula. This innovative panel glows in the dark, adapts to ambient light, and creates a mesmerizing interplay of textures and colors, reflecting realme's commitment to blending technology and aesthetics. Catering to Indian users' preferences,



the P3 Pro comes in three vibrant, India-exclusive colors—Nebula Glow, Galaxy Purple and Saturn Brown—developed based on users' research offering a unique identity for every user.

Its segment-first Quad-Curved EdgeFlow Display delivers an immersive edge-to-edge viewing experience with 1.5K resolution, a 120Hz refresh rate and 3840Hz PWM dimming for ultra-smooth visuals. Powering the

device is the segment's first Snapdragon 7s Gen 3 chipset, built on a 4nm process, with an AnTuTu score exceeding 800K. Designed for gaming excellence, the P3 Pro supports BGMI at a stable 90FPS, optimized in collaboration with Krafton to meet BGMI eSports Tournament Standards. Featuring GT Boost technology, it enhances touch response and frame rate stability,

To sustain peak performance, the P3 Pro

features the segment's largest 6K AeroSpace VC Cooling System, ensuring high frame rate with no frame drops, even during extended gaming sessions. A 6000mAh Titan Battery, paired with 80W fast charging, provides segment-leading endurance—achieving 17% charge in just 5 minutes, supporting 1.36 hours of uninterrupted gameplay. Photography enthusiasts will benefit from the segment's largest Sony IMX896 OIS camera sensor, delivering ultra-clear AI imaging, low-light portrait blur and AI Snap Mode for capturing crisp, dynamic shots. Additionally, the realme P3 Pro boasts the industry's highest durability standards with an IP66/IP68/IP69 rating—offering superior dust, water, and high-temperature resistance—making it the ideal companion for both everyday use and extreme adventures.

The realme P3x 5G is a

powerhouse of durability, performance, and style, featuring a 6000mAh battery with 45W fast charging that delivers up to 473.58 hours of standby time or 35 hours of talk time on a single charge. Powered by the world's first Dimensity 6400 5G chipset, built on a 6nm process with an AnTuTu score exceeding 420K, it ensures seamless performance for multitasking and gaming. The P3x 5G stands out with its bold yet refined design, available in three striking colors—Midnight Blue, Lunar Silver and Stellar Pink—catering to diverse Indian preferences. Its 120Hz Eye Comfort Display offers exceptional visual clarity and full-scene eye protection, making it perfect for extended usage while gaming, streaming, or browsing.

Built for extreme durability, the P3x 5G boasts the segment's first and only IP69 waterproof rating, offering the high-

est level of protection against high-temperature, high-pressure water jets—making it ideal for adventure seekers and those working in tough environments. Additionally, its IP68 rating ensures complete dust resistance and protection against water immersion up to 2 meters for 30 minutes, providing peace of mind in everyday spills, rains, or accidental drops. Reinforced with military-grade shock resistance, it is designed to withstand rugged conditions without compromising on style. Photography enthusiasts will appreciate the 50MP AI camera, designed to capture sharp, detailed images with stunning depth of field effects, delivering professional-quality results in ample lighting. Balancing functionality, aesthetics and toughness, the P3x 5G is the ultimate companion for those who demand both style and resilience.

## Sikhs all over the world should raise their voice against the undignified attitude towards the turban, (A symbol of Sikhism) by the US authorities said Mr wazir

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 19

An emergency meeting of Sikh United Front and various Sikh organizations held under the Chairmanship of S.Sudershan Singh Wazir Chairman Sikh United Front J&K strongly condemned the US authorities for allegedly sending Sikh deportees without turbans. He said that it is a matter of regret that deportees were brought in shackles and Sikh deportees were not allowed to wear their turbans. The deportee also claimed that they were handcuffed with their legs chained during the journey.

Drawing a parallel with the collective Sikh response to France's

turban ban, Mr. Wazir reminded the community that the fight for the *dastar* has always been a global one. When France banned the turban in schools and official documents at that time Sikhs stood together. He questioned that when Sikh deportees were humiliated by US at that time why we all were silent. Mr. Wazir also raise a question that where are the Sikh MPs, ministers, and activists who never hesitate to speak on Sikh issues in India. Their silence is intriguing, we appeal that they should use their influence to make America realise the importance of the Sikh re-ligion which has served people in distress all over the world. They reminded them about

their deep-rooted belief in *Sewa* (selfless service), often providing food, shelter and support to other people and communities all over the world, where ever is the need.

Wazir said it is surprising that Mr. Gurbatwant Singh Pannun who claims to be an ideologue of *Khalian* is silent on this issue, such kind of persons are not to be trusted by Sikhs at all. Such people always talk about religion, but when their stand is needed for Sikhs and community, at that time they are silent.

Wazir Appeals to Sh.Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India requesting him to use his personal influence and clout with the US President Mr. Donald Trump. The

treatment being meted out to people who are being sent home should be human and not inhuman and human rights of all Indians are paramount and America should learn to respect the human rights and values, also we request the Honorable Prime Minister of India to impress upon the US government using his personal influence in order to maintain the dignity of the citizens of India

The other sikh organisations and leaders who participated in the condolence meeting are S. Darbinder Singh President Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, S. Mohinder Singh Chief Organizer Bhai Kanhiya Nishkam Sewa Society and Ex member DGPC, S.Rajinder Singh Gen Sect Shiromani Akali

Dal J&K, Smt. Kuldeep Kour President Istri Akali Dal J&K, Kulwant Singh Khajuria Joint Sec-retary Shiromani Akali Dal J&K S. Charan Singh Bali, Convenor, Kashmir Province Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, S. Harpreet Singh Chhotu President Youth Akali Dal J&K, Dheeraj Singh, S. Surjeet Singh Kukoo Ex-President Sikh Naujan Sabha, S. Manmohan Singh Chairman Gurdwara Singh Sabha Gole Gujral Jammu, S. Jagmohan Singh, President Gurdwara Sec-14 Nanak Nagar Jammu, S. Surinder Singh Dutt General Secretary Gurdwara Mata Gujral Kour Trikuta Nagar Jammu, S. Kulwant Singh, S. Kultar Singh, S. Paramjeet Singh, S. Tejpal Singh, S. Charanveer Singh (Laad).

