

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Severe stomach pain
- Persistent vomiting
- A skin rash
- Difficulty breathing
- Redness on the face, neck, or chest
- Redness on the eyes

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

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Local recruitment in terror outfits zero, no commander alive in Kashmir: LG Sinha

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 25 (KNO)

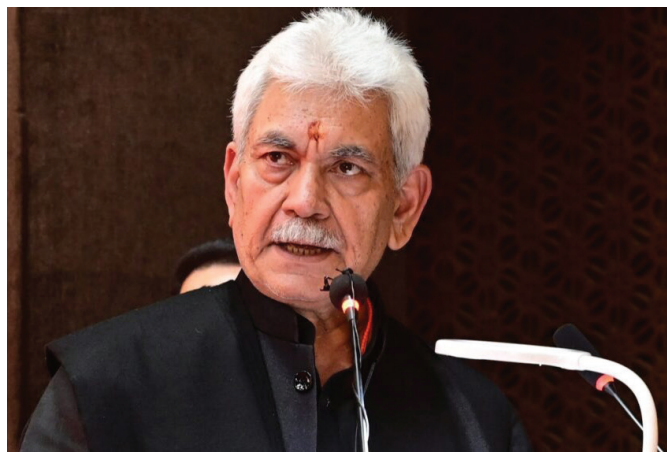
Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that local recruitment in terrorist groups has dropped to zero and no commander of any outfit is alive in Kashmir.

In an interview to National Channel, LG Sinha according to the news agency said, "Security forces are following a clear guiding principle: Don't touch innocents, don't spare the culprits."

Referring to terrorists shifting their focus to Jammu region, LG Sinha said, "Jammu was never a challenge, but the focus had shifted to Kashmir. Our neighboring country played a role in infiltrating people and disturbing peace in Jammu region, but we are prepared to establish peace," he asserted, adding that the "people of Jammu are nationalists and they will never tolerate terrorism."

On action against terrorist supporters, LG Sinha said, "We have to wipe out the terror ecosystem." He revealed that 76 government employees had been dismissed for supporting terrorism.

He said that these measures played a pivotal role in establishing peace in the region.



LG Sinha praised the improved coordination among security forces, which had contributed to successfully tackling terrorism.

NO SHUTDOWN CALENDAR, ONLY BUSINESS CALENDAR

Regarding the revival of Kashmir's cultural and tourism sector, Sinha noted that Bollywood film shootings had resumed, and cinema halls had reopened in the region after 32 years. Following the successful conduct of the G20 summit, the number of foreign tourists visiting Kashmir had increased significantly. International cricket, including the Legends League, had been introduced, and there was no longer a "shutdown calendar"–

only a "business calendar." "The new generation has forgotten stone-pelting, and for the first time in 35 years, Muharram processions were allowed. People were fed up with the violence," he observed.

WE ARE ON SAME PAGE VIS-À-VIS DEVELOPMENT

Dispelling speculation of any discord between the Chief Minister and the Lieutenant Governor, he clarified, "We are on the same page when it comes to the development of J&K."

He also assured the people that the Union Home Minister had affirmed on the floor of the house, and even the

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

J&K's accession with India was to be formalized through plebiscite: CM Omar

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 25 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that accession of Jammu and Kashmir with India was to be formalized through a "plebiscite."

In an interview to News 18, Omar according to the news agency said, "If Article 370 was considered temporary and transitional, then Jammu and Kashmir's accession with India was also subject to similar scrutiny."

He criticized the unilateral abrogation of Article 370, stating, "It was scrapped without taking the people of Jammu and Kashmir on board. We had



no role to play in it."

He said that the provision was not time-bound, adding, "Transitional because the status of J&K had not been finalized. Why was it tempo-

rary and transitional? What was the promise made to the people?"

He further elaborated that the accession of

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Chief Minister extends Herath (Mahashivratri) greetings to people of J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today extended his warmest greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Herath (Mahashivratri). In his message, the Chief Minister described the

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

CM Omar holds pre-budget meetings with key depts ahead of March 7 Budget presentation

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25

Setting the stage for the upcoming budget presentation on March 7, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a series of pre-budget meetings with several key government departments at the Civil Secretariat here to finalize proposals for

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4



3-member panel to draft Environment Rejuvenation Plan for Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 25 (KNO)

The Jammu & Kashmir administration has appointed a three-member committee to draft an Environment Rejuvenation Plan for Poonch district.

This initiative, as per the news agency, comes in response to a directive from the National Green Tribunal (NGT) following the case against M/s Dewan Stone Crusher, which was found guilty of violating critical environmental regulations.

The Joint Committee, comprising of District Magistrate of Poonch, members of the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC), and representatives from the Central Pollution

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Speaker LA engages with Media in pre-budget session talks

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25

Speaker of Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today chaired a crucial meeting with the media fraternity to facilitate smooth and efficient coverage of the maiden Budget Session of Omar led government here.

