

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
- Diarrhea
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit
- Redness on the face

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Amid massive searches in Jammu, GOC Sachdeva chairs joint security review meeting

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 22 (KNO)

As security forces launched massive search operations in Jammu region on Saturday to tighten noose around the terrorists, General Officer Commanding White Knight Corps Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva chaired a joint security review meeting with focus on maintaining peace in the province. According to the details available with the news agency the searches conducted by a joint team of J&K Police's Special Operations

Group led to the seizure of a substantial cache of arms and ammunition in Reasi District. "The hideout, located in the remote Simbli-Shajroo forest area near Chakrass in Mahore was busted following credible intelligence inputs," an official said. He said that among the items recovered were four Under Barrel Grenade Launchers (UBGLs), one filled and three empty AK-47 magazines, 268 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, and four packets of detonators. Another official told KNO



that in the Pir Panjal area, multiple operations were initiated, with several joint operations carried out in the Doda-Kishtwar region. "Similar operations have been launched in the Udhampur," he added. Cordon and search operations were also conducted in Mohalla Qasba, Allapir, Jalian in Mandi, and Mankote in Poonch district. Other key areas under operation include Dera Ki Gali, Sunderbani, and Nowshera sectors in Rajouri district, the official said. Several locations in Poonch-

Rajouri and higher reaches of Udhampur, Kathua, Doda, and Kishtwar, with a focus on Khaderan forest, are under active search, the official said. "These operations are being conducted in response to the presence of terrorists in the region. Searches will continue till the Jammu region is sanitized and made terror free," he added. **GOV SACHDEVA CHAIRS SECURITY REVIEW MEETING** Meanwhile, General Officer Commanding of Jammu-based White Knight Corps Lt Gen

Navin Sachdeva on Saturday chaired a joint security review meeting in Jammu with focus on maintaining peace in the region. The meeting was held amid intensified search operations across Jammu to counter terrorists, who have shown their presence in different districts of the division by carrying out a number of attacks last year. "A joint security review meeting chaired by GOC White Knight Corps was conducted along with representatives of intelligence **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

CBI books 3 railway officials on bribery charges

JNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEB 22

The CBI has registered an FIR against three railway officials for allegedly manipulating a recruitment examination to ensure a job for a person in the railways in return for Rs 15 lakh, officials said on Saturday. The federal agency acted on a reference from the vigilance department of the Central Railway, they said. **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

Cache of arms, ammo recovered in Reasi: Police

JNEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEB 22 (KNO)

Reasi Police on Saturday said to have recovered a cache of arms and ammunition from forests of Jamslan Mahore area in the **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

Soldier injured in landmine blast in Poonch

JNEWS SERVICE
MENDHAR, JAMMU, FEB 22

A soldier was injured in an accidental landmine explosion near the Line of Control (LoC) on Saturday, officials said. In another incident, an old rusted mortar was recovered in a village **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

CM Omar Abdullah holds public darbar at Ganderbal



JNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 22

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today convened a public darbar at Dak Bungalow, Ganderbal, where he directly interacted with numerous del-

egations and individuals from across the district to address their day to day issues and other concerns relating to development of the area. During the public meeting, the Chief Minister **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

CM inaugurates Akhal Bridge at Kangan



JNEWS SERVICE
KANGAN (GANDERBAL), FEBRUARY 22

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday inaugurated the 82-meter-long Akhal Bridge over River Sind in the Kangan area of Ganderbal district. The bridge, constructed at a cost of Rs 8 crore by the Public Works (Roads and Buildings) **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

Budget session of J&K Legislative Assembly Speaker calls all-party meeting on Feb 27

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 22 (KNO)

Ahead of the budget session, the Speaker of Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly has called an all-party meeting on February 27 to ensure smooth functioning of the 43-day long session beginning on March 03.

Sources told news agency that Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather has invited two leaders each from the ruling National Conference and main opposition party Bharatiya Janta Party and one leader each from Congress, Peoples Democratic Party, Peoples Conference and CPI (M) to attend the meeting to be chaired by him on Thursday at 11.00 AM in his office chamber at Jammu. They disclosed that independent MLA Muzaffar Iqbal Khan has also been invited. "We have ensured repre-

sentation to all recognized and registered parties having members in the House," an official said. According to sources, Ali Mohammad Sagar (NC), Mubarak Gul (NC), Sunil Kumar Sharma (BJP), Surjeet Singh Slathia (BJP), Gulam Ahmed Mir (Congress), Sajad Gani Lone (Peoples Conference), Muhammad Yousouf Tarigami (CPI-M), Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra (PDP) and Muzaffar Iqbal Khan (independent) have been invited. The 43- day-long session beginning from March 3 is expected to be stormy with opposition parties set to corner the government on a host of issues. While BJP will corner the government on issues of governance and commitments made by the ruling NC in its manifesto, **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

One dead, 16 injured as bus carrying pilgrims falls into gorge near Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 22

One person was killed and 16 others were injured when a bus returning from Mata Vaishno Devi shrine skidded off the road and plunged into a gorge near here Saturday evening, officials said. The bus was on its way to Delhi and the accident took place near Manda, nearly eight kilometres

from the Jammu bus stand, the officials said. They said a rescue operation was launched soon after the driver lost control while negotiating a curve and the bus plunged into the gorge. Seventeen persons were rescued and evacuated to the Government Medical College Hospital, where one of them was declared dead, the officials said.

Vehicle numbers in J&K double over eight years

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 22 (KNO)

Over the past eight years, the number of vehicles in Jammu and Kashmir has doubled, resulting in increasingly congested and chaotic roads. According to recent data accessed by the news agency, the region has seen a significant rise in both public and private transport. In 2016, there were 13,65,552 registered vehicles, a number that has surged to 25,67,000 by the end of March 2024- a drastic surge

of more than 12 lakh vehicles. The Motor Vehicles Department has reported substantial revenue growth, achieving Rs 925.12 crore against a target of Rs 915.00 crore during the financial year 2023-24. This period also saw the registration of 1.65 lakh vehicles, alongside the issuance of 11,196 fresh route permits and the renewal of 40,595 existing ones. Additionally, 99,191 fresh driving licenses were issued, with 65,501 licenses renewed. The department also issued 14,963 fresh fitness certificates

for commercial vehicles and renewed 93,292 such certificates. The data highlights a consistent increase in vehicle registrations and related administrative activities over the years. In 2020-21, the department registered 93,366 commercial and 1,12,468 non-commercial vehicles, totalling 1,31,644. By 2021-22, these numbers rose to 18,491 commercial and 1,17,686 non-commercial vehicles, totalling 1,37,177. The trend continued in 2022-23 with 28,657 commercial

and 1,36,298 non-commercial vehicles, totalling 1,57,792. By 2023-24, the numbers reached 36,282 commercial and 1,28,095 non-commercial vehicles, totalling 1,62,378. Revenue targets and achievements also show a positive trend. In 2020-21, the department achieved Rs 821.15 crore against a target of Rs 900.00 crore. The following year, 2021-22, saw an achievement of Rs 628.65 crore against a target of Rs 625.00 crore. In 2022-23, the **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

J&K experiences significant rise in day and night temps over past 24 hours

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 22

Jammu and Kashmir experienced a significant rise in day and night temperatures over the past 24 hours, with dry weather conditions prevailing across the Union Territory. According to the Meteorological Department, daytime temperatures surged by 5-9°C in many parts of Jammu, with Jammu 24.0 °C recording the highest closely followed by Kathua recording 23.8° and Katra 20 °C. In Kashmir, temperatures also saw a rise of 3-8°C, with Kupwara at 13.5°C, and Pahal-



gam at 7.4°C recording the highest figures. Night temperatures saw a marginal increase of 1-4°C across scattered parts of the Union Territory.

However, the ski resort of Gulmarg remained the coldest with a minimum of -5.5°C, followed by Pahalgam at -2.3°C. The weather department on Saturday predicted mainly

dry conditions for the next 24 hours, with no major changes expected in the coming two days. However, from February 25, isolated spells of heavy rain and snow for the next three days could disrupt surface traffic in parts of Jammu and Kashmir. Three days ago, the Kashmir Valley experienced much-needed rainfall in the plains, while the higher reaches recorded fresh snowfall after an extended dry spell. However, despite this brief spell of precipitation, experts warn that Jammu and **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

'Purple Revolution' integrated J&K into India's growing startup ecosystem: Dr Jitendra Singh

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 22 (KNO)

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and MoS PMO, Dr. Jitendra Singh, on Saturday, said that the 'Purple Revolution' integrated Jammu and Kashmir into India's growing startup ecosystem. Speaking on the sidelines of the National Startup Festival here Dr. Singh, **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**



KVIB Srinagar organizes awareness camp at ITI Srinagar Decks cleared for Kendriya Vidyalaya School Campus at Gandoh

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 22

Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) successfully organized an awareness camp today at I.T.I. Srinagar to sensitize the general public about the various government schemes being implemented by the Board.

The program was attended by Deputy CEO KVIB, Chief Planning Officer, Block Development Officer, Lead District Manager Srinagar, Director RSETI, Line Departments, Branch Heads of various banks and other dignitaries.

The event witnessed an enthusiastic response from the local community, entrepreneurs, and aspiring businesspersons.

The camp aimed to educate participants about the wide range of opportunities available under the



flagship programs of KVIB, including the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) and other state-specific schemes designed to promote self-employment and entrepreneurship in rural areas.

Addressing the gathering, KVIB officials emphasized the importance of utilizing these schemes to boost local industries

and empower urban/rural communities. The session included detailed presentations about the financial assistance, subsidies, and technical support provided under the schemes to facilitate the establishment of small and medium enterprises.

Special emphasis was laid on the production of eco-friendly products and leveraging traditional

crafts to enhance economic sustainability. Participants were also guided on the application process, eligibility criteria, and necessary documentation required availing of these benefits.

The event featured interactive sessions, where experts addressed queries and provided personalized consultations to attendees. Success stories of ben-

eficiaries who have established thriving businesses under KVIB schemes were also shared to inspire and motivate others.

It is pertinent to mention here that KVIB Srinagar have sanctioned/forwarded 2348 cases under PMEGP scheme to different Banks involving margin money Rs: 2028.30 lakh and 15 cases under JKREGP involving margin money Rs: 47.25 lakh.

Speaking at the event, a senior KVIB official stated, "We are committed to creating awareness about these schemes and ensuring that the benefits reach the grassroots level."

The camp concluded with the distribution of informational booklets and registration forms to interested participants. KVIB assured that similar awareness programs would be conducted in other regions to extend the reach of their initiatives.

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 22

Marking a major development in educational infrastructure in the region, School Education Department Doda and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) today signed a lease to establish the latter's Campus at Gandoh. The agreement transfers 10.25 acres of land to KVS, marking the beginning of the establishment of a new Kendriya Vidyalaya in the region.

The move, guided by Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and Director School Education Jammu Ashok Sharma is aimed at improving access to high-quality education in a region previously underserved in terms of educational facilities.

The initiative has also



received strong backing from local political representatives, including Member of the Legislative Assembly Daleep Singh Parihar underscoring a united effort from both local and regional authorities.

The land lease agreement was formally executed at the office of Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Gandoh, Arun Badyal, where the official handover of the documents took

place. The Chief Education Officer Mohammad Hafiz oversaw the proceedings, reflecting the importance of the initiative for the district's educational landscape.

Principal of Higher Secondary School Gandoh and the Principal of the proposed Kendriya Vidyalaya, were present to lend their support to this historic agreement.

DC reviews progress of key development schemes in Poonch District

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, FEBRUARY 22

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal reviewed the progress of different developmental schemes, including PMAY, MG-NREGA, Capex, SBM, and RSGA here at a meeting held in the conference hall of DC Office Complex.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of timely execution and of the projects strictly in accordance to the prescribed quality standards. He directed the Block Development Officers (BDOs) to put in extra efforts to clear pending payments and compensations under MGNREGA, while urging them to meet the targets set for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) to benefit the local populace.



The meeting featured a detailed block-wise analysis of the completion status of PMAY houses, as well as the progress of Capex initiatives.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the block-wise achievements under BDC, DDC, and Panchayat grants along with the aspirational Block Development Plan. He directed the concerned BDOs to com-

plete their respective block-wise projects and increase expenditures before the end of the financial year.

Additionally, the issues related to land cases and billing were also discussed, with a push for resolution from the concerned officers. The status of Panchayat Ghars under RSGA was also reviewed to ensure effective infrastructure development.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the ongoing efforts under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), focusing on initiatives like door-to-door garbage collection and solid/liquid waste management.

The meeting was attended by ACR, ACD, CPO, ACP, all BDOs, Concerned executive engineers and other concerned offices

DC Samba reviews progress of work on Jal Jeevan Mission schemes



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 22

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Samba, Rajesh Sharma chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) across the district.

The review focused on accelerating key works, including tubewell drilling, installation of electro-mechanical equipment, Overhead Tank (OHT) construction, and the establishment of filtration plants. The DDC emphasized the mission's goal of

providing clean drinking water to every household and directed executing agencies to adhere strictly to project timelines.

He instructed officials to expedite pending tasks such as pipeline laying and infrastructure setup while maintaining efficiency and quality standards. Specific directions were issued for resolving land issues related to WSS Bassi and GREF at the earliest. Additionally, the DDC stressed the need for swift Har Ghar Jal (HGJ) certification of fully covered villages on the portal and directed that all completed JJM and UT

Capex schemes be made fully functional without delay.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Champa Devi, XEN PHE Division, civil and mechanical AEEs, and the Project Manager of DPMU Samba, along with other stakeholders.

Reaffirming the administration's commitment to achieving 100% water supply coverage under JJM, the DDC emphasized the need for coordinated efforts to ensure sustainable and reliable water access for all residents.

Director DIPR, employees condole demise of senior journalist Naseer Ahmad

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 22

Director Information, Nitish Rajora, has expressed profound grief and shock over the demise of Bureau Chief of Kolkata TV, Naseer Ahmad, who passed away today morning after a brief illness.

In his condolence message, the Director said that Naseer was a journalist of unique caliber and acumen whose contribution to journalism will be remembered for times immemorial.

The Director also prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and expressed sympathies with the bereaved family during this difficult time.

J&K Judicial Academy organises refresher programme on 'Digitisation'

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 22

Under the patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), Tashi Rabstan and guidance of Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy and members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy today organised one day refresher programme on "Digitisation" (ECT_6_2024 & ECT_15_2024) for High Court Bench Secretaries, Digitisation officials, staff and Readers of Jammu Wing at J&K Judicial Academy, Janipur, Jammu.

The refresher programme was designed to impart practical knowledge and give hands-on experience on crucial digital tools and systems integral to judicial functioning.

The first technical session was headed by Fayaz Ahmed Qureshi (CPC), who gave an overview of e-Courts Mission Mode Project, a Pan-India Project, monitored and funded by Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India.

Nikhil Kohli (Senior



Developer) and Shweta Sharma (Technical Assistant) gave a practical demonstration and explained the concept of CIS 1.0. They covered various aspects of CIS 1.0, including Filing & Registration of Cases, Caveat/Document Filing, Case Proceeding, Roster Creation, Cause List Generation, e-Court services and the process involved in issuing certified copies. This session aimed to enhance participants' familiarity with the digital case management system, ensuring seamless court operations. The resource persons also gave a hand on demonstration of various concepts.

The second technical session of the day was jointly conducted by

Nikhil Kohli (Senior Developer) and Rajeev Gupta (Sr. System Officer), who delved into the Document Management System, covering its advantages and operational framework. They elaborated that as DMS forms the backbone of digital documentation, understanding its workflow is pivotal to streamlining case file management and promoting paperless courts. The third session was spearheaded by Fayaz Ahmed Qureshi (CPC), Shadab Khan (System Officer) and Vishav (Computer Operator). They focused on the practical application of various video conferencing platforms such as Zoom, Webex, and BharatVC. These tools have become indis-

pensable in the judiciary, ensuring continuity of proceedings even amid logistical constraints. The session was interactive and addressed challenges including the best practices for optimal usage.

Director J&K Judicial Academy, Sonia Gupta, conducted the proceedings for the daylong training programme and presented the vote of thanks.

All the sessions remained very interactive during which all the participants actively participated and shared their experiences, difficulties and also discussed various aspects of the subject topics. They also raised a number of queries which were answered satisfactorily by the resource persons.

District Admin Kupwara holds Mega Workshop on Disaster Management

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 22

District Administration Kupwara today organized a One Day Workshop on Disaster Management which was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan.

The workshop was attended by SSP Kupwara, Gulam Jeelani; ADC Kupwara, Mohd Rouf Rehman, besides, district/sectoral officers, Senior Officers from Army, CRPF, NDRF, SDRF, Tehsildars and other stakeholders.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that the aim of organizing the workshop is know how to pool and utilize the resources from different agencies and stakeholders to tackle different kinds of disasters in the district.

She said that the administration faces different adversities including flash floods, earthquake, cloud bursts, fire etc which need coordinated and immediate effort to tackle with the situation.

Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts among departments, volunteers, and individuals to minimize losses from unpredictable



and unavoidable disasters. ADC Kupwara also spoke and thanked the participants for attending the Workshop. He also emphasized the need for collaborative efforts from different agencies to strengthen the efforts for disaster management in the district.

