

**DENGUE WARNING SIGNS**

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Increased and continuous fever above 102°F
- Severe joint and muscle pain
- Severe headache
- Severe stomach pain
- Severe tiredness or weakness
- Severe vomiting
- Severe skin rash
- Severe bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 12 | ISSUE NO: 49 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. L-29/JK-497/25-27 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

## Violence in J&K down by 80%; UT has achieved complete stability: Amit Shah

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, FEB 24 (KNO)

Asserting that violence in Jammu and Kashmir has reduced by over 80%, Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said that the Union Territory has achieved complete stability, and it would last forever.

Interacting with the youth of J&K under the 'Watan Ko Jano' Youth Exchange Program in the national capital, Shah, according to the news agency said, "Following the abrogation of Article 370 under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir has attained complete stability, which is there to stay."

He said that since 2019, students, youth, and residents of J&K have been brought on par with those in other states like Haryana and Punjab.

Highlighting the transformation in the security landscape, he said, "Over the past decade, there have been no bomb blasts, stone pelting incidents, or terrorist activities. Students can now breathe freely and pursue their education without disruptions. With peace prevailing in the Valley, people across the country now view J&K with love and



respect."

He pointed out the human cost of past unrest, stating, "In the last 30 years, around 38,000 people lost their lives due to violence—an era marked by destruction. Today, violence has reduced by over 80%. However, I will not be truly satisfied until not a single life is lost to violence. That is our ultimate goal for J&K."

Encouraging the students to become ambassadors of peace, Shah said, "When people recognize that Kashmir is living in a peaceful environment, there will be no need for security forces within the region. Soon, the day will come when there are no guns in the hands of the youth, and the army will be

stationed only at the borders, as in other states. The power to create this future lies in the hands of students."

Highlighting J&K's infrastructure development, he said, "Jammu and Kashmir is home to the world's highest Chenab Rail Bridge—an engineering marvel not found in any other state. Additionally, we have Asia's largest cable bridge, showcasing the scale of development aimed at promoting J&K as a premier tourist destination."

The Home Minister also spoke about advancements in healthcare and education, mentioning the establishment of AIIMS and an Indian

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## Restoration of J&K's statehood crucial for resolving issues: CM Omar Abdullah

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 24 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday reiterated that the restoration of statehood is crucial for addressing various challenges faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Talking to reporters here, Omar, according to the news agency, said that his government remains committed to fulfilling its promises and urged patience from the public. "Manifesto is not for five days or five months, it's for five years. We have not even presented our first budget yet. Please wait. We know what promises we have made to



the people and how to fulfill them," the Chief Minister said.

He asserted that while his administration is making full use of the Union Territory's governance framework,

certain issues can only be addressed after the restoration of statehood. "I repeatedly emphasize the need for statehood because

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## CM flags off K2K EV Drive from the SKICC

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 24 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today flagged off the second season of the fastest Electric Vehicle (EV) drive, Kashmir to Kanyakumari (K2K), from the lawns of Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Center (SKICC).

Interacting with the organizers, the Chief

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## CM attends live streaming of PM's address on PM-KISAN scheme at SKUAST-K



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 24 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah attended the live streaming of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## CM calls for greater awareness, collaboration on organ donation at SAMAGAM-2025



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 24 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today lauded the efforts of medical experts and institutions in saving lives. He stated this

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## 2 wanted criminals arrested in Jammu, arms and ammo seized: Police

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 24 (KNO)

Jammu Police on Monday apprehended two wanted criminals and seized illegal arms and ammunition during a surprise naka checking operation on the Ring road in Miran Sahib area.

In a statement, issued to news agency, a spokesperson said that three criminals namely Rajat Raina alias Rishu, Raghunandan Kesar alias Raghu, and Goura Jatt who fired some shots at Swarn Palace, Miran Sahib, during a function were wanted since then.

The statement reads that an FIR No. 27/2025 U/S 109/3(5) BNS, 3/25 Arms Act was registered in this

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## Assembly Budget Session: Speaker reviews security, other arrangements



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 24 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather, today convened a meeting to review security and other related arrangements for the ensu-

ing Budget Session of current JKUT Legislature to be held at Jammu from 3rd March, 2025.

Present in the meeting were the officers from different departments including Commission Secretary, GAD, M. Raju; Divisional

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## Cabinet approves LG's address to Assembly

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 24 (KNO)

J&K cabinet on Monday approved Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's address to be delivered by him on the first day of the budget session in the Legislative Assembly, sources disclosed.

Sources told news agency that the

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## PM Modi releases installment to 9.8 Crore farmers amounting to more than Rs 22,000 crore

**AGENCIES**  
NEW DELHI [INDIA], FEB 24

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the 19th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme on Monday in Bhagalpur, Bihar.

According to an official release, around 9.8 crore farmers including 2.41 crore female farmers across the country will be benefitted through the 19th instalment release.

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**



## CS assesses preparations for identification of houseless people to be covered under PMAY (U) 2.0



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 24

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to assess the household survey to be carried out by the Department in collaboration with the Planning Development & Monitoring Department for identification of houseless people in J&K. Those who attended the meeting included Com-

missioner Secretary, H&UDD; Secretary, Planning; DG, E&S; MD, Housing Board; SIO, NIC and other concerned officers.

The survey would give a detailed idea about the eligible persons to be covered for providing housing units through different programmes under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) 2.0 PMAY (U) in the UT.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## CS reviews progress on BRAP reforms to enhance Ease Of Doing Business in J&K



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 24

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high level meeting of all the administrative heads of the concerned departments held to review progress on adoption of reforms recommended under the Business Reform Action Plan

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## 'J&K, Ladakh likely to share 230-740 MW power by 2027-28'

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 24 (KNO)

Authorities have projected that by 2027-28, J&K and Ladakh may share 230-740 MW of power to other states keeping in view possible surplus capacity available from April to September in the years to come.

The official documents available with the news agency, read, "Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is likely to have surplus capacity available from April to September in the years to come."

Besides, the documents further state that coal capacity Plant Load Factor (PLF) is expected to remain in the range of 46 percent to 81 per-

cent for the years till 2035.

"The coal capacity PLF is expected to remain in the range of 46 percent to 81 percent for the years till 2035—reducing from 81 percent in 2024-25 to 46 percent in 2034-35—thus ensuring higher absorption of higher renewable energy," it reads.

It also said that in the alternate resilient scenario, coal requirement increases by around 287 MW compared to the base case in terminal year 2034-35. "The Short Term Open Access (STOA) requirement in 2024-25 increases by around 144 MW in case of Alternate Resilient scenario in comparison to the base case."

"Jammu and Kashmir is surplus in fulfillment of its Renewable Purchase

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## J&K Police pay tributes to late DSP Aman Kumar Thakur

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 24 (UNI)

Jammu and Kashmir Police paid rich tributes to the late Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Aman Kumar Thakur who laid down his life in the line of duty on this day in 2019.

DySP Thakur laid down his life in the line of duty during an anti-terrorist operation in Turigam Kulgam district of south Kashmir on February 24, 2019.

On the occasion, the commemoration parade was held at District Police Lines

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## DC Bandipora chairs Road Safety meeting

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 24

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, who is also Chairman Road Safety Committee on Monday chaired a meeting of District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) at Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The meeting discussed threadbare various issues including raising awareness, establishment of trauma centre, road safety audit, fixing of road signages, black spot identification and erection of cash barriers besides other issues.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner M.A.Qadri, emphasized the need for collaborative efforts from various departments to enhance road safety measures and mitigate risks to



ensure the safety of road users.

He stressed the importance of timely implementation of the proposed initiatives and called for active participation from all stakeholders in promoting road safety.

Deputy Commissioners emphasized the urgency of identifying high-risk areas and mitigating those risks through better signage,

and proper road engineering. He also urged the public to adhere to traffic rules and make road safety a collective priority.

Among others the meeting was attended by ADDC Zaffar Husson Shawl, CMO Dr.Rafi Ahmad Salathi, ARTO Anees Ahmad, DIO Aadil Manzoor Wani, Tehsildar Bandipora Firdous Ahmad Qadri and other concerned.

## Workshop on Crime Scene Management commences at J&K Forensic Science Laboratory

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 24

A two-day workshop on crime scene management, in view of the new criminal laws, commenced today at the Jammu & Kashmir Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL). The workshop aims to enhance awareness and skills related to the latest criminal laws and best practices for crime scene management.

The event lays focus on leveraging advanced forensic services in crime scene investigations, with participation from officials of all District Mobile Forensic Units and other forensic experts.

Speaking on the occasion, Director of J&K FSL, Gurmukh Singh emphasized the critical role of forensic science in crime scene management. He



highlighted the ongoing infrastructural and human resource upgrades in District Mobile Forensic Units across J&K, including the procurement of high-tech mobile vans equipped with 15 on-site testing kits to facilitate real-time crime scene analysis.

Deputy Director and Officer-in-Charge, J&K FSL Srinagar, Syed Ishfaq Manzoor highlighted the

importance of the new criminal laws and their implications. He spoke regarding Section 176 (3) BNSS of 2023, which mandates the presence of forensic experts in all crimes carrying a penalty of more than seven years.

The Deputy Director also discussed various other legal provisions related to forensic science's role in criminal justice.

Sheikh Suheel, Scientific Officer, provided an in-depth introduction to the principles and practices of effective crime scene management.

This workshop aims to further strengthen the state's forensic capabilities and ensure that J&K's law enforcement personnel are equipped to handle evolving challenges in crime investigation.

## DDC Chairperson Kulgam inaugurates Ramzan Cricket Tournament at Nehama Kulgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM FEBRUARY 24

Chairperson, District Development Council Kulgam, Mohammad Afzal Parrey today inaugurated Ramzan Cricket Tournament at Nehama Kulgam.

The tournament aims to promote unity, fitness and the spirit of healthy competition among the youth.

The inauguration ceremony witnessed a vibrant gathering of cricket enthusiasts, local residents and players.

Chairperson DDC while addressing the participants emphasized the importance of sports in fostering community bonding and nurturing talent at the grassroots level.

## Panchayat Level IEC Campaign against Drug Abuse draw enthusiastic participation across District Kishtwar

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 24

The ongoing Panchayat (Village) Level Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Campaign against Menace of Drug Abuse has drawn overwhelming participation from all stakeholders of society across District Kishtwar.

The weekly awareness events were organized today across all 13 blocks. The grassroots level initiative recently launched aims to raise awareness against the devastating effects of substance abuse and to mobilize community participation in the fight against drug addiction.

As part of this sustained effort, awareness drives are being organized



at panchayat level every Monday, ensuring continuous engagement with local communities including residents, students, and community leaders.

Designated officers and Nodal agencies hosted programmes at various locations, wherein Intensive IEC activities were organized to generate awareness among the participants.

The activities included the debates, symposiums, motivational storytelling, distribution of awareness pamphlets, announcements and sharing of the success stories by the savours, besides Socio-legal implications of the Abuse.

The events were attended by government functionaries along with students, teachers and community leaders.

## KISAN Samman Nidhi Yojana: MLA Chanapora inaugurates live streaming at Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 24

Department of Agriculture Production Kashmir today organised a live streaming program to telecast the release of the 19th installment of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Member Legislative Assembly Chanapora Mush-taq Ahmad Gooro inaugurated the program while Joint Director Agriculture (Ext) Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Chief Agriculture Officer Srinagar Manohar Lal Sharma, District Agriculture Officer Srinagar Gulzar Ahmad Shah, SDAO Srinagar Arif Khurshid Sarwal, participated in the program.

Pertinent to mention, to empower grass root level farmers, under PM Kisan Scheme a financial benefit



of Rs.6000 per year is being provided to the eligible beneficiary farmer families, payable in three equal install-

ments of Rs 2000 each. The fund is directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

## DC inspects patient care services at Raja Sukhdev Singh District Hospital Poonch



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, FEBRUARY 24

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today visited Raja Sukhdev Singh District Hospital to evaluate its functioning and the quality of healthcare services provided to patients.

He inspected OPD, Labour Section, Operation Theatre, diagnostic labs, X-Ray, and ECG sections, Hospital Dispensary and interacted with patients and their attendants to get feedback about the medical care being provided.

He took stock of cleanliness, and checked the staff attendance and exhorted the doctors and staff to work diligently to meet patient needs. The DC expressed satisfaction with the facilities and patient care provided by the hospital administration and staff.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner asked the Medical Superintendent to assess the infrastructure needs of the hospital to facilitate necessary improvements by the district administration.

## Kisan Mela Cum District Level Exhibition held at Anantnag

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG, FEBRUARY 24

Department of Animal Husbandry, Anantnag, organized a District Level Exhibition cum Kisan Mela at Tailwani, Achabal, under the Agricultural Technology Management Agency, ATMA scheme. The event, held under the supervision of Dr. Javed Ahmad Zargar, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, (CAHO) Anantnag, aimed at enhancing awareness among local farmers and youth regarding various agricultural and animal husbandry schemes and modern practices.

The event saw significant participation from local farmers and educated unemployed youth, who displayed keen interest in the department's initiatives. Livestock Development Officers (LDOs) and Block Veterinary Officers (BVOs) conducted informative sessions on various government schemes, including HADP, NADCP, IDDS, IPDP, KCC, NAIP, and ABIP-SS, emphasizing their benefits for the farming community.

A key highlight of the exhibition was the display of advanced agricultural technologies through multiple stalls featuring hydro-



ponic units, chaff cutters, dairy and poultry products, milking machines, and various other modern dairy equipment. Additionally, a clinical camp was set up, where expert veterinarians provided free treatment for diseased animals and distributed free medicines to farmers.

To further support the local farming community, the department provided free anthelmintics and supplements for livestock, ensuring better animal health and productivity.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Javed Ahmad Zargar encouraged attend-

ees to register for various government schemes and urged them to consider launching their own Start-Ups in the agricultural and animal husbandry sectors. He assured full support from the department in helping them establish their ventures and achieve self-sufficiency.

The event was a resounding success, fostering stronger collaboration between the agricultural sector and the farming community in Anantnag, and reinforcing the government's commitment to empowering farmers with knowledge and resources.

## DC Kishtwar reviews arrangements for Mahashivratri, Ramazan

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 24

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan today reviewed the arrangements for the Mahashivratri festival and Ramazan.

The primary focus of the meeting was to ensure the seamless management of essential services, security, and public convenience for the auspicious occasions. Emphasizing the regulation of prices, the Deputy Commissioner directed the enforcement departments to closely monitor the rates of essential commodities and ensure the availability of milk, cheese, vegetables, and other necessary items.

To maintain hygiene and sanitation, the Executive Officer Municipal Council was directed to ensure cleanliness in the town, particularly around religious places. Additionally, the repair of all non-functional lights, especially in crowded areas, was prioritised. The CMO was directed to deploy a medical team at all religious places across the district during the festivals.

The DC also urged the organizing of zero-waste celebrations, encouraging proper waste management practices with strict



check on use of banned polythene bags. Furthermore, the Executive Officer Municipality was directed to place dustbins at all religious places to promote cleanliness.

The DC reviewed utility services and instructed the Executive Engineer PDD to ensure uninterrupted power supply. The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti was tasked with guaranteeing adequate water supply, chlorination of water tanks near religious places and the repair of water pipes or leakage, if any.

The Assistant Director FCS&CA was directed to take measures for timely distribution of ration to beneficiaries and ensure adequate stock of LPG. For fire safety, the Fire and Emergency Department was directed to station fire tenders at key locations and install fire extinguishers at religious places. A joint committee was constituted to keep

check on overcharging profiteering and quality of food products, with strict action against violators.

The DC also directed for the installation of CCTV cameras near temples, mosques, and shrines to enhance surveillance. The SSP was urged to address security concerns with adequate deployment of personnel.

Religious representatives also gave their suggestions, and the DC assured them of the administration's full support in addressing these issues.

The meeting was attended by SSP Javed Iqbal; ADC Pawan Kotwal; ACR Idrees Lone; AD FCS&CA Shafiqat Ali Keen; EO Municipality Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; Tehsildar Nirbhay Sharma; ARTO Tasleem Wani, CMO, DSHO, officials from traffic, besides representatives from religious organisations and civil society members.

**10th day**

with profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved late **smt. manju gupta**.  
10th day will be performed on **25.02.25** at our residence  
(hno. 329 hospital road sarwal, jammu) from **11AM to 12PM**.  
SON: Sunny Mahajan and Manik Mahajan  
(7006393069, 9682140497)  
DAUGHTER IN LAW: Esha Mahajan and Ragni  
(7006201825, 7006392590)  
BROTHER: Rajinder Gupta and Bobby Gupta  
(9419126696, 7006242066)

## District Level Exhibition cum Kisan Mela held at Srinagar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 24

Director Animal Husbandry Department, Kashmir, Dr Parvinder Singh Sudan today inaugurated District Exhibition cum Kisan Mela at the Artificial Breeding Station Zakura. The event was organized under Agriculture Technology Management Agency.

During the event, seven stalls were set up to showcase products from various Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and individual farmers who had established their units under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The stalls established by Animal Husbandry Department highlighting their developmental work in the sector.

The exhibition saw participation from business owners, entrepreneurs, and both established and aspiring farmers.

A calf show featuring animals born under the centrally sponsored scheme ABIP-Scheme was a major



attraction in the mela. The top three calves from each block of Srinagar District were awarded cash prizes, mementos, and certificates.

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO) Srinagar, Dr. Syed ABAS, on the occasion informed that 90% of targets under various schemes in the district had been achieved by the end of January 2025.

