

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Present vomiting
- Present bleeding
- Stomach pain
- Stomach pain
- Stomach pain
- Stomach pain

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Gol won't talk to Pakistan till it stops abetting terror: CM

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JAMMU, FEB 20

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has said that Government of India won't talk to Pakistan till it stops abetting terror.

In an interview with a wire agency, Omar, according to the news agency said, "It will be foolish for any of us to suggest that what J&K has been witnessing is purely indigenous without any outside assistance what so ever."

Asked is Pakistan still meddling in the region, the Chief Minister said, "I don't think Pakistan has ever stopped meddling in J&K."

He said that his party National Conference has always tried to take Pakistan on board to address concerns of the Government of India (GoI) so that a friendly working relationship is established.

Asked does he see it (working relation with Pak) happening, the J&K Chief Minister said, "I don't see it happening."

Replying to a query whether anytime has he advised the Bharatiya Janata Party led



government in New Delhi to hold talks with Pakistan, Omar said, "At the moment I don't see any scope of India holding talks with Pakistan."

"There is no scope when you have sort of attacks that you have had in J&K over the past few years the way security forces and construction camps have been targeted. It becomes very difficult to tell the GoI that it has to talk."

'EC SHOULD CLARIFY REPORTS ABOUT US SPENDING MONEY ON VOTER TURNOUT IN INDIA'

Meanwhile, reacting to US President Donald Trump questioning the need to spend money on voter turnout in India, Omar told reporters

in Jammu that "The Election Commission should clarify its stand on reports that the US spent USD 21 million for voter turnout in India."

Omar said that till now there was no proof of foreign inference but he was quick to add, "The Election Commission has to clarify whether foreign interference had taken place or not."

Pertinently, Donald Trump after taking over as the United States President has been speculating that the money was spent on the voter turnout in India and the erstwhile Biden administration was attempting to "get somebody else elected" in the country. KNO

CM stresses on climate change awareness

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir is facing a severe threat from climate change, particularly in the form of a water crisis, stressing the need for greater awareness and action.

"We are not doing enough to educate our people about what is happening with climate change and the dangers it poses. A lot of that responsibility lies with us as political leaders," the Chief Minister stated while addressing the inaugural session of a three-day work-



shop on 'Capacity Building in Innovation Pedagogy for the Implementation of NEP-2020' at Brig Rajinder Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu.

The workshop is being organized by the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Center (MMTTC) in collaboration with the Skill Incubation, Innova-

tion, Entrepreneurship Development Center (SIIEDC), University of Jammu. The event was attended by Vice-Chancellor of Jammu University Professor Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellors of SMVD University, BGSBS University, and Cluster University of Jammu, along with senior faculty members, Principals of various colleges and students.

Addressing the pressing issue of climate change, the Chief Minister highlighted the alarming precipitation deficit in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Until this morning, when the rains finally came, **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

Katra-SanjiChhat chopper service suspended due to fog

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

The chopper service from Katra to SanjiChhat remained suspended on Thursday due to fog in view of rains for the pilgrims of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine nestled in Trikuta Hills in Katra town of Reasi district of Jammu

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CM concludes pre-budget consultation with public representatives

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday concluded the pre-budget consultations with public representatives, holding separate meetings with elected representatives from Kishtwar and Doda districts of Jammu division at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4



Govt deputs staff for J&K Combined Competitive Exams

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20 (KNO)

The government of Jammu and Kashmir has deputed officials from various departments to assist the J&K Public Service Commission (JKPSC) in conducting the J&K Combined Competitive (Preliminary) Examination 2024, scheduled for February 23.

As per the order, a copy of which lies with the news agency, the officials, who have been assigned to JKPSC including Abdul Jabbar Butt, Head Assistant, Public Works (R&B) Department, Nikhil Khajuria, Junior Assistant, General Administration Department, Deepak Manhas, Junior Assistant, School Education Department, Nisar Ahmad Malla, MTS, General Administration Department, Idrees Ahmad, MTS, Hospitality & Protocol Department.

These officials have been directed to report to the Office of the Secretary, JKPSC, Resham Ghar Colony, Jammu, on February 21, 2025. KNO

J&K Govt gears up for budget session

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 20 (KNO)

In preparation for the upcoming budget session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly scheduled for March 3, 2025, the administration has issued directives to all departments to appoint nodal officers and establish question cells at the departmental level.

According to an official order in possession with the news agency, the heads of departments have been instructed to nominate nodal officers and set-up question cells to provide timely and accurate responses during the session. The order also mandates that all government employees remain stationed at their respective offices throughout the session to ensure smooth proceedings.

"No officer or official shall leave their station without prior approval during the session to ensure the smooth conduct of proceedings," reads the order. It further stated that administrative secretaries and heads of departments must ensure compliance with these directives.

Reports indicate that 82

out of 90 Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) have submitted nearly 800 questions and 80 private members' bills. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly had instructed each MLA to submit 20 questions—10 in the starred and 10 in the unstarred categories—along with three private member's bills.

However, certain restrictions have been imposed on asking questions during the session. Written questions related to All India Services, including IAS, police, law and order, and security matters, will not be permitted unless the Speaker allows them under special circumstances. Additionally, debates on issues concerning All India Services will also be excluded.

The last budget session of the J&K Legislative Assembly was held in January-February 2018. The session holds particular significance as it is going to be the first budget session since the collapse of the Mehbooba Mufti-led government in June 2018, following the BJP's withdrawal from its alliance with the PDP. Subsequently, **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

Devise comprehensive action plan for rehabilitating degraded forests: CS

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 20

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of the Forest, Ecology & Environment Department to assess its functioning besides reviewing the progress on ongoing conservation measures for protection of lakes and wetlands in the Union Territory. During the meeting, the **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**



'JK relies 85% on coal, solar power'

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 20 (KNO)

Amid acute deficit of hydro power generation, Jammu and Kashmir is currently relying on more than 85 percent of coal and solar power.

Officials of Power Development claim that local hydro power generation from the local power plants have reduced by nearly 90 percent.

A top official of PDD informed the news agency that, "At present Jammu and Kashmir is 85-90 percent dependent on coal and solar



energy that is being procured from the other states because as of now we don't have a local power generation."

"In winters the local hydro power generation of Jammu and Kashmir power **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

J&K Police recovers, reunites 743 missing persons with families, reveals official data

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Demonstrating its unwavering commitment to public service Jammu and Kashmir Police have successfully traced and reunited 743 missing persons with their families across District Jammu in 2024.

As per the official communique issued by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, stated that Police has brought relief to hundreds of families, reaffirming its dedication to maintaining law and order.

Jammu Police leveraged technological tools, including CCTV surveillance, digital tracking, and intelligence-based investigations, to swiftly locate missing individuals. Extensive field searches, close coordination with other law enforcement agencies, and active public participation played a crucial role in ensuring the safe return of 743 persons reported missing, it read. **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

Rainfall deficit breaking all records in Kashmir

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 20 (KNO)

From December 1, 2024 to February, 20, 2025, Kashmir has recorded the worst-ever rainfall deficit in the past eight years.

The data accessed by the news agency, reveals that the Valley has witnessed 70% deficit rainfall between December 2024 to February 2025.

The data states that 2019 was the only year with 60 per cent rainfall above normal in between December and February.

In 2018, a total deficit of rainfall between December



to February was 30 per cent, reads the data.

However, in the preceding year 2019, Kashmir recorded above 60 per cent precipita-

tion from the normal scale. The rainfall of above 300 mm was recorded during the period. **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

Need to keep mother languages alive: Dr Farooq Abdullah

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 20 (KNO)

Stressing on the need to keep mother languages alive, National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Thursday said that "living nations keep their civilization and culture alive."

On the eve of Mother Language Day celebrated every year on February 21, Dr Farooq, according to the news agency, said, "To protect our identity, we must sustain our existence, which can only be achieved by keeping our mother languages alive." He said that history bears



witness to the fact that nations that forgot their language, culture, and traditions eventually faded into history.

Dr Farooq stressed that safeguarding all languages spoken in J&K is essential for preserving the region's

unique identity and Kashmiriyat.

Expressing concern, he said it is unfortunate that adversarial elements were trying to harm Urdu and Kashmiri by labelling them as regional or religious languages. He urged people to resist such efforts and ensure that these languages are passed onto future generations so that they, too, can protect and uphold them.

He stated that every individual must take personal responsibility for preserving all languages spoken across Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh, including Urdu. KNO

AYUSH, Agri Deptt Anantnag holds seminar on medicinal plants as source of income

J1 NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, FEBRUARY 20

The Department of AYUSH, in collaboration with the Agriculture Department Anantnag, organized a one-day seminar focused on promoting the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants as an alternative source of employment today at Mattan Anantnag.

MLA Shangus Anantnag East, Advocate Riyaz Khan, who was Chief Guest on the occasion, emphasized the significance of medicinal and aromatic plant cultivation in the current climate scenario. He highlighted its potential to create sustainable employment opportunities and boost the rural economy.

The Guest of Honour, Chief Agriculture Officer



Anantnag, Aijaz Ahmad Dar, elaborated on the initiatives undertaken to support and promote the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants. He encouraged farmers to explore this sector as a viable means of livelihood.

Earlier, welcoming the dignitaries and participants, District AYUSH

Officer Anantnag, Dr. Ali Mohd Reshi, underscored the importance of medicinal plant cultivation in healthcare. He stressed the growing demand for natural remedies and the role farmers can play in meeting the demand.

Experts from the

AYUSH, Agriculture and Education Departments provided valuable insights into the best practices, economic benefits, and technical aspects of medicinal and aromatic plant cultivation. Farmers received in-depth knowledge on cultivation techniques, processing, and market opportunities.

A significant highlight of the seminar was the felicitation of progressive farmer Subzar Ahmad Wani, who was recognized for his remarkable success in medicinal plant cultivation. His achievements served as an inspiration to fellow farmers aspiring to venture into this.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from farmers, experts, and officials dedicated to enhancing agricultural prospects in the region.

Reasi Administration launches awareness campaign on New Criminal Laws

J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEBRUARY 20

The District Administration Reasi has launched a comprehensive mass awareness program to educate the public about the new criminal laws—Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam 2023. The initiative aims to educate the citizens about these transformative legal reforms and their implications.

Marking the commencement of the campaign, District Magistrate Nidhi Malik chaired an awareness program here at General Zorawar Singh Memorial Degree College. She emphasized the significance of spreading legal awareness among the public. "The people need



to know about how these laws will have a positive impact on society, particularly benefiting women and children through strengthened protective measures" she added. She spoke in detail about the provisions aimed at prompt justice

delivery and public safety. The District Magistrate informed that nine more awareness camps on new laws will be held at the block level to reach a larger audience. She reiterated the commitment of district administration to promote

legal literacy so that every citizen understands his rights and responsibilities under the new legal framework.

Other Officials, including SSP Paramvir Singh, ADC Rakesh Kumar, PO ICDS Mohamad Anwar, ASP Iftikhar and Legal experts also participated in the event, providing insights into the practical applications of the new laws. They engaged in interactive discussions with students and the public, addressing queries and concerns regarding the implementation of these reforms. The initiative reflects the administration's dedication to ensuring that the legal system becomes more accessible, transparent, and citizen-centric.

PM Vishwakarma Scheme DC reviews implementation in District Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, FEBRUARY 20

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal convened a meeting today to review the progress of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme in the district. The initiative is designed to empower artisans and craftsmen by providing essential training, modern tools, and market linkages.

At the outset, the General Manager District Industries Centre (DIC) presented a comprehensive overview of the achievements. The Deputy Commissioner inquired about the individuals benefited at the Gram Panchayat and District levels, emphasizing time-bound clearance of pending applications. The Lead Bank Manager was asked to



expedite the clearance of pending applications at all branches.

Additionally, the meeting assessed block-wise pending applications, with all Block Development Officers (BDOs) participating virtually to provide updates from their respective areas. Stress was laid

on mass awareness to rope in maximum number of artisans.

The meeting was attended by the PO ICDS, ACR, ACP, LDM, Principal of Polytechnic College, BDOs, Superintendents of ITI Poonch and Mendhar, among others.

FSD Anantnag Conducts Intensive Market Inspection

J1 NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, FEBRUARY 20

Food Safety Department Anantnag conducted an extensive market inspection across various locations in the district Anantnag to assess the adherence of Food Business Operators (FBOs), particularly roadside vendors, to the provisions of Schedule-IV of the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSAI), 2006.

During the inspection, several violations of food safety standards were identified, particularly poor hygiene and sanitation practices. Vendors were found using improper waste disposal systems, utilizing printed paper as food wrapping material, and employing non-food-grade plastic materials for



packaging. These practices pose a significant risk to consumer health and safety.

As a result of the findings, five petty FBOs have been recommended for compounding under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. In addition, the Food Safety Officers (FSOs) procured a

total of 10 samples during the drive—four enforcement and six surveillance samples—for detailed laboratory analysis.

The department also made use of its Mobile Food Testing Van to conduct on-the-spot testing of various food items. The mobile unit also served as an educational tool,

informing vendors and the public about the harmful effects of reusing cooking oil and the importance of maintaining food safety standards, particularly in relation to RUCO (Reused Cooking Oil).

The Food Safety team issued strong warnings to Food Business Operators, stressing the importance of adhering to good manufacturing and hygienic practices. Authorities have made it clear that those found in violation of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, will face strict legal action.

The Food Safety Department remains committed to ensuring public health and safety by monitoring food quality and educating local vendors about maintaining proper food safety standards.

DC Shopian flags-off watershed yatra, launches plantation drive

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 20

Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta today flagged-off watershed yatra at Mini-secretariat Shopian and launches plantation drive in the campus, promoting environmental sustainable practices.

The yatra emphasises the conservation and harvesting of water sources by involving communities. The programme is funded by the Department of Land Resources and implemented by the Rural Development Department under WDC- PMKSY 2.0.

Under the scheme various projects are taken up to conserve the water sources and to implement more crop per drop slogan including water harvesting tanks, irrigation channels, dykes, soil protection bunds, ponds, soakage pits, etc.

DDC Ganderbal reviews performance of banks at DLRC, DDC meeting

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 20

District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today convened a meeting of District Level Review Committee (DLRC)/District Consultative Committee (DCC) to review the performance of banks and line departments for the quarter ending December 2024 here in the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat Ganderbal.

The Lead District Manager, Ganderbal, provided a detailed report on the bank-wise performance in terms of deposits, advances, and Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR). He informed that the Credit Deposit Ratio of the banks stood at 92.75% as of 31 December 2024. Besides, under the MSME sector, banks have exceeded the targets set under the ACP by a substantial margin.

DDC while reviewing performance against the allocated targets under the Annual Credit Plan (ACP), expressed concern about the low credit dispensation in the agriculture sector.

Banks were directed to improve credit dispensation in this area. The District officers of agriculture and allied departments were also advised



to sponsor credit-linked cases under schemes such as the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme, National Livestock Mission, AIF/FIF etc., to the banks.

Furthermore, the DDC emphasized the 100% saturation of PM Kisan beneficiaries under the KCC Scheme.

The performance under Social Security Schemes (SSS), such as PMSBY, PMJJBY, and APY, was also reviewed.

Banks and line departments were stressed to work in coordination to achieve 100% enrollment of eligible beneficiaries under these schemes.

It was emphasized that banks and sponsoring agencies should collaborate in guiding unemployed youth toward

livelihood opportunities. Banks were urged to dispose of cases within the stipulated time and provide full support to youth.

The District Credit Plan for the financial year 2025-26 and the revised service area approach for the uniform distribution of Government-sponsored cases among all bank branches were also placed before the DLRC for approval.

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to working collectively toward the development of District Ganderbal. The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, General Manager DIC Ganderbal, District Officers, LDM and representatives from banks.

Divisional Commissioner reviews developmental activities in Reasi

J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEBRUARY 20



Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar on Thursday chaired a meeting of functionaries of District administration Reasi to review developmental and economic activities in the District.

The meeting evaluated financial and physical achievements under the District Capex Budget, CRIF scheme, PMAY Scheme, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), MGNREGA, and other key developmental initiatives.

At the start, Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik gave a detailed presentation on the district's developmental scenario and implementation of the government schemes across different sectors.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the Executive Engineer (XEN) of the Public Works Department (PWD) to expedite the construction of road-

side drainage systems. He stressed the need for fast tracking infrastructure development and instructed officials to ensure effective fund utilization to complete the works within the stipulated time frame.

Reviewing achievements in the education sector, the Divisional Commissioner underscored the need to improve female literacy rate in the district. He directed the Chief Education Officer (CEO) to conduct a special admission drive to motivate students and enhance enrollment.

Further, he instructed the CEO to hold regular meetings with Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) to monitor progress and implement necessary measures to strengthen the education system.

Assessing healthcare initiatives, the Divisional Commissioner called for maximizing coverage of Pradhan Mantri Jan

Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) scheme. Evaluating the implementation of PMAY scheme, he directed the functionaries of the concerned departments to initiate recovery from the beneficiaries who have failed to construct the houses. He further called for reinforcing accountability and efficient implementation of the program to benefit deserving individuals.

The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the achievements made under self-employment schemes and instructed the Deputy Commissioner to monitor their implementation closely.

He also emphasized the revival, restoration, renovation, and maintenance of heritage sites in the district, highlighting their cultural and historical significance.

CPO Narinder Kumar, PO ICDS Mohamad Anwar, ACD Pardeep Kumar, CEO, CMO, CAHO and other officers were present.

DC B'la reviews financial progress of sponsored schemes, performance of banking sector

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 20



Credit Cards (KCC) under PM Kisan.