Meanwhile, experts and officers from different departments including SDRF presented their plan in the meeting for dealing with the untoward circumstances.

Later, the officials and

volunteers from SDRF, NDRF including Aapda Mitras provided detailed awareness and demonstrations about various life saving techniques to be followed while taking rescue and rehabilitation operation.

They demonstrated how to support disaster victims, including procedures for cardiac attacks, road accidents, burns, drowning, and the use of critical ambulances.

The demonstration session covered essential topics such as earthquake preparedness, first aid, Basic Life Support (BLS), and Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

An award ceremony was also held during which certificates of appreciation and mementos were given to the officials and volunteers who have shown good performance in mitigation efforts during disasters.

713 Cases settled at National Lok Adalat Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 22

As per the direction of J&K LSA Special Lok Adalat pertaining to "Traffic Challans, Electricity Bills & MACT cases" was held at District Court Complex, Rajouri and in all other Courts of the District.

The Lok Adalat was held under the Chairmanship of Rajeev Gupta Chairman District Legal Service Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Rajouri. Two benches were constituted with one comprising Rajeev Gupta (Principal District & Sessions Judge Rajouri) and Bashir Ahmad Munshi (Additional District & Sessions Judge Rajouri) and assisted by Inderjeet Sharma Advocate.

Other Bench consisted of Javed Rana (Chief Judicial Magistrate Rajouri), Rayaz Ahmed Choudhary (Sub-Judge Special Mobile Magistrate Rajouri), Shama Sharma Sub-Judge/Secretary DLSA Rajouri, Shavika Gupta (District Mobile Magistrate (Traffic), Rajouri and assisted by Advocate Shoket Ali.

Similar benches were also constituted at Tehsil



Level which were headed by the Presiding Officers of the respective Courts.

A total of 781 cases, both Pre-Litigation and Post-Litigation, were taken up before these benches out of which 713 Cases were disposed of.

An amount of Rs 6706804/- (Sixty Seven Lakh, six thousand eight hundred and four only) was realized as compensation.

From the bench of Principal District & Sessions

Judge Rajouri & Additional District & Sessions Judge, 15 MACT Cases were taken up and all were settled and an amount of Rs. 54,05,000 (Fifty Four Lakh and five thousand only) was awarded as compensation.

PDD Department of Rajouri, Advocates of different Insurance companies, Bar members, PLVs, Staff members, Litigants and large numbers of peoples participated in the Special Lok Adalat.

Municipal Council Anantnag Organizes "SVANidhi Se Samridhhi" Prog

JI NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG FEBRUARY 22

The Municipal Council (MC) Anantnag today organized an impactful "SVANidhi Se Samridhhi" programme at Town Hall Anantnag aimed to empowering street vendors by creating awareness about the benefits of the PM SVANidhi scheme and other government-linked welfare initiatives.

Commissioner Secretary, Mandeep Kour, while addressing the function virtually, emphasizing the need for street vendors to avail full benefits of the SVANidhi scheme. She urged them

to focus on proper sanitation, cleanliness, digital payments, and actively seek assistance through various government welfare schemes to enhance their businesses and livelihoods.

The event witnessed the presence of Director Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir, Qazi Sarwar, and Additional District Development Commissioner, Abdul Aziz Sheikh.

Addressing the participants, the officers stressed the importance of maximizing the benefits of the SVANidhi scheme, ensuring financial inclusion, and enhancing socio-economic upliftment through

government support. A large number of street vendors, local residents, and stakeholders actively participated in the event, making it a grand success.

Besides, awareness sessions, the programme also featured various cultural performances, adding a vibrant touch to the occasion.

The Municipal Council Anantnag remains committed to the welfare of street vendors and will continue to work towards their empowerment by facilitating access to financial aid, capacity-building initiatives, and government welfare schemes.



DLSA organises special Lok Adalat at District Court Complex



JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 22

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian today organized Special Lok-Adalat on Traffic Challans & Electricity Bills in the ADR Centre District Court Complex Shopian.

The Lok-Adalat was held under the directions of Chairman DLSA & Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Shopian Noor Mohd Mir and under the guidance of Mudasar Farooq Secretary

DLSA Shopian. In the said Lok Adalat 01 Bench was constituted by the DLSA headed by Additional Special Mobile Magistrate Shopian Rameen Rashid Khan and Deputy LADC Shopian Adv. Rafie Ahmad as bench member. A total no of one hundred eighty one cases were taken up for amicable settlement, wherein (169) one hundred sixty nine cases were successfully resolved with a settlement amount Rs 42000.

8 Metric Tons of Misbranded Fertilizer seized in Shopian

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 22

The authorities in Shopian district conducted a major enforcement action today and seized 8 metric tons of misbranded fertilizer viz Vermicompost/Organic Manure.

The operation was carried out based on specific inputs by Farooq Ahmad, Chief Agriculture Officer in coordination with the Enforcement Wing of the Agriculture Department and Naib Tehsildar Shopian, Sajad Ahmad.

Following the confiscation, the concerned shop owners were served a show cause notice by the Law Enforcement Inspector, and the shops were sealed in the presence of Naib Tehsildar.

Officials have reiterated that strict action will be taken against individuals engaged in the sale of misbranded or substandard agricultural inputs, which pose a threat to farmers and crop yields. The investigation into the matter is currently underway and shall



be prosecuted in the court of law.

Pertinently, following the directions of District Development Commissioner, Shopian, block-wise teams comprising officials from the agriculture, horticulture, and revenue departments, led by authorized personnel, are actively monitoring the sale of agricultural inputs across the district. During the enforcement

action, the Chief Agriculture Officer advised farmers to request testing reports and permissions from licensed holders before purchasing agricultural inputs.

Farmers have also been urged to report any suspicious products or activities in the market to the Law Enforcement Inspector wing on phone number 9596182640 for prompt action.

DC reviews rescue, rehabilitation efforts for street children in Jammu



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 22

Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar, who also serves as the Chairman of the District Child Protection Task Force, convened a meeting to review ongoing efforts for the rescue and rehabilitation of street children. The meeting was also attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Sher Singh and Director Social Welfare, Rupesh Kumar.

During the meeting, the committee identified hotspots where child begging and street vending are prevalent, including areas such as Gandhi Nagar, Gole Market and Bahu Plaza. It was observed that these activities peak during specific hours of the day. The DC directed the committee

to take concerted action for rescue, relief and overall well-being of the children.

The DC emphasised the importance of assured medical checkups for rescued children and mandated that an ambulance must be available during every rescue drive. Chief Medical Officer Dr Harbaksh Singh was tasked with ensuring this provision. Additionally, it was decided that a Magistrate and Station House Officer should be present during rescue operations, along with mandatory police support.

The progress of child rescue efforts and the education facilities provided to the rescued children were also reviewed. The DC directed that the capacity of Palash and Parisha rescue homes, managed by

the Social Welfare Department, should be doubled to accommodate more children in need. Furthermore, feedback mechanisms were discussed to ensure continuous monitoring of the education of rescued children.

To strengthen measures against child labour, SDMs were instructed to conduct joint inspections by Assistant Labour Commissioner and police officials. The committee also finalised Aadhar-related formalities and procedures to streamline documentation for rescued children.

Chief Education Officer, JK Padha, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Tehsildars, Superintendent of Police, Child Protection Officers and other concerned officials were present in the meeting.

DLSA Srinagar organizes Special Lok-Adalat for Traffic Challans, Electricity Bills



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 22

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, organized a Special Lok Adalat for Traffic Challans & Electricity Bills at the District Court Complex, Srinagar.

The LokAdalat, aimed at amicably resolving Traffic Challans & Electricity Bills, was held following the direction of Jaffer Hussain Beg, Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority and Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and under the supervision of Secretary DLSA Srinagar.

To facilitate the amicable settlement of cases, two benches were constituted for the said Special Lok Adalat which settled maximum number of cases, marking a significant achievement in promoting

peaceful and quick resolutions for Traffic Challans & Electricity Bills.

This initiative not only provided justice to the parties involved but also highlighted the advantages of settling disputes through Lok Adalats. The Lok Adalat witness the active participation from the legal fraternity, officers & litigants alike.

By organizing Lok Adalats, DLSA Srinagar continues its mission to provide equitable access to justice for all, ensuring that litigants can resolve their disputes quickly and amicably without the prolonged procedures typically associated with conventional courts.

Overall 11400 cases were taken up for settlement out of which 9662 cases were amicably settled & Rs.40,50000 was awarded as settlement amount.

DC reviews working of Police Housing Corporation, Police Construction Division

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 22

To speed up the development works Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan reviewed the working of the Police Housing Corporation, Police Construction Division, and the under-construction Police Line at Kishtwar.

The Police Construction Division is constructing a Police Line over 61 Kanal of state land here in Indira Nagar.

The land was transferred to the Police Department by the Revenue department years ago but the project, executed by Police Housing Corporation, is lingering due to slow pace of work.



To speed up the work, the DC took a detailed review and also visited the site to understand the components of the project. A follow-up meeting has been scheduled for the first week of March.

During the meeting, the contractors raised the

issue of some pending payments, including the cladding issue of Paddar.

The DC assured that the matter would be taken up with the competent authority for early redress so that the work does not suffer.

During the DC's visit

to the Police Line, it was noticed that an illegal PDD connection was feeding the area, for which the locals had lodged complaints.

The DC instructed the concerned officers and officials to get a regular connection and expedite the electrification portion of the project.

The issue of road connectivity to the campus was also discussed, and the DC issued instructions to the ADC to submit the revenue papers by the next meeting.

ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, CPO Kishtwar Shah Nawaz Bali and other concerned officers and staff were present during the visit.

27402 Traffic Challans and 3311 Electricity disputes resolved amicably in Special Lok Adalat

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 22

Under the patronage of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority) and Justice Atul Sreedharan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority as well as under the able guidance of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Chairperson, High Court Legal Services Committee, a Special Lok Adalat was organized throughout the UT of J&K today, with a special emphasis on the amicable settlement of traffic challans

and disputes related to electricity bills pending disposal before various courts in the UT of J&K.

As per the data received from various District Legal Services Authorities in the UT of J&K, a total of 28881 Traffic challans and 4520 Electricity disputes were taken up in the Special Lok Adalat, out of which 27402 Traffic Challans and 3311disputes relating to electricity were amicably settled, involving a total amount of Rs. 10,94,82,272/- providing significant relief to the litigants. District Jammu and District Srinagar emerged as the leaders

in settling 13166 and 9662 cases respectively which constitutes about 83% of the total cases disposed of in the todays Special Lok Adalat. Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Amit Kumar Gupta, while appreciating the efforts of officers and officials of DLSA Jammu and Srinagar informed the media personsthat this was the Second Special Lok Adalat of the current calendar year. He urged the Advocates in general and the litigants in particular to take maximum benefit of such Special Lok Adalats which are being organized by the J&K

Legal Services Authority. Appreciating the efforts of all the Judicial Officers, Secretaries DLSA's, Advocates, staff of the district and tehsil courts as well as Legal Services Institutions besides litigants for their whole hearted participation in the Special Lok Adalat and facilitating settlement of cases in such a large number, he also acknowledged the role of Para Legal Volunteers and the media, both print and electronic in creating and spreading awareness amongst the masses about such initiatives of Legal Services Authority.

Suri slams NCGovt over growing negligence in hospitals, seeks action

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 22

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) executive member, Raman Suri, today expressed grave concern over the rising number of negligence cases reported in government hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir. In a statement issued here, Suri highlighted the growing number of incidents that have been tarnishing the reputation of medical professionals and eroding the trust patients have in government-run healthcare institutions.

"It is a matter of concern that cases of negligence against doctors are coming up every day in government hospitals," Suri remarked. "This will not only tarnish the image of doctors but will also reduce the trust of patients in government hospitals, which are meant to provide quality healthcare."

The latest case of alleged negligence was reported from Rajouri Medical College, where a pregnant woman tragically lost her life. Her relatives staged protests, alleging negligence in her treatment. This

incident marks the fourth case of medical negligence reported in the last 15 days, with the previous three cases originating from hospitals in Kashmir. The families of the affected patients have called for justice, with some action already taken against the accused doctors and investigation committees being formed to look into the cases.

Suri pointed out that while the GMC administration in Rajouri acted quickly by forming an investigation committee to address the situation, the root cause of these incidents needs serious attention. "The question remains: Why is such negligence occurring repeatedly?" he asked. "Some hospitals are overwhelmed with a large number of patients, and managing so many individuals can be a challenge for doctors and staff. Furthermore, there are instances where doctors do not provide clear and accurate information regarding the condition of patients to their families, which is a serious concern."

The BJP leader also criticized the National Conference (NC) government's handling

of the health sector, despite its repeated claims of making healthcare a priority. "If healthcare truly is a priority for the government, then it must take immediate action to address the shortage of doctors and healthcare professionals in all health institutions," Suri said.

In light of the ongoing negligence cases, Suri urged the government to expedite investigations into all such incidents and ensure timely action against those responsible. He emphasized that restoring patients' confidence in government healthcare systems is paramount and that the government should work diligently to resolve these issues to improve the overall quality of healthcare in the region.

Suri said, "the NC government supported by Congress must not only focus on forming committees but should actively work towards better healthcare infrastructure, increased staffing, and transparency. Only then can we ensure that patients receive the care they deserve and rebuild public trust in our healthcare system."

Department of Social Welfare, Kathua distributes Baby Care Kits, raises awareness on BBBP



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 22

Under the supervision of District Social Welfare Officer Mr. Varun Kumar Choudhary (JKAS), Kathua SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women conducted a special program to support the well-being of new mothers and raise awareness about the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme. The event

took place across two villages: Bandhore and Sallan, where baby care kits were distributed to lactating mothers, and valuable information about the BBBP scheme was shared.

The event aimed at supporting the health of infants and promoting safe motherhood, as well as educating the community about the importance of empowering the girl child.

Inglis' 77-ball ton leads Australia to record victory



AGENCIES
LAHORE, FEB 22

Josh Inglis' blistering century propelled Australia to a record-breaking chase as they overhauled England's formidable 351/8 to secure a five-wicket victory in the ICC Champions Trophy on Saturday.

Inglis' maiden ODI hundred powered Australia to the highest successful chase in ICC ODI tournaments, reaffirming their reputation as a side that thrives in high-pressure situations.

Opting to bowl first, Australia endured a tough start as England's Ben Duckett hammered a stunning 165, guiding his team to the highest-ever total in Champions Trophy history.

Duckett found strong support from Joe Root (68), but Australia fought back through Adam Zampa (2/64) and part-time spinner Marnus Labuschagne (2/41), who applied the brakes in the latter half. Ben Dwarshuis also impressed with fig-

ures of 3/66, restricting England to 351/8.

Australia's chase started shakily as they lost Travis Head (6) and Steve Smith (5) within five overs, leaving the task to Labuschagne and Matt Short, who stitched a crucial 95-run stand for the third wicket. Labuschagne (47 off 45) fell attempting to accelerate against Adil Rashid, while Short (63 off 66, 9x4 1x6) followed suit soon after against Liam Livingstone.

With Australia at a precarious stage, Alex Carey (69) joined Inglis at the crease and the duo constructed a match-winning 146-run partnership for the fifth wicket. Carey's dismissal brought Glenn Maxwell to the middle, and he sealed the victory with his trademark finishing prowess. However, the night truly belonged to Inglis, who switched gears after a watchful start and dismantled England's attack with audacious stroke play, reaching his century off just 77 balls—the second-fastest

in Champions Trophy history, only behind Virender Sehwag's 77-ball ton in 2002. His partnership with Alex Carey was the second-highest for Australia in the tournament's history.

Ben Duckett's 165 was the highest individual score ever recorded in Champions Trophy history, surpassing previous records in the tournament.

Despite Jofra Archer's ability to extract significant swing, particularly in the Powerplay, England's bowling lacked the cutting edge to defend their total. Smith's struggles against Mark Wood continued, with the Australian batsman managing just 61 runs in 10 ODI innings against the English pacer at an average of 15.25.

With this thrilling victory, Australia have once again demonstrated their ability to rise to the occasion in ICC tournaments, solidifying their status as one of the most formidable sides in world cricket.

DC Kupwara Flags off 'Poshan on Wheels' rally for mass awareness

JNEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 22

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today flagged off 'Poshan on Wheels' rally, an IEC campaign about the Poshan Schemes, here at D.C Office Kupwara. District Programme Officer ICDS Kupwara, Tanveer Hakeem;

CDPO Kupwara, Mujeeb Wani were present on the occasion.

The rally saw participation of large number of Anganwari Workers of Poshan Project Kupwara and other stakeholders who were holding banners and placards, spreading awareness about the Poshan Schemes and

healthy lifestyle. The rally went through different streets of Kupwara town, making the commitment for a Malnutrition free Kupwara.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that the aim of the rally is to create awareness about the importance of nutrition and healthy practices among

the masses. She impressed upon the officers and field functionaries to sensitize the people at ground level regarding balanced diet and healthy life style practices. She stressed the administration's commitment to improving health and nutrition outcomes in the district, especially for women and children, and

urged the community to actively participate in the campaign.