The meeting was attended by Director Information, Nitish Rajora; Secretary, JKLA, Manoj Kumar Pandit; SSP Traffic, Faisal Qureshi; SSP Security Civil Secretariat, Sajjad K. Bhat; Director IT, Raman Gupta; Deputy Director Information (PR), Deepak Dubey,



along with Bureau Chiefs, senior journalists, correspondents and editors from various media houses including All India Radio and Doordarshan.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on various issues concerning

media professionals, focusing on ensuring hassle-free entry to the Legislative Assembly premises and smooth regulation of traffic on roads leading to the Assembly Secretariat and MLA's Hostel, Jammu.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

BSF Strengthens Border Security in Punjab and Jammu to Counter Infiltration, Drone Threat

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 25 (CNS)

The Border Security Force (BSF) has intensified security measures along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab and Jammu, deploying additional personnel and setting up tactical headquarters to curb infiltration and drone-based smuggling, official sources said on Monday.

According to sources, the BSF's Western Command, headquartered in Chandigarh, has ordered the establishment

of nine forward-based "tactical headquarters" in these regions. These hubs, equipped with advanced intelligence and operational resources, will be monitored by a newly established control room.

A tactical headquarters, positioned near border posts and ahead of battalion bases, will be manned by senior commanders from various operational verticals, including the battalion's commanding officer (CO), ensuring swift response to security threats.

To strengthen surveillance,

the BSF has also directed the redeployment of maximum available personnel from battalion headquarters to border posts. These reinforcements are aimed at countering persistent threats of cross-border infiltration and drone incursions from Pakistan, sources added.

A senior official in Punjab confirmed that these measures were implemented last week due to the increasing vulnerability of border areas. However, concerns have

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

4-day wet spell begins in J&K, snow in upper reaches, rains lash plains

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 25 (KNO)

The four-day wet spell started in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday with the higher reaches experiencing fresh snowfall while the rains lashed plains, bringing down the mercury across the valley.

According to details obtained by the news agency, various places including the famous ski resort Gulmarg, Sonamarg and Dodhpathri received fresh snowfall.

Six inches of snowfall was recorded at Gulmarg and Sonamarg, 5 inches at Dodhpathri and 4 inches in Daksum Sinthan top and Peer ki Gali, an independent weather forecaster, Aadil Maqbool said.

The plains of Kashmir, including Srinagar - the summer capital of Jammu and



Kashmir - were lashed by the intermittent rains from the afternoon, which brought the mercury down.

The local Meteorological department (MeT) has issued a yellow alert for February 26 across Jammu and Kashmir. An orange alert has been issued for February 27 for both J&K. On February 28, an orange alert has been issued

for Jammu and yellow alert for Kashmir region.

Isolated heavy rain and snow are expected during the period while surface traffic may also be witnessed, reads the advisory issued by the MeT.

Generally cloudy weather is expected for the next three days as there is a possibility of light to moderate rain and

snow at most places till February 28 late night with isolated heavy rain and snow over both Kashmir and Jammu divisions during the above period, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said.

He said that on March 1 and 2, light rain and snow are expected in scattered to fairly widespread places, adding that an active Western Disturbance is affecting Jammu and Kashmir from tomorrow.

"There are expectations that the next four days will witness the major snowfall of this season. The major intensity is expected between February 27 and 28," he said.

Meanwhile, the office of the Chairman District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has issued a weather advisory stating that

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Will prioritize progress, tourism, youth employment in Assembly Session: BJP

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 25 (KNO)

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday said that the party will raise the issues related to development, tourism, unemployment and others during the upcoming Budget Session of Jammu and Kashmir, slated to be held from March 3.

A senior BJP leader and Jammu west lawmaker, Arvind gupta while speaking to the news agency, said that the party will focus on the development of Jammu and Kashmir, tackling youth unemployment and also improving tourism across the region.

The leader said, "We will raise the issue of unemployment among the youth of J&K

and work towards creating more job opportunities for them."

The BJP will also push for the development of border tourism, particularly in areas previously impacted by cross-border shelling. "We are committed to promote border tourism in both Jammu and Kashmir and we want these areas to benefit from tourism for the overall development of the region," Gupta added.

Regarding the liquor ban, he stated that the party has no objections to the proposal. However, he criticized the PDP, stating that it is the same party that opposed the ban when it was in power but

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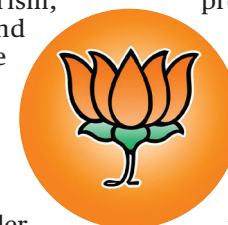
HC orders toll reduction at 2 NH plazas until work finishes

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 25 (KNO)

In a significant development for commuters using the National Highway-44 (NH-44) from Pathankot to Udhampur, the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court on Tuesday ordered a reduction in toll fees at two plazas along the highway.

According to the judgment, a copy of which lies with the news agency, the court ruled that only 20 percent of the toll fee should be collected until the completion of the construction work under

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4



Watershed Yatra commences in Rajouri to promote conservation activities

JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 25

In a significant step towards promoting water conservation and sustainable resource management, District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Advocate Choudhary Naseem Liaqat along with Member Legislative Assembly Iftakhar Ahmed and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abhishek Sharma today launched the Watershed Yatra in the district.

The Watershed Yatra is a nationwide outreach initiative aimed at fostering Janbhagidari (people's participation) and raising awareness about watershed development activities. The event commenced with the singing of the National Anthem, followed by a water conservation pledge taken by all participants, including students, civil society members and community

leaders.

As part of the initiative, a mega event was organized at Block Doongi, presided over by DDC Chairman Advocate Choudhary Naseem Liaqat. Addressing the gathering, resource persons from the Rural Development Department highlighted the critical role of community participation in the success of watershed programs. They emphasized that such initiatives are pivotal in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change, improving agricultural resilience, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of water resources.