To ensure comprehensive coverage of social security schemes, DC directed the formation of a subcommittee to identify beneficiaries of all government schemes, department-wise, and target them for enrollment under various welfare initiatives.

He also instructed officials to organize awareness sessions to educate people about government welfare schemes and financial assistance programs.

Additionally, the DC launched the Potential Linked Credit Plan (PLP) for the financial year 2025-26, prepared by NABARD. The PLP serves as a roadmap for boosting credit flow, particularly in agriculture, MSMEs, and rural infrastructure, to promote economic growth and self-employment.

He also emphasized the need to strengthen priority sector lending and achieve saturation of Kisan

Awareness camp on women-centric schemes held at Chountwaliwar, Ganderbal



JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 20

In a significant initiative for women's empowerment, Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women-Mission Shakti Ganderbal, in collaboration with Tehsil Legal Services Authority (TLSA) Ganderbal and ICDS Ganderbal, organized an awareness camp at Chountwaliwar, Ganderbal. The event focused on educating women about various women-centric schemes, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative, and legal justice provisions.

Legal experts and officials from the concerned departments spoke at length about the rights of women, government assistance programs, and measures for ensuring gender justice.

The session aimed to enhance awareness regarding financial assistance schemes, healthcare benefits, and legal protections available to women, particularly lactating mothers and young girls.

As a part of the initiative, baby kits and blankets were distributed among lactating mothers, reinforcing the commitment

to maternal and child welfare. Women attendees were encouraged to avail themselves of government support schemes and seek legal aid whenever required.

The camp witnessed active participation from women of the area, who expressed their gratitude for the informative session and the support extended to them.

Officials emphasized that such awareness programs play a crucial role in ensuring the socio-economic upliftment of women and fostering gender equality in society.

DC Poonch reviews PM Gati Shakti implementation, formulation of Master Plan

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, FEBRUARY 20

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting to discuss the implementation of PM Gati Shakti at the district level and the formulation of the Master Plan for the District.

The meeting focused on using the PM Gati Shakti portal for all future planning activities in the district, which is expected to bring about more efficient, transparent, and coordinated development.

The DC emphasized that all future planning in the District will be carried out using the PM Gati Shakti portal. He stressed that this approach will not only streamline the planning and execution of projects but will also have a far-reaching impact on the overall development of the district, ensuring transparency, effectiveness, and better coordination among stakeholder departments.

The use of the portal will contribute to the



implementation of development projects in a seamless and accountable manner, ultimately benefiting the citizens of Poonch.

Experts connected via Bharat VC provided a comprehensive demonstration of the PM Gati Shakti portal's features and functionalities. The demo showcased how the portal aids in real-time monitoring,

effective project execution and enhances inter-departmental coordination facilitating speedy planning and implementation of projects.

The meeting was attended by GM DIC Poonch, ACR Poonch, ACP, CMO Poonch, DFO Poonch, DIO NIC Poonch, ARTO Poonch, CEO MC, Xen PWD(R&B) besides other concerned officers.

Agriculture Minister reviews achievements under HADP, CAPEX, other CSSs

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 20

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Javed Ahmad Dar, today convened a meeting with Director Agriculture, Joint Directors, Provincial Heads, Chief Agriculture Officers, Scheme Heads and sectoral officers of the department of Agriculture, to review the physical and financial achievements under Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), CAPEX and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

During the meeting, implementation of projects under HADP and different Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by the department was discussed in detail.

Javaid Dar highlighted the importance of expeditious and judicious expenditure of funds under different projects of HADP, CAPEX and other CSSs. He asked the officers to ensure time bound expenditure of funds allocated under HADP projects, different components of centrally



sponsored schemes. He reiterated the importance of maintaining the highest level of transparency and accountability while incurring all the expenditures under development schemes.

The Minister emphasized the importance of innovative initiatives in monitoring of KCC and Point of Sale (POS) machines. He asked the concerned officers for expansion of vegetable crops to newer areas besides completing the presentations for kharif cropping season. He also unveiled the quality control manual of the department.

Javaid Dar directed the officers to reach out to the farmers of every area and make them aware about HADP, latest farmer friendly technologies in agriculture and other allied sectors. He asked the officers to work in collaboration with the farmer communities for successful implementation of different projects at grass root level.

Earlier, Director Agriculture Kashmir gave a detailed PowerPoint Presentation regarding the implementation of different flagship programmes and centrally sponsored schemes in Kashmir division.

Floriculture Department hosts Kissan Goshti at Village Trown in Block Bhalla

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 20

The Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens organized a one-day Kissan Goshti (interactive meet) here at Trown Panchayat in Block Bhalla.

The event aimed to educate farmers on commercial floriculture practices and address challenges in cultivating aromatic crops.

Assistant Floriculture Officer for Pawan Kumar led the discussions on commercial floriculture

activities in the district. He provided insights into the cultivation of aromatic crops such as lavender and rosemary, emphasizing their economic potential.

Farmers shared experiences and challenges related to marigold and lavender cultivation, seeking guidance on best practices.

Prominent progressive growers, including Bharat Bhushan and Kunj Lal, attended the meet and praised the department's ongoing support.

Former Sarpanch of Trown Panchayat, Riyaz Ahmed, commended the department for organizing awareness programs that aim to uplift the socio-economic status of the farming community.

The event underscored the importance of collaborative efforts between the Floriculture Department and local farmers to promote sustainable agricultural practices and enhance income through commercial floriculture.

KVK Shopian starts skill dev training prog on Sheep Farming



JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 20

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Shopian today inaugurated one-week entrepreneurship skill development programme on "Sheep Farming" at Berthipora, Shopian.

The programme was attended by Dr. Zaffar Afroz Badri, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK-Shopian; Dr. Bilal Ahmad Pandit, Scientist Horticulture; Dr. Mir Shabir Ahmad Scientist Animal Sciences; Dr. Shaiq Ahmad Ganai Scientist Food Technology, Scientists from KVK-Shopian besides other participants.

Dr. Bilal A Pandit on the occasion deliberated upon

the approach of horticulture and sheep farming which can lead the district to the new heights of glory and improve the soil health to a larger extent. He considered sheep farming viable means for sustainable progress of the farming community.

Dr. Mir Shabir, Course Coordinator of the programme through a power point presentation focused on import of high quality sheep breeds besides importance and scope through multiple streams of sheep farming like mutton, wool, and pelt/hides.

Dr. Mir Shabir informed that SKUAST-K is planning to import

the latest sheep breeds like Dorper, Texel, Finn, etc. under HADP project "Self Sufficiency in Mutton" and introduce in the valley to harvest the benefits of vast grazing area available in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Zaffar Afroz Badri, Senior Scientist and Head KVK Shopian opined on the easy availability of fodder in district and grazing area which are the prerequisites for profitable sheep farming. Dr. Shaiq Ahmad Ganai, Scientist Food Technology highlighted the HADP scheme for the benefit of the public.

Special NCD screening campaign launched in District Doda



JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 20

In line with the Union Health Ministry's National Level initiative, a district wide campaign for screening of Non Communicable Diseases was launched here today.

The campaign aims at achieving 100% screening of individuals aged 30 years and above for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), including diabetes, hypertension, and three common cancers—oral, breast, and cervical, a special NCD Screening Campaign has been launched in District Doda here today.

Being conducted under the supervision of Mission Director NHM J&K Nazim

Zai Khan, Director Health Services Jammu Dr Rakesh Magotra, the campaign will continue till March 31, 2025.

At the block level, the screening camps are being held at all healthcare facilities under the supervision of by Block Medical Officer (BMO), ensuring that individuals with health issues get proper follow-up care.

With a strong focus on early detection and timely management of chronic conditions, this campaign aims to enhance health awareness and reduce disease burden in the district.

The Health Department has urged all individuals aged 30 and above to visit their nearest government healthcare facility for free screening.

Sakeena Itoo inaugurates new Axis Bank branch in Kulgam



JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 20

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today visited Kulgam district and inaugurated a new Axis Bank branch at Main Chowk.

During the inauguration ceremony, the Minister emphasized on the importance of accessible banking facilities in promoting economic growth and financial inclusion. "Financial inclusion is key towards empowering people and economic

growth. The opening of this branch will not only facilitate easy banking but also contribute to the economic upliftment of local businesses and individuals," Sakeena said.

Pertinently, this initiative of Axis Bank aims to enhance financial accessibility and provide comprehensive banking services to the residents of the region.

The inauguration, among others, was attended by bank officials, members of local business community and members of public.

LMD Doda takes swift action against less weight of LPG Cylinder



JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 20

Acting on a complaint regarding less weight of an LPG cylinder, the Legal Metrology Department (LMD) Doda conducted a thorough inspection at Gas Agency Baderwah. The inspection, carried out in the presence of the complainant, involved randomly weighing 33 LPG cylinders to verify their net weight.

During the inspection, all cylinders were found to be of correct weight except for the one in ques-

tion, which was short by 2.8 kg. Taking immediate action, the department booked the agency under the relevant legal provisions for short weight.

A new LPG cylinder was promptly provided to the complainant, who expressed satisfaction with the swift response of the department. The complainant also appreciated Assistant Controller LMD Doda's proactive efforts and urged the public, through the media, to remain vigilant when purchasing LPG cylinders.

LMD reaffirms its com-

mitment to protecting consumer rights and encourages citizens to report any discrepancies in the weight of essential commodities. The department remains dedicated to ensuring fair trade practices and will continue working in the best interests of consumers.

Furthermore, the Legal Metrology Department will continue conducting such inspection drives in the future also to prevent unfair trade practices and safeguard consumer rights.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE				
Sr. DEN-IFZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.reps.gov.in with closing date 11.03.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. In place of Earnest money deposit, "Bid Security Declaration" is to be submitted or prescribed format as available in document section on the portal.				
Tender Type	Open	Tendering Section	Works	Bidding System & Two Bid System
Date of Uploading tenders	14.02.2025			
	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time		11.03.2025 15:00 hrs.
Sr.No.	TenderNo.	Details of Tender		
1.	315-2024-25-ADEN-JRC	Increasing sleeper density of 8.415 TKM from M+4 to M+8 density at SCPD, AWL, KKL & BPRS yards lines of BG track on JRC-PTK section under ADEN-JRC.		
Advertised Value	Earnest Money	Validity of offer	Period of Completion	
₹1,28,38,782.26	₹2,14,200.00	60 Days	06 Months	
Similar nature of work:- "CTR/TRR/TFR/TTR including raising of Track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post work for track maintenance machine like Tamping Machines/Ballast Screening/Regulating Machines and TTR by T-28"				
2.	316-2024-25-ADEN-JRC	Electronic type rail gauge face lubricator 62 nos. (62x12x5yrs=3720 months) in the section of ADEN-JRC under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/IFZR.		
Advertised Value	Earnest Money	Validity of offer	Period of Completion	
₹7,98,27,625.80	₹5,49,100.00	90 Days	60 Months	
Similar nature of work:- "Only RDSO Approved for Track based Lubricators, can participate with this, copy of approval certificate with validity date is to be submitted along with the tender."				
3.	317-2024-25-ADEN-LDH	Electronic type rail gauge face lubricator 19 nos. (19x12x5yrs=1140 months) in the section of ADEN-LDH under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/IFZR.		
Advertised Value	Earnest Money	Validity of offer	Period of Completion	
₹2,45,10,000.00	₹2,72,600.00	90 Days	60 Months	
Similar nature of work:- "Only RDSO Approved for Track based Lubricators, can participate with this, copy of approval certificate with validity date is to be submitted along with the tender."				
Note: Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. Tender Notice No. - 315, 316-2024-25-ADEN-JRC & 317-2024-25-ADEN-LDH Dated: 20.02.2025 579/2025				
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE				

FROM THE PAGE 1...

CM stresses on...

we were facing an 80-85% precipitation deficit this winter, signaling a major water crisis. Our agricultural patterns rely on the assumption of sufficient water availability. But with current water levels, cultivating paddy, which is water-intensive, would be nearly impossible," he warned.

Speaking on the 'Design Your Degree' (DYD) program under the National Education Policy (NEP-2020), the Chief Minister stated that the initiative empowers students to shape their education according to their interests, enhancing their skills and aligning them with evolving job market demands.

"As Jammu and Kashmir's private sector expands—particularly in industry and tourism—and as the region integrates further into the national economy, more job opportunities will emerge. With Jammu University gaining national recognition, students equipped with relevant skills will have a competitive advantage," he said. Reflecting on the pressure students face to secure high percentages, the Chief Minister remarked, "It's astonishing how much pressure we put on our children. When you see the cut-off percentages for top colleges like those in Delhi University—some even at 100%—it raises the question: what is beyond 100%?"

He emphasized that the Design Your Degree program marks a transformative shift in education by allowing students to study subjects that genuinely interest them.

"This is a significant change from the traditional model, where students were told what to study. Now, they have the freedom to design their degree, enhancing both their academic experience and career prospects," he said. Discussing future prospects in fields like artificial intelligence (AI), agriculture and tourism, the Chief Minister highlighted AI's growing impact on education and industry.

"Artificial Intelligence is reshaping how we approach learning and work. While it presents challenges, like the ease of using tools like ChatGPT for academic tasks, it also offers immense opportunities for innovation and growth," he observed.

He acknowledged the role of faculty members from Delhi University, pioneers of the Design Your Degree initiative, in guiding the program's implementation.

"This shift requires a change in mindset for both students and teachers. Traditionally, teachers were told what to teach. Now, students are asked, 'What do you want to learn?' and teachers must adapt their approach accordingly. The expertise of these eminent professors is invaluable as we navigate this transition," he added.

The Chief Minister expressed his commitment to supporting Jammu University in its academic endeavors, both in his individual capacity and as the Pro-Chancellor of the university.

"I assure you that as long as I am here, I will do whatever I can to help Jammu University grow and thrive," he affirmed. Congratulating the Vice-Chancellor, faculty, and students of Jammu University for achieving the prestigious NAAC A++ accreditation, CM extended his best wishes for the success of the three-day workshop.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also interacted with students from Government Women's College (GWC) Parade and Jammu University under the Design Your Degree program, who shared their learning experiences. He described the interactions as inspiring and expressed his eagerness for more such engagements with young and talented minds. KNO

CM concludes...

Chairing the session for Kishtwar district, the Chief Minister engaged with public representatives, including Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma, who represents Padder-Nagseni in the J&K Assembly, the Chairperson of the District Development Council (DDC) Kishtwar and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from the district.

The representatives presented their demands and issues, with the Chief Minister assuring them that their suggestions and inputs would be duly considered in the budget formulation.

In his comments, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah stated that the series of consultations with public representatives from all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir had concluded, providing valuable insights into the ground-level issues faced by the people.

"These interactions help us understand the priorities of the people. Since you are directly connected with the public, your inputs and suggestions are crucial for policy-making," the Chief Minister told the elected representatives. Similarly, representatives from Doda district also discussed their development priorities and concerns with the Chief Minister.

Among key issues raised about twin districts, staff shortages in educational institutions and healthcare centers, drinking water supply, road connectivity & widening, construction of tunnels, and improving mobile connectivity in remote areas were put forth.

The Deputy Commissioners of Kishtwar and Doda, in their presentation, provided constituency-wise breakdown of demands prioritized by the MLAs.

The DDC chairpersons and MLAs expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for involving them in the budget formulation process, noting that it was the first time such consultations had taken place.

They urged that this participatory approach should continue as a regular feature.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D. Vaidya, Director General Budget M.S. Malik, Director General Expenditure Division-I Sajad Hussain Ganai and other concerned officials—(KNO)

Katra-SanjiChhat chopper...

and Kashmir.

"Due to rains, the Trikuta Hills are covered by dense fog, due to which the chopper service from Katra to Sanji Chhat has been suspended," said an official.

He said that the pilgrims were trekking either on foot or availing themselves of pithoo/palanquin

(palki)/pony service due to suspended chopper service.

The chopper service will resume once the weather improves, he added.

He, however, said that the Shrine Board staff deployed along the track are guiding pilgrims to remain alert and watchful while performing pilgrimage.

J&K Govt gears...

President's and Governor's rule were imposed, leading to the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories—J&K and Ladakh—in August 2019. KNO

J&K relies 85%...

plants has reduced by almost 90 percent and in order to cater the requisite power demand, we need to have a base power availability that we procure from outside states. The energy is coal based energy," the official said.

The official further said that the department is already in different Power Purchase Agreement (PPAs) with other states.

"Last year we entered a PPA of coal based power of over 390 MWs under Shakti Policy. In future more coal based power and more PPA has to be entered to meet the demand of electricity in Jammu and Kashmir," the official said.

It also said, "In 2024 and the ongoing year there is a huge deficit in local hydro power generation. Situation is not good for local power generation in winters."

Pertinently, KNO earlier this week reported that in the past one month, the hydel power generation from the power plants across Jammu and Kashmir has further reduced by five percent owing to the less snowfall and low water levels.

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

In the month of January, the Power Development Department (PDD) was generating nearly 250 Megawatts of power from the local hydel projects that amounts to 20 percent of the total generation capacity. However, in the ongoing month, the power generation has further reduced by five percent.

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

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

Besides, it has 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. KNO

Rainfall deficit breaking...

On the contrary, the region started witnessing a decline trend in precipitation till the year 2025.

In the year 2020 and 2021, the Kashmir region recorded precipitation of below ten percent.

Likewise, in the year 2022, the precipitation of 10 percent was recorded.

As per the data the deficit rainfall during the period has been witnessed persistently. In the year 2023, there was a deficit of ten percent rainfall in the months between December to February.

In the year 2024, Kashmir recorded a deficit rainfall of 40 percent.