## International Conference on Emerging Trends in Biosciences and Chemical Technology concludes at SMVDU

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 19

The two-day International Conference on Emerging Trends in Biosciences and Chemical Technology (ETBCT-2025) held at the School of Biotechnology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, J&K, concluded successfully, offering a platform for cross-disciplinary discussions, knowledge-sharing, and global collaboration. The event attracted over 200 participants, including distinguished researchers, academicians, and industry professionals from across the world. The conference was inaugurated by 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 included Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, and Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Executive Director, SMVD Institute of Medical Excellence, who joined as the Special Invitee. The highlight of ETBCT-2025 was its exceptional lineup of international experts, whose plenary sessions and invited



talks covered diverse and cutting-edge topics in the fields of Health Sciences, Molecular Biology, Microbial Biotechnology, Nanotechnology, and more. Dr. Indu Bhushan, the Convenor of the conference, played an instrumental role in bringing together over 25 internationally renowned speakers and securing vital funding, making the conference an outstanding success. His relentless dedication and exceptional networking capabilities were pivotal in attracting top-tier experts and ensuring the participation of researchers from across the globe. Dr. Bhushan's vision and tireless efforts ensured the conference provided an inclusive platform where academia and industry could interact, fostering opportunities for collaboration and research exchange. He successfully facilitated the involvement of key stakeholders and partners that ensured a rich scientific program

and hands-on workshops, which allowed participants to gain practical experience in advanced bioscience applications such as sequencing, real-time PCR, and mass array analysis. In his address, Dr. Bhushan emphasized the need for global collaboration in addressing the challenges of biosciences and chemical technology, urging participants to work together toward innovative solutions that can impact global sustainability and health. The two-day event also featured sessions on environmental sustainability, bioinformatics, genomics, proteomics, and more, offering researchers a chance to present their findings through oral and poster presentations. The conference's concurrent Workshop on Skills in Biosciences provided participants with practical, hands-on experience, enhancing their technical skills for future advancements in biosciences.

## Asarwan Village Achieves 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' Certification in Presence of MLA Sham Lal Sharma

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 19

In a significant stride towards ensuring potable water access for all, Asarwan village in the Lower Bhalwal (Mishriwala) Panchayat of Jammu North constituency has been certified under the 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' initiative. The certification was formalized during a Gram Sabha organized by the Jal Shakti Department under the 'Jal Jeevan Mission' program.

The event was graced by several dignitaries, including Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Jammu North and former Minister, Sham Lal Sharma; District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Shri Bharat Bhushan; Raipur Domana Mandal President Shri Rohit Verma; former Sarpanch Smt. Pallavi Verma; Executive Engineer of Jal Shakti Department Shri Rocky Mahajan; Assistant Executive Engineer (Civil) Shri Rohit Vadera; Assistant Executive Engineer (Mechanical) Shri Vishal Khajuria; senior party workers; and local residents.



ering, MLA Sham Lal Sharma emphasized the transformative impact of the 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' scheme, stating, "Ensuring that every household has access to clean and safe drinking water is not just a goal but a mission we are committed to achieving. This initiative empowers our rural communities and enhances their quality of life."

Sharma lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision behind the scheme,

noting, "The 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' initiative reflects our Prime Minister's dedication to inclusive development. It addresses a fundamental need and showcases the government's resolve to uplift every section of society."

Highlighting his commitment to Jammu North, Sharma added, "Achieving 100% water supply coverage in Jammu North is a top priority. We are working diligently to ensure that every household receives

a reliable water connection. I urge the Jal Shakti Department to implement effective management practices to streamline this process and overcome any challenges."

The 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' initiative, part of the broader 'Jal Jeevan Mission,' aims to provide piped water supply to every rural household by 2024. This program emphasizes community involvement and active participation of Gram

Sabhas in certifying villages that have achieved the objective of ensuring tap water connections to all households.

During the Gram Sabha, officials from the Jal Shakti Department provided detailed insights into the implementation process of the scheme and addressed queries from the villagers. The attendees were also informed about other welfare schemes introduced by the central government, aiming to improve the quality of life in rural areas.

DDC Chairman Shri Bharat Bhushan, in his address, highlighted the significance of community participation in the successful implementation of government schemes. He urged the villagers to take collective responsibility for the maintenance of the water supply infrastructure to ensure its sustainability.

The event concluded with a unanimous resolution by the Gram Sabha, certifying Asarwan as a 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' village, marking a significant milestone in the region's development journey.

## Jammu Smart City honored with SKOCH Award for Good Governance

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 19

The Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) has been conferred the prestigious SKOCH Award for Good Governance at the 100th SKOCH Summit, recognizing its remarkable contributions towards digital governance, citizen services and efficient municipal services delivery.

The award was received on behalf of Dr. Devansh Yadav, CEO of Jammu Smart City, by JSCL at a grand ceremony held at Silver Oak Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

Rohit Roshan handed over the award to Dr. Devansh Yadav.

Expressing his gratitude, Dr. Devansh Yadav stated, "This recognition is a testament to our commitment to transforming Jammu into a modern, smart, and citizen-friendly city. The relentless efforts of the entire JSCL team have played a crucial role in achieving this milestone."

Instituted in 2003, the SKOCH Award is one of India's highest independent honors, recognizing excellence in governance, services, technology, and inclusive growth. The award follows a rigorous

evaluation process, ensuring that only projects with a significant impact on governance and public service delivery receive this prestigious recognition.