DPO Kupwara, Hakeem Tanveer also spoke and said that the department is making concerted efforts to reach the benefits of Poshan Schemes to the targeted beneficiaries for which rigors IEC campaign is held across the district.

FROM THE PAGE 1...

Amid massive searches...

agencies, J&K Police, and CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force). The aim was to maintain peace and tranquility in the region with operational synergy," Army's White Knight Corps, also known as XVI Corps, said in a post on X. KNO

CM Omar Abdullah...

patiently listened to the issues and demands raised by the public, issuing on-the-spot directions to concerned authorities for prompt resolution.

He urged the district administration to prioritize the redressal of public grievances, ensuring that people are not deprived of basic necessities. Reaffirming his commitment to the welfare and socio-economic development of Ganderbal, the Chief Minister pledged continuous support and timely action to address the concerns raised by the residents.

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, along with other senior officials of the district administration, were present to take note of the issues highlighted by the delegations.

Public delegations and hundreds of individuals from various areas like Beehama, Duderhama, Fatehpura, Shalabugh, Sehpora, Bamloora, Tulmulla, Barosa, Theeru, Gangerhama, Sherpathri, Lar, Safapora, Gutlibagh, and other parts of the district submitted their demands before the Chief Minister.

Key demands raised included the establishment of fire service stations at prominent locations, development of playgrounds, augmentation of irrigation facilities, construction of an attendant sarai at the district hospital, road widening, promotion of horticulture and agriculture activities, beautification along River Sindh, reinforcement of the nallah bank from the Jhelum side, and dredging and desilting of Duderhama Nallah.

Additionally, the public sought the creation of employment opportunities within the district. Responding to these issues, the Chief Minister, who represents the Ganderbal constituency in the J&K Legislative Assembly gave instructions to the Deputy Commissioner and senior officials to ensure that all genuine concerns are addressed without delay.

He assured the public that the highlighted issues would be thoroughly examined and resolved within a stipulated timeframe.

CM inaugurates Akhal...

Department, connects several villages in Kunmul-Akhal and adjoining areas.

Addressing the public on the occasion, the Chief Minister stated that the Akhal Bridge is expected to significantly improve transportation, stimulate economic activity in the area and enhance the quality of life for

thousands of residents in the district.

He expressed confidence that the bridge would serve as a vital link, promoting development and bringing much-needed relief to the local population.

The Chief Minister emphasized that the bridge marks the resolution of long-standing connectivity issues in the area. Local public representatives and residents expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for addressing their long-standing demand, which will now provide greater convenience and accessibility. MLA Kangan Mian Mehar Ali, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, DDC member Kangan, Chief Engineer R&B, and other senior civil and police officers were present on the occasion.

Speaker calls...

Kashmir-based opposition parties like PDP and PC are likely to raise issues of Article 370, alcohol ban and other issues.

It is pertinent to mention that Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone has submitted a resolution seeking condemnation of the August 5, 2019 decisions in the strongest terms and restoration of Article 370.

PDP MLA Mir Muhammad Fayaz has submitted a bill seeking ban on sale and consumption of liquor in J&K. KNO

Vehicle numbers...

department achieved Rs 725.03 crore against a target of Rs 800.00 crore. The most recent year, 2023-24, saw the department exceed its target, achieving Rs 925.00 crore against a target of Rs 915.00 crore.

In terms of permits and licenses, the department issued 3,697 fresh permits and renewed 36,364 permits in 2020-21, totalling 40,061. The following year, 2021-22, saw 6,681 fresh permits and 39,311 renewals, totalling 4,992. In 2022-23, the department issued 5,407 fresh permits and renewed 46,496, totalling 51,903. By 2023-24, the numbers rose to 11,105 fresh permits and 40,595 renewals, totalling 51,791.

A senior official of the Road and Transport Department told KNO that the rise in vehicle numbers has put immense pressure on the region's infrastructure, leading to frequent traffic jams and road safety concerns. "We are now faced with the challenge of managing this exponential growth while ensuring the safety and efficiency of the transport system," he said.

The official added, "The roads aren't wide enough in cities and towns. There are concerns about people's safety with road accidents becoming normal. With the sale of the new vehicles, the government has to ensure it wouldn't turn into Frankenstein's monster - out to devour its very own masters." KNO

'Purple Revolution'...

according to the news agency said, "The cultivation of lavender in Baderwah, Doda district was instrumental in transforming the region's economic landscape."

Citing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's endorsement of the initiative (Purple Revolution) in his 'Mann Ki Baat' address, Dr Singh stated that it has set a benchmark for agri-startups. "The revolution that began in Baderwah has enabled Jammu and Kashmir to enter India's startup movement, paving the way for states like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Arunachal Pradesh to follow the suit," he said.

He said that the Republic Day tableau of 2024 showcased the 'Purple Revolution' at Kartavya Path in New Delhi, reflecting its national significance. "As of today, nearly 3,000 youth are earning their livelihood through lavender farming, with many leaving corporate jobs to join the startup movement in India," he added.

Dr. Singh credited Prime Minister Modi's 'Startup India, Stand up India' initiative, launched from the Red Fort, for propelling India into the league of global startup hubs. "In the past decade, India has grown from having only a handful of startups to approximately 1.75 lakh today, making it the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world," he said.

The National Startup Festival in Jammu, he said, "Aims to extend this movement to previously untapped regions, ensuring youth understand their inherent aptitude and leverage innovation to drive economic growth."

Dr. Singh also highlighted the contributions of CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), one of the oldest research institutions in the world, established in 1942-43. The institute has been actively engaged in harnessing the potential of medicinal plants, including lavender, to develop pharmaceutical and wellness products like mint-based tablets.

On a separate note, when asked about the controversy surrounding alleged US aid to influence voter turnout in India's 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Dr. Singh refrained from commenting, stating, "Let's talk about how to make Bharat Viksit," he added. KNO

CBI books 3 railway...

The FIR has named Goods Train Manager Rajendra Kumar Meena, Assistant TRD Helper Sapna Meena, Tech-II Chetram Meena - all posted at the Kota division in the West Central Railway - and a private person, Lakshmi Meena, who allegedly acted as an imposter and appeared in the examination in place of a candidate.

It was alleged that Sapna Meena, in connivance with the other accused, secured a job for a person in the Indian Railways through fraudulent means as well as

in lieu of illegal financial gratification of Rs 15 lakh.

"It was also alleged that accused dummy candidate (Lakshmi Meena) had appeared in the railway exam and photographs, fake identities, fingerprints of the dummy candidate were utilised in the entire selection process of the Railway Recruitment Exam," a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) spokesperson said in a statement.

The agency conducted searches at the premises of the accused in Kota and Sawai Madhopur districts of Rajasthan, the statement said.

Cache of arms...

district. A joint team of Reasi Police and 126 CRPF Bn. after receiving a specific input, launched search and cordon operations in the forest area of Jamsal area of Sub-Division Mahore and recovered arms and ammunition under a tree covered with blanket in forests of Simbli Jamsal, Mahore, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency.

The arms and ammunition recovered includes four AK-47 magazines, 268 rounds of AK-47, 04 UBGL grenades and four IED batteries. On this, Police have registered a case in this regard and investigation is underway, the statement reads. KNO

Soldier injured in...

in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, they said.

The landmine blast occurred at 10.50 am in the Nangi-Takeri area of Krishna Ghati sector of Mendhar when the Army personnel were on patrol duty, the officials said.

They said a soldier was injured when he accidentally stepped over the landmine and was rushed to hospital. As part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system, the forward areas are dotted with land mines which sometimes get washed away by rains resulting in such types of accidents, the officials said.

Officials said that the army troops found a rusted mortar shell in Fazalabad village in the Surankote area during the area domination patrol late this afternoon.

The area was immediately cordoned off and the shell was safely defused, the officials said.

J&K experiences significant...

Kashmir is on the brink of a severe water crisis due to a persistent and alarming precipitation deficit. The region has recorded an over 80% shortfall in precipitation, raising serious concerns about water availability in the coming months.

Taking a note of the looming water scarcity, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah recently called for a more proactive approach and collective efforts towards water management and conservation.

Special Lok Adalat on Traffic Challans held at Kathua



JINNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 22

Under the esteemed leadership of Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan and Executive Chairman of J&K State Legal Services Authority Justice Atul Sreedharan, a Special Lok Adalat was successfully conducted.

The event was chaired by the Principal District and Sessions Judge, Kathua, who also serves as the Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority Kathua. The Lok Adalat was organized

by Secretary District Legal Services Authority Kathua, Kamiya Singh Andotra.

Five benches were constituted for the event. Bench No. 1 was presided over by Jatinder Singh Jamwal, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Kathua, along with Pravin Pandoh, Additional District & Sessions Judge, Kathua. Bench No. 2 consisted of Amandeep Kour, Sub-Judge/Special Mobile Magistrate, Kathua, and Neena Thakur, District Mobile Magistrate, Kathua. Bench No. 3 at Billawar was led

by Poonam Gupta, Additional Special Mobile Magistrate, Billawar, and Prashant Kumar, Munsiff/JMIC Billawar. Bench No. 4 at Basohli included Bhanu Bhasin and Advocate Shub Kumar, while Bench No. 5 at Mahanpur was overseen by Kangana Gupta, Munsiff/JMIC Mahanpur.

During the Lok Adalat, a total of 426 cases were taken up for amicable settlement. Impressively, all 426 cases were successfully settled, resulting in a total settlement amount of Rs. 2,72,600/-

5-Day Training Programme on Inclusive Education Concludes at DIET Poonch

JINNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, FEBRUARY 22

A five-day training programme on Inclusive Education under NISHTHA successfully concluded today at DIET Poonch.

The programme was organized under the direction of the Director SCERT, Prakash Singh Manhas, and Professor Sindhu Kapoor, Joint Director SCERT Jammu. The training was supervised by Parkash Lal Thapa, Principal DIET Poonch, and coordinated by Muzafar Hussain (Sr. Lecturer) and Altaf Ahmed (Sr. Lecturer).

The training aimed to equip educators with the necessary knowledge, skills, and strategies to foster inclusive learning environments. Various sessions were conducted on key topics, including the RPW Act 2016, RTE Act, NEP-2020, Samagra Shiksha, disabilities and their intervention strategies, gender education, assistive devices, universal design for learning (UDL), and the role of teachers in inclusive education.

Eminent resource persons, including Haroon Rathore (Sr. Lecturer), Anwar Khan (Sr. Lecturer), Harish Kumar, Ajay Maini,



Tariq Mehmood, Divjot Singh, Sauda Begum, and Nazari Ali Naqvi, delivered insightful sessions during the training.

A total of 129 participants, including Sr. Lecturers, Lecturers, Masters, and Teachers from across the district, actively took part in the training programme.

The valedictory function was presided over by Manmohan Singh, HoD, in the presence of Ashok Kumar, Sr. Academic Officer SCERT. The dignitaries

appreciated the efforts of DIET Poonch in successfully organizing this training programme and emphasized the importance of inclusive education in ensuring equitable learning opportunities for all students.

The programme concluded with feedback sessions, distribution of certificates, and a vote of thanks to all the dignitaries, resource persons, and participants for their valuable contributions.

DC Udhampur chairs CLU meeting, approves 5 cases



JINNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 22

A meeting of the District Level Committee on Change of Land Use was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai here in Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex, Udhampur.

During the meeting, the committee reviewed a total 20 cases submitted by applicants online. After due deliberation, 5 cases were approved. The Deputy Commissioner

emphasised the need for timely communication of deficiencies to applicants and directed the concerned officers to ensure the prompt issuance of No objection certificates after thorough verification of documents.

The DC further instructed the officers to conduct joint site visits and verify geo-coordinates before granting approvals.

Among others, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr. Umesh Shan, Chief Executive Officer PDA and other officers attended the meeting.

Reasi Adm rescues 4 minors forced into child labour from Katra

JINNEWS SERVICE
KATRA, FEBRUARY 22

In a significant move to curb child labor, the District Administration of Reasi, in collaboration with multiple departments, launched a comprehensive drive in Katra town to rescue and rehabilitate minors forced into child labor.

The operation, directed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), was executed jointly by the Departments of Social Welfare and Labour. It was conducted under the supervision of District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) Sachin Sharma and Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) Annie Vaid. Members from several agencies, including Child Helpline and the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), actively participated in the rescue operation.

The rescue team carried out surprise inspections across various business establishments, including shops, restaurants, dhabas, street stalls, and



workshops. During these inspections, four minors were rescued, highlighting the critical need for such operations to protect children from exploitation.

The rescued minors were taken for medical examination and later produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Reasi for rehabilitation. Strict action has been mandated against those found violating child protection laws. The administration urged the

public to report any cases of child abuse, trafficking, or exploitation to the District Child Protection Office by contacting the Child Helpline at 1098.

DCPO Sachin Sharma assured that similar operations would continue to be conducted regularly to protect and rehabilitate children in street situations, emphasizing the importance of sustained efforts to combat child labor.

DC Kishtwar reviews progress of PM Ujjwala Scheme

JINNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 22

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan reviewed the progress and implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) in the district.

The PMUY, launched by the Government of India, aims to provide free LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households, ensuring a cleaner, safer, and healthier cooking environment.

During the meeting, DC Kishtwar issued the following directions to ensure the effective execution of the scheme, including Verification of the genuineness of the beneficiaries under the scheme, Issuance of notices to beneficiaries who have not refilled their



LPG cylinders under the Ujjwala Scheme, Ensuring the proper verification of subsidy components for beneficiaries.

The meeting was attended by Shafiq Ali Keen, Assistant Director (AD) Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Kishtwar, along with Tehsil Supply Officers (TSOs), LPG distributors,

and other concerned officials.

The DC emphasized the importance of the Ujjwala scheme in improving the quality of life for the people and directed all concerned departments to work in coordination to address any challenges and ensure the timely delivery of benefits to the eligible households.

DC Kishtwar holds Block Diwas Program at Balgran

JINNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 22

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan today presides over the Block Diwas program at HS Balgran, with the aim of addressing local issues and ensuring effective governance at the grassroots level.

The event witnessed active participation from local residents, who engaged with the DC and other senior officials to raise concerns and discuss solutions for various developmental needs.

During the Block Diwas program, the issue of water scarcity was addressed by emphasizing the importance of proper rainwater harvesting and the construction of water conservation structures. These initiatives were carried out in collaboration with various departments, including the Rural Development Department (RDD), Soil Conservation,

Agriculture, and the Jal Shakti Department. The focus was on building sustainable water conservation systems to ensure a reliable water supply, particularly in areas facing severe water shortages.

In addition to water conservation efforts, the program also raised awareness about key government schemes aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and rural development. Notably, information on schemes like the Himayat Development Program (HADP) and the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program (PMEGP) was shared, providing locals with valuable opportunities to access financial support and training for small businesses and skill development.

The program also served as a platform to inform the public about the District Control Room and JK Samadhan, which are dedicated to addressing public grievances. This



initiative aimed at ensuring that people were aware of the channels through which they could report issues and seek redressal for their concerns, thus strengthening government accountability and transparency at the grassroots level.

The DC Kishtwar also laid emphasis on the self

Employment Schemes specifically aimed for the empowerment of the Women folk of society and urged women to come forward and play pre-emptive role in the socioeconomic upliftment.

Furthermore, a commitment was made to complete the remaining villages under the Prad-

han Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) 4.0 and to expedite the ongoing infrastructure projects. This commitment seeks to improve connectivity in remote areas, ensuring that every village has access to essential services and development opportunities.

The role of Pani Samitis (Water Committees) was also highlighted in the program. These committees play a crucial role in managing water storage structures and ensuring the proper maintenance of water tank facilities. By engaging local communities in water Conservation, the program stressed the importance of collective action in tackling water scarcity, empowering villagers to take ownership of water resources and maintain sustainable water systems for future generations.

Through this comprehensive approach, the Block Diwas program

effectively addressed water scarcity, empowered the community with information on government schemes, and encouraged active participation in local development efforts.

During the program, the DC emphasized the government's commitment to reaching out to remote areas and ensuring the welfare of the public.

He assured the locals that all concerns raised would be duly examined, and necessary actions would be taken to address them promptly.

Senior officials from various departments were present to offer assistance and solutions on matters ranging from infrastructure, health, education, and agriculture.

The DC also encouraged the public to make use of such platforms to voice their issues and participate actively in the ongoing developmental activities in the district.

BOCA meeting discusses cases pending for approval



JINNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 22

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today presided over the 38th meeting of the Building Operation Controlling Authority (BOCA) here at Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Udhampur.

CEO PDA, Devender Singh Bhau, DFO Udhampur, Sub Divisional Magistrate Chenani Gurdev Kumar, Tehsildar Chenani, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti, Executive Engineer PWD Chenani and several other departmen-

tal officers attended the meeting.

The meeting focused on discussing pending cases for approval, including building permissions for construction of new residential houses, commercial building, permission for repair/renovation of existing Residential houses/commercial structures, permission for construction of residential house by local hereditary residents, permission for repair/renovation of commercial structure by local hereditary residents and cases for development of land.

