

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

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

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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School of Ultimate Leadership will play vital role in India's development: PM

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEB 21

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the first edition of the School of Ultimate Leadership (SOUL) Leadership Conclave at Bharat Mandapam, and hailed it as a step towards becoming the "soul of India's social life."

Addressing the event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "The School of Ultimate Leadership will play a vital role in India's development. This institute is not just named 'SOUL', but is destined to become the very heart of India's social life."

He added that today every Indian is working day and night for a 'developed India' of the 21st century.

"In such a situation, even in a country of 140 crore people, we need the best leadership in every sector, every vertical, and every aspect of life," he said.

Talking about the importance of SOUL, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Any country that aims to progress needs not only natural resources but also human resources. In the 21st century, we need resources that can drive innovation and channel skills effectively."

"Skills are required in every



sector, and leadership development is no exception—it demands new abilities. We must scientifically accelerate leadership development, and SOUL will play a vital role in this transformation," he added.

Calling India "emerging as a global powerhouse," he said this momentum is accelerating across every field. To sustain and amplify this growth, we need world-class leaders.

"SOUL institutions can be a game-changer in this transformation. International institutions like these are not just a choice but a necessity," Prime Minister noted.

Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, who is attending the two-day conclave in New Delhi, said while addressing the event, "I want to make it clear from the very beginning that I have no lessons about leadership, I am hardly qualified for it, I have come here as a student."

Praising PM Modi's leadership, Toggay said, "PM Modi, I see in you the image of an elder brother, who always guides and helps me. Prime Minister, my elder brother, you have put India on the path of progress in just 10 years with your wisdom, courage and compassionate leadership."

Katra-Sanji Chhat chopper service resumes for Vaishno Devi pilgrims

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 21

The suspended chopper service from Katra to Sanji Chhat resumed on Friday for the pilgrims of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine nestled in Trikuta Hills in Katra town of Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir. "As weather improved

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Mysterious blast on LoC in Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 21

A mysterious blast took place on Friday along the Line of Control in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sources said that a powerful blast like sound

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Weather improves after snow, rain lashes Kashmir valley

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 21

Weather conditions in Kashmir improved on Friday after higher reaches received light to moderate snowfall, while the plains were lashed by heavy rainfall over the past 24

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J&K's first budget 'good start,' will lay foundation for next 5-years: CM

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEB 21 (KNO)

Terming the first budget of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir a "good start" to lay the foundation for the next five years, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said that the government led by him will try its best to live up to the expectations of people.

Talking to reporters here the Chief Minister, according to the news agency said, "I know all the issues cannot be resolved in the first Budget, but it would be a good beginning to lay the foundation and move ahead."

Earlier, addressing a gathering on the 18th CII Annual Tourism Summit, in the national capital, Omar Abdullah asked the people associated with industries and other businesses to give suggestions and inputs to him for the



upcoming budget.

"If there are inputs or suggestions you would like to give to make your lives easier as entrepreneurs, as industrialists, as investors and business people, then this is the time to do it."

He said, "This is the time when we are now sitting down to actually write the budget

that I will have to read out in the Assembly on March 7."

"Right now, we are operating on a blank slate. You have nothing really to judge me by. Whatever I have is what I inherited four months ago. Now, it is the time when I start to put my stamp of this elected government on the policy, on the framework and on the way

forward," he said.

"This is the point from which my assessment time starts. Therefore, I request the people interested to give me your suggestions and inputs," he said while assuring that none of them (suggestions) will go unread and unconsidered. "Those that we can begin with implementing immediately within the current framework that we have, I assure you we will."

Pertinently, the Chief Minister held pre-budget consultations with public representatives, traders, business community and others across Jammu and Kashmir.

The pre-budget consultations concluded in Kashmir on February 13 while in Jammu it concluded yesterday. The Chief Minister had stated that these consultations were must too understand the priorities of public. KNO

TRAI proposes 'lower authorization fee for J&K radio broadcasters'

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 21 (KNO)

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended a reduced authorization fee for radio broadcasting services in Jammu and Kashmir, as it proposed a phased increase under its new framework aligned with the Telecommunications

Act, 2023.

In its latest recommendations, as per the details accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), TRAI has suggested that radio broadcasters in J&K, along with those in the Northeast and island territories, pay only 2% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) for the first

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India, Pak Armies agree to uphold Feb 2021 ceasefire agreement

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 21 (KNO)

Representatives of India and Pakistan Armies on Friday agreed to uphold the February 2021 ceasefire agreement and explore measures to prevent future misunderstandings. An official told the news agency that Brigade commanders of both the countries held a flag meeting in Poonch district to ease tension after recent skirmishes and improvised explosive device (IED) incidents along the Line of Control (LoC)

and the International Border. "Besides agreeing to uphold the ceasefire agreement renewed on February 25, 2021, commanders also agreed upon leveraging established communication channels to de-escalate tensions," he added.

"Both sides emphasised on the importance of the ceasefire agreement in maintaining stability along the border and LoC," the official said.

He said the meeting between two sides took place at the Chakkan-Da-Bagh crossing point, a designated spot for

such interactions, against the backdrop of heightened tensions in the region.

The official said the meeting, which lasted approximately 75 minutes, was conducted in a cordial atmosphere. This meeting was significant as it was the first of its kind in four years, he added.

The official said the primary focus was to address the recent surge in cross-border firing and IED attacks that have disrupted peace along the LoC. "The primary objective of the meeting was to address the

recent escalation in tensions along the LoC, driven by cross-border firing, sniper attacks, and IED incidents," he said, adding, "Both sides stressed the importance of maintaining peace and stability along the border. They agreed to honour the ceasefire agreement in the larger interest of de-escalation."

On February 11, an IED attack in the Akhnoor sector of Jammu claimed the lives of two Indian Army soldiers, including a Captain.

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CM reviews functioning of Raabita office



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 21 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Friday chaired a review meeting of the CM's Public Services and Outreach Office, Raabita, in Srinagar to assess its func-

tioning and strengthen its role in addressing public grievances effectively.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister directed that Raabita Nodal Officers be designated at the district

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Time to create an action plan for rehabilitation of degraded forests: CS

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 21

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 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 digitiz-

ing 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

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Cross-border terrorism biggest threat to people, J&K India's integral part: MEA

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEB 21 (KNO)

Reiterating that cross-border terrorism remains the biggest threat to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the Ministry of External Affairs on Friday asked Turkey not to interfere in India's internal matters.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, according to the news agency while addressing a news conference in the national capital

said, "Pakistan's persistent policy of using terrorism as a tool against India is a matter of grave concern."

"Pakistan's policy of sponsoring terror remains the biggest threat to the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Jaiswal's remarks came in response to recent comments by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who called for a "resolution of

the Kashmir issue" through dialogue between India and Pakistan, taking into account the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Rejecting Turkey's stance, the MEA spokesperson said, "Such unwarranted statements on India's territorial integrity and sovereignty are unacceptable."

He emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir is an

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Speaker LA reviews progress on new Legislative Assembly Complex

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 21

Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today convened a meeting with senior officers to review progress on construction of new Legislature Complex at Jammu.

Secretary, PWD (R&B), Bhupinder Kumar; Secretary, Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs, Achal Sethi; DG, Budget, Mohammad Sultan; DG Codes, Mahesh Dass; Secretary, JKLA, Manoj Kumar Pandit; Chief Engineer R&B Jammu; SE R&B, South Circle Jammu and other senior officers of concerned department and Assembly Secretariat were present in the meeting.

Threadbare discussions were held on the issues



pertaining to construction of new Assembly Complex in view of recent cabinet decisions.

A detailed presentation about various phases of project execution was given by the Executive Engineer in charge of the project through Power-Point Presentation.

The Secretary PWD(R&B) informed the

Speaker regarding the action taken on the directions given by the Council of Ministers. It was informed that the DPR of balance work has been submitted to IIT Jammu for vetting. As soon as vetting of DPR is received, tendering process shall be initiated.

He also assured the Speaker that all modalities

for the tendering process will be completed by 31st of March 2025.

The Speaker directed the Executing Agency to complete the project within 18 months after award of contract. He stressed upon them to immediately start the construction works on the new Assembly Complex after completion of the tendering process.

DC Kishtwar reviews implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 21

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan today chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) schemes in the District.

The meeting was aimed at evaluating the progress of the mission, identifying challenges, and ensuring the timely and efficient delivery of potable water to every household.

Speaking at the meeting, the DC emphasized the importance of expediting the Mission works to meet the national target of providing functional tap water connections to all rural households by 2025. He directed the concerned officials to closely monitor the progress, address any bottlenecks, and ensure



smooth execution of ongoing projects.

Key discussions included the current status of water supply schemes, the identification of vulnerable areas and the implementation of innova-

tive solutions to overcome challenges. The officials also reviewed the necessary infrastructure development, including water treatment and distribution system.

The Deputy Commis-

sioner stressed the need for continuous coordination among all departments involved in the mission, and urged the officials to maintain transparency and accountability in the utilization of funds. He also underlined the importance of community participation to ensure sustainability and effective usage of water resources.

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to achieving the mission's targets and improving the living standards of rural communities by providing them with safe and clean drinking water.

The meeting was attended by key officials, including CPO Kishtwar, Shahnawaz Bali, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Sunil Sharma, AEEs, JEs and other concerned officers.

DLSA Sgr, Wildlife Deptt organize Save Environment prog at Hokersar

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 21

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar organized an awareness program in collaboration with Forest Magistrate, Court Srinagar and Department of Wild Life Wet Land, Division Kashmir, Srinagar at Hokersar Lake under the theme 'Save Environment'.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman DLSA Srinagar/Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and supervision of Secretary DLSA Srinagar Nusrat Ali Hakak and DFO, Altaf Ahmed Datto.

The program aimed to raise awareness about environmental conservation and the importance of protecting natural eco-



systems.

The awareness initiative was inaugurated by the Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority Srinagar, in the presence of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Srinagar, Mohammad Ishfaq Alam Baba, Forest Magistrate, District Court Srinagar, SHO, Ranbeer Singh, Nasir Ahmed, Range Officer Lakes/CCR, Hokersar Wetland Srinagar along

with staff members of the DLSA Srinagar, and officials of Hokersar Wetland Srinagar also participated in the event.

During the program, Ld. Judicial Officers emphasized the need for collective action to combat environmental issues, highlighting the role of legal services authorities in promoting environmental awareness. The participants were encouraged to adopt eco-friendly practices and support ini-

tiatives that contribute to a greener and healthier environment.

As part of the awareness program, pamphlets containing vital information about the NALSA helpline number and the availability of free legal aid were distributed on the spot. This initiative aimed to ensure that individuals, especially those from marginalized communities, are aware of their legal rights and can easily access free legal assistance when needed.

The event concluded with a pledge to continue efforts toward environmental preservation and further awareness campaigns. The District Legal Services Authority Srinagar remains committed to fostering environmental consciousness among the community through similar initiatives in the future.

DC Rajouri reviews arrangements for Mahashivratri, Ramazan

JJ NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 21

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting in the Conference Hall of the DC office to review the arrangements for the upcoming Mahashivratri and Ramazan. The meeting focused on ensuring seamless management of essential services, security, and public convenience during the festive period.

Emphasizing the regulation of prices, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to keep check on rates of essential commodities and ensure the smooth availability of milk, cheese, vegetables, and other necessary items.

To maintain hygiene and sanitation, the Executive Officer of the Muni-



pal Council was instructed to ensure cleanliness in the town, especially near religious places.

Additionally, the DC stressed that the celebrations should be conducted as zero-waste events, encouraging proper waste management practices.

Reviewing the utility services, the DC directed Executive Engineer PDD, Abdul Rasheed, to ensure an uninterrupted power supply, while ExEn PHE, Ashwani Khajuria, was tasked with guaranteeing adequate water supply to all areas. AD FCS&CA was asked to ensure the timely distribution of ration to beneficiaries.

To facilitate smooth traffic management, the Deputy Commissioner instructed authorities to designate proper parking spaces near temples and mosques during the festivals. He further directed officials to provide a comprehensive list of temples so that effective crowd management and security measures could be put in place.

In view of fire safety, the Fire and Emergency Department was asked to station fire Tenders at key locations and ensure the installation of fire extinguishers at religious places.

SSP Rajouri, Gaurav

Sikarwar, emphasized the importance of security measures and directed all organizations to install CCTV cameras near temples, mosques and shrines to enhance surveillance.

The Deputy Commissioner urged all stakeholders to work in coordination to ensure the smooth observance of Mahashivratri and Ramadhan, prioritizing public convenience, security, and civic responsibility.

The meeting was attended by ADC Rajiv Khajuria, AD FCS&CA Rohit Kumar, Executive Engineer PWD, Sardar Khan, Executive Engineer PDD Abdul Rasheed, Executive Engineer PHE Ashwani Khajuria, district and sectoral officers, representatives of various organizations, religious leaders, and prominent citizens.

Kathua administration hosts Mega Job Fair

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 21

The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir witnessed one of its mega Job Fairs today at the Sports Stadium Kathua, offering a wide-range of employment opportunities to thousands of job seekers.

Organized with the aim of bridging the gap between job aspirants and industries, the event attracted an overwhelming response, bringing together leading businesses and a diverse pool of talent.

With a record-breaking offering of over 1000 job vacancies, the Job Fair provided employment opportunities across multiple sectors. Esteemed organizations such as Godrej, Pidilite, Varun Beverages, Atomic North, Rexa, LIC, and many others actively participated, seeking to hire skilled, semi-skilled, and fresh candidates.

The roles available spanned industries such as manufacturing, sales, marketing, finance, and technical services, catering to a wide range of professional interests and skill sets.

This mega employment drive was made possible through the dedicated efforts of the District Administration Kathua in collaboration with the Local Industrial Associa-



tion.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rakesh Minhas personally oversaw the proceedings, ensuring a seamless and efficient execution of the day-long event.

The event was graced by presence of MLA Kathua ; MLA Hiranagar and MLA Basoli who interacted with job seekers.

Job aspirants from every corner of the district flocked to the venue, eager to explore potential career opportunities. To maximize participation and outreach, the District Administration launched an extensive awareness campaign through advertisements, social media promotions, and direct appeals by elected representatives and former PRI members. The proactive approach contributed significantly to the fair's resounding success. To maximize participation and outreach, the District Administration launched an extensive awareness campaign through advertisements,

social media promotions, and direct appeals by elected representatives and former PRI members. The proactive approach contributed significantly to the fair's resounding success which resulted in placement of 1156 job aspirants in varied roles.

Adding to the vibrancy of the event, an Art Exhibition was held on the sidelines of the Mega Job Fair, where local artists exhibited their art work, drawing massive attention from visitors. The exhibition mesmerized attendees with the incredible level of artistic talent on display, leading many visitors to purchase artwork.

The artists expressed their gratitude to the administration for providing such a valuable platform, which registered a footfall of over a thousand art enthusiasts and job aspirants alike.

The Job Fair marked a major milestone in Kathua's employment landscape, fostering industrial expansion while addressing the aspirations of the local workforce.

The enthusiastic participation of both job seekers and industry leaders underscored the significance of this initiative in enhancing economic growth and workforce empowerment.

Given the tremendous response, the District Administration plans to host similar employment initiatives in the future, further strengthening the region's employment ecosystem.

Kishtwar Admin hosts Snow Mela to promote key initiatives of Govt

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 21

District Administration Kishtwar, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan, on Friday organized the Snow Mela at the historic Chowgan Ground to spread awareness about the government schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Mission Yuva, Road Safety, Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, while also promoting tourism and local culture, the.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from thousands of citizens, artists, and dignitaries. The grand celebration commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by senior government functionaries, followed by the singing of the National Anthem.

The government departments set up informative stalls showcasing their schemes, products, and initiatives.

The Deputy Commissioner inspected the stalls and emphasized the importance of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes in accelerating the Socio-economic development in the district. He highlighted the administration's efforts towards public welfare, youth empowerment, and



educational development.

The cultural segment of the event featured captivating performances by renowned local singers, including Nidhi Aryan (Kishtwar Idol Winner, Junior Category), Zulkar Nain (Kishtwar Idol Runner-Up, Senior Category), Shriya Sharma (Runner-Up, Junior Category), Burhan Sheikh, Shafkat Rasool, Ali, Farhan, Muein Raja, Arohi Rana.

Comedian and dancer Azil Farooq entertained the audience with his lively performance, adding a touch of humor and excitement. A mesmerizing group dance by Kishtwar Act Production further enriched the event's festive ambiance.

In recognition of their exceptional performances, the talented participants were felicitated by

the District Administration. Winners of Kishtwar Idol Season 2 were also honored in Junior Category (Top 3) Nidhi Aryan (1st), Shriya Sharma (2nd), Sushant Aryan (3rd) and in Senior Category (Top 3) Suraj Aryan (1st), Zulkar Nain (2nd) and Rohan Bhandari (3rd).