The DDC Chairman highlighted the significance of watershed management in enhancing rural livelihoods and ensuring long-term water sustainability. He urged communities to adopt sustainable practices such as rainwater harvesting and



efficient irrigation systems to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Speaking on the occasion,

MLA Rajouri Iftakhar Ahmed underscored the urgent need to conserve water for future genera-

tions. Expressing concern over climate change, he stated that the government is taking proactive measures and urged the public to support these efforts by adopting water conservation practices.

The DC emphasized the importance of integrating watershed development activities with broader developmental schemes to maximize impact. He stated, "Convergence of IWMP with schemes like HADP and MGNREGA is crucial to ensure efficient use of resources and the overall development of rural areas. The administration is committed to delivering long-term benefits to the people through such integrated approaches."

ADDC Dr Raj Kumar Thapa elaborated on the objectives of the Integrated Watershed Management Program (IWMP), encouraging students

to act as ambassadors of water conservation in society.

PO IWMP Sheraz Chohan informed that the Watershed Yatra will traverse numerous locations across the district, creating platforms for interaction between farmers, experts, and local authorities to discuss challenges and solutions related to water management and sustainable farming. He reiterated that the campaign is designed to educate and engage communities on the significance of watershed management in sustainable agriculture, water conservation, and ecosystem preservation.

Certificates of appreciation were awarded to students who delivered inspiring speeches on water conservation and to community members demonstrating exceptional dedication to water management efforts.

DC Rajouri reviews arrangements for Mahashivratri

JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 25

District Development Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the Mahashivratri festival scheduled to be held at the revered holy Shiv Khori Shrine in Ransoo.

The DC took a thorough review of the arrangements to facilitate the devotees arriving at Ransoo on the auspicious occasion.

The District Administration has made special transportation arrangements to assist pilgrims traveling from Shiv Khori to Kalakote and adjoining areas. The initiative aims to provide seamless travel facility to devotees returning after offering prayers at the holy shrine. To enhance awareness and guidance, the Additional Director Tourism was directed to install flex hoardings at key

locations, ensuring better information dissemination regarding routes, facilities and important instructions for visitors.

Additionally, the Additional Deputy Commissioners (ADCs) have been assigned the task of coordinating and facilitating the transit arrangements to ensure hassle-free movement of pilgrims.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tourism has also been instructed to make necessary provisions for accommodating tourists who wish to explore Rajouri after participating in the Mahashivratri celebrations. Special assistance will be provided to visitors to promote tourism in the region. The District Administration is committed to ensuring a well-organized and comfortable pilgrimage experience for devotees and will continue to monitor the arrangements throughout the event.

HIV awareness program held at GDC Neeli Nallah

JNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 25

Red Ribbon Club and IQAC Government Degree College Neeli Nallah, in collaboration with J&K Aids Control Society organized an HIV/AIDS awareness programme today featuring Poster making and Debate Competitions.

The event was conducted under the guidance of the Principal of the College Prof. (Dr.) Seema Arora. She praised the students for their active participation and highlighted the importance of education and awareness to counter misinformation.

In poster making competition Nilakshi Devi, Sabia Akhter and Banshika Devi secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respectively. A debate competition was



also organized in which Himanshi Sharma, Shreya Sharma and Nilakshi secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd position respectively. Certificates were also given away to the students for their active participation. In the end, the Principal lauded the efforts of the participants and congratulated the convener of the events.

The activities were convened and organized by Dr. Sunil Tanooh, HOD Sociology, Convener of Red Ribbon Club. The members of the organizing committee Dr. Akhter Hussain, Dr. Mohammad Mubariq Mahire were also present.

STD conducts simultaneous search and seizure inspection at various locations

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25

As part of its ongoing drive to check the practice of conversion of B2C invoices into B2B and passing on fake ITC to dealers especially those registered as work contractors, Jammu and Kashmir, State Taxes Department (STD) conducted simultaneous search and seizure inspections at various locations across Jammu division here today.

The Department has urged the dealers to follow fair-trade practices and avoid indulging in tax evasion activities or fraudulent practices involving fake ITC as it is continuously monitoring such actions through AI based data analytics tools and any dealer indulging in such activities shall be dealt with seriously under GST law.



Administration Jammu, Namrita Dogra.

Over the past one week, the enforcement teams 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 UT.

The drive also targets creating awareness about adhering to the practice of issuing invoices for every sale and purchase. Earlier the Department had conducted awareness drive for customers to seek bills for their purchase as it was their right.

The department made an appeal to all the 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.

The Department has impressed upon the taxpayers that any fraudulent activity is generating red

flag inputs in various AI tools including Business Intelligence and Fraud Analytics (BIFA), E-way Bills Portal and other portals of enforcement wings and therefore need to be avoided.

The entire drive was carried out under the guidance of Commissioner State Taxes J&K, P K Bhat and under the supervision of Additional Commissioner Enforcement and

Sakeena Itoo extends Herath (Mahashivratri) greetings to people of J&K

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo has extended her warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri (Herath).

In her message, the Minister described the festival as a sacred occasion to rededicate oneself to live a virtuous life. She added that Herath holds a special place in the history, culture and pluralistic ethos of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sakeena said that the warmth with which Herath is celebrated across J&K, defines the communal harmony Jammu and Kashmir is known for.