Awareness Seminar on New Criminal Laws Held in Samba



JINNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 22

The District Administration Samba, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma, today organised an awareness seminar and interaction event on the newly introduced criminal laws in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Nandani Hills.

The seminar aimed to educate officers, legal professionals and stakeholders about the key provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA). These new laws mark a significant transformation in the country's criminal justice system, replacing existing ones with a more progressive legal framework that encourages the idea of reformative justice.

Eminent speaker Dr. Animesh Jha, who connected virtually elaborated on fundamental changes in

criminal procedures, key provisions of the new laws, the concept of FIRs, crimes against women among others. The discussions highlighted how these reforms aim to improve law enforcement, streamline judicial processes and ensure better protection of citizens' rights.

DC Samba emphasized on the importance of public awareness for the effective implementation of these laws. He underscored the role of informed citizens in fostering a legally empowered society.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks by AD Handloom, Ms. Niharika, reinforcing the administration's commitment to promoting legal literacy and enhancing the efficiency of the justice system in the district.

Among those present were Additional District Development Commissioner Samba, Additional Deputy Commissioner Samba, senior district and sectoral officers and field-level officers.

EDITORIAL

Ceasefire on LoC: A fragile agreement?

The agreement between India and Pakistan to maintain the ceasefire on the Line of Control (LoC), as per their February 25, 2021 understanding, was a crucial step towards maintaining peace in the region. The recent Brigade Commanders-level flag meeting at Chakan-Da-Bagh in the Poonch sector marks another attempt at reinforcing the truce amid fresh tensions along the border. While the decision to uphold the ceasefire is welcome, the question remains—how sustainable is this commitment, given the recurring hostilities and violations? The meeting comes on the heels of a series of skirmishes in Jammu, Rajouri, and Poonch districts, resulting in casualties on both sides. India lost two soldiers, including a Captain, while four others were injured. On the Pakistani side, eight jawans reportedly lost their lives in retaliatory actions. The persistence of cross-border confrontations raises concerns about the long-term efficacy of the ceasefire agreement. Though violations have been relatively rare since the renewal of the agreement in 2021, recent events signal a worrisome shift in dynamics. A major factor contributing to the continued tension is Pakistan's alleged facilitation of infiltration attempts by terrorists into Indian territory. The Indian Army has taken proactive measures to counter these threats by installing CCTV surveillance along the LoC to monitor suspicious movements and thwart intrusion attempts. However, Pakistan's apparent discontent with these security enhancements raises suspicions about its intent. The Pakistani military's efforts to target these surveillance systems suggest an attempt to shield infiltration routes, allowing terrorist elements to cross over for subversive activities. While both sides reiterated their commitment to the ceasefire, India's concerns over Pakistan's "unwanted activities" on the LoC cannot be overlooked. It is evident that Pakistan continues to exploit the fragile peace to pursue its strategic interests, making the ceasefire a tenuous arrangement at best. Adding to the volatility of the region, recent terrorist attacks on Indian soldiers in Jammu and Kashmir further underscore the security challenges at hand. The use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in the Akhnoor sector, along with multiple incidents of landmine explosions and small-arms fire, points to a larger network of hostilities beyond conventional border skirmishes. The increasing frequency of such attacks raises doubts about the effectiveness of diplomatic engagements and military dialogues in curbing the threat of cross-border terrorism. The ceasefire agreement of 2021 was hailed as a breakthrough in Indo-Pak relations, with the hope that it would pave the way for broader peace initiatives. However, with continued provocations, the very foundation of this agreement appears fragile. While India remains committed to upholding peace, it must simultaneously adopt a firm stance against any breach of the agreement. Strengthening border security, enhancing surveillance, and maintaining diplomatic pressure on Pakistan to adhere to its commitments are imperative. A long-lasting peace along the LoC cannot be achieved through mere declarations of ceasefire. It requires genuine intent, mutual trust, and strict adherence to agreements by both nations. Unfortunately, Pakistan's actions thus far suggest a reluctance to commit fully to peace. Until Islamabad demonstrates a sincere shift in its approach, the ceasefire will remain a precarious arrangement—one that could unravel at any moment.

Beyond the boundary: The passion, intelligence and legacy of cricket

HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

There are people who frown upon what they view as the obsessive interest that many Indians have in cricket and, to a lesser extent, soccer. One wonders how many of them are familiar with Rudyard Kipling's reference to the "flannelled fools at the wicket or the muddled oafs at the goal" in his poem, *The Islander*, first published in *The Times*, London, on January 4, 1902. One also wonders whether even those who are familiar are aware that any attempt to cite the quote in vindication of their position, can run into a squall.

He wrote the poem in anger, as he felt that the English cricket team that was on an ashes tour of Australia in 1901-02, was getting more attention from the public than the British soldiers who were dying in the Boer War in South Africa, which was then limping towards an end. People paid lip service to their valour and "Then ye returned to your trinkets; then ye contented your souls/ With the flannelled fools at the wicket or the muddled oafs at the goals."

It is clear from the lines that follow that Kipling's rebuke was addressed not primarily at Britishers who played cricket and soccer but his countrymen in general for not doing enough to cope with the challenges that were going to confront the British empire—of which he was an unabashed apologist. These read, "Given to strong delusion, wholly believing a lie, / Ye saw that the land lay fenceless, and ye let the months go by/Waiting some easy wonder, hoping some saving sign/Idle—openly idle—in



the lee of the forespent Line. / Idle—except for your boasting—and what is your boasting worth/ If ye grudge a year of service to the lordliest life on earth?"

The reference in the last line was to conscription for military service that many in Britain abhorred. Let us, however, not digress, especially when it not even caused by "perfume from a dress"—as TS Eliot puts it in *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*. Our original concerns were cricket and soccer, to which we must now revert. I have never played much soccer. I played cricket for my College (Presidency) and clubs (Union Sporting and Dakshin Kolikata Sangsad), in Kolkata in the 1950s. Even at those levels—by no means lofty—I realised that playing required a lot of intelligence and application of mind, intense concentration, reflection, enormous will power and determination, courage, considerable physical fitness and huge reserves of stamina.

Intelligence was needed to tailor one's batting and/or bowling to meet the demands of the pitch and the nature of the outfield. The mind had to be set to work to find out the vulnerabil-

ties of the players of the opposing side, and devise the strategy to win a match. Determination was needed to continue fighting even when the odds were heavily loaded against one, will power to calm the butterflies that began in fluttering in one's stomach as one walked out to bat and took guard, and courage not to run away from fast bowling on a wicket with uneven bounce where one could get hurt any moment.

The matches we played were mostly for a day. As an opening batsman, I could be at the wicket for a maximum period of three hours. As a first-change medium pacer, I bowled a maximum of eight overs in two spells. As the skipper of my college team, I fielded mostly at first slip or short square leg, which meant I did not have to do much running around. Yet I was pretty much drained out at the end of it all.

Cricket matches are war by other means among well-established rivals, and particularly so when it comes to India and Pakistan, or England and Australia for the ashes. It, however, also has other dimensions. If history, to quote TS Eliot again—this time from *Gerontion*—"has many

cunning passages, contrived tantalising moments and amusing anecdotes.

Several of the latter relate to Dr WG Grace, a legend of English cricket who had an MRCS and LRCP against his name. In one of these, he had gone to a village to play in a charity match, and a massive crowd had turned out to watch. A huge cheer rent the sky as he walked to the wicket and took guard. Then the unthinkable happened. A village lad who was bowling shattered his stumps with the devil of a delivery. The umpire signalled "out." A deadly hush fell on the ground. Grace did not move. He looked at the bowler and said, "All of these people have come to see WG Grace bat and not your monkey tricks. So go back and start bowling."

There are stories relating to India as well. One of these is about Ganesh Bose who, along with his brother, Kartik Bose—both my maternal grand-uncles—constituted the bedrock of Bengal's batting from the late 1920s to late 1940s. A dashing batsman, he was once out to a rank bad shot in a critical match.

One of his maternal uncles, who was among the spectators, rushed to him as he returned to the pavilion, and unleashed a mouthful of colourful abuses. Ganesh Bose glared at him for a moment and then said between his teeth, "I would have buried you here had you not been my maternal uncle (mama na hole tomake eikhane punte pheltam in Bengali).

There are many stories about Kartik Bose too.

There was a good spinner

who played college and club cricket and kept long hair, which fell on his eyes every time he bowled. Watching him at the Cricket Association of Bengal's nets at the Eden Gardens, which he conducted, Bose had asked him several times to cut his hair. As the spinner showed no sign of complying, he summoned one of Kolkata's many roadside barbers who sat in the Kolkata Maidan, and, as the nets concluded, had a crew-cut administered to him.

I had to give up cricket shortly after 21. Those days, cricket offered neither money nor the kind of career I wanted. The crunch came when I saw some of those who played with me join the railways at subordinate levels, while my friends at college joined the Indian Railways Traffic Service and the Indian Railways Accounts Service, both central services of the Government of India, as officers.

It was a deeply painful step. My family's link with cricket goes back to the time of Saradaranjan Ray (1858-1925), principal Metropolitan College and elder brother to my maternal great-grandfather, Upendrakishore Ray (1863-1915). A brilliant player himself and dubbed WG Grace of Bengal, he is known as the father of Bengal cricket. His grand nephew, Shivaji Ray, played for Bengal in the Ranji Trophy tournament. A person who was deeply saddened by my decision was another of my maternal grand-uncles, Prabhakaran Ray. Very fond of me and a great supporter of my cricket, he watched every match I played.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)

Make the right choices in life

AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Yes, there are five choices; by making them we can excel in life. These are to become good people. We know whom we call good. They are good in their behaviour, choices, etc. The next level is of those, who are not only good but they mostly follow dharma also, which pleases God. The next level is that of welfare workers, who dedicate their lives to the service of humanity without any selfish motive. Out of the followers of dharma, God appoints some as His (nimitta) instrument to carry out activities for God to uphold dharma. The topmost level of course

is of bhaktas (devotees) of God. I will now give details regarding how one can become these five and what benefits one will derive by doing so.

To be good in spiritual parlance means to have the highest percentage of the mode of goodness. There are three modes, which are: goodness, passion and darkness. They are always competing with us. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 14.10) The mode of goodness is illuminating and free from diseases on account of purity. (14.6) The mode of passion suffers from the fault of attachment. (14.7) One is too attached to certain acts and their results. Unfortunately, the results are not

in our hands. (2.47) One, therefore, suffers from anxiety, fear, depression, etc.

The mode of darkness deludes, which gives rise to many faults like carelessness. (14.8) Lord Krishna has set out in great detail about activities in goodness in the Bhagavad-Geeta. If we imbibe them, the percentage of the mode of goodness will gradually increase in us. There are many benefits in doing so and the best is goodness being the stepping stone to devotional life - the highest, and good karmaphalas of course. The next level is of persons, who strictly follow dharma besides being good.

This sets them apart

from the masses. One is aligned with the plan of God for us, who is for upholding dharma. God even incarnates to do so. (6.7) We know what dharma is; it is the highest moral and religious principle. Benefits are many including accumulating pious karmas. The third higher level is that of welfare workers. God promises no 'durgati' (bad end) for such persons. (6.40) This is a big achievement because old age and bad ends are very scary prospects for human beings. Lord Krishna has singled out King Janaka as the role model in the Bhagavad-Geeta (3.20) in this connection.

The next higher level is

that of 'nimittas' (instruments) of God; He chooses them from those who are habitually followers of dharma and are inclined to serve God as Arjuna did. God does everything as a karta for them and they get credit for the acts done. (11.33) The topmost category is those of devotees of God. Their rise is from being good people to strict followers of dharma. Then, they do spiritual practices like praying, darshan of God's Deities, offering obeisance to God, chanting of God's names and mantras, dhyana of God, thanking God for favours done, etc.

They become very dear to God, who is everything. (7.19) The topmost ben-

efit of being a devotee of God is liberation in a few lives. (6.45) I am going to describe the benefits in greater detail because these are the highest. God guides, and He, being omniscient, knows what will work every time. I have made a habit of praying for guidance anytime I have some doubts about something. I have been surprised by God's response. They are no longer intuitions because they work. The same happens in the case of help. God helps His devotees like one cannot even dream of.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher, views are personal)

US exits Paris Agreement again: A setback for global climate action?

TAVISHI TEWARY

The newly elected president, Donald J. Trump has ordered the withdrawal of the United States from Paris Agreement on global warming for the second time, the first official exit being on November 4, 2020. The question is—Will the global momentum to cut emissions get stalled once again, as has happened in the past? Will other countries fill up the void or will we witness reduced contributions?

Though the withdrawal announcement of the world's biggest economy aligns with America first in international environmental agreements, can it disrupt the international climate diplomacy, at a critical moment of the climate crisis? With 200 countries committing towards reducing greenhouse gas

emissions (GHG) and keeping the global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius, the signing of the Paris Agreement in 2015 showcased the collective accountability and shared responsibility of nations in addressing climate issues.

In his tenure, the former president, Joseph R Biden Jr has often communicated the vital role of the US in leading the world in curbing fossil fuel pollution. The support to developing countries for transitioning to renewable energy, building resilient infrastructure and adapting to climate change is essential to mitigate the adverse consequences of the phenomenon and pace up the global progress on emission reduction.

This is in sharp contrast to the recent, yet not surprising announcement. Mr. Trump has often referred to it as an unfair

and one-sided agreement that permits the South, particularly China and India to free-ride the economic burden of the North. With less than a year for it to be effective, the U.S. will soon find itself with the other three countries—Iran, Libya and Yemen—of not being a party to the Paris agreement. This further raises the question of whether must all the countries contribute equally in terms of efforts and resources.

Though the principle of "Common but Differentiated Responsibility" has been undermined at all successive CoPs, does it imply that the developed countries can default on their financial commitments and jeopardise the global climate commitment?

With the announcement of US retrenchment from the agreement in



2017 and the beginning of the formal withdrawal process, the International Energy Agency reported

that global energy-related CO2 emissions increased by 1.7 per cent in 2018, after a steady decline

over the last three years. In recent times, as is already known that the NDCs of individual coun-

tries are not in pace with the Paris pact goal. With the withdrawal of the US, will it imply that countries will have to make greater reductions in emissions?

Will it be possible? However, the key lessons learned from this episode underscore the importance of political stability for long-term climate commitments. As an outcome, countries like China will take advantage of this situation by leveraging themselves as reliable and committed partners in global climate leadership. It will also halt the mitigation and adaptation efforts of developing countries due to the disrupted support from developed countries. Ceased contribution of the U.S. to the Green Climate Fund will hinder the availability of critical resources for developing countries. This tops up the already low pledges announced

in COP29 at Baku this year compared to the demand by developing countries.

All of this can disrupt critical alliances, deviate nations to scale down their climate commitments and impact the world's ability to fight climate change.

The U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement raises urgent concerns about global climate action. As nations strive to meet climate goals, America's absence could weaken commitments, disrupt funding, and shift leadership dynamics. The world must now adapt, ensuring collective progress continues despite political instability and shifting priorities in international climate diplomacy.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, FORE School of Management, New Delhi; views are personal)

Lifestyle and Environmental factors affect health and ageing more than genes: Study

AGENCIES
LONDON [UK]

A new study led by researchers from Oxford Population Health has shown that a variety of environmental factors, including lifestyle choices (such as smoking and physical activity) and living conditions, have a more significant impact on health and premature death than our genes.

The study, which analysed data from nearly half a million UK Biobank participants, examined the influence of 164 environmental factors and genetic risk scores for 22 major diseases on ageing, age-related diseases, and premature death. The findings were published today in *Nature Medicine*.

As per the key findings, the environmental factors explained 17% of the variation in risk of death, compared to less than 2% explained by genetic predisposition (as per the



present).

Of the 25 independent environmental factors identified, smoking, socioeconomic status, physical activity, and living conditions had the most impact on mortality and biological ageing. Smoking was associated with 21 diseases; socioeconomic factors, such as household income, home ownership, and employment status, were associated with 19 diseases; and physical activity was associated with 17 diseases.

The early life exposures, including body weight at 10 years and maternal smoking around birth, were shown to influence ageing and risk of premature death 30-80 years later.

Environmental exposures had a greater effect on diseases of the lung, heart and liver, while genetic risk dominated for dementia and breast cancer.

Professor Cornelia van Duijn, St Cross Professor of Epidemiology at Oxford Population Health and

senior author of the paper, said "Our research demonstrates the profound health impact of exposures that can be changed either by individuals or through policies to improve socioeconomic conditions, reduce smoking, or promote physical activity.

The research shows that whilst many of the individual exposures identified played a small part in premature death, the combined effect of these multiple exposures together over the life course (referred to as the exposome) explained a large proportion of premature mortality variation. The insights from this study pave the way for integrated strategies to improve the health of ageing populations by identifying key combinations of environmental factors that shape the risk of premature death and many common age-related diseases simultaneously.

Blood pressure drug could be safer alternative for treating ADHD symptoms: Study

AGENCIES
ENGLAND [UK]

A blood pressure medication may be a safer choice for treating symptoms of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, according to a study. Repurposing amlodipine, a commonly used blood pressure medicine, could help manage (ADHD) symptoms

According to an international study published in *Neuropsychopharmacology*, involving the University of Surrey, researchers tested five potential drugs in rats bred to exhibit ADHD-like symptoms. Among them, only amlodipine, a common blood pressure medication, significantly reduced hyperactivity.