The event saw the presence of several esteemed dignitaries, including ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, ASP Kishtwar Pawan Sharma, PO ICDS/CEO KDA Rishi Kumar Sharma, CPO Kishtwar Shahnawaz Bali, ACR Kishtwar Idrees Lone, ACD Kishtwar Phulail Singh, DSWO Kishtwar Zubair Ahmed, DIO Kishtwar Dr. Khuddeep Kumar, Dy. Registrar Cooperative Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal, ARTO Kishtwar Tasleem Wani, AD Handicrafts Pardeep Shan and other senior officials and officers.

Power shutdown

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 21

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDC, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Kathua Town, Kalibari, Shaheedi Chowk, Patel Nagar, Shastri Nagar, PHE and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 23 from 10 am to 5 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Logate (Industrial Area), Kumri Kathera, MES Janglote, IIDC, Govindsor, Changran, Nagri, Palli, Nicer Paper Mill and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 23 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Katal-Brahma, Katal-Gujran, Sherpur, Londi and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 23 from 10 am to 5 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Bhoond, Bani, Duggan, Basohli, Mahampur, JNV, PHE, Saman Jandrota and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 22 and 23 from 9 am to 5 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Rajpura, Sherpur, Katal-Brahma, Mawa and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 23 from 10 am to 5 pm.

Meanwhile, the Superintendent Engineer (Distribution) JPDC, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Naryanpur, Barnoti, Flote, Mahichack, Sakta Chack and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 23 from 8 am to 12 noon.

Agriculture department discusses strategy for Promotion of Lavender Cultivation in Jammu Division

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 21

A meeting to discuss the promotion of lavender cultivation and the enhancement of its marketing linkages was held today at the Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan Talab Tillo.

The meeting, chaired by Director Agriculture Jammu S. Arvinder Singh Reen, brought together different stakeholders to address the current challenges and opportunities in the lavender farming sector.

Meeting was attended by Joint Director Agriculture (Extension) Satish Sharma; CAO Anil Gupta; CAO Sanjay Anand; CAO S M G Singh; CAO Ram Gopal Sharma; CAO Harbans Singh; Dr. Lalit Mohan Professor & Head, Division of Forest Production & Utilization, Faculty of Horticulture and Forestry, Ruchita Rane Head of Territory Development J&K, PARC Mumbai, Raj Kumar Technical Officer (HADP) DAJ and other officers of the Department of Agriculture Jammu. Additionally, representatives of CSIR-IIIM, members of



Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and lavender growers participated in the meeting via video conference.

The key focus of the meeting was the marketing linkage challenges faced by lavender growers in Jammu Division. The Director addressed the current situation, highlighting the importance of strengthening the market access for lavender crops. He emphasized the enormous potential of aromatic crops in the Jammu region due to its diverse agroclimatic conditions and underscored the importance of introducing good practices for cultivating aromatic and medicinal plants to meet international quality standards.

During his meeting, the Director highlighted that processing plants and testing laboratories will be upgraded to support the scientific cultivation of aromatic crops, including

lavender. He further mentioned the establishment of a Centre of Excellence under NABARD for lavender cultivation to promote quality standards and better market linkage.

The Director Agriculture also stressed the need for organic certification in collaboration with CSIR-IIIM and PGS-India, with an emphasis on the certification of handmade products. He assured that the Department of Agriculture is committed to providing support to every grower and emphasized the importance of collaboration with FPOs and allied departments to resolve the issues facing lavender growers.

Director A.S Reen also mentioned that extraction machinery issues could be alleviated through subsidies available under the HADP Project, further encouraging lavender growers to take advantage of such schemes.

DC Srinagar finalizes arrangements for Mahashivratri festival

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR FEBRUARY 21

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting here at DC Office to review the arrangements for Mahashivratri festival scheduled to be celebrated on February 26.

Among others the meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir, SP Security, SDM East, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Officers of Food Safety Organization, PHE R&B & SMC, FCS&CA and all Tehsildars of the District.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner was apprised by the officers of concerned line departments regarding the arrangements being



made to ensure smooth celebrations of the festival in the district. The DC passed directions to all departments for ensuring adequate availability of traditional festive essentials and uninterrupted power and water supplies.

On the occasion, the DC instructed the Fisheries Department to establish sale outlets for trout fish at various prominent locations in the district ahead of the festival. Similarly, the DC asked the concerned to ensure supply of vegetables, flowers, walnuts, Lotus stem, earthen pots, etc in

the market. FCS&CA was asked to provide advance ration to the Pandit families on the occasion. The Health Department was told to ensure availability of medical facilities and deployment of ambulances at important locations.

The Power Department informed the meeting that it has devised a curtailment-free schedule for identified areas where pandit community reside in the district.

DC also stressed on maintaining proper sanitation at prominent temples here in the main Conference Hall to assess the progress of the development projects across the district's blocks and panchayats. The meeting was attended by District Officers, Block Development Officers (BDOs), and Junior Assistant Executive Engineers (JAEs).

Reviewing key initiatives such as the construction of Community Compost Pits, Community

DC reviews progress of development projects, sanitation initiatives in Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 21



Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh on Friday chaired a comprehensive review meeting here in the main Conference Hall to assess the progress of the development projects across the district's blocks and panchayats.

The meeting was attended by District Officers, Block Development Officers (BDOs), and Junior Assistant Executive Engineers (JAEs). Reviewing key initiatives such as the construction of Community Compost Pits, Community

Soakage Pits, Community Sanitary Complexes, and Individual Household Latrines, he asked for quality work and time-line completion of each project. The status of the district's plastic waste management system and Open Space Reservations (OSR) was also discussed in detail.

Further, the meeting evaluated the progress of ongoing works under Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) Grants and other schemes. Officials were directed to address challenges promptly and enhance coordination to improve public amenities.

Doda Admin discuss arrangements for Holy Month of Ramzan

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 21

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh today chaired a meeting to discuss the arrangements for the holy month of Ramzan.

The meeting was attended by SSP Sandeep Kumar Mehta; ADC Sudarshan Kumar; ACR Sunil Kumar Bhutyal and officers of line departments, besides President of the Seerat Committee, President of the Beopar Association, President of the Butcher Association and other concerned officers joining via virtual mode.

The review covered key aspects including supply of drinking water, uninterrupted power, security, traffic management, stray animal issues, cleanliness, availability of essential commodities, regulation of rates and market checking.

A detailed discussion ensued on the measures being taken by the concerned departments for adequate supply of potable water and Power supply.



The concerned functionaries were asked to meet the gaps, if any, to ensure uninterrupted power supply, particularly during Sehri and Ifar hours.

The police department was asked to strengthen security arrangements to maintain law and order, while ARTO was instructed to ensure smooth traffic management. Special instructions were issued to Municipal Committees of Doda, Baderwah, and Thathri to maintain cleanliness and hygiene, especially around mosques and marketplaces. The CA&FCS department was asked to ensure the availability of essential commodities at government-approved rates.

The DC emphasized the importance of inter-departmental coordination to avoid inconvenience to the public. He urged all stakeholders to adopt a proactive approach to meet the public requirements during the holy month.

The SSP assured that adequate security measures would be implemented, with increased patrolling, surveillance, and regulation of traffic to avoid congestion near religious places and marketplaces.

The representatives of the trade and religious organisations gave suggestions regarding different issues of public importance.

DC reviews implementation of health schemes, patient care scenario in Poonch District

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, FEBRUARY 21

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Poonch, Vikas Kundal chaired a meeting here on Friday to review the implementation of healthcare schemes and patient care status in the District.

Initiating the meeting, DC Kundal conducted a comprehensive evaluation of achievements under the health schemes, functioning of health institutions, infrastructure upgrades, and healthcare services available to patients.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. Parvez Ahmed Khan gave an in-depth briefing through a PowerPoint presentation, detailing the health department's operations. This included insights into block-wise healthcare centers, infrastructure status, human resources in the health sector, and departmental achievements.

The Deputy Commissioner assessed different operational aspects, including outpatient (OPD) and inpatient department (IPD) services, major and minor surgeries conducted, laboratory tests, institutional deliveries, ambulance services, staff rationalization, and the implementation of key health programs such as Janani Suraksha Yojana,



Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram, National Tuberculosis Control Program, Anemia Mukh Bharat, and Jan Aushadhi Kendras, along with other online health services.

To address staff management, the DC tasked the department to start a rotation-wise system to meet requirements of medicos in underserved areas. To boost institutional deliveries at the block level, he emphasized the effective utilization of ASHAs in encouraging pregnant women and their families to access emergency services for safe deliveries. The DC also sought increased focus on immunization and vaccination efforts.

The DC reiterated the importance of meeting patient expectations and delivering quality, accessible, and affordable healthcare. He stressed the need

for coordination among senior health officials and line departments to expedite the enhancement of healthcare infrastructure. He directed officers to closely monitor ongoing projects to ensure timely completion for the benefit of the public.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of meeting both physical and financial targets for the current financial year. Heads of departments are urged to ensure these goals are achieved within the designated time frame.

The meeting was attended by PO ICDS, CPO Poonch, CMO Poonch, CEO, EXEN PWD (R&B), EXEN Jal Shakti, EXEN JPDCL, Dy. CMO, District Tuberculosis Officer, District Immunization Officers, Block Medical Officers, ADMO Ayush and other concerned stakeholders.

DC Kulgam reviews status of Jal Shakti Assets



JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 21

Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan today convened a meeting to review the status of Jal Shakti Assets in the district here at the Mini-Secretariat.

The meeting had threadbare discussions with regard to various assets cre-

ated by Jal Shakti Department and their subsequent verification and uploading on the revenue Department's portal Revenue Plus.

The meeting was attended by ADC Viqar Ahmed Giri, ACR Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, Xen's of Jal Shakti Division Kulgam, Qazigund and all the Tehsildars of District.

DC reviews saturation of Agricultural credit schemes in Udhampur

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 21

The overall implementation of agricultural credit schemes, including beneficiary registration, sanctioning and disbursement of cases under the HADP was reviewed by Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai at a meeting with functionaries of Agriculture and allied departments, besides representatives of banks.

The DC emphasized the importance of improving farmers' access to institutional credit and strengthening the agriculture and allied sectors. She urged officers and bankers to actively support the government's initiatives by encouraging greater participation from stakehold-



ers. The DC directed all concerned departments and banks to ensure maximum outreach, covering every farmer and farming family in the district under these schemes. She instructed officers to prepare an area-wise list of beneficiaries to facilitate targeted implementation. She directed the departments to raise awareness among the public, identify interested beneficiaries, motivate them to avail the benefits and submit the list within a day.

The Bankers were

advised to expedite the issuance of smart cards and update the latest data to streamline the credit process. The DC also underscored the need for block-level credit outreach camps to educate farmers about beneficiary-oriented schemes.

The DC highlighted the necessity of strong coordination between banks and government departments to ensure the seamless implementation of schemes that directly benefit the farming community.

DC Shopian reviews status of developmental works of deptts

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 21

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today convened a meeting of district and sectoral officers at Mini-Secretariat to take detailed review of the developmental progress in various departments.

During the meeting, several aspects pertaining to overall development were comprehensively discussed. On the occasion, all the departments presented the status of various developmental works undertaken in different sectors like health, education, rural development, PDD, Sports,



etc by the concerned agencies.

While taking sector wise review of various major developmental works, the DC emphasized for adopting a coordinated approach for achieving the desired results. He stressed to ramp up the pace of work so that all the undertaken projects are completed well within the stipulated time.

DC emphasized the importance of effective interdepartmental coordi-

nation and urged officials to proactively address any impediments in the work execution.

He called upon strengthening the public delivery services and grievance redressal system in the district.

Among others ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, SE R&B, ACR, ACD and other district and Sectoral officers were present in the meeting.

JMC Commissioner listens to people's grievances at Raghunath Bazar, Nanak Nagar



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 21

Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav today conducted an inspection of the Nanak Nagar area after receiving complaints regarding water logging due to a blocked Nallah.

During the visit, Dr. Yadav assessed the situation and interacted with local residents, who were facing inconvenience due to the clogging of the drainage. He assured immediate steps by the Corporation to clear the blockage and restore smooth water flow. He also emphasized that necessary preventive measures would be implemented well before the onset of the monsoon season to avoid similar issues in the future.

Later, the Commissioner visited Raghunath Bazaar to assess ongoing development activities.

He reviewed the works undertaken by Jammu Smart City Limited to enhance urban infrastructure and public amenities in the area.

Members of the Raghunath Bazaar Market Association took this opportunity to submit a representation to the Commissioner, highlighting key concerns and demands of the trader community. The representation emphasized the need for renovation of interior lanes, improvement of street lighting, and enhanced sanitation facilities to further boost the market's appeal and functionality.

He assured the Association of necessary steps to address the highlighted issues. He reiterated the JMC's commitment to improving civic amenities and fostering a cleaner, well-lit and more accessible commercial environment in Raghunath Bazar.

PIB Jammu organizes Workshop to promote Raj Bhasha (Hindi) in Public Administration and Communication

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 21

Press Information Bureau (PIB), Jammu under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, organized a workshop aimed at promoting Raj Bhasha (Hindi) in various sectors of public administration and communication. The workshop focused on the importance of Hindi in promoting national integration and enhancing effective communication. The program was organised in collaboration with the Department of Official Languages, Jammu.

Director, Press Information Bureau Jammu, Neha Jalali in her address emphasized the essential role of Raj Bhasha in strengthening the interface between the government and citizens. She remarked that Raj Bhasha is not just a language but a symbol of India's cultural unity. She said that as the official language of India, it is essential that we ensure its usage across all levels of administration and public services. She added that PIB, both at the national and regional level, plays an essential role in the effective use of



Raj Bhasha to ensure that government communication reaches every citizen in the desired language. Highlighting the critical need for promoting Hindi, the Director stressed that its adoption across digital platforms will sufficiently help in the growth of the language and lead to the greater participation of the general public.

In his address, Assistant Director, Department of Official Languages, Sh. Santosh Kumar said that the promotion of Raj Bhasha is not only about preserving our cultural heritage but also about making government services accessible to all, regardless of regional or linguistic differences. He also familiarized the participants with various

provisions of the Official Languages Act, 1963. He urged the participants to issue general administrative orders, circulars, other reports and leave applications in Hindi on a regular basis. He also encouraged them to learn typing through Unicode in view of the implementation of e-office in PIB's regional and branch offices. Sh. Kumar suggested that the participants enroll themselves in training programmes with the Department to gain proficiency in Hindi.

The workshop covered various aspects, including the role of Raj Bhasha in official communications, the promotion of Hindi in digital and media platforms and the importance of language training for

government employees. Discussions also focused on the need for language sensitivity and the implementation of bilingual communication strategies.

The Government of India has launched various initiatives to promote Hindi, including the development of Kanthasth 2.0, which is a memory-based translation software that was developed by the Department of Official Languages. The government also focuses on language workshops, incentives for Hindi publications and support for Hindi writers and artists.

The workshop was also attended by Media and Communication Officer, Sh. Zakir Nazeer and other staff members of the PIB, Jammu.

IIM Jammu Concludes Sixth Batch of Nurturing Future Leadership Program under the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 21

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu successfully concluded the valedictory ceremony of the sixth batch of the Nurturing Future Leadership Program (NFLP) on 21st Feb 2025 at its permanent campus, Vedanta, MDP Centre, Jagti. The program, organized under the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme, Ministry of Education, Government of India, reflects IIM Jammu's commitment to fostering leadership in academia.

The five-day residential program, held from 17th Feb to 21st Feb 2025, equipped 26 educators from institutes across India with leadership, communication, and skill

development insights. The curriculum, structured into four key themes, focused on leadership excellence, effective communication, skill enhancement, and recent government initiatives, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience through lectures, interactive workshops, group discussions, case studies, role-plays, and practical exercises.

Dr. Parvathy B, Program Director, IIM Jammu, highlighted the diverse backgrounds and cultures of the participants, emphasizing the importance of finding common ground to enhance organizational management. She stressed the value of engaging with bureaucrats and academicians in the course module to understand their perspectives and the

rationale behind system setups. Reflecting on the interactive, activity-based sessions conducted, she expressed a desire to continue such initiatives. She assured the participants of IIM Jammu's continued support and reiterated the significance of leadership training for educators, commending their enthusiasm and dedication throughout the program.

Dr. Jaganth.G, Program Director, IIM Jammu delivered the vote of thanks, appreciating the efforts of all stakeholders, faculty, and administrative teams for their contributions. He encouraged participants to apply their learning to drive positive changes in their respective institutions.

The valedictory ceremony also featured par-

icipant reflections, where they shared their key takeaways and expressed appreciation for the enriching learning experience. Certificates were distributed to all participants, marking the successful completion of the program. The event culminated with the national anthem.

The Nurturing Future Leadership Program under the Malaviya Mission continues to reinforce IIM Jammu's role as a hub for leadership, innovation, and academic excellence, contributing to the national vision of empowering educators for a transformative impact on the education sector. The program was coordinated by Executive Education and Consultancy, (EE & C), IIM Jammu.