He stated that under Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS), 121 units were established which are generating

employment for 222 families.

While as under integrated Poultry Development Project (IPDP), 33% achievement was registered besides under Kisan Credit Card (KCC) 78% of cases were sponsored.

Deputy Director Central Dr. Riyaz Nazir Reshi appreciated Srinagar's farmers for their proactive approach and encouraged unemployed youth to collaborate with the department for livelihood enhancement and employment.

## Handicrafts-Handloom deptt Jammu organises awareness programme for Artisans, Weavers

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 24

The Department of Handicrafts and Handloom Jammu organized a mega awareness programme today at Udyog Bhawan aimed at empowering artisans and weavers in the region.

The event organised under the guidance of Director Handicrafts and Handloom Jammu Suraj Parkash Rukwal, saw active participation from a wide spectrum of artisans, weavers, and handicraft enthusiasts.

The primary objective of this programme was to inform and educate the local artisans and weavers about the various schemes, policies, and support systems available to enhance their craft and improve their livelihoods.

During the event, experts from the department shared insights on modern techniques, marketing strategies, and the importance of preserving



traditional skills. Information on financial assistance, training programs, and exposure opportunities was also provided to help artisans grow their businesses and gain recognition both nationally and internationally.

The event witnessed active discussions and feedback sessions, enabling participants to voice their concerns and suggest improvements for future programmes. The Department of Handicrafts and

Handloom Jammu reiterated its commitment to the welfare and growth of local artisans and weavers, emphasizing its role in promoting the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme was a significant step towards strengthening the handloom and handicraft sector in Jammu, ensuring that artisans continue to thrive in an ever-evolving market environment.

## Distt Admin B'la imparts training to master volunteers to tackle drug abuse

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 24

In a significant step towards combating substance abuse, the Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr Zahoor Ahmad Raina presided over a one-day training programme on "Drug De-addiction" for Master Volunteers of the district under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA).

The programme was organized by the State Level Coordinating Agency J&K in collaboration with the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India and the District Administration Baramulla, aimed to equip volunteers with the necessary skills and knowledge to drive anti-drug initiatives at the grassroots level.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC empha-

sized the critical role of community-driven efforts in addressing drug addiction and rehabilitation. He highlighted the importance of awareness, early intervention, and the collective responsibility of society in curbing the menace of substance abuse.

Experts and trainers from various organizations conducted sessions on prevention strategies, counseling techniques, and support mechanisms available for individuals struggling with addiction. The volunteers were urged to actively engage with communities and assist in the implementation of de-addiction programs.

Certificates were distributed to master volunteers at the conclusion of the one-day Drug De-addiction training in Baramulla, recognizing their commitment to the fight against substance abuse.

## Publicity of notices against the rules, conventions of parliamentary procedures: Speaker Legislative Assembly

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 24

In response to recent publicity of notices by some members, Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather today said that as per rules and conventions of house, a notice shall not be given publicity by any member or other person until it has been admitted by the speaker.

The Speaker, while talking on the issue said, "Rule 368 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, provides that notice shall not be given publicity by any member or other person until it has been admitted by the Speaker and circulated to members. Similarly, a notice of a question shall not be given any publicity until the day on which the question is answered in the House".

The Speaker, further said, "Rule 334-A of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha also provides that notice shall not be given publicity by any member or other person until it has been admitted by the Speaker and circulated to members. Also a notice of a question shall not be given any publicity until the day on which the question is answered in the House".

While commenting on parliamentary procedure and practice by renowned authorities on the subject, the Speaker said, "As per the commentary on practice and procedure of Parliament by Shri M.N. Kaul and Shri S.L. Shakhder who are renowned authorities on the subject, it is provided that according to the parliamentary practice, usage and convention it is improper

to give for any reason premature publicity in the Press to notices of questions, adjournment motions, resolutions, answers to questions and other similar matters connected with the business of the House. If this takes place, the Speaker may express his displeasure against the person responsible for it".

Referring to comments made by PDP Leader Ms. Mehbooba Mufti, Mr. Rather said "I am sorry to say that she had not been properly advised and her statement is against the Rules position".

The Speaker also highlighted some instances of such improprieties and breaches of conventions as:

"Publication of questions before they are admitted by the Speaker and before their answers are given in the House or

laid on the Table. Publication of answers to questions before they are given in the House or laid on the Table. Publication of notices of adjournment motions or resolutions before they are admitted by the Speaker or mentioned in the House".

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather further said, "This is first time that the Members have done so and I have conveyed my displeasure. But if they insist on this I shall have to take action against them, as per Rules".

Regarding Budget Session, the Speaker said that it will start from 3rd March till 25th March and then there is a break due to holidays and it will again start from 7 April to 11 April.

He also said that before budget session there will be an all party meeting.

## Career Prospects in Biotechnology, Biochemistry & Microbiology: GCW Parade hosts awareness Lecture

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY, 24

The Department of Biotechnology, Government College for Women, Parade Ground, in collaboration with the School of Biotechnology, University of Jammu, organized an awareness lecture on Career Prospects in Biotechnology, Biochemistry & Microbiology today. The event aimed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of career opportunities in these rapidly evolving fields.

The interactive session was led by Dr. Ankit Mahajan and Dr. Sheetal Ambarar-- Assistant Professors at the School of Biotechnology, University of Jammu.

The College Principal Dr. Ravender Tickoo hailed the initiative taken by the School of Biotechnology, University of Jammu, in disseminating crucial information about career prospects in these game-changing scientific fields. He also commended the

research prospects, and industry-oriented careers in these disciplines.

A significant focus of the session was on the upcoming Graduate Aptitude Test of Biotechnology (GAT-B). The students were encouraged to appear for this national-level examination, which offers successful candidates a scholarship of Rs 5000 per month upon securing admission to M.Sc. Biotechnology programs in selected universities across India. The session also highlighted the state-of-the-art infrastructure, faculty expertise, and academic achievements of the School of Biotechnology, University of Jammu.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, reflecting their keen interest in exploring career opportunities in Biotechnology, Biochemistry, and Microbiology. Such initiatives play a crucial role in guiding young minds toward informed career decisions and fostering scientific excellence.

engaging and informative presentations by Dr. Ankit Mahajan and Dr. Sheetal Ambarar. Furthermore, he lauded the Department of Biotechnology for organizing such a relevant and insightful event for students.

The organizing team included Kaurab Singh, Tishu Devi, Dr. Tariq and Shriya, faculty members from the Department of Biotechnology. Their collective efforts contributed to the success of the program, ensuring that students gained valuable knowledge about their future career options. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, reflecting their keen interest in exploring career opportunities in Biotechnology, Biochemistry, and Microbiology. Such initiatives play a crucial role in guiding young minds toward informed career decisions and fostering scientific excellence.

## AYUSH Department imparts training to paramedical staff at Ramban

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 24

AYUSH Department today organized a comprehensive training session to enhance the skills of paramedical staff, Multi-Purpose Workers (MPWs), field staff and outsourced attendants here under the directives of Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary.

The session was led by a team of resource persons comprising Dr. Masood Iqbal, Dr. Neeta Devi, besides data management expert Prince Trakroo and Sajid Hussain, who covered key aspects of healthcare services delivery.

District Nodal Officer Yoga Dr. Masood Iqbal advised medical staff to strive to develop professionalism and perfection in delivery of healthcare, while Dr. Neeta Devi focused on preventive care and community health literacy. Prince Trakroo trained participants on data management and digital record-keeping and Sajid Hussain demonstrated methods to promote AYUSH services and achieve Performance-Based Incentives for AHWs.

The interactive session concluded with a Q&A segment, where participants engaged in discussions and provided positive feedback on the training's effectiveness. The initiative marked a significant step in strengthening the paramedical workforce and improving healthcare services in Ramban.

## Accreditation of JK's first NABL Testing Lab in IICT renewed

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 24

In a major fillip to export of world-famous hand-knotted carpets from Kashmir, the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration (NABL), the sole authority to grant accreditation of all kinds of testing in the country, has renewed accreditation of Carpet Testing Lab in the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), here.

IICT Testing Lab, the first accredited textile lab in J&K, has fulfilled all requisite formalities for renewal in line with the Quality Management System as per NABL guidelines, based on the recommendations of the nominated experts.

Sharing details, Director IICT, Zubair Ahmad said the accreditation has given credence to the testing



facility, including GI tagging and labelling of Kashmir hand-knotted carpets through the Cloud-based QR Code Mechanism. "Accreditation has been renewed vide No.12654 after NABL experts completed the technical audit and on-site surveillance of the testing laboratory on 9th-10th November, last year," he stated.

Since its inception in 2022, the IICT lab has so far tested and certified around 16,000 carpets, boosting their export sales in the overseas markets. "We urge all business associates of carpet sector to approach our lab for GI testing and labelling,

which shall boost sales and build trust amongst the buyers, amidst stiff challenges posed by counterfeit products," he advised.

The Director further stated that the testing Lab of IICT became the first in Jammu & Kashmir to be granted the prestigious NABL accreditation in the textiles sector in 2023, in accordance with ISO/IEC standards. "The accreditation renewal will go a long way in testing and quality certification of not only hand-knotted carpets but also other non-GI textile products in Kashmir valley, conforming to ISO standards," he added.

## Div Com reviews arrangements for Holy Month of Ramadan, Mahashivratri

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 24

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today took a comprehensive review of arrangements chalked for the celebration of Mahashivratri and observance of ensuing Holy Month of Ramadan.

On the occasion, Div Com reviewed availability of essential items in the market including flowers, walnuts, fish & lotus stem for the celebration of festival by Kashmiri Pandit Community.

Div Com also directed Deputy Commissioners to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity & water at the pandit colonies and prominent temples. Besides, he reviewed security arrangements and transport facilities for smooth celebration of



religious festival.

While, reviewing the arrangements for the observance of Holy Month of Ramadan- the month of fasting, Div Com reviewed all the arrangements to facilitate the public.

He directed CE KPDCL for uninterrupted power

supply at peak hours of Sehri & Iftari. He also directed for regular water supply to the public during the month & instructed PHE Department to provide drinking water through tankers wherever need is felt.

Further, he directed

concerned to ensure availability of adequate quantities of quality meat and poultry birds in the market. Besides, he directed all DCs for extensive market check to ensure quality essential items are available for consumption.

He also directed concerned officers to conduct sanitation drives of prominent Mosques & Shrines to ensure hygienic ambience & surroundings.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC; Deputy Commissioners; SSPs; Divisional and District officers of PDD, R&B, PHE, Transport, and FCS&CA departments besides officers from Traffic Police.

## Violence in J&K...

Institute of Management (IIM) in Jammu.

Urging students to focus on their education and leverage government initiatives, Shah advised, "Do not drop out midway. Stay committed to your studies, achieve your goals, and make use of the vast opportunities available in the country."

Shah urged the students to take a message of peace, progress, and development back to their communities. "More such tours will be organized in the future, allowing you to explore and experience the progress across the country," he assured.

Citing development milestones, Shah said, "Earlier, rural areas in Jammu and Kashmir lacked access to clean water. But due to PM Modi's efforts, over 80% of rural households now have tap water connections."—(KNO)

## Restoration of...

I understand that there are many issues troubling the people. However, their resolution is not possible under Union Territory status; restoring statehood is essential for that."

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also spoke about his participation in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's campaign against obesity, a growing health concern in India. "Obesity is considered a lifestyle illness that is on the rise. The Prime Minister initiated a campaign against it and included me to take it forward. I have added 10 more people to this campaign," he said.

Expressing concern over an 80 percent precipitation deficit in Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Minister urged people to use water judiciously to avoid a severe crisis in the summer months. "We are facing a difficult situation due to a rain deficit. I understand that people are worried as we are witnessing a drought-like situation," he said.

The Chief Minister warned that a lack of snowfall and rainfall would severely impact water availability for both household and agricultural needs. "In many areas of Jammu and Kashmir, 70-80% of the annual precipitation is crucial for agriculture. The absence of adequate snowfall or rain will lead to water scarcity during the summer months," he said.

To mitigate the crisis, the Chief Minister called for proactive measures such as rainwater harvesting, snow conservation, and improved irrigation infrastructure for farmers. "We need to prepare for the coming summer months. We must implement rainwater harvesting, save snow, and arrange irrigation facilities for farmers," he urged.

On the upcoming Budget session the Chief Minister refrained from divulging details. "I will not talk about the Budget as it is the government's duty to present it first in the Assembly. All the aspects of the Budget will be clear when it is presented on March 7," he said. KNO

## CM flags off K2K...

Minister extended his felicitations and best wishes to all participants.

Highlighting the significance of the event, he remarked, "This drive stands as a testament to the remarkable advancements in vehicle technology, the development of charging infrastructure, and the rapid growth of India's EV ecosystem."

Expressing confidence in the team's endeavor, the Chief Minister acknowledged their ambition to surpass their previous record, this time targeting an impressive 80-hour journey from Kashmir to Kanyakumari in the Tata Curvv EV. Equipped with next-generation Gen 2 motor technology, a robust 55kWh battery, and supported by India's expanding EV infrastructure, the drive is expected to set new benchmarks in long-distance electric travel, he said about the rally.

The Chief Minister wished the participants a safe and successful journey, emphasizing that their achievement would further inspire the adoption of sustainable transportation across the country. KNO

## CM attends live...

from Bhagalpur, Bihar, marking the release of the 19th installment of the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana.

The event was held at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-K), Shalimar Campus. As Chief Guest, the Chief Minister joined participants, including Minister for Agriculture Production Javid Ahmad Dar, Members of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly representing Hazratbal, Sonawar and Chanapora constituencies, as well as progressive, marginal & small-scale farmers and entrepreneurs from various parts of the district.

Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Nazir Ahmad Ganai; Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production, Shalimar Kumar; Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology, Saurabh Bhagat; and other senior officials were also present at the event.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister commended the innovative farmers recognized during the event, stating, "Their contributions in adopting progressive techniques, particularly in natural and organic farming would be instrumental in transforming the agricultural landscape of Jammu and Kashmir."

He added that the government remains committed to creating a farmer-friendly ecosystem that promotes agricultural sustainability and long-term growth.

Earlier, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inaugurated the Agri-Tech Exhibition organized by SKUAST-K.

The exhibition featured a wide array of stalls displayed by successful farmers, progressive cultivators, agripreneurs, agri-industrialists, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and various university-led initiatives.

While inspecting over 100 stalls, the Chief Minister observed exhibits highlighting farmers' welfare schemes, advanced agricultural inputs, farm machinery, and organic products.

He also visited start-ups led by SKUAST-K students and faculty, commending their role in driving agricultural innovation.

Interacting with agripreneurs, agri-industrialists, and FPOs, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized the importance of such exhibitions, noting, "These platforms provide farmers with access to reliable, updated, and practical information, empowering them to adopt modern and sustainable farming practices."

He was briefed on key exhibits focused on natural and organic farming, as well as Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged products unique to the region.

The exhibition also featured live demonstrations of advanced farming technologies, aimed at equipping farmers with modern tools and methods to enhance productivity and sustainability. KNO

## CM calls for greater...

while addressing the inaugural session of the two-day event SAMAGAM-2025, organized by the National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO), New Delhi in collaboration with the State Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO), J&K at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Center (SKICC).

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who was the chief guest at the event, commended the organizers and acknowledged the exemplary work of Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, and GMC Jammu in the field of kidney and corneal transplants.

He urged these institutions to intensify their efforts towards initiating cadaveric organ donation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Emphasizing the need for wider awareness and acceptance of organ donation, the Chief Minister suggested that medical experts should collaborate with religious scholars and other stakeholders to foster informed discussions and reach a consensus on the subject.

He assured full government support in strengthening these institutions to promote a healthier society.

He also highlighted the adverse effects of self-medication, lifestyle diseases, and lack of physical activity, urging people to adopt healthier habits. On the occasion, the Chief Minister felicitated ambassadors of organ and tissue donation from Kashmir, including the family of late Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, former Head of the Department of Ophthalmology at GMC Srinagar and a renowned eye surgeon.

His eyes were donated posthumously by fellow ophthalmologists Dr. Khurshid Ahmed and Dr. Seema Mian. Additionally, Ms. Heenu Mushtaq, a kidney transplant recipient leading a healthy life, was also felicitated.

The event featured expert deliberations on various aspects of organ donation and transplantation besides presenting the present scenario of organ donation in India, evolution of cadaveric organ donation and transplantation, Islam and organ/tissue donation and cadaveric organ donation in J&K: way forward.

Director General of Health Services, Government of India, Dr. Atul Goel; Director of NOTTO, New Delhi, Dr. Anil Kumar; Director of SKIMS, Dr. Ashraf Ganai; Principal of GMC Srinagar, Dr. Iffat Hassan Shah; and Principal of GMC Jammu, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta were also present on the occasion.

Delegates from Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations (ROTTOs) and State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organizations (SOTTOs) from across the country participated in the event. These included representatives from ROTTO North, SOTTO J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Haryana, ROTTO East Kolkata, SOTTO Odisha, Bihar, ROTTO Guwahati, SOTTO Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim. KNO

## Assembly Budget...

Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar; IGP Jammu, B S Tutti; Secretary, Law, Achal Sethi; DC Jammu, Sachin Vaishya; Commissioner, JMC, Dr Devansh Yadav; Director, Information, Nitish Rajora; SSP Traffic; CMO Jammu; SSP Security Secretariat besides Secretary, JKLA Manoj Kumar Pandit and other senior officers of concerned departments.