However, the highest deficit precipitation has been recorded in the ongoing year as the region has witnessed a deficit rainfall of 70 percent. This year has witnessed the lowest precipitation in the last eight years since 2018. From December 2024 to February 2025, a rainfall of 50 mm was recorded, the official data revealed.

Pertinently, KNO has already reported that 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.

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. KNO

J&K Police recovers...

"Public awareness and cooperation have been key factors in these recoveries. Jammu Police has consistently urged citizens to report missing cases immediately, emphasizing the importance of timely information in accelerating the search process. The department remains committed to strengthening ties with the public to ensure faster resolutions in such cases," it read.

It further said that Jammu Police continues its mission to create a safe and secure environment for all residents.

"With a firm resolve to protect and serve, the force remains vigilant, proactive, and dedicated to ensuring that every missing person is brought back to their loved ones," read the official version.

Devise comprehensive...

Chief Secretary directed the officers to frame a comprehensive action plan based on scientific principles for rehabilitation of degraded forest areas within a stipulated time frame.

To enhance the efficiency of forest land management, the Chief secretary instructed the officials to expedite the survey and demarcation of forest lands by installing boundary pillars and digitizing the records. This step aims to effectively curb encroachments and safeguard forest resources, he maintained.

Focusing on afforestation efforts, Dulloo asked the department to accelerate the plantation drives to meet the ambitious target of planting 1.5 crore saplings by the end of the upcoming plantation season. He stressed that achieving this goal without any delay was imperative for environmental sustainability. He

DC Doda convenes public outreach camp to address public grievances



J&K NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 20

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh, visited Panchayat Hamal-B in Marmat Tehsil to listen and address public grievances, with focus on improving connectivity, resolving local issues and strengthening governance at the grassroots level.

The DC was accompanied by officials from NHIDCL, ASP, Tehsildars and representatives of other departments. Public

grievances regarding road connectivity, infrastructure development, and other civic issues were heard in detail.

After consultations with executing agencies and local representatives, the DC resolved several issues projected raised by the residents.

The DC set timelines for addressing remaining Grievances, while emphasizing the importance of inter-departmental coordination to meet the targets.

emphasized the need for ensuring maximum survival of planted saplings by adopting protective measures, including fencing of reforested areas.

Highlighting the ecological importance of wetlands, the Chief Secretary underscored their crucial role in the ecosystem and called for rigorous conservation efforts. He directed the officials to ensure proper demarcation and protection of wetlands, along with improving water quality and other relevant parameters to enhance their sustainability.

Regarding Wular Lake conservation, the Chief Secretary instructed both the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and the Commissioner Secretary, Forests to personally visit the site. They were asked to review the status of the ongoing conservation works and devise a mechanism to accelerate their execution. He observed that Wular Lake, being Asia's largest freshwater lake, necessitates urgent and effective conservation measures and has a scope of attracting a large number of tourists.

Regarding the conservation of Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for increased manpower and furthering efforts to achieve tangible results. He pointed out that the scale of work required exceeds the current workforce, necessitating moving of additional resources on the ground for meeting the objectives set for its mitigation.

Additionally, the Chief Secretary stressed the early approval and implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) in coordination with other departments. He instructed for formation of an inter-departmental coordination panel responsible for ensuring smooth execution of the plan by aligning available funds with the envisioned schemes.

Commissioner Secretary, FE&E, Sheetal Nanda, presented an overview of the functioning of the department. She informed that besides protection and conservation of forests, the department carries out rehabilitation of degraded forests, urban area afforestation, maintenance of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries besides looking after the wetlands, pollution control and biodiversity conservation in J&K.

She also apprised of some of the major achievements of the department registered during the past year and the plans for years ahead regarding development of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), plantation of around 1.5 crore saplings, demarcation of forest land besides other works.

In his presentation, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Suresh Kumar Gupta, highlighted that the UT has a forest area of around 20,194 sq km (47.8% of Geographical area) with a tree cover of 151.8 million trees as per Draft ToF Report, 2023.

Regarding the UT level BAP, he informed the meeting that it establishes a general framework as per the guidelines of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), on current and future policies regarding conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The department wise budget requirements have been worked out for eleven themes comprising 38 strategies involving a list of 161 activities. The overall budget by dovetailing of resources across different schemes implemented by various departments comes to Rs 187.8 crore per year upto 2030, he revealed.

Regarding plantation programme, the PCCF divulged that a total of 81.27 lakh saplings had been planted till January this year covering an area of 5703 ha. He further revealed that an area of 2150 sq km (as on 2019) had been prioritized as degraded forests, of which, 775 sq km had been treated during the last 5 years and the balance area to be treated is 1,375 sq km with an additional support of Rs. 78 crore per year for next 10 years. It was revealed that establishment of Nagar Vans in 42 ULBs (out of 80) had been achieved with rest to be done in coming years.

Regarding the survey and demarcation of forest area, it was added that out of the total of 300853 Boundary Pillars (BPs), 142144 had been renovated/ reinstalled. It was informed that survey of all the remaining BPs would be completed by December 2025 and the fixing of the same is set to be completed by March 2027.

The Chairman, Pollution Control Committee, gave details of monitoring of lakes, wetlands, rivers, ground water and other water bodies.

Indian Army flags-off Sadbhavana Tour of Children of Kathua District for Chandigarh and Delhi



J&K NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU: 20 FEB 2025

Indian Army's Gurj Division flagged off a National Integration Tour for 25 Children hailing from remote villages of Bani and Lowang in Kathua District, Jammu and Kashmir today. The Tour was kicked off with a thrilling experience of military equipment display including tank ride.

Organised under Operation Sadbhavana, the children will visit various iconic landmarks in Chandigarh and Delhi over the next 9 days. The tour aims to create awareness amongst the youth from

this remote region and promote national integration, education and development in the region.

The children will visit iconic landmarks like the Rashtrapati Bhawan, National War Memorial, India Gate and Qutub Minar, gaining valuable insights into the country's progress and history. This initiative is part of the Indian Army's efforts to foster national pride and responsibility among the youth. The Sadbhavana tour has received an overwhelming response from the local community, with the children eagerly looking forward to this enriching experience.

Indian Army organizes Free Medical Camp at Khanpur, Nagrota, Jammu



J&K NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU : 20 FEB 2025

A free medical camp was organized by Indian Army under Operation Sadbhavana in coordination with Sarpanches, Block Medical Officer and Ayush medicines at Khanpur, Nagrota. A Large number of people of all age groups including old aged citizens, ladies and children were provided free medical care and specialist medical treatment by one of the best doctors of Army, civil hospital and Ayush medicines. During the camp, health of the villagers was examined and they were given health advice and medicines.

Block medical officer and civil doctors assisted in the conduct of medical camp. In the camp, patients were examined and given specific medical advice. After completion of the investigation,

medicines mentioned on the medical slips were also distributed. Sarpanch and other civil functionaries were also present during the camp.

The doctors who conducted the camp were felicitated. At the same time, people appreciated this event. They said that along with the security of the country, the Indian Army is also working for public welfare by organizing such free medical camps for the people. People expressed gratitude to the Indian Army and requested the Indian Army to organize more such camps in future. During this, Army health experts made the citizens present in the program aware about the need for good health and different types of lifestyle diseases and laid emphasis on prevention of infectious and environmental disease.

About Wular Lake conservation, the CEO, WUCMA revealed that demarcation of 84 km long Wular boundary has been completed with geo-tagged Boundary Pillars (1159 Nos). It was further added that out of 44 Km of bund consolidation in encroachment prone peripheral areas 11 km have been completed with a dredging of 5 sq km critically silted area till date.

While discussing the environment management plan of the Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, it was projected that it includes Wildlife Mitigation Plan for Rs. 236.00 crore (including 100 crore corpus), Catchment Area Treatment plan (CAT) for Rs. 44.00 crore and Biodiversity Conservation Management Plan for Rs. 18.00 crore.

The meeting was apprised that the Department of wildlife protection looks after 10 other wetlands in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions. These included Hokersar, Shallabugh, Hygam, Mirgund, Chatllalum, Kranchoo, Manibugh, Freshkooori in Kashmir and Surinsar-Mansar and Gharana wetlands in Jammu division.

DC Bandipora Chairs NCORD Meeting

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 20

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Thursday, chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination (NCORD) mechanism.

The meeting was aimed to review ongoing measures and evaluate the progress of various initiatives aimed at combating the growing menace of drug abuse.

During the meeting, ADC Bandipora who is Nodal Officer for NCORD, Zaffar Husson Shawl, briefed the chair regarding the current efforts being implemented to address the issue of drug trafficking and abuse.

The concerned officers from Drugs Control, Excise and Taxation, and other departments presented their action-taken reports and outlined the enforcement measures in place.

Addressing the participants, DC Bandipora



M.A Qadri emphasized the need for strict actions to curb drug peddling, including freezing the assets of individuals involved in drug peddling. He also highlighted the importance of raising awareness about the harmful effects of drugs in the public particularly focusing on vulnerable groups and areas.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to organize sports events

aimed at positively channelizing the energy of the youth, providing them with healthy alternatives to drug abuse and keeping them away from drug menace.

Among others the meeting was attended by ACP Irfan Bahadur, Padmashree Faisal Ali Dar, DSWO Sahir Majeed, ARTO Anees Ahmad, DySP Latief Khan, and officers from the Excise and Taxation Department, Drugs Control, and other concerned.

DMRRR department organised two day disaster management mock exercise at Jammu Airport

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 20

The National Disaster Management Authority of India, Airport Authority Jammu and Jammu & Kashmir Disaster Management Authority jointly conducted a Disaster Management Mock Exercise on February 18 and 19.

All the Stakeholders, multiple agencies participated in the earthquake mock drill. The J&K Disaster Management department is committed to deal with any disaster situation and is carrying out regular preparedness drills

involving mobilization of resources and responders.

During the two day long Mock exercise, diverse stakeholders besides disaster managers and responders were brought together on a single platform enabling them to exploit their capabilities and various procedures/processes for effective, timely and coordinated response.

Various officers and officials from NDMA, Airport Authority Jammu, J&K Disaster Management department, district administration, NDRF, SDRF, Home Guards/Civil Defense,

Army, CRPF, Airforce, health Department, Fire & Emergency Department, all Emergency Line departments and Apda Mitras participated in rescue drills.

All the participating departments and agencies displayed commendable efforts and made this mock drill successful.

The Department of DMRRR will be conducting many more mock drills, capacity building and awareness programmes on earthquake, floods, fires and other calamities in future to build a safer and disaster resilient Jammu and Kashmir.

CEO inspects Board Exam Centers in Baderwah



JI NEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, FEBRUARY 20

Chief Education Officer (CEO) Mohammad Hafiz Sheikh, along with a team of officials, inspected board examination centers in Zone Baderwah.

He interacted with stu-

dents, invigilators and officials, stressing the importance of integrity in examinations and a stress-free learning environment. He also reviewed the necessary arrangements put in place for a smooth, transparent, and fair examination process.

DC reviews implementation of National Tobacco Control Programme in Samba District

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 20

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma today chaired the meeting of District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) on the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) here at the DC Complex.

Convened by the office of Chief Medical Officer, the meeting focused on strategizing effective tobacco control in the district. Divisional Coordinator NTCP Shweta presented a Power point presentation on the Program and its implementation.

The meeting emphasized strict enforcement of the COTPA Act and regular monitoring and evaluation to track prog-



ress and address emerging challenges.

The discussions reinforced a collaborative approach, underlining the need for taking effective measures to curb tobacco use and promote public health awareness in the district.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Virender Singh Manhas, Additional District Development Commissioner, Champa Devi and other district officers and other stakeholders including the members of civil society.

Div Com reviews progress on transit accommodation for Migrant Employees



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 20

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today chaired a meeting to review progress of construction of transit accommodation for Migrant Employees, allied construction works and allotment of flats.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner, Chief Engineers KPDC, PHE, PWB R&B and Representative from Administrative Department, DMRRR Civil Secretariat Srinagar.

During the meeting, Div Com reviewed development of transit accommodation towers in each district and directed concerned agency to expedite the completion of work on pending blocks.

He also directed for completion of allied works including construction of boundary wall, barricades for security, approach roads, besides provision of basic amenities like electricity & water supplies.

He enjoined on concerned to resolve the issues pertaining to requirement of additional land at some places and completion of tendering process for pending works to finish the projects within given timelines.

Earlier, Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner gave a detailed powerpoint presentation regarding physical & financial progress of the transit accommodation for Migrant Employees, total number of flats constructed, flats under-construction, allotment of flats and pending allied works.

DCDRM Baramulla Reviews Pending Consumer Complaint Cases in High-Level Meeting



JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 19

President District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Baramulla Peerzada Qousar Hussain, convened a meeting today at the Commission's office chambers to discuss the pendency of consumer complaints and the enforcement of orders under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

The meeting was attended by district officers, including the Post Master

General Baramulla, Executive Engineer PHE Baramulla, Executive Engineers from PHE Sopore, KPDC Baramulla, R&B Baramulla, District Horticulture Officer, and Deputy General Manager of J&K Bank Amargarh Sopore.

During the deliberations, serious concerns were raised over the non-compliance of some departments in responding to Commission notices and orders within the stipulated timeframe.

ADC Ganderbal flags off exposure visit for CWSN



JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 20

The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Ganderbal, Gulzar Ahmad, today flagged off an exposure visit for Children with Special Needs (CWSN) from the Mini Secretariat Ganderbal.

The program was organized by the Chief Education Officer Ganderbal under the Inclusive Education initiative.

Themed "Exposure Visit for Children with Special Needs," the initiative aims to provide students with enriching learning experiences beyond the classroom, promoting experiential learning, social integra-

tion, and confidence-building among CWSN.

Students from various schools across the Ganderbal district, accompanied by Resource Persons, Special Educator Teachers, and parent escorts, participated in the visit.

The program includes trips to key educational, cultural, and recreational sites such as the SPS Museum and Iqbal Library at Kashmir University, enabling students to engage with their environment in a meaningful way.

The exposure visit reflects the district's commitment to fostering inclusive education and creating opportunities that empower children with special needs.

RDD Shopian conducts Mega Watershed Camp at Chitragam

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 20

Under WDC - PMKSY 2.0, a mega camp under Watershed Yatra was conducted in Block Chitragam by RDD Shopian today.

MLA Zainapora while speaking on the occasion highlighted problems faced by the people regarding water shortage in the area and the need to address the water scarcity through joint conservation efforts.

ADDC Shopian spoke in detail about the water scarcity challenges and enumerated the viable solutions to tackle the scarcity.

The dignitaries inaugurated dramatic & sports events, flagged off the van to Imam Sahib block, administered water conservation pledge, conduct plantation drive & video screening.

It is pertinent to mention that the IWMP scheme stresses on creating assets of water conservation at planning, preparatory and evaluation stages.

The scheme has been running in Shopian since 2013 in different blocks under PMKSY 1 and PMKSY 2. The scheme also included livelihood schemes to enhance the income of marginalised sections of people.

Besides, Self Help Groups, PRIs, WDTs and voluntary organisations and district agencies.

Chief Justice inaugurates Court Room, Bar rooms at HC complex Janipur

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 20

With a view to enhance infrastructural facilities in the Jammu Wing of High Court and provide speedy justice to the litigants, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice Tashi Rabstan, today inaugurated a newly constructed Court Room on the ground floor of High

Court Complex at Janipur, Jammu, in presence of companion Judges.

The Chief Justice also inaugurated newly upgraded Lady Advocates' Bar Room and Senior Advocates Bar Room, which was long pending demand of High Court Bar Association.

Justice Atul Sreedharan, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajnesh



Oswal, Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary, Jus-

tice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Wasim

Sadiq Nargal and Justice Rajesh Sekhri graced the occasion by their presence. Besides, Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General; M.K.Sharma, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice; Anoop Kumar Sharma, Registrar IT; Sandeep Kour, Registrar Judicial, Jammu Wing; Meyank Gupta, Joint Registrar (Judicial/Protocol); Nimral Kotwal, President,

J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu; Senior Members of Bar Association besides other officers and officials of the Registry were also present on the occasion.

The High Court Bar Association extended gratitude to the Chief Justice and companion Judges for enhancing infrastructural facilities in the High Court Complex, Jammu.

MLA Irfan Hafeez Lone presides over water management prog at Wagoora

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, FEB 20

The Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) Baramulla organized a Watershed Yatra at Wagoora to promote sustainable water conservation practices and environmental awareness.

Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Wagoora-Kreeri, Advocate Irfan Hafeez Lone, presided over the event, emphasizing the importance of watershed management for ecological balance and water security.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Irfan Hafeez Lone highlighted the need for community participation in protecting natural resources. He stressed the significance of watershed management in ensuring sustainable agriculture, water conservation, and environmental protection.

He urged stakeholders to take proactive measures in preserving water bodies and adopting eco-friendly practices.

The event was attended by Assistant Commissioner Panchayat and other officers, along with officials, experts and local stakeholders.

As part of the programme, a pledge was taken to safeguard water resources, followed by a plantation drive to reinforce the commitment to ecological restoration. Certificates were also distributed among the participants in recognition of their efforts.