FROM THE PAGE 1...

CM reviews...

level to ensure prompt and efficient handling of public issues. He stressed the need for a proactive approach in reaching out to people, ensuring that government initiatives and grievance redressal mechanisms are accessible to every citizen.

A detailed presentation was given on the office's working, highlighting key achievements and ongoing initiatives aimed at enhancing public service delivery. The Chief Minister reiterated his government's unwavering commitment to a transparent, accountable, and people-centric administration. He instructed officials to adopt a more responsive and result-oriented approach, ensuring that grievances are resolved in a time-bound manner. He emphasized on improving the quality of disposal of public grievances and to ensure that grievances are actually resolved when updating the final disposal of each grievance.

Emphasizing the importance of direct engagement with citizens, the Chief Minister directed officials to increase outreach efforts through awareness campaigns, interactive public sessions, and digital platforms. He assured that his government remains committed to listening to people's concerns and taking concrete steps to resolve them.

Meanwhile, Group of Concerned Citizens (GCC) delegation led by former IAS officer Khurshid Ahmad Gana called on the Chief Minister at Raabita office and expressed their concern over the proposed amendments being contemplated in the Unified Building Bye Laws (UBBL). The GCC members requested CM to review the proposed UBBL amendments & urban planning policies which have been initiated by Housing & Urban Development Department just before the elected Government assumed office in October.

The Chief Minister listened to their objections and said that his Government would examine the objections and scrutinize other urban development policies before approving any such policy and said that all stakeholders shall be consulted before firming up such policies or bringing any legislation to that effect. KNO

TRAI proposes...

three years. After this period, the fee will rise to 4% of AGR, bringing it in line with charges applicable to other regions.

This recommendation as per details was aimed at easing the financial burden on service providers while encouraging the growth of radio broadcasting in J&K. In the meanwhile, TRAI also proposed removing mandatory co-location requirements for broadcasters by offering greater flexibility in operations.

Furthermore, the regulator advised delinking service authorizations for Terrestrial Radio Services from frequency assignments, with spectrum allocation for FM radio to be handled separately through auction process.

"These changes fall under the new service authorization framework, replacing the outdated Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. Existing license holders will have the option to migrate voluntarily to the new regime without any processing or entry fees," the details read.

TRAI expects these measures to boost the ease of doing business and drive technological advancements in the sector. The full set of recommendations is available on TRAI's official website. KNO

India, Pak Armies...

This incident was followed by multiple ceasefire violations, resulting in injuries to soldiers on both sides

and reported casualties on the Pakistani side due to Indian retaliatory actions.

The flag meeting comes at a time when intelligence reports suggest that the absence of significant snowfall this winter has left traditional infiltration routes accessible, potentially contributing to the recent uptick in hostile activities.

However, the Indian Army maintains that the ceasefire remains intact as per the mutual understanding, with minor incidents being a recurring feature along the LoC.

This meeting is viewed as a constructive step toward reducing hostilities and fostering dialogue between the two nations.

POONCH RESIDENTS RELIEVED
Meanwhile, the residents of border villages in Poonch have expressed relief following the flag meeting between Indian and Pakistani army officers.

"We have spent sleepless nights worrying about the cross-border shelling. The meeting gives us hope that peace will hold," said Mohammad Yousuf, a resident of Poonch.

Others said that even temporary stability allows them to carry on with daily activities without fear.

A 65-year-old farmer recalled the horrors of past escalations. "In the '90s decade and a few years following 2000, we lived in bunkers for weeks. We don't want those days to return. The ceasefire has given us a chance to live a normal life," he said. KNO

Time to create...

was imperative for environmental sustainability. He 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.

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, Chatlallum, Kranchoo, Manibugh, Freshkooori in Kashmir and Surinsar-Mansar and Gharana wetlands in Jammu division.

Cross-border...

integral part of India, and no country has the right to interfere in its internal affairs.

The MEA spokesperson said, "We have lodged a formal protest with the Turkish ambassador in New Delhi." KNO

Katra-Sanji...

this morning, the chopper service to Sanji Chhat from Katra has resumed," said an official.

The chopper service was suspended on Thursday due to dense fog in the Trikuta Hills due to incessant rain.

The yatra is smoothly progressing towards Bhawan, he said, adding, "presently, around 16,000 to 20,000 pilgrims every day are visiting the Bhawan."

"The rush to the Shrine is expected to increase from the middle of April after the ongoing board examinations in the schools across the country are over," he added.

Mysterious blast...

was heard in Nakerkote area of Degear sector near LoC.

"It is reportedly a mysterious blast. No injury has been reported," they said.

On Thursday an army jawan sustained injuries in a landmine blast in the forward areas of Poonch district.

Weather improves...

hours, officials said.

According to the Meteorological Centre Srinagar, the weather is expected to remain dry with partly cloudy skies until February 23.

However, there is a possibility of light rain and snowfall at scattered places across Jammu and Kashmir on February 24 and 25.

It said that another Western Disturbance is likely to hit and trigger light to moderate rain and snowfall at many places during February 26 to 28 over Jammu and Kashmir.

Giving details of the precipitation, the MeT office said that the tourist resort of Pahalgam in south Kashmir received 13.0 cm of snowfall, the picnic spot of Kokernag 2.0cm and the ski resort of Gulmarg 7.0cm during the past 24 hours.

Srinagar and other parts of the Kashmir Valley received light to moderate torrential rains. The highest precipitation was recorded at Kokernag (27.2 mm), followed by Qazigund and Pahalgam 14.2mm, 6mm and Srinagar 11.4mm during the past 24 hours, respectively.

Jammu witnessed moderate to heavy precipitation, with Banihal receiving 15.0cm of snowfall and 38.9mm of rain followed by Jammu 27.4mm, Batote 48.1mm, Baderwah 41.0mm, Katra 27.7mm and Kathua 34.2mm during the past 24 hours.

In the Union Territory of Ladakh, 2 to 3 inches of snowfall was recorded at Zojila pass, Drass, Sankoo and Zanaskar areas, officials said.

The night temperature dipped again following the inclement weather, and barring Pahalgam and Kokernag, it was recorded above normal in other weather stations during the intervening night of Thursday and Friday.

Srinagar recorded a minimum of 1.6°C, and it was 0.1°C above the average during this period of season. The maximum temperature at Srinagar also witnessed a dip and was recorded at 10.7°C on Thursday, and it was 0.3°C below normal for the summer capital of Jammu Kashmir.

The minimum temperature at Pahalgam in south Kashmir was recorded at -2.4°C, Kokernag -2.0°C. The ski resort of Gulmarg remained the coldest place with -5.6°C.

However, it was 0.4°C above the average for the valley of meadows in north Kashmir's Baramulla district during the period, the MeT office said.

8 vehicles seized, 25 Challenged in Ramban for traffic violations

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 21

The Motor Vehicle Department Ramban today conducted a massive enforcement drive against traffic violators, particularly targeting vehicles operating without permits and those found unfit. The drive was conducted along the Ramban-Dharmkund-Sangaldan-Gool route.

During the surprise checking, the enforcement team seized eight vehicles and issued 25 challans under various provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act and associated rules. A total fine amounting to Rs 1.14 lakh is expected after the clearance of these challans.

As part of the drive at Sangaldan, ARTO Er Kuldeep Singh conducted an interactive session and counseling for drivers, conductors, and vehicle owners, emphasizing



adherence to the safety parameters and traffic regulations to ensure passenger safety. He reiterated that such enforcement drives and crackdowns on traffic violators would continue across all routes in the district to maintain strict traffic discipline. The enforcement operation received active support from local law enforcement authorities. At Dharmkund SHO Rajeev Kumar and in Sangaldan Chowki Officer Yudhveer Kumar joined

the drive and extended their full cooperation.

The traffic enforcement team included ARTO Er Kuldeep Singh, MVI Vishawjeet Singh Raju and AMVI Darpan Sharma. The administration has urged all vehicle operators to comply with traffic regulations and ensure the safety of passengers by adhering to prescribed norms. Such drives will remain a routine effort to enhance road safety and maintain order on district roads.

District Administration Kishtwar hosts orientation workshop on Disaster Preparedness

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 21

The District Administration of Kishtwar organized a specialized interactive session on Advanced Preparedness for Natural, Contemporary, and Anthropogenic Disasters here in the Conference Hall, New DC Office Complex. The event, organised in line with the directions issued by the Divisional Commissioner Jammu, was attended by district heads and officials from stakeholder departments.

The session, aimed at strengthening disaster resilience and response mechanisms. The resource person was Prof. (Dr.) Ravi Jyee, Vice President (In Proto Vice Chancellor) of the International University School of Medicine - IUSOM) and Chairman of the Afro-Eurasian Chamber of Commerce, Education Development, and Employment (ACCEDE).

Prof. Ravi Jyee, a distinguished expert in disaster management, shared valuable insights on proactive preparedness, risk mitiga-



tion strategies, and effective response frameworks.

The event provided an engaging platform for attendees to discuss contemporary disaster management challenges and explore solutions for enhancing coordination among stakeholders.

Various officers put their queries to clear the doubts which were replied by experts.

Pertinent to mention that the district falls under a seismic zone V and also faces the challenges of slides, accidents and snow storms. Sometimes the cases of fire incidents have been witnessed on a large scale.

The session was highly productive and focused on brainstorming innovative ideas. The District Administration emphasized its commitment to fostering

community awareness and preparedness to minimize the impact of disasters.

This interactive session marks a significant step in reinforcing disaster response capabilities, ensuring a safer and more resilient community.

The session saw active participation from key officers including ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, SDM Paddar Amit Kumar, SDM Marwah Dr Mohd Ashraf, SDM Chatroo Nayeem Ur Rahman, BDO Thakrie, CMO Kishtwar Dr. Rajinder Kumar, Executive Engineer PWD Kishtwar, Executive Engineer PMGSY Kishtwar, Media Persons, Police, Army, GREF, Red Cross, General Managers of Power Projects, Apda Mitra Volunteers and various other departments.

DC inaugurates NCD Screening campaign in Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, FEBRUARY 21

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal inaugurated the National level Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Screening and Tuberculosis (TB) campaign here today.

The campaign aims at detecting non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and oral and cervical cancers. A medical camp has been set up at Bus Stand and the screening will continue till March 31, 2025.

At the inauguration, the Deputy Commissioner encouraged the commu-

nity to participate in large numbers to take advantage of the free screenings and treatment. He emphasized the importance of early detection and urged health authorities to maximize outreach efforts to ensure comprehensive coverage.

During the camp, free medication was provided to attendees, addressing vital health concerns within the district.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan highlighted that similar camps have been organized across Poonch, reinforcing the administration's commitment to public health.

GCOE organises plantation drive on Campus



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 21

The NSS Unit of Government College of Education (GCOE), under the guidance of NSS Programme Officer Professor Sarita Dogra, successfully organized a Plantation Drive on the college campus. The initiative aimed to promote environmental awareness and encourage sustainable practices among students.

Principal GCOE, Dr. Jyoti Parihar graced the occasion and highlighted the importance of afforestation in mitigating climate change and preserving biodiversity. She commended the NSS Unit for taking this significant step towards a greener future.

The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 100 students, who actively planted saplings in various locations within the college premises. Faculty members, including Prof. Satish Sharma, Dr. Rajinder Kour, Prof. Deepali Devi, Prof. Kiran Thapa, Dr. Ambica Kumari, and Roopa Kumari, were also present and contributed to the success of the drive.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Roopa emphasized the role of students in environmental conservation and encouraged them to take up similar initiatives in their communities. She expressed gratitude to all participants and faculty members for their support and dedication to making the event a success.

The Plantation Drive concluded with a pledge by students and faculty members to continue efforts towards environmental protection and sustainability. The event not only enhanced the green cover of the college but also instilled a sense of responsibility among students towards nature.

Javed Dar reviews functioning of Horticulture deptt



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 21

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javed Ahmad Dar, today convened a detailed review meeting regarding functioning of the department of Horticulture at Rajbagh, Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Minister assessed progress achieved under different programmes and schemes being undertaken by the department besides discussing challenges in smooth implementation of departmental initiatives.

The Minister emphasized upon the officials to prioritize public welfare initiatives and work in a mission mode to achieve set targets and goals. He acknowledged that the Horticulture sector has huge potential to address unemployment issues and can help in uplifting the rural life with better

economic prospects.

"Horticulture sector has vast scope to bring transformative changes for providing ample employment opportunities to the rural people," said the Minister. He urged for utilization of modern Horticulture methods and high density farming. He instructed for handholding of farmers both awareness and technical guidance regarding latest and modern cultivation methods to the farmers.

"Technological interventions and modern day scientific applications have to be extended to provide all possible assistance to boost the Horticulture industry and make this sector productive, vibrant and profitable," maintained the Minister.

He directed the concerned to ensure benefits under different centrally sponsored and UT level schemes including Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), reach

to farming community for better production and progressive farming in the region.

The Minister was also apprised regarding the staff strengthening and issues related to infrastructure facilities.

Later, the Minister also released a booklet on Production of Designer Plants for Promotion of High Density Plantation and Rejuvenation of Orchards under HADP and Spray Schedule 2025 for management of Apple Orchards for the farming community of Kashmir division.

Earlier, Director Horticulture Kashmir, Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, presented an overview and performance of the department.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Deputy Director, Assistant Director, Chief Horticulture Officers, Technical Officer and other concerned officials of the department.

DC Samba reviews arrangements for Maha Shivratri Festival

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 21

Deputy Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma today chaired a high-level meeting at the District Administrative Complex to review the arrangements for the smooth conduct of the forthcoming Maha Shivratri festival.

The meeting focused on ensuring seamless coordination among departments to facilitate devotees and maintain law and order.

Deputy Commissioner Sharma directed the concerned officials to ensure adequate water and power supply, proper sanitation, efficient traffic management and medical aid facilities at key religious sites.



Special emphasis was laid on illuminating temples and surrounding areas to enhance the festive spirit and ensure the safety of devotees.

The Tourism Department was instructed to provide necessary facilities for visiting pilgrims, while law enforcement agencies were asked to strengthen security arrangements and manage crowd control effectively.

The DC urged all stake-

holders to work proactively and address any last-minute issues to ensure a peaceful and joyous Maha Shivratri celebration for devotees.

Senior officers including Additional District Development Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Revenue and officers from various departments including Police, PWD (R&B), Health, Fire & Emergency Services, PHE, PDD, Municipality and Tourism among others participated in the discussions.

Anti-Drug IEC campaign launched across Doda schools

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 21

An Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign aimed at sensitising students about disastrous consequences of Drugs has been

launched across Doda district.

In this regard, Chief Education Officer (CEO) Mohammad Hafiz, convened a virtual meeting with the District Incharge Cultural Cell (DICC) and Zonal Incharges Cultural

Cells (ZICCs) to discuss the implementation.

The initiative, a collaboration between the Social Welfare Department and the School Education Department of Doda, seeks to educate students about the dangers of drug

addiction. The goal is to equip them with knowledge to resist peer pressure and make healthier life choices.

The CEO directed the DICC and the ten ZICCs to partner with teachers in each zone to hold aware-

ness camps every Monday in all 237 Panchayats of the district. These sessions will focus on spreading awareness about harmful effects of drug use, identifying early signs of addiction, and promoting positive lifestyle alternatives.

JU Udhampur Campus hosts awareness session on Nature-Based Solutions for a Sustainable Livelihood

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 21

The Udhampur Campus of the University of Jammu, in collaboration with the J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council Udhampur Department of Science & Technology Government of J&K, on Friday organised a one-day Awareness Programme on "Nature-Based Solutions for a Sustainable Livelihood and Future."

Head, Entomology Division, SKUAST-Jammu Prof. R.K Gupta, Member, J&K Kissan Advisory Board Tejinder Singh Wazir and a prominent agri-entrepreneur of Jammu were the resource persons of the awareness program which was attended by the students and teaching

staff of the Government Degree College, Boys, Government Degree College for Women, GDC, Reasi, Bhaskar Degree College, Bhartiya College, Govt. High School Garnai, research scholars of the Department of Botany, University of Jammu, women entrepreneurs of Udhampur and members of the civil society of Garnai-Lotta, Udhampur.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Yash Pal Sharma, the Campus Rector emphasized the significance of adopting nature-based solutions to tackle environmental and livelihood challenges. 'NEP 2020 also emphasizes on the innovations, skill development and entrepreneurship ventures and such awareness events add to



the skill-based knowledge and its applicability, said Prof. Sharma. He underlined the need of including sustainable practices into daily life and urged faculty and students to explore innovative approaches for environmental protection.

Prof. Sharma also conveyed his heartfelt appreciation to Shrutika Khanna, District Coordinator, J&K STIC, Udhampur, J&K, for

her exceptional collaboration and coordination with the Udhampur Campus to seamlessly organize the event.

In the morning session, an insightful talk on the topic "Where the Beauty (flowers) Meets Business" was delivered by Mr. Wazir.