The Speaker issued specific directions to the concerned departments for ensuring that all requisite arrangements are put in place for smooth and seamless conduct of the upcoming budget session.

Threadbare discussion was held on security arrangements, traffic regulation, fire services, uninterrupted power supply, provision of sufficient and regular supply of water to the Legislative Complex, health facilities and media arrangements among other things.

Regarding the security arrangements, the Speaker directed the concerned officers for deployment of adequate staff well versed with Parliamentary traditions within the premises of J&K Legislative Assembly at Jammu. He asked them for ensuring adequate security arrangement for safety and security of the Legislators within the MLAs Hostel, Jammu as well as outside.

To ensure proper regulation of traffic on roads leading to J&K Legislative Assembly Complex/Civil Secretariat Jammu and MLA's Hostel Jammu, the Speaker called for putting in place necessary measures for avoiding inconvenience to general public on this account.

The Speaker also directed for provision of deploying adequate fire fighting tenders in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Jammu while also checking the fire extinguishers and fire hydrants already installed in JKLA and MLA hostel Jammu.

He directed the Estates Department to ensure completion of any pending work within the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Jammu particularly in the Central Hall, House and VIP Chambers. He also directed to install intercom telephone facilities within the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly at Jammu, besides checking of telephones already installed within the VIP Chambers.

Regarding availability of space for implementation of National E-Vidhan in the Legislative Assembly, the Speaker asked the Director Estates Department to get the rooms vacated from other departments in the Assembly Secretariat.

The Speaker directed the PDD authorities to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the course of the session. He also asked the JMC to ensure cleanliness in and around the entire premises and lawn of the legislature complex. He directed the JKTDC to ensure canteen facility in the premises for the convenience of the legislators and staff of Legislature. He directed the Medical authority to provide medical facilities during the entire session.

The Speaker also asked the Information department to ensure proper and due coverage of the proceedings of the House besides making available adequate PAS,

mikes and other related things during the session. He directed the BSNL authority to install and restore the telephones in the chamber of Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister.

The senior officers present in the meeting assured the Speaker that all the necessary arrangements will be put in place well before commencement of the current Budget session of JKLA. KNO

## Cabinet approves...

cabinet which met at civil secretariat Jammu today under the chairmanship of chief minister Omar Abdullah approved the LG's address to the Assembly on March 03.

"The cabinet met at 7:00 PM and lasted for nearly 80 minutes," they said. The LG's address would outline the policies and roadmap of Omar Abdullah-led government.

As per Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act-2019, the Lieutenant Governor shall address the Legislative Assembly at the commencement of the first session after each general election to the Legislative Assembly and at the commencement of the first session of each year.

The 43-day long budget session of J&K Assembly would begin on March 03 with the LG's address to the Assembly. This would be the second address of the LG to the Assembly in the past four months.

On November 04, 2024, LG Manoj Sinha had made a detailed address to the House, outlining the agenda and priorities of the government.

Sources told KNO that several agenda items of different departments were also discussed during the meeting.

"The cabinet gave its go-ahead to the proposals of the Housing & Urban Development Department, Health and Rural Development Department," they said.

## CS assesses preparations...

emphasised upon the department to frame detailed guidelines for identification of eligible houseless people. He advised to share the same beforehand with all the Deputy Commissioners so that they are able to effectively monitor the process. He directed for working out requirement of manpower for carrying out this survey in urban areas of the UT. He asked to ensure that teachers are exempted from this duty as schools are going to open from March in the valley and board exams are also going on for secondary and higher secondary school students.

He directed for vetting the questionnaire together with the Planning Department so as to pose only relevant questions to the surveyed households and fetch information that is relevant and intended to be significant for this survey.

Dulloo underscored the need for one week training of the surveyors/investigators and building upon the YUVA survey application in order to make this exercise time bound besides cross checking the already collected information. He asked them to complete the survey in the month of March itself so that the process of identification and framing of merit list is accomplished well ahead of the set timeframe.

Dulloo also took note of the methodology of identification process contemplated by the Department.

The Chief Secretary sought suggestions from the Deputy Commissioners and asked about the timeline by which they can complete the exercise. He also had inputs from BISAG-N about the time they need to make necessary changes in the already developed YUVA survey app to make it relevant for this new survey.

Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur, gave out the details about the significance of this survey to be carried out digitally on the analogy of YUVA survey in all the ULBs of J&K. She made out that this survey is going to provide details of the houseless people which after proper verification process would be framed into a merit list based upon their income and other set criteria.

She further revealed that 1st April 2024 has been fixed as the cut off date by the SLSMC, on which the beneficiaries must be residents of that urban area for being eligible to take benefit under the PMAY (U) 2.0.

Mission Director, PMAY Urban, Ashish Gupta, informed that families belonging to EWS/LIG/MIG segments, living in urban areas, should not own a pucca house (an all-weather dwelling unit) either in his/her name or in the name of any member of his/her family in any part of India to be eligible under this PMAY-U 2.0.

It was further given out that, as per the guidelines of this scheme, EWS households are defined as households with an annual income of up to Rs 3 lakh. LIG is defined as households with an annual income from Rs 3-6 lakh and MIG as households with an annual income from Rs 6-9 lakh. Besides, preference would be given to widows, single women, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, transgenders, persons belonging to SCs/STs, minorities and other weaker and vulnerable sections of the society, the meeting was apprised.

It was also added that special focus would be given to SafaiKarmi, Street Vendors identified under the PMSvanidhi Scheme and different artisans under the Pradhan Mantri-Vishwakarma Scheme, Anganwadi workers, building and other construction workers, residents of slums/chawls and other groups identified during operation of PMAY-U 2.0.

About the base-line survey, it was revealed that it would identify houseless individuals/families to ensure that the benefits of PMAY-Urban 2.0 reach the section of people who don't have permanent/ traditional home (kuccha/ pucca/ rental etc.).

This survey is anticipated to begin from 15th of March and enumerate houseless individuals and families in urban areas.

The objective of the survey is to create a comprehensive database for targeted policy interventions besides assessing the eligibility for PMAY-Urban 2.0 and other government welfare schemes. Besides, it will also ensure their inclusion in social welfare and other skill development programs as envisaged from time to time by the government for such a population.

## CS reviews progress...

(BRAP) 2024, aimed at enhancing Ease of Doing Busi-

ness (EODB) in J&K.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary had a department wise appraisal of the reforms that have been implemented and those still pending. He thoroughly examined the status of each reform to be implemented and sought explanations for those yet to be implemented.

Emphasizing the significance of these reforms, the Chief Secretary instructed all the concerned departments to ensure full compliance without exception. He highlighted that each reform plays a crucial role in streamlining business processes and fostering a business friendly environment in J&K. He directed all the departments to expedite implementation efforts and meet the set deadline of March 15, 2024.

The Chief Secretary further advised the Industries & Commerce Department, the nodal department for BRAP implementation, to extend necessary assistance to all departments for seamless execution of all the reforms. He also mandated the timely uploading of evidential documentation of all these reforms on the BARP national portal by March 15 deadline.

About J&K's progress on implementing these business reforms, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, provided insights into the evolution of BRAP, initiated by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in 2014-15 across all States/UTs. He stated that six editions of the program have been successfully concluded, leading to implementation of hundreds of reforms nationwide.

Reflecting on BRAP-2022, he noted that 25 departments participated in J&K's implementation, making it the first UT to achieve a 97% implementation score. Additionally, over 180 services were made available online through a single-window system, positioning J&K as the first UT to integrate with the National Single Window System (NSWS).

As far as the progress on BRAP-2024 and Reducing Compliance Burden (RCB) is concerned, it was revealed that DPIIT initially recommended 287 reform points for State/UT implementation. With the addition of BRAP+ and RCB+, the total number of required reforms has increased to 434, with a revised compliance deadline set for March 15, 2025.

Under BRAP-2024, J&K has already implemented 410 reform measures, with the remaining in progress, many requiring amendments to existing laws and regulations.

Regarding Regulatory Compliance Burden (RCB) reduction, 92 measures were recommended, covering 23 Acts across 12 departments. Till date, 85 reforms have been successfully uploaded, with only 7 pending for completion within the stipulated timeline of March 2025, as was revealed in the meeting.

## 'J&K, Ladakh likely...

Obligations (RPO) and need not contract renewable capacities for fulfilling them. The projected capacity and generation mix fulfils the RPO till 2029-30 as per the Ministry of Power nonfiction issued in 2023," it reads. KNO

## 2 wanted criminals...

regard and investigation was taken up. It reads that police established a surprise naka (checkpoint) on the Ring road in Miran Sahib area to nab these criminals and finally two wanted criminals namely Rajat Raina and Raghunandan Kesar, who were traveling in a Thar vehicle were apprehended.

"Two pistols, three live rounds and one empty round were recovered from their possession. Thar vehicle has also been seized while search for Gaura Jatt is still ongoing," it added.

It further reads that the accused are being interrogated to uncover their involvement in past crimes and possible links to organized gangs while further investigation is underway. KNO

## J&K Police pay...

Bandipora, and floral wreaths were laid at the Martyrs memorial as a mark of respect for his supreme sacrifice and for safe-guarding the integrity and sovereignty of the nation.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Bandipora Harmeeet Singh Mehta along with other officers of Bandipora police paid their homage by placing floral wreaths at the Martyr Memorial.

SSP Bandipora on behalf of Bandipora police lauded the commitment and devotion of DySP Thakur towards his professional obligations and shall always be remembered, a police statement said.

"Today, we honour and remember the ultimate sacrifice made by DySP Aman Thakur-a brave heart who gave his life in the line of duty", Kashmir Zone police posted on X.

"His unwavering commitment, selflessness, and bravery will never be forgotten. We stand united in gratitude, respect, and remembrance", they added.

## PM Modi releases...

The farmers will be receiving direct financial assistance exceeding Rs 22,000 crore through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) without the involvement of any middlemen, reinforcing the Government's commitment to farmer welfare and agricultural prosperity.

With this instalment, the scheme will be supporting farmers nationwide and further reaffirming the government's commitment to rural development and agricultural prosperity.

While addressing a rally in Bihar's Bhagalpur, the Prime Minister emphasised the BJP-led NDA government's commitment to preserving India's glorious heritage and building a glorious future.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Bihar Governor Arif Mohammed Khan at the rally. PM Modi said that Viksit Bharat has four pillars: the poor, the farmers, the women, and the youth!

He said that the NDA government prioritises farmer welfare at the Centre or in the state.

He emphasised the NDA government's commitment to farmer welfare, citing the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, which has credited around Rs 1,600 crore to over 75 lakh farmer families in Bihar.

## PM Kisan Samman Samaroh held at KVK Bandipora

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 24

Kisan Samman Samaroh was organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendra Bandipora today to witness the launch of the 19th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme.

The event at KVK Bandipora witnessed the participation of a large number of farmers from various parts of the district.

At KVK Bandipora, the District Development Council (DDC) Vice Chairperson, Kousar Shafeeq, was the chief guest.

In his address, VC DDC

Bandipora Kousar Shafeeq emphasized the importance of adopting modern agricultural technologies to improve productivity and sustainability in the district.

She urged farmers to implement the latest techniques in agriculture and allied sectors for the overall development of Bandipora's farming community.

Programme Coordinator KVK Bandipora, Dr. Tariq Sultan, highlighted the consistent efforts made by KVK to uplift the farming community.

He underscored the importance of skill development, training pro-

grammes, and technical support provided by the Kendra to empower farmers and enhance their livelihood.

The event concluded with an interactive session where farmers were encouraged to share their feedback and experiences, providing valuable insights for further improving the agricultural initiatives in the region.

Among others the event was attended by Chief Agriculture Officer Bandipora, Javaid Iqbal Samoon, Chief Horticulture Officer Bandipora, Farooq Ahmad Tantray and other concerned.

## SHEW Shopian organises awareness prog on PCPNDT Act at Zainapora

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 24

Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, (SHEW) Shopian, in collaboration with the Department of Health, organized an awareness programme on the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act under the banner of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao at Zainapora Hospital today.

Dr. Samiullah enlightened the audience about the PCPNDT Act, its legal implications, and the importance of preventing gender-based discrimination. He emphasized the critical role of stringent measures in curbing prenatal sex determination and promoting a balanced gender ratio.

District Mission Coordinator Sankalp Hub highlighted the importance of



women's empowerment and the protection of the girl child, urging collective efforts to ensure their education, health, and rights.

Sankalp Hub Gender Specialist, provided valuable insights into various government welfare schemes designed for the upliftment and welfare of women and girls. Partici-

pants were educated on the multiple opportunities and support systems available to empower women at different stages of life.

The programme concluded with a collective pledge to uphold the rights of the girl child and ensure their empowerment through education, awareness, and legal enforcement.

## Measures taken to ease traffic congestion in Rajouri Town

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 24



A team of district administration today initiated several measures to streamline traffic movement and ease congestion in main market areas of Rajouri town ahead of Maha Shivratri festival and Ramzan.

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajiv Khajuria along with a team of officers from different departments conducted the market inspection in the city and Old Bus Stand areas.

During the inspection tour, the officers assessed

traffic congestion issues and took concrete measures to streamline vehicular movement for public convenience. The team also interacted with local shopkeepers and vendors. They addressed their grievances and sought compliance with the market regulations.

On the direction of ADC, the concerned departments took corrective measures to decongest key market areas, regulate parking, and maintain cleanliness. Emphasis was laid on coordinated efforts among the traffic police, municipal authorities and other stakeholders to facilitate hassle-free movement.

## DIPR artists, students promote Nasha Mukh Bharat campaign at Udhampur



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 24

Cultural Unit of Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) today organized Cultural cum Awareness Programme on Nasha Mukh Bharat campaign at Sant Eshwar Bhartiya Vidya Mandir Higher Secondary School Nainsoo, Udhampur.

On the occasion, students of the school educated the audience with their speeches and poems. An informative cultural programme was presented by the artists of the Cultural Unit.

Speaking on the occasion, principal of the

school Renu Sharma shared her views on the topic. She appreciated the Cultural Unit of the Department of Information and Public Relations for organizing such a meaningful event to inform the future of the nation.

Among other staff members, officials of the Information Department and a large number of audience members witnessed the programme.

The programme was conducted under the direction of Joint Director Information Jammu Atul Gupta and under the supervision of Culture Officer Mukesh Kumar Sharma.

## DLSA Bandipora conducts Lok Adalat on Traffic Challans, Electricity Bills in tehsils

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 24

The District Legal Services Authority Bandipora in coordination with Tehsil legal Services Committees Bandipora, Sumbal and Gurez Lok Adalat on Traffic Challans and Electricity Bills to settled cases amicably. The Lok Adalat was supervised by Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Chairman District Legal Services Authority and Pr. District & Session Judge, Bandipora and under the guidance of Iqbal Ahmad Akhoun, Secretary District Legal Services Authority, and Bandipora.

Three Benches were constituted for the said Lok Adalat comprising of a Presiding Officer and a Member. First Bench was presided over by Iqbal Ahmad Akhoun Secretary DLSA (Chief Judicial Magistrate) Bandipora and Amandeep Singh (Munsiff JMJC) Bandipora as bench member, 2nd Bench was presided over by Rahila Rashid, Munsiff/JMJC Sumbal and Ghulam Mohi ud din Parry (Advocate) as bench member and 3rd Bench was presided over by Mehak Mehboob, Munsiff/JMJC Gurez and Tajamul Islam (Advocate) as bench member.

A total No. of 748 Cases were taken up and out of which 130 Case were settled & an amount of Rs. 77,74,954 was realized.

## Power shutdown

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 24

Chief Engineer, (Distribution) JPDCJ Jammu has informed that the power supply to Ware House, Jewel and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 25 from 8 am to 12 noon. However power supply to PHE, MAM Stadium, Dogra Mohalla and adjoining areas shall be fed through an alternative source.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCJ, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Logate Industry, Sahar, Sher Kotla, Kumri, Kathera, Boura, Bhed Blode and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 25 from 8 am to 1.30 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Nagri, Airwan, Saispur, Khakyal and other adjoining areas will remain affected on February 24 from 8 am to 3 pm.

## District Admin Srinagar reaches out to the fire victims of Rajbagh, Eidgah and Sonerkul

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 24

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat a team of District Administration, Srinagar today visited Sheikh Mohalla Rajbagh area of the District to provide immediate assistance to the fire affected families whose houses were gutted in a fire incidents here Monday.

Similarly, the revenue team also visited Rathpora Eidgah to provide immediate relief to the fire victims

whose residential houses got damaged in a fire incidents today.

The immediate relief was sanctioned by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and was provided to the affected families through the team of District Administration in the form of blankets etc, besides cash amount to each affected families as an interim relief out of the District Red Cross Fund.

The Team of District Administration Srinagar also expressed sympathy

on loss of property. Meanwhile, the team also provided immediate assistance to fire affected families of Sonerkul Shah Mohalla whose houses got damaged in a fire on Sunday morning.

Further, the Deputy Commissioner has also directed the concerned authorities to assess the losses and make a comprehensive report for providing structure-wise financial assistance under SDRF to the fire affected families separately.

## Awareness-Cum-Registration camp organized for Artisans at Kishtwar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 24

The Department of Handicrafts Kishtwar, in collaboration with the Development Commissioner Handicrafts, Artisan Service Center Udhampur, and the Ministry of Textile Government of India, organized an awareness-cum-on-spot registration camp for artisans to obtain Pechan Cards.

The event, held in the office premises of Assistant Director Handicrafts, aimed to educate artisans about the welfare schemes and register them for Pechan Cards, enabling them to access benefits from both UT-sponsored and centrally sponsored schemes.