EDITORIAL

BJP's calculated political move

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has once again demonstrated its strategic acumen by appointing Rekha Gupta as the new Chief Minister of Delhi. This move marks the party's return to power in the national capital after a long hiatus of 26 years, and it is evident that the BJP's decision is not just about governance but also about sending a strong political message. Gupta, a first-time legislator from Shalimar Bagh, was sworn in amid grand celebrations at Ramlila Ground, an event graced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, top BJP leadership, and NDA chief ministers. Her appointment makes her Delhi's fourth woman chief minister, a decision that comes with deep political implications. With this, the BJP has skillfully ensured that opposition parties, particularly the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), do not get a chance to attack it over women's issues, including safety concerns. This move aligns with the party's broader narrative of women's empowerment, a key electoral plank as the nation moves closer to the upcoming elections. Beyond the optics, the BJP's choice of Gupta fits into its long-term political calculus. The party, which has struggled to make electoral inroads in Delhi in the past two decades, is looking to reshape its image and reconnect with the electorate. By bringing in a fresh face with a clean slate, BJP seeks to signal a break from past failures and reinforce its commitment to governance with a woman-centric agenda. The Mahila Samridhi Yojna, which promises a monthly stipend of Rs 2,500 to eligible women, and the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme are expected to be the first policy initiatives of the new administration. Gupta's appointment also reflects BJP's larger strategy for upcoming elections across the country. Women voters have emerged as a decisive electoral bloc, and the BJP has been consistently working on policies aimed at their welfare. By placing a woman at the helm in Delhi, the party is looking to consolidate its appeal among women voters not just in the capital but across states where elections are due. The grand oath-taking ceremony, attended by chief ministers from BJP and NDA-ruled states such as Maharashtra's Devendra Fadnis, Andhra Pradesh's Chandrababu Naidu, Goa's Pramod Sawant, Haryana's Nayab Singh Saini, and Meghalaya's Conrad Sangma, was a clear show of strength. It also underscored the party's unity and the significance of this political development in the larger national landscape. However, the road ahead for Gupta and the BJP in Delhi is not without challenges. The party will have to deliver on its promises swiftly to gain the confidence of Delhiites, who have largely favored AAP in recent years. Addressing pressing issues such as pollution, public transport, and infrastructure will be crucial. More importantly, Gupta's leadership will be tested on how effectively she counters AAP's governance model and establishes BJP's credibility as an alternative in Delhi's political sphere. In essence, BJP's decision to install Rekha Gupta as Delhi's Chief Minister is more than just a change in leadership; it is a calculated electoral maneuver with far-reaching consequences. Whether this move translates into lasting political gains will depend on the party's ability to govern effectively and win over the electorate with tangible results. The coming months will reveal whether this strategic gamble pays off for the BJP in the national capital and beyond.

Lord Dannatt's Chagos proposal: A testament to imperial arrogance

NILANTHA ILANGAMUWA

The call made by Lord Dannatt, former British Army chief, as reported by The Independent (UK), urging Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer to abandon plans to cede control of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius and instead consider handing the islands to the United States under the leadership of Donald Trump, is a moment of brutal clarity in the ongoing saga of colonial legacy, imperial arrogance and military hegemony. It is, perhaps, the most unambiguous and openly cynical articulation of an attitude that has plagued British foreign policy for decades: indifference to justice when the imperial or military agenda is at stake. In this shocking proposal, Lord Dannatt not only trivialises the long-standing historical injustice suffered by the Chagossian people but also reveals a chilling truth about the global order – one in which the rights of dispossessed peoples are inconsequential when the might of military power is involved. The Chagos Islands, particularly Diego Garcia, remain a crucial outpost for both British and American military operations in the Indian Ocean, a key region for global military and economic dominance. The brutal truth is that the displacement of the Chagossians, the abduction of their homes, their

lands, and their futures, was merely a strategic calculation by the British government, sanctioned and enabled by the United States. These islands have been stripped of their rightful inhabitants, and instead of facing international condemnation, they remain a linchpin in the projection of military power. Lord Dannatt's proposal that the UK should relinquish control of the islands not to Mauritius, but directly to the US, serves as a blunt reminder that this military realpolitik is not just a policy but an ideology – one that continues to shape decisions about sovereignty, justice and human lives in ways that are both morally bankrupt and legally indefensible. The truth is that the Chagossians were forcibly displaced, their lives uprooted, their families scattered across the world, and their right to return systematically denied. These are not mere footnotes in a distant history; this is an ongoing systematic injustice that has been buried beneath the murky layers of military necessity and imperial prerogative. The United Nations and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) have ruled unequivocally that the separation of the Chagos Islands from Mauritius was illegal, that the Chagossians' forced expulsion violated fundamental human rights and that their right to return to their homeland must be respected.



These rulings are binding principles of international law, upheld by the court of global conscience. Yet the British government, in collusion with the United States, has continued to flout these legal rulings, with a callousness that is matched only by the complicity of global institutions that have failed to hold them to account. The UK and its allies continue to demonstrate a dissonance between the legal obligation to return the islands to Mauritius and the military significance of Diego Garcia. The £18 billion (approximately \$22.52 billion USD) leaseback deal designed to ensure that the UK retains control of the islands is a financial burden, a sum that could instead be better spent on bolstering Britain's own defence capacity. But here's the

cruelty: the Chagos Islands, specifically Diego Garcia, are not just a military base. They are a symbol of the power dynamics that have defined the post-war world order – a world where military interests, not human dignity or sovereignty, govern the actions of nations. It is worth noting that Lord Dannatt's rhetoric is not an anomaly. He is merely the latest in a long line of British military and political figures who have justified colonial dispossession in the name of military expediency. Diego Garcia, a military outpost of unparalleled strategic importance, is where American bombers take off for strikes in the West Asia, where naval forces project power across the Indian Ocean, and where the surveillance apparatus of the global superpowers monitors

and controls vast swathes of the world. In short, Diego Garcia is a symbol of global military dominance – a fortress built upon the foundation of historical dispossession, suffering, and legal nullification. The fact that the Chagossians' right to return to their homeland is still not respected is a contemptuous affront to international law. The UK government's refusal to comply with ICJ rulings, while continuing to enjoy a special relationship with the US, sends a clear message to the world: law and justice are subordinate to power and strategy. The international legal community can issue as many judgments as it likes, but it is all for naught when the major powers choose to ignore or bypass those rulings in favour of military interests. The declassified documents from the 1960s and 1970s reveal the collusion between the US and the UK to create a military enclave on Diego Garcia, with the forcible removal of the Chagossians merely an administrative detail to be swept under the carpet. In those documents, we see the foundations of a dirty deal that placed geopolitical strategy above the basic human rights of a people. It is colonialism dressed as military necessity, and those who challenge this narrative are dismissed as idealists, outliers, or irrelevant. This is not just a matter of the Chagossians' rights; it is a fundamental crisis of the

global legal and moral order. It is a scandal that has gone largely ignored, an injustice that has been swept under the rug of strategic necessity, and an entire people's history erased in the name of military convenience. How can anyone with even a hint of conscience ignore these flagrant breaches of international law, perpetrated by those who claim to champion human rights while posing as defenders of democracy? Our complicity, fuelled by willful indifference, contributes to the erosion of international law and the degradation of fundamental human dignity. The truth is this: the Chagos Islands are not just a stretch of land – they symbolise everything that is corrupt in the global order. A system where power eclipses justice, and human lives are sacrificed for the sake of geopolitical dominance. The silence that surrounds this injustice is as damning as the apathy that sustains it. The Chagossians have been denied their homeland for over half a century. It is high time that the world demands the return of their land, not just out of legal obligation, but out of a moral imperative to right the wrongs of the past and give these forgotten people the future they have been denied for so long. (The writer is a journalist and policy analyst. Views expressed are personal)

The Power of Forgiveness

RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJJI

People across the globe, from all cultures and traditions, embrace love and forgiveness in daily life. These values are universally viewed as central to the fabric of humanity. But is it as easy to forgive as it sounds to be? Forgiveness, like so many other things in life, is easier said than done. We all seek forgiveness when we do something wrong right? But our stance is quite different when someone seeks forgiveness from us. We find it hard to let go of what's happened to us. The ability to forgive others depends on how honest we are with ourselves. We must remember that forgiveness can only

occur because we have been given the gift of the ability to make choices. Hence, if we want to forgive someone, no one can stop us, no matter how poorly they may act, because ultimately, it's our choice to forgive or not to forgive. This ability to forgive is a manifestation of the personal control we have over our lives. Hence each one of us should ask this question to ourselves: Have we journeyed through life pure, perfect, and clean, with never a wrong thought, a wrong word, or action? If we look at ourselves honestly, then how can we not forgive another? Most of us regret many things that we have said or done in the past. It's a fact that we all have acted wrongly, either because of not knowing what is right,

or out of fear or misunderstanding. However, with time and knowledge, we realize what is right and begin to make amends. Just by having this desire to change ourselves, we begin the process of forgiving ourselves, which in turn helps us to forgive others. If this process is to progress, we have to forgive others. We just cannot condemn others and excuse ourselves. This is cheating, and the universally applicable Law of Karma will not allow it. Remember! If we do not learn to forgive, resentment will poison us, and we will end up carrying a double burden: both the resentful thoughts of others' injustice and the hidden reality of our injustice. The power to forgive comes from compas-

sion, which means we should compassionately and peacefully move forward with what is good, towards what is better. Forgiveness dissolves the compulsive need to prove ourselves right. It removes the indignation we feel at imagined injustice. It melts the hardness of another's heart. Our forgiveness, at first, may puzzle them. To forgive and forget is love in action. But we must first learn to forgive ourselves, as well as others, otherwise, the process of releasing this burden neither begins nor progresses. Forgiving ourselves means letting go of the past. But it also means not making the same mistakes again and again; not inventing convenient ways to excuse ourselves. Remember!! A person who

has hardened his own heart against others cannot feel even God's forgiveness and compassion. Hence, if we want to be forgiven, then we must be willing to forgive first because the one who forgives first not only proves his justice but especially proves his love. That is why it is said that 'A life well lived is your best revenge.' So, instead of focusing on your wounded feelings, and thereby giving the person who caused you pain the power over you, learn to look for the love, beauty, and kindness around you. This will make the world a better place to live in. A tribute to my Guru Dr Nalini Didi With profound grief, I share that Rajyogini Brahmakumari Dr Nalini Didi, a

Senior Functionary of the Brahma Kumaris and my revered teacher, passed away in Mumbai on February 9, 2025. A renowned columnist and spiritual mentor, she dedicated 66 years to the service of humanity, spreading spiritual wisdom to millions. Her journey began at 16 after a transformative lecture by Prajapita Brahma, inspiring her lifelong mission of world transformation through Rajyoga education. A gifted speaker, writer and artist, she tirelessly promoted social harmony and earned numerous accolades, including an honorary D.Litt. Her guidance profoundly shaped my spiritual path. (The writer is a spiritual educator and columnist, views are personal)

Empowering India's workforce: The crucial role of upskilling and inclusive hiring

DHIRAJ SINGH

In today's rapidly changing job market, skill development and inclusive hiring are more critical than ever, particularly for the blue-collar workforce. As industries evolve and the demand for skilled labour increases, organisations must focus on bridging skill gaps and creating pathways to meaningful employment. By prioritising upskilling and inclusive hiring practices, companies can empower individuals, enhance service quality, and contribute to the overall growth of the economy. Investing in Skill Development Continuous learning is essential for the blue-collar workforce, where technological advancements and changing industry standards require a skilled

and adaptable labour pool. According to a report by the Global Labor Market Conference (GLMC), 55 per cent of professionals fear their skills may become partially or fully obsolete within the next five years, prompting many to consider reskilling. Organisations are increasingly offering a variety of skill development programmes tailored specifically for their blue-collar employees. These programs encompass technical training, crisis management, digital security and leadership development, equipping workers with the expertise necessary for career advancement. In recent years, many companies have implemented structured upskilling initiatives that have led to significant improvements in service quality, efficiency and employee satisfaction.

Empowering the Grassroots Workforce

Blue-collar workers, who make up over 80 per cent of India's non-agricultural workforce, are essential to the country's economic growth across various sectors. According to McKinsey and Company, by 2030, 70 per cent of the 90 million new jobs expected in India will be blue-collar positions. These roles account for about 80 per cent of jobs in both the organised and unorganised sectors, acting as the primary engine of the economy. Their fulfilment is crucial for the growth of key sectors such as manufacturing and logistics. Recognising the unique challenges faced by grassroots workers, many organisations have developed targeted skilling initiatives that address the specific needs of this demographic.



These programs are designed to empower individuals at the community level, providing them with the tools and knowledge necessary to thrive in their roles. Through hands-on training and mentorship, companies are fostering

a culture of skill enhancement that encourages employees to take ownership of their career paths. Success Stories: Behind every blue-collar worker is a story of ambition and determi-

nation. Many individuals have experienced transformative career journeys through upskilling initiatives. For instance, frontline workers have advanced to supervisory roles after completing leadership training, while others have gained expertise in emerging technologies, securing higher-paying positions. However, a report by WorkIndia reveals that more than 40 per cent of blue-collar workers are employed but actively seeking new job opportunities. The drive for better salaries, career growth, and personal motivations are leading factors. Concerns over layoffs and financial instability also prompt job searches. Expanding Opportunities: Inclusive Hiring Practices Organisations are not merely filling positions; they are creating futures.

With a commitment to inclusive hiring, particularly in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities where job opportunities can be limited, companies are working to ensure that more individuals, regardless of gender or background, can build stable and rewarding careers. With an increasing focus on safety and a surge in residential and commercial complexes, the private security industry has become one of the biggest generators of jobs. Women in the Workforce: Breaking Barriers Empowering women in the workforce is a crucial aspect of inclusive hiring. More women are stepping into roles as individual contributors, frontline managers, and even executive leadership positions, demonstrating that gender is no barrier to success. These initiatives foster a workplace culture where

women can not only succeed but thrive. The Road Ahead: Looking ahead, organizations are set to expand their upskilling programs to cater to India's growing middle class and evolving job market needs. By integrating technology-driven training and fostering a culture of continuous learning, companies aim to set new standards in workforce development. With strategic hiring approaches and robust skill enhancement initiatives, organisations are not just providing jobs; they are building careers and transforming lives. Investing in upskilling and creating employment opportunities at the grassroots level is not just a matter of social responsibility; it is also a key economic imperative. (The writer is CEO SIS Ltd; views are personal)

India sees over 30 pc decline in suicide death rates from 1990 to 2021: Lancet

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 20

India has seen a more than 30 per cent reduction in the suicide death rate in India from 1990 to 2021, according to a study published in The Lancet Public Health on Thursday, marking a significant progress in health strategies.

The analysis, based on the results from the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries and Risk Factors Study (GBD) 2021, showed that the suicide death rate in India was 18.9 per lakh population in 1990, in 2019 it stood at 13.1 lakh per lakh population and 13 per lakh population in 2021.

From 1990 to 2021, the suicide death rate in India declined to 31.5 per cent.

The reduction in death rates by suicide was seen more in females than males. In 1990 suicide death rate among females stood at 16.8 per lakh population, which reduced to 10.3 per lakh population



in 2021.

On the other hand, the suicide death rate among men in 1990 stood at 20.9 per lakh population, and it reduced to 15.7 per lakh population by 2021.

"In 2020, in India, the highest suicide death rates were among educated women, with family problems being the most commonly cited contributing factor," said

the researchers from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington, US.

Globally, the study showed about 740,000 suicides are reported annually, in other words, one person dies on average every 43 seconds by suicide.

However, in the last three decades, the global

age-standardised mortality rate for suicide has declined by nearly 40 per cent -- from about 15 deaths per lakh population to 9 deaths per lakh population. This indicates that intervention and prevention strategies are working.

For females, the rate declined by more than 50 per cent, while it declined by almost 34 per cent for males. Overall, the mortality rate for suicide was 12.8 per lakh population for males and 5.4 per lakh population for females.

"While the progress made in declining suicide rates is encouraging, it is clear that suicide continues to impact some countries and populations more than others. Removing suicide stigma and barriers to access mental health support systems remain critical measures, particularly among people with mental and substance abuse disorders," said senior author Dr. Mohsen Naghavi with IHME.

Quantum computing, AI to revolutionise drug discovery in India: Ex-ICMR chief

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 20

Quantum computing and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to revolutionise drug discovery in India, and enable the country to become a global hub for pharmaceutical advancements, said Dr. Balram Bhargava, Former Director General, ICMR.

He was speaking at the 9th "International Symposium on Current Trends in Drug Discovery Research" at CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow.

"India's strength in drug discovery stems from its rich heritage in chemistry, making it a global hub for pharmaceutical advancements," said Bhargava, Dean and Senior Consultant, Holy Family Hospital, New Delhi.

"The integration of Quantum Computing and Artificial Intelligence (AI) is set to revolutionise



drug discovery, accelerating research and reducing costs," he added.

The expert noted that India has consistently demonstrated its ability to produce high-quality, affordable medicines, ensuring healthcare accessibility worldwide. However, challenges such as the availability of Active

Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and the need for new drug discoveries remain key areas of focus.

Further, Bhargava called for collaborations to boost India's pharmaceutical success, as seen in the development of vaccines.

"Market shaping is equally important, ensuring that innovations reach

the masses while maintaining India's leadership in cost-effective healthcare solutions," he said.

The event, aimed to discuss new strategies in synthetic and medicinal chemistry in the country, also witnessed the presence of global experts from the universities of Florida and Minnesota in the US. They spoke on breakthroughs in pain management strategies as well as the need to develop new antimicrobial agents with novel mechanisms.

Meanwhile, Dr. Arindam Talukdar from CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB), Kolkata, shared his research findings on the stimulation of agonism-antagonism in TLR7 modulators via complex interactions between chemical subunits.

The TLR7 is an endosomal TLR protein that helps the body to recognise and respond to viruses and bacteria.

Indian scientists find common biomarkers for early diagnosis of pancreatic, glioma cancers

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 20

A team of scientists from the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali -- an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) -- has identified some common metabolites of hard to detect pancreatic and glioma cancers, which can boost their early diagnosis and lead to better treatment outcomes.