Citing initiatives under the Atal Innovation Mission that supports sustain-

able agricultural startups, he spoke on the basics of the agri-business and rural hubs as a means to empower rural entrepreneurs. He emphasized that the micro-climatic conditions of Udhampur and Reasi are highly favourable for cultivating diverse crops, especially high-value horticulture and organic farming. Furthermore, he underscored the role of

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in engaging rural communities, particularly women, in income-generating agricultural activities, thereby ensuring economic stability and self-reliance. Wazir advised the inquisitive students to enter this profitable flori-business gradually in order to earn a living and a safe future.

Dr. R.K. Gupta, Professor and Head, Division

of Entomology, SKUAST-Jammu delivered on the world of Insects, human well-being, and ecosystem services. He highlighted the critical role insects play in maintaining the balance of nature, such as pollination, pest control, and decomposition, which directly impact human health, food security, and biodiversity. Dr. Gupta emphasized that a dynamic planet faces growing environmental risks, and it is crucial to anticipate global challenges to ensure long-term sustainability. Dr. Gupta also introduced an insightful discussion on insects as a source of technological innovation. He explained that researchers are studying insect behaviour and biomechanics to develop

advanced robotics, artificial intelligence (AI), and environmental monitoring systems. Furthermore, he discussed the development of insect-inspired robotic systems, such as micro-drones mimicking the flight patterns of dragonflies for efficient surveillance, mapping, and disaster management.

Earlier, Dr. Ritika Sambyal extended a warm welcome to the resource persons, guests, and students and thanked Prof. Yash Pal Sharma, Rector, Udhampur Campus, for his visionary leadership in promoting educational initiatives. A formal vote of thanks was proposed by Nikhil Khajuria, Faculty, Department of Commerce, Udhampur Campus.

EDITORIAL

Looming water crisis in J&K, Ladakh

The water crisis in Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir is no longer a distant threat—it is a present reality demanding urgent attention. Following the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh's recent concerns over the region's water scarcity, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has also acknowledged the severity of the crisis, emphasizing the need for mass awareness and immediate action. The arid and ecologically fragile landscapes of these Union Territories are now at a tipping point, exacerbated by climate change, erratic precipitation, and rising demands from urbanization and tourism. Omar Abdullah's statement that "we are not doing enough to educate our people about what is happening with climate change and the dangers it poses" is an admission of the gap in awareness and preparedness. His remarks at a recent workshop on "Capacity Building in Innovation Pedagogy for the Implementation of NEP-2020" underscore the need for political leadership to actively engage in climate education and policymaking. He pointed to the significant precipitation deficit in Jammu and Kashmir this winter, warning that it could lead to an even more severe water crisis in the near future. Official data from the Weather Department confirms that rainfall and snowfall levels have been alarmingly low, further aggravating concerns over water availability. In Ladakh, the Union Territory administration has taken an important step by banning the digging of new borewells in nine "semi-critical" areas of Leh district. This move, while necessary, is a reactive measure that underscores the gravity of the situation. The fragile Himalayan ecosystem of Ladakh is already reeling under the effects of climate change, with receding glaciers, diminishing permafrost, and declining snowfall disrupting traditional water sources. The pressures of rapid urbanization, booming tourism, and an influx of migrant laborers have only added to the strain on already scarce water resources. Groundwater, once a reliable fallback, is depleting at an alarming rate. The visible effects of climate change—shrinking glaciers, drying streams, and erratic snowfall—paint a grim picture for the region's future water security. Lieutenant Governor Brig (Dr) B.D. Mishra's acknowledgment of the crisis is a welcome step, but acknowledgment alone is not enough. Urgent, long-term solutions are required. The ban on new borewells, though a step in the right direction, must be complemented by a comprehensive water management strategy. This includes investing in sustainable water conservation techniques such as artificial glaciers, water harvesting, and efficient irrigation methods. The impending water crisis is not just an environmental concern—it is a socio-economic and humanitarian issue. If timely corrective measures are not taken, the crisis will escalate, leading to severe consequences for livelihoods, food security, and regional stability. As the climate emergency tightens its grip, Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir must act swiftly, collaboratively, and decisively. Time is running out, and the water crisis demands immediate and sustained intervention.

India's Agri-Exports Boom Under Modi Government: First-Ever Shipments That Made History

Under the leadership of PM Modi, India's agricultural exports have seen unprecedented expansion, with many products making their way to international markets for the first time. This historic expansion isn't just about trade—it's about empowering farmers, boosting rural incomes, and putting India's rich agricultural heritage on the global map. From exotic fruits to traditional staples, these first-ever shipments highlight how the Modi government's vision for Aatmanirbhar Bharat is creating new opportunities for Indian farmers.

Here are some of the remarkable first-time agricultural exports under the Modi government:

First-Ever Sea Shipments of Indian Pomegranates to Australia
In a significant milestone for India's agricultural exports, India successfully sent first-ever shipments of premium Sangola and Bhagwa pomegranates respec-

tively to Australia via sea. This breakthrough enhances India's fresh fruit market access in Australia, paving the way for more Indian produce to enter global supply chains.

Figs Juice Exported First Time to Poland

India's unique GI-tagged Purnandar figs are now making waves in Europe. In 2024, Modi government facilitated the export of India's first ready-to-drink fig juice, made from Purnandar figs, to Poland. Earlier in 2022, the export was made to Germany, too. Purnandar figs are known for their unique tastes and textures. This event marks a significant achievement in promoting India's unique agro-products on the global stage.

Dragon Fruit Exported First Time To London, Bahrain
As part of India's push to diversify its fruit exports, the fiber and mineral-rich dragon fruit, locally known as 'Kamalam', was exported to London and Bahrain in 2021. The consignment exported to

London was sourced from farmers of the Kutch region of Gujarat, while the consignment to Bahrain was sourced from the farmers of West Midnapore (West Bengal).

First Trial Shipment of Fresh Pomegranate to US

In 2023, India took a big step toward expanding its presence in the American market by exporting its first-ever trial shipment of fresh pomegranates via air to the USA. Bhagwa' pomegranate from Maharashtra has substantial export potential and almost 50 per cent of the fruit's export from the country is from the state's Solapur district.

Assam's 'Leteku' Fruit Exported To Dubai

In a major boost for the Northeast, in 2021, the first-ever shipment of Burmese grapes, known as 'leteku' in Assamese, was sent from Guwahati to Dubai through Delhi. This export put Assam's exotic produce on the global map, proving the potential of India's

northeastern states in international trade.

Jackfruit from Tripura to Germany

Germany got a taste of India's fresh jackfruit from Tripura in 2021. In a first, a shipment of fresh jackfruit was exported from Tripura to Germany by air route. The first consignment of one metric tonne of fresh jackfruits was flagged off from Agartala. This reflects the efforts Modi government carrying out to bring the northeastern states on the agricultural and processed food products export map of India.

King Chilli 'Raja Mircha' from Nagaland to London for the first time

In 2021, in a major boost to exports of GI products from the north-eastern region, a consignment of 'Raja Mircha' also referred as king chilli from Nagaland was exported to London via Guwahati by air for the first time. Given its perishable nature, exporting this product was a challenge, but

India successfully facilitated its air shipment, highlighting India's capabilities in handling specialized agro-exports.

First Export of 'Red Rice' from Assam to the USA

In 2021, in a major boost to India's rice exports potential, the first consignment of 'red rice' was flagged off to the USA. Iron rich 'red rice' is grown in Brahmaputra valley of Assam, without the use of any chemical fertilizer. The rice variety is referred as 'Baodhaan', which is an integral part of the Assamese food.

First Consignment of Vazhakulam Pineapple from Kerala to Dubai & Sharjah

In 2022, India flagged off of the first consignment of GI Tagged "Vazhakulam Pineapple" from Vazhakulam, Ernakulam, Kerala to Dubai & Sharjah, UAE. With this the pineapple farmers will get better income and more promotion of their product in global market.

A perilous challenge for India's soft diplomacy

SANTHOSH MATHEW

In the volatile heart of Yemen's capital, Sanaa, an Indian national, Nimisha Priya, faces dire circumstances, accused of killing a Yemeni citizen. The charges are serious, but the true gravity of the situation lies in the potential consequences. Nimisha's case is not just about the allegation; it is a call for India to step forward decisively to protect one of its own.

The environment in Houthi-controlled Sanaa is precarious, with little hope of a fair trial or a peaceful resolution. This situation, which has escalated into an international diplomatic challenge, demands India's immediate intervention. Yemen has been mired in conflict for years, with the Houthi rebels now in control of the capital. With power dynamics in constant flux and the justice system fractured, foreign nationals, especially from countries like India, are particularly vulnerable.

It is feared that Nimisha Priya, if left without diplomatic intervention, could face the harshest of outcomes, including arbitrary punishment or worse, in an environment where blood money—a custom rooted in Yemeni culture—may become a mode of

resolution. This practice, deeply embedded in parts of the country, contradicts the ideals of modern justice and the humanitarian values upheld by India.

The Indian government has already taken significant steps to address the crisis. India's diplomatic response to this case has been commendable, with swift actions to ensure that the matter does not escalate further. Notably, Iran's Foreign Minister, Abbas Araghchi, raised the issue with the Houthi envoy, showing a growing recognition of the case's importance on the regional diplomatic stage. This cooperation reflects the urgency of India's intervention and highlights the potential for multilateral diplomacy to resolve the issue without resorting to traditional tribal customs like blood money.

India's foreign policy has long been defined by its commitment to human rights and justice. In this case, the Indian government must continue to stand firm on these principles, ensuring that Nimisha's life is not negotiated for a price. Blood money, in particular, must not be allowed to govern the fate of an innocent individual. India's insistence on this point will not only safeguard her but also reaffirm India's role as a



leading advocate for justice and human dignity in the global arena. More crucially, Nimisha Priya's situation places her life at risk due to the volatile political and security environment. The Houthi-controlled justice system may not provide the due process or fairness one would expect in a modern, civilized society.

Foreign nationals are often treated with disdain, and Nimisha could fall victim to a miscarriage of justice. To prevent this, India must leverage all diplomatic channels, including informal backdoor negotiations and Track Two diplomacy, which have proven effective in navigating complex international conflicts.

India has a long history of maintaining close

ties with the Middle East, and it is through these alliances that India can garner support for its position. Countries like Iran, which shares strong historical ties with India, have shown willingness to mediate in this case, as evidenced by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi's intervention.

Track Two diplomacy is a critical tool in this regard. Informal dialogue through trusted intermediaries can often achieve results when official channels are bogged down by bureaucracy and political sensitivities. India's ability to operate through both formal and informal diplomatic avenues offers it a unique advantage in resolving this crisis and ensuring that Nimisha receives a fair and just

resolution. The Indian government's actions to address this case are a testament to its commitment to protecting its citizens abroad.

This case also highlights the importance of India's soft power diplomacy. Indian nurses, who play a vital role in providing healthcare across the Middle East, are viewed not only as healthcare providers but also as cultural ambassadors of India.

The protection of Nimisha Priya, a nurse working abroad, is thus more than just a personal concern. It reflects India's broader commitment to safeguarding its citizens and maintaining their trust in the government's ability to protect them.

The Indian government's proactive measures, including diplomatic outreach and coordination with international partners, underscore the country's growing stature as a global player.

As India's diplomatic outreach continues to develop, the importance of soft power—exemplified by its citizens abroad—becomes increasingly evident. Nimisha's case is not merely an isolated incident; it represents an opportunity for India to assert its influence and diplomatic capability on the global stage. The

government's efforts to safeguard Nimisha Priya should be lauded.

By engaging with regional powers, leveraging backchannel diplomacy, and ensuring that international standards of justice are upheld, India demonstrates its growing leadership in global affairs. Through such strategic actions, India can also affirm its position as a nation that champions human rights and justice for all its citizens, regardless of where they are in the world.

In conclusion, Nimisha Priya's situation presents a serious challenge, but it is also an opportunity for India to reaffirm its values and demonstrate its diplomatic maturity.

By taking swift and comprehensive action, India will not only save her life but also reinforce its reputation as a responsible global leader, protecting its citizens and upholding the ideals of peace, justice, and human dignity. Leader in human rights and justice. India must continue to press forward, ensuring that Nimisha Priya's case is resolved with the fairness and respect she deserves, signalling a victory for Indian diplomacy on the world stage.

(The writer is an associate professor; views are personal)

Beyond academics: How study abroad shapes personal growth and leadership skills

DALJEET SANDHU

Studying abroad allows students to see the world through a different lens. By engaging with global issues firsthand, be it climate change, social justice, or economic policies, they gain a deeper understanding of how interconnected and interdependent our world truly is. This global perspective is invaluable in shaping informed leaders. It instils a sense of responsibility and encourages students to think beyond their immediate surroundings.

Leaders who understand global challenges and can approach them with a holistic mindset are better equipped to create meaningful change.

Collaboration and Networks

Studying abroad offers unique opportunities to

build a global network of peers, professors, and professionals. These connections often serve as invaluable resources, providing insights, guidance, and opportunities long after graduation. Collaborating with people from different parts of the world teaches students how to harness diverse strengths and ideas to achieve common goals. They become adept at creating inclusive environments where everyone feels valued—a critical skill for leaders in today's multicultural workplaces.

Growth in Emotional Intelligence

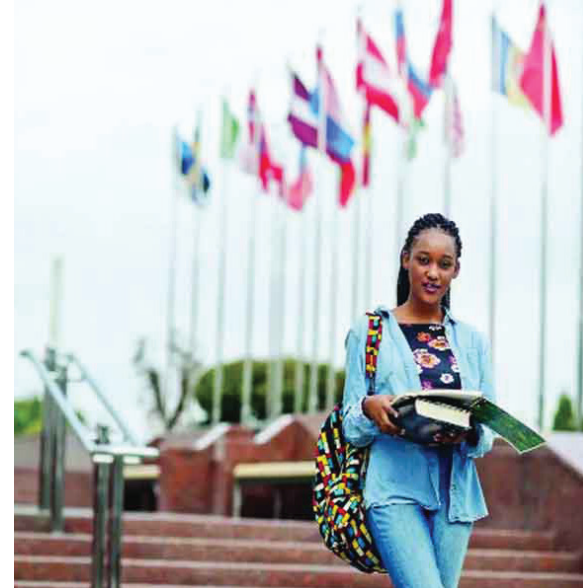
Living away from home in an unfamiliar setting often stirs a range of emotions. These emotional highs and lows contribute significantly to the development of emotional intelligence. Students learn to manage their emotions,

empathise with others, and build meaningful relationships despite cultural differences. Emotional intelligence, often considered more critical than IQ in leadership roles, is cultivated naturally during the study-abroad experience. Moreover, going through relationships in a foreign setting teaches students how to build trust and rapport, even in challenging circumstances.

Communication and Interpersonal Skills

Effective communication is a cornerstone of leadership, and studying abroad is an excellent training ground for this skill.

Navigating a foreign environment requires students to communicate with clarity and intent, often across language barriers. They become adept at listening, interpreting



non-verbal cues, and tailoring their messages to suit diverse audiences. Furthermore, participating in group projects, extracurricular activities, or even casual social interactions with peers from different cultural contexts

enhances interpersonal skills. Students learn to collaborate, resolve conflicts, and inspire those around them, qualities that define great leaders.

Building Resilience and Independence

Moving to a new country requires immense courage. From finding accommodation to dealing with administrative paperwork, students often have to manage tasks that they may have never encountered before. The absence of a familiar support system forces them to rely on their abilities, building resilience and self-reliance. Moreover, students gain confidence as they navigate and overcome these hurdles. This newfound sense of independence not only shapes their identity but also prepares them for leadership roles where decisiveness and self-assurance are paramount.

Embracing Cultural Diversity

One of the most profound aspects of studying abroad is exposure to cultural diversity. Stu-

dents find themselves immersed in a society that often operates on different values, customs, and traditions than their own. This immersion fosters adaptability and open-mindedness, as they learn to respect and appreciate perspectives vastly different from their own. Engaging with peers from diverse backgrounds teaches valuable lessons in empathy and cross-cultural communication.

Whether it's understanding the nuances of a local festival, navigating a new language, or simply sharing a meal with someone from another culture, these experiences challenge preconceived notions and build cultural intelligence. In short, studying abroad is much more than an academic pursuit; it is a journey of self-discovery and transformation.

By embracing cultural diversity, building resilience, and developing critical leadership skills, students emerge as well-rounded individuals ready to tackle the challenges of a globalised world. The lessons learned during this time extend far beyond the classroom.

They shape character, nurture empathy, and inspire vision—qualities that define true leaders. For those who take the plunge, studying abroad is not just an investment in their education but also a stepping stone toward becoming agents of change in an ever-evolving world. For students who choose to study abroad, the richness comes not just in knowledge but in the experiences that mould them into future leaders.

(The writer is CEO of Daltin AI Portal; views are personal)

Mamata defends Bengal's own health insurance scheme, terms it as 'unique'

AGENCIES
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday provided a 'detailed explanation' on why Swasthya Sathi, the state's own health insurance scheme, is unique in the country, adding that the greatest advantage of the scheme is its universal nature.