Principal Secretary APD reviews wayside amenities along highways across J&K



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25

Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar, chaired a high level meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the status of wayside amenities and toilet facilities along major highways and roads across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was aimed to address the growing needs of both local commuters and the increasing number of tourists visiting the Union Territory.

Commissioner Secretary Tourism, Yasha Mudgal, Secretary PWD, Bhupinder Kumar, senior officers from NHAI, BRO, NHIDCL, R&B and the Tourism Department

attended the meeting. The meeting had detailed discussion on enhancing infrastructure to improve travel experience and ensure seamless access to essential facilities along major routes.

The Principal Secretary asked the officers to identify the locations along the roads and acquire/transfer land in consultation with the concerned Deputy Commissioners for raising requisite facilities for the local and outside visitors.

The Principal Secretary directed the officers to ensure installation of signboards marking toilet facilities and indicating distances along highways to enhance visibility and accessibility. He directed

the Beacon authorities to submit a location plan for wayside amenities within fixed timelines besides asking the NHAI to ensure that all existing amenities become functional.

The PWD and Tourism Departments were asked to conduct a gap analysis to identify location specific requirements for new wayside amenities along major highways. This will ensure an overall infrastructural development plan that meets the evolving needs of both the residents and the visitors. He also directed the concerned agencies to ensure wayside amenities and toilets facilities are incorporated in the DPRs of road construction projects.

Mahashivratri Celebrations: 2-Day Kisan Mela begins at Airwan Shrine amid festivity

JNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEBRUARY 25

The annual Mahashivratri celebrations at the historic Airwan Shrine began today on a grand note with a vibrant Kisan Mela organized by the District Administration Kathua. The event brought together farmers, artists, and devotees, creating a lively atmosphere of cultural and spiritual festivity.

The Kisan Mela opened with a special ceremony, setting the stage for two days of engaging activities. The fair showcased a wide range of locally grown farm produce, including fresh fruits, vegetables, and grains, highlighting the agricultural richness of the region. Farmers from surrounding villages participated enthusiastically and interacted with experts to learn about the latest farming techniques.

To further benefit the farming community, stalls were set up by the agriculture and allied departments, providing information on modern farming techniques, government schemes, and best agri-



cultural practices. Farmers got the opportunity to interact with experts and gain insights into modern practices in crop production, animal husbandry and horticulture.

Adding to the cultural charm of the event, artists from the Information Department presented a mesmerizing show of Shiva Tandava and Shiv Vivaha. The rhythmic act captivated the audience, reinforcing the deep spiritual and artistic traditions associated with

Mahashivratri.

MLA Kathua Dr. Bharat Bhushan, who inaugurated the event, lauded the District Administration and the Airwan Mandir Committee for putting in sincere efforts in organizing the Mela. He emphasized the importance of such events in strengthening community bonds, promoting rural entrepreneurship, and preserving cultural heritage.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rakesh Minhas highlighted that the Kisan Mela

not only added to the festive spirit of Mahashivratri but also served as a platform to educate farmers on modern agricultural techniques and allied practices. He encouraged farmers to take advantage of the opportunity and learn about new farming methods and government schemes designed to support their growth.

Dr. Minhas also announced that as part of the Mahashivratri celebrations, a grand Ganga Aarti will be held at 6 PM on Mahashivratri day at Airwan Shrine. The event will feature the lighting of 1,100 Diyas (oil lamps), showcasing a breathtaking visual spectacle. He invited the public to participate in this sacred event and experience the divine atmosphere.

The Airwan Mandir Committee, led by Tehsildar Nagri Aana Jamwal, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all attendees, participants, and organizers for their support in making the event a success. The committee reaffirmed its commitment to preserving and promot-

ing traditional cultural values while ensuring that Mahashivratri celebrations continue to be inclusive and spiritually enriching.

The Kisan Mela has set the stage for the main Mahashivratri celebrations, bringing together farmers, devotees, and cultural enthusiasts in a unique blend of spirituality and tradition. The event underscores the Airwan Mandir's deep-rooted significance as a center of devotion and cultural heritage, drawing visitors from across the region.

On this occasion, the DC extended his warm greetings and best wishes to everyone, emphasizing that Mahashivratri is not just a religious festival but also a celebration of unity, spirituality, and India's rich cultural heritage.

Earlier, Kabaddi, Volleyball and Athletic competitions were played which witnessed mammoth attendance. DDC Nagri Sandeep Majotra, ADC and other officials were also present on the occasion.

Huge influx of devotees expected at Purmandal Shiv Temple on Maha Shivratri

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 25

Deputy Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma today visited Purmandal to assess the arrangements and ensure a hassle-free experience for devotees during the Maha Shivratri festival.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of essential facilities, including traffic management, water and power supply, sanitation, and medical aid. He directed the concerned departments to ensure all necessary measures were put in place for the smooth conduct of the festival, which witnesses a significant influx of devotees at the historic temple.

Emphasizing the importance of seamless movement of pilgrims, DC Sharma instructed the traffic department to regulate vehicular flow efficiently and create necessary parking space. He also directed the PHE (Jal Shakti) and Power Development Department



(PDD) to ensure uninterrupted water and electricity supply, especially during peak hours of the celebrations.