The team identified metabolites in exosomes derived from pancreatic cancer, lung cancer and glioma cancer cell line, which offers potential universal biomarkers resulting in enhanced clinical applicability.

"This offers a potential non-invasive method for early cancer diagnosis as well as therapeutic strategies for cancer," said the researchers in the paper, published in the journal Nanoscale. Aggressive



cancers like pancreatic and glioma cancers often diagnosed late and having poor prognoses. Hence there is an urgent need for non-invasive, reliable cancer biomarkers to address significant gaps in cancer diagnostics and therapeutics, particularly for pancreatic and glioma cancers, which lack early detection methods.

Nano messengers (exosomes) -- as carriers of tumour-derived metabolites -- provide a unique opportunity to explore

the tumour microenvironment (TME), said the team, including Nandini Bajaj and Dr. Deepika Sharma from the Institute.

The researchers utilised a multi-technique approach combining Nanoparticle Tracking Analysis (NTA), Electron Microscopy (EM), Western Blot (WB), Fourier Transformed Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR), untargeted Liquid Chromatography-Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS), and Nuclear Magnetic Reso-

nance (NMR) -- providing a comprehensive characterisation of exosomes, surpassing conventional single-method studies.

The study advances cancer diagnostics, personalised medicine, and our understanding of cancer progression mechanisms. These metabolites identified highlight dysregulated pathways in the tumour microenvironment and also gives insights on how the cancer progresses and enables non-invasive and precise cancer detection and therapeutic targeting.

The findings can lead to the development of targeted therapies that can disrupt dysregulated metabolic pathways in tumours, enhancing treatment efficacy and potentially reducing side effects.

This advancement could significantly improve patient outcomes, especially through personalised, precision medicine approaches.

Study calls out against spine injections for chronic back pain

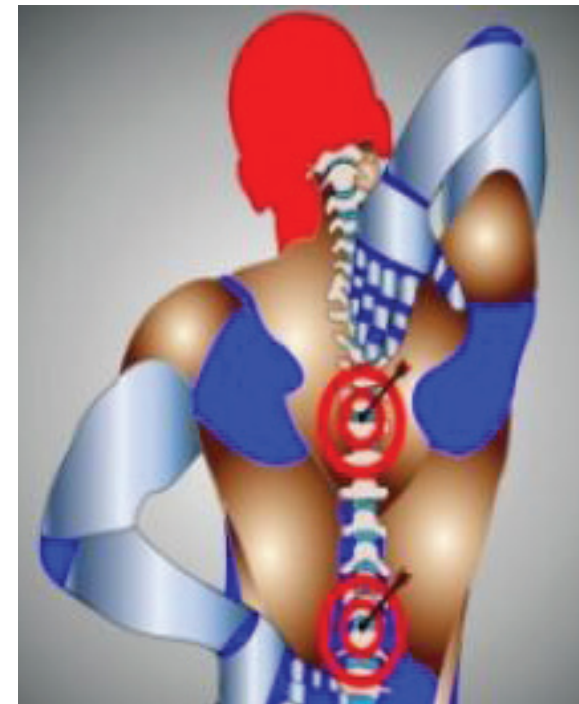
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 20

Adults with chronic back pain must not be given spine injections as they provide little or no pain relief compared with sham injections, according to an international study, published on Thursday.

A team of clinicians and patients from Canada, the US, and Australia strongly recommended against epidural steroid injections and nerve blocks for people living with chronic back pain (lasting at least three months) that is not associated with cancer, infection, or inflammatory arthritis.

Chronic back pain is the leading cause of disability worldwide -- estimated to affect one in five adults aged 20-59. Older adults tend to suffer more with the condition.

Epidural steroid injections, nerve blocks, and radiofrequency ablation (using radio waves to



destroy nerves) are widely used to stop pain signals from reaching the brain.

However, current guidelines provide conflicting recommendations for their use.

To probe, the team

compared the benefits and harms of 13 common interventional procedures, or combinations of procedures, for chronic, non-cancer spine pain against sham procedures. These include injections of such

as local anesthetic, steroids, or their combination; epidural injections, and radiofrequency ablations.

Their analysed reviews of randomised trials and observational studies of these procedures.

Their recommendation, published in The BMJ, showed that there was no high-certainty evidence for any procedure or combination of procedures.

The low and moderate certainty evidence suggests "no meaningful relief for either axial pain (in a specific area of the spine) or radicular pain (radiating from the spine to the arms or legs) for spine injections compared with sham procedures", said the team, while strongly recommending against their use.

These procedures "are costly, a burden on patients, and carry a small risk of harm", they added, urging patients to avoid them.

Tech advancements, expanding healthcare access to boost India's surgical market

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 20

Tech advancements and expanding healthcare access are driving the surgical market in India, according to a report on Thursday.

The report by ILattice showed that India's healthcare sector is witnessing a transformative shift, with its surgical landscape evolving rapidly due to increasing demand for high-quality and cost-effective procedures.

India performs an estimated Rs 3 crore surgeries annually, with general surgery and obstetrics and gynaecology emerging as the dominant specialties.

The report highlights key trends, including the rising adoption of robotic-assisted surgeries (RAS), the shift toward minimally invasive procedures, and the expansion of healthcare services into Tier II and beyond.

These developments,



combined with growing medical tourism and advancements in surgical consumables, are expected to drive further growth in India's surgical market. The report showed a surge in surgical procedures, with approximately 82 per cent of procedures performed in small and medium hospitals.

The Indian surgical market is valued at approx-

imately \$55 billion, with continued growth driven by medical advancements and increased healthcare access. The report also highlighted the increased adoption of robotic-assisted surgery -- growing at a CAGR of 18 per cent, with the RAS market projected to reach \$680 million by FY29.

The market for surgical implants and disposables

is set to grow at a CAGR of 9.6 per cent to reach Rs 88,700 crore by 2030, with wound management emerging as the fastest-growing segment.

"India is at the brink of a surgical revolution, with an estimated 5.1 crore surgeries required annually to meet healthcare demands. The adoption of robotic-assisted surgeries is growing rapidly at an 18 per cent CAGR, and the surgical consumables market is projected to reach Rs 88,700 crore by 2030. These advancements are improving patient outcomes and increasing access to quality care," said Sanjay Sachdeva, Director - Healthcare and Lifesciences at ILattice.

Further, the report noted that despite the rapid growth, the sector faces challenges such as pricing pressures, regulatory complexities, and uneven distribution of specialist surgeons, particularly in rural areas.

A simple blood test may detect risk of preterm delivery in expectant mothers

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 20

A team of US and Canadian researchers has found that a simple blood test can help determine which mothers are more likely to deliver a baby preterm, an advance that may lead to the development of a universal screening strategy to prevent preterm births that can both cause harm to the mother and the baby.

Researchers from Mount Sinai Hospital and the University of Toronto showed that low levels of placental growth factor (PIGF) -- a protein that signals placental development -- are associated with preterm birth. Preterm birth is defined as a birth before 34 weeks' gestation.

Their findings, published in JAMA Network Open, also suggests that a simple blood test to detect the level in expectant mothers could alert



physicians to a need for enhanced monitoring and delivery planning. PIGF is a protein released by the placenta into maternal blood.

It acts to promote relaxation of the maternal blood vessels and helps normalise the blood pressure of pregnant women despite the large increase in blood volume and cardiac output needed to

support the growth of the baby. It also protects the mother from blood loss at delivery.

The team showed that low levels of PIGF contribute to the development of a potentially dangerous type of hypertension called preeclampsia. The condition ultimately necessitates physician-initiated early delivery in two-thirds of patients with

low PIGF levels. A second complication, foetal growth restriction -- accounts for the majority of other medically indicated preterm births.

"If you know in advance that you're high risk, there are ways to improve pregnancy outcomes. It starts with self-monitoring for elevated blood pressure and perhaps taking anti-hypertensive medications to keep it under control," said Rachel Gladstone, from Sinai Health.

"And if you originally had plans to deliver at a community hospital or remote location, you could decide to receive care at a tertiary centre, which may be safer for both mother and baby than emergency transport to such centres for unanticipated complications," she added.

PIGF levels rise as the healthy placenta develops, reaching a peak by 28 weeks as the third trimester commences.

Indian Army conducts Medical Patrol for Gujjars, Bakkarwals at Sial Sui, Rajouri

J1 NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, 20 FEB 2025

Indian Army extended healthcare services to the remote parts of Rajouri district by mobile medical patrol in the village of Ched to address medical problems of the local Residents as well as Gujjars and Bakkarwals in the area. The inhabitants of the area are often cut off from mainstream healthcare facilities due to their isolated geographic location and challenging terrain, benefitted immensely from this initiative which contributed to the overall well-being of the local Residents who often suffer due to disparities in healthcare leading to higher morbidity and mortality rates.

The mobile medical patrol, equipped with



essential medical supplies and services, reached these areas to provide healthcare with compassion for local villagers as well as Gujjars and Bakkarwals. The primary

objective was to provide on-the-spot medical care & check-ups, which included basic health check-ups, treatment of common ailments and distribution of necessary medicines.

The team emphasised on preventive healthcare by offering immunizations and disseminating information about hygiene, nutrition and disease prevention. The response from the local population has been overwhelmingly positive. The local population expressed deep gratitude for the Indian Army's initiative, which brings much-needed medical services directly to their doorsteps with special focus on women healthcare. Beyond the immediate medical benefits, the mobile medical patrol played a crucial role in building and strengthening the relationship between the Indian and the local communities. A total Male 11 Female 24 & Children 12 were benefitted by the mobile medical patrol.

Congress a spent force, stands rejected by people: Kavinder slams Karra's remarks on Statehood

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEB 20

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta on Wednesday dismissed the statement of J&K Congress chief Tariq Hameed Karra on the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, terming it an attempt to mislead the people. He asserted that the Congress is a "spent force" that stands completely rejected by the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and its leadership has no moral authority to speak on statehood.

Slamming Karra for accusing the Centre of failing to fulfill its commitments, the BJP stalwart said, "The Congress leadership, which is responsible for decades of neglect and misrule in Jammu and



Kashmir, is now shedding crocodile tears over statehood. The people have seen through their opportunistic politics, and that is why they continue to face rejection at every electoral platform."

He maintained that even in Delhi Assembly polls, the people rejected Congress outright, and the

party failed to secure even a single seat. This is a clear indication that the nation has moved beyond Congress's divisive and misleading politics."

The senior BJP leader highlighted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government is fully committed to the development and empowerment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and statehood will be restored at an appropriate time as already assured by the Union Government. "Unlike the Congress, which only made empty promises for political gains, the BJP has delivered historic reforms, including the abrogation of Article 370, paving

the way for a new era of peace, prosperity, and equitable development in J&K," he added.

Accusing the Congress of playing politics over sensitive issues, Kavinder said that the party's hollow threats of agitation will not find any takers among the people, who have moved on from divisive politics. "Congress leaders should first answer why they failed to provide justice and development to J&K when they were in power for more than 60 years at the Centre," he remarked.

The former deputy Chief Minister reiterated that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision and will not be misled by the theatrics of a party that has already lost its relevance.

98% of Home Security Breach Impact Victims' Happiness - Reveals Godrej Enterprise Group's 'Happiness Survey'

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, 20 FEBRUARY, 2025:

Security is more than just a measure of protection—it is the foundation of peace of mind and lasting happiness. The latest 'Happiness Survey' conducted by the Security Solutions Business of Godrej Enterprise Group reveals that an overwhelming 98% of individuals who experienced a security breach in their homes reported a direct impact on their overall sense of security and happiness. More alarmingly, 56% of these respondents admitted that the breach had a significant to extreme effect on their well-being.

With a concerning 35% respondents having faced incidents such as break-ins, robbery, and burglary, the findings under-

score an urgent need for enhanced security adoption. The survey delves into what fosters a true sense of security, with 41% of respondents opting for home lockers (Tijori), 45% citing surveillance cameras as the top measure to make them feel more secure, followed by 36% emphasizing the presence of security guards, 29% preferring alarm systems, and 20% highlighting the role of video door phones.

Commenting on the findings, Mr. Pushkar Gokhale, EVP and Business Head, Security Solutions Business of Godrej Enterprise Group, said, "The strong link between security and happiness



is evident in our survey findings. A secure environment fosters a happier and more confident society. The increasing adoption of security technology is not just a trend—it is a necessity for enhancing the quality of life. At Godrej, we continue to innovate and offer solutions that empower individuals to protect what matters most, enabling

them to lead happier, worry-free lives."

Security is not just about physical protection; it directly correlates with emotional and psychological well-being. When individuals feel unsafe, it affects their day-to-day life, productivity, and mental peace. The survey findings reiterate that ensuring home security is a fundamental step toward achieving true happiness. Whether it is safeguarding homes, protecting valuables, or simply instilling confidence in daily routines, home security plays a critical role in shaping an individual's overall sense of well-being. The survey findings highlight a positive shift in awareness, as more individuals

recognize the importance of proactive security measures. The preference for modern security solutions such as AI-enabled surveillance cameras, alarm systems, and smart video door phones indicates a growing inclination towards integrated security solutions that provide real-time protection and deterrence against potential threats.

As security becomes synonymous with happiness, individuals, families, and communities must take proactive steps in fortifying their environments. The Security Solutions Business of Godrej Enterprise Group remains committed to driving awareness and equipping people with the necessary tools to transform security into a catalyst for long-term peace and happiness.

MMU Camp held at Nalla-Barnara, Sunderbani

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SUNDERBANI, FEB 20

As per the directions of CMO Rajouri Dr ML Rana and under the supervision of BMO Sunderbani Dr Meena Kumari, a Mobile Medical (MMU) Camp was organized at Panchayat Ghar Nalla Barnara, Medical Block Sunderbani in collaboration with MMU Unit Rajouri, RBSK Team and AYUSH Unit from SDH Sunderbani.

The camp provided comprehensive health services to 105 patients, including 74 allopathic and 31 ayur-vedic consultations. Additionally, various lab tests were conducted, including HB (29), BSR (36), MP Slides (12), dental checkups (12), eye checkups (28), and sputum collection (6). Free allopathic and ayurvedic medicines



provided to all patients. Dr Khaliq (MO MMU unit Rajouri) highlighted the importance and role of MMU camps to provide healthcare services to the remote and inaccessible areas. Dr Arjun Sharma (MO RBSK) awarded the public on hygiene, balance diet, anemia, water borne diseases, communicable and Non communicable diseases, RBSK, Ayushman Bharat and other health schemes during the camp. Dr Nitika (MO AYUSH unit SDH Sunderbani) gave awareness on adolescence health, mother and child health care and yoga to the

public. The MMU camp aimed to provide accessible healthcare services to the public of remote areas and promote health awareness. The public including PRIs and beneficiaries thanked the medical teams, staff, and volunteers for their tireless efforts for the successful camp despite rainy weather. Those who rendered their service during the camp are Dr Khaliq, Dr Arjun Sharma, Dr Nitika, Ishfaq, Ajay, Rajinder, Davinder, Vijay, Deputy Lal, Jahawar, Rajni, Sushma, Meenakshi and ASHAs.

Private-Public Partnership Essential for Tourism Growth: Yasha Mudgal

J1 NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEB 20

A high-level meeting was held today in New Delhi, attended by key stakeholders in the tourism sector, including Commissioner Secretary to the Government, Tourism Department, J&K, Yasha Mudgal; President of the Hotel Association of India and Chairman, South Asia Radisson Hotels Group, K.B. Kachru; Director Tourism Jammu, Vikas Gupta; President, Hotel & Restaurant Association, Katra, and Chairman, PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry Jammu Region Chapter, Mr. Rakesh Wazir; and Under Secretary, Tourism J&K Government, Sana Khan.

Speaking at the meeting, Ms. Yasha Mudgal emphasized the crucial role of private-public partnerships in the growth of tourism in Jammu & Kashmir. She noted that private players have significantly contributed to the development of high-quality hotels, restaurants infrastructure projects such as ropeways, roads etc. in the recent past.

She further highlighted that with the upcoming launch of train services to Kashmir, J&K is poised to witness a major influx of tourists, making it imperative to enhance preparations and



develop new tourist destinations.

She stressed the need for additional quality accommodations in J&K and encouraged renowned hotel chains to expand their presence in the region.

Mr. Kachru revealed that the Radisson Group already operates several hotels in J&K, including five hotels in Kashmir and three in Jammu region and will expand its presence further in J&K.

As President of the Hotel Association of India, he pledged to advocate to other Domestic & International hospitality companies to establish their presence in J&K. Many HAI members like IHCL, Lalit, IHG, Marriott, lemon tree etc are committed to the development of State tourism and expect to add substantially to the inventory in different segments in the Union Territory.

He commented that right from very beginning J&K has remained an epicenter

of Tourism and there was a time when practically no film would be complete till a sequence of Kashmir was not included.

The overall situation is improving and with the operation of a direct train upto Kashmir and further improvement of the National Highway, Tourism is expected to set new benchmarks.

HAI will focus on assisting the UT govt in positioning the key locations and push for infrastructure developments in luxury, midscale and religious circuits.

Mr. Rakesh Wazir highlighted the rapid transformation of various tourist destinations around Katra, where visitor numbers have increased exponentially. He cited examples such as Shiv Khori, Nau Devian, Baba Dhansar, Bhaderwah and Patnitop etc. He stressed the importance of further expanding tourism by promoting locations like Devi Pindian, Mathwar, Amba-

ran, Showa Mata, Raghunath Temple, and Bawe Wali and proposed several initiatives to enhance tourism, including, a light and sound show on Maa Vaishno Devi's history at Katra, beautification and infrastructure development at Mansar Lake, with battery-operated cars for sightseeing, a museum showcasing Jammu's cultural heritage, integrated tour packages covering heritage, adventure, eco-tourism, and wellness tourism, a digital tourism promotion campaign and improved road signage, distribution of tourism brochures in hotels at Katra and Jammu, the promotion of Mata Ki Parikarma Yatra and the revival of the old traditional Vaishno Devi route, including Kol Kandoli-Jagti, Bamyal, Oli Mata Temple, and Deva Mai.