"We provide health insurance under the Swasthya Sathi scheme without any restriction like the income limit of that family. At the same time, the Swasthya Sathi card is registered in the name of a lady member of that family. These make the Swasthya Sathi scheme unique in the country," the Chief Minister said at the foundation laying ceremony of Narayana Health City in the northern outskirts of Kolkata on Thursday afternoon.

The Chief Minister's explanations on why Swasthya Sathi is unique in



the country comes in the wake of all-round criticism of allowing implementation of a similar health insurance scheme of the Union government christened Ayushman Bharat.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister also claimed that, like Swasthya Sathi, most of the developmental schemes of the state government are universal in nature because of the absence of income restrictions for the beneficiaries.

According to her,

around nine crore people in West Bengal are currently covered under the Swasthya Sathi scheme.

"My government has brought revolution in the health sector of the state. We provide treatment and medicines totally free of cost. We are really proud of that," the Chief Minister said.

Speaking on the occasion, Mamata Banerjee also read out details of the achievements in the health sector during the current Trinamool Con-

gress regime.

"During our tenure, 14 new medical colleges and hospitals and 42 new super-specialty hospitals had been set up in the state. There have been 13,392 new health centres in the state. We have arranged for critical care units in all the districts which were not there previously. Earlier there were just six new special newborn care units in the state. The number is now 71," the Chief Minister claimed.

Study shows how gut microbiome raises risk of multiple sclerosis

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Gut microbiome plays a significant role in the onset of multiple sclerosis (MS) -- an autoimmune disease that impacts the central nervous system, finds a study that may provide answers to why some people develop the condition.

The microbiome in the gut comprises trillions of bacteria and other microorganisms that live in our digestive tracts, and are connected to human health and disease.

Researchers from Yale University in the US identified gut bacteria that had significantly different levels of abundance in patients with MS. Compared to healthy individuals, MS patients also had a smaller number of bacteria coated in an antibody known as host immunoglobulin A (IgA).

"The fact that fewer bacteria were coated with IgA



in patients with MS suggests that there is perhaps a fundamental disconnect going on with the host-microbe interactions," said Erin Longbrake, Associate Professor of neurology and the study's principal investigator. Longbrake said that "theoretically, environmental risk factors could predispose people to

MS because they change the bugs that are in the gut."

For the study, published in the Neurology Neuroimmunology and Neuroinflammation, the team included 43 people who were newly diagnosed with MS and had not started any sort of immune therapy to treat the disorder. These

were compared with 42 healthy controls.

Analysis of their stool samples showed that species of Faecalibacterium were less abundant in patients with MS, while species of Monoglobus was more abundant in untreated MS patients.

Of the 43 people with MS, 19 gave the researchers an additional stool sample six months after starting B-cell depletion therapy -- a treatment that destroys immune cells that contribute to autoimmune diseases.

The gut microbiomes of these patients more closely resembled the microbiomes of healthy controls than they had pre-treatment, the researchers found.

"This gives us some clues into the mechanisms underlying how this type of drug works to treat MS," Longbrake said. The findings might help explain why some people develop MS, but not others.

Addressing mental health needs, reducing stigma key for adolescent wellbeing: Experts

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Addressing mental health needs and reducing stigma is crucial for the well-being and development of adolescents, said psychology experts on Friday.

Adolescence is a crucial period of rapid physical, psychological, and social changes that can lead to significant stress. Various studies suggest that stress among adolescents is on the rise, posing a threat to their mental well-being.

This stress can also have an impact on an adolescent's psychological well-being influenced by inherent biological factors, such as brain development and hormonal changes, and behavioural factors like being bullied; coping skills, and resilience.

"The effects of bullying leave scars far beyond visible and have long-lasting impacts on mental health. Many who experience bullying struggle with anxi-



ety, depression, low self-esteem, and even thoughts of self-harm," said Prof. Rajesh Sagar, Professor of Psychiatry from AIIMS New Delhi.

"Addressing this hidden crisis requires a collective effort from researchers, educators, and health professionals to foster resilience and create safer environments for adolescents," he added.

He was speaking at an

event, held in the national capital, to shape policy recommendations and intervention strategies for adolescent mental health in India. The event focused on equipping adolescents with essential life skills to enhance their resilience against such stressors.

"Addressing mental health needs and reducing stigma related to mental health is important among adolescents. India is home

to more than 250 million adolescents and for the better health of the nation it is imperative that we take all steps necessary to improve the psychological well-being of these future adults who would lead the country in the next decades," said Prof. Pallab Maulik, Director of Research at The George Institute for Global Health India.

The event also highlighted the healthy use of technology and social media emphasising their potential to provide mental health support while mitigating risks.

At another event in the national capital, Dr. Pratima Murthy, Director, NIMHANS stressing the need for increased awareness, and early diagnosis of mental disorders.

"One in ten people suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder," Murthy said, adding the condition "is like any other disorder, and recognising it is crucial".

PMSSY strengthening healthcare infrastructure, fostering indigenous innovation: Jitendra Singh

AGENCIES
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) is aimed at strengthening healthcare infrastructure and fostering indigenous innovation, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said on Thursday.

The minister noted that the PMSSY initiative is part of a broader effort to strengthen India's healthcare infrastructure.

"The scheme is designed to provide quality medical care while promoting indigenous innovation in health-related R&D," he said while inaugurating the PMSSY-driven upgraded super-specialty Neurosurgery and Cardiovascular Surgery Building Block at the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) in Thiruvananthapuram.

He emphasised that the PM Narendra Modi government's new initiatives are aimed at making quality



healthcare affordable, and accessible across sections of society.

Praising SCTIMST for emerging as a centre of excellence in both healthcare as well as research and development, Dr Singh highlighted that the institute, functioning under the Department of Science and Technology, embodies the "whole-of-government" approach.

He said the institute fosters collaboration between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Stressing the need for integrating modern medical advancements with traditional healthcare

approaches, Dr Singh underscored the importance of digital health initiatives, artificial intelligence in diagnostics, and genome-based therapies.

The minister also highlighted India's achievements in biotechnology, pointing out the success of the indigenous Covid-19 vaccine, the development of the HPV vaccine for cervical cancer, and breakthroughs in gene therapy.

"India has transitioned from being an importer to a leader in preventive healthcare, gaining global recognition in bio-manufacturing and medical research," he stated.

He further emphasised the need for continued investments in healthcare R&D, ensuring that India remains at the forefront of medical advancements.

Dr Singh also encouraged scientists and medical professionals "to undertake collaborative research projects with global institutions to expand knowledge and expertise".

He stressed that while India has made remarkable progress in bridging the rural-urban divide in disease patterns, healthcare accessibility remains a challenge.

He reiterated the government's commitment to expanding medical services through new AIIMS institutions and upgraded medical colleges, ensuring affordable and high-quality treatment.

He also called for leveraging telemedicine and mobile health units to extend healthcare services to remote regions, making quality healthcare accessible to all.

Mpox Clade 1b more infectious, increases risk of miscarriage: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The latest variant of Mpox clade 1b that is causing infections across the globe, particularly in Africa, is not only more infectious but also raises a high risk of miscarriage, according to a study led by international researchers.

The study based on genetic analyses of clade 1b -- first detected in September 2023 in Kamituga, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), showed that this variant has since undergone mutations making it more easily transmissible between humans.

In the study, published in the journal Nature Medicine, the scientists identified three new sub-variants, one of which has spread beyond Kamituga to other cities in the DRC, neighbouring countries, and even internationally



-- Sweden and Thailand. Separately, Clade 1b has also spread to the US, causing 4 mpox infections in the US since November, last year.

The research team from six different countries including DRC, Denmark, the UK, and Spain, noted that the "new data may also suggest that clade 1b entails a high risk of miscarriage". Of the 670

patient samples analysed in the study, 52.4 per cent infected with mpox were women, while 47.6 per cent were men.

The majority of infections were transmitted through sexual contact, but three cases were recorded among healthcare personnel. While seven patients died, eight out of 14 pregnant women suffered miscarriages.

"For clade 1b, we see that one particular sub-variant appears to have become better at transmitting between humans, and it has now been detected in several countries outside East Africa. In addition, the number of infected pregnant women who miscarry is high among those we have tested," said Professor Frank Moller Aarestrup from DTU National Food Institute in Denmark.

Originally, mpox was considered a zoonotic disease that primarily spread from animals to humans. However, in 2022, the world witnessed an outbreak primarily affecting men who have sex with men. The new clade 1b differs as both men and women are now contracting the virus.

In addition, an increasing number of infections are being reported among healthcare workers and children, said the team.

India develops new drug to tackle burden of kala-azar, antibiotic to fight AMR

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

India has developed a novel antibiotic to fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR), as well as a new drug to tackle burden of kala-azar, also known as visceral leishmaniasis (VL) in the country, deliberated eminent scientists on Friday.

The experts were speaking on the second day of the 9th International Symposium on Current Trends in Drug Discovery Research at CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute in Lucknow. The event saw experts from different areas share their recent findings on drug resistance, Car T-cell therapy for cancer care, and parasitic and viral diseases.

Prof. Shyam Sundar from the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, shared the journey of the epidemic of visceral leishmaniasis (VL), starting from its origin to elimina-



tion, in India.

"Single-dose liposomal amphotericin B (LAmB) is a game changer in the management of visceral leishmaniasis," said Sundar.

According to data from the National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC), India has achieved its target of eliminating kala-azar. The country had initially aimed to eliminate kala-azar by

2010, but the target was extended until 2023 due to persistent challenges.

Sundar noted that the elimination target for VL needs to be held in 2025 to obtain the WHO certification. The experts also highlighted that AMR has rendered many existing antibiotics ineffective, posing a major global health crisis.

To counter this, Dr. Sachin S. Bhagwat from

the Wockhardt Research Center, Aurangabad, spoke on the discovery of a novel mechanism of an action-based beta-lactam plus beta-lactam enhancer combination -- WCK 5222 -- with comprehensive coverage of pan-drug resistant Gram-negatives.

Even as AMR infections are responsible for up to 8.85 lakh deaths annually, with an additional 9.6 lakh linked to sepsis, Bhagwat said the novel beta-lactam enhancer, Zidebactam, in combination with cefepime (WCK 5222), demonstrated potent activity against 35,000 global pan-drug-resistant Gram-negative isolates.

"WCK 5222 has saved over 45 lives under compassionate use and completed successful trials in severe documented meropenem-resistant infections and is expected to change the treatment paradigm for life-threatening Gram-negative infections," he added.

Delhi set for transformational growth under CM Rekha Gupta: Kavinder

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 21

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta extended his heartfelt congratulations to Rekha Gupta on assuming the charge as the Chief Minister of Delhi. In a telephonic conversation, the BJP stalwart lauded her dedication, leadership, and commitment to serving the people of Delhi, expressing confidence that under her governance, the national capital would witness remarkable progress and good governance in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision. He wished her success in her new role.

Later, Kavinder Gupta chaired a meeting at the BJP Headquarters in



Jammu, where he deliberated on strengthening the party's outreach and grassroots engagement.

Addressing the gathering, he emphasized the significance of the "Each One, Reach One with Modi" scheme, urging every party worker to actively engage in spreading awareness about the various welfare initiatives and development programs spearheaded by the Modi government. He stressed that the BJP's strength lies in its cadre, and each karyakarta must take personal responsibility

in ensuring that the benefits of government schemes reach every household.

During the meeting, discussions revolved around upcoming party programs, mobilization strategies, and the need to counter misinformation propagated by the opposition.

Kavinder underscored the importance of organizational discipline and teamwork in achieving the party's objectives in Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted the unprecedented transformation

the region has witnessed under BJP rule and called upon the party workers to remain steadfast in their commitment to strengthening the party at the grassroots level.

The meeting was attended by several senior party leaders and workers, including Priya Sethi, Tilak Raj Gupta, Ved Sharma, Vikas Bhatti, Veenu Khanna, Harbhajan Singh Pammi, Jugal Dogra, Kulbhushan Mohtra, Balbir Ram, Sunny Sangotra, Vaishno Devi, Guldev Raj Bhagat, Gulshan Bhagat, Rajinder Sharma, Sanjay Bakshi, and many others.

The meeting concluded with a pledge to intensify efforts to further the BJP's mission of inclusive development and empowerment of every citizen in Jammu and Kashmir.

One-Day Free Makeup Masterclass organized by ZNS NIST Academy and GCW Gandhinagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 21

The Department of Home Science, PSPS GCW Gandhinagar in collaboration with ZNS NIST Shiksha Academy successfully organized a one-day free Makeup Masterclass, aimed at equipping students with hands-on skills and industry insights. The event was graced by Dr. S.P. Sarawat, Principal of the college, as the Chief Guest, who emphasized the importance of skill development in shaping students' careers and making them industry-ready.

Dr. Neelima Gupta, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Home Science, attended as the Special Guest and highlighted how such programs enrich students'



personalities and boost their confidence. The initiative was actively supported by Mr. Shabir Malik and Nusrat Malik, founders of ZNS NIST Academy, who ensured its success.

The masterclass was led by celebrity makeup artist Nusrat Malik, who shared her expertise, new industry trends, and professional techniques, giving students valuable exposure to the evolving beauty sector. Around 700 enthusiastic students filled the auditorium, actively engaging in the session, asking questions, and participating in hands-on learning activities.

This initiative aligns with the National Education Policy's (NEP) emphasis on skill-based education, providing students with practical experience beyond theoretical learning. It also opens career opportunities in makeup artistry, freelancing, and entrepreneurship, empowering students with self-

reliance and confidence. Also present on the occasion were Prof. Vishav Deepika, Dr. Archana Bhat, Dr. Arpana, and Prof. Anu Choudhary, faculty members of the Department of Home Science, who supported and encouraged student participation.

This impactful event reinforced the department's commitment to holistic education, ensuring students gain the skills and confidence needed for future success.

Indian Army conducts Financial Inclusivity Drive in Border Areas at Khour, Akhnoor

J1 NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, 21 FEB 2025

In a significant step towards fostering economic empowerment and financial inclusion, the Indian Army, in collaboration with the Civil Administration and J&K Bank, successfully conducted a Financial Inclusivity Drive in the border areas of Khour, Akhnoor. This initiative aligns with the national mission of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) and aims to bring banking services to the doorstep of the local population, ensuring financial security and self-sufficiency.

The drive, conducted in remote villages along the border, sought to educate and assist residents in accessing formal banking facilities. The initiative



focused on opening zero-balance accounts under PMJDY, promoting digital banking awareness, and providing financial literacy to marginalized sections of society. Special emphasis was placed on empowering women, farmers, and small business owners by facilitating access to government-backed financial schemes. Speaking at the event, officials from the Indian Army highlighted the importance of financial

inclusion as a critical pillar of national development.

They reiterated the Army's commitment to supporting local communities beyond security concerns and fostering socio-economic growth in border regions. Representatives from J&K Bank informed attendees about benefits such as insurance coverage, overdraft facilities and pension schemes. Civil administration officials assured continued support in bridging the financial gap and enabling seamless access to banking services for all residents.

Local residents expressed their gratitude for the initiative, acknowledging how such efforts significantly improve their economic stability and enable them to participate in mainstream financial systems. This Financial Inclusivity Drive is part of the broader outreach initiatives undertaken by the Indian Army to build trust, enhance social welfare and contribute to the overall development of border communities. By empowering locals with financial resources and knowledge, the initiative lays the foundation for long-term economic resilience and prosperity.

In a dedicated effort to honor and support its veterans, the Indian Army conducted an Ex-Servicemen (ESM) Meet in Akhnoor, bringing together 72 ex-servicemen from the region. The session focused on fostering deeper engagement with veterans, addressing welfare measures and reinforcing the enduring bond between the Army and its former personnel.

An Ex-Servicemen meet conducts in Akhnoor

J1 NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, 21 FEB 2025

The meet highlighted key initiatives, including Project Naman and VSK+, which are designed to enhance veteran welfare and facilitate smoother access to essential services. Discussions covered various welfare schemes, financial assistance pro-

grams, and healthcare benefits tailored for ex-servicemen and their families. Army officials emphasized the Army's commitment to ensuring the well-being of its veterans and acknowledged their invaluable contributions to national security. They reassured the attendees that continuous efforts are being made to streamline support mechanisms and address any concerns faced by the ex-servicemen community. Veterans actively participated in the session, sharing their feed-



back and suggestions on strengthening the welfare ecosystem. Many expressed appreciation for the Army's proactive approach in addressing their needs and fostering a strong support system for them and their families. This initiative underscores the Indian Army's unwavering dedication to its veterans, reinforcing the message that their service and sacrifices will always be recognized and valued. Similar engagements will continue to be organized to uphold the welfare and dignity of ex-servicemen.