The Health Department was asked to deploy medical teams and set up emergency aid camps to address any health concerns of visiting devotees. Additionally, the Municipal Committee was instructed to maintain cleanliness in and around the temple premises, ensuring a hygienic environment.

DC further emphasized

the importance of security arrangements and directed law enforcement agencies to strengthen vigilance, deploy sufficient personnel, and install necessary monitoring mechanisms to prevent any untoward incidents.

Interacting with local authorities and temple management, the Deputy Commissioner urged all stakeholders to work in close coordination to ensure a peaceful and spiritually enriching experience for devotees.

3-day Shivkhori Mela commences at Ransoo-Reasi

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEBRUARY 25

The annual three-day Shivkhori Mela coinciding with Maha Shivratri festival commenced today at Ransoo, Reasi amid spiritual fervor and gaiety.

The religious festival was inaugurated by the Chief Guest- Member Parliament Jammu-Samba-Reasi Jugal Kishore Sharma in presence of DDC Chairman Reasi Saraf Singh Nag; MLA Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey; MLA Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Baldev Raj Sharma, DDC Member Reeta; DDC Member Kewal Krishan, religious and community leaders and a large number of Devotees coming all the way from across the Country.

Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik extended a warm welcome to MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, other guests and devotees.

The inaugural ceremony commenced with a grand Shobha Yatra and Jhandi, which began from Tridev Hotel and proceeded to Darshan Deodi, creating an aura of devotion and festivity. The chief guest, along with other dignitaries, lit the traditional lamp, marking the formal beginning of the mela. A vibrant cultural program followed, featuring folk dances, bhajans,



and devotional songs, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the region. Director Tourism Vikas Gupta; ADDC Sukhdev Samyal; SSP Reasi Paramvir Singh; EO SSKSB Pardeep Kumar; ACR Anshumali Sharma; AD Tourism and other government functionaries were also present.

In his inaugural address, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma extended Maha Shivratri greetings to the people and lauded the District Administration Reasi and Tourism Department for making elaborate arrangements for the convenience of the visiting devotees. He praised the enthusiastic Jhanki procession and cultural programs, emphasizing the spiritual and cultural significance of the region.

The MP assured the people of holistic development in the area, pledging to address local issues at a faster pace. He stressed the importance of bringing Shivkhori under the PRASHAD scheme, which would ensure the comprehensive development of the pilgrimage site and surrounding areas. He reiterated the commitment of the union government, local administration, and all departments towards working collectively to provide devotees with the best possible experience at the holy shrine.

The Shivkhori Mela will continue for three days, attracting thousands of devotees and tourists, offering them a blend of spiritual enrichment, cultural immersion and festive celebrations.

64 cases approved under Mission Youth schemes at Poonch



JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, FEBRUARY 25

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal chaired a District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meeting today to review applications under the Mission Youth Schemes: Mumkin, Tejaswini, and the Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative (SEI). The Deputy Commissioner thoroughly assessed the scheme-wise achievement of targets. Functionaries from implementing departments presented updates on respective schemes and progress.

Fresh 70 applications—41 for Mumkin, 8 for Tejaswini, and 21 for SEI were also presented before the Committee.

After scrutinizing each proposal, approval was accorded to 37 Mumkin cases, 8 Tejaswini, and 19 SEI.

Highlighting the significance of these initiatives in empowering youth and promoting entrepreneurship in the district, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need to streamline the procedure for timely fund disbursement. He directed concerned officers to meet their targets and enhance employment opportunities for the youth.

The meeting was attended by the General Manager of DIC, Deputy Director Employment, ARTO, LDM and District Nodal Officer of JKEDI, along with other concerned officers.

MD NHM inaugurates 2 day training on National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 25

Mission Director, NHM, J&K, Nazim Zai Khan, today inaugurated a 2 day capacity building training programme for the Medical Officers and District Coordinators of National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (NVHCP) organised in collaboration with NVHCP Division, Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare at NHM office, Srinagar.

Dr. Sandhya Kabra, Deputy Commissioner, NVHCP, Division, MoH&FW, GoI, Dr. Partha Rakshit, Joint Director, NVHCP, MoHFW, GoI, Dr. Robin Marwal, Assistant Director, NVHCP, MoHFW, GoI and others imparting the training. The programme is being attended by the Medical Officers posted at GMCs, DHS, CHCs/District Nodal Coordinators of NVHCP from all the districts of Kashmir division along with the State Programme Management Unit, NVHCP, SHS and NHM, J&K.

Speaking on the occasion, the Mission Director NHM, presented a brief description about the severity of viral hepatitis, explaining how it has become a



major public health challenge which needs to be redressed at all levels. He also gave a brief description about the Seroprevalence of Hepatitis B&C in the UT of J&K and showed his concern as J&K is having a high Hepatitis-C Seroprevalence/Seropositivity i.e. 34.89% in IDUs (Induced drug users) as compared to National Average (33.41%).

The Mission Director stressed upon the medical fraternity to tackle this grave public health challenge of such huge magnitude with utmost dedication and generate mass awareness among the high risk categories like blood/organ donors/recipients, patients on haemodialysis, pregnant women, prisoners, Injection Drug Users (IDUs) etc.

He said that the training is important for building capacity of the service delivery points for

effective implementation of NVHCP to ensure standardised, uniform quality of service delivery by different cadres of staff in the health system, using standardised training modules and facilitator guides. The training / capacity building is focussing on various components of NVHCP viz; operational framework of NVHCP; integration with other programs for optimising resource; diagnosis and treatment; data management/ MIS Portal; record keeping; viral load testing through machines existing in the health system; Supply Chain Management etc.