The key highlights of the event were briefing on UT Government-sponsored and centrally sponsored scheme, Pechan Card Registration and Distribu-



tion of Departmental Pamphlets covering UT and center-sponsored schemes.

Assistant Director Handicrafts Pardeep Shan encouraged the participants to go for formation of OFPOs in Crewel embroidery, Knitting, and Crochet

works.

HPO Handicrafts promotion Officer, Saurabh and CPO Carpet Promotion Officer, Krishan from Artisan Weaver Service Udhampur also briefed artisans on centrally sponsored schemes.

## DC Poonch reviews functioning of Labour Department



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, FEBRUARY 24

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting to review the functioning of the Labour Department with a focus on court cases involving the government.

The Deputy Commissioner issued clear directives to the Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) and relevant departments to ensure regular court appearances to prevent ex parte decisions.

The need for increasing registration of workers with the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board was highlighted. "There is imminent need of proactive measures to bring more construction work-

ers into the ambit of welfare schemes to enhance their access to essential benefits," the Deputy Commissioner stressed.

Additionally, the registration of contractors by principal employers was also addressed. The Deputy Commissioner instructed the authorities to expedite the process to mitigate issues related to wage payments and ensure timely disbursement to workers.

The meeting reaffirmed the administration's commitment to protecting labour rights, improving court case management, and ensuring timely benefits for workers in the district. The meeting was attended by ACD, SE PHE, ALC, Xen JPDCJ, Xen PWD(R&B), Labour Inspector and other concerned officers.

## DC Kupwara flags off awareness tour of fish farmers



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 24

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today flagged off a one-day inter-district training and awareness tour of fish farmers here at D.C Office Kupwara.

Assistant Director Fisheries Kupwara, Dr. Salman Rauoof Chalkoo was present on the occasion.

The awareness tour sponsored by Agriculture Training and Management Agency (ATMA) aims to enhance practical knowledge and promote sustain-

able aquaculture practices in the district.

Around 60 Fish farmers on the tour will visit to different fish farms of the district to learn the innovative and scientific techniques adopted by the farms both in government and private sector.

The program also aimed at the mobilization of farmers and fishermen for formation and organization of fishermen cooperatives through integrated workmanship for the overall development of the fisheries sector in district Kupwara.

## EDITORIAL

## Prakriti Lamsal tragic death: A wake-up call

## PM-KISAN Completes 19 Successful Installments: A Testament to India's Commitment to Farmers

On February 24, 2025, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi marked a significant milestone by releasing the 19th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme in Bhagalpur, Bihar. This initiative extended direct financial support to over 9.8 crore farmers, including 2.41 crore female farmers, injecting more than 22,000 crore directly into their bank accounts through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system. This latest installment reaffirms the government's unwavering commitment to fostering agricultural prosperity and rural empowerment.

Launched in February 2019, the PM-KISAN scheme was designed as a central sector initiative to supplement the financial needs of small and marginal farmers (SMFs). Under the program, eligible farmers receive 6,000 annually, disbursed in three equal installments directly to their Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts. Since its inception, the scheme has disbursed over 3.46 lakh crore through 18 installments, benefiting millions of farmers nationwide.

This latest disbursement builds upon the achievements of previous installments, including the 18th installment released in October 2024, which supported 9.4 crore farmers with more than 20,000 crore. The scheme's consistent financial assistance plays a critical role in ensuring farmers can procure essential agricultural inputs, improve crop yields, and avoid falling into debt traps.

A standout feature of PM-KISAN is its robust digital infrastructure, which guarantees transparent and efficient fund transfers. The introduction of the PM-KISAN mobile app in 2020, along with features like face authentication for remote e-KYC, has made it easier for farmers to access benefits seamlessly. Additionally, over 5 lakh Common Service Centres (CSCs) have been onboarded to assist farmers with registration and e-KYC formalities.

In 2023, the launch of the AI-powered chatbot, Kisan-eMitra, further streamlined grievance redressal by offering instant query resolutions in multiple local languages. Integrated with the Digital India Bhashini initiative, the chatbot enhances accessibility, enabling farmers from diverse linguistic backgrounds to receive timely assistance.

The PM-KISAN scheme has been instrumental in driving rural economic growth. An independent study conducted by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) found that the financial support provided under PM-KISAN has eased credit constraints, boosted investment in agricultural inputs, and enhanced farmers' risk-taking capacity. Beyond agriculture, these funds have supported essential family needs such as education, healthcare, and social obligations.

A significant saturation drive initiated under the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in 2023 added over 1 crore new eligible farmers to the scheme. As of the 18th installment, states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have recorded the highest numbers of beneficiaries, highlighting the program's extensive reach across diverse regions.

As the PM-KISAN scheme completes its 19th installment, it stands as a beacon of the government's dedication to uplifting India's farming community. By ensuring timely and direct financial support, the initiative not only addresses the immediate needs of farmers but also empowers them to contribute significantly to the nation's food security. With its focus on transparency, technological integration, and rural development, PM-KISAN is poised to remain a cornerstone of India's agricultural policy for years to come.

NAVITA SRIKANT

Armed Forces personnel often narrate stories of valour and courage of Nepali Gorkha soldiers. They say their sacrifice for India's security is unparalleled. The unique tradition of Honorary General Rank to each other's Chief of Army Staff is a jewel in bilateral relations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier noted, "I salute the Nepali braves who have laid down their lives for India" during his address to the Constituent Assembly of Nepal (August 3, 2014).

In bilateral relations such as these, a private university's administration acted inhumanely and irresponsibly to the grievance of harassment - the outcome - a 20-year-old Nepali female student Prakriti Lamsal committed suicide (under investigation) on February 16, 2025, at KIIT Bhubaneswar. Other resident Nepali students, shocked by the alleged suicide, protested against the harassment of Lamsal. Nepali students were abused, asked to leave and forcibly evic-

ed. Hundreds of Nepali students rushed back to Nepal with bare survival means. Nepali students in trauma due to the death of Lamsal and the ordeal they underwent seek answers. So, "What did we miss?"

It has been alleged that Lamsal complained to the college authorities of harassment by her batchmate but no action was taken. Did willful neglect and cruelty lead to Lamsal committing suicide? Access to emergency medical services and safeguarding evidence after being declared dead did not seem to function as one would expect.

Undoubtedly, the basic compliances to safeguard students failed. Several key questions are unanswered to day as the state investigation is under progress and justice is yet to be served. The case is no longer about justice for a deceased Nepali student but leaves a question mark on the capability of India as a nation to assure wellbeing and justice to a foreign student. The authorities did not stop at mere oral refusal of information but abused, used fear and

forced eviction of hundreds of Nepali students risking their lives. No doubt that KIIT's conduct should be a template of 'what not to do' for every public or private institution in India dealing with foreign students.

There has to be zero tolerance for actions against the law of the land, the ethos of the nation and the civilisational legacy that India and Nepal take pride in. Every Indian condemned the action of the KIIT Administration and expressed unequivocal solidarity with Nepali Students.

It is at this juncture, recollecting PM Modi's Address to the Constituent Assembly of Nepal in August 2014 "When an adverse wind blows in Nepal, India too feels cold."

"How can India be happy if Nepal is unhappy". One wonders why the Prime Minister has not addressed the people of India and Nepal assuring Nepali Students' safety, security and wellbeing as high priority. Reiterating these words to Nepali parents and students would

strengthen relations for times immemorial. Undoubtedly, the Government of India managed the situation diligently, however, it is PM Modi whose personal connection with Nepal reinforces trust among Nepali people. PM Modi has spoken for the rights of Palestinians, Afghans and Bangladeshi minorities. It is even more important that he is seen assuring Nepali Students' concerns.

The Vishwamitra vision of India's foreign policy begins at home. To recalibrate the India-Nepal friendship and heal the wounds inflicted by the ill deeds of KIIT, India must be consciously seen as Vishwa Bandhu of Nepal. It is necessary to walk the extra mile towards the safety and wellbeing of foreign students, bring culprits to justice and regain the trust of Nepali Parents as "India First" for educational pursuits.

The education system in Nepal is flawed. On average, about five lakh students appear for grade X every year, and less than 50 per cent pass the exam. Frustrated with ghost col-

leges and universities, students want to leave Nepal for even Grade X and two levels. If 70 per cent of eligible higher secondary pass-out students are leaving for abroad, then where does the accountability lie for the state of despair among youth?

If the National Lawmakers do not respect the youth's future, where and how the youth will garner respect abroad? The lawmakers roar for a while in Parliament, make powerful nationalistic statements, victim's family reconciles eventually and Nepali lawmakers diseased with short memory move on abandoning pending education reforms.

There has been no news so far if the Nepali government constituted any high-level committee to review education reforms and migration-related safeguards.

How many of these 70 per cent of students traveling abroad are registered with Nepali missions, and receive any cultural or crisis-handling counselling? When Lamsal did not get counselling support against harassment,

why did she not reach out to local law enforcement authorities or the Nepali Embassy?

There have been unfortunate incidents in earlier years with Nepali students studying abroad, as in the case of Pramod Bhattarai found dead in the USA, Shristi Bhandari in Australia and John Lama in Japan. Wake up Nepal!! Invest in your demographic dividend, Nepali youth, impart technical education, skill and empower them with cognitive and socio-emotional skills for holistic development. This is not the first and certainly not the last unpleasant event in global disruptive times.

It is high time that sustainable lessons are learned at all levels. If education diplomacy between the two open border states fails, the repercussions are far-reaching. India and Nepal boasting of timeless relations and open border cultural ties should invest in its youth, their aspirations and importantly grievances.

(The author is a financial, geopolitical and security analyst; views are personal)

## The footwear industry takes a step towards sustainability and social empowerment

SUNIL BATRA

The Indian footwear industry has evolved significantly in the 21st century, blending tradition with innovation. Once solely focused on fashion and quality, the industry now embraces sustainability, fairness and social empowerment. Of late the industry is aggressively pursuing its corporate social responsibility as it is in direct touch with the people on the lower rung of the society. With the footwear sector projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of nearly 12.39 per cent from 2025 to 2032 (as per Statista), the emphasis on sustainable growth has never been more crucial.

## Embracing CSR as a Core Strategy

The journey towards sustainability begins with a clear vision that prioritises human welfare alongside business growth. As the Indian footwear industry rapidly expands, it is adapting to meet the expectations of socially conscious consumers. Companies are integrating CSR efforts with government schemes to focus on environmental conservation, education and health-

care. For instance, Relaxo's CSR initiatives stem from a deep-seated commitment to uplifting underserved communities and making a tangible difference in their lives. Transformative Projects

One of the most compelling examples of CSR in action is seen in Rajasthan's Alwar district, where water scarcity has long been a pressing issue. In response, check dams have been constructed along the Ruparel River under the 'Mukhya Mantri Jal Sanchay Yojana'.

These reservoirs, with a total storage capacity of 146,000 cubic meters, have transformed local agriculture by recharging 455 hectares of irrigated land, benefiting nearly 1,000 families. This initiative highlights the power of responsible water management in enhancing rural livelihoods.

Another impactful initiative is a large-scale afforestation project near the Sariska Tiger Reserve. By planting 50,000 saplings, including 25-30 per cent fruit-bearing trees, this project not only restores biodiversity but also provides sustainable income opportunities for local communities. By involving



villagers directly in conservation efforts, such projects promote environmental awareness and reduce human-wildlife conflicts.

## Education and Skill Development:

Beyond environmental initiatives, the Indian footwear industry is actively driving change in education and skill development. Recognising the importance of quality education, companies like Relaxo have taken significant steps to improve school infrastructure. The Parivartan Model School Project, for instance, has revitalised over 100 government schools in Haridwar district, particularly in the Khanpur and Laksar blocks. With 77 schools already renovated, the project has upgraded classrooms, built protective boundaries,

and improved sanitation and mid-day meal facilities. These enhancements have significantly boosted student enrollment and retention, particularly among girls, creating a more inclusive learning environment.

Equally transformative are vocational training programs that equip young people with marketable skills. Collaborations with NGOs such as GMRVF and Teamlease Foundation have facilitated training for nearly 400 youths annually in fields like customer service, front office management, banking, and financial services. With a job placement rate of around 80 per cent, these programmes are empowering young individuals with skills that ensure long-term career stability.

Healthcare is another area where CSR initiatives are making a significant impact. Relaxo's "Nayan Avoidable Blindness Project" is a shining example. This initiative provides high-quality eye care services to 194 villages in Rajasthan's Tijara Block. Since its inception in 2018, the project has established two advanced vision centers staffed by certified ophthalmic

professionals.

Utilising state-of-the-art technology, these centers offer comprehensive eye exams and vision correction services. The project also prioritises training local youth, particularly women, in eye care professions, thereby fostering economic independence. By 2026, the initiative aims to screen nearly 60,000 students across 281 government schools, improving both health outcomes and quality of life in marginalised communities.

## Sustainable Business Growth:

The future of India's footwear industry is bright, fueled by robust market growth and a strong commitment to CSR. As consumer awareness grows, leading companies like Relaxo are proving that profitability and social responsibility can go hand in hand.

By prioritising people and sustainability, the Indian footwear sector is setting a global example—demonstrating that businesses can thrive while making a lasting positive impact on society.

(The writer is ED & CFO, Relaxo; views are personal)

## Agarwood: The golden green tree revives Tripura's economy

VK BAHUGUNA

The Agar tree known scientifically as *Aquilaria malaccensis* in India is found primarily in the North-Eastern states of Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh. The capital city of Agartala was once full of Agarwood trees and hence named after it by the Tripura Royal family. Myanmar, Sumatra, Laos, Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, Borneo and the Philippines. It is a critically endangered tree species due to its heavy demand and illegal trade and is on the Red list of the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN). There are 15 crore Agarwood trees in India and the tree species are making a ripple in Tripura due to proactive actions taken by the state government on its promotion and value addition and providing a platform for its conservation and promotion on private lands. Now farmers from other states are taking seedlings from Tripura and North-East and this species is poised to grow in other suitable localities. I visited Tripura in the second week of this month to study the economic

and ecological potential of Agar trees in Tripura and as such for the farmers of the country. The Architecture of Agar tree management especially in Tripura has undergone a sea change for the last eight to ten years and the Dharmanagar area in North Tripura is now becoming an epicentre of Agar tree propagation and value addition.

Earlier the distillation units were raided and destroyed by the forest department now is being promoted along with the big push for plantation on farmers' land considering its immense potential for increasing the income of farmers manifold. Considering the demand for Agarwood oil and chips in the international market especially in Middle Eastern countries there is huge scope for its propagation in a big way. The Agarwood market was initially monopolised by a single family of Assam as it thrived also from illegal cutting of trees from Tripura and Assam but now after a major policy thrust by the government and involvement of farmers and traders, Tripura is driving not only the conservation of Agarwood tree but leading the nation in its

innovative value addition.

Thanks to policy support from the state government the forest department during the last seven years has worked on all fronts of Agar for propagation to marketing to value addition and soon it will be grown in every homestead making its conservation easy and value addition perfect for the farmers to earn big money. Let us discuss the economics of growing Agarwood trees and the steps needed to be further taken by the government of India and the States. Each tree if inoculated artificially or naturally attacked by fungi like *Fusarium*, *Lasiodiplodia*, *Penicillium*, and *Aspergillus* after around seven years of age or more will yield resin in the next 5 to 6 years and the tree shall be felled to extract the resin which then can be distilled to produce around 20 to 25 ml of Agar oil worth Rs 20,000 and worth Rs 80,000 wood chips in the international and national market according to Mr Parvin Agrawal IFS officers who as head of Agar project oversaw the Agarwood revolution in Tripura. The sale price of one litre of Agar oil in the international market is 10

lakhs per litre and of the chips is 1 lakh per kg.

A farmer can earn anything between 15 to 20 lakh per year from around 500 trees in one hectare of Agarwood plantation and thus 2 crores in ten to fifteen years. Agar, therefore, is a Golden Green Tree and a wonderful gift of nature that needs to be promoted on a large scale in India through trials along with a policy push that helps farmers adopt it on a large scale. During my visit, I spoke with Mr Mamon Ali proprietor of 'Momin Enterprise distillery' in Kadamtala in North Tripura and visited his plantations and distillery. He is having a turnover of more than one crore every year.

The government of Tripura has also promoted its diversification in perfume making from the oil of Agar resin. In Middle Eastern countries Agar oil is used directly but a few value addition units for perfume and Agarbatti production had been set up by a few entrepreneurs in Tripura and the quality of the perfume is very pleasing. In yet another example, the forest department had through a public-private partner-

ship initiated a project to artificially inoculate agar plantation near Agartala through chemicals under which nine inoculation supplier firms are participating. The initial results are encouraging after burning the chips for perfume. The chips are sold for religious purposes to Buddhists and other religious groups and for that, the smoke yields a good fragrance.

During my visit to Tripura, I met a senior Priest of Mahakala Jyotirlinga Ujjain in Agartala on February 11 who is going to invest 5 crore to help farmers grow Agar trees in collaboration with the forest department to produce Agarwood dust for the Mahakala temple of Ujjain.

The Royal family of Baroda had funded him for this investment. Now the question is what needs to be done at the national level to promote income generation for the farmers. Agar tree is under the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species (CITES) of wild flora and fauna. Therefore, Agar product sales and exports are regulated as per international protocols. For every state, a quota is fixed and recently the Government

of India had increased the quota from states. However, if we want to make Agar Tree a household tree the government needs to emulate the example of one trader Mr Habib Chaudhury from Assam. He took his Agar business from Assam to Laos and settled there and is now a very rich and big trader because he found the Laos government had created a very trader and farmer-friendly quick system of approval for export within a few days.