Jammu Smart City's achievement in securing this award reinforces its vision for a modern, sustainable, and technologically advanced urban ecosystem.

With a strong focus on citizen services, digital transformation, and environmental sustainability, JSCL continues to work towards enhancing the quality of life for residents while positioning Jammu City as a model smart city in India.

## SLCA J&K organizes Master Volunteers Training for district Ganderbal

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 19

JKSPYM State Level Coordinating Agency J&K (SLCA J&K) organized today a one-day certificate training for Master-Volunteers of Ganderbal district under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) in collaboration with NISD, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India and district administration Ganderbal at Townhall Ganderbal, Kashmir. DSWO Ganderbal Malik Mubashir was also present on the occasion. 50 Master-volunteers from district Ganderbal attended the training program.

Malik in his keynote address, emphasized the urgency of tackling substance abuse, describing it as a severe issue affecting the youth in Jammu and



Kashmir UT. He encouraged the master volunteers to make the most of the training, equipping themselves with the skills and knowledge to combat this growing challenge.

The program began with a welcome address, followed by an introduction to the State Level Coordinating Agency, J&K and JKSPYM organisation and motive of the program by Ms. Pallavi Singh, Program Director, JKSPYM SLCA. The training comprised of following sessions covering key topics "Overview of District-Level Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan"; "Understanding drugs,

drug addiction, signs & symptoms, Myths & Facts about substance abuse"; "Roles and Responsibilities of Master-Volunteers/NMBA Leaders under NMBA"; "Basic Communication and Counselling skills".

Resource persons from SLCA delivered comprehensive presentations on drug abuse trends in India, followed by vibrant discussions, interactive sessions, and group activities. The event concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony, honoring the commitment of the trained master volunteers to the cause. This training program aimed to empower master volunteers with the tools to address substance abuse and foster a healthier, drug-free environment in the Ganderbal district.

## SIBA events hosts free multispecialty health camp for JKSRTC Employees

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 19

SIBA Events, in association with Jammu & Kashmir State Road Transport Corporation (JKSRTC) and Amandeep Hospital, organized a Free Multispecialty Health Checkup Camp at the JKSRTC premises today. The camp, held from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM, was specifically dedicated to the employees and their families of JKSRTC, providing a wide array of health services.

The camp saw an overwhelming response, with a large number of JKSRTC employees and their families availing of the free health checkups and consultations offered by leading specialists from Aman-deep Hospital. The initiative aimed to promote health awareness and ensure the well-being of those who serve the public on a daily basis.

The Chief Guest for the occasion, Cabinet Minister Sh. Satish Sharma Ji, inaugurated the health camp and expressed his appreciation for the efforts of SIBA Events in organizing such a beneficial program. Sh. Satish Sharma emphasized the importance of regular health checkups, particularly for those working in the transportation sector, who often face health challenges due to long working hours and physical demands. He lauded the collaboration between SIBA Events, JKSRTC, and Amandeep Hospital for their commitment to the health and welfare of the employees.

Speaking at the event, MD JKSRTC Sh. Rakesh Kumar Srangal emphasized the importance of taking proactive steps to ensure the health and safety of JKSRTC employees, who play a crucial role in the transportation sector. He thanked SIBA Events for their unwavering commitment to public health and for making a positive impact on the lives of employees and their families.

"We believe that a healthy workforce is essential to the success of our corporation, and such initiatives by SIBA Events reflect the commitment to employee welfare. It is our duty to prioritize the well-being of our employees, and I am pleased to see this event addressing their healthcare needs," said MD JKSRTC.

Noble services for the camp were given by Amandeep Groups of Hospitals (Ortho MO), Shine & Glow by Dr Amit (Skin, Hair & Laser Dermatology and Cosmetology), Sharp Sight Eye Hospital chaten ji, deepak Ajay shoket



tanvi (Eye Checkup), SARVAANG AYUGRAH BY Dr Nidhi Rajput & Dr. Krishan Ji, Path Square Labs by Vijay Bhatia ji Ceo director, sharda puri marketing incharge (General Tests), Hear & Clear dr Manas and gulshan ji (Ears Checkup), Dental team Dr sushma, and dr Hitasha bharat. Vikrant Dogra ji, Suraj Ji from JKSRTC. The health camp offered various services, including general health checkups, blood pressure monitoring, blood sugar tests, eye and dental examinations, and consultations with specialists in cardiology, orthopedics, dermatology, hearing checkup and other fields. The initiative was supported by Jammu & Kashmir Dairy Cooperative Federation (JKDFC), further ensuring the camp's reach and effectiveness in serving the JKSRTC community.

The employees and their families expressed gratitude for this thoughtful initiative, which not only helped them assess their health but also provided them with valuable insights into maintaining a healthy lifestyle. SIBA Events, known for organizing impactful community-driven initiatives, received widespread praise for their role in facilitating this health camp, making a significant contribution to the health and well-being of the JKSRTC workforce.

About SIBA Events: SIBA Events is a leading event management company dedicated to creating meaningful and impactful community programs. With a focus on health, education, and social welfare, SIBA Events continues to organize initiatives that address the needs of various sectors and communities.

## High Level Committee, under the Chairmanship of Amit Shah approves Rs.1554.99 crore of additional Central assistance to five States

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 19 FEB 2025

The High-Level Committee (HLC), under the Chairmanship of the Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, has approved Rs.1554.99 crore of additional Central assistance under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to five States, affected by flood, flash flood, landslides, cyclonic storm during year 2024. This shows the resolve of the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to help the people of five States who faced these natural disasters.

The HLC approved central assistance of Rs.1554.99 crore to five States from NDRF, subject to an adjustment of 50% of the opening balance for the year available in the SDRF. Out of the total amount of Rs.1554.99 crore, Rs 608.08 crore has been approved for Andhra Pradesh, Rs 170.99 crore for Nagaland, Rs 255.24 crore for Odisha, Rs. 231.75 crore for Telangana and Rs. 288.93 crore for Tripura.