It was informed on the occasion that similar kind of Capacity Building/Training Programme shall be organised in Jammu division in next month in collaboration with Central Division of National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme, MoH&FW, GoI.

Commissioner R&R visits migrant camps; reviews arrangements for Maha Shivratri

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25

Commissioner, Relief and Rehabilitation (M) Organisation, Dr Arvind Karwani, visited Jagti, Nagrota, Muthi and Purkhoo migrant camps to take stock of necessary arrangements being put in place for the annual Maha Shivratri Festival.

Dr Karwani inspected the stalls put by different departments for sale of flowers, vegetables, walnuts, pooja and food items at these migrant camps besides prominent locations at Jammu, having substantial population of Kashmiri Pandits.

The Commissioner asked the Floriculture Department and Department of Horticulture Planning & Marketing to ensure



adequate supply at Jagti, Muthi, Purkhoo and Nagrota and non camp areas like Durga Nagar, Roop Nagar, Janipur Colony, Anand Nagar, Bohri, Gangyal, Subash Nagar, Muthi, Udhaywala and Talab Tillo during the festival days.

Dr Karwani also inspected the Ration Depots in the migrant camps to take stock of the availability of

ration. The Department of FCS&CA assured smooth supply of all quality food items in all migrant camps and non-camp areas.

The Commissioner also asked the Chief Engineers Jal Shakti and JKPDCL to ensure uninterrupted electricity and water supply in all the migrant camps during the festival days.

Kashmir artisan wins 1st Prize in Iranian Craft Festival

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 25

In yet another recognition at prestigious global event, Mir Arshad Hussain, a noted papier mache craftsman from Bota Kadal, Lal Bazar, has been conferred with the first prize and Diploma of Honor at the 9th International Fajr Festival of Handicrafts, Sarve-Simin, at Tehran, by the Iranian Minister for Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Seyed Reza Salehi Amiri.

Mir Arshad's entry of papier mache wall plate, which presented a exemplary fusion of traditional and contemporary motifs of Kashmir, scored over 7000 other global entries to receive the first prize in the said festival, along with



cash award of Rs 65,000.

The festival showcased outstanding and valuable works crafted by master artisans and renowned designers from all over the world, which set highest standards of excellence and originality.

One of the highlights of the award remains the Honorable Mention by the Iranian Culture Minister addressed to Mir Arshad in which he attributed the award to his invaluable efforts and innovative approach in elevating handicrafts. 'Your

creations through your masterful hands stand as a testament to skill, passion and dedication to the cultural and artistic legacy of the world,' it read.

Director, Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Mussarat Islam met and congratulated Mir Arshad for this rare honour and hoped this international recognition will inspire many others to take famed Kashmir handicrafts on the next pedestal.

An IT engineer by qualification and master craftsman by choice, Mir Arshad extended full support to the Handicrafts and Handloom Department Kashmir, in its endeavour to promote unique crafts like papier mache, which have huge potential in the overseas markets.

DC Budgam reviews progress on upgradation, renovation works of Behisht-e-Zehra Park



JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, FEBRUARY 25

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam Akshay Labroo today took stock of beautification, renovation and redevelopment works being executed on the Behisht-e-Zehra park Budgam.

During the visit, the DC reviewed progress of infrastructure upgradation including walkway reconstruction using paver blocks & interlock tiles; seating platforms with tea & coffee resting blocks finished with granite; installation of decorative metal lights outside park, structural steel railings for walkway sides and other developmental works aimed at

enhancing the aesthetic and public utility of park.

On the occasion, DC directed R&B department Budgam to ensure that the work is executed as per specification, and instructed the site engineers to monitor the works properly to bring out quality results.

DC while expressing pleasure regarding the ongoing works at the park stated that the work on enhancing, renovating, and beautifying of park is progressing well.

Chief planning officer budgam Irfan Giri, Executive Engineer R&B division Budgam, Officials from the R&B Department, and other concerned departments accompanied the DC during the visit.

DC Baramulla reviews Ramzan arrangements

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 25

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a meeting to finalize arrangements for the holy month of Ramzan, ensuring all necessary facilities for the public.

He directed concerned departments to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply, particularly during Sehri and Iftar hours. He also emphasized strict market regulation to curb hoarding and overpricing of essential commodities. Reviewing sanitation measures, DC instructed municipal authorities



to maintain cleanliness around mosques and marketplaces. He further directed the concerned departments to install and repair streetlights in key areas to facilitate safe movement of people, especially during early morning and late evening hours.

Among others Addition-

al Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Dr Zahoor Ahmad Raina, Additional Superintendent of Police Baramulla, Syed Yasir Qadri, Additional Superintendent of Police Sopore, Mir Murtaza, SDMs of Uri, Gulmarg, Pattan besides other concerned officers were attended the meeting.

District administration Jammu issues weather advisory

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25

The District Administration Jammu has issued a weather advisory in view of the Western Disturbance forecast issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (Integrated Control Room for Emergency response) predicting heavy rainfall/snowfall in District Jammu from 25th February 2025 to 28th February 2025.

The district administration has advised the public to avoid unnecessary travel during adverse weather conditions to

ensure safety and minimize disruptions.