In India, it is still a big bureaucratic process and involves a lot of paperwork at every stage which discourages the farmers and entrepreneurs. The government apart from promoting Agar plantation trials in suitable agro-climatic zones of the country must first create a customer-friendly business environment.

Like in Laos, the DFO office should issue the clearance online and it must have online access with govt of India and the CITES office simultaneously so that clearance is given to traders quickly. With a suitable infrastructure and a friendly regulatory policy framework, the Agarwood business profile has the

potential of touching 15,000 to 20,000 crores in the next ten to twelve years.

The tea export of 250.7 million kg during the fiscal year 2023-24 with a value of US\$ 776 million corresponding to around 7,000 crores Rupees. I have been writing to create an Agarwood and Red Sanders Board at the government of India level to promote these two species at the international level and to double the farmer's income as desired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed with PCCF and Principal Secretary RK Samal who is keen on leapfrogging the Agarwood policy framework.

It is, therefore, high time that both Centre and States sit together and chalk out a policy framework for this by creating a National Board for Agarwood and Red Sanders to be housed in the Commerce Ministry.

(The writer is former Director-General of ICFRE and Chancellor FRI Deemed University, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; views are personal)

## UCC will ensure justice, welfare for Muslim women, society: Suri

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 24

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Executive Member, Raman Suri, has voiced strong support for the statement made by RSS leader Indresh Kumar regarding the implementation of a Unified Civil Code (UCC) for all citizens of the country stating that the decision will ensure that there is justice and equality for all communities, especially Muslim women, in India. He said that the principle of "one country, one constitution, and one justice system" must also extend to a single civil code.

He emphasized that this will ensure justice and respect, particularly for Muslim women, who have long suffered due to discriminatory practices within their own community. He was supporting the statement of Indresh Kumar who made a statement during the All India Executive Meeting of the Muslim Rashtriya Manch (MRM) held at Rajghat in the union capital. Condemning the practices



such as triple talaq, halala, and polygamy, which he called harmful to the progress of the Muslim society, Raman Suri said that these practices, as also stated by RSS leader, distort the true message of Islam, which is rooted in peace, humanity, and brotherhood.

The BJP leader added that the time has come for India to move forward on the path of reform. It is essential to discard practices that hinder the development of society and embrace a more just and equal approach. Raman Suri strongly aligned with Indresh Kumar's vision, noting that the implementation of a single civil code is the right step toward creating a more inclusive

society. He expressed that a Unified Civil Code (UCC) is crucial for the unity of the nation, as it would provide equal rights and opportunities to all citizens, regardless of their religion or caste.

Suri further emphasized that laws should be designed in a manner that protects and uplifts marginalized groups, especially women. Raman Suri said that India is progressing and can't afford to have different laws for different people. He reiterated the need to focus on unity, justice, and harmony to build a stronger and more prosperous India for all where youth can build their future and also contribute in nation building.

Raman Suri said that this call for a single civil code aligns with a broader vision of national unity, equal justice for all citizens, and social reform for the welfare of marginalized communities. These reforms, he added, will bring about a society that stands for justice, humanity, and progress for all, regardless of religion or background.

## Conduct of Closing Ceremony of Tailoring and Stitching Course at Phagsoo Vill (Thatri) Doda



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA: 24 FEB 2025

In continuing with the spirit of undertaking employment based vocational training, Indian Army conducted a Tailoring and Stitching Course at Phagsoo Village (Thatri) under Sadhbhavana project wef 24 January 2025 to 23 February 2025. A total of eight women beneficiaries from socially and economically backward strata of society have been benefitted and trained on nuances of sewing, knitting, stitching & tailoring

with an aim to promote self-reliance and employment generation, helping them to become financially independent and self-employed.

It is a step towards a brighter independent future for women and would equip them with valuable skills paving way for new opportunities and elevate their status in the society. On the occasion, sewing machines were also distributed to these beneficiaries to encourage them to become bread earners of their families. During the closing ceremony the guests said that this virtuous effort by Indian Army will go a long way in amelioration of pockets of hunger and poverty and would also bring greater communal and social harmony in the region. The trained beneficiaries and villagers expressed their gratitude towards the Indian Army and providing an opportunity to them to acquire skills for employment which can further help them to earn a decent livelihood.

Member of Legislative Assembly Shopian attended the event as the Chief Guest, Shabir Ahmed Kullay; Additional District Development Commissioner Shopian, Chief Agriculture Officer Shopian, Senior Scientist and Head KVK Shopian & other officers attended the programme. On the occasion, the Member Legislative Assembly emphasized the government's commitment to empowering farmers through timely financial assistance under the PM-KISAN scheme. He lauded the efforts of KVK Shopian in promoting farmer welfare and ensuring the effective implementation of government schemes at the grassroots level.

## KVK- Shpian Hosts Live Webcasting of PM-KISAN 19th Installment Launch



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 24

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Shopian today organized the live webcasting of the launch of the 19th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Yojana, which was virtually inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

More than 100 farmers participated enthusiastically in the event, highlighting the significance of the scheme in supporting the agricultural community. Officers and officials from allied sectors, along with representatives from various departments, were also present on the occasion.

Member of Legislative Assembly Shopian attended the event as the Chief Guest, Shabir Ahmed Kullay; Additional District Development Commissioner Shopian, Chief Agriculture Officer Shopian, Senior Scientist and Head KVK Shopian & other officers attended the programme.

On the occasion, the Member Legislative Assembly emphasized the government's commitment to empowering farmers through timely financial assistance under the PM-KISAN scheme. He lauded the efforts of KVK Shopian in promoting farmer welfare and ensuring the effective implementation of government schemes at the grassroots level.

## FSD Anantnag Conducts Intensive Market Checking Ahead of Ramadan



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
ANANTNAG, FEBRUARY 24

In view of the upcoming holy month of Ramadan, Food Safety Department (FSD), Anantnag, conducted an intensive market checking drive across various markets in the district. The inspections aimed at ensuring the availability of safe and wholesome food to the general public while also verifying compliance with good hygienic and good manufacturing practices. The comprehensive inspections covered Fruit and Vegetable shops, Milk Vendors, Chicken and Mutton shops, and Food Business Operators (FBOs) dealing in dates and other edible items.

During the enforcement drive, surveillance samples of dates were procured by the department for detailed analysis to ensure their quality and safety. Additionally, the Food Safety team con-

ducted an awareness drive for FBOs, emphasizing the importance of checking expiry/use-by dates on food labels. The Food Safety authorities have also cautioned the general public to ensure that the food products they purchase are properly labeled in accordance with the law.

Furthermore, the authorities assured that regular inspections will continue in the district to uphold the highest standards of food safety. FBOs were sternly warned to strictly comply with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, along with its Rules and Regulations, failing which strict action will be initiated against violators.

The Food Safety Department remains committed to safeguarding public health and ensuring that consumers have access to quality food items during the holy month of Ramadan and beyond.

## Enhanced Integration and Jointness Between Indian Army and Air Force



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU : 24 FEB 2025

In a significant step towards enhancing joint operational readiness, the Indian Army and Indian Airforce conducted an integrated training exercise under the aegis of Tiger Division, Jammu. The training was aimed at fostering seamless coordination between ground troops and aerial assets, a critical factor in modern day warfare. The exercise served as a platform to refine swift troop deployment behind enemy lines, aerial maneuvers, and precision target engagement, ensuring preparedness for real-time operational challenges.

The specialized training witnessed the Indian Air Force's helicopters executing the airlift of

troops from a mounting base, who were then successfully inserted into the designated area. Following their insertion, the troops demonstrated a well-coordinated assault in simulated combat scenario. This high-tempo exercise showcased the synergy between the two forces and the strategic importance of air mobility in modern day combat environment.

Integrated training of this nature reinforces joint operational capabilities, fostering a deeper understanding of each service's operational dynamics. The exercise not only strengthened coordination between the Indian Army and Indian Air Force but also enhanced the tactical proficiency of troops in executing complex missions.

## Deepika Dhawan Qualified for Award of Ph.D. in Management

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 24

Deepika Dhawan, a research scholar from the School of Business at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), has successfully completed her Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Management. Under the guidance of Dr. Sushil Kumar Mehta, Associate Professor, School of Business, SMVDU. Ms. Dhawan conducted an empirical analysis on "Performance of Banking Sector in the Basel Regime: A Case of Select Countries". Her research has been published in high-impact factor international journals ranked in the B category based on the ABDC indexing and under the SCOPUS indexing. Additionally, Ms. Deepika Dhawan has presented her research work at numerous national and international conferences. Currently, She is working as an Assistant Professor (Management) at Rayat



Bahra University, Mohali. She extends her heartfelt gratitude to the School of Business, SMVDU for essential resources and unwavering support throughout her research journey. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU; Professor (Dr.) Ashutosh Vashishtha, Dean, Faculty of Management; Professor (Dr.) Jyoti Sharma, Head, School of Business; and other committee members congratulated Ms. Deepika Dhawan and wished her a bright future.

## District Administration Jammu launches awareness campaign on new criminal laws



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 24

The District Administration Jammu launched an awareness campaign today to educate officials and the public on the three newly introduced criminal laws - the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA). Organised by the direction of District Magistrate Jammu, these awareness programs will take place at the block level during the second and fourth weeks of every month.

As part of the campaign, awareness programs were conducted today at BDO Office Akhnour and JK TDC Building Surinsar. More sessions shall be held tomorrow, February

25, at BDO Office Bhalwal Brahmana, BDO Office Marh and Revenue Training Institute Gole Gujral Jammu.

Experts from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) and the Police Department are acting as resource persons in these sessions, providing insights into the new legal framework and its implications. Officials from the Revenue, Rural Development, Social Welfare, School Education and Health Departments are also participating to ensure widespread dissemination of information.

The schedule and venues for future sessions will be shared through the official Facebook and Twitter (X) accounts of the District Magistrate Jammu.

## STD enforcement teams continue inspections against sale suppression, fake invoicing across Jammu division

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 24

Enforcement Teams of State Taxes Department (STD) continued its drive against menaces of sale suppression and fake invoicing by conducting inspection drives across Jammu division.

The inspections were based on inputs generated by various AI tools including Business Intelligence and Fraud Analytics (BIFA), E-way Bills Portal and other components of enforce-

ment wings. The drives were carried out under the guidance of Commissioner State Taxes J&K, P K Bhat and under the supervision of Additional Commissioner (Enforcement and Administration) Jammu, Namrita Dogra.

Led by State Tax Officers, the specially constituted enforcement teams visited various business units in Vijaypur, Samba, R S Pura, Jammu (Central), Sunderbani, Rajouri, Kishtwar, Lakhanpur, Kathua, Banihal, Ramban and Udham-

pur over the past one week and investigated violations under GST law by verifying documents, physical stock position, bill books, among others.

"The inspections are part of enforcement activity. 13 teams have been constituted to carry out inspections across the division," informed Additional Commissioner (Enforcement and Administration) Jammu, Namrita Dogra. She added that teams specifically targeted dealers who were found engaged in

sale suppression and fake invoicing.

The State Taxes Department urged the dealers to follow the fair-trade practices and avoid indulging in tax evasion activities or fraudulent practices involving fake ITC.

Furthermore, the department appealed all taxpayers to practice invoice-based business and report their actual sales and pay the necessary amount of GST in their monthly/quarterly returns to avoid enforcement actions and penalties.

## Apprenticeship awareness workshop held at Udhampur

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 24

An Apprenticeship Awareness Workshop was organised today at Government ITI Institute Udhampur, in collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and the support of the Directorate of Industries & Commerce General Manager District Industries Centre Kishore Singh was the chief guest.

Among others present were Superintendent ITI Ravindra Bhatti, President Udhampur Industry Association Sham Swaroop Kalsotra, NSDC representative Radhika Sharma and Business Head SEC, DISTIL Education Shashank Gupta.

The objective of this workshop was to spread awareness about apprenticeships and the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme, discuss the implications of non-compliance, and conduct an interactive session for the participants.

DISTIL Education & Technology Private Limited played a key role in facilitating the event. The organisation operates under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship with the mission of bridging skill gaps in industries and enhancing employability through extensive training programs.

## Release of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana's 19th Installment: Live telecast organized in Samba

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 24

The Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department Samba organized the live telecast of the release of the 19th installment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana here at the Office of the Chief Agriculture Officer. The event was held in sync with the national-level launch by Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi, from Bhagalpur, Bihar.

In Samba district

alone, 21,564 farmers benefited from the scheme, receiving Rs 4.31 crore as direct financial assistance.

The programme was attended by Chief Agriculture Officer Madan Gopal Singh, Sub Divisional Agriculture Officer Naresh Raina; Avtar Singh (SMS), Vivek Mahajan (SMS), along with officials from allied sectors, including Assistant Director Fisheries and District Officer Sheep Husbandry. A total of 70 farmers participated in the event.

## Balbir Ram emphasizes Vajpayee's vision on peace with neighbours

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 24

Jammu and Kashmir BJP Spokesperson, Balbir Ram Rattan, underscored the significance of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's vision of peace and diplomacy with neighbouring countries. He was discussing the birth centenary programmes with party's senior activists.

Balbir Ram Rattan emphasized that Vajpayee's legacy of fostering amicable relations with neighbouring nations remains relevant in today's geopolitical landscape.

Balbir highlighted how Vajpayee, during his tenure as PM, believed in constructive engagement and dialogue as a means to resolve conflicts and promote stability in the



region. He recalled the historic initiatives undertaken by the former Prime Minister, including the Lahore Bus Service and efforts to de-escalate tensions through diplomatic channels.

"Atal ji firmly believed that peace with neighbours is not just a diplomatic necessity but also a moral and strategic imperative," Balbir said.

Balbir further said that it is crucial to remember Atal ji's wisdom—that strong nations seek peace,

not war. His leadership showed that dialogue and cooperation yield far greater results than hostility," he added.

He encouraged party activists to engage with the public and spread awareness about Vajpayee's contributions to India's diplomatic achievements. He mentioned that Vajpayee's leadership demonstrated a fine balance between national security and peaceful coexistence, setting an example for future generations of leaders.

Vajpayee's diplomatic philosophy was not just about maintaining peace but also about ensuring India's progress through cooperation and mutual respect, he said, adding that we must carry forward his legacy and work towards a peaceful, prosperous, and strong India.

DDC Member Pt. Suresh Sharma, senior leaders Sanjay Baru, Praduman Singh, and Parmod Kapahi, Hans Raj Loria, Sanjay Kumar, took part in this discussion.

## Master-Volunteers Training on "Drug De-addiction" organized today for District Baramulla by SLCA J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 24

JKSPYM State Level Coordinating Agency J&K (SLCA J&K) organized today a one-day certificate training program for Master-Volunteers of district Baramulla on "Drug De-addiction" under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) in collaboration with NISD, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India and district administration Baramulla at Dak Bunglow, Baramulla, Kashmir. ADC Baramulla, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina graced the occasion and DSWO Baramulla was also present on the occasion. 50 Master-volunteers from the district Baramulla attended the training program.



Dr. Zahoor 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, fol-

lowed 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 Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan"; "Understanding drugs, drug addiction, signs & symptoms, Myths & Facts about sub-

stance abuse"; "Roles and Responsibilities of Master-Volunteers/NMBA Leaders under NMBA"; "Basic Communication and Counseling 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 Baramulla district.

## Shiv Sena submits memo to Dy CM



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 24

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit leaders led by state chief Manish Sahni today met the Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu-Kashmir Surendra Chaudhary and submitted a memorandum demanding to give the status of Mother State to Gau Mata and declare Jammu as the permanent capital of J&K.

While briefing the media after the meeting, Manish Sahni said that recently the decision of the Omar Abdullah government to renovate

Hindu temples in Kashmir valley and to approve Rs. 17 crore has been strongly welcomed.

Sahni has demanded from the Omar Abdullah government to bring a strict law on cow slaughter and cow smuggling in Jammu and Kashmir keeping in mind the religious sentiments of Hindus and to give the cow the status of state mother. Sahni said that this decision of the Omar government will set an example for the whole country regarding mutual brotherhood and secularism.

## Indian Knowledge Tradition Gave a New Vision to the World: Prof. Upasana Joshi

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 24

A two-day international seminar on "Hindi Literature of Jammu and Kashmir in the Light of Indian Knowledge Tradition and Culture" commenced today at the Central University of Jammu. The event, organized by the Department of Hindi and Other Indian Languages, CU Jammu in collaboration with the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), North-West Regional Centre, Punjab University, Chandigarh, is being held under the guidance of the Vice Chancellor of Central University of Jammu, Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

The inaugural session of the seminar was graced by the presence of Prof. Upasana Joshi, Director of ICSSR, as the chief guest, with Sh. Pramod Kumar, President of Punjabi Sabha, Moscow, Russia, serving as

the special guest. Prof. Vandana Sharma, Dean, School of Languages, CU Jammu, presided over the event. Prof. Bharat Bhushan, Head of the Department of Hindi and Other Indian Languages, CU Jammu, extended a warm welcome to all dignitaries, and the session began with a Saraswati Vandana presented by the researchers of the Hindi department.

In her inaugural address, Prof. Vandana Sharma highlighted the unique significance of Hindi literature in the context of Jammu and Kashmir's tradition and culture, emphasizing the collective responsibility to preserve and promote this literary tradition.