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Meeting on Promotion of Lavender Cultivation, Marketing Linkages held

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 20

A meeting to discuss the promotion of lavender cultivation and the enhancement of its marketing linkages was held today at the Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan Talab Tillo Jammu. The meeting, chaired by Director Agriculture Jammu, S. Arvinder Singh Reen, brought together various stakeholders to address the current challenges and opportunities in the lavender farming sector.

Meeting was attended by Shri Satish Sharma Joint Director Agriculture (Extension), Shri Anil Gupta CAO Doda, Shri Sanjay Anand CAO Udampur, S. M.G Singh CAO Samba, Shri Ram Gopal Sharma CAO Ramban, Shri Harbans Singh CAO Reasi, Dr. Lalit Mohan Professor & Head, Division of Forest Production & Utilization, Faculty of Horticulture and Forestry, Ruchita Rane Head of Territory Development J&K, PARC Mumbai, Shri Raj Kumar Technical Officer (HADP) DAJ, and other officers of the Department of Agriculture Jammu. Additionally, representatives of CSIR-IIIM, members of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and lavender growers partici-



ated in the meeting via video conference.

The key focus of the meeting was the marketing linkage challenges faced by lavender growers in Jammu Division. Director Agriculture Jammu, S. Arvinder Singh Reen, addressed the current situation, highlighting the importance of strengthening the market access for lavender crops. He emphasized the enormous potential of aromatic crops in the Jammu region due to its diverse agro-climatic conditions and underscored the importance of introducing good practices for cultivating aromatic and medicinal plants to meet international quality standards.

During his meeting, the Director highlighted that processing plants and testing laboratories will be upgraded to support the scientific cultivation of aromatic crops, including lavender. He further

mentioned the establishment of a Centre of Excellence under NABARD for lavender cultivation to promote quality standards and better market linkage.

The Director Agriculture also stressed the need for organic certification in collaboration with CSIR-IIIM and PGS-India, with an emphasis on the certification of handmade products. He assured that the Department of Agriculture is committed to providing support to every grower and emphasized the importance of collaboration with FPOs and allied departments to resolve the issues facing lavender growers.

Director A.S Reen also mentioned that extraction machinery issues could be alleviated through subsidies available under the HADP Project, further encouraging lavender growers to take advantage of such schemes.

Training on Advances in Plant Tissue Culture concludes at IIIM

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 21

A three-day skill development program on "Advances in Plant Tissue Culture", equipping participants with state-of-the-art techniques to address challenges in agriculture and biotechnology, concluded here today at CSIR-IIIM, Jammu. The event blended theoretical knowledge with hands-on training, fostering innovation and skill development among researchers, students, and industry professionals. In the programme, More than 20 participants, including scholars, students and agri-entrepreneurs drawn across the country, have got the opportunity to emphasize its role in fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable agriculture.

The Three-day program commenced with an introductory lecture on "Principles of Plant Tissue Culture", covering the fundamentals of in-vitro plant propagation, types of culture media, and their applications. Participants delved into the significance of synthetic seeds in crop preservation and mass propagation, followed by an interactive Q&A session. The afternoon featured hands-on training on basic



tissue culture techniques, enabling attendees to practice sterile handling and media preparation under expert guidance. Day two focused on practical skills, beginning with preparation of Murashige and Skoog (MS) media, a cornerstone of plant tissue culture. Participants learned to sterilize media and glassware using autoclaves and practiced pouring sterilized media into culture flasks for inoculation. The second session emphasized surface sterilization of explants (plant samples) and their inoculation into regeneration media. Attendees also prepared pre-cultures for genetic transformation, gaining insights into protocols for enhancing plant resilience and yield.

The final day advanced into genetic transformation techniques, where participants prepared explants for infection using Agrobacterium, a bacterium pivotal in transferring desirable genes to plants. A live demonstration of synthetic seed preparation highlighted their role in cost-effective, large-scale cultivation of elite plant varieties. The session underscored the potential of these techniques in addressing food security and climate resilience.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM Jammu, presided over the valedictory session and felicitated participants with certificates. In his address, Dr. Ahmed emphasized the transformative role of plant tissue culture in

agriculture, crop diversification, crop improvement and other allied sectors, urging attendees to drive innovation through startups and collaborative research. "This technology can be a watershed movement for India's secondary agriculture, meeting growing demands sustainably," he remarked. While congratulating the participants on the successful completion of their training program, he said that this program aligned with CSIR-IIIM Jammu's mission to foster skill development and translational research in plant biotechnology. By bridging theoretical knowledge with practical expertise, the institute aims to empower a new generation of scientists to tackle global agricultural challenges.

Last date for submission of forms for Entrance to B.Ed. and B.Sc. (Nursing) extended till 28th Feb, 2025

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 21

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has extended the last date for submission of application forms for Entrance Test towards the admission to B. Ed. & B.Sc. Nursing (Post Basic) programmes for January 2025 Session till 28th of February, 2025 up to 6PM.

The candidates meeting the minimum eligibility criteria can apply for the Entrance Tests well before the last date. The entrance exams will be conducted on Sunday, 16th March, 2025. The entrance exam of B.Ed. will be of 2-hour duration conducted from 10AM to 12Noon. The entrance exam of B.Sc. Nursing (Post Basic) will be of 2:30 hours duration conducted from 2PM to 4:30PM. There is only one Examination Centre established for the Entrance Tests under the Regional Centre Jammu, which is Exam Centre Code: 1232, Govt. M.A.M. College, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Road, Jammu.

After qualifying the entrance test, the candidates will have to appear in the counselling for admission which would be conducted based on region-wise merit list/rank and availability of seats.

"The IGNOU B.Ed. entrance exam is a stepping stone for a rewarding career in teaching, making it an important milestone for passionate candidates who aspire to become Teachers and the B.Sc. Nursing (Post Basic) will open vast career opportunities for the candidates in the Health care sector", said Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director.

Sat Sharma, Dr. Nirmal Singh, finalise "Atal Virasat Sammelan" programmes for J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 21

Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party, President, Sat Sharma, along with former Deputy Chief Minister, Dr. Nirmal Singh, chaired a meeting to discuss and finalise the upcoming "Atal Virasat Sammelan" programmes to be organised in Jammu & Kashmir in March.

Sat Sharma, while speaking in the meeting, highlighted the significance of the "Atal Virasat Sammelan". He emphasized that the programmes in this regard, are to be dedicated to celebrating the memories of Atal ji in Jammu and Kashmir, besides, highlighting values and vision of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who was instrumental in shaping

India's modern political and economic landscape.



Sharma reiterated that the events would focus on Vajpayee's contributions to J&K, particularly his efforts for cordial relations with Pakistan and in fostering peace, development, and good governance.

He shared that the programmes will be organized in every district of Jammu & Kashmir, ensuring widespread participation of senior citizens, scholars, intellectuals, and social representatives. The initiative aims to reinforce the values of democracy, national unity, and inclusive development. Moreover, the events will feature

interactions with prominent thinkers and leaders who will share insights on Vajpayee's visionary leadership.

Dr. Nirmal Singh, Convenor for the year long Atal Birth Centenary celebrations in Jammu & Kashmir, spoke at length about the initiative, stressing the need to instill Vajpayee's ideals among the youth. He pointed out that the "Atal Virasat Sammelan" programmes will serve as

a platform to remember and educate people about Vajpayee's statesmanship and his commitment to bring peace

and normalcy in Jammu & Kashmir. Singh further added that the series of events planned under the programme would also include seminars, cultural activities, and discussions on Vajpayee's policies and his memories in J&K.

BJP General Secretary & Co-Convenor, Vibodh Gupta, was assigned the responsibility to oversee the programmes in Kashmir.

This meeting was attended by Co-Convenors-Vibodh Gupta, General Secretary BJP, senior leaders Rajeev Charak, Reema Padha, Amar Singh and Munish Khajuria, Spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan, Social Media

Incharge Ankit Gupta and Nanaji Deshmukh Library & Documentation Department Incharge Prof (Dr.) Kulbhushan Mohtra.

Commissioner, JMC conducts tour of different areas to take of grievances being faced by residents

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 21

Dr. Devansh Yadav (IAS), Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Jammu, conducted an inspection of the Nanak Nagar area today after receiving complaints regarding waterlogging due to a blocked Nallah.

During his visit, Dr. Yadav assessed the situation and interacted with local residents, who were facing inconvenience due to the improper drainage of water. He assured them that immediate steps would be taken to clear the blockage and restore smooth water flow. He also emphasized that necessary preventive measures would be implemented well before



the onset of the monsoon season to avoid similar issues in the future. Dr. Devansh Yadav, inspects Nanak Nagar and assures prompt action on drainage issue.

The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Jammu, also visited Raghunath Bazaar today to assess ongoing development activities. During his visit, he also reviewed the works undertaken by Jammu Smart City Limited

to enhance urban infrastructure and public amenities in the area.

Members of the Raghunath Bazaar Market Association took this opportunity to submit a representation to the Commissioner, highlighting therein the key concerns and demands of the market community. The representation emphasized the need for repairing of interior lanes, improvement of street lighting, and enhanced sanitation facilities to further

boost the market's appeal and functionality.

He assured the association members that their concerns would be taken into consideration, and necessary steps would be taken to address the highlighted issues. He reiterated the administration's commitment to improving civic amenities and fostering a cleaner, well-lit, and more accessible commercial environment in Raghunath Bazaar.

The Municipal Corporation is committed to address the civic concerns promptly and ensuring a cleaner, more efficient drainage system for the residents of Jammu and the other various issues of the people of the Jammu.

SMVDU-TBIC and School of Mechanical Engineering host JKEDI Official

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 21

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Technology Business Incubation Centre (SMVDU-TBIC) in collaboration with School of Mechanical Engineering, SMVDU successfully organized an awareness session for students, highlighting key government schemes for entrepreneurship and innovation. The event aimed to educate students on the various opportunities available through government initiatives to foster entrepreneurial growth and self-reliance. The session was initiated by Dr. Sanjay Mohan, CEO of SMVDU-TBIC, who underscored the importance of innovation and entrepreneurship in today's evolving economic landscape. Following this, Mr. Abilash Kumar, an Official from the Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneur-



ship Development Institute (JKEDI), took the stage to elaborate on the various schemes available to students and aspiring entrepreneurs in the region. He provided insights into the workings of JKEDI and how students can leverage government programs to transform their innovative ideas into viable businesses. Mr. Kumar detailed key schemes such as startup funding, financial assistance for young entrepreneurs, and skill develop-

ment programs tailored to help students navigate the early stages of their entrepreneurial journey. He emphasized the government's commitment to fostering a robust startup ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir and encouraged students to explore the resources available to them. Adding to the discussion, Ms. Divye Duheta Mahajan, Business Manager at SMVDU-TBIC, elaborated on how TBIC has been helping students in

the region to reach out to these schemes since 2015. She highlighted the incubator's role in providing mentorship, funding access, and networking opportunities to budding entrepreneurs. The event saw enthusiastic participation from students, who actively engaged with the speakers through interactive discussions and queries. Many expressed keen interest in exploring startup ventures within the support of JKEDI and TBIC. The ses-

sion was also attended by Dr. Vineet Tyagi, Associate Professor, School of Physics and Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Associate Professor, School of Energy Management. At the conclusion of the session, Dr. Sanjay Mohan, CEO of SMVDU-TBIC, along with Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Head of the School of Mechanical Engineering, thanked Mr. Abilash Kumar for his valuable time and insightful presentation, which enlightened the gathering about the latest developments in the startup world. SMVDU-TBIC continues to serve as a catalyst for entrepreneurial development, fostering innovation and supporting students in their journey toward becoming successful entrepreneurs. With more such initiatives planned, TBIC remains dedicated to building a thriving startup ecosystem within the university and beyond.

Yog Guru Vijay Krishna Parashar Ji calls for unity to grant 'National Mother' status to Cows

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 21

Movement Kalki held an important press conference today at the Press Club, Jammu, reiterating its 125-day-long demand to grant cows the status of 'National Mother', establish a Sanatan Board, and enact strict cow protection laws.

The press conference was led by Yog Guru Shri Shri 1008 Vijay Krishna Parashar Ji Maharaj, an advisor to Movement Kalki. He was accompanied by Karni Sena Vice President Jagdish Rana Ji, Rajkumar Lalotra (2024 Assembly Elections Candidate), Vishva Hindu Mahasabha State President Narendra Singh, Anadi Committee National Youth President Akarshak Gupta, Cow Protection Organization Chairman Kushal Sharma, and Movement Kalki advisors Pritam Sharma, Karnail Chand, Pawan Sharma, Sapna Hindu, Anuradha Yogi, Vikram Mahajan, along with several other members.

Yog Guru Vijay Krishna Parashar Ji Maharaj stated that Lord Krishna always served and honored cows, treating them as mothers. However, in today's society, cows are facing immense cruelty and are being taken to slaughter-



houses while the government remains silent.

He urged the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister Umar Abdullah to take immediate action by passing a strict cow protection law in the assembly.

He also called upon the saint community to step forward, raise awareness, and actively support this movement. He emphasized that Jammu is known as the 'City of Temples,' yet injustices against cows continue. This must be stopped immediately.

Public Appeal - Write Letters and Show Support

He encouraged every citizen to write to Movement Kalki, demanding legal protection for cows. These letters will send a strong message to the government that the people demand strict laws for cow protection.

Mass Rally to Be Organized Soon

Yog Guru Vijay Krish-

na Parashar Ji Maharaj announced that Movement Kalki will soon organize a massive rally to increase public awareness and put pressure on the government for decisive action.

Movement Kalki's Demands:

1. Cows should be granted the status of 'National Mother.'
2. Strict cow protection laws should be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir.
3. A bill should be passed in the assembly to ensure cow safety.
4. A Sanatan Board should be established to protect Hindu religious sites and traditions.
5. A complete ban on cow slaughter and trafficking should be enforced.

Movement Kalki urges all devotees, saints, and citizens to join the movement and extend their full support for the protection of cows and Sanatan Dharma.

Dogri and Kashmiri Language Association celebrates International Mother Language Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 21

Today, on the occasion of International Mother Language Day, Dogri and Kashmiri Language Association organized a literary and cultural program in K.L. Auditorium of Culture and Language Academy Jammu.

On this occasion, Leader of Opposition in Jammu and Kashmir Assembly and MLA Shri Sunil Kumar Sharma was present as the chief guest. This has happened for the first time in history and the organization has organized such a program in two native languages of both the divisions. The main objective of the program was about the future of Dogri and Kashmiri languages.

On this occasion, Mohammad Amin Bhatt, president Adbi Markaz Kamaraj and member of Kashmiri language in Sahitya Akademi, gave some examples of the special attachment of people around the world towards mother language. eminent Kashmiri writer Prof. Rattan Talashi expressed his views on the history



and present scenario of Kashmiri language

Senior litterateur Dr. Ashok Khajuria gave detailed information on Dogri "language origin and development" in Dogri language. Also made aware about the importance of mother language.

Chief guest Sunil Sharma praised the program and said that for the first time the main languages of both the provinces of Jammu and Kashmir are doing this program together, this is an auspicious occasion of unity.

He assured to make every possible effort for the growth of both the languages.

On this occasion, Joint Director of Education Department Ms. Shubha

Mehta and Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir Art Culture and Language Academy Harvinder Kaur were also present.

Director Doordarshan and Akashwani Jammu Ms. Renu Raina, Padma Shri Mohan Singh Slathia, Vijay Verma, Professor Dr. Padamdev Singh of Dogri Department of Jammu University, editor Dogri JKAACL Ms. Reeta Khadyal, Ms. Bindiya Tickoo, Sh. Rajender Raina, Usma Khalid Hussain, Khalid Ahmed, Bilal Hussain, Rafiq Ahmed were special guest on the occasion.

The program was conducted by Sahitya Akademi Award winner Dr. Ashu Sharma (Youth President, Dogri Bhasha Academy Jammu) and Anjer Ali.

In the end, Sahil Badyal expressed his gratitude. The objective of the platform is to implement Dogri and Kashmiri languages in schools from first to tenth class and to appoint subject related teachers under Rehbar-e-Zubaan scheme.

The programme was conducted by Waseem Ahmad, Roshan Baral (President), Dongri Bhasha Academy, Jammu), Parvez Barkat and Swatantrata Mehra, Heena Chaudhary, Ruchi Sharma, Neha Verma, Ajay Singh, etc. A large number of media persons, litterateurs of different languages, intellectuals, artists, show students and students participated in the programme.

17.01 lakh new workers enrolled under ESI Scheme in the month of December, 2024

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEB 21

The provisional payroll data of ESIC reveals that 17.01 lakh new employees have been added in the month of December, 2024.

20,360 new establishments have been brought under the social security ambit of the ESI Scheme in the month of December, 2024 thus ensuring social security to more workers.

Through the data, it is noticeable that out of the total 17.01 lakh employees added during the month, 8.22 lakh employees amounting to around 48.35% of the total registrations belong to the age group of upto 25 years.