This additional assistance is over and above the funds released by the Centre to the States in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), already placed at the disposal of the States. During the financial year 2024-25, the Central Government has released Rs. 18,322.80 crore to 27 States in SDRF and Rs. 4,808.30 crore from NDRF to 18 States, Rs. 2208.55 crore from the State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF) to 14 States and Rs. 719.72 crore from National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) to 08 States.

The Central Government had deputed Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) to these States, immediately after the calamities, without waiting for the receipt of a formal Memorandum.

## FCS&CA Minister, Advisor to CM release first ever 'Dogri, Kashmiri' fusion song

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 19

Minister for FCS & CA and Transport, Satish Sharma along with Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, today released the first ever Dogri and Kashmiri fusion song, "Sohna Jammu Kashmir," presented by PCI Folks Music.

After releasing the song, the Minister said that it is a mesmerising blend of music, culture and unity representing rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. He added that the soul stirring song celebrates the beauty, integrity and culture of J&K.

The Minister lauded the efforts of the artists and production team for creating this wonderful song and asked them to continue their good work.



Satish Sharma highlighted the immense talent present in J&K and asserted that government is committed to create more platforms and opportunities for the emerging artists.

Advisor to CM, said that J&K has tremendous potential and wonderful talents that certainly need to be encouraged. He also underscored government's commitment in promoting and

supporting art and artists in their cultural endeavours.

The Minister and Advisor appealed the audience to support and appreciate the local talent.

The song has been beautifully sung by singers Ashh K and Javed Jahanzaib, with Music Direction by Ashh K and video direction by Amit Mahajan, Director, PCI Folks Music & Soulmate Event.

## India- Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise Cyclone-iii Underway in Rajasthan

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU: 19 FEB 2025

The third edition of the India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE-III is underway at the Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan. The 14-day military drill, which commenced on 10th February 2025, will continue till 23rd February 2025.

The participating troops from both sides are undergoing rigorous combat conditioning and tactical training aimed at strengthening joint operational capabilities. The Indian and Egyptian Special Forces continue to train hard, demonstrating exceptional discipline, teamwork and adaptability. Their unwavering commitment to operational excellence highlights their readiness to undertake joint missions in challenging environments.

The exercise includes joint training on Close Quarter Battle (CQB) Drills, Survival Techniques, Demolition Training and Combat Medical Skills, among others. These high-intensity drills have been designed to enhance the soldiers' ability to respond effectively to complex operational scenarios, particularly in desert and semi-desert



terrain. The joint training sessions emphasised agility, endurance and precision, ensuring that both contingents operate seamlessly as a cohesive force in real-world combat situations.

The exercise also provides a unique opportunity to showcase India's indigenous defence capabilities, as the Egyptian contingent gains first-hand exposure to India's cutting-edge military technology and weapon systems. Such collaborations not only enhance tactical capabilities but also deepen diplomatic and military ties between the two nations.

The exercise will culminate in an intense 48-hour validation phase, during which both contingents will conduct simulated Counter-Terrorism (CT)

operations. The final phase is designed to rigorously test the troops' ability to plan and execute tactical manoeuvres in high-pressure environments. This segment will see soldiers executing joint tactical drills, neutralising simulated threats and applying their learned skills in a realistic operational setting.

Exercise CYCLONE-III stands as a symbol of India and Egypt's enduring defence cooperation and shared commitment to counter-terrorism and regional security. This high-intensity exercise is a testament to the strong strategic partnership between India and Egypt, reinforcing military cooperation and enhancing interoperability between the two nations' elite forces.

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL, DIVISION JAMMU

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Short Term)

MHDJ/e-NIT 229 of 2024-25

Dated: 18.02.2025  
Due: 28.02.2025

On behalf of the President of India, e-tenders in two cover system on turnkey basis are invited from registered/reputed firms having sufficient relevant experience for the work mentioned below:

S. No	Description of work	Project Authority	Estt	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of tender document	Time of completion	Eligibility Criterion of Bidder
1	Repair and Reinstallation of Split and Window AC at Room of HOD Anaesthesia, Analyser Room of OPD Lab and Dr Room of Wd No 2 in GMCH Jammu.	Principal GMC & Associated Hospital Jammu	0.53 LACS	Rs.1200.00 in the Shape of CDR/FDR/TDR valid for 12 months pledged to the Executive Engineer MH Division Jammu	Rs 200.00 in the shape of Challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to 0059-PWD (Revenue) and uploading a copy of treasury challan / receipt on e-tendering portal.  OR The bidder may deposit tender fee in the shape of e-Challan through Account No. 0097010100002163 in the name of Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital Division Jammu Name of Bank: J&K Bank Town Hall Jammu Branch Code:0097 IFSC code: JAKA0TNHALL MICR CODE: 180051025	10 days	Registered & Reputed firms having sufficient experience as per Annexure "C" Electromechanical nature of work

THE NIT CONSISTING OF Qualifying INFORMATION, ELGIBILITY CRITERIA, BILL OF QUANTITIES (BOQ) SETS OF TERMS & CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT & OTHER DETAILS CAN BE VIEWED / DOWNLOADED FROM THE WEBSITE [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).

SD/-  
(Er. Vishal Mahajan)  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical & Hospital Division  
Jammu

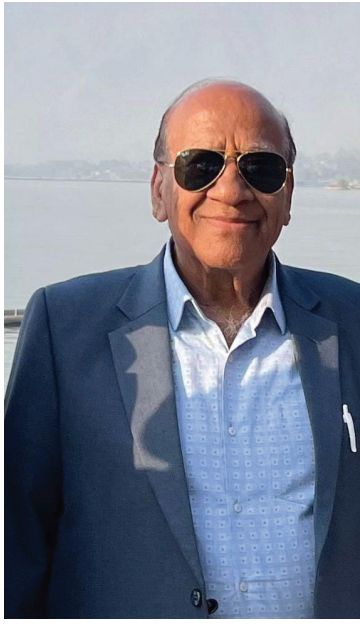
DIP/J-10310/24  
Date: 19-2-25

## Not only Congress, every individual is fighting for restoration of Statehood: Rattan Lal

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 19

Asserting the unwavering commitment of the National Conference (NC) towards the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of J&KNC emphasized that the issue of statehood is not just a political slogan but a fundamental concern that directly impacts the future of J&K's youth and the overall democratic structure of the region.