Prof. Upasana Joshi, chief guest of the seminar praised the richness of India's language and culture, stressing that the Indian knowledge tradition has imparted a new



vision to the world. She underscored the invaluable contribution of Indian sages to the enrichment of this tradition and shared the ICSSR's ongoing efforts to promote and preserve Indian knowledge systems.

Special guest Sh. Pramod Kumar spoke passionately about the importance of remembering and honoring one's land, language, and culture, especially while serving

the nation abroad. He also shared his experiences of promoting Indian culture internationally.

Keynote speaker, Prof. Rajendra Kumar, Head of the Hindi Department at the Central University of Punjab, Bathinda, discussed the vast and composite nature of Indian culture, emphasizing the ongoing encouragement of multilingualism in India. He highlighted the trans-

formative role of Vedic knowledge in shaping global perspectives.

The inaugural program was conducted by Dr. Vandana Sharma, Assistant Professor in the Department of Hindi and Other Indian Languages, with the vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Sahashikant Mishra, Convener of the seminar.

The second session of the seminar was conducted by Dr. Vinay Kumar

Shukla, Assistant Professor in the Department, and was presided over by Prof. Chandrakant Singh, Hindi Department, Central University Himachal Pradesh. Researchers and scholars from various institutions presented their papers during this session, including Dr. Vivek Sharma from the Department of Buddhist Studies, University of Jammu, Dr. Vivek from Delhi University, and researchers from Jamia Millia Islamia University, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, and GDC Mad, among others.

This seminar serves as a platform for scholars and researchers to explore and discuss the interconnections between Hindi literature, Indian knowledge traditions, and cultural heritage, providing valuable insights into the rich literary history of Jammu and Kashmir.

## RBI launches Financial Literacy Week 2025 focused on women's prosperity

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 24

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) today inaugurated the Financial Literacy Week (FLW) 2025 with a special focus on women's economic empowerment. This annual initiative, which aims to promote financial awareness among citizens, will run from February 24 to 28, 2025. The theme of this year's campaign is "Financial Literacy - Women's Prosperity."

In line with the national event, FLW was also launched in Jammu and attended by government and banking dignitaries including Additional Chief Secretary, Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Shantmanu; General Manager, RBI Jammu Neeraj Kumar; Regional Director, RBI Jammu Chandrashekhar Azad; Executive Director, J&K Bank Sudhir Gupta and General Manager, NABARD Vikas Mittal.

In his address, Shantmanu emphasized the critical role financial literacy plays in personal and community prosperity. He said that every citizen should understand the broader economic contours of the country and added that financial lit-



eracy begins at home and it greatly enhances financial management skills to handle economic challenges. Highlighting the inclusion of women and children in financial matters he said, "As women's participation in the workforce increases, it's time to understand and apply essential money management skills. Additionally, educating young minds about financial matters is key to ensuring they make better financial decisions in the future."

Regional Director RBI Jammu, Chandrashekhar Azad, discussed the importance of women's financial planning, particularly for long-term savings. He said that it's crucial to encourage women to focus not only on consumption but also on financial planning for the future. He added that there are 2406 Centers for Financial Literacy across India with 109 centers in

Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh providing a valuable opportunity to learn about financial matters. He said that the financial literacy week is also vital for working women and female entrepreneurs.

General Manager RBI Jammu, Neeraj Kumar, highlighted the significance of financial literacy for overall inclusion. He said that RBI's efforts over the last decade in promoting financial awareness have continued to achieve new milestones each year and which has positive impact on awareness about financial stability and sustainability.

General Manager NABARD, Vikas Mittal congratulated the RBI for organizing the Financial Literacy Week and praised its dedication to enhancing financial literacy. "RBI's initiatives, such as training women on asset management, saving, and risk management, are instrumental

in building financial awareness. We look forward to furthering this campaign and its positive effects on women's financial inclusion," he said.

The event was also attended by Executive Director Jammu Kashmir Bank, Sudhir Gupta; Assistant General Manager RBI, Meteesh Sharma, stakeholders from SIDBI, UTLBC convenor banks, RRBs nodal officers of various banks and representatives of the Centre for Financial Literacy (CFL).

The Financial Literacy Week engages various organizations to improve financial literacy across the country in line with the national agenda of inclusive growth and financial well-being. This year's campaign aims to equip women with the tools and knowledge necessary to take control of their financial futures, contributing to their prosperity and the development of the broader economy.

## 10th J&K UT Handball Championship concluded

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 24

The 3-day 10th J&K UT Handball Championship Concluded today here at Playing field Shastri Nager Jammu for senior men and women sections. The championship is being organized by J&K Handball Association in collaboration with J&K Sports Council.

Yudhvir Sethi MLA Jammu East was the chief Guest on the valedictory function, who gave away the winners and runners-up trophies and also other individual prizes, while Abishek Mahajan M.D Rakesh Jewellers Jammu was the guest of honor.

While speaking, Yudhvir Sethi said the J&K is rich in sports talent and sportsmen from the J&K have proven their mettle at different national and international championships. He added that promoting the talent at different levels. He appreciated the enthusiasm amongst the players depicting sports personality and congratulated the winner and runners up and other teams for participating in the tournament. And hailing the sportsmanship exhibited



by the players during the final match.

Earlier Organizing Secretary of the tournament, Ashwani Kumar Raina (President JKHA) welcomed the distinguished guests and presented a brief note on the championship and highlighted the activities of the J&K Handball Association and extended thanks to J&K Sports Council Officers, Coaches and Officials of the Health Department and media for support.

The final match in women's section was played between District Jammu and District Udhampur in which District Jammu emerged winner by 7-2 goals. The main scorer for District Jammu was Harman Kour

who netted 4 goals, while Taniya Mehra also scored 3 goals.

In men's section, the final match was played between District Jammu and J&K Police in which J&K Police emerged winner by 24-15 goals. The main Scorer for J&K was Harmik Singh who netted 8 goals, while Gautam Sharma also scored 6 goals.

Among others who were present on the occasion were Rajesh Chandan General Secretary JKHA, Sanjeev Jamwal Treasurer JKHA, and Rajesh Kapoor Vice President JKHA. Ravi Singh Coach, Vinay Sharma Senior Handball Coach. Ajay Verma President Swarnkar Sangh Jammu.

## Joint Statement on the resumption of India-UK trade negotiations

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 24 FEB 2025

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer met on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in November 2024 to underline the importance of resuming trade negotiations at an early date.

Today the Republic of India and the United Kingdom have resumed negotiations towards a trade deal between our two countries. This announcement has been made by Minister for Commerce and Industry of India Shri Piyush Goyal and Secretary of State for the Department for Business and Trade of the United Kingdom Rt Hon Jonathan Reynolds who is in Delhi. This announcement is an outcome of the above stated discussions held at the level of Prime Ministers of the two countries.

India and the United Kingdom have a close partnership, built through collaboration on security and defence, new and emerging technologies, climate, health, education, research and innovation, green finance and people-to-people contacts. At the centre of this relationship is the collective aspiration to deliver economic growth and sustainable development.

## Six times increase in union agriculture budget from 219333.50 crores in 2013-14 to 1,27,290 crores in 2025-26 highlights Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh

J I NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 24

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh today lauded the remarkable strides made in India's agricultural sector, highlighting a sixfold increase in the Union agriculture budget, from Rs 21,933.50 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 1,27,290 crore in 2025-26.

Dr. Jitendra Singh made these remarks while addressing the disbursement of the 19th installment of the PM KISAN scheme in Bhagalpur, Bihar. He virtually joined the meeting at Krishi Vigyan Kendra Jammu.

The Union Minister proudly announced that the government would be disbursing Rs 22,000 crore to 9.8 crore farmers as part of this installment. With Rs 3.46 lakh crore already distributed in 18 installments, the PM KISAN program continues to play a pivotal role in supporting farmers' livelihoods. In a bid to further strengthen the program, Dr. Singh revealed that 30 lakh more farmers have been added



as beneficiaries under the PM KISAN scheme.

The Union Minister also highlighted the increase in the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) limit from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 5 lakh, which will significantly improve access to credit for farmers, enabling them to invest in modern agricultural practices and equipment.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also unveiled the PM Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana, a new initiative aimed at identifying 100 districts for agricultural advancement, thereby ensuring

that targeted resources and technologies are provided to boost productivity in these areas.

Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized the transformation in India's agricultural ecosystem over the last decade, calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi the champion of farmers' welfare. He recalled the Prime Minister's vision of doubling farmers' incomes and enhancing agricultural technologies to supplement their efforts.

"Over the past decade, we have witnessed a significant transformation in agriculture, with the government ensuring fixed support to farmers. Initiatives like soil health cards, Kisan Credit Cards, financial inclusion, and advanced technologies, such as drone usage for spraying pesticides and fertilizers, micro-irrigation in high-altitude areas, and the expansion of irrigation facilities, have played a crucial role," said Dr. Singh.

He emphasized that these efforts not only benefit agriculture but also contribute significantly

to the Indian economy, with agriculture being the prime mover of India's growth. The minister also enumerated other key government initiatives, such as the 6-year National Mission on Millets, National Mission on High-Yielding Seeds, the Makhana Board to be established in Bihar, and new agricultural research and development programs aimed at enhancing crop yields. Dr. Singh pointed to the new urea plant in Assam with a capacity of 12.7 lakh units, underscoring the growing emphasis on the eastern part of India in the nation's agricultural plans.

Towards the conclusion of his speech, Dr. Singh underscored the government's commitment to making farmers and agriculture a vital part of Viksit Bharat @2047. He reaffirmed that the government's continued efforts to empower farmers and modernize agriculture would ensure the nation's agricultural sector thrives and contributes to sustainable economic growth.

## Two-Day National Startup Festival organised by CSIR-IIIM concludes

J I NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 24 FEB 2025



CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM) Jammu successfully concluded the National Startup Festival on Sunday, showcasing remarkable success stories in startup promotion, innovation and entrepreneurial growth across Jammu & Kashmir.

The two-day festival, which concluded today, was inaugurated on 22nd February, Saturday by the Chief Guest, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy, and Department of Space; and Vice President of CSIR in presence of Satish Sharma, J&K UT Cabinet Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and ARI & training departments, Padma Shri Prof. Vinod K. Singh, Chairperson, Recruitment & Assessment Board (RAB), CSIR and Institute Chair Professor of Chemistry at IIT Kanpur, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, Dr. Prabodh Kumar Trivedi, Director,

CSIR-CIMAP, Lucknow, Dr. Ajit Kumar Shasany, Director CSIR-NBRI, Lucknow, Dr. Sudesh Kumar Yadav, Director, CSIR-IHBT, Palampur, Dr. Jatinder Kumar, Managing Director, DBT-BIRAC and Dr. N. Zaheer Ahmed, Director General, CCRUM. Recognizing the innovative works of the startup they showcased during the event, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM awarded the certificates to 45 startups.

The two days mega event held at Government Women College, Gandhi Nagar which on day 2 also attracted huge crowd of students drawn from various degree colleges and schools of Jammu region to provide a platform to the entrepreneurs, investors, industry leaders, scientists, researchers, bio-incubators, manufacturers, regulators and members of civil society to witness the technologies and innovation showcased during the festival.

In a press handout, it was stated that an overwhelming response of visi-

tors has been seen today as well, more than 800 visitors visited the exhibition and witnessed the demonstration of innovations driven ideas some startups and the products and technologies developed by few of them.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM who is spearheading the institute's resolute to nurture the startup ecosystem in the region, while addressing the startup and exhibitors during closing ceremony said that besides the institute's forte in the pre-clinical drug discovery, under the mentorship of Union Minister of S&T and Vice President, Dr. Jitendra Singh, IIIM has equally galvanised agri- entrepreneurship and set up two incubators for incubation support to the startup. To set up a new Incubator at Industrial Biotech Park, Ghatti, Kathua, the Grant-in-aid Letter Agreement (GLA) was also signed yesterday by Director, CSIR-IIIM and MD, BIRAC in the presence of the Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh, he added.

## Eminent Sculptor Ganesh Sharma honored with International Competency Certificate Award

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 24

Well known Eminent Senior Internationally recognized Sculptor, son of the soil Ganesh Kumar Sharma has been Honored / Awarded with "International Competency Certificate Award" by the management of "French Institute for International Relations and Research" and the administration of "The Academy of Iraqi Civilization, Iraq".

The high level internationally acclaimed Award Certificate granted to Sculptor Ganesh Kumar Sharma for his continued success in spreading art, literature and culture in the world through his creativity.

Ganesh Kumar Sharma is working, promoting and spreading the art and culture at International level from more than forty five years through his participations in State, National and International art



exhibitions, art events art symposiums. Among the eminent senior contemporary internationally acclaimed artists, Mr. Ganesh Sharma is the only Sculptor Artist from India, who has been honored / Awarded virtually by the President of the Academy of Iraqi Civilization, D. Rafif Al - Kazemi.

With pride the management of French Institute and the administration of the Academy congratulated and wishes more success in future endeavors to Ganesh Kumar Sharma.

## CMSS Kathua celebrates its 2nd Annual Day Themed "Nai Umang"

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 24

Cambridge Montessori Skill School Kathua celebrated its 2nd Annual Day and prize-giving ceremony. Chief Guest for the event was Advocate Vijay Sharma (MLA - Hira Nagar) Guest of honour was Dr. Bharat Bushan (JKAS) MLA Kathua, Special Guest was Mr. Hari Dutt Shishu while other distinguished dignitaries including ZEO Marheer were also present on the occasion. The ceremony commenced with the lighting of lamp followed by a welcome address by Chairman Mrs. Manju Bala and this was followed by a captivating Invocation Dance, Bhangra Group Dance, Skeet on Bad Effects of using Mobile Phones by students.

Principal of the School, Shifali Mahajan presented the Annual Report of the academic year 2023-24. The Principal also shared excellent results of the School for



the Academic Year 2023-24 and highlighted several remarkable achievements. School MD Mr. Suraj Prakash commended the collective efforts of Team CISS in making the event a resounding success, emphasizing "Synergy and Collective Brilliance."

The event also featured the unveiling of CISS Reels 2024 and behind-the-scenes videos, highlighting the unceasing efforts of the team. The main awards were received by the School's Head Boy, Deputy Head Boy, Deputy Head Girl and Academic Pre-

fects. The Chief Guest Adv. Vijay Sharma and Guest of Honour Dr. Bharat Bhushan congratulated the management, staff and students for working with fervor and spirit and making the Annual Day par excellence.

The celebrations concluded on a high note, with a heartfelt vote of thanks by CISS MD Mr. Suraj Prakash with a closing medley appreciating and cherishing the present moment and tearing behind the thoughts of emptiness. The ceremony concluded with the recitation of the National Anthem.

## DDC Member Anita Chaudhary kick starts community hall roof construction work

J I NEWS SERVICE  
RAMGARH, FEB 24

Accelerating development initiatives, DDC member Anita Chaudhary has commenced the construction of the roof of the community hall near Mahal Shah Temple. The local residents had long been demanding this, as the absence of a roof had rendered the hall ineffective for proper use. Anita Chaudhary brought this issue to the administration's attention and secured approval for approximately Rs 11 lakh for the project. As soon as the approval was granted, she promptly initiated the roofing work. On this



occasion, DDC member Anita Chaudhary stated that the Modi government is committed to rural development and envisions a community hall in every panchayat, enabling people to host their small and large gatherings conveniently. With the com-

mencement of the roofing work, local residents expressed their gratitude to Anita Chaudhary. The event was attended by several prominent figures, including former Panchayat President and senior BJP leader Tony Chaudhary.

## Indian Army organizes Tree Plantation Drive at Shahsitar, Poonch



J I NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, 24 FEB 2025

A tree plantation drive was held in Shahsitar, bringing together the Indian Army, the Forest Department, and dedicated civilians in a unified effort to promote environmental sustainability. Saplings of various species were planted, reinforcing the region's commitment to ecological preservation and growth.

This joint initiative highlights the collaboration between Indian Army, government agencies, and local communities in protecting natural resources. By planting trees, participants not only enhanced the area's green cover but also raised awareness about environmental conservation. Their collective efforts reflect a shared responsibility to nurture nature for future generations.

## Vishav Deep Sharma Declared Qualified for Award of Ph.D

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 24

Vishav Deep Sharma (S/o Sh. Inder Paul Sharma and Smt. Rekha Rani), a Research Scholar at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), has successfully qualified for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Physics. He carried his research titled as, "Spectral and Electronic Studies of Some Rare Earth Doped Alkali Zirconium Phosphates," under the guidance of Dr. Ram Prakash, Associate Professor at the School of Physics, SMVDU. During his Ph.D., Mr. Sharma published his findings in prestigious SCIE and Scopus-indexed international journals and presented his work at various national and interna-



tional conferences. He extends his heartfelt gratitude to the School of Physics, SMVDU, for providing essential resources and unwavering support during his research journey. Additionally, he acknowledges UGC-DAE Consortium for Scientific Research, Indore, for providing experimental facilities and financial assistance under the CRS project no. CRS-328.

## Indian Army felicitates Skilled Women of Kunan Poshpora Vill in Kupwara

J I NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, FEB 24

Empowerment of women is a process that leads women to claim their rights to have access to equal opportunities in economic, cultural, social and political spheres of life and realise their full potential. This progress has to go together with their freedom to work to influence the direction of social change. Indeed, empowerment is a bottom-up process rather than something that can be formulated as a top-down strategy.