Also, the gender-wise analysis of the payroll data indicates that the net enrolment of female members has been 3.46 lakh in December, 2024. Besides, a total of 73 transgender employees have also got registered under ESI Scheme in the month of December, 2024 which attests the commitment of ESIC to deliver its benefits to every section of the society.

The payroll data is provisional since the data generation is a continuous exercise.

Awareness programme on Rights of Transgender and their Empowerment held at GCW Udhampur

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 21

The Women Development and Empowerment Cell (WDEC) of Government College for Women (GCW), Udhampur organized an informative awareness programme on the theme "The Rights of Transgender and Their Empowerment" in the college campus.

Akash Deep, Additional Special Mobile Magistrate, Udhampur was the keynote speaker. He shared insights on the legal rights of transgenders emphasizing on the Transgenders' Protection of Rights Act, 2019 and the challenges faced by the community. Prof. (Dr.) Nalini Pathania,



Principal of the college, in her address stressed on the creation of harmony in the society by giving equal status to all genders and also urged the students to spread awareness about the rights of transgender individuals.

Earlier, the welcome address was delivered by Dr. Geetanji Rajput, Convener, Women Development and Empowerment Cell. She motivated the stu-

dents to contribute towards creating a humanistic society by treating transgender individuals as normal human beings. Dr. Shivani Suri Verma, Co-convenor of the cell presented vote of thanks. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Kamaldeep Kaur and Prof. Simran Khajuria. The event aimed to spread awareness about transgender rights, promote empathy, and create an inclusive society.

Motivational Talk organized for Youth to Join Armed Forces at Kotranka, Rajouri



JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 21 FEB 2025

A Motivational talk on how to join armed forces was organised by Indian Army at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Kotranka on 21 Feb 2025 to encourage the youth to join the armed forces. The aim of conducting this motivational talk was to motivate the talented and potential students to join armed forces of our country. Motivational talk focused on motivating the students to plan their career in armed forces

based on their respective inclination, interests and various opportunities available to join the armed forces. During the motivational talk, students were briefed about the selection procedure of an Officer in the armed forces.

This is a unique step by the Army towards winning hearts and minds of the local population. A total of 02 teachers and 48 students (20 x Girls & 28 x Boys) attended the motivational talk. The Army has been working with an aim to change

the perception of the underprivileged population in the region, which ultimately manifests in sustained peace and prosperity in the region. Local youth thanked and expressed their profound gratitude towards the Army for organising the motivational talk and taking this noble initiative for students to motivate the talented and potential students to join Indian armed forces. This initiative will go a long way in overall development of the students.

Dr. Sat Lal Manhas assumes charge as Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Doda

JNEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 21, 2025-

Dr. Sat Lal Manhas officially assumed the charge of Deputy Chief Medical Officer (Dy CMO) Doda on February 21, 2025.

Upon his arrival, Dr. Manhas was warmly welcomed by the staff of the Chief Medical Office, Deputy Chief Medical Office, and the ANMT School Doda. The staff expressed their enthusiasm and extended their full support to Dr. Manhas.

Following his assumption of office, Dr. Manhas also held a brief introductory meeting with the staff of the Dy CMO office. During the meeting, he emphasized teamwork, dedication, and a collective commitment to improving the healthcare system in Doda. It is important to



mention here that before assuming this post, Dr. Sat Lal Manhas served as Block Medical Officer (BMO) Kishtwar. Over the years, he has served the department in various capacities, demonstrating his commitment to strengthening healthcare services

and implementing public health initiatives effectively. The staff conveyed their best wishes to Dr. Manhas and expressed confidence that his leadership will bring positive changes to the district's healthcare landscape.

Pir Panjal Volleyball Tournament concludes with Thrilling Boys' Final



JNEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR: 21 FEB 2025

The Pir Panjal Volleyball Tournament reached an electrifying conclusion as Team Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh volleyball emerged victorious in a gripping final against Habib Club B Surankote. The tournament, which commenced on February 15, witnessed intense competition, with teams displaying remarkable skill and determination.

The grand finale was a spectacle of talent, team-

work, and resilience, with both teams showcasing exceptional performances. The atmosphere was electric, with an enthusiastic crowd cheering for their favorite players. Despite a strong fight from Habib Club B Surankote, Team Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Volleyball Club boys held their ground and secured the championship title with a stellar display of skill and perseverance.

The tournament concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, where the Champion Team,

Runners-up, Best Player, and other outstanding performers were honoured for their contributions to the game.

As a part of the Pir Panjal Winter Festival, the volleyball tournament exemplified the spirit of youth and the Indian Army, bringing together passion, discipline, and sportsmanship on a single platform. The festival continues to reinforce the unifying power of sports, fostering teamwork, resilience, and camaraderie among young athletes.

CCI felicitates newly elected team of Lakhdatta Bazar Businessmen Association

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 21

The Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI), Jammu, felicitated the newly elected team of the Lakhdatta Bazar Businessmen Association in a special function held at the Chamber House today. The event marked a significant moment in strengthening the collaboration between business communities and trade organizations in Jammu. The newly elected team of the Lakhdatta Bazar Businessmen Association includes Kartar Gupta as President, Amit Luthra as General Secretary, Ankur Suri as Senior Vice President, Rahul Mahajan, Abhishek Mahajan, Lalit Luthra and Vijay Kumar as Vice Presidents, Gurminder Singh as Secretary, Sumit Verma as

Media Secretary, Ramesh Chander as Cashier, and Sham Suri as Executive Member.

Arun Gupta, President of CCI Jammu, extended his heartfelt congratulations to the new team and emphasized the importance of unity and proactive leadership in fostering a conducive business environment. He assured full support from the Chamber in addressing the concerns of the business fraternity and working collectively for the economic growth in the region.

The event witnessed the participation of prominent members of the business community, who lauded the efforts of the outgoing team and expressed confidence in the newly elected office bearers to take forward the legacy of trade excellence in Lakhdatta Bazar.

ADGP Armed visits JKAP 8th Bn Miran Sahib Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 21 FEBRUARY

Shri. Anand Jain, IPS, ADGP Armed J&K visited JKAP 8th Bn. Miran Sahib Jammu to take review of the functioning of the Battalion.

On his arrival, the ADGP was presented Guard of Honour by a contingent of JKAP 8thBn. Accompanied by DIG Armed Jammu Sh. Vinod Kumar, IPS, the ADGP Armed conducted thorough inspection of all the battalion establishments including Administrative block, Barracks, Mess, Kot, MT Fleet, Canteens, Stores and the Battalion premises.

On the occasion, while addressing the Darbar of personnel, the ADGP gave a patient hearing to the issues put forth by the personnel, on spot instructions were imparted to the officers for timely redressal of the grievances.

The Darbar was held to take firsthand account of the problems faced by the personnel concerning



to their Welfare and other Service matters.

During his address, the ADGP appreciated the efforts of officers and officials of the battalion for performing their assigned duties with dedication & devotion.

The ADGP stressed the Officers to maintain cleanliness and conduct cleanliness drives regularly around the Battalion area to maintain hygiene. It was also impressed upon the concerned Commandant to get the medical examination of all the personnel conducted in order to improve the overall health standards.

Stressing upon the personnel for more physical activity at battalion level, the ADGP directed the Officers to restart PT, Refresher courses with emphasis on New Criminal Laws (NCL) & Outdoor trainings of personnel to make them physically fit in order to improve their overall physical strength to deal with the challenging situations.

Among others the officers who were present on the occasion include Shri. Dalip Kumar, SSP, Staff Officer to ADGP Armed, Shri. Suram Singh, SSP, Commandant JKAP 8th Bn & other officers.

Sanjay Gupta Chairman J&K Grameen Bank unveils Diary of Jammu-Jhelum Infra Services

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 21

Sanjay Gupta Chairman (J&K Grameen Bank) today unveiled diary of M/s Jammu-Jhelum Infra Services at JKGB Head office, Narwal, Jammu. Laqsh Chhibber & Pervinder Singh two young civil engineers have started their own venture under start up

mission instead of looking for government jobs. They are empaneled valuer (Land & Building) of all major banks and have offices at all district headquarter of Jammu provision. They are providing jobs to unemployed youths of the remote areas.

The diary serves as a tool to showcase their area of specified services being offered as engineers with transparency and commitment of finalizing reports with all compliance in mind.

Chairman JKGB, applauded them for the launch of this startup in civil engineering sector in UT of J&K. Further he said vision of young & dynamic entrepreneurs like you are truly inspiring. He wished them great success in the future.

Yudhvir inaugurates Cafe & Restaurant 'Aroma Bristo' at BC Road

Encourages youth to become self-reliant

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 21

BJP leader and MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi today inaugurated Aroma Bristo (Cafe & Restaurant), a new venture by young entrepreneur Aditya Bhasin, at BC Road in Jammu. The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of prominent dignitaries, business leaders, and enthusiastic youth, all gathered to celebrate the spirit of entrepreneurship and self-reliance.

On the occasion, Dr Akshay Sharma ex Corporator, BJP leaders Raman Sharma and Suresh Sargotra, Swati Sharma Mandal President were also present.

Speaking at the event, Yudhvir Sethi lauded Aditya Bhasin's initiative and emphasized the



importance of youth-led entrepreneurship in shaping a progressive society. He stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat can only be realized when young individuals take the lead in establishing their businesses, generating employment, and contributing to economic growth.

"The youth of Jammu and Kashmir must step forward and explore the vast opportunities in various sectors, including hos-

pitality, tourism, and technology. Self-reliance is the key to success, and young entrepreneurs like Aditya Bhasin serve as an inspiration for others," Sethi said. The MLA further highlighted the BJP-led government's various schemes and policies aimed at empowering youth, such as Startup India, Mudra Yojana, and Skill India Mission, which provide financial assistance and skill development opportunities to aspiring entrepreneurs.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER, KHOUR

Subject: - Final Selection list of the candidates for the posts of Sangini (Anganwadi Worker) advertised vide Notification No. 01 of 2024 Dated 10-10-2024- Phase 3rd rectification.

Reference: 1. Notification issued vide this office letter no CDPO/Kh/2024-25/568-570 Dated 04-12-2024
2. Approval accorded by ADDC Jammu conveyed vide Letter no: DPOJ/Poshan/3474-80/25 Dt 17-02-2025 of the o/o District Programme Officer Poshan Jammu.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas vide Advertisement Notification No.01 of 2024 Dated 10-10-2024, of this office, applications were re-invited for the posts of Sangini (Anganwadi Worker) in below mentioned Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project Khour, under Phase 3rd-rectification whereas the Provisional selection list of below mentioned posts of Sangini was issued vide letter no. CDPO/Kh/2024-25/568-570 Dated 04-12-2024 of this office, for inviting of objections whereas the Selection Committee constituted vide Govt. Order No. 103-JK (SWD) of 2023 dated 28-04-2023 for Sanginis (AWWs) has recommended the Final selection list for the below mentioned posts of Sangini.

Now, therefore, in pursuance to the provisions of the HR policy notified vide Order No 222-JK(SWD) of 2022 Dated 30-11-2022 of the Department of Social Welfare, the **Final Selection list** is hereby published, as per Annexure-A, to this notification.

Annexure-A:

S No.	Name of AWC	Ward No.	Name of panchayat	Name of Applicant	Parentage/ Spouse	D.O.B	Total Points
1	Kharah B	Ward No.5	Kharah	Manu Radhika	W/o Sachin Lachotra	30-03-1999	87.85
2	Nikowal	Ward No.6	Bhalwal Mullo	Renu Bala	W/o Raj Kumar	19-02-1992	54.68

No: CDPO/Kh/2024-25/808-810
Dated:20-02-2025

Sd/-
Sumit Suri (JKAS)
Child Dev. Project Officer
Khour

DIP/J-10426/24
Date: 21-2-25

Struggle for statehood is a fight for justice, Self-respect for people of J&K: Karra

JNEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEBRUARY 21

Charging BJP with adopting deceitful tactics in restoring statehood, Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hameed Karra today said that getting statehood is genuine demand and a legitimate right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing an impressive rally as part of the ongoing "Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq" campaign, Mr. Karra strongly warned against the deliberate delay tactics being employed to deny the people of J&K their legitimate right to statehood.

He asserted that the Congress will not hesitate to take to the streets if the BJP-led Union Government continues to deprive the region of its rightful status.

Accompanied by Working Presidents Tara Chand, Raman Bhalla Ch Lal Singh, Ravinder Sharma, Former Minister Jagjivan Lal, Ex MLA Ch Mumtaz Khan, Rajesh Sadotra, Rakesh Wazir, Vijay Sharma, Bupinder Singh, President DCC Reasi, Ravinder Singh, Rakesh Wazir, Rajesh Sadotra, Sheikh Ayaz Hussain, Munshi Ram Salathia, Sohan Chand, Sobha Sharma, Karandeep Singh, Jagdish Sharma, Bhanu Partap Singh, S.Jaspal Singh, Mohd. Sabir, Kamlesh Massi & other senior leaders, Mr Karra while Speaking to a large gathering,



organised by DCC led by Bhupinder Singh Mr. Karra emphasized that statehood is not a privilege but a fundamental right of every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that the continued denial of statehood amounts to the denial of basic democratic rights to the people. The JKPCC president vowed to intensify the ongoing movement, ensuring that the people's voice is heard at every level.

J&K Congress chief expressed satisfaction over the enthusiastic response that the "Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq" campaign has been receiving from the people across the region. He assured the gathering that the Congress Party is committed to taking this movement to its logical conclusion. He further pointed out that the campaign has not only mobilized public sentiment but has also exposed the BJP's unwillingness to address the concerns of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Coming down heavily on BJP leaders in Jammu and

Kashmir, Karra condemned their "criminal silence" on the issue of statehood. He criticized local BJP leaders for failing to advocate for the rights of their own people and accused them of deliberately misleading the public with contradictory statements.

According to Mr. Karra, instead of standing with the people in their just demand for statehood, BJP leaders have been indulging in political maneuvering to avoid addressing this crucial issue.

Mr. Karra also cautioned people against the nefarious designs of the BJP, accusing the party of indulging in divisive politics to divert attention from pressing public issues. He alleged that while common people are struggling for basic amenities, BJP leaders are focused on creating communal and regional divides.

"BJP has been brazenly indulging in divisive politics to hide its failures. Instead of addressing issues like unemployment, inflation,

and lack of development, the party is shamelessly trying to pit people against each other," he remarked.

He further asserted that the Congress Party will continue to fight against such political deceit and will ensure that the real issues of the people, such as restoration of statehood, employment, and development, remain at the forefront of the political discourse. Karra urged the people of Jammu and Kashmir to remain united and actively participate in the ongoing struggle for their rights. He emphasized that the restoration of statehood is not just a political issue but a matter of dignity and self-respect for the people of J&K.

He appealed to all sections of society, including youth, traders, farmers, and intellectuals, to join hands in this movement, as their collective strength would force the government to take immediate action to restore the democratic rights of the region.

Mr. Karra reaffirmed that Congress will not remain silent on this issue and will escalate its agitation if the BJP-led Central Government continues to ignore the demand for statehood. He warned that any further deliberate delays in restoring statehood would lead to strong protests and demonstrations across Jammu and Kashmir.

Karra also issued a stern warning to party cadres to respect the coalition

partner and always speak responsibly, about coalition partner as Congress has a bigger goal & bigger role and the fight against BJP-RSS can't be fought by anyone alone.

Speaking on the occasion, Ex Dy CM Tara Chand reminded the gathering of the contributions of Congress before & after independence especially in Jammu Kashmir. He referred to the vital role played with large scale development on all fronts especially during UPA I & II, in every sphere including opening of large number of administrative units. He lashed out at BJP for its divisive & diversionary politics.

Shri Raman Bhalla termed Reasi District as abode of revered holy shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi ji & Shiv Khori and the economy of Jammu is dependent on pilgrims. He favoured promotion of tourism in the district and facilities but not at the cost of livelihood of labourers.

Ex MP Ch Lal Singh referred to the history of Reasi and saluted General Zorawar Singh and lashed out the BJP for downgrading the historical dogra state and removing out identity. He said our struggle for statehood has to be intensified by all.

The rally ended with a strong resolution from Congress leaders and party workers, vowing to continue the struggle until statehood is fully restored to Jammu and Kashmir.

Indian Army conducts Lecture on 'World of Social Justice' for locals at Prore Gujran, Rajouri

JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 21 FEB 2025

Indian Army conducted a lecture on World of Social Justice on 21 Feb 2025 at Prore Gujran. The event witnessed huge participation from local population. The lecture aimed at signifying Social justice which refers to the concept of creating a fair and just society by addressing issues such as inequality, discrimination, and oppression.

It emphasizes the idea



that all individuals should have equal rights and opportunities, regardless of their race, gender, socioeconomic status, nationality, or other characteristics. Participation from all age groups was observed, Refreshments

were catered for. The event was praised by the local population for the idea of commuting to building a world where all people, regardless of their background, can enjoy the same rights, opportunities, and dignity.