Mr. Vikas Gupta emphasized Jammu's vast tourism potential, spanning pilgrimage, leisure, adventure, and health tourism. He stressed the need to direct tourists' focus toward these opportunities.

Concluding the meeting, Ms. Mudgal reaffirmed that this discussion marks just the beginning and assured that follow-up meetings would be held soon to translate these ideas into concrete actions for the advancement of tourism in J&K.

NSF demands probe into administrative lapses in JU's CDOE

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEB 20

The National Secular Forum (NSF) has called for a high-level inquiry to investigate alleged administrative lapses and conspiracies within the Centre for Distance & Online Education (CDOE) of the University of Jammu (JU). The demand follows the Centre's failure to secure Distance Education Bureau (DEB) approval for four of its 13 proposed courses.

Addressing a press conference, Papinder Singh, Working President of the National Secular Forum (NSF), accused the administration of negligence, stating that "CDOE is suffering due to administrative laxity and conspiracy theories." He added that the DEB's rejection of four courses highlights serious deficiencies in the Centre's functioning.

Singh revealed that JU's application to the DEB, submitted in May 2024—over three years late—was riddled with deficiencies. These included:

- Non-submission of statutory body approval for ODLE programs.
- Absence of Director's qualification and appointment documentation.
- Lack of plagiarism

reports for in-house Self-Learning Materials (SLM).

- Non-submission of full-time faculty details.

- Missing approval minutes from the Academic Council/Statutory Body.

- Inadequate faculty for five courses, including MA Sociology, Political Science, Economics, Education, and B.Ed. (In-Service Teachers Education).

"JU authorities managed to address the deficiencies for nine courses, but four others remain in limbo. This raises serious questions. Why were conditions satisfied for only some courses while others were left out? Hundreds of aspiring students have been left in the lurch as a result," Singh alleged.

"Thereafter, the JU authorities immediately came into action and filed the compliance in a hush-hush manner. As a result, JU got permission to run PG Courses but 2 courses (Economics, Education,) didn't get approval. Also, the permission for UG courses has not been granted," he claimed.

authorities in JU didn't evinced interest to deal with the matter and due to their laxity, the students were now suffering.

"Several guidelines were laid down by the UGC for running Distance and Open Learning Courses including preparation of study material one year in advance for PG courses and two years in advance for UG courses. But the JU authorities have actually complied with these directions," he explained.

"Further, UGC has asked for arranging two teachers for running PG courses and if the same subject is also available in UG course then the number of teachers should be three. But, JU has not complied with it. Also, UGC asked Universities to install CCTV cameras and make provision of Biometric Attendance during the examination but JU authorities didn't make that," he revealed.

The NSF leader also pointed out regulatory violations in JU's PG Diploma courses, which continued to be offered as one-year programs despite the UGC-DEB's 2020 regulation requiring a two-year duration. He criticized JU's decision to allow admissions

for these courses without DEB approval.

"How can the University blatantly violate DEB regulations and jeopardize the careers of students, he questioned, adding that there seems to be no transparency regarding DEB approval for these courses, which is deeply concerning," he bemoaned.

"JU authorities collected nearly Rs 20 crore from distance learners but instead of spending that amount on improvement in services offered by CDOE, the same is being spent in maintenance activities within JU main campus," He revealed further.

Singh questioned the JU authorities that why 2 PG courses had been closed if everything was going fine in CDOE and who was responsible for lack of permission to run UG Courses.

He demanded from the Education Minister to order a high level inquiry into the matter to find the erring officers/officials and fix responsibility for such a big lapse which is hurting the interest of thousands of students aspiring to pursue their studies through distance mode.

Indian Army organizes Awareness Lecture on Road Safety at Kalsa Moh & Sindrah, Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH: 20 FEB 2025

In an effort to promote road safety and responsible driving, the Indian Army organized an awareness lecture on "Road Safety" at Kalsa Moh, Sindrah in District Poonch. This initiative is part of the Indian Army's ongoing commitment to foster awareness and instill civic responsibility in the region's residents.

The session aimed to educate the public on the importance of adhering to traffic rules, reducing road accidents, and saving lives. Key points discussed included the significance of wearing helmets, adhering to speed limits, and following all road safety regulations. The lecture



was well-received by the local Residents, including students, youth, and teenagers, who appreciated the Indian Army's proactive efforts in this regard. Local residents expressed a desire for more such initiatives to be held, emphasizing that they would be beneficial in nurturing a culture of road safety and civic responsibility.

Indian Army officials encouraged attendees to share the message with

others and contribute to building safer roads for the community. The event culminated in a pledge by all present to comply with traffic regulations and spread awareness for the well-being of society. The local community commended the Indian Army for its ongoing contributions to important social causes like road safety, strengthening the resolve to create a safer, more responsible society.

CUJ organizes 'Sankalp Divas' in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Study Centre

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

The Office of Dean Students' Welfare, Central University of Jammu, under the esteemed patronage of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Study Centre (JKSC), successfully organized 'Sankalp Divas' at the Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium.

The event commenced with a warm welcome address by Prof. Ritu Bakshi, Dean Students' Welfare, Central University of Jammu, who extended her greetings to all dignitaries, participants, and speakers.

The key speakers for the event were Sh. Suresh Jain Ji, Rashtriya Sanga-



than Mantri, Bharat Vikas Parishad, and Sh. Sunil Dutt Vashishth, Prant Pracharak of JKSC and a renowned social worker. The distinguished speakers were honored with mementos presented by Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu.

During his address, Sh. Sunil Dutt Vashishth elaborated on the significance of PoJK and shared narra-

tives about its residents. He extended his appreciation to Prof. Sanjeev Jain, HVC for organizing this crucial event and encouraged faculty and students to contribute towards preserving the unity and integrity of the nation.

Sh. Suresh Jain Ji, the Chief Guest of the event, shared his perspectives on the vision of Akhand Bharat, emphasizing its rich traditions, global and

political aspects, and the role of students in nation-building.

In his Presidential Address, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, CU Jammu, lauded the speakers for their insightful reflections and congratulated the Office of Dean Students' Welfare and JKSC for successfully organizing an event of national relevance. He further emphasized the univer-

sity's initiatives towards promoting the idea of Akhand Bharat and motivating students to actively engage in national development. A special exhibition was also set up at the university, showcasing reflections on the culture and traditions of PoJK and PoTL, enhancing awareness among attendees. The event was seamlessly moderated by Dr. Bharti Gupta, Assistant Professor, Department of TTM, while the vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, Central University of Jammu.

The program witnessed enthusiastic participation from JKSC members, faculty members, research scholars, and students of Central University of Jammu, marking a successful and enlightening observance of 'Sankalp Divas.'

Dr. Jitendra Singh to inaugurate "National Startup Festival" at Jammu on 22nd February

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy & Space and Vice President of CSIR will inaugurate the "National Startup Festival" on Saturday, the 22nd February at the Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, which is being organized by CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu.

Giving the detail of the National Startup Festival, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIIM, Jammu, in a press meet held here today, informed that as a part of the Institute's continued

efforts towards promotion and fostering the startup ecosystem in the region, a two-day "National Startup Festival" is being organized in which Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (I/C) for Science & Technology and Vice President of CSIR, will be the Chief Guest and will inaugurate this mega event, whileas Satish Sharma, J&K UT Cabinet Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and ARI & training departments would be the guest of honour.

Further, Dr. Ahmed said that a total of 50 startups coming from all over India will showcase their innovations and technologies, including Agri-based,



Healthcare, Nutraceutical, Tech-based, Service-based, and Consumer products. "A key focus of this event is to empower local youth, students, women, and farmers from the Jammu region, including districts such as Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Poonch, Kathua, and Samba" he added.

During the inaugural event, it was informed that very important MoUs will be signed by IIIM for

collaborative research with industry & CCRUM. A Grant Letter Agreement (GLA) will also be signed with Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Deptt. of Biotechnology. Besides, new startups will also be enrolled with BIRAC incubator of Industrial Biotech Park, Ghatti, Kathua.

The organizers have issued invitations to all stakeholders, academicians, scientists, policy

makers, industry representatives, students from schools, colleges and universities, and members of civil society. Among the confirmed dignitaries participating in the event are Padma Shri Prof. Vinod K. Singh, Chairperson, Recruitment & Assessment Board (RAB), CSIR and Institute Chair Professor of Chemistry at IIT Kanpur, Dr. N. Zaheer Ahmed, Director General, CCRUM, Dr. Prabodh Kumar Trive-

di, Director, CSIR-CIMAP, Lucknow, Dr. Ajit Kumar Shasany, Director CSIR-NBRI, Lucknow, and Dr. Jitendra Kumar Managing Director, DBT-BIRAC.

The event is organized with the patronage of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, under overall supervision of Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu, assisted by his team of HoDs and Scientists, including Er. Abdul Rahim, Dr. Asha Chaubey, Dr. Dhiraj Vyas, Dr. Shank Singh, Dr. Sumit Gandhi, Dr. Naveed Qazi, Dr. Suphla Gupta, Dr. Saurabh Saran, Dr. Raj Kishore, Vikram Singh, Sr. COA, Ajay Kumar, CoFA, Dilip Gehlot, SPO, Rajesh Gupta, AO and Er. Ashwani Chopra.

DLSA B'pora organises awareness prog on World Social Justice Day

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA FEBRUARY 20

District Legal Services Authority, Bandipora under the Chairmanship of Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Chairman District Legal Services Authority Bandipora and under the guidance of Iqbal Ahmad Akhoun, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Bandipora and Chairman Tehsil Legal Services Committee Sumbal today organized an awareness programme on World Social Justice Day at New Career Point Coaching Institute Sumbal.

Abid Hussain Malla (Penal Lawyer) Tehsil Legal Services Committee Sumbal delivered speech on the social justice and said that main objective of this day is to address social injustice and collec-

tively work towards eliminating poverty, illiteracy, physical, gender, and religious discrimination to build a just and socially integrated society.

He further highlighted the efforts needed to be done on individual level to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion, gender equality, unemployment, human rights, and social protections and to promote the development and human dignity.

Parvaiz Ahmad Bhat, PLV, TLSC Submal delivered lecture on the social justice and highlighted that the social justice will empower the old and marginalized sections of society to live a life at par with the stronger strata of the society and will also ensure a society wherein there is no disparity among people.

RPP J&K honours Sham Lal Sharma, appraises about activities of organization in J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Today Rashtriya Parshuram Parishad presented memento to Sh Sham Lal Sharma Sr BJP leader and MLA as a mark of blessings of Shree Bhagwan Parshuram ji and discussed overall welfare measures and vedic system of science which is strength of Bharat taking all section of people believing in sanatana dharma and hindutav. President RPP (Rashtriya Parshuram Parishad) Sh Jeeva nand sharma who is an engineer, from IIT Bombay and knowledge of vedic system of science has also appraised Sh Sham Lal Sharma about the organisation objective, mandate and various functions and activities being carried out in Jammu and Kashmir. He has briefed him about the RPP Mahashivir at Paryagraj since beginning of Mahakumbh where lacs of devotees have sought blessings of Bhagwan Parshuram ji and spiritual prayers are being performed there for the peace and prosperity for the people and for the country in large besides brahmbojh being offered



there. RPP Founder leader Pandit Sunil Bhara a renowned senior BJP leader of Country is guiding the activities in the country to strengthen Sanatan dharma. Mr Sharma appraised that our main objective is to strengthen vision of RPP whose theme is Ek Rashtira Ek Bharat. Pradesh Mantri Rashtriya Parshuram Parishad Shree Chandan datta sought support of Sh sham Lal Sharma for the welfare of people of all section of society of people at large and also discussed to carry forward the objective of RPP in coming assembly session which is to promote and inculcate Vedic science culture among youth and demand for Gurukul school education system in all districts which is the only way out to strengthen youth of J&K and channelise their energy in Nation building

activities and keep them away from drug menace which is a prevailing crisis in Jammu region. Honourable MLA Sh Sham Lal Sharma has ensured full support to RPP J&K and appreciate their working ethics to bind all section of society of people irrespective of their religion and as Bhagwan Parshuram is a Avtar and Ishwer of all Hindus. He has strongly supported the organisation objective and belief. The other dignitaries of RPP present were Sh Rajiv Khajuria reknowned Activist, Opinder sharma Gsecy RPP, Pawan sharma secretary RPP, Sanjay Gupta, Rajesh Pradhan, Pawar sharma, Sr.functionary of RPP, Rajinder Singh, Prabhanshu Joshi, Ramesh Chandrer bali, Rohit sharma, Lalit sharma and Other members of RPP jammu and kashmir

Samsung R&D Institute inaugurates Samsung Innovation Campus

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 20 FEBRUARY 2025:

Samsung R&D Institute India, Bangalore (SRI-B) inaugurated Samsung's flagship global citizenship programme, the Samsung Innovation Campus (SIC), at Karnataka's first all-women's engineering college, Geetha ShishuShikshana Sangha (GSSS) Institute of Engineering and Technology for Women, Mysore. This initiative underscores Samsung's unwavering commitment to advancing gender equality in STEM and fostering a new generation of women leaders in technology.

Launched in September 2022, the SIC programme comprises an extensive curriculum focused on core technology skills including Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning, Big Data, and Coding & Programming, especially designed by Samsung's global R&D experts to make India's youth industry-ready. The students enrolled in this initiative will get an opportunity to undergo expert offline and online training at a classroom facility, and work on innovative projects under the guidance of mentors from SRI-B and GSSS Institute.

"At Samsung, we believe



innovation thrives when opportunities are inclusive. It brings us immense pride to inaugurate Samsung Innovation Campus (SIC) at Karnataka's first women's engineering college, a space where bright young minds will explore, experiment, and push the boundaries of technology. Aligned with the government's #DigitalIndia and #MakeinIndia campaigns, it empowers students to drive technological progress from within the country. We look forward to moulding future women leaders as they create, innovate, and transform the world with technology," said Mohan Rao Goli, Corporate Vice President and Managing Director, SRI-B.

In 2024, Samsung Southwest Asia expanded its SIC reach by enrolling 3,500 students, up from 3,000 in 2023. Samsung's ongoing commitment to corporate social responsibility, through initiatives such as SIC and Samsung Solve for Tomorrow (SFT), highlights its mission to nurture and train India's future-tech leaders. Through these programmes, Samsung continues to support India's youth, equipping them with the skills that not only advance their personal and professional growth but also empower India as a global technology hub.

"Our collaboration with SRI-B ensures maximum impact, providing indus-

try-relevant courses and niche skills, strong technical foundations, and practical exposure through capstone projects. This initiative reinforces our commitment to powering #DigitalIndia by bridging the digital skills gap and preparing women for the future workforce. Through a structured curriculum, the students will gain hands-on experience in problem-solving and emerging technologies, enhancing both employability and innovation. We deeply appreciate SRI-B for this invaluable partnership, which empowers young women technologists to drive technological advancements," said Anupama B Pandit, Secretary, GSSS (R), Mysore.

Prof. Arya of SKUAST-J granted two patents

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Prof. Vivak M Arya working in SKUAST-Jammu gets two patents registered on 'Agricul-ture & Aquaculture Managing AI-machine' and 'Waste Sorting Robot' by the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks (CGPDTM). Prof. Arya, coworkers & students working under the leadership of Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu have been granted two patents successfully. The main objectives of the patents are to improve Agriculture and Aquaculture using artificial intelligence and a robot designed to separate different types of waste.

Presently working in the Division of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Arya is handling many externally funded prestigious projects and have written research papers in peer reviewed journals like Elsevier, Springer, Taylor & Francis. His scientific team comprising of research scholars are presently focusing on themes like soil carbon, nitrogen and micro biome study of intermediate and temperate regions of Jammu, climate change and its effect on natural resource management and macro-nutrient dynamics in rice-wheat, maize-wheat land use system.

Arvind reviews infrastructure projects, directs for expedited execution



J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

In a significant move towards accelerating development in Jammu West, MLA Arvind Gupta chaired a high-level meeting today with officials from the Public Works Department (PWD). The meeting focused on reviewing ongoing development projects, addressing key infrastructure concerns, and planning future initiatives aimed at enhancing the constituency's urban landscape.

Mandal President Rehari Bakshi Nagar, Anil Angral Mandal President Talab Tillo, Atul Gupta (XEN Sattari Division), Sandeep Gupta (XEN Medical Division), and Satish Bhagat XEN. Various developmental projects, including road repairs, drainage system improvements, and sanitation issues, were thoroughly discussed.

MLA Arvind Gupta emphasized the need for expeditious completion of ongoing projects to minimize inconvenience to the public. He directed the concerned departments to

ensure quality work and timely execution of projects, particularly in key areas facing infrastructure bottlenecks. He also underscored the importance of regular monitoring and coordination between departments to avoid unnecessary delays.

Highlighting the issues raised by local representatives, the senior BJP leader took note of concerns regarding road conditions, water supply, and sanitation in densely populated areas of Jammu West. He assured that all necessary measures will be taken to address

these challenges on a priority basis. He stressed the need for sustainable urban planning to accommodate the growing needs of the constituency.

During the meeting, the officials presented updates on the status of various works, including blacktopping of roads, repair of streetlights, and desilting of drains before the monsoon season.

He asked the departments to adopt a proactive approach in resolving civic issues and work in tandem with local representatives to ensure public welfare.