Indian Army's Kupwara Terriers aligned with this ideology has been working constantly towards an empowerment approach to enable women of Kupwara to assess their situa-



tion and shape a transformation in society critically.

On 24 Feb 2025, 20 women from the villages of Kunan Poshpora who stitched & embroidered more than 11000 National Flags on the special occasions of Republic and Independence day during last 2 years were felicitated by Indian Army's Kupwara Terriers at BHS Kunan. Besides these skilled women Girls from

Kupwara Women Football team and Wushu Academy Kupwara were also felicitated.

Commanding Officer Kupwara Terriers graced the occasion as Chief Guest along with other officers, villagers Children and about 120 women from Kunan Poshpora village. The Chief guest highlighted the need of women empowerment in modern era. He empha-

sized that women are not only equal to men but they are more important than men. Commanding officer assured all women present at the Occasion for every possible support from Indian Army.

The villagers and women thanked Indian Army for such precious support and hope for the same kind of support in future also.

The ultimate goal of women's empowerment is for women themselves to be the active agents of change in transforming general perception of society and Indian Army is always on the forefront to initiate such endeavours to empower women from weaker and less privileged sections of society in J&K especially in remote areas like Kupwara.

## Awareness Lecture on Drug Abuse organized at Tota Gali, Poonch

J I NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH: 24 FEB 2025

A ground-breaking lecture on drug abuse was successfully conducted in Total Gali by Indian Army with the aim of inspiring and educating the youth from remote and undeserved areas. The event, which took place on 24 Feb 2025, saw the participation of a number of young individuals from various communities, who gathered to gain insights on dangers of substance abuse and the importance of making positive life choices.

The lecture, led by representative of Indian Army, focused on the detrimental effects of drugs on physical, mental and emotional wellbeing, as well as the broader impact on families and communities. Through powerful story-



telling, real life examples, and engaging discussions, the speaker emphasized the significance of staying drug-free and pursuing goals through healthy means.

The event also featured interactive sessions where the youth had the opportunity to ask questions, share their concerns, and receive guidance on how to overcome challenges they may be facing in their lives. Many participants expressed how the session had motivated them to take a stand against drug abuse in their com-

munities and work towards creating a better future for themselves. This initiative is part of an ongoing effort to provide valuable resources and education to marginalized areas, ensuring that young people are equipped with the tools they need to lead successful drug free lives. The success of this lecture marks a significant step forward in the battle against drug abuse and highlights the importance of empowering the youth to make an informed decisions and stay away from harmful substances.

## Indian Army organizes Cricket Tournament at Kakora, Rajouri



J I NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI: 24 FEB 2025

The Indian Army hosted a cricket tournament in Kakora, Rajouri District, on February 24, 2025, at Kaniyal Gali School. The event brought together six teams, comprising 90 players, and was attended by 300 civilians.

The tournament aimed to promote sportsmanship, teamwork, and community engagement among the local youth. By organizing such events, the Indian Army seeks to

foster a sense of camaraderie and national pride among the people of Rajouri District. The event was a resounding success, with participants and spectators alike appreciating the Indian Army's efforts to promote sports and community development in the region. The tournament has helped to strengthen the bond between the Army and the local community, while also promoting a spirit of healthy competition and sportsmanship among the youth.

## Indian Army celebrates World Peace and Understanding Day at Salani, Patti & Marha, Poonch

J I NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH: 24 FEB 2025

World Peace and Understanding Day, observed every year on February 23rd, stands as a global reminder of the importance of unity and collaboration beyond boundaries. On this day, the Indian Army joined the world in celebrating this significant occasion, with a special event held at the Salani, Marha, Patti, Poonch.

This day commemorates the first meeting of the Rotary, an organization founded by businessmen committed to creating a space of fellowship and mutual respect, irrespective of politics, religion, or background. Rotary's core values align closely with the mission



of the United Nations, with six primary areas of philanthropic focus: disease prevention and treatment, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy, economic and community development, and peace and conflict prevention.

The Indian Army, known for its dedication to peace and community welfare, continues to play an instrumental role in promoting harmony and understanding in Jammu and Kashmir. Through numerous initia-

tives, including this day's celebration, the Indian Army fosters a spirit of peace, and contributes to a cleaner, healthier environment not only for its personnel but also for the public. The local community expressed its gratitude to the Indian Army for its relentless commitment to advancing the causes of peace and social responsibility. By organizing events like these, the Indian Army strengthens the collective resolve to create a safer, more harmonious society for future generations.

## Annual Sthapana Diwas of Shri Chandi Mata at Maha Lakshmi Mandir on 1st March-2025

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 24

Sarv Shakti Chandi Mata Mandir, Jammu is celebrating the annual day function (Sthapana Diwas) of Shri Chandi Mata (Machail Wali) at the Sarv Shakti Chandi Mata Mandir, located in the premises of Shri Maha Lakshmi Mandir, Pacca Danga, Jammu on March 1st.

As per press release, it has been decided that Havan and Kanjak Poojan will be on the 1st of March 2025 from 8 AM to 10 AM. However, Bhandara will be organized in Brahmin Sabha, Parade Ground from 12:00 noon to 04:00 P.M. and Kirtan shall be performed at Shri Maha Lakshmi Ji Temple, Pacca Danga, Jammu from 01:00 P.M. to 08:00 P.M.

The Sthapana Diwas of Shri Chandi Mata is a significant event for the devotees and the temple community, as it honors



the presence of Goddess Chandi, symbolizing strength, courage, and protection. This day not only marks a deep connection with the divine but also highlights the temple's

ongoing commitment to fostering unity, peace, and spiritual growth among its followers.

The temple invites all devotees and community members to partake in this

spiritual celebration. The Sthapana Diwas of Shri Chandi Mata is not only a day to honor the deity but also an opportunity for everyone to come together in devotion, gratitude, and prayer. Shri Maha Lakshmi Mata Mandir has long been a spiritual center for the community, serving as a place of worship, peace, and enlightenment. The temple's commitment to preserving the cultural and religious heritage of the region while fostering a spirit of inclusivity has earned it the love and respect of all who visit. Through regular religious events and festivals, the Mandir continues to provide a sense of belonging and connection for its devoted followers.

To seek the blessings of goddess Chandi, the function is likely to be attended by a large number of devotees from all walks of life besides VIP's.

## Samsung India launches Galaxy A06 5G: 'Kaam ka 5G' with Superfast Connectivity & Powerful Performance at an Affordable Price

JAMMU, 24 FEB 2025:

Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, today announced the launch of Galaxy A06 5G, bringing an awesome 5G experience at an affordable price. As the most affordable budget Galaxy A series 5G smartphone, Galaxy A06 5G is designed to offer consumers maximum value with its reliable performance and longevity. "With the launch of Galaxy A06 5G, we are bringing segment-leading 12.5G bands for a great 5G experience. Designed to offer awesome connectivity, powerful performance, and segment leading innovations, the device reaffirms our commitment to making cutting-edge technology accessible to everyone. With this device, we are also ensuring that users can enjoy high-speed connectivity for work and entertainment along with unmatched durability," said Akshay S Rao, General Man-

ager, MX Business, Samsung India.

Galaxy A06 5G will be available across all retail outlets in India, Samsung exclusive stores, as well as other offline channels, in multiple storage variants. Starting just INR 10499 for the 4GB RAM variant with 64GB storage, Galaxy A06 5G comes in three sleek and attractive colours - Black, Gray and Light Green. As a special launch offer, customers can avail one-year screen protection plan with Samsung Care+ package at just INR 129, providing additional protection and peace of mind.

Galaxy A06 5G supports all network compatibility, 12.5G bands and features carrier aggregation for enhanced network connectivity and faster speeds across all telecommunication operators. Powered by the MTK D6300 processor, Galaxy A06 5G ensures powerful performance and makes multitasking, gaming, and streaming an effortless

exercise. The smartphone also provides RAM up to 12GB with RAM Plus feature.

The device is equipped with a 50MP main rear camera for capturing sharp and detailed images and a 2MP depth camera for enhanced clarity, while the 8MP front camera ensures high-quality selfies and video calls. The smartphone also features a sleek and stylish design while ensuring a vivid visual experience with its expansive 6.7-inch HD+ display with a 20:9 aspect ratio. The smartphone also features a 5,000 mAh battery with best in segment 25W fast charging support.

Galaxy A06 5G will be available with Android 15 and Samsung's One UI 7, ensuring users get the latest software experience. Samsung is redefining reliability with Galaxy A06 5G, offering an impressive 4 generations of OS upgrades and 4 years of security updates, a commitment that sets it apart in this seg-

ment. These industry-leading upgrades and updates are set to keep the device always up to date and ensure smoother usage experiences for users for a long period. Built for durability, Galaxy A06 5G comes with an IP54 rating, providing protection against dust and splashes.

Samsung is also introducing 'Voice Focus' in the smartphone for the first time, an India-first innovation designed to enhance call clarity in noisy environments, making conversations clearer and more effective. This feature reflects Samsung's commitment to bringing meaningful innovations tailored to the needs of Indian consumers. The device also prioritizes security and privacy by incorporating Samsung's defense-grade Knox Vault security that empowers users to manage their data securely, enhancing their overall experience

## Hearth Milan Cup Edition 2 Shines a Light on Youth and Sports

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 24

The much-anticipated Hearth Milan Cup Edition 2, organized by the Lalitaditya Sports Education and Health Organisation, wrapped up on a high note after three exhilarating days of cricket, camaraderie, and a powerful message: "Say Yes to Life, No to Drugs." This thrilling cricket carnival brought together boys and girls from across the region, promoting sports as a healthy alternative and steering the youth away from the pitfalls of drug use.

The event culminated with an electrifying final match between Durga Cricket Club and Elite Cricket Club, both vying for the coveted trophy. Inaugurated by Ms. Nuzhat Gull, Secretary of the Sports Council, the championship was a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Lalitaditya Organisation in connecting Generation X and the next to their roots, even in a state of exile.

"Our initiative is about more than just cricket; it's about empowering our youth and giving them a



platform to thrive," said Anil Bhat, President of Lalitaditya. "Through sports, we can inspire the next generation to make healthier choices and embrace life to the fullest."

The tournament saw participation from 4 girls' teams and 7 boys' teams (under 16), showcasing an impressive display of talent and teamwork. The trophies were presented at a lively closing ceremony held at the Maluana Azad Stadium, where Excise Commissioner Subash Chander Chibber (JKAS), Senior Superintendent of Police Sh. R.K. Bhat, and DY. Excise Commissioner Executive Jammu Sh. Sanjay Bhat were among

the esteemed guests.

In addition to the trophy, both Durga Cricket Club and Elite Cricket Club received a prize of Rs 10,000 each, with team captains Komal Bhat and Aashan Pandita graciously accepting the awards. The runner-up trophies went to Himalayan Cricket Club (Girls) and Nagrota Warriors, who each took home Rs 5,000.

The closing function was not just about cricket; it was a heartfelt celebration of community achievements. Several local heroes, including Sh. Ravi Jogi from the Zesta Devi Prabandak Community, acclaimed athlete Sh. Kuldeep Sapru, and tal-

ented artist Shivani Koul Bhat, were honored with shawls, bouquets, and mementos for their contributions.

In keeping with the vibrant spirit of the day, the Lalitaditya Organisation set up a live telecast of the India vs. Pakistan match, bringing families together and creating an electric atmosphere for all the young cricket enthusiasts present.

As the dust settles on this year's Hearth Milan Cup, the message remains clear: through sports, we can create a brighter, healthier future for our youth. Let's continue saying yes to life and no to drugs!

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, QUALITY CONTROL & PROCUREMENT DIVISION, NARWAL JAMMU

#### ABSTRACT OF NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-NIT No: QCPD/J/07

Dated: 21/02/2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K tenders through e-Tenders in two cover system are invited from registered/reputed firms/Contractors having sufficient relevant experience for the work mentioned below:

S. No	Name of Work	Earnest Money	Cost of tender document	Period of completion	Validity of Rates	Name of Division
1.	Repair & maintenance of Divisional office premises at QCPD, Jammu	Rs.900.00 in shape of CDR / FDR pledged to the Executive Engineer Quality Control & Procurement Division Jammu	Rs.200.00	07days	180 days	Quality Control & Procurement Division, Narwal, Jammu

#### Key points of the tender

- Bidding documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from **22-02-2025 (11.00 AM)** to **04-03-2025(12.00 PM)**.
- The Bid shall be deposited on the web site <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from **22-02-2025 (11.00 AM)** to **04-03-2025(12.00 PM)**.
- The cover "A" containing tender fee and EMD & prequalification/ technical; bids shall be opened online on **04-03-2025 (04.00 PM)** in the **Office of the Executive Engineer Quality Control & Procurement Division, Narwal, Jammu**. In case of holiday or if the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of Cover 'A' the same shall be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- The cover B containing the financial bids in the prescribed BOQ shall be opened after the process of evaluation of the opened technical bids.
- The complete bidding process will be **ONLINE**

No:QCPD/J/

Dated:21-02-2025

Executive Engineer  
QC&P Division  
Jammu

DIP/J-10526/24  
Date: 24-2-25

## Rekha Mahajan congratulates Rekha Gupta on being elected Delhi CM

J NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI 24 FEB

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Former District President Jammu South Rekha Mahajan today extended heartfelt congratulations to Rekha Gupta on being elected as new Delhi chief minister at her residence on the first day of Delhi assembly session in New Delhi.

Rekha Mahajan expressing confidence that she will work to fulfil the resolve made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make the city one of the top capitals in the world. This milestone marks a significant triumph for women's empowerment in India, and Rekha Mahajan's message resonates with the sentiment.

Rekha Gupta, first-time MLA from Shalimar Bagh, was chosen as the Leader of the House in the Delhi Assembly at the BJP legislature party meeting here, setting stage for her to become the fourth woman chief minister of Delhi. She



said PM Modi has made this time a golden period for women empowerment. Rekha emphasized that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured Delhiites that the new government will prioritize development, transparency, and effective governance. The BJP's commitment to women's empowerment and leadership is evident in Rekha Gupta's election, As Rekha Gupta begins her tenure as Delhi's Chief Minister, the nation looks forward to witnessing her vision and leadership in action. Her appointment is a beacon of hope for women's empowerment and inclusive governance in India Rekha Mahajan, added.

## Anurag Thakur addresses 'Budget Pe Charcha' organized by Mookerjee Samriti Nyas

J NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 24

Anurag Singh Thakur, MP, Chairman Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal, Mines & Steel & Former Cabinet Minister, GOI, today, addressed a 'Budget Pe Charcha' organized by Mookerjee Samriti Nyas at Jammu Club, Jammu.

Sat Sharma CA, President, J&K BJP and Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition, J&K Assembly along with Spokespersons, Dr. Abhijeet Singh Jasrotia and Gaurav Gupta also accompanied Anurag Singh Thakur on the stage.

The address was followed by discussions on the queries by the attendees, which included representatives of various social and business organizations as well as prominent persons from society.

Anurag Singh Thakur, as the key speaker, presented the detailed insight on the Budget 2025. He said that the former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi increased the tax and the Cess up to 97% of income which gave rise to the culture of hiding money from the government. Due to the ill governance by the Congress party, hoarding black money in India began and now the Modi government is taking effective steps to bring the money into circulation by reducing tax.

Mentioning the new tax-free income slab upto 12 lakhs, he explained the benefits to the major



chunk of Indian Tax-payer population, stressing that it will boost the market by increasing the spending capacity of the people and hence boosting all sectors from service to manufacture. He explained the benefits given in the Direct as well as Indirect Taxes to the people given by the Modi government. He also mentioned the increase in return update time limit.

Thakur enumerated the achievements and the projects of Modi government like increase in the number of Airports, AIIMS, IIITs, IIMs, Universities, Medical Colleges, PG seats, electrification of railway lines, length of National Highways, rural roads, profit of Banks, tax benefit up to twelve lakh income and many more.

Thakur said that J&K has received 2 Vande Bharat trains and mentioned that the erstwhile state got Industrial revolution in 2002 under Atal ji's government.

Enumerating the steps to strengthen the MSMEs

he said that limits are improved for funding in the enterprises. He said that steps to increase the export are being taken, along with their capacity. He mentioned that start-ups have gained the number three spot in the world. He said that industries like leather are being boosted along with the focus on value addition.

Mentioning that the prices of Cancer medicines are reduced by zero tax and Day Care Centers for Cancer patients, he took the vibe on Rahul Gandhi Congress party for hitting consecutive zeroes.

He said that focus is to increase the turn-over of the units and the mission to achieve Viksit Bharat by 2047. He said that the Modi government has raised Indian economy from tenth spot to fifth spot and we are heading to achieve third spot in the world.

He mentioned the schemes like Medical cover to benefit more than one crore Gig workers.

Mentioning the increase

in KCC loans from 3 to 5 lakhs, he said that the government is establishing Agri-Districts.

50 tourism sites to be developed on a fast-track basis, he said and mentioned Mudra yojana for Home Stays.

Thakur said that the Union government is focusing on clean tech by increasing the use of solar, wind, hydro energies, and Bio, while increasing the refining the nuclear energy and clean gases from the Coal reserves.

He said that the world is looking towards us and the international companies are looking for Indian Companies to collaborate.

He mentioned the Poshan 2.0 scheme for women.

Atal tinkering labs are being opened to impart practical knowledge to the students and mentioned the 1.5 lakh crores to state governments for this.

He laid stress on the Swanidhi yojana to help the business of Rehri-Fari owners.

He said that the tourism, cottage industry and others are being boosted in J&K.