Further, Revenue PWD (R&B) Roads & Building, PWD (Mechanical Engineering), PMGSY, Urban Local Bodies, Jal Shakti, Health & Medical Education Departments have been directed to make necessary logistical arrangements for snow clearance and related works.

Besides, the people can contact 24x7 District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC) at DC Office Jammu with Contact Numbers +0191-2520542, +0191 2571616, for any emergency or assistance needs.

FROM THE PAGE 1...

Local recruitment...

Prime Minister had assured, that statehood would be restored.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that steps taken to make governance transparent and accountable had led to increased public faith in the system.

He noted that J&K's growth rate had risen by 9.5% and that wasteful expenditure had been reduced. He also lauded the J&K Police, stating that it was different from other police forces in the country and that security forces had played a crucial role in restoring peace.

"Last year, we completed 92,000 projects. Elections were peaceful, and for the first time in 35 years, poll campaigning continued until 11 PM," he highlighted.

Highlighting infrastructure improvements, he noted that connectivity had played a vital role in J&K's development, with projects worth crores being implemented. "The distance between Jammu and Srinagar can now be covered in four hours. The Zojila Tunnel will be completed by 2026. Rail connectivity will be inaugurated by PM Modi soon, and air connectivity has increased with 126 flights operating from Srinagar daily. Digital connectivity has expanded, covering most areas, and J&K ranks number one in online services."

70% OF J&K'S POPULATION ASSOCIATED WITH AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE

Addressing the economy, LG Sinha stated that 70% of J&K's population is associated with agriculture and horticulture, with 13 lakh families dependent on farming. The Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (HADP) aims to double the contribution of farmers to J&K's GDP. He credited Prime Minister Modi for revoking many regressive laws that had previously hindered investment.

RS 33,000 CRORE WORTH OF INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

"From 1947 to 2021, J&K saw only Rs 14,000 crore in investment. However, under the new industrial scheme with massive incentives—unmatched by any other state or UT—investment has surged. Currently, Rs 33,000 crore worth of industrial projects are in progress, with projects worth Rs 10,000 crore already operational."

He also mentioned the creation of a land bank to facilitate investment, assuring that those who were unable to acquire land earlier would receive it soon.

Tourism has seen exponential growth, with 2.36 crore visitors to J&K. "Many people who owned a single hotel have now built another one in the past four years," he said. The export of Pashmina and carpets has doubled, and horticulture products are reaching the Middle East.

He further highlighted that under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), J&K had remained the top-performing region for three consecutive years. KNO

J&K's accession...

J&K was meant to be formalized through a "plebiscite."

"A permanent provision could not be inserted into the Constitution for a region whose permanent status was yet to be determined. Over time, we agreed that the accession was permanent and needed no ratification. But the framework that guaranteed this accession also needed to be permanent," he said. "You called the framework temporary and the accession permanent."

TALKS ABOUT MIRWAIZ GETTING CRPF COVER

Omar Abdullah admitted that the revocation of Article 370 led to a decline in separatist activities. "No one can deny that separatism has declined in J&K. No one had imagined that Mirwaiz Umar Farooq would be provided security by the CRPF."

UT WITH ASSEMBLY NOT WORKABLE SYSTEM

Reflecting on the changes since his previous tenure as Chief Minister, Omar said, "Today's J&K is different. There is a vast difference between governing a state with special status and a Union Territory. The difference between a state and a UT is like that between the sky and the earth."

He expressed concern over the limitations of a UT with an assembly, calling it an ineffective system. "A UT with an assembly is not a workable system. If this system is so good, why not implement it in other states like Uttar Pradesh or Gujarat?" he questioned, adding that the present arrangement was "cheating the people."

J&K WILL BECOME A STATE AGAIN

Despite the challenges, Omar expressed confidence that J&K would regain statehood. "There is no doubt that J&K will become a state again. The Prime Minister and Home Minister have repeatedly assured us of this."

He acknowledged that the elected government has been trying to reconnect with the people but stated that their tenure so far has been largely focused on managing inherited projects. "In four months, we haven't had a chance for execution. Right now, we are only implementing what we inherited. Let's present our first budget and move ahead," he said.

He acknowledged increased participation in elections and highlighted Jammu and Kashmir's potential in tourism, hydroelectric power, and lithium recovery in Reasi. "Jammu has vast potential in adventure tourism, pilgrimage tourism, and horticulture. We must create job opportunities for our youth, who are talented and knowledgeable."

REVIVAL OF TERRORISM IN JAMMU UNFORTUNATE

He expressed concern over the resurgence of terrorism in Jammu province. "It is unfortunate that terrorism has revived in Jammu. We had wiped it out, and it must be eliminated again," he said, blaming Pakistan for continued interference in the region.

On the INDIA alliance, Omar Abdullah admitted that there was confusion regarding its scope. "If the alliance is only for parliamentary elections, then it means there is no alliance for assembly elections. If we are together, we should contest assembly polls collectively. Fighting separately has hurt the bloc, as seen in Delhi and Haryana."

ON A LIGHTER NOTE

Speaking about his school days, Omar recalled his time at Sanawar School, praising its discipline and fitness regimen. He also welcomed his nomination by

Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the national campaign against obesity, saying, "It's an opportunity to contribute towards a healthier nation." KNO

Chief Minister...

festival as a joyous occasion, symbolizing faith, devotion and a moment of spiritual renewal.