In a press release issued here today, the senior NC leader made it clear that not only Congress but every individual in J&K is fighting for the restoration of statehood, as it is intrinsically linked to the aspirations of the people. "The people of J&K have revived democ-



racy by electing a popular government and actively participating in the democratic process. In the past, voter turnout in elections remained abysmally low,

with participation barely reaching 10-15%. However, with the National Conference's assurance and steadfast efforts, the people have wholeheartedly reposed their faith in democracy, leading to greater electoral participation," he remarked.

"The National Conference has been the torchbearer of democratic rights in J&K and has consistently raised the demand for full statehood at every forum, including Parliament, public rallies, and political dialogues. Our commitment is not limited to words but is backed by relentless political struggle," he asserted.

Reaffirming the party's stand, Rattan Lal Gupta urged the central leadership to take immediate steps toward restoring statehood and ensuring constitutional safeguards that protect the rights and identity of J&K's people. "We do not indulge in political theatrics. The National Conference believes in action, and we will continue to fight for the people's rights with full dedication," he said.

The senior NC leader further reiterated that the present government headed by the visionary and dynamic Chief Minister Omar Abdullah remains resolute in its mission to restore the respect, dignity and constitutional rights of Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring a prosperous and secure future for its people.

## GCW Kathua Student Shakura Begum wins Silver Medal in JK UT Kabaddi Championship

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, FEB 10

Government College for Women (GCW), Kathua, is proud to announce that Shakura Begum, a student of the college, has brought laurels by securing a silver medal in the JK UT Kabaddi Championship. The championship was recently organized by the JK UT Kabaddi Association and hosted by the administration of Poonch district.

In-charge Principal, Prof. Seema Jolly, praised PTI Mr. Sanjeev Jamwal for his dedication and efforts in promoting the sports culture on the college campus. She emphasized the importance of sports in shaping students' overall development and



encouraged more students to participate in such competitions.

Dr. Rachna, Prof. Yashpal (Sports Convener), Prof. Manjot Singh, and Mr. Saurabh Dutta were present at the occasion and extended their heartfelt congratulations to Shakura

Begum for her outstanding achievement. The college administration applauds her dedication and hard work, hoping this accomplishment will inspire other students to actively participate in sports and bring more accolades to the institution.

## Devote more time, stay committed to public service: Sat Sharma

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 19

Jammu and Kashmir BJP President & former minister, Sat Sharma CA, has called upon the party's elected representatives and activists to remain available at all times for the people, reinforcing the party's commitment to public service. He emphasized that the real strength of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) lies in its unwavering connection with the people and its dedication to addressing their concerns promptly.

Sat Sharma said this in a meeting of party's senior leaders, elected representatives and district presidents of morchas, cells etc of Reasi district at Katra, along with General Secretary (organization) Ashok Koul, LoP Sunil Sharma, party MLAs- Baldev Raj Sharma and Kuldeep Raj Dubey and DDC Chairman Saraf Singh.

The meeting was organized by Reasi district president Rohit Dubey. Sat Sharma highlighted the importance of direct engagement with the public to resolve their issues effectively. He urged all those present in the meeting to devote more time, be proactive in their areas and ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach the intended beneficiaries without any hindrance.

Sat Sharma said that party activists should maintain constant communication with the people, visit their localities, hold grievance redressal meetings, and actively work towards solving their issues. You must also see that the welfare schemes are properly implemented at the grassroots level, he asked them.

Ashok Koul, in his address, emphasized the need for party activists to counter misinformation and opposition propaganda by spreading awareness about the BJP's achievements and vision for the future.

He asked them to be "at the beck and call of the public," ensuring that no citizen feels unheard or neglected.

Sunil Sharma, while speaking on the occasion, said that the successive elections at different levels have shown rise in number of seats and vote share of the BJP and it has been possible due to the simple reason that our cadre is in public 24/7, and people realize that BJP do not knock their doors at the time of elections only but always remain with them.

Prominent among others who also addressed this meeting included Mohammed Akram Choudhary, Shashi Pal and Sheel Mangotra.

## Power shutdown

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 19

Chief Engineer, (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Industrial Units-Kohinoor, Balaji, SICOP Industry, SIDCO, Old Industry Hatlimorh and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 22 from 10 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Kathua Town, Kalibari, Shaheedi Chowk, Patel Nagar, Shastri Nagar, PHE and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 21 from 10 am to 5 pm.

## Secy RDD reviews MGNREGA draft Annual Action Plan 2025-26 for Jammu Division

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 19

Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, on Wednesday conducted a comprehensive review of the Annual Action Plan (AAP) and Labour Budget (LB) for MGNREGA for the fiscal 2025-26, focusing on 10 districts of Jammu division.



person is included. "Excluding eligible beneficiaries is a serious lapse and will not be tolerated," the Secretary cautioned the officers.

The Secretary stressed the need for a campaign mode approach towards job card verification and updates, urging officials to ensure accuracy and inclusivity in the whole process. He emphasized that planning should be people-centric and community-driven, with a focus on precision in project execution.

Aijaz Asad highlighted the importance of convergence in all allied works, particularly leveraging the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) to maximise benefits in agriculture and allied sectors. He encouraged the district officials to bring innovation to convergence works, such as constructing cattle sheds, food grain storage units and fair-price shops to support rural self-sufficiency.