To confirm its effects the team tested amlodipine in zebrafish, an important model for studying brain function sharing about 70% of genes with humans. The results showed that amlodipine also reduced hyperactiv-



ity and impulsivity--core symptoms of ADHD--in these fish. Further analysis of the fish revealed that amlodipine crosses the blood-brain barrier for the first time, meaning it can directly influence brain function.

The researchers then turned to human genetic data and found that, remarkably, ADHD is linked to the same calcium channels in the brain

as the targets for amlodipine. This suggests a potential target brain pathway for treatments. Finally, an analysis of UK-wide patient data showed that people taking amlodipine reported fewer mood swings and less risk-taking behaviour, further supporting its potential as a new ADHD treatment.

Dr Matthew Parker, co-author of the study from the University of Surrey,

said, "Repurposing amlodipine, a well-established blood pressure medication, offers a promising and swift pathway to address ADHD symptoms. Our research indicates that, due to its existing approval and safety profile, amlodipine could be rapidly redeployed as a treatment option for ADHD, potentially providing relief to patients sooner than developing new medications."

Current ADHD medications are effective but come with significant side effects: from appetite loss, high blood pressure, headaches and sleep disturbance and carry a risk of misuse. Amlodipine, which is already widely used and well-tolerated, could offer a new, safer treatment option for ADHD.

Around 25% of patients do not respond well to any current ADHD medication, highlighting the urgent need for new treatment options.

Air pollution may be higher inside your home than outdoors: Study

AGENCIES
BIRMINGHAM [UK]

A new study reveals that people may be exposed to unhealthy levels of airborne pollutants inside their homes, even if the outdoor air quality is good.

Researchers at the University of Birmingham used low-cost sensors and innovative techniques over a two-week period to compare particulate matter (PM) in three homes. They discovered that pollution levels in each house were higher and more variable than outdoor levels. The researchers found significant differences in PM levels between the three houses, with one home exceeding the World Health Organisation (WHO) 24-hour PM2.5 limit on nine days.

This highlights the importance of monitoring indoor air quality at a household-specific level.

Published in *Scientific Reports*, this is the



second paper published by McCall MacBain Clean Air Fellows studying the philanthropically funded Master's degree in Air Pollution Management and Control at the University of Birmingham.

Co-author and Clean Air Fellow Catrin Rathbone commented: "Our study shows the need to monitor indoor air pollution, as people can have unhealthy air at home even if outdoor air is

good. PM levels varied significantly between homes, indicating that monitoring just one location isn't enough."

The team note that factors such as household location, ventilation, and occupancy patterns influenced particle levels - demonstrating the complexity of indoor air quality.

Co-author and Clean Air Fellow Owain Rose commented: "With more

time spent working from home, understanding the factors that affect air quality within households is increasingly important. The methods we used accurately modelled indoor PM levels, helping to improve exposure estimates at a low cost."

Researchers identified five different factors contributing to PM in indoor spaces - two relating to indoor activities, such as increased movement by residents and three linked to external factors such as a nearby restaurant's kitchen vent. They found that larger particles (PM10) tended to settle faster compared to smaller particles (PM1, PM2.5).

Researchers used Non-negative Matrix Factorization (NMF) - a powerful tool for uncovering latent patterns in data - to more accurately model indoor PM levels. Using low-cost sensors enabled them to build a more detailed picture of pollutant levels within the properties.

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Plant-rich, low saturated-fat diet may help reduce psoriasis severity: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A diet rich in fruits and vegetables, whole grains, low-fat dairy foods, and lean meats, low in salt and sugar can help reduce the severity of psoriasis -- a skin disease --, according to new research.

Psoriasis is a long-lasting inflammatory skin disease that causes flaky patches of skin that form scales. The condition, which affects millions worldwide, is believed to be caused by a problem with the immune system.

The study, published in the *British Journal of Nutrition*, showed that greater red and processed meat intake was associated with more severe psoriasis. On the other hand, plant-based diets and low-saturated fat items significantly reduced the severity.

"Our findings point to the potential benefits of dietary interventions in



improving patient outcomes," said Sylvia Zanesco, doctoral student from the Department of Nutritional Sciences at King's College London, UK.

"Given the impact of psoriasis on physical and psychological well-being, incorporating dietary assessments into routine care could offer patients additional support in managing their condition," she added. The team analysed data from 257 adults with psoriasis who had com-

pleted an online survey. They found significant associations between diet quality and the severity of psoriasis.

The study contributes to the growing body of evidence supporting dietary modification as a complementary strategy in psoriasis management to potentially alleviate disease severity and improve patients' quality of life.

Professor Wendy Hall, Professor of Nutritional Sciences at King's College

London said the research brings much-needed evidence that there may be a role for dietary advice besides standard clinical care.

As the findings confirm that diet plays a prominent role in managing symptoms of psoriasis, Hall stressed the need for further research to understand the importance of diets rich in healthy plant foods in reducing symptoms of psoriasis in a controlled clinical trial.

Just 5 minutes of exercise daily can ward off dementia risk in elderly: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Just five minutes of exercise, that is moderate to vigorous, daily can help the elderly stave off the risk of dementia, according to a study.

Researchers from the Johns Hopkins University in the US showed that engaging in as little as 35 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per week, compared to zero minutes per week, can lower the risk of developing dementia by 41 per cent.

Notably, the study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association* showed the benefits of exercise even among frail older adults -- those at elevated risk of adverse health outcomes. The team reported greater activity was associated with lower dementia risks.

"Our findings suggest



that increasing physical activity, even as little as five minutes per day, can reduce dementia risk in older adults," said lead author Amal Wanigatunga, Assistant Professor in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School's Department of Epidemiology.

"This adds to a growing body of evidence that some exercise is better than nothing, especially with regard to an aging-related disorder that

affects the brain that currently has no cure," Wanigatunga added.

The study, based on a dataset covering nearly 90,000 adults, aged 50 and above in the UK, showed that dementia risks were 60 per cent lower in participants in the 35 to 69.9 minutes of physical activity per week category.

People engaging in exercise from 70 to 139.9 minutes per week had

a 63 per cent lower risk; while those in the 140 and over minutes per week category had a 69 per cent lower risk. Dementia, usually from Alzheimer's disease, is one of the most common conditions affecting millions of older adults worldwide.

While age is a significant risk factor for dementia, studies in recent years have suggested that the condition is somewhat preventable, within a normal lifespan, by lifestyle changes that include better control of cholesterol, blood pressure, and blood sugar, and being more active.

The minimum amount of activity needed to reduce dementia risk meaningfully isn't yet clear. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends adults get at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise per week, an average of 20 minutes per day.

Greener anaesthesia may protect patients, environment: Lancet

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Using less polluting inhaled anaesthetic agents, referred to as greener anaesthesia, may help reduce harmful emissions by 50 per cent in one year without impacting patient safety or outcomes, according to a study, published in the journal *Lancet Planetary Health*, on Friday.

The healthcare sector contributes significantly to overall carbon emissions via hospital waste, single-use plastics, transportation, and food service.

About 3 per cent of these hospital-related emissions stem from inhaled agents used during anaesthesia, said the team from the University of Michigan, who urged to replace them with greener options.

"Inhaled anaesthetics is a natural area to pursue reductions in emissions because, as greenhouse



gases, they are so disproportionately bad for the environment," said Douglas Colquhoun, Assistant Professor of anaesthesiology at the Michigan Medical School.

"We've shown that small changes in our practice

lead to big changes for the environment and, importantly, no changes for the patients," he added.

The study compared the output of carbon dioxide (CO2) equivalents, traditionally used to measure the effect of

greenhouse gases on the environment, as well as the amount of anaesthetic used. They also analysed patient outcomes such as post-surgery nausea and vomiting, pain scores, unintended awareness, and recall of the surgery.

Separately, the researchers encouraged providers to reduce the use of nitrous oxide (which is 270 times more potent than carbon dioxide at warming the environment), as well as increase the use of sevoflurane -- the least environmentally harmful ether -- instead of isoflurane.

These changes were associated with an average decrease of more than 14 kg per case in CO2 equivalents.

There were no changes were found in the measured depth of anaesthesia, pain scores, or post-operative nausea and vomiting, the team said.

Kashmir issue already settled, no need for foreign mediation: Kavinder

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 22

Kavinder Gupta, Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, has strongly condemned the recent statement by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who called for a "resolution of the Kashmir issue" through dialogue between India and Pakistan while taking into account the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Slamming Erdogan's remarks as "unwarranted interference," the senior BJP leader asserted that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India, and no foreign power has the right to dictate terms on India's internal affairs. He emphasized that such statements disregard the historical and constitu-



tional realities of J&K and amount to an attack on India's sovereignty.

"India has always maintained that Jammu and Kashmir is an inalienable part of the country, and any attempt to internationalize the matter is futile. The world must recognize that the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 has ushered in a new era of peace, development, and integration in the region," he stated.

The former Deputy Chief Minister further

added that Turkey should focus on its own internal issues rather than meddling in India's affairs. He pointed out that India has a robust democratic framework, and its policies concerning J&K are aimed at ensuring stability, economic growth, and the well-being of its citizens.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has brought unprecedented development to Jammu and Kashmir. The people of the region have rejected

separatist narratives and embraced the vision of a progressive and inclusive India. Any attempt to question India's sovereignty over J&K is unacceptable and will not be tolerated," he asserted.

Later, Kavinder Gupta participated in a crucial meeting chaired by J&K BJP President Sat Sharma at the party headquarters in Jammu. The meeting focused on organizational matters, upcoming party programs, and strategies to strengthen BJP's outreach at the grassroots level.

Kavinder reiterated BJP's commitment to the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring that the vision of a 'Naya J&K' under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi continues to shape the region's destiny.

Border Area Youth Exchange Programme: Students from Five States visit Tangdhar and Tithwal

JINNEWS SERVICE
KARNAH, FEB 22

In a remarkable initiative fostering national integration and awareness, 25 students from five states visited Tangdhar and Tithwal as part of the Border Area Youth Exchange Programme, organized by Nehru Yuva Kalyan Sanshan, Kupwara. The visit offered the young participants an immersive experience, blending history, culture, and the spirit of resilience.

The contingent explored the Azmat-e-Hind Memorial, a tribute to India's military legacy, and paid homage at the sacred Sharda Devi Temple, an enduring symbol of cultural and spiritual heritage. They gained profound insights into the region's rich military history, marked by the



valour and supreme sacrifice of the Armed Forces in multiple wars and battles. The visit also highlighted the cultural unity and indomitable spirit of the people of Karnah.

At the Shakti Vijay Brigade Headquarters, the students were introduced to the Indian Army's initiatives in developing educational infrastructure and

empowering the youth of Karnah. They were deeply inspired by the Army's commitment to progress, education, and skill development in the border region.

The students, overwhelmed with excitement, expressed immense pride and gratitude for this unique opportunity. Their visit not only broadened

their perspective but also instilled a deep sense of patriotism and admiration for the resilience of the border communities.

This exchange programme served as a beacon of unity, awareness, and inspiration, strengthening the bonds between the youth and the nation's frontline regions.

International Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Plant Systematics and Biodiversity Conservation concludes at CU Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 22

The five-day International Workshop on the Integration of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Plant Systematics and Biodiversity Conservation successfully concluded at the Department of Botany, Central University of Jammu (CUJ). The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than hundred researchers, academicians, and students from various institutions, fostering discussions on the transformative role of AI and ML in plant sciences and biodiversity conservation.

The workshop was organized under the visionary leadership of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, CU Jammu.

The valedictory ceremony was graced by Prof. Vinay Kumar, Dean, School of Basic Sciences, CUJ, as the Guest of Honour. In his address, Prof. Vinay Kumar highlighted the growing significance of AI and ML in scientific research, emphasizing their role in biodiversity conservation and ecological studies. He commended the workshop for fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and providing a platform for knowledge exchange between plant scientists and AI experts.

Dr. Yogesh Kumar, Head, Department of Botany, CU Jammu, reflected on the workshop's key discussions, including AI-driven species identification, climate change analysis, ecological monitoring, and precision agriculture. He also emphasized that AI



should be seen as a complementary tool rather than a replacement for traditional taxonomic and ecological expertise.

Prof. B.S. Bhau, Department of Botany, CU Jammu, extended his gratitude to all the speakers and participants, emphasizing the importance of integrating AI with traditional plant taxonomy and conservation strategies.

The workshop featured insightful talks from

renowned experts, including Prof. Pradeep Kumar (Central University of Himachal Pradesh), Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Shah (University of Kashmir), Prof. Susheel Verma (University of Jammu), Prof. Mahesh Kulharia (Central University of Himachal Pradesh), Dr. A.S. Soodan (Retd., GNDU, Amritsar), Sh. O.P. Sharma Vidhyarthi, IFS (Retd.), Prof. Yashwant Singh (CUJ), Dr. R.K. Choudhary (Agharkar

Research Institute, Pune), Dr. A.A. Wani (University of Kashmir), Dr. L.A. Peer (University of Kashmir), Dr. B.N. Subudhi (IIT Jammu), Dr. Arvind Selwal (CUJ), and Dr. Mudasir Ahmad Ganaie (IIT Ropar). These experts highlighted the potential of AI in large-scale biodiversity monitoring, habitat assessment, and sustainable agricultural practices. While AI offers advantages such as speed, accuracy, and scal-

ability, discussions also addressed its challenges, including data dependency, ethical concerns, and the need for scientific validation.

A highlight of the valedictory session was the positive feedback shared by participants on stage. Several attendees expressed their appreciation for the interactive sessions, hands-on demonstrations, and expert-led discussions. They acknowledged the workshop's role in expanding their knowledge of AI applications in plant sciences and biodiversity conservation, with many expressing keen interest in applying these technologies in their future research.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Ashok

Kumar, Organizing Secretary of the workshop, who expressed his heartfelt appreciation to all the dignitaries, speakers, participants, and sponsors for their invaluable contributions in making the event a success. Certificates were distributed to all participants in recognition of their active engagement throughout the five-day program.

The workshop was financially supported by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), Govt. of India. With the successful completion of this workshop, Central University of Jammu reaffirms its commitment to promoting interdisciplinary research and technological innovations in plant systematics and biodiversity conservation.

LG expresses grief over accident of Bus carrying pilgrims

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 22

The Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today expressed grief over the tragic road accident at Manda in which driver of the Bus, carrying pilgrims, lost his life and many pilgrims have been injured.

The Lieutenant Governor posted on X:

"The road accident at Manda in Jammu is saddening. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with the family of the driver who lost his life. I hope that the injured recover at the earliest. I have directed the senior officials to extend all possible help to the injured pilgrims".

PoJK integral part of India, BJP stands with Parliamentary Resolution of 1994: Sat Sharma

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 22

Jammu and Kashmir BJP President, Sat Sharma CA, while addressing a press conference, said that his party reiterates its unwavering stance that Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) is an integral part of India, and calls upon Pakistan to respect the principles of peaceful coexistence, and vacate the illegally occupied areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sat Sharma was accompanied by General Secretary Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta, Chief Spokesperson Sunil Sethi, Spokesperson Arun Gupta and senior leader Daljeet Singh Chib.

Sat Sharma said that the historic Parliamentary Resolution of 1994, passed unanimously by both the Houses of Parliament, unequivocally declare that the entire territory of Jammu and Kashmir, including areas occupied illegally by Pakistan, is an unchallengeable part of India and that Pakistan must immediately vacate these areas.

"This resolution was tabled and passed by both the houses, in response



to Pakistan's repeated attempts to create an impression to the world that the Indian forces were torturing the innocent civilians in Kashmir and no one was safe in the Valley. Through this resolution, the then Parliament had taken a stance to send a message that Pakistan was lying and the fact remained that it had illegally occupied areas of Jammu and Kashmir, which must be vacated by it.

Sat Sharma said that under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the commitment to reclaiming PoJK has gained renewed vigor. The Modi-led government has consistently taken firm measures to safeguard India's territorial integrity and national security.

BJP has repeatedly reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir, including Gilgit-Baltistan and other areas under Pakistani occupation, belong to India by law, history, and the will

of the people.

PoJK was, it is, and will always be a part of India, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will not rest until PoJK is liberated, Sat Sharma said, adding that the party observes this day as 'Sankalp Divas,' a pledge to keep working for the implementation of the resolution of Parliament.

Sat Sharma said that India always wanted peace with Pakistan, but always backstabbed, kept violating ceasefire agreements and engaged in fostering terrorism and instability in the region. The Pulwama terror attack of February 2019 was a blatant act of aggression sponsored by Pakistan-based terror groups. In response, the Indian armed forces carried out surgical strikes across the Line of Control (LoC), demonstrating India's resolve to counter any act of terrorism and cross-border aggression. The successful Balakot air strikes sent a strong message that India will not

hesitate to defend its sovereignty and respond decisively to threats posed by Pakistan. This was a clear message that India has a Prime minister, who will not tolerate the violation of international norms. The Modi government has convinced the international community to recognize Pakistan's role in harboring terrorism, further isolating it on the global stage.