Thakur said that India is prepared for the 6G technology and said that India accounts for the highest digital transactions in the world.

He mentioned the laying of optical fibres for the government schools to impart smart education.

Sat Sharma, while welcoming Anurag Thakur, said that the Union Budget 2025 has given new records in the public welfare. He said that around one thousand years back India's contribution to the world GDP was around 28% which was reduced to 3% GDP in 1947 due to the consistent foreign invasions.

He stressed that under the progressive Union government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has achieved 5th spot in the world. This budget reflects Modi ji's vision to achieve Viksit Bharat till 2047, he said.

Dr. Abhijeet Singh Jasrotia conducted the programme proceedings, while Gaurav Gupta presented the note of thanks.

Meanwhile, Thakur also addressed a Press Conference at BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Sat Sharma CA, President, J&K BJP, Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition, J&K Assembly, and Adv. Sunil Sethi, Chief Spokesperson, were also present in the Press Conference.

## Border Area Youth Exchange Program: Students from five states visit AGS Wayne, Kupwara

J NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, FEB 24

In a significant step towards fostering national integration and cultural exchange, 25 students from five different states under Border Area Youth Exchange Programme organized by Nehru Yuva Kalyan Sansthan, Kupwara visited Army Goodwill School Wayne, Kupwara run by Indian Army's 160 Inf Bn (TA) (H&H) JAK RIF under the aegis of Vajr Division.

The initiative aimed to provide students with first hand exposure to the region's rich heritage, military history, and the unwavering spirit of its people.

The students had earlier toured the border districts of Teethwal and Karnah, where they learned about the heroic sacrifices of



the Armed Forces in various wars. The visit helped them to understand the deep-rooted traditions and historical significance of Kupwara, a region known for its resilience and unity.

At the AGS Wayne, the students were introduced to the Indian Army's initiatives in improving educational infrastructure and empowering the youth of border areas. They interacted with the students from Kupwara who gave them their perspectives about the region. They witnessed the Army's dedica-

tion to fostering education, skill development, and community welfare in the region. The students were felicitated by Commanding Officer, 160 Infantry Battalion TA who was also the Chief Guest for the event.

The students expressed their gratitude for this enriching experience. They emphasized how the visit broadened their understanding of life in the valley and instilled a deep sense of patriotism and admiration for the resilience of the local communities.

## Airtel and Apple enter into a strategic partnership to exclusively offer Apple TV+ and Apple Music to its Wi-Fi and Postpaid customers

J NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 24

Bharti Airtel and Apple have entered into a strategic partnership to bring the highly acclaimed Apple TV+ streaming services and Apple Music to Airtel customers. All Home Wi-Fi customers on plans starting Rs. 999 will get access to the captivating content

of Apple TV+ with the option to stream content on multiple devices while on the move. Additionally, postpaid customers on plans starting Rs. 999 will get access to Apple TV+ and can enjoy 6 months of free Apple Music that features a vast catalog of both Indian and global music.

This strategic partnership with Apple will allow

Airtel customers to get exclusive access to premium, compelling drama and comedy series, feature films, groundbreaking documentaries, and kids and family entertainment. Additionally, Apple Music's unmatched library across multiple languages such as English, Hindi, and more, ensures an unparalleled audio experience.

Siddharth Sharma - Chief Marketing Officer and CEO - Connected Homes, Bharti Airtel said, "We are excited to announce a transformative partnership with Apple by bringing their highly acclaimed video and music content exclusively to our customers. This collaboration offers an extraordinary opportunity to millions of our Home Wi-Fi and Post-

paid customers, giving them access to Apple's premium content catalog. We are confident that this partnership will redefine the content consumption landscape, setting a new standard for entertainment experiences amongst customers. Together, we aim to deliver a premium entertainment ecosystem for our valued customers."

## An Interactive Session conducted with Panch/Sarpanch, Influential Persons from Dargaloon, Poonch



J NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, 24 FEB 2025

In a significant outreach initiative, the Indian Army conducted an interactive session with Panch/ Sarpanch and influential persons from Area of Responsibility of Company Operating Base Dhargaloon to enhance security and safety measures in rural areas by their cooperation and support. Local Leaders from Village Malikpur, Rehllan, Navni, Theri and Panakha participated in meeting. The discussion focused over developing better coordination between locals and the Indian Army, joint efforts to strengthen the rural security, healthcare and education. Local Leaders were encouraged to create awareness on National

Defense and Importance of Security at the grassroots level.

They were also encouraged to build Local Intelligence Network to help the army in maintaining Security, Peace and Harmony in the area. Local Leaders also discussed empowerment of rural skill and lifestyle. They also appreciated various projects like Medical Camp, Educational Lectures, Resource Sharing and Physical Training of Youth and requested for continuation of such efforts. This meeting helped in bridging the gap between Indian Army and the Locals. The overall goal was to ensure that both the Army and Village Leadership work in Harmony to promote peace, development and well-being in rural areas.

## Dr Farooq Abdullah, Surinder Ch pay floral tributes to Sheikh Nazir Ahmad Advocate on his death anniversary

J NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 24

Rich tributes were paid to former National Conference General Secretary Sheikh Nazir Ahmed Advocate on his 10th death anniversary. Dr. Farooq Abdullah, President of JKNC and former Chief Minister and Surinder Choudhary, Deputy Chief Minister were present on the occasion.

Leading the party leaders and prominent workers in paying homage to the late leader at a function held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan this morning, Dr. Farooq Abdullah said that Sheikh Nazir Adv had always inspired the National Conference cadre with his simplicity, honesty, selfless service, organizational capabilities, and political acumen. He added that Sheikh Nazir Adv stood by his cherished principles till the last without opting for any position of power. Dr. Abdullah further said that Sheikh Nazir

Adv was one of the rare and front-ranking leaders across the country who lived a very simple life and served the people of Jammu and Kashmir most.

In his homage, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary said that Sheikh Nazir was a pillar of the organization who remained connected with the cadre at the grassroots level throughout his life.

Dwelling upon various facets of his illustrious political odyssey, Surinder Choudhary said, "Nazir Sahib has left an indelible mark of selfless service which will continue to guide and inspire the younger generations and influence their political journey." He added that Nazir Sahib shaped the destiny of the National Conference as a strong mass movement that strived for the dignity and honor of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of caste, creed, or religion.

Recalling the qualities



of head and heart of the former General Secretary, Surinder Choudhary said, "The best tribute to Nazir Sahib would be to strive for steering the state towards peace and progress besides empowering the people at the grassroots level."

Earlier in the morning, special prayers and Quran Khani were organized for eternal peace of the departed soul by G.H.

Malik, Senior Leader, at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu. Dr. Farooq Abdullah also participated in the prayers.

Those who were present included Ajay Kumar Sadhotra former minister and Additional General Secretary Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province, Ajaz Jan Honble MLA Poonch, Altaf Kaloo Honble MLA, Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial

Secretary, Babu Rampaul former minister and Central Zone President, Abdul Gani Malik former minister and Zonal President Udhampur Reasi Zone, Qazi Jalal Ud Din former MLA, Pyare Lal Honble MLA Inderwal, Ch. Khurshed MLA Gulabgarh, Bimla Luthra former MLA, Deepinder Kour former MLC, Pardeep Bali, Ayub Malik, Arif Mir Provincial Secretaries Jammu, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Jugal Mahajan Treasurer, Dr. Shamshad Shan DDC Chairperson Ramban, Shamim Begum DDC Dansal, Rajni Devi Working President Women Wing Jammu, Joginder Singh DDC Nagrota, Suriya Begum DDC Bari Brahmana, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Th. Yash Vardhan Singh Additional Spokesperson Jammu, Harshvardhan President NCSU, Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban, Raghbir Singh

Manhas District President Jammu Rural A, Naresh Bittu District President Jammu Rural B, Sudagar Gupta District President Samba, Abid Magrey District President Ramban, Abdal Qayoom Bagwan District President Doda Rural (Bhaderwah), Mohinder Kumar Rana Joint Secretary Central Zone, Waris Gill President Christian Cell, S. Tejinder Singh, Pinky Khalsa District President Jammu Urban Women Wing, Nitish Gowsami, Mudit Sethi, Majid Iqbal Naik, Muzmil Malik, Gandhi Nagar, Mohinder Singh Block President Khour, Devi S. Gurnam Singh Block President West, Ashwani Charak Block President Jammu East S, Sandeep Wazir Block President Dyal Jogi Block Secretary Khour, Joginder Kour District Vice President Jammu Urban Women Wing, Aruna Thakur District President Women Wing Ramban, Sunil Sharma and others.

## KVK Anantnag Hosts Live Webcasting of PM-KISAN 19th Installment Launch

JNEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG, FEBRUARY 24

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Anantnag, Doru, today organized the live webcasting of the launch of the 19th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Yojana, which was virtually inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

A large number of farmers participated enthusiastically in the event, highlighting the significance of the scheme in supporting the agricultural community. Officers and officials from allied sectors, along with representatives from various departments, were also present on the occasion.

MLA Ghulam Ahmad Mir graced the event



as the chief guest and emphasized the government's commitment to empowering farmers

through timely financial assistance under the PM-KISAN scheme. He lauded the efforts of

KVK Anantnag in promoting farmer welfare and ensuring the effective implementation of government schemes at the grassroots level.

Speaking on the occasion, KVK Head Dr. Ishtiyah Ahmad Khan reiterated that the Kendra is always committed to the welfare of farmers.

He emphasized the role of KVK in providing scientific and technical support to the farming community, ensuring sustainable agricultural practices, and enhancing productivity.

The program concluded with an interactive session where farmers shared their experiences and insights on the benefits of the scheme, further reinforcing its positive impact on the agricultural sector.

## Doda admin hosts interaction program on Disaster Management Preparedness

JNEWS SERVICE  
DODA, FEBRUARY 24

An interaction and question-answer session on "Advance Preparedness of Natural, Contemporary, and Anthropogenic Disasters" was held today here in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex Doda. The program aimed to update officials and stakeholders about disaster management and the response mechanism.

The event was graced by the presence of Prof. (Dr.) Ravi Jyee, Vice President and Pro-Vice Chancellor of International University-School of Medicine (IUSOM) and Chairman of Afro-Eurasian Chamber of Commerce, Education, Development, and Employment (ACCEDE), a registered public charity and an authority on disaster



management.

During the session, Dr. Ravi Jyee delivered a detailed presentation on disaster management, emphasizing the importance of maximum participation and public awareness. He urged all stakeholders to proactively work toward strategic planning, infrastructure development, and resource mobilization to ensure an effective disaster response mechanism. He also stressed the launch of mass awareness campaigns to educate the public about disaster preparedness and mitigation measures.

Dr. Ravi Jyee interacted with key officials, discuss-

ing strategic planning and preparedness for natural calamities.

Prominent officials who attended the program included ACR Doda Sunil Bhutyal, Chief Medical Officer Doda, Chief Education Officer Doda, Assistant Director FCS & CA, Assistant Director Fire & Emergency Services, and other stakeholders. The interactive session provided an opportunity to discuss emergency response mechanisms, disaster risk reduction strategies, early warning systems, and inter-departmental coordination for effective disaster preparedness.

Speaking on the occasion, ACR Doda Sunil

Bhutyal expressed gratitude to Dr. Ravi Jyee for his insightful session and emphasized the critical role of inter-departmental collaboration in disaster management. He highlighted the district administration's commitment to strengthening disaster preparedness through training programs, infrastructure development, and proactive planning. He also reassured that all necessary measures will be taken to enhance response capabilities and safeguard the lives and property of the people of Doda.

The event witnessed active participation, with officials engaging in a comprehensive dialogue to enhance community preparedness and ensure swift response measures in case of unforeseen disasters.

## Doda civil society joins hands against Drug Abuse amid District-Wide Awareness Campaign

JNEWS SERVICE  
DODA, FEBRUARY 24

In a decisive move, the District Administration Doda has launched a comprehensive awareness campaign to educate people about the urgency of combating the menace drug abuse.

The initiative is spearheaded by the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Harvinder Singh.

This multi-departmental endeavor being led by the Social Welfare and the School Education Departments features weekly Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) awareness camps.

The camps are held every Monday across all 237 Panchayats of the district, engaging the public through informative discussions led by designated teachers and officials.



Today, numerous IEC camps were successfully conducted, initiating a meaningful dialogue among students, local residents, and officials about the harmful effects of drug

abuse. Participants were sensitized about the social, psychological and health-related consequences of substance abuse, reinforcing the importance of com-

munity vigilance and proactive measures.

The campaign aims to create a well-informed society that actively works towards drug prevention and rehabilitation. With robust support from local leaders, educators, and the community, the initiative is gaining momentum and is expected to expand further in the coming weeks.

The District Administration Doda urges all stakeholders, including parents, teachers, and youth, to join hands in this collective fight against drug abuse, ensuring a healthier and safer future for Doda District.

## DC Jammu reviews Swachh Survekshan activities

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 24

Deputy Commissioner Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya, convened a meeting to review Swachh Survekshan activities, the world's largest urban cleanliness survey. The meeting focused on strengthening sanitation measures in the district through citizen participation and inter-agency coordination.

Joint Commissioner (Health & Sanitation), Jammu Municipal Corporation, Abdul Star, briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the new framework of Swachh Survekshan.

The survey has been redesigned with simplified assessment parameters categorised into ten key focus areas- visible cleanliness, segregation, collection & transporta-



tion of waste, solid waste management, access to sanitation, used water management, mechanization of de-sludging services, advocacy for Swachhata, strengthening of ecosystem & institutional parameters, overall welfare of sanitation workers and citizen feedback and grievance redressal.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of maintaining visible cleanliness across all areas. Surprise inspections were also

recommended to ensure adherence to cleanliness protocols.

Highlighting the need for sustainable sanitation practices, the DC called for enhanced coordination among municipal bodies, departments and other stakeholders. He assured full administrative support to sanitation initiatives and emphasised the importance of community participation in maintaining cleanliness and hygiene. Swachh Survekshan

aims to evaluate and rank cities based on their sanitation efforts, encouraging urban local bodies to adopt improved waste management practices.

The meeting was attended by Chief Education Officer JK Padha, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh, Executive Engineers from Irrigation & Flood Control Department besides Sub Divisional Magistrates, Executive Officers of various municipalities and others concerned.

## MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami Reviews Development Scenario of Kulgam Constituency

JNEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 24

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Kulgam, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the overall development scenario of the constituency.

The meeting was attended by District Development Council (DDC) members, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Joint Director Planning (JDP), Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP), Executive Engineers, Chief Education Officer (CEO), Chief Medical Officer (CMO), and other senior officers.

During the meeting, MLA conducted an in-depth review of various departments including Health, Rural Development Department (RDD), Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Jal Shakti, and others.

Concerned Head of Departments briefed the meeting regarding progress, achievements, and ongoing initiatives in the constituency with respect to their development.



While reviewing the functioning of District Hospital Kulgam, MLA stressed the need for improving healthcare services and ensuring better medical facilities for residents.

The progress of key government schemes, including MGNREGA, PMAY-G, RDD schemes, PMAY-U, and others, was also reviewed.

He emphasized the proper implementation of MGNREGA to enhance

employment generation and directed officials to prioritize community interests in project execution.

On the occasion, Additional Commissioner Development (ACD) provided a detailed status report on the identification and verification of beneficiaries under the PMAY-G scheme.

While reviewing the power supply scenario, MLA instructed concerned departments to ensure a

scheduled and uninterrupted power supply. Meanwhile, officials also briefed the meeting on the need for power infrastructure augmentation, including the enhancement of the grid station to meet increasing regional demands.

The MLA further stressed for proper implementation of all beneficiary-oriented schemes to ensure people are benefited through the government initiatives.

## KISAN Samman Nidhi Yojana

## KVK Bhandarwah hosts live webcasting as PM releases 19th installment

JNEWS SERVICE  
BHADERWAH, FEBRUARY 24

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bhandarwah today organized the live webcasting of the release of the 19th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Yojana by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The program was attended by around 70 farmers from different parts of the region.

The event was presided over by District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Dhananter Singh Kotwal as the chief guest in presence of Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) Bhandarwah Daleep Singh Parihar. Also present on the occasion were Vice Chairperson DDC Sangeeta Rani, Chief Agriculture Officer Anil Kumar Gupta, and officials from the Agriculture Department and Krishi Vigyan Kendra.

Speaking on the occasion, DDC Chairman Dhananter Singh Kotwal highlighted the significance of the PM-KISAN scheme in ensuring financial security to farmers. He stated,



"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government is committed to strengthen the agricultural sector. This scheme provides direct financial support to small and marginal farmers, helping them meet their agricultural needs and improve productivity," he said and urged farmers to avail benefits

of government schemes and adopt modern farming techniques promoted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra.

MLA Bhandarwah Daleep Singh Parihar also addressed the gathering, appreciating the efforts of the Agriculture Department and KVK in promoting advanced farming practices. He said, "Agriculture remains the back-

bone of our economy, and it is our responsibility to empower farmers with the latest technology, financial support, and knowledge. The government is working tirelessly to ensure that schemes like PM-KISAN reach every eligible farmer." He encouraged farmers to diversify their crops and take advantage of subsidies and training programs offered by the government.

During the event, the guests inspected the stalls set up by the Agriculture Department and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, showcasing innovative farming techniques, organic farming methods, and government initiatives to boost agricultural growth. Farmers were also guided on the benefits of soil health testing, high-yield seeds, and sustainable agricultural practices. The event concluded with an interactive session where farmers shared their experiences and received expert guidance from agricultural officers.