Additionally, he suggested for creating work sheds for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to enhance employment opportunities and product sales. He also recommended promotion of orchards including Amla and Olive plantations, tailored to meet district specific needs.

## BJP compiling Vajpayee ji's memories in J&K: Kavinder



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 19

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today remembered the Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his birth centenary, recalling his immense contribution to the nation and Jammu & Kashmir in particular.

Addressing a meeting of senior party leaders and intellectuals, the BJP stalwart highlighted Vajpayee's visionary leadership, which laid the foundation for a strong, self-reliant, and progressive India. He said, "Atal Ji was not just a leader but a statesman who guided the country with his wisdom, eloquence, and unwavering commitment to national integrity. His policies on governance, economic reforms, and national security remain a benchmark for good governance."

Kavinder informed that the BJP is compiling historical accounts, speeches, and personal memories of Vajpayee's interactions in Jammu & Kashmir to inspire the present and future generations. "Atal Ji had a deep emotional connect with J&K. His doctrine of 'Insaniyat, Jamhuriyat,

and Kashmiriyat' remains a guiding principle for peace and development in the region. The party is working on collecting anecdotes, photographs, and documents that showcase his vision for J&K," he stated.

Reflecting on Vajpayee's significant contributions, the senior BJP leader lauded his role in the 1998 nuclear tests, infrastructure revolution, and initiatives like the Golden Quadrilateral project, which modernized India's road network. "His legacy is not just about politics but about nation-building. His speeches in Parliament and his decisions continue to inspire every Indian," he added.

Kavinder called upon BJP workers to take Vajpayee's message to every household and ensure that his ideals remain alive in public discourse. "We must emulate his dedication and commitment to national service. His centenary year is an opportunity to reaffirm our resolve to work for a strong and united India," he urged.

The meeting concluded with a pledge to uphold Vajpayee's principles and continue working towards realizing his dream of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.'

## INDBATT Troops organizes comprehensive Anti-Drug Awareness Campaign at Abyei

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 19 FEB 2025

Amid growing concerns over drug abuse affecting a significant portion of the local population in Abyei, the Indian Battalion (INDBATT) under the umbrella of UNISFA organised a comprehensive Anti-Drug Awareness Campaign at Abyei.

The campaign featured an insightful lecture on 'Say No to Drugs' and 'The Power of Education'. The session aimed to educate and empower the community emphasizing the urgent need to combat substance abuse through awareness and education.

A total of 124 participants, including 32



women, 19 men, and 73 children, took part in the interactive session. The campaign received overwhelming appreciation from the locals, who acknowledged the initiative as a vital step towards addressing the region's drug abuse crisis.

This initiative stands

as a beacon of hope for Abyei, fostering awareness, resilience and empowerment within the community. The Indian Battalion remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting peace, security and social well-being in the region through impactful initiatives.

## IIIM Jammu and NISR, Leh, strengthen the collaboration to modernize the Traditional Medicine

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 19

The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu and the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR), Leh have reaffirmed their commitment to advancing traditional medicine through a collaborative partnership. A review meeting was held at the institute where Director Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu and Dr. Padma Gurmet, Director NISR, Leh, discussed the progress of their on-going collaboration and outlined a roadmap for future initiatives.

During the meeting, Heads of both institutes reviewed the work accomplished since the signing of the MoU. Discussions covered key areas such as expanding research efforts, ensuring the quality and efficacy of Sowa-Rigpa medicines, and strengthening collaboration between scientists from both institutions. The meeting also emphasized the importance of developing a structured approach to bring traditional medicines into mainstream healthcare through scientific validation and modern research

methodologies.

The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu, a premier R&D institution of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), under union Ministry of Science & Technology, is specialized in drug discovery, biotechnology, and natural products driven research. The institute focuses on standardizing traditional medicines, developing pharmaceutical applications of medicinal plants, validating herbal formulations, and promoting sustainable cultivation in the Western Himalayas.

The National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR), Leh, under the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, is committed to the preservation, promotion, and scientific research of the Sowa-Rigpa system of medicine. The institute focuses on scientific validation of therapies, practitioner training, and integrating Sowa-Rigpa into modern healthcare solutions.

Pertinently both the institutions have Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which focuses on the scientific validation, standardization, and qua-

lity control of traditional medicines, particularly those used in the Sowa-Rigpa system. This partnership aims to integrate traditional knowledge with modern scientific research to develop new therapeutic applications and promote the global recognition of Indian traditional medicine.

It is also important to note that both the institutions recognize the importance of merging traditional medicine with modern research to enhance its credibility and global acceptance. The discussions at the meeting concluded with a commitment to deepen research collaboration, explore new medicinal formulations, and enhance the application of Sowa-Rigpa in healthcare.

The partnership between CSIR-IIIM and NISR represents a significant step towards the scientific validation and modernization of Indian traditional medicine systems. Er. Abdul Rahim, Head RMBT & IST and IIIM Branch Lab, Srinagar who is overseeing the implementation of CSIR Initiatives for Ladakh UT as also present in the review meeting.

## BJP strongly condemns Pakistan's baseless propaganda on Kashmir

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 19

Jammu and Kashmir BJP Spokesperson Gaurav Gupta strongly condemned and rejected the recent resolution passed by Pakistan's Parliament unanimously regarding Jammu and Kashmir, calling it a desperate attempt to mislead the international community.

He was addressing a

press conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, along with BJP spokespersons Purnima Sharma and Balbir Ram Rattan.

Gourav Gupta asserted that Jammu and Kashmir was, is, and will always remain an integral part of India, and no propaganda or baseless resolution can change this reality.

Gaurav Gupta said that at a time when Pakistan

is struggling with severe political and economic crises, it is once again using Kashmir as a diversionary tactic to hide its internal failures. Instead of making false claims about Kashmir, Pakistan should focus on addressing the grave human rights violations in Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan, where people are continuously denied basic rights.