The Union Government under PM Modi remains committed to upholding the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and ensuring their rightful place within the Indian Union. The revocation of Article 370 in 2019 was a landmark step in integrating the region fully with the rest of India and paving the way for development, peace, and prosperity. The government continues to work towards reclaiming PoJK as part of India's sovereign territory.

Multi-lingual Mushaira held at GCW Udhampur

JINNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR FEBRUARY 22

To develop literary interest among students as well as general masses, the Department of Urdu and Music under the aegis of Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art Culture and Languages (JKAACL) Jammu organised a multilingual Mushaira at the college campus here today.

Secretary J&K Academy of Art Culture & Languages Jammu, Ms. Harvinder Kour was the chief guest on the occasion.

Renowned writer, poet, critic, scholar and Sahitya Academy Awardee, Parkash Premi presided over the multilingual Mushaira event.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest Ms. Harvinder Kour appreciated the efforts of the college administration for organising such an interesting, informative and inspiring literary event. She congratulated the poets for being a part of such a big event and presenting meaningful and entertaining poetic verses. She emphasized on the systematic approach of the Academy for preservation and promotion of regional languages.



Ms. Kaur highly praised the young poets of the district namely Naseem Akhtar, Mohinder Pancharvi and Yosuhika and said that the poems they recited were no less than the poems of any senior poet. She said that whatever the poet says comes from his heart and only then everyone likes it and touches their hearts. She called for organizing such literary and cultural events in the near future too.

While speaking on the occasion, the Principal of the college Dr. Nalini Pathania appreciated the efforts of the organisers for organising such a wonderful multilingual mushaira which would provide a platform for sharing and exchanging diverse literary knowledge. Dr. Pathania expressed her heartfelt gratitude to JKAACL for providing the students with an opportunity to develop their overall personality and said that they should organize more such activities in this college.

Renowned and prominent poets of the Udhampur district mainly include Parkash Premi, Abhishop Dubey, Dr. Adarsh Parkash, Kusum Antra, Jagdeep Dubey, Rekha Thakur, Col Balwant Singh, Bachiter Singh Veragi, Mohinder Kumar Pancharvi, Dr. Mool Raj, Anu Atri Yaad, Dr. Jyoti Sharma, Prof. Shama Rani, Dr. Shabir Ahmad Dar, Naseem Akhter and Youshika Kumari presented their poetic verses touching all the aspects of society which was lauded by the audience.

The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages also organized a book exhibition in the college campus which displayed a large number of books published by the Academy in various languages. A special number of books published by the Academy in Dogri, Gojri, Punjabi and Urdu languages were displayed in the exhibition. A large number of book lovers, writers and college students were present on

the occasion.

About 275 students of the college participated. Refreshment was also served to the students by the organizers. The entire programme coordinated by HoD Music Associate Professor Dr. Seema Sharma, HoD Urdu Dr. Mool Raj Associate Professor, Assistant Professor Dr. Shalju Jasrotia, Assistant Professor Mr. Yash Kumar, Editor Dogri JAACL Ms. Reeta Khadyal, Dr. Sareer Ahmad Lecturer in Urdu and Mr. Kuldeep Singh LFE. The proceedings of Mushaira were conducted by Dr. Mool Raj, Associate Professor of Urdu. Beside Prof. Yash Paul HoD history presented a vote of thanks.

Among others, HoD Zoology Dr. Sanjeet Kour, Prof. Monika Gupta, Dr. Anita Sharma, Dr. Neha Anthal, Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad, Dr. Om Parkash, Dr. Ravinder Kumar, Prof. Pardeep Singh, Dr. Mukesh Sharma, Prof. Manju Rajput, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Dr. Anju Kumari, Dr. Parvesh Kumari, Prof. Simran Khajuria, Prof. Sandesh Kumar, Dr. Reeta Khadyal Editor Dogri JAACL, Vipin Sharma from JAACL, Joginder Sharma from JAACL, other senior faculty members and a large number of students were also present on the occasion.

India's strategic diplomacy elevates nation's stature at global affairs, says Gaurav Gupta

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 22

In an era of shifting global power dynamics, India has emerged as a formidable player on the world stage, thanks to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Under the stable and visionary government at the Centre, India is no longer just a participant in global affairs but a decisive force shaping the future of international diplomacy, economic growth, and strategic partnerships.

Addressing media persons at the BJP headquarters, Jammu, BJP Spokesperson Gaurav Gupta, along with Spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan and senior leader Rajinder Singh Chib, highlighted India's growing global stature under the dynamic



leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He stated that today, every country seeks to maintain strong bilateral relations with India, recognizing its strategic importance and leadership in global affairs.

Gaurav Gupta pointed out that after several years, air flights between India and China are resuming, a development that underscores the importance of diplomatic engagement between the two nations. He emphasized that even China now acknowledges the significance of main-

taining stable and constructive relations with India.

Referring to recent high-level diplomatic engagements, he stated that during the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa, bilateral talks were conducted between India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, and his Chinese counterpart. The discussions, lasting nearly 30 minutes, resulted in key decisions, including the resumption of air flights between India and China, maintaining

peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and the possible revival of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, a pilgrimage of great spiritual importance to millions of Indians.

The BJP Spokesperson further reminded that during the 16th BRICS Summit in Russia in October 2024, India and China held crucial talks aimed at rebuilding bilateral relations and held discussions on Galwan Valley situation, the LAC stand-off, and the resumption of flights and the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. This diplomatic momentum continued during the BRICS Summit in Brazil in November 2024, when discussions on strengthening ties were held between the Indian Foreign Minister and the Chinese Prime Minister.

SMVDU Dance Club scripts History at VIVACITY '25, Bags Multiple Titles at LNMIIT Jaipur

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 22

The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) Dance club of Board of cultural activities delivered a stellar performance at VIVACITY '25, LNMIIT Jaipur's cultural fest, securing four podium finishes across different categories and defeating 13 different universities from 7 different states across INDIA. Under the leadership of Achint Raj (Dance Club Coordinator, Board of Cultural Activities, SMVDU) and faculty coordinator Dr. Rakesh Thusoand Dr. Rahul Sharma (President and vice president, Board of Cultural Activities, SMVDU), the team impressed audiences with their electrifying per-



formances. Achievements: 1st Runner-up (Group Folk + Classical Dance category) - Coached by Achint Raj, the team showcased Bhaderwai and Dogri folk, featuring Shriya Sharma, Drishti Mahajan, Vaidehi, Aru Sharma, Charu Sharma, Kamakshi Gupta, Avineet Isher, Deepika Sharma, Bhavya Sharma, Shambhavi Sharma, Pounami Das, and Sneha Sambyal. 1st Runner-up (Solo Western Dance) - Vardhan Sharma delivered a powerful performance. 2nd Runner-up (Duet

Classical Dance) - Akhya Agrawal & Nikhil captivated with their graceful act. 1st Position (Contrast Art Competition) - Kritika Sangotra secured the top spot. The team also won a cash prize, to be transferred later, marking their dedication and excellence. Their remarkable success at VIVACITY '25 solidifies SMVDU's reputation as a force to be reckoned with in university dance competitions at national level. Congratulations to the entire team for making history!

PDP launches signature campaign to demand alcohol ban in J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 22

Peoples Democratic Party on Saturday launched a signature campaign to demand an alcohol ban in Jammu and Kashmir.

The campaign was launched by PDP leader Iltija Mufti at the party's main office in Srinagar. On Saturday, security was heightened outside the PDP office.

Iltija, after launching the signature campaign, said that this aims to garner public support ahead of the upcoming J&K Assembly session in March, where PDP MLA Fayaz Mir has submitted a bill seeking a ban on the sale and consumption of alcohol.

"Drugs and alcohol are spreading like wildfire in J&K, particularly among the youth. This is not a political issue but a social one that requires immediate action," she told reporters at the function.

Iltija said the number of liquor stores in J&K has significantly increased in the last four to five years, making alcohol easily accessible.

"Alcohol is leading to moral and social degradation, and it must be banned," she added.

Iltija also appealed to other political parties to support the bill on the alcohol ban submitted by the PDP lawmaker in the J&K Assembly.

"I hope that the rest of the parties, including NC (National Conference), PC (Peoples Conference), and BJP, come forward and support us. This is not a political issue but a social issue," the PDP leader said.

"This (ban) is about protecting our youth and future generations. Just like Bihar, Gujarat, and Nagaland, J&K should also be made alcohol-free, and it has nothing to do with tourism," she added.

The PDP leader hoped that the people of Jammu and Kashmir stand with us on the issue of banning alcohol.

"With the signature campaign, we are trying to mobilise support," she said.

Power Shutdown

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 22

According to the CE KPDCI that in order to carry out stringing of HT Cable the power supply from 33kv Rawalpora-Rangreth Line to receiving stations including Rangreth, Wanbal & Doodhganga and feeding areas including Wanbal, Rangreth, Alamdar Colony Rawalpora, Gogo, IE Rangreth and adjoining areas shall remain affected on February 23 from 11AM to 1PM.

Also, in view of shifting of electrical utilities along the road, the power supply from 33kv Badampora Wangipora Line to receiving stations including Batwina, Wangipora, Nowgam and feeding areas including Batwina, Nowgam, Wangipora, Zazna, Ahan, Waskura, Kharbagh, Guzham, Sumbal, Nesbal shall remain affected on February 24 from 10AM to 4PM.

SLCA J&K organizes Master Volunteers Training for district Kupwara

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 22

JKSPYM State Level Coordinating Agency J&K (SLCA J&K) organized today a one-day certificate training for Master-Volunteers of the district under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) in collaboration with NISD, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India and district administration at Town Hall Kupwara, Kashmir. Mr. DSWO Hidayat Ahmad was also present on the occasion. Around 52 Master-volunteers from the district Kupwara attended the training program.

Mr. Hidayat Ahmad in his keynote address, emphasized the urgency of tackling substance abuse, describing it as a severe issue affecting the youth in Jammu and Kashmir UT.



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

The program began with a welcome address, followed by an introduction to the State Level Coordinating Agency, J&K, and JKSPYM organisation and motive of the program by Ms. Pallavi Singh, Program Director, JKSPYM SLCA. The training comprised

the following sessions covering key topics "Overview of District-Level Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan"; "Understanding drugs, drug addiction, signs & symptoms, Myths & Facts about substance abuse"; "Roles and Responsibilities of Master-Volunteers/NMBA Leaders under NMBA"; "Basic Communication and Counselling skills".

Resource persons from SLCA delivered comprehensive presentations on

drug abuse trends in India, followed by vibrant discussions, interactive sessions, and group activities. The event concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony, honoring the commitment of the trained master volunteers to the cause.

This training program aimed to empower master volunteers with the tools to address substance abuse and foster a healthier, drug-free environment in the district.

SMVDU organizes Five-Day Faculty Development Programme on Sentiment Analysis and Medical Image Applications

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 22

The School of Computer Science and Engineering (SoCSE) at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) successfully organized a Five-Day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on "Sentiment Analysis Using Large Language Models and Medical Image Applications Using Learning Models" under the prestigious Research Project RP-126 - High-End Computing AI & Deep Learning



Lab. The FDP provided an enriching platform for faculty members, technical staff, research scholars, and students from SMVDU and other institutions across the state and beyond. The sessions focused on Sentiment Analysis and Medical Image Applications Using Deep Learning and Machine Learning, facilitating discussions on theoretical and practical problem-solving approaches in these fields. The event aimed to enhance skills, foster collaboration, and encourage

the exchange of innovative ideas among researchers and industry professionals. Dr. Bajinath Kaushik, Principal Investigator of Project RP-126, served as the event coordinator. The FDP featured distinguished resource persons, including Prof. Ashish Ghosh (Director, IIIT Bhubaneswar), Prof. Susmita Ghosh (Jadavpur University), Prof. K.K. Biswas (IIT Delhi), Prof. Vinod Sharma (University of Jammu), Dr. Vinit Jakhetiya (Associate Professor, CSE, IIT Jammu).

Indian Army conducts Interactive Sessions with Teachers on Educational Initiatives at Dehri Raylote, Rajouri

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 22 FEB 2025

In a significant outreach initiative, the Indian Army conducted interactive sessions with teachers of the Higher Secondary School at Lower Dehri Raylote, Middle School Upper Galuthi and Middle School Upper Dehri Raylote to raise awareness about various educational programs and policies, including the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The session focused on scholarships, promoting more admissions in the upcoming academic year, to maintain regularity in attending classes in remote areas of Rajouri district.

Teachers actively participated, discussing challenges faced in the education sector and exploring ways to enhance learning outcomes using available



resources, highlighting key aspects of the NEP 2020, which emphasizes holistic education, vocational training, digital learning, and multilingual instruction to make education more inclusive and skill-oriented. A key discussion point was the role of technology in education, with the Army encouraging schools to leverage online learning platforms

and government-backed initiatives such as SATHEE and SWAYAM portals.

The importance of critical thinking, experiential learning, and reducing the burden of rote memorization, as advocated by the NEP, was also emphasized. Teachers appreciated the Indian Army's efforts in fostering awareness about these initiatives and expressed

their willingness to work towards implementing the recommendations of NEP 2020 for better student engagement and career readiness. The Army reiterated its commitment to supporting rural education through continued collaboration with schools, providing mentorship, and facilitating access to various government schemes. Such interactions not only strengthen the bond between the armed forces and local communities but also ensure that students, regardless of their geographical location, receive quality education and career opportunities. The initiative aligns with the vision of a self-reliant and educated India, reinforcing the Indian Army's role in nation-building beyond its primary duty of national security.

Awareness Programme on HIV/AIDS held at GCW Udhampur

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR FEBRUARY 22

Red Ribbon Club of Govt. College for Women (GCW) Udhampur organized a week long awareness programme on HIV/AIDS. The programme started on 13 Feb. 2025 with the inauguration by the Principal of the college Dr. Nalini Pathania and human chain formation displayed by the students of the college.

The week-long activities include poster making competition and debate competition and nukkad natak in which a large number of students participated.

The activities carry a message of AIDS spread and measures of control. In the culminating day of the event a debate competition was held on 21 Feb 2025. Prof Yash Pal and Dr. Om Parkash acted as a judge in the competition. Simran, Kanchan Jamwal, Bhumika Sharma



and Vishali adjudged first, second and third position respectively in poster making competition whereas Kanchan Jamwal, Sneha Sharma and Sampada Kahuria were adjudged first, second and third position respectively in debate competition.

Prof. Yashpal HOD History in his special address also highlighted the need of such a programme for causing awareness among the students.

Dr. Nalini Pathania in her concluding address stressed the need of aware-

ness among the population. She also distributed the certificates and prizes among the students. The entire proceedings and management of the programme was conducted by Mr. Pardeep Singh Co-Convenor Red Ribbon Club GCW Udhampur.

The programme ended with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Ravi Kumar, Lecturer Department of Education. The programme was attended by around 200 students, members of RRC and all the staff members of the college.

Body of a youth found under suspicious circumstances near SDH Akhnoor, police starts investigation

J1 NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR 22 FEBRUARY

The body of a young man was found in suspicious circumstances in an open field near the sub-district hospital of the town. The

police took the body in custody and started investigating the case.

According to the information, on Saturday afternoon, a passerby saw the body of a person in suspicious condition in an open field near Akhnoor sub-district and informed

the police. Police reached the spot and took the body in custody. In the preliminary investigation, it is being suspected that the body had been lying there for one or two days. The police kept the body in the sub-district hospital Akhnoor, where it was identified as Varun

Pawar (Goldy) resident of Lehar Akhnoor. The police got the post-mortem done and handed over the body to the family members. The police have registered a case and started investigating under what circumstances the young man died.

SMVDU NCC Coordinator participates in Aero India 2025 at Yelahanka Air Force Station, Bengaluru

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 22

Dr. Varun Dutta, NCC Coordinator, SMVDU had the distinguished opportunity to participate in Aero India 2025, held at Yelahanka Air Force Station, Bengaluru. The prestigious airshow witnessed participation from more than 27 countries, including the USA, Russia, Australia, France, and Sweden, showcasing cutting-edge aviation technology and aircraft. For the first time in history, the USA's F-35A and Russia's Su-57E stealth fighter jets were showcased together anywhere in the world. This historic moment marked the convergence of two of the world's most advanced fifth-generation fighter aircraft (FGFA) on the same tarmac. Additionally, India unveiled a full-scale model of its first 5th-generation stealth aircraft, the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), equipped with state-of-the-art features. Aero India 2025 saw the participation of 930 exhibitors from across the globe, including over 100 Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs). The



CEOs Roundtable, comprising 55 industry leaders from 19 countries, provided a platform for collaboration and discussions on the future of aerospace and defense technology. The airshow, inaugurated by Defence Minister Sh. Rajnath Singh, attracted Defence Ministers and representatives from about 30 countries, along with Air Chiefs and Secretaries from 43 nations, further underscoring its international significance. During the event, Dr. Varun Dutta had the privilege of interacting with Indian Air Force Chief, Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh. He also engaged with pilots and ground crew members from the renowned Suryakiran Aerobatic Team, as well as aviation experts from the USA, Russia, and Sweden. A highlight of his visit was experiencing flight simulations of the Su-30MKI, Su-57E, and SAAB Gripen aircraft. The concluding day of Aero India 2025

featured a breathtaking flying display, including aircraft such as the KC-135 Stratotanker, Light Utility Helicopter, Su-30MKI, F-16, Hansa, HTT-40, IJT, FBT, LCA Mk-1A, and a spectacular performance by the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team. In addition to attending the airshow, Dr. Varun Dutta visited the Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE) in Bengaluru, where he interacted with Indian Air Force officers and officials from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). ASTE plays a crucial role in flight testing airborne systems developed by organizations such as DRDO and HAL for the Indian Air Force. Dr. Varun Dutta expressed his gratitude to SMVDU Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar, and Registrar, Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma (JKAS), for providing him with the opportunity to witness Asia's largest aviation event and engage with global aerospace experts.