Shrimad Bhagwat Katha culminates at village Jangwal

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 21

The seven-day Bhagwat Katha at village Jangwal Friday concluded with the immersion of kalashes, a poignant ceremony that marked the end of the spiritual discourse. This sacred ritual is an integral part of the Bhagwat Katha, which aims to enlighten devotees with the teachings of the Bhagavata Purana. Rashpal Shastri speaking on the conclusion of Katha said that the Bhagwat Katha is typically conducted over seven days, symbolizing the seven chakras or the seven days of the week. This duration allows for an in-depth exploration of the scripture, enabling devotees to absorb its spiritual significance and wisdom. Throughout the seven days, devotees are immersed in the spiritual discourse, which encompasses the teachings of Lord Krishna and the Bhagavata Purana. The Katha serves as a means to attain spiritual enlightenment, self-realization, and a deeper connection with the divine, added Shastri. The culmination of the Bhagwat Katha with the immersion of kalashes holds great significance, as it symbolizes the release of spiritual energies and the dissemination of divine blessings. As the kalashes are immersed, the devotees are filled with a



sense of spiritual renewal and rejuvenation, carrying with them the wisdom and teachings of the Bhagwat Katha, said Shastri.

Speaking on the occasion, Kesri said that seven days Katha was a significant spiritual gathering, bringing together locals and devotees to immerse themselves in the sacred teachings of the Bhagwat Purana. Pt. Rajesh Kesri observed that SSH's efforts to organize this event demonstrate its commitment to promoting spiritual growth and community bonding in the region. Shiv Sena Hindustan's Jammu and Kashmir unit has been actively engaged in various initiatives aimed at serving the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Kesri maintained that attending the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha is always a profoundly enriching experience for young people. This ancient Indian scripture offers timeless wisdom, spiritual guidance, and valuable life lessons that can benefit individuals of all ages, especially the youth. The Katha provides an opportunity for young people to connect with their spiritual roots, fostering a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them. The stories and teachings of the Bhagavata Purana emphasize important moral values such as compassion, honesty, and self-discipline, which are essential for character development, added Kesri.

Kesri said that Katha offers practical wisdom on how to navigate life's challenges, making it an invaluable resource for young people as they transition into adulthood. Attending the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha allows young people to connect with their cultural heritage, appreciating the rich history and traditions of Hinduism. The Katha's emphasis on self-reflection, self-awareness, and personal growth can help young people develop a stronger sense of purpose and direction in life. By attending the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha, young people can gain a deeper understanding of themselves, their culture, and their place in the world.

Dr. Vikas Sharma demands rescheduling of JKAS Exam

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 21

Strongly supporting the growing demand of rescheduling JKAS exams, Dr. Vikas Sharma former JURSEA President pointed out that when JKAS exam scheduled for 23rd February 2025 directly clashes with Air Force Common Admission Test fixed on the same date i.e. 23rd February 2025, it is a matter of common sense and necessity of the hour to reschedule JKAS exam in the over-all interests of applicants aspiring to avail opportunities to test their capability in both these exams.

Referring to the reports emanating from different sources, students both from Jammu and Kashmir have done preparations for appearing in both these exams and in the wake of accepting demand for rescheduling JKAS exam, this will easily pave way for the aspirants to appear in both these exams, he said adding that marking their chances to appear in both the exams under the given circumstances will be a great injustice and absolutely undesirable.

Dr. Vikas urged JKPCSC authorities to seriously reconsider rescheduling JKAS exam shunning its recalcitrant attitude enabling aspirants of Jammu and Kashmir to test their ability by appearing in both these exams, which, indeed, is the right of young students and cannot be ignored, he added.

Medical Patrol conducts for Gujjar, Bakkarwals at Kalal, Rajouri



JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 21 FEB 2025

Indian Army extended healthcare services to the remote parts of Rajouri district by mobile medical patrol in the village Kalal to address medical problems of the locals as well as Gujjars and Bakkarwals in the area. The inhabitants of the area are often out of 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 locals 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 objec-

tive was to provide on-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 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 of 10 male, 08 female & 03 Children were benefitted from the mobile medical patrol.

Poster Making Competition on HIV/AIDS held at GCW Udhampur



JNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR FEBRUARY 21

Red Ribbon Club of Govt. College for Women (GCW) Udhampur organized a Poster making competition on HIV/AIDS awareness held in the college campus.

Students of all semesters participated in the program. The program was started with the welcome address by the co-convenor of Red Ribbon Club Prof. Pardeep Singh. In his welcome address, he welcomed the Chief Guest of the program Dr. Nalini Pathania, the Principal of GCW Udhampur. He also talked about HIV/AIDS.

The chief guest in her address highlighted the importance of organizing such types of programs in the campus for sensitizing the younger generation about such a deadly disease and motivated students to be the stakeholders in making the

society aware. She exhorted the students to be the envoy of the college in spreading awareness among the masses.

The program was attended by a large number of students and faculty members. Nearly 50 students of all semesters participated in the poster making competition. Most of the posters carried slogans related to transmission, prevention and cure of HIV/AIDS.

All the jury members after evaluating the posters decided to give first, second and third prize to Kanchan Jamwal, student of sem 6th, Bhumika Sharma, Student of sem. 6th and Ayushi of semester 6th respectively. Dr. Mool Raj, Dr. Ajay Kumar Sharma and Dr. Preety Dubey were the jury members. The program ended with the vote of thanks given by Dr. Surbjeet Kour (Member, Red Ribbon Club)

GDC Maheen organizes awareness rally on 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan'

JNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEB 21

NSS volunteers and the students of GDC, Marheen participated in an awareness rally on the theme of "Jal Shakti Abhiyan" on 20-02-2025. The Rally was conducted under the patron-

age of Prof. (Dr.) Anupama Gupta, worthy Principal of the college. On this occasion, she addressed the rally of NSS volunteers and the students, to carry out the message among the people which aims to engage citizens in a nationwide effort to address water scarcity

through a series of targeted interventions and also emphasized the importance of water in life. She also added that our main source of water is rain water and therefore, our water bodies should be ready to receive the maximum amount of rainfall.

Indian Army organizes Tree Plantation Drive at Kalal, Rajouri



JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 21 FEB 2025

The Indian Army organised a tree plantation drive at Kalal on 21 Feb 2025. The campaign was aimed at promoting tree plantation, environmental conservation, improving air quality and support biodiversity. With a vision to create a greener and healthier nation, the campaign engaged local volunteers and government entities to work collec-

tively towards safeguarding the environment for future generations. The locals paid keen interest and actively participated in the tree plantation event.

This campaign is a call to action for every individual to become a custodian of our environment. By planting trees today, we are securing a vibrant and sustainable future for generations to come and sowings the seeds of change for better tomorrow.

As we embark on this journey towards a greener and healthier future, the tree plantation campaign invites everyone to come together and take ownership of our environment. During the campaign a total of 14 saplings were planted by the Army with an aim to increase the 'Green Gover' in the region and persuade people to curb deforestation and promote a clean and green future. Locals actively participated in the event.

Labour & Employment Department organises District-Level Awareness Workshop in Rajouri

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 21

The Labour & Employment Department, Rajouri, today organized a District-Level Awareness Workshop at Dak Bungalow Rajouri to educate the public about various labour laws and welfare schemes available for registered construction workers.

The event was graced by DDC Chairperson Adv Naseem Liaquat and MLA Rajouri, Iftikhar Ahmed.

The DDC Chairperson suggested distributing pamphlets in local languages to ensure the general public understands the registration process and scheme benefits. He also called for launching a massive registration drive across the district and suggested that DDC members



be consulted for maximum coverage of eligible beneficiaries. Additionally, he highlighted the role of social media in spreading awareness.

MLA Rajouri Iftikhar Ahmed called for extending awareness programs to far-flung areas. He further suggested that all MGNREGA job card holders who have worked for more than 90 days in a financial year should be registered under the Labour Department's welfare schemes. He fur-

ther proposed to conduct mega awareness programs in remote areas to maximize outreach.

Earlier, Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) Pradyot Gupta delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation on labour laws and welfare schemes. He highlighted financial assistance provisions for registered workers in cases of natural death, accidental death, chronic diseases, permanent disability, marriage assistance, education

of their wards, and scholarships for students securing over 90% in Class 10th or 12th. Additionally, the registration process and prerequisite documents for availing these benefits were elaborated.

The workshop was attended by ACP Sheraz Chouhan, DSWO Abdul Raheem, Ex En PHE Ashwani Khajuria, other district and sectoral officers, prominent citizens, and members of the general public.

Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana: Workshop on Digital Literacy hosted for Science Teachers

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 21

A Capacity Building workshop on Digital Literacy and Virtual Hub was conducted today for Science Teachers here at Panchayat Ghar Palli in Block Bari Brahmana.

The program was organized under the Village Development Plan of Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY by the JKSTIC (Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology & Innovation Council), in collaboration with the Rural Development Department.

The training featured insightful guest lectures by Dr. Shubnandan Jamwal, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and IT and Dr. Jaswinder Singh, Deputy Director (Technical), NIELIT Jammu. They



provided in-depth sessions on digital literacy, virtual learning platforms, and the role of technology in modern education.

Additionally, they educated participants on the phishing attacks, cyber security measures, and the rising number of cyber scams occurring in India, emphasizing the importance of online safety and digital awareness among educators.

While the training promoted the integration of technology in education, experts also discussed the downsides of excessive

technology use. To counter these challenges, participants were encouraged to adopt digital well-being practices, such as balancing screen time, using technology mindfully, and promoting offline activities for holistic learning.

The Guest of Honour, Shruti Khanna, District Coordinator, JKSTIC, Department of Science and Technology, highlighted the significance of digital transformation in education, particularly in rural areas.

Science teachers from Govt. High School Palli,

Govt. Middle School Palli, Govt. Higher Secondary School Birpur, Govt. High School Bari Brahmana, Govt. Middle School Bari Brahmana and Govt. Primary School Teli Basti actively participated in the program, gaining hands-on experience with various e-learning tools and innovative teaching methodologies. The initiative aligns with the government's vision of promoting digital empowerment in rural areas, ensuring that educators can effectively leverage technology to enhance the learning experience.

The event concluded with an interactive session, where participants sharing their experiences and the need for more such training programs to enhance their digital competencies and awareness of cyber security threats.

MLA Beerwah inaugurates Mobile Surgical Eye Camp, Biochemistry Analyzer at SDH Magam

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, FEBRUARY 21

In a significant boost to the healthcare infrastructure in Magam, MLA Beerwah, Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani today inaugurated a mobile surgical eye camp and a fully automatic biochemistry analyzer at Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Magam, in presence of Director Health Services Kashmir Dr Bakshi Jahangeer.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Jahangeer Ahmad Bakshi; Assistant Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Muzaffar Sharewani; Chief Medical Officer Budgam, Dr. Mohd Ayoub Fatehkhan, Dr Asmat IC mobile eye camp and Chairman Civil Society Magam, Haji Moham-



mad Ibrahim Mir; besides other senior health officials.

Speaking at the event, MLA Beerwah Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani assured that he would work tirelessly to ensure the hospital receives the best facilities. He appreciated the Block Medical Officer and staff for their exceptional services to the people of Magam and surrounding areas.

MLA Beerwah also urged the Director Health

Services Kashmir to provide a laparoscope and digital X-ray machine to the hospital, in addition to upgrading the existing hospital infrastructure and utilizing the old hospital complex as a trauma hospital.

Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Jahangeer Ahmad Bakshi, assured MLA Beerwah that all issues raised during the function would be addressed on a priority basis, with efforts made to expedite the resolution of

pending hospital issues.

Earlier, Dr. Mir Mush-taq, Block Medical Officer Magam, welcomed the guests and presented a detailed overview of the hospital's functioning and challenges. He highlighted the need for advanced healthcare facilities in the region and expressed gratitude to MLA Beerwah for his relentless support.

Dr. Mohammad Ayoub, CMO Budgam, expressed gratitude to MLA Beerwah and Director Health Services Kashmir for the surgical eye camp and biochemistry analyzer, which will greatly benefit the local population.

The mobile surgical eye camp and biochemistry analyzer will significantly enhance the healthcare facilities at SDH Magam, benefiting thousands of patients of the area.

DDC reviews performance of Rural Development Department in Reasi

J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEBRUARY 21

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Reasi, Nidhi Malik on Friday chaired a high-level meeting to assess the working and performance of the Rural Development Department (RDD) schemes. The review covered key initiatives such as MGNREGA, the CAPEX budget, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), and the Aspirational Block Development Program. DDC emphasized the importance of effective implementation and urged officials to enhance their efforts in improving rural infrastructure and livelihood opportunities.

The DDC directed Block Development Officers (BDOs) to personally visit each Panchayat to



motivate beneficiaries to expedite the construction of PMAY-G houses. She also stressed the importance of maintaining close coordination with Tehsildars to ensure the recovery process from defaulters. By streamlining these efforts, she highlighted the need to boost the overall progress under the scheme and ensure that eligible beneficiaries

receive timely support. Further, the DDC instructed BDOs to revisit their developmental plans, with a strong focus on water conservation and sustainability. She also outlined a vision to establish a playground in every Panchayat, reinforcing the administration's commitment to improving public amenities and recreational facilities for the

youth. These initiatives, she stated, would contribute to a well-rounded rural development strategy.

DDC further emphasized the role of education in community development and urged BDOs to conduct regular school visits to monitor and improve literacy rates, particularly among females. She reaffirmed the administration's commitment to ensuring that BDOs remain accessible to the public and actively engage with local communities. The meeting concluded with a call for collaborative efforts to accelerate rural development and improve the quality of life for residents. CPO Reasi Narinder Kumar, ACD Pardeep Kumar, BDOs were present during the meeting.

DC reviews functioning of Common Service Centres in Poonch District

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, FEBRUARY 21

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, today chaired a meeting to review the progress of ongoing government projects facilitated through Common Service Centres (CSCs). The meeting aimed to ensure that the general public can effectively access portal-based services in the district.

District Manager of CSC, Intiaz Ahmed, provided an overview of the CSC operations and the services offered. It was reported that there are 330 Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) in the district, with at least one CSC available in 216 Gram Panchayats. Additionally, 22 CSC touchpoints have been established in government offices across the district.

During the discussions, CSC operators raised concerns regarding network issues, which were acknowledged by the Deputy Commissioner. He assured that these matters would be addressed promptly.



The DC emphasized the need for service provider agencies to enhance efforts in opening more CSCs in remote areas. He highlighted the importance of resuming all CSC operations to facilitate public registration for welfare schemes like PM-KISSAN, AYUSHMAN BHARAT, PMSYM, PMJDY, and Digipay, as well as for obtaining domicile certificates. He reiterated that CSCs are crucial access points for essential public services.

Furthermore, the

Deputy Commissioner instructed the Centre Operators to work in an organized manner and establish a regulatory body to improve operational effectiveness. He cautioned against overcharging and delays in service delivery to prevent any repercussions.

The meeting was attended by key officials including GM DIC Poonch, ACR, ACD, ACP, DSWO, CMO, LDM Poonch, and the District Manager CSC Poonch, along with the Village Level Entrepreneurs.

Sakeena Itoo reviews development scenario of D H Pora Constituency

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 21

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today chaired a meeting here to assess the developmental scenario of D H Pora Constituency of Kulgam district.

During the meeting, the Minister had detailed assessment regarding progress on implementation of various flagship schemes like Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), Holistic Agriculture Development (HADP) and District Capex, among others.

Addressing the officers, Sakeena Itoo emphasized on completion of all developmental projects in the constituency within the stipulated time frame. She instructed the officers of Jal Shakti department to ensure smooth operation of irrigation schemes, especially during the upcoming farming season across the district. She also called on the officers



of the forest department to establish timber depots in all blocks of D H Pora constituency to meet the local needs, especially during winters.

Regarding the education sector, Sakeena Itoo directed the concerned officers to identify land for construction of school

buildings operating from rented spaces. She reiterated the commitment of the present Government towards enhancing facilities in educational institutions and ensuring quality education for the students.

The Minister affirmed that the government under Chief Minister

Superintendent of Police; Executive Engineers; Chief Education Officer; Chief Medical Officer and other officials attended the meeting.

Later, the Minister met several public delegations to listen to their issues and demands for early redressal.

Free Awareness & Screening Camp for Cleft Lip & Palate Patients at District Hospital Bandipora

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 21

In a significant healthcare initiative, Smile Train India, in collaboration with the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Bandipora, is organizing a free awareness and screening camp for individuals suffering from cleft lip, cleft palate, nasal, facial, and cranial deformities.

The camp will be held on February 27, 2025, at District Hospital Bandipora, with the goal of identifying and assisting patients in need of corrective surgery and medical intervention.

Patients are urged to register for the camp before February 26, 2025, by contacting 7889440542 or 6005879092.

This initiative is part of Smile Train India's ongoing efforts to provide free surgical care and rehabilitation to children and adults affected by cleft-related conditions. Cleft lip and palate are among the most common birth defects which if left untreated lead to difficulties in speech, eating, breathing, and overall facial development.