He further added that Pakistan is globally known as the epicenter of militancy, with groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), and Hizbul Mujahideen, operating freely from its soil. Additionally, he pointed out that minorities in Pakistan continue to face persecution and discrimination, yet the country dares to lecture India on human rights.

## DC Ramban discusses preparations for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra -2025

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 19

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to discuss the Action plan for the smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025.

The meeting was attended by SSP Kulbir Singh; ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak; ACR S. Harpal Singh; CPO Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Zargar; SDM Ramsoo Ghansham Basotra; AD Fire and Emergency Services, ACP, CEO, CMO, AD FCS&CA, Executive Engineers, and other concerned officers.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasised meticulous planning and interdepartmental coordination to ensure seamless arrangements for



the Yatra. He directed all departments to formulate a foolproof plan covering accommodation, langar, sanitation, power and water supply, road connectivity, health facilities, and security arrangements.

To facilitate pilgrims, the PWD, JPDC and Jal Shakti Departments were tasked with ensuring adequate power and water supply, along with execution of necessary civil works at Yatri Niwas, Langar sites, and other

designated lodgment centers. The PWD was also instructed to implement sanitation and safety measures for safer Langar sites and accommodations.

The ACP was directed to submit a detailed sanitation plan, focusing on proper waste disposal and maintenance of toilet facilities at key locations in Ramban and Banihal. The Fire and Emergency Department was asked to devise a contingency plan for tackling emergency

situations at Yatri Niwas Chanderkote, Langar site Chanderkote, Yatra Camp Lamber, Banihal, and other vulnerable locations.

The status of road connectivity along NH-44, from Nashri to Banihal, was reviewed, with necessary directions issued to ensure smooth vehicular movement. Planning for health and ambulance services was also discussed to ensure prompt medical assistance for the pilgrims.

Security arrangements were a key focus, with all officers instructed to develop detailed sector-wise plans covering all tasks assigned to their respective departments. The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of foolproof arrangements to facilitate a safe and hassle-free pilgrimage for the devotees.

## Chief Justice inaugurates Lawyers Chambers at Court Complex, Katra

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, FEBRUARY 19

Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Tashi Rabstan, today inaugurated Lawyers Chambers at Court Complex, Katra, in presence of Justice Mohd Akram Choudhary, Administrative Judge for Reasi district.

While speaking on the occasion, the Chief Justice said that the Bench and Bar have a huge role in reposing faith in judiciary and justice delivery system. He said "people come to the court with high hopes considering the courts as 'Temple of Justice' where justice would be meted out to them".

While interacting with the members of Bar and Bench, the Chief Justice said that the chamber practice is a platform that



provides legal services and are helpful for the younger advocates in putting their career as successful lawyers. He also asked the concerned to focus on maintenance of the court

as well as the lawyer's chamber and road towards Katra Court.

While inaugurating the Lawyers Chambers, the Chief Justice laid emphasis on the bar being the

equally important wheel in the chariot of Justice. He said that equal infrastructure would be provided to the respective Bars that would not only boost their morale but attract the best talent on the other side of the bench.

The Chief Justice also inspected various sections of the Court Complex and gave certain on spot directions regarding further streamlining of the entity.

Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, M. K Sharma; Principal District and Sessions Judge Reasi, Suresh Chander Katal; CJM Reasi, Geeta Kumari; Secretary DLSA Reasi, Pooja Gupta; Sub-Judge Katra, Sidhant Vaid; Munsiff Katra, Vishal Bharti; President and members of Bar Association Reasi and Katra were also present on the occasion.

## DLSA Srinagar, Budgam organized a legal awareness prog for LSUC, LSUM

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 19

District Legal Services Authorities (DLSA) Srinagar in collaboration with DLSA Budgam organized a legal awareness programme aimed at enhancing the understanding and implementation of the NALSA Scheme 2024.

The programme was held under the guidance of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman of the DLSA/Principal District & Sessions Judge Srinagar, & Om Prakash Bhagat, Chairman DLSA Budgam/Pr. District & Sessions Judge Budgam and under the supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Sub-Judge/Secretary of DLSA Srinagar.

The programme was attended by the members of the Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC) and the Legal Services Unit for Mentally ill individuals and persons with intellectual

disabilities (LSUM) from both districts.

Participants engaged in comprehensive discussions to deepen their understanding of the NALSA Scheme 2024 and strategize its effective execution.

Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) & Pr. District & Sessions Judge Srinagar inaugurated the programme on the Legal Service Unit for Children (LSUC) and the Legal Services Unit for persons with Mental illness and intellectual disabilities (LSUM) at the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Centre, DLSA Srinagar. The event marked a significant step in promoting legal aid and awareness for vulnerable groups, focusing on ensuring that children and individuals with mental health conditions or intellectual disabilities have access to justice and sup-



port mechanisms tailored to their unique needs.

During his address, the Chairman emphasized the critical role of these units in safeguarding the rights of the marginalized and fostering an inclusive legal environment.

He urged participants to actively engage with the programme's objectives and take steps to spread awareness within their communities. Highlighting the importance of empathy, sensitivity, and legal literacy, he encouraged legal professionals, paralegal volunteers, and stakeholders to collaborate and strengthen the support

system for these vulnerable populations.

Nusrat Ali Hakak, Sub-Judge/ Secretary DLSA Srinagar and Budgam highlighted the significance of the NALSA Scheme 2024 in safeguarding the rights of children and individuals with mental illnesses and intellectual disabilities.

She emphasized the necessity of a collaborative approach to ensure the scheme's successful implementation.

Dr. Abrar Guroo, Senior Consultant at IMHANS Kashmir, provided insights into mental health issues, focusing on the welfare of individuals with mental ill-

nesses and intellectual disabilities. He discussed the provisions of the Mental Healthcare Act 2017, underscoring the importance of accessible mental health services.