Indian Army interacts with Gujjars, Bakkarwals at Chamrer, Rajouri



J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, 22 FEB 2025

Keeping in view of Indian Army's core objective of maintaining cordial relations with local citizens Indian Army conducted an interaction cum Awareness for Gujjars and Bakkarwals at Chamrer. The aim of the interaction was to interact & educate Gujjar Bakkarwals on Forest Right Act (FRA), Dera Migration procedures and to facilitate mitigation of any hardship being faced by them. Interaction assisted in developing a deep understanding of each other's customs and beliefs, leading to a harmonious coexistence. Pamphlets prepared for spreading awareness related to FRA were also

distributed.

A total strength of 35 including (25 x Gujjar & Bakkarwals and ten Ladies) were present during the interaction. This gesture and effort by Indian Army was highly appreciated by AWAM. This endeavor by Indian Army to reach out to the population residing in remote areas, where civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between JAWAN and AWAM. The event also served as a platform to strengthen the bond between Indian Army and the people of this region. It showcased Indian Army's commitment towards service to the nation.

Ashish Sharma successfully defends PhD Viva and Receives Doctorate in Sanskrit

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR FEBRUARY 22

Ashish Sharma has successfully defended his PhD viva and has been awarded a Doctorate in Sanskrit, achieving a significant milestone in his academic career. This accomplishment adds to the rich tradition of scholarly excellence within his family, as Ashish becomes the third member to receive the PhD Award.

The rigorous process of defending his thesis marks the culmination of years of dedication to research, with Ashish's work focusing on "Swami karpatri ji rachita bhakti rasaarnava ka darshnik adhyayan evam uski samsaamyikta". His success is not only a personal triumph but also a testament to the intellectual legacy set by his two elder brothers, both of whom have previously completed their own PhDs and working Under HED of Jammu and Kashmir as Physical Director. Moreover Dr. Mukesh Kumar was the youngest to Join HED as Physical Director. Ashish's achievement is especially meaningful as he now takes on a new role as the Acha-



rya at Churu, Rajyasthan, where he will blend his academic expertise with his passion for Vedic Education "Sanskrit". "I am incredibly grateful for the support of my mentors, Prof. Ram Bhadr Shukla (Supervisor), family members, and colleagues throughout this journey," said Ashish Sharma. "This achievement reflects not

just my hard work, but the values of perseverance and intellectual curiosity that have been instilled in me by my family."

The Sharma family expresses their deep pride and appreciation for Ashish's accomplishment and looks forward to his continued success in both academic and professional endeavors.

Department of MSCM organizes Professional Development Programme on Entrepreneurship Development



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 22

Department of Marketing and Supply Chain Management, Central University of Jammu conducted Professional Development Programme on "Entrepreneurship Development" under the mentorship of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu. The event marked the gracious presence of distinguished resource persons from Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) and faculty members from Department of MSCM including Dr. Vinay Kumar, Dr. Naresh Kumar, Dr. Anju Thapa, Dr. Arun Yadav and Dr. Shahid Mushtaq.

The programme was formally inaugurated by Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Dean School of Business Studies and Dr. Neelika Arora, Head, Department of MSCM. Prof. Bhasin in her opening address appreciated the efforts of the Department of MSCM under the dynamic leadership of Prof. Sanjeev Jain in carrying out the Professional Development Programme on Entrepreneurship Development in collaboration with JKEDI.

Speaking on the occasion Prof. Bhasin discussed managing innovations through linking

education & entrepreneurship. She impressed upon the participants to take the maximum benefits from the distinguished speakers of the day having vast experience in facilitating the learners to have more clarity about entrepreneurship and start-up ecosystem.

Dr. Neelika Arora, Head, Department of Marketing & SCM welcomed the participants and introduced the Resource Persons of the day. She highlighted that Resource Person's have significant experience of nurturing entrepreneurs and incubating business ideas. Introducing the resource persons, she pointed that this event promises to be a great learning opportunity for all those who are interested in expanding their knowledge to unlock entrepreneurial opportunities. She informed the gathering that this PDP is aimed at fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. Dr. Vinod Kumar, Head, Centre for New Enterprise Creation, JKEDI during his session introduced JKEDI and its initiatives for promoting entrepreneurship. His session focused on the role of JKEDI in facilitating entrepreneurs of the region to start sustainable and scalable businesses. He shared valuable insights with participants about how to think and gener-

ate ideas for start-ups. He highlighted that JKEDI is actively involving youth under J&K Start-up Policy and highlighted the success stories of incubatees who took entrepreneurship as a career option.

Mr. Zahid Ali Dar, Incharge Centre for Innovation, Incubation, and Business Modelling, JKEDI during his session spoke about generating ideas that would be viable as businesses and encouraged students to think about uniqueness, feasibility and competition as well. Mr. Zahid Ali Dar guided participants through various exercises and group activities designed to stimulate their creative thinking and idea generation skills. The PDP aimed at fostering innovation and entrepreneurship saw an enthusiastic participation from students of the MBA (Marketing Management) 2nd & 4th Semester students. Some students shared their ideas and a professional discussion over the steps to take an idea to a business took place over the same. Dr. Shahid Mushtaq, Assistant Professor, Department of Marketing and SCM in his address apprised the audience about the Professional Development Programmes initiated by the Department for the

benefit of the participants to enrich their orientation about the innovation entrepreneurship ecosystem. He pointed out that in the fast-changing technological world entrepreneurship is the need of the hour to create a pool of job creators rather than job seekers and also elaborated the concept of Kaushal Bharat - Kushal Bharat. It is pertinent to mention here that more than 50 participants registered for this event. While sharing feedback some of the participants said that it was a great learning experience for us and an exciting experience for everybody present here. The PDP aimed to provide a platform for students to explore their entrepreneurial potential and develop innovative solutions to real world problems. The sessions were well received by participants followed by enthusiastic question and answer session. The entire programme was coordinated by Dr. Shahid Mushtaq under the overall supervision of Dr. Neelika Arora. Dr. Naresh Kumar conducted the proceedings of the Programme and Dr. Shahid Mushtaq proposed a formal vote of thanks expressing gratitude to all the contributors and supporters of this initiative.

Indian Army conducts Medical Patrol for Gujjar, Bakarwals at Chandi, Reasi

J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, 22 FEB 2025

Indian Army successfully conducted a medical patrol for the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities in the remote area of Chandi, Reasi. This initiative aimed at providing much-needed healthcare services to the underserved population in the area, known for its rugged terrain and limited access to medical facilities. The medical team, comprising of Indian Army doctors, paramedics and healthcare professionals, set up a temporary medical camp in the heart of Chandi (Balmatkote). Local residents were



given free medical consultations, treatment and medicines.

The team also conducted health awareness sessions, emphasizing preventive care and hygiene. Speaking on the occasion, The Indian Army said, "This medical patrol is part of our ongoing efforts

to ensure the welfare of the remote and marginalized communities in the region. The Gujjar and Bakarwal communities have long faced challenges in accessing quality healthcare, and we are committed to bridging this gap." The medical patrol received an overwhelming response, with

scores of people from surrounding villages arriving to seek medical help.

The Indian Army also provided basic medical supplies to assist the local community in managing their health needs until the next medical outreach. This event underscores the Indian Army's continuous efforts to support and serve the local population, not only in times of conflict but also in addressing their day-to-day challenges. The medical patrol is a testament to the Indian Army's dedication to the well-being and safety of every citizen, especially those in remote and hard-to-reach locations..

Government of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN U.T. LEVEL PURCHASE COMMITTEE Sheep Husbandry Department, J&K Directorate of Sheep Husbandry Department Rail Head Complex Jammu Email id: directorshdjammu@gmail.com

E-Procurement Notice for Insurance of livestock under NLM.

e-NIT No:- DSHJ/Supply/UTLPC/NIT/2024-25/02 Dated 21-02-2025

For & on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited from firms/companies having fairly wide network of branches in the UT of J&K, dealing in Insurance cover to Sheep/Goats in two bid system (Technical bid 1 & Financial bid 2) through Chairman, U.T. Level Purchase Committee, Sheep Husbandry Department, J&K for fixing the rates for Risk Management & Insurance of around 200,000 Sheep/Goats approximately.

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility, criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of supply/contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the e-procurement website www.iktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below.

S.No.	Description	Start Date	End Date
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	21-02-2025	
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	22-02-2025 (11.00 a.m.)	
3	Bid submission start date	22-02-2025 (11.00 a.m.)	
4	Bid submission end date	14-03-2025 (4.30 p.m.)	
5	Clarification, if any	24-02-2025 to 03-03-2025 (4.30 p.m.)	
6	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	17-03-2025 (11.30 a.m.)	

- Instructions for bidders regarding e-tendering process: -
 - Bidders are advised to download bids submission manual from the "Downloads option as well as from Bidders Manual kit" on the website www.iktenders.gov.in to acquaint themselves with bid submission process.
 - To participate in bidding process bidder has to get a Digital Signature Certificate (DSC), as per Information Technology ACT-2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from an approved vendor.
 - The bidder has to submit their bids online in electronic format with the Digital Signature. No bidding will be accepted in physical form.
 - Bids will be opened online as per the schedule mentioned at Para-1.
 - Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.
- The Pre-Bid meeting with prospective bidders shall be convened at Directorate of Sheep Husbandry Department Rail Head Complex, Panama Chowk, Jammu.
- The bid shall remain valid upto 90 days.

(Note: Scan all the documents on 100dpi with Black and White option.)

DIP/J-10456/24
Date: 22-2-25

Sd/-
Chairman
U.T. Level Purchase Committee
Sheep Husbandry Department, J&K
(Director Sheep Husbandry Department Jammu)

Karra asks BJP to clarify its stand on statehood

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEB 22

Asking BJP to clarify its stand over the delay in the restoration of statehood, despite repeated commitments by the Prime Minister & home minister, JKPC Chief Shri Tariq Hameed Karra today questioned centre what are its parameters of "Proper time" for the restoration of statehood.

Questioning BJP & its elected representatives for its criminal silence over the most vital right of the people, Karra said that this amounts to betrayal of the mandate of people, forcing Congress party to launch this movement which shall be intensified in the days to come & people shall come on roads if further delayed.

Addressing a massive gathering of DCC at Kathua today Shri Karra said it is our right & we shall fight to get it back. He regretted that we have to struggle for achieving our legitimate right, identity, status & honour.

Hitting hard BJP for disbanding, dividing and downgrading the historical dogra state, he lauded the struggle of the Dogra rulers and dogra people for expanding the geographical boundaries of their state into a vast territory, having a distinct identity, culture and secular values, religious brotherhood.

Taking strong exception to the delay in the finalising the business rules, he said there is confusion in the administration over the defining & distribution of powers. Non restoration of statehood is coming in the way of solving various issues of different sections of people who had taken part in the elections in hope of solution of their pending issues.

Working Presidents Tara Chand, Raman Bhalla, Ex MP Ch Lal Singh, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, former Ministers Dr Manohar Lal, Yash Pal Kundal, Ved Mahajan,



Rajnish Sharma, Dist President Pankaj Dogra, Shashi Sharma, Ex MLA Kanta Andotra, Durga Dass Vijay Sharma, Sanjeev Panda Prof H R Sharma, Kajal Rajput, Rakesh Chaudhary, Rajinder Singh Babbi also spoke.

JKPCC Chief condemned the unfortunate incidents of mysterious killing of two persons in Billawar besides the death of Makhan din and demanded a judicial enquiry to bring out the truth. He also deputed a team of Senior leaders led by Dr Manohar Lal Sharma, besides District President Pankaj Dogra & others to visit the area and report to the party about the details of incidents.

Shri Tara Chand referred to the vital role of Congress party in the country especially in Jammu & Kashmir and said that it is Congress party which brought about massive development in all spheres. He said that Constitution has ensured the due rights to all including down trodden & blamed BJP of weakening the Constitution and constitutional values. He also reminded to large number of administrative units during UPA & NC Congress govt.

Shri Raman Bhalla highlighted the issues of state lands, Refugees package Punjabi language, large scale

Unemployment, issues of daily wagers etc and said that without Statehood solving problems of people are not possible.

He blamed BJP led centre of deliberately delaying the grant of statehood to compound people's problems.

Former MP Ch Lal Singh alleged that huge chunk of agriculture

Land of Kathua district is being brazenly converted into commercial & industrial use depriving future generations of the agricultural production & environment. What kind of industrialisation is being done at the cost of lives, environment and livelihood of local people especially farmers.

He said that the mafia is active in the entire district and illegal mining activities are taking place in connivance with powerful people, while the local contractors, labourers, tractor trolleywalas all are suffering at the cost of mafia.

He also referred to irrigation projects in the district by the Congress governments but alleged that interests of Jammu Samba bartered in the recent settlements with Punjab govt. Dr Manohar Lal Sharma referred to Mining mafia, land, sand, drug mafia besides recruitment scandals ruing the future of future generations.

He said Local contractors, farmers, labourers, jobless people are being deprived of opportunities while entire kandi belt is being destroyed in the name of industry to give benefits to outside influential people.

Several senior leaders spoke in the six hours long convention attended by block presidents and other prominent leaders of district.

Rich tributes to Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, the great freedom fighter and first education minister of country.

Indian Army organizes Screening of Motivational Movie "Amaran" at Keri Rajouri



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 22 FEB 2025

In an effort to inspire and motivate the youth, Indian Army has organised a special screening of the motivational movie "Amaran" for school children of Tender Feet School, Keri. The event instilled values of courage, patriotism, and leadership in young minds through the extraordinary story of Major Mukund Varadarajan, an Indian Army Officer who lost his life during a counter-terrorism operation; making the core narrative of the film real.

This initiative by the Indian Army underscores its commitment to foster a sense of National pride and responsibility among school students, by showcasing the heroic journey of Major Mukund Varadarajan who played a pivotal

role in India's military history with his exemplary leadership skills and dedication to the nation.

The screening was attended by 72 students and 05 teachers, which was followed by an interactive session, allowing students to engage with army personnel and gain insights into the life and values of Major Mukund Varadarajan. This dialogue aims to inspire students to emulate his virtues in their personal and academic endeavours. Students and teachers expressed their enthusiasm towards Indian Army for the event, stating, "Major Mukund Varadarajan story is a beacon of inspiration". Teachers also stated that this motivational screening will motivate young generation to strive for excellence and cultivate a deep sense of duty towards our nation."

Modi Govt prioritizing devp at people's doorstep: Randhawa



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 22

In a significant step towards enhancing local infrastructure, senior BJP leader and MLA Bahu constituency, Vikram Randhawa today inaugurated the much-awaited lane and drain construction work at Panchayat Narwal Bala, Ward No. 3, aiming to address the long-standing demands of the residents for improved civic amenities and better drainage systems.

On the occasion, Rohit Sharma (Panchayat Secretary) along with Surjeet Singh (Mandal President), Amit Gupta, Mohinder Pal, Vinod, Ram Paul, Raman, Tarun Sharma, Ravi Kumar, Ajay, Gulshan, Ajay Sharma, Farmaan Khatana, Rohit Dharan Pal and others were present. The lane and drain work at Ward No. 3, Narwal Bala, is expected to be completed in a stipulated time frame, bringing much-needed relief to the residents and improving overall sanitation in the area.

Addressing the gathering, Randhawa emphasized the BJP government's commitment to grassroots development and ensuring that basic infrastructure reaches every corner of the constituency. He highlighted that the construction work will not only provide relief from waterlogging

and unhygienic conditions but also uplift the overall living standards of the residents.

"The BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has prioritized development at the doorstep of the common man. We are ensuring that all pending civic works are completed in a time-bound manner, and every household gets access to basic infrastructure," he said.

The senior BJP leader reiterated his commitment to accelerating development works and ensuring that every household benefits from Modi government's welfare schemes. He urged the residents to actively participate in the development process and keep their surroundings clean. He reaffirmed that the BJP is dedicated to the welfare of the people and will continue to work relentlessly for the progress of Jammu & Kashmir.

Local residents expressed their gratitude to the MLA for fulfilling their long-pending demand. They lauded the BJP's efforts in bringing tangible improvements in the area, which had been neglected for years.

Randhawa assured the people that more development projects are in the pipeline for Bahu constituency, focusing on roads, sanitation, and overall urban planning.