Reaffirming his commitment to development, MLA Arvind Gupta assured that he would continue to engage with stakeholders and push for infrastructural advancements to improve the standard of living for residents. He reiterated that no stone would be left unturned in making Jammu West a model constituency.

Indian Army organizes Women Personality Development, IT Training at Thanamandi Rajouri

J1NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 20 FEB 2025

Indian Army as part of 'Operation Sadbhavana', is conducting Women Personality Development including Information Technology Training at Thanamandi, Rajouri district. This skill development initiative is aimed to improve their communication skills, Information Technology skills and build confidence in achieving greater success in their personal and professional lives. The course is scheduled with effect from 18 February 2025 to 20 March 2025, which witnessed active participation of twenty women from local communities. The Indian Army has always been a pillar of support in guiding and empowering local youth by providing skill development opportunities.

Women Personality Development including Information Technology Training program is a holistic initiative designed to empower women with all necessary infrastructure and training which



will build solid foundation in Information Technology skills. By combining Personality Development and Information Technology skills, this workshop provides opportunity for women to enhance their communication abilities, build confidence and develop a more positive as well as Information Technology training modules on computer programming, data analysis, digital literacy and cyber security.

This training provides a unique opportunity to network with like-minded individuals, build their professional portfolios and develop the skills and knowledge necessary to start their own businesses or pursue leadership roles in their chosen fields.

Each participant's progress is a testament to the dedication and perseverance of these youth. As a token of recognition, certificates for participation and gifts will be awarded to all participants on closing day. Women Personality Development including Information Technology Training is yet another remarkable chapter in this ongoing journey. Indian Army remains committed to empowering local communities through such initiatives, believing that a stronger, more self-reliant society is a testament to a brighter and more prosperous future for all. The event also serves as a platform to strengthen the bond between Army and the people of this region.

District Development Commissioner Samba reviews progress achieved under Capex Budget 2024-25

J1NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 20

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Samba, Rajesh Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at DC Complex to assess the progress of works/projects taken up under the District Capex Budget across various key sectors viz. PWD (R&B), Health, School Education, Rural Development Department, Jal Shakti among others. The DDC conducted a detailed assessment of the physical and financial progress, and directed the Officers to ensure timely completion of works to ensure full utilization of funds released under the District Capex Budget.

Bottlenecks and hindrances, faced by the executing agencies in the execution of works was also discussed. The officials were asked to synergize with stakeholders for immediate resolution.

During the deliberations, DDC Rajesh Sharma emphasized upon the importance of adhering to timelines besides qualitative and tangible results on ground.

AJKGRS appeals for participation in membership drive

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Er. Darshan Kumar Kalotra, Chairman of the Election Board, All Jammu & Kashmir Guru Ravidass Sabha (AJKGRS), Krishna Nagar, Jammu, extended a significant appeal to all Branch Sabhas, Village and Mohalla Committees, as well as members of the Ravidassia/Ramdassia Biradari of Jammu & Kashmir, to actively participate in the ongoing membership drive of the Guru Ravidass Sabha.

The Election Board has officially commenced the distribution of membership booklets today.

The first five booklets (containing 100 leaflets each) have been issued to the Convenor of Guru Ravidass Sabha, Krishna Nagar (Head Office).



All Branch Sabhas, Village and Mohalla Committees, along with community members, are kindly requested to visit the Election Board office at All Jammu & Kashmir Guru Ravidass Sabha, Krishna Nagar, Jammu, to collect their membership booklets and actively participate in this membership drive.

Any Biradari member who wishes to obtain

membership through the Head Office at Krishna Nagar, Jammu, particularly in areas where no branch sabhas, village, or mohalla committees exist, can do so through the Office of the Convenor of the Sabha.

This membership drive is an essential initiative aimed at strengthening the unity and connection within our community.

Your active participation and coordination are crucial

in ensuring that every eligible member has access to their membership booklet. We urge all members of their respective sabhas and committees to spread awareness and encourage participation in registering as a voter of the Sabha.

We are fully committed to the success of this important drive and look forward to wholehearted participation from the community.

SMVDU Architecture Students Shine at International Conference on Religious Architecture

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Two final-year students of architecture from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) made a remarkable presentation at the "International Conference on Religious Architecture" organized by the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Patna. The conference was held as part of the BCE-NIT Patna Centenary Year Celebration (1924-2024). Ms. Pradnya Jogdan presented her research paper on "Revisiting Sacred Geometry: The Dialogue between Parametric and Religious Architecture," exploring how parametric design retains



spiritual symbolism, enhances environmental performance, and fosters community engagement. Her research highlighted the powerful synergy between the sacred and computational. Ms. Reha Shiv Bharti presented her research paper on "Biophilia in Sacred Spaces: Harmony between Nature



& Spirituality," examining how worship areas can be revitalized via the careful incorporation of nature. Her research encouraged cultural sensitivity, community involvement, and enhanced health and spirituality. Both students' research papers were presented under the guidance

of Ar. Vinod Kumar, Assistant Professor, School of Architecture & Landscape Design. As a testament to their outstanding work, they have been given the opportunity to publish their research papers in a peer-reviewed journal. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, and Ar. Abhinay Gupta, Head of the School of Architecture & Landscape Design, along with other faculty members, congratulated the students on their achievement. This accomplishment showcases the academic excellence and research capabilities of SMVDU's architecture students, and their ability to contribute meaningfully to the field of architecture.

Satish Sharma meets delegation from Basantgarh

J1NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEB 20

A delegation from Basantgarh recently met Cabinet Minister Satish Sharma and discussed several burning issues affecting their community. The delegation drew Minister Sharma's attention to encroachment and damage to the playground in Chakal Block, Dudu Basantgarh, as well as illegal occupation of land and diversion of river water, which is affecting the playground. The delegation sought Minister Sharma's immediate intervention to restore and preserve the playground, as well as allocate funds to support sports activities in Basantgarh subdivision and Kullwanta. Minister Sharma, who is known for his commitment to the welfare of the people, is expected to take prompt action to address these concerns. It is worth noting that Minister Sharma has been a strong advocate for the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and has been vocal about the need to address issues such as unemployment and public welfare. His meeting with the delegation from Basantgarh is a testimony to his commitment to listen to the concerns of the people of the region and work to find solutions to the challenges faced by them.

Ranvijay Singh reviews Maha Shivratri preparations at Ranbireshwar Temple

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Ranvijay Singh, Trustee of J&K Dharmarth Trust, today conducted a comprehensive review of the preparations for the upcoming Maha Shivratri festivities at the renowned Ranbireshwar Temple in Jammu.

Ashok Kumar Sharma (IPS Retd), Secretary, Varinder Jamwal, Additional Secretary of the Trust, and other staff members were present in the meeting.

During the extensive inspection of the temple premises, the Trustee assessed the arrangements being made to facilitate devotees and ensure a smooth and joyous celebration of Maha Shivratri, one of the most auspicious festivals in the Hindu calendar.

The Secretary briefed the Trustee about the necessary arrangements, including security measures, sanitation, and facilities for devotees in all the Shiv Temples including Shankaracharya Temple Srinagar, Purman-



dal, Utter Behni, Raghunath ji Temple, Jammu, Ranbireshwar Temple, Sudh Mahadev, Mantalai, Shiv Temple Nagrota, Shiv Temple Sattari, etc. falling under the ambit of Dharmarth Trust. He apprised him of the steps being taken to ensure a seamless flow of devotees, the availability of essential services, and the completion of necessary repairs and renovations before the festival.

Ranvijay emphasized the significance of thorough planning to accommodate the expected surge in devotees and ensure their safety and convenience during the prayers and rituals associated with Maha Shivratri. He also directed the timely completion of ongoing repairs in the temple premises and stressed the importance

of maintaining cleanliness and hygiene.

The Trustee highlighted that the Dharmarth Trust, a centuries-old institution under the patronage of Hon'ble Chairman Trustee Dr. Karan Singh Ji and other Trustees, has a remarkable legacy of providing state-of-the-art facilities to pilgrims and visitors. He emphasized the importance of upholding this tradition and enhancing services to accommodate devotees better.

He asserted that it is the solemn responsibility of every staff member of the Trust to patiently and respectfully assist devotees, ensuring a comfortable and spiritually fulfilling experience at the temples and shrines managed by the Trust.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) MECH RURAL DIVISION JAMMU

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 95 of 2024-25

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K UT, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Rural Division Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the reputed/registered firms/individuals for the below mentioned work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Est. cost (in Lacs)	Cost of document/tender fee (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Replacement of worn-out components of 100 KVA Voltage Stabilizer along with allied works at D/well Kahpota under M&S	0.485	Rs. 200/-	970/- in the shape of CDR / FDR	180 days	180 days

Date of Publishing: 19.02.2025 (02:00 PM)

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 19.02.2025 (03:00 PM)
- The Bids shall be deposited on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 19.02.2025 (04:00 PM) to 27.02.2025 (02:00 PM).
- The Technical bids received shall be opened online on 28.02.2025 (02:00 pm) or any other subsequent date in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Rural Division Jammu.
- After opening the tender Bids must be accompanied by bid security and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 & 5 of the table (and for DIC/SSI registered firms as per Industrial Policy of J&K Govt.) payable at Jammu pledged in favour of Executive Engineer PHE Mech. Rural Division Jammu.
- Bid security will have to be in form of CDR/FDR of any scheduled bank and shall have to be valid for one year from the date of issuance of tender. The cost of downloaded tender documents should be in form of Treasury Challan/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Rural Division Jammu payable at Jammu.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Rural Division Jammu

DIP/J-10382/24
Date: 20-2-25

Shiksha Niketan School, Jeevan Nagar Jammu celebrates its Foundation Day

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Shiksha Niketan, Jeevan Nagar celebrated its 32nd Foundation Day-cum Grandparents Day on 20th of Feb., 2025. Foundation Day is a Day of remembrance, a day of honoring, a day to celebrate what has been achieved over the past years and a day to look forward to what is yet to come.

The Students and teachers of the School marked the Foundation Day in the form of Splendid celebrations with Enthusiastic, zeal, integrity, Dedication, Devotion and Loyalty. The Celebration was enacted in the form of a journey of the school from a humble beginning to its eminent stature as it stood there today in the presence of guests. The Special Guests of the event were Ms. Balpreet Kour (J&K High Court Advocate), Dr. Seema Sharma (General Surgeon GMC, Jammu), Mr. Ankit Gupta (Social

Media Incharge of BJP J&K), Presiding Guest Sh. Pradip Chand Sharma (Commandant SHQ BSF I/Nagar, Jammu) and the Chief Guest ER. Ghulam Ali Khatana (MP Rajya Sabha).

The Programme started with the welcoming of the Grandparents, followed by the lamp lighting by the worthy Principal of the School, the Trustee- Mrs. Rita Mengi Ji, Director of Pushp Vatika Mr. Risheek Mengi Ji, Headmaster of the School - Mr. Harish Sharma Ji, Incharges from all the wings and other invited Dignitaries.

There was a spectrum of virtual programmes presented by the students of different school wings.

The Foundation Day began with a beautiful "Maha Kumbh" Vandana performance by Primary Wing. The fun and enjoyment were also there for the Grandparents which brought a happy twinkle in their eyes.

Our School has the tradition to give prizes and



awards to its meritorious students for their unique performance both in Academics and Extra Curricular activities. The students who obtained 1st Position (44 Students including Students of SNS Gandhi Nagar), 2nd Positions (56 Students including Students of SNS Gandhi Nagar) and 3rd Positions (55 Students including Students of SNS Gandhi Nagar) and 100% Attendance (24 Students) awarded the mementoes and certificate by the Special Guests. Grandparents of students enjoying a meticulously organised programme

filled with cultural vibrancy. The event brought smiles to every face by the performance of timeless old songs by middle wing. A captivating enactment of Mahabharata scenes of extreme injustice and humiliation and we learnt to become strong women. The Performance by Primary wing created high level corporate leadership for Gender Equality - "Strong Women, Strong World" We had a game in which grandparents participated with great zeal.

The Chief Guest Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana in his address highlighted the

contribution to the family and community.

The Principal Sh. Rameshwar Mengi Ji, gave a impressive speech highlighting the unique educational achievements of the founder Principal Late. Sh. Dev Dutt Mengi Ji who was an Epitome of Grit, Integrity and the person of colossal stature. His worthiness expressed his gratitude to all the revered Guests especially the Grandparents for their support and co-operation to uplift the educational Standard of the institution. At last, Mr. Rameshwar Mengi Ji, the Principal of the School gave vote of thanks to all the parents and the dignitaries who graced the function with their being presence. The Grand celebration concluded with the National Anthem, leaving the audience inspired and filled with Pride. This foundation day was a perfect blend of honouring the legacy, embracing the present and preparing for a promising future.

Balbir, Naresh Singh felicitated J&K Netball Team for winning Bronze Medal



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

The Jammu & Kashmir Netball Team, led by captain Akshit Arora, recently won a bronze medal at the 38th National Games held in Uttarakhand, bringing pride to the UT. A total of 29 teams from across the country participated in this competition, where Jammu & Kashmir showcased an outstanding performance to secure third place.

Under the leadership of captain Akshit Arora, the team displayed excellent gameplay. Key players such as Abhishek, Maverick Batra, Ishant Bali, and Madhav Gupta delivered remarkable performances in the Netball competition.

Jammu & Kashmir BJP spokesperson and former vice chairperson Balbir Ram Rattan, along with R.S. Pura BJP district president Naresh Singh Jasrotia, felicitated the players and appreciated their achievement.

Balbir Ram Rattan emphasized the crucial role of sports in society, stating that it helps keep youth away from harmful habits like drug addiction. He highlighted that sports not only maintain physical fitness but also contribute to mental discipline and focus, guiding

young individuals toward a positive and productive life. He added that this achievement is just the beginning and will inspire all young athletes in the Union Territory (UT) to pursue sports.

Naresh Singh Jasrotia encouraged young people to incorporate sports along with their studies to excel in life. He stated that the success of players at the national level reflects the growing sports talent in Jammu & Kashmir. This victory is a testament to their hard work and determination and is a proud moment for everyone. He further added that such accomplishments motivate the youth of the region to set higher goals and strive for excellence in their chosen fields.

The felicitation event was organized by BJP Art & Culture Cell Convenor Kulbir Chakraborty and Co-Convenor Sahil Mahajan, with senior party worker Vivek Patyal also in attendance. Both leaders congratulated the players on their remarkable achievement.

BJP leaders also praised coach Akash Batra, whose dedication and guidance played a crucial role in leading the Jammu & Kashmir team to this historic victory.

Nisha Productions unveils second edition of short film on domestic violence

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Nisha Productions Jammu today launched the second edition of its short film "Domestic Violence" at the Press Club, Jammu. This edition highlights a lesser-discussed yet significant aspect of domestic abuse—violence and humiliation faced by men, a subject rarely addressed in mainstream discourse.

The event was graced by Vikram Sharma, senior journalist and renowned film and theatre director, as the chief guest. Commending Nisha Productions for its bold initiative, he stated, "For the first time, a film has courageously depicted the silent suffering, humiliation, and emotional trauma that men endure in domestic settings. This initiative is truly commendable."

Nisha Gupta, the writer and director of the



film, shared her motivation behind this project. After the successful release of her previous film focusing on violence against women, she was approached by several men urging her to highlight their struggles as well. Recognizing that women have dedicated support systems such as women's cells and NGOs, she emphasized the need for similar institutions that address grievances of men who suffer domestic abuse.

The film received high

praise from the distinguished guests present at the event, who lauded Nisha Gupta's bold effort in shedding light on this sensitive issue. "Domestic Violence" is currently available on Nisha Gupta's YouTube channel, where it has been receiving an encouraging response from viewers.

This initiative marks a significant step towards fostering conversations on gender-neutral support systems for victims of domestic violence, regardless of gender.

Mahashivratri Festival in historic Kameshwar temple from 21 to 27 Feb

JI NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, FEB 20

Mahamandaleshwar Mahant Rameshwar Das of the historic Kameshwar temple of the town while prees conference on the occasion of Shivratri festival on Thursday said that like every year, this year also religious programs will be organized in the temple from 21 February to 27 February on the auspicious occasion of Shivratri. In which Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah is being organized along with Maharudra Yagna. In which the narrator Dr. Satya Narayan Das will make the devotees participating in the sat-sang happy by listening to the story from his mouth.

Apart from this, a huge Jagran will also be organized.

Indian Army organizes Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in Poonch, Rajouri & Reasi



Poonch Rajouri & Reasi, Feb 20: The Indian Army organized a massive cleanliness drive under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan initiative in various locations across Poonch, Rajouri, and Reasi District, including Salani, Khanetar, Sindhra, Haribudha Loran, Gambhir, Hasplot, Sakri, Kalali. The event witnessed an overwhelming participation of 04 officers, 06 Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs), 97 Other Ranks (OR), 217 civilians, 20 teachers, and 195 students.

The collective effort aimed to promote cleanliness, hygiene, and sanitation

in the region, while also spreading awareness about the importance of maintaining a clean environment. The Indian Army's initiative is a testament to its commitment to serving the nation and supporting local communities. By organizing the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the Army aims to contribute to the government's mission of creating a clean and healthy India. The event has helped to foster a sense of community and social responsibility among the participants, while also promoting a cleaner and more sustainable environment.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor opens Bookings for Land Cruiser 300

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 20 FEBRUARY 2025:

Toyota Kirloskar Motor has announced the commencement of bookings of the Land Cruiser 300, an icon of prestige, power, and rugged capability. Built upon a legacy of over 70 years, the Land Cruiser 300 is the ultimate expression of Toyota's engineering excellence, designed to meet the expectations of luxury seekers and off-road enthusiasts. Expressing his views, Mr. Varinder Wadhwa, Vice President - Sales-Service-Used Car Business of Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "The Land Cruiser 300 is the ultimate expression of strength, sophistication, and off-road prowess. Built on Toyota's TNGA-F platform, this model offers enhanced driving experience with a powerful twin-turbo V6 engine, cutting-edge safety features, and a luxurious yet rugged design. Whether conquering extreme terrains or navigating city roads, this SUV ensures an unmatched blend of comfort, performance, and adventure, making it the perfect companion for those who demand excellence.