Advocate Gazala Mumtaz, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Srinagar also addressed the participants, focusing on the NALSA Scheme for children. She highlighted the critical aspects of the scheme and its role in safeguarding children's rights.

Tasneem Kausar, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel, DLSA Srinagar discussed the NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme 2024. She emphasized the need for creating a supportive legal environment for children, ensuring their rights are upheld through child-friendly legal services.

Sharooq Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defense Coun-

sel, DLSA Budgam elaborated on the NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme 2024, outlining its objectives and the role of legal services units in its execution.

Members of the LSUC from both DLSA Srinagar and Budgam actively participated, sharing their experiences and insights. The virtual participation of Budgam LSUC&LSUM members enriched the discussions, fostering a comprehensive understanding of the scheme's objectives and strategies for effective implementation.

This collaborative initiative underscores the commitment of DLSA Srinagar and Budgam to establish a robust legal framework that protects the rights of children and individuals with mental health challenges, in alignment with the NALSA Scheme 2024.

## 46 vehicles challaned in Rajouri amid massive enforcement drive by ARTO team

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 19

A team from the Assistant Regional Transport Office (ARTO) Rajouri today conducted a rigorous enforcement drive on the Rajouri-Poonch National Highway (NHW) and adjoining routes today.

During the drive, the team checked both commercial and non-commercial vehicles and challaned 46 vehicles for violation of different provisions of Motor Vehicles Act. The violators were booked for various infractions, including riding without safety helmet, driving without seat belts, overloading in goods and passenger vehicles, Driving without Registration Certificate (R/P), Uninsured vehicles, using mobile phone while driving,



Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate violation & Driving without a valid license.

A team imposed Rs. 1,09,700 fine on traffic offenders. Additionally, two driving licenses were recommended for suspension for serious violations.

The ARTO emphasized that such enforcement drives will continue to ensure road safety and strict compliance with traffic regulations. Vehicle owners and drivers were urged to adhere to traffic laws to avoid penalties and ensure safer roads for all.

## State Taxes Department Kashmir Intensifies Inspection Drive to Curb GST Violations

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 19

Following the directions of Commissioner State Taxes J&K, P.K. Bhat, State Taxes Department Kashmir has intensified its enforcement efforts against taxpayers involved in sale suppression and tax evasion by launching a large-scale inspection drive across the Kashmir division.

Based on intelligence inputs generated through advanced AI tools such as Business Intelligence and Fraud Analytics (BIFA), E-Way Bills Portal, Field Enforcement teams, information received from various wings of the department and extensive taxpayer scrutiny, the department, under the supervision of Additional Commissioner, State Taxes (Administration & Enforcement) Kashmir, Parvaiz Ahmad Raina, conducted massive first of its kind inspection, search, and seizure drive in Srinagar, Budgam and Anantnag districts of the valley.

The drive aims to curb fraudulent activities, including fake Input Tax Credit (ITC), willful tax evasion, tax fraud, fake



invoicing, and non-compliance with GST provisions with an aim to safeguard the revenue of state exchequer.

Eight teams comprising of more than 70 officials constituted by Additional Commissioner, led by State Tax Officers, simultane-

ously inspected multiple business establishments in Srinagar, Budgam and Anantnag, verifying documents, stock registers, bill books, and physical stock positions to detect GST violations.

Meanwhile, several documents were seized

for further investigation.

Speaking on the enforcement action, Additional Commissioner stated, "The inspections are part of our ongoing enforcement activities. Eight dedicated teams involving more than 70 officials have been deployed to

carry out these inspections across the division, targeting dealers involved in sale suppression, fake ITC claims, and fraudulent invoicing."

He further added that the primary objective is to create a fair and transparent tax environment where compliant taxpayers are protected, and unfair trade practices are curbed.

The department is committed to taking strict action against those engaging in tax evasion and fraudulent activities, he added.

The State Taxes Department has urged all dealers to adhere to fair trade practices and refrain from tax evasion.

Businesses are advised to conduct invoice-based transactions, report actual sales, and pay the applicable GST in their monthly or quarterly returns to avoid penalties and enforcement actions.

The department remains committed to ensuring tax compliance and transparency, warning that strict action will be taken against those found violating GST laws.

## Prof Ravi Jyee visits sinking area at Parnote; Suggests Mitigation Measures



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 19

On the second day of his tour to district Ramban, Prof. (Dr.) Ravi Jyee, Former Vice President and In-Proto Vice Chancellor of International University-School of Medicine (TUSOM) and Chairman of the Afro-Eurasian Chamber of Commerce, Education, Development, and Employment (ACCEDE), visited the land subsidence area at Parnote and suggest preventive measures.

Prof. (Dr.) Ravi Jyee was accompanied by Tehsildar Ramban Deep Kumar, ARTO Kuldeep Singh and various other officers.

At the high-risk sinking

area of Parnote, Prof. Jyee interacted with Brigadier Chirag Ghura, Chief Engineer Beacon, discussing possible stabilization strategies to mitigate future disasters. Emphasizing the need for long-term solutions, he suggested several measures, including massive plantation drives with prescribed tree species to prevent soil erosion. He also highlighted the importance of water source management and strengthening of the drainage system, which he identified as crucial in minimizing the risks of further land subsidence.

During his visit, Prof. Jyee interacted with local residents, sensitizing them about disaster and environmental management

while encouraging them to adopt sustainable agricultural and horticultural practices. He stressed the significance of allied activities in boosting the region's economic resilience and reducing vulnerability to natural disasters.

A globally recognized expert in disaster management, Prof. Jyee has made significant contributions in the fields of disaster mitigation, risk reduction, and emergency response strategies. His visit to Parnote underscores the importance of proactive disaster preparedness and collaborative efforts between experts, authorities, and local communities in addressing environmental challenges in the region.