J&K Handball Association to conduct selection trial for 39th Sub Junior Boys National Handball Championship

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU FEB 22

The J&K Handball Association is going to conduct the selection trial for 39th Sub Junior Boys National Handball Championship which is scheduled to be held at KEONJHAR (ODISHA) from 25th March

to 29th March 2025 and 47th Junior Boys National Handball Championship which is scheduled to be held at Begusarai (Bihar) from 29th March to 2nd April 2025. Both Selection trials will be conducted at Playing Field Shastri Nagar Jammu from 24th to 26th February 2025 at 4 P.M. All

the President/Secretaries of affiliated units of the association are requested to send their players along with DOB certificate at the venue. A Sub Junior Player born on or after 01-01-2010 and Junior Player born on or after 1-1-2005 are eligible to participate in the championship.

Vijaya Ekadashi Fast on Monday, Feb 24: Rohit Shastri

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 22

The Vijaya Ekadashi fast is observed on the Krishna Paksha Ekadashi of the Phalgun month. Mahant Rohit Shastri, Jyotishacharya and President of the Shri Kailash Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, stated that there are 24 Ekadashis in a year. However, when Adhik Maas (extra lunar month) occurs once every three years, the total number increases to 26.

This year, the Vijaya Ekadashi tithi will begin on February 23, 2025, at 1:56 PM and end on February 24, 2025, at 1:45 PM. Since the sunrise on February 24, Monday, coincides with Krishna Paksha Ekadashi, the Vijaya Ekadashi fast will be observed on this day.

The Krishna Paksha Ekadashi of the Phalgun month is known as Vijaya Ekadashi. According to religious scriptures, Lord Shri Ram attained victory over Ravana due to the merits of observing the Vijaya Ekadashi fast. Since then, the significance of this fast has increased. If you wish to succeed in your work, you must



observe the Vijaya Ekadashi fast, perform rituals, and listen to the Vijaya Ekadashi Katha (sacred story).

Benefits of Vijaya Ekadashi Fast:

Observing this fast yields more spiritual merit than performing the Ashwamedha Yajna, chanting, penance, pilgrimage, and charity.

The devotee must exercise self-restraint over the mind, senses, and actions.

This fast teaches the importance of maintaining balance in life.

It helps individuals transcend materialistic desires and walk the path of righteousness, ultimately attaining salvation (moksha).

The fast is beneficial for both men and women.

Charitable acts hold special significance on this day. Offering gold, land, fruits, clothes, sweets, food, education, donations, and cows to the needy and Brahmins helps eliminate sins and leads to ultimate liberation.

Worship Rituals and Significance:

On this day, devotees worship Lord Shri Ganesh, Shri Lakshmi-Narayan, Lord Shri Ram, Lord Shri Krishna, and Lord Shiva. Listening to the Lakshmi-Narayan Katha and performing Aarti is considered highly auspicious.

The Ekadashi fast is not just religious but also beneficial for mental and physical health. This fast is dedicated to Lord Vishnu, promoting self-discipline and rejuvenating the body with new energy.

Sattvic Diet and Restrictions:

According to religious scriptures, consuming rice and tamasic (impure) foods is prohibited on Ekadashi. Alcohol and intoxicants should also be avoided, as they have adverse effects on the body and future well-being. Devotees should only consume sattvic (pure) foods on this day.

Indian Army Contingent departs for India-Japan Joint Military Exercise

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEB 22

The Indian Army contingent departed today, for 6th edition of India-Japan Joint Military Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN. The exercise is scheduled to be conducted in East Fuji Manoeuvre Training area of Japan from 24th February to 9th March 2025. Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN is an annual event conducted alternatively in India and Japan. Last edition of the same exercise was conducted in Rajasthan in February-March 2024.

The Indian contingent comprising 120 personnel will be represented mainly by troops from a battalion of the MADRAS Regiment along with troops from others arms and services. The Japan Ground Self Defence Force (JGSDF) contingent, also comprising similar strength, will be represented by 34th Infantry Regiment.

Aim of the exercise is to enhance interoperability between the two forces while undertaking joint urban warfare and counter-terrorism operations under UN mandate. The



exercise will focus on high degree of physical fitness, joint planning and joint tactical drills.

Aspects to be rehearsed will include tactical drills, joint exercises and disaster response strategies, designed to enhance operational capabilities, refine combat skills and strengthen interoperability for effective joint operations.

Building on the momentum of Chief of the Army Staff's successful visit to Japan from 14th to 17th October 2024, Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN will further strengthen the bilateral defence cooperation between India and Japan.

The exercise underscores the shared com-

mitment of India and Japan towards regional security, peace and stability, while advancing their common vision of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN reinforces the India-Japan relationship as a cornerstone of regional cooperation, fostering strong military-to-military ties and promoting cultural understanding.

A testament to the enduring bond of friendship, trust and cultural linkages between India and Japan, the exercise sets the stage for meaningful professional engagement, highlighting the unwavering commitment of both nations to broader defence cooperation.

Tree Plantation Drive organized at Parat, Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 22 FEB 2025

The Indian Army organised tree plantation drive at Government Primary School, Haratali. The campaign was aimed at promoting tree plantation, environmental conservation, improve 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 collectively 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 sowing 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 Indian Army with an aim to increase the 'Green Cover' in the region and persuade people to curb deforestation and promote a clean and green future.

Special concessions to J&K in financial matters, the need of hour: PHDCCI



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 22

PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Jammu Region Chapter Chair Rakesh Wazir while speaking in a meeting held here with Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India incharge UT of J&K and Ladakh Chandershekar Azad, advocates for special concessions to the business units of J&K.

Mr. Wazir emphasized the unique challenges of Jammu & Kashmir, given its fragile situation and remote topography. He highlighted the logistical difficulties of Industrial units wherein raw materials must be transported from other parts of India and finished goods must be shipped back, increasing costs for businesses.

He urged the RBI to consider liberal financing options for business units in J&K and asked for introduction of special packag-

es for those that became NPAs due to continuous turmoil in the region, including the abrogation of Article 370 and militancy-related disruptions. He also stressed that the use of the SARFAESI Act, which allows for the forcible seizure and auctioning of distressed units, should be minimized and should be used only when no other option is left.

Furthermore, he called for enhanced facilitation and support for MSMEs to the UTs of J&K & Ladakh and for that even if some special policy is required to be made it should be recommended so that more and more people may invest over here leading to the sustainable growth for the business.

Mr. Azad attentively listened to the concerns raised and assured Mr. Wazir that each & every issue raised in the meeting would be given sympathetic consideration.

Justice Sreedharan reiterates importance of ensuring timely legal aid for inmates, strengthening rehabilitation measures

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, FEBRUARY 22

Reaffirming commitment of Legal Services Institutions towards ensuring access to justice and upholding the constitutional rights of prisoners, Justice Atul Sreedharan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority today conducted an extensive tour to District Jail Bhaderwah to assess the living conditions of inmates, legal aid availability and evaluate the effectiveness of rehabilitation and reformatory measures.

Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K LSA, Anoop Sharma, Registrar IT, High Court of J&K and Ladakh as well as Muzamil Hayat Kabli, Under Secretary (Adm),

J&K LSA, accompanied the Executive Judge, J&K LSA.

Present on the occasion were Balbir Lal, District & Sessions Judge (Chairman, DLSA), Bhaderwah; Harvinder Singh, District Magistrate Doda; Sandeep Mehta, SSP Doda; Hamidullah Malik, Jail Superintendent and Tabraiz Qazi, Secretary, DLSA Bhaderwah.

During the visit, Justice Sreedharan inspected various facilities within the jail, which currently houses 164 undertrial prisoners, 23 detainees and 04 convicts, against a total capacity of 155 persons. He also visited the separate female block, where 15 undertrial prisoners including 7 foreign nationals are lodged. The video conferencing facility in the jail was also found operational, with an ongoing trial in the case

titled "State vs Sahil Dingra" in which the accused appeared before the 2nd Additional Sessions Judge, Jammu through virtual mode from district jail Bhaderwah.

The Executive Chairman also inaugurated an Eye Check-up Camp organized by the District Administration in collaboration with the Red Cross Society, where 60 inmates were registered for examination and all the medicines prescribed were provided free of cost by the Red Cross Society.

Taking note of medical needs, Justice Sreedharan directed the District Magistrate to explore the feasibility of providing e-consultations through tele-medicine services,



particularly for addressing psychiatric and psychological concerns of the inmates. He also advised the District Administration to consider installation of a defibrillator within the jail dispensary to cater to the cardiac emergencies.

Justice Sreedharan also

inspected the 10-bedded medical dispensary, which was found clean and well-maintained. He also visited the Yoga and Meditation Centre, where live yoga classes were being conducted under the guidance of Dr. Nidhi Padha, helping inmates incorporate physi-

cal and mental wellness into their daily routine. Besides, rehabilitation and vocational training being imparted to the jail inmates in the Vocational Centre was also inspected, where inmates were engaged in tailoring, incense stick (agarbatti) manufacturing, Kashmiri crewel embroidery and crafting flower pots and decorative items from waste paper material. A showcase of handcrafted items by the inmates highlighted their skill development and the potential for self-sufficiency post-release.

In a bid to promote positive engagement and recreational activities, a cricket match was organized and trophies were distributed

among the winning and runner-up teams, along with a special award for the 'Man of the Match.'

Interacting with the jail inmates during his special address, Justice Sreedharan emphasized that judges only adjudicate the mistakes of an accused committed in law and not the sins committed by them. He reiterated the importance of ensuring timely legal aid for inmates and strengthening rehabilitation measures within correctional facilities.

He also visited the Jail Legal Aid Clinic, where he appreciated the role of Legal Aid Defense Counsellors and Para-Legal Volunteers in facilitating legal assistance to inmates.

Hamidullah Malik, Superintendent Jail, highlighted various reformatory initiatives being imple-

mented for the well-being of inmates.

Deputy Commissioner Doda, who is also a member of the Undertrial Review Committee (UTRC), expressed gratitude to Justice Sreedharan for choosing Bhaderwah Jail as the first destination for inspection after assuming the charge as Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority.

The Secretary, DLSA Bhaderwah, briefed about various legal aid initiatives being carried out across the district and the role of Legal Services Institutions in ensuring access to justice for all.

This visit underscored the commitment of Legal Services Institutions towards ensuring access to justice, promoting reformation and upholding the dignity of inmates.

DC Poonch reviews pending court cases across different departments

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, FEBRUARY 22

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal chaired a crucial meeting today in the Meeting Hall of his Office Complex to review the latest status of pending court cases across different departments.

The meeting focused on cases awaiting resolution in the subordinate courts of District Poonch, as well as in the High Court, Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), National Green Tribunal (NGT), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), and Central Information Commission (CIC).

The Deputy Commissioner requested comprehensive briefings from the concerned officers regarding the current status of



these cases. The District Litigation Officer delivered an in-depth presentation, detailing the department-wise and court-wise latest status of pending cases.

During discussions, specific cases pending for replies from various departments were examined in detail. Demonstrating an unwavering com-

mitment to expeditious justice, DC Vikas Kundal emphasized the urgency of filing replies for outstanding complaints and directed all concerned departments to submit reports promptly. This is crucial for legal vetting by the Law Department before final submissions are made.

The Deputy Commissioner also stressed the importance of maintaining transparency and accountability in handling court cases. He directed all officers involved to uphold the highest ethical standards and prioritize the community's best interests in these legal matters. He encouraged a knowledge-sharing approach among departments to strengthen their legal capabilities and contribute to the overall development goals of Poonch district.

The meeting was attended by several key officials, including ADC Poonch, ADC, ACR, SDM Mendhar and Surankote, Tehsildar Haveli, District Litigation Officer, CEO MC Poonch, and other concerned officers.

DLSA Budgam conducts review, monitoring meeting of panel lawyers

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 22

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam, convened a review & monitoring and Mentoring meeting of panel lawyers.

The meeting was chaired by O.P Bhagat, Chairman of DLSA Budgam/ Principal District and Sessions Judge, Budgam and was attended by Nusrat Ali Hakak, Sub-Judge/ Secretary DLSA Budgam and Mubashir Ahmad Wani Advocate besides panel lawyers of DLSA Budgam.

The primary objective of the meeting was to assess the progress of legal aid cases assigned to panel lawyers over time. In-depth discussions were held regarding various cases, with a focus on identifying challenges,



sharing best practices, and ensuring timely and effective legal assistance for beneficiaries.

O.P Bhagat emphasized the importance of diligent case management, urging panel lawyers to remain committed to upholding the principles of justice and accessibility.

During the meeting, the progress of several ongoing cases was thoroughly examined and reviewed. The participants engaged in a detailed dialogue on improving case outcomes and enhancing coordina-

tion between panel lawyers and the DLSA.

Nusrat Ali Hakak highlighted the need for continued efforts to provide equitable and prompt legal aid to marginalized sections of society, reiterating DLSA's mission to make justice accessible to all.

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment from the panel lawyers to strengthen the legal aid framework in Budgam and enhance service delivery for those in need.

DC discusses land transfer status for PDA Kud & SMDA Mansar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 22

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai today convened a meeting to review the status of land transferred or mutated in favor of the Patnitop Development Authority Kud and Surinsar Mansar Development Authority. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr Umesh Shan, Chief Executive Officers SMDA Mansar and PDA Kud, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Chenani, DFO Udhampur, Tehsildar Chenani and other concerned. During the meeting, discussions focused on assessing the current status of land transfer/mutation processes and addressing any pending issues related to land allotment for these development authorities. The initiative aims to streamline administrative procedures and facilitate effective governance in promoting tourism and infrastructure development in these regions.

Dy CM visits GMC Jammu; assures hassle free deliverance of healthcare services



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 22

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, today visited Government Medical College, Jammu and reviewed functioning of the institution.

The Deputy Chief Minister took stock of the facilities being provided to the patients besides assessing the strength of doctors and para medical staff deployed there.

While interacting with the staff, the Deputy

Chief Minister said that the government has already issued instructions that the people should not face any inconvenience with respect to the public services, especially the healthcare facilities. He said that the government is committed to ensure speedy and hassle free deliverance of public services to the people.

"Patients should not face any inconvenience while availing the facilities meant for them as health is one of the main

priority sectors of the Government," maintained the Deputy Minister.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the hospital authorities to ensure that the patients are provided with quality healthcare facilities. He said that it should be ensured that benefits of all health related policies are provided to them without any fail.

Principal Medical College and other senior faculty members accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister during his visit.

DC Rajouri finalises MGNREGA Convergence Plan for FY 2025-26

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 22

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a high-level meeting to discuss and finalise the modalities for the formulation of the convergence plan under MGNREGA for the financial year 2025-26.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, along with other senior officers from the Rural Development Department and other concerned departments.

At the outset, ADDC Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa briefed the chair about the nature of works proposed for inclusion in the MGNREGA plan under convergence mode. He provided insights into the potential projects that align with the district's development priorities, ensuring effective utilization of resources to benefit the rural populace.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasised the importance of including projects in the MGNREGA plan under convergence mode, particularly those aimed at water conservation and recharge. He directed officials to prioritize the construction of



check dams, water harvesting structures, and other initiatives that contribute to sustainable water management.

Stressing the need for long-term ecological balance, he underscored that such works would play a vital role in enhancing groundwater levels and mitigating water scarcity issues in rural areas.

Further, the DC Rajouri directed the concerned officers to include community-centric projects in the plan, ensuring that developmental benefits reach entire panchayats comprehensively.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of the physical and financial progress of Capex works was also conducted.

quality standards.

Additionally, the functioning of the JK Samadhan portal was reviewed. The Deputy Commissioner called for prompt redressal of public grievances and instructed officials to ensure that complaints received through the portal are resolved in a time-bound manner. He reiterated the importance of transparency and accountability in governance.

The meeting concluded with the Deputy Commissioner directing all departments to work in coordination to achieve effective implementation of the convergence plan, thereby enhancing the impact of MGNREGA in Rajouri district.

PO ICDS, Faraed Kohli; ACP, Sheraz Ahmed; ACD, Vijay kr Verma; CAO, CHO, BDOs, PO IWMP, DYSSO, Ex En I & FC, Ex En REW, AD FCS & CA, AD Fisheries, District Program Manager NRLM attended the meeting.

DC Udhampur conducts city tour to address public grievances and review civic amenities



J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 22

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, along with Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, CEO Municipality Rajinder Digra and other officers, as well as prominent civil society members, conducted a city tour covering Sailan Talab, Sabzi Mandi, Gole Market and adjoining areas to review civic amenities and address public grievances.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to take necessary steps for the widening of Sailan Talab Chowk and the relocation of smart meters, resolution of parking issues to prevent inconvenience to the public during the upcoming festivals.

At Sabzi Mandi, local

residents apprised the Deputy Commissioner of the need for establishing a Smart Vending Zone and the relocation of smart meters. She instructed the Chief Executive Officer, Municipality, to ensure proper lighting in the area, remove encroachments to enhance visibility and maintain the market's sanctity. She emphasized proactive measures to resolve civic issues and improve public facilities.

The DC further directed the Jal Shakti Department to repair damaged pipelines and immediately address leakages to ensure an uninterrupted water supply for residents. Concerned authorities were instructed to decongest lanes to facilitate smooth traffic movement and enhance overall connectivity in the area.