Renowned for its

unmatched reliability, commanding presence, and superior performance, the Land Cruiser 300 is the flagship SUV of Toyota's global lineup. The latest iteration combines a revolutionary new platform, advanced powertrain, cutting-edge safety features, and opulent interiors, ensuring a seamless blend of luxury, strength, and off-road dominance.

A New Era of Performance with Enhanced Power and Off-Road Capabilities: The Land Cruiser 300 is available in two distinct grades - ZX and GR-S, powered by a twin-turbocharged V6 engine, offering improved efficiency, higher torque output and enhanced fuel economy compared to its predecessor. Paired with a 10-speed automatic transmission (AT), the SUV delivers seamless acceleration and optimized power delivery, making every drive an exhilarating experience. Designed to handle the toughest terrains, built on the TNGA-F platform with a ladder-frame makes the Land Cruiser 300 much lighter, yet stiffer with great agility. Toyota's AWD Integrated Management (AIM) system works in real time to adapt to



changing road conditions, ensuring superior stability and control. For off-road enthusiasts, the Multi-Terrain Select (MTS), and Multi-Terrain Monitor provide precise control and guidance when navigating through sand, mud, snow, or rocky landscapes. Additionally, the GR-S variant is equipped with an off-road-tuned suspension, featuring differential locks and improved shock absorbers to tackle extreme conditions with ease.

The model's remarkable journey through time has earned it legendary status amongst our esteemed customers. We are confident that the Land Cruiser 300 will exceed our customer expectations, offering a perfect balance of the legacy it holds and the best of innovation, making it a true icon in the premium SUV segment."

A Commanding Presence with a Bold and Modern Exterior Design: The Land Cruiser 300 retains its signature muscular stance, redefined with a bolder grille, sculpted bumper, and sleeker yet more aggressive styling elements. Designed to make an impression on any terrain, the vehicle's high ground clearance and meticulously engineered body structure reinforces its legendary go-anywhere capability. The LED headlamps with Adaptive High Beam System (AHS) adds to the model's distinct road presence, ensuring superior visibility in all driving conditions. The GR-S variant, designed for extreme off-road enthusiasts, takes sportiness to a new level with black exterior accents, a more aggressive bumper, and exclusive GR badging,

ensuring an even more striking road presence. The Land Cruiser 300 is available in two striking color options—Precious White Pearl, which shows a refined true pearl texture with high brightness achieved through precious processing and multi-layered base coat, and the Attitude Black, offering a bold and formal impression with premium black mica shining that enhances the SUV's grand presence on the road.

Unparalleled Comfort and Luxury with a Sophisticated Interior: From the inside, the Land Cruiser 300 delivers an uncompromising level of comfort, space, and premium craftsmanship. The cabin is wrapped in high-quality leather upholstery, complemented by soft-touch materials and elegant trim finishes, creating a refined yet rugged atmosphere. The driver-focused cockpit, designed for convenience and accessibility, features an intuitive layout with a digital instrument cluster and an advanced infotainment system. The SUV offers 8-way power-adjustable front seats with memory function, ensuring a personalized driving experience. In the

GR-S variant, the interior is accentuated with two options - GR-S Black as well as Black and Dark Red upholstery, reinforcing its high-performance identity. On the other hand, ZX variant offers two sophisticated interior color options—Neutral Beige, exuding a warm and elegant ambiance, and Black, delivering a bold and modern aesthetic, ensuring a premium and personalized in-cabin experience. The spacious rear cabin provides ample legroom and an ultra-luxurious experience, making long journeys exceptionally comfortable. A Four-zone automatic climate control system ensures personalized temperature settings for every passenger, enhancing overall in-cabin comfort. Additionally, the sunroof further elevates the luxury quotient, allowing passengers to enjoy an open-sky experience at the touch of a button.

With its timeless allure and indomitable spirit, cherished by millions of passionate SUV customers across the globe, the Land Cruiser 300 continues to evolve while staying true to its roots of durability, reliability, and go-anywhere capability.

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

Jammu and Kashmir BJP Spokesperson, Adv Purnima Sharma, in a press conference, highlighting party's commitment to women empowerment, cited the election of Rekha Gupta as the Chief Minister of Delhi, as latest example in this regard.

She was accompanied by party Spokesperson Rajni Sethi and BJP Mahila Morcha General Secretary Neha Mahajan.

Purnima Sharma commended the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, under whom the BJP secured victory in Delhi's local elections after 27 years. She emphasized that this win is a testament to the party's policies, governance, and unwavering commitment to the people.

She underscored that the BJP has consistently worked toward empowering women across all sectors. The nomination of Rekha Gupta as Chief Minister is yet another step in this direction, reinforcing the party's dedication to promoting women in leadership roles.

She highlighted Rekha Gupta's journey from being a student leader at Delhi University in 1992 to being elected as MLA and Chief Minister. This reflects BJP's

focus on nurturing local leaders based on merit and dedication, she added.

Purnima Sharma recalled that the BJP has a strong track record of placing women in prominent positions, as seen in the leadership of Sushma Swaraj, Nirmala Sitharaman, Smriti Irani, and other women leaders. She stated that Gupta's nomination is a continuation of this tradition, reflecting the party's trust and respect for women's leadership.

Purnima expressed hope that under the chief ministership of Rekha Gupta, key issues of Delhi, including air and river pollution, infrastructural improvements, and governance reforms will be taken care. Rekha Gupta's leadership will bring positive change and fulfill the aspirations of the people.

Rajni Sethi, while addressing this press conference, said that it is a milestone for women's representation in politics. BJP continues to encourage women's active participation in governance and policy making. BJP has always championed equal representation for women in politics, ensuring that capable women receive leadership opportunities at all levels. Rekha Gupta's nomination is a significant step in this direction.

DLSA Pulwama organises awareness prog on World Social Justice Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, FEBRUARY 20

District Legal Services Authority Pulwama under the Chairmanship of Naseer Ahmad Dar, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. District & Sessions Judge), Pulwama and under the supervision of Mudasar Farooq Secretary DLSA Pulwama today organized an awareness programme on "World Social Justice Day" at Skylar College Pulwama.

In his inaugural session Ashiq Hussain Ganie Asst. LADC Pulwama highlighted the role of Legal Services Authorities for empowering inclusion bridging gaps of social justice focusing on importance of inclusive policies and social protection in managing systematic



inequality.

On the said occasion, Sameer Ahmad Yattoo Panel Lawyer from DLSA Pulwama was a main resource person for the said programme who delivered a lecture on the said topic.

The emphasis was laid on how to bring the various communities internationally together to eliminate poverty, gender

discrimination, and illiteracy to make a socially integrated society and to remove barriers regarding gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability.

This day recognized the need to promote efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion and unemployment.

The emphasis was also laid on the concept of

social justice as a revolutionary concept which provides meaning and significance to life and makes the rule of law dynamic. The resource person also threw light on inclusive society where ever it is expected to ensure equal opportunity, fair deal and does not deprive anyone.

Moreover the programme was also attended by a gathering of students, staff members of Skylar College Pulwama, LADCs, Staff members, and Para Legal Volunteers of District Legal Services Authorities Pulwama.

At the conclusion of the programme question, answer session was also organized in which different question related to free legal aid were raised by the participants and all question, queries were satisfactorily answered.

As tourist season knocks, Handicrafts Dept intensifies drive to weed out counterfeit products

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 20

Intensifying its enforcement drives to weed out sale of counterfeit products, the Quality Control Division of Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, today conducted inspections of various showrooms dealing in sale of hand-made products in Durganag and Dalgate sections of the City Centre, here.

During the inspections, craft dealers were advised to desist from selling machine-made items in the garb of genuine handmade products.

In an official press release issued here today, Deputy Director, Quality Control, Mirza Shahid Ali stated that with the advent of tourist season in Kashmir, the Department will intensify ongoing drives and ensure that buyers are sold certi-



fied hand-made products in various sale outlets in capital city and routes towards the famous health resorts of Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg, which attract a heavy footfall of tourists. "The Quality Control wing has constituted various inspection squads which are regularly checking sale and purchase of genuine hand-made products," he added.

The Deputy Director further stated that Govern-

ment is exercising a zero-tolerance policy towards sale of counterfeit products in the name of hand-made products. "Anyone found misbranding of notified products would be dealt under the relevant provisions of Quality Control Act, 1976, including imposition of heavy penalties and cancellation of registration, including blacklisting," he added.

Shahid Ali said the inspection drives shall con-

tinue on regular basis for maintaining highest standards of quality and customer service. "In order to promote sale of exquisite hand-made products, we urge stakeholders to approach our Department for GI tagging, testing and certification of their products at PTQCC, IICT and Quality Control labs, which shall ensure customer satisfaction and safeguard the rich heritage of Kashmir," he added.

DC reviews TB screening, treatment procedure in Poonch district

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, FEBRUARY 20

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal convened a meeting today at the DC office complex to assess the current status of TB cases and implementation of treatment protocol.

At the outset, the meeting was informed about the number of reported TB cases, their treatment status, besides the incidence rate. The review highlighted the importance of timely diagnosis and adherence to treatment protocols to combat the spread of this contagious disease.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the necessity of organizing awareness camps on Tuberculosis and instructed the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to ensure effec-



tive case detection.

Stress was also laid on roping in Nikshay Mitras for all TB patients to extend nutritional support during their treatment.

The meeting was also informed about the National Level Screening Campaign for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Tuberculosis being conducted from February 20 to March 31, 2025. The Deputy Com-

missioner told the CMO to activate teams to carry out the campaign, which aims to screen individuals for both NCDs—including diabetes, hypertension, and cancer and TB.

The meeting was attended by CMO Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan, Dr. Farhana, and other concerned officials, all committed to enhancing public health in the region.

NIELIT convenes its 28th All India Directors' Meet at SKICC

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 20

National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), J&K, successfully hosted the 28th All India Directors' Meet of NIELIT at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

The prestigious gathering brought together Directors from across India to engage in discussions on institution's future growth, academic advancements and industry collaborations.

The meeting focused on key topics including revamping of proposals and schemes, expansion strategies for NIELIT centers, advancements in research and academics, consultancy services, strengthening industry



partnerships, introduction of new courses and enhanced placement initiatives for the students.

Directors from 53 NIELIT centers namely Ropar, Kolkata, Delhi, Aizawl, Aurangabad, Ajmer, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Chennai, Gorakhpur, Patna, J&K, Ladakh, Calicut, Kuruksheetra, Shimla, Haridwar, Bhubaneswar, Imphal, Tirupati, Agartala and Itanagar, participated in the meet. Each center showcased its achieve-

ments and ongoing initiatives, emphasizing contributions to the fields of electronics and information technology.

Tulika Pandey, Group Coordinator and Scientist-G of the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) and Dr. M.M. Tripathi, Director General of NIELIT and Vice Chancellor of NIELIT Deemed-to-be University, addressed the attendees. Their insights highlighted the need for

strengthening research, broadening academic programs, fostering stronger industry linkages and ensuring skill development to enhance employability.

The event underscored NIELIT's commitment towards driving innovation and excellence in the field of electronics and IT education. It served as a significant platform for collaborative discussions and strategic planning to further NIELIT's mission of developing a technologically skilled workforce that meets the evolving demands of the industry.

The meet concluded on a high note with a shared vision for NIELIT's continued advancement and a collective commitment towards fostering a progressive and technology driven academic environment.

DC Kulgam reviews arrangements for Mahashivratri

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 20

In order to review and finalise arrangements for Mahashivratri celebrations, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan today convened a meeting of officers here at Mini-secretariat.

During the meeting, the DC directed the concerned departments to ensure uninterrupted supply of power and water at Vessu Migrant Colony, Manzgam, Kulgam, Chawalgam, Devsar and other habitations of the Kashmiri Pandit community. To facilitate the availability of traditional festive essentials, the Assistant Director Fisheries was instructed to establish sale outlets for trout fish at various locations, while the concerned officers were directed to ensure supply of vegetables, flower's and walnuts. Also, the Chief Medical Officer was told to ensure availability of medical facilities and deployment of ambulances at key locations. The Executive Officers (EOs) of the municipalities were directed to maintain proper sanitation at all temples. The meeting was attended by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Mohammad Altaf Khan, ACD Syed Naseer Ahmad, ACR, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, Tehsilidars, Engineers from PDD and PHE, Assistant Director FCS&CA, Chief Horticulture Officer (CHO), EOs, and representatives of the Kashmiri Pandit community.

Div Com Jammu reviews arrangements for Maha Shivratri Shiv Khori Mela



J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEBRUARY 20

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, who is also Chairman Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board, today chaired a meeting here to review the preparations for the three-day Maha Shivratri Shivkhori Mela, set to commence from February 25, 2025.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik gave a comprehensive overview of the arrangements, covering provision of civic amenities including water and power supply, medical facilities, sanitation, besides measures taken for foolproof security, maintenance of law and order, traffic management and quality control of food stuff etc.

The Divisional Commissioner reviewed measures taken for barricading, public announcement system, provision of yatra registration counters, establishment of control

rooms, and installation of hoardings to avoid inconvenience to pilgrims. "All stakeholder departments are needed to put in extra efforts to provide a memorable pilgrimage experience to the visiting devotees" he maintained.

Taking note of the growing number of pilgrims, the Divisional Commissioner proposed developing a mobile application for speedy pilgrim registration and management. Officials were directed to make use of digital solutions for smooth registration processes and better crowd management.

Calling for provision of quality food at the langar, he asked stakeholders to focus on cleanliness and hygienic surroundings.

The Chief Medical Officer was asked to permanently station a doctor at Bhawan, besides deploy an Ambulance and fully equipped medical team for the duration of the festival. To enhance pilgrim

safety, officials posted at the Shivkhori Shrine will be imparted specialized training in fire safety measures, he said.

To facilitate smooth movement of devotees, the Divisional Commissioner directed the ARTO to keep available adequate transport facilities and deploy enforcement teams to keep check on overloading and overcharging. The XEN PWD was directed to maintain roads, plan an alternate route from Ram Mandir to the Shivkhori Shrine and work on the expansion of the bridge on the route.

Security and law enforcement agencies were also directed to maintain tight security and ensure smooth crowd management during the festival.

SSP Reasi Paramvir Singh, ADC Rakesh Kumar, EO SSKSB Pardeep Kumar, ACR Anshumali Sharma, CMO, ARTO and other officials were present.

Sakeena Itoo inaugurates Cath Lab, new block in MMABM Associated Hospital, GMC Anantnag

J1 NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, FEBRUARY 20

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, inaugurated Catheterization Laboratory (Cath-Lab) and newly constructed Block-A of Mirza Mohammad Afzal Beigh Memorial (MMABM) Associated Hospital, GMC Anantnag, here today.

MLAs of district Anantnag including Abdul Majeed Bhat; Peerzada Mohammad Syeed; Reyaz Ahmad Khan; Altaf Ahmad Wani and Zafar Ali Khatana besides Principal GMC Anantnag, Professor Dr Rukhsana Najeeb; Director Coordination New Medical Colleges; Director Family Welfare, MCH and Immunisation; CMO Anantnag; Medical Superintendent MMABM Associated Hospital; Heads of various departments of GMC Anantnag; officers from health and medical education and other concerned departments were also present on the occasion.

While dedicating the



Cath-Lab and Block A of GMC Anantnag to the public, the Minister remarked that this significant development marks a new era in the healthcare services across South Kashmir, as GMC Anantnag becomes first among newly established Medical Colleges to get its dedicated Cath-Lab. "With inauguration of Cath-Lab, people of South Kashmir will get the best possible medical care services close to their doorsteps, especially in terms of cardiac care", she stated.

The Minister highlighted that government is committed to provide world class healthcare facilities

to the public near their doorsteps. "Present Government is determined to establish world class medical infrastructure in J&K besides removing certain shortcomings in the health sector", Sakeena maintained.

The Minister added that healthcare must be the first priority for all, adding that doctors and other healthcare workers must uphold the trust of people. She acknowledged that there is shortage of manpower, assuring that these shortcomings will be addressed soon.

The Minister also appreciated the administration and staff of GMC

Anantnag and its associated hospital for providing best healthcare services to people of South Kashmir.

On the occasion, Principal and Dean of GMC Anantnag, Dr. Rukhsana Najeeb, highlighted the work done and achievements of GMC Anantnag. She expressed gratitude to the Health Minister for providing remarkable support to GMC Anantnag for upgradation of manpower and infrastructure. She also congratulated the people of South Kashmir for getting the best medical care close to their doorsteps.

Pertinently, with the inauguration of Cath-Lab, people of South Kashmir as well as Pir Panjal region will have a sigh of relief as they will get the best cardiac healthcare services in their vicinity.

Later, the Minister also felicitated Dr. Syed Maqbool, Dr. Shamim Iqbal and Dr. Showkat Hussain Shah, Cardiologists of GMC Anantnag for their excellent work and commitment in cardiac care.

Power shutdown

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 20

Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to BB Town, Kaluchack, New Complex Kartholi, Old Complex Kartholi and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 21 from 7 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Logate Industry, Sahar, Sher Kotla, Kumri, Kathera, Boura, Bhed Blode and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 21 from 8 am to 2 pm.