He prayed for the sacred festival to bring peace, prosperity and divine blessings to every home and to all those celebrating.

The Chief Minister also conveyed his greetings through his official X account, posting: "Wishing everyone a joyous and blessed Herath! May this sacred festival bring peace, prosperity, and divine blessings to every home. Herath Mubarak!"

CM Omar...

the upcoming budget, which is scheduled to be presented on March 7.

The meetings were held to understand the sector wise priorities and to align it with government's development agenda.

The meetings would continue in the coming days with other departments also scheduled to brief the Chief Minister.

The meetings were attended by Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakeena Itoo, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Javed Ahmad Dar and Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D Vaidya, along with Administrative Secretaries from the Power Development Department, Housing & Urban Development, Industries & Commerce, Tourism, Public Works Department (R&B), Health & Medical Education, Rural Development. Director General Budget Mohammad Sultan Malik and Joint Director Budget Shafat Yahya also attended the meetings.

During the consultations, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized the need for a pragmatic and growth-oriented budget that addresses public aspirations and strengthens key sectors of the economy.

He reiterated the government's commitment to inclusive development, transparent governance and efficient utilization of public resources. The discussions delved into both Capital Expenditure (CapEx) and Revenue Expenditure (RevEx), with a focus on optimizing budgetary allocations for infrastructure development, social welfare programs, and service delivery improvements. Chief Minister Abdullah directed the departments to prioritize flagship projects, accelerate ongoing initiatives, and ensure timely implementation of development schemes.

As part of the budget preparation process, the Chief Minister has already held extensive consultations with public representatives from all 20 districts, including DDC chairpersons and MLAs.

Additionally, interactions were conducted with stakeholders from industry, trade and travel, academia, intelligentsia, tourism, sports, agriculture, horticulture, and other sectors. These engagements aim to incorporate diverse perspectives into the budget, ensuring that the government's financial roadmap is in sync with the needs and aspirations of the people. With today's consultations covering eight major departments, the pre-budget exercise has been in full swing.

The Chief Minister will continue to hold meetings with other government departments in the coming days to gather inputs and finalize budgetary allocations.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also holds the Finance portfolio, is personally overseeing the process to ensure that the upcoming budget reflects the government's vision for a prosperous Jammu and Kashmir.

The budget is scheduled to be presented in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on March 7 during the upcoming Budget Session commencing from March 3.

Speaker LA engages...

The Speaker emphasized the importance of taking necessary measures to prevent inconvenience to journalists covering the proceedings.

Senior journalists highlighted key concerns including designating parking spaces, provision of high-speed Wi-Fi for seamless coverage and extension of other logistical support.

Addressing these concerns, the Speaker directed the SSP Security, Civil Secretariat to make appropriate arrangements for media personnel, ensuring parking facilities at the new Assembly Complex and Zanana Park in the vicinity of the LA complex.

Further, the Speaker instructed the senior officers from JAKEGA and the IT Department to provide high-speed Wi-Fi connectivity throughout the session, ensuring uninterrupted digital access for media persons. Additionally, he directed the Information Department to coordinate between the press and the Assembly Secretariat to facilitate comprehensive coverage of the proceedings through both print and electronic media.

To enhance media accessibility, the Speaker directed the officials to install sufficient number of microphones and Public Address Systems (PAS) within the Assembly Hall and its lawns, facilitating smooth interaction between dignitaries, legislative assembly members and the journalists. He also instructed the Secretariat to prepare and issue entry passes for journalists well in advance for their unhindered entry into the assembly complex.

Recognizing the significance of media in highlighting public issues, the Speaker sought cooperation from media houses for balanced and responsible reporting of the Budget Session. He emphasized the critical role of journalists in ensuring transparency and public awareness of legislative discussions and advised them to keep public interests paramount while discharging their professional assignments.

Additionally, the Speaker directed the Hospitality & Protocol Department to install a Shamyana with a dais for press briefings by the MLAs and Ministers. He also instructed for keeping provision of a dedicated space

for media interactions in the Central Hall of JKLA.

In response to concerns raised by the media fraternity, the Speaker assured that all highlighted issues would be addressed on priority, ensuring a conducive environment for the journalistic duties. He reiterated the administration's commitment towards facilitating the press in fulfilling their professional responsibilities with ease.

In response, the journalists showed their gratitude to the Speaker for giving them opportunity to put their concerns before him. They assured him of sticking to the higher professional standards and serving public interests with utmost dedication and a sense of duty towards them.

BSF Strengthens Border...

been raised over the continuous presence of commanding officers at tactical headquarters, as they oversee multiple units across different locations and require mobility for effective command and administration.

The BSF is responsible for securing the 2,289-km-long India-Pakistan International Border, spanning Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Gujarat. Of this, the Punjab frontier covers 553 km, while the Jammu sector guards 191.66 km, including a stretch along the Line of Control (LoC).

In 2023, the BSF in Punjab intercepted 294 drones, most of them Chinese-made, and seized approximately 283 kg of heroin. The force also neutralized four Pakistani intruders and apprehended 161 Indian smugglers along with 30 Pakistani nationals attempting to infiltrate.

The enhanced security measures underscore the BSF's commitment to tackling evolving threats along the border, ensuring national security amid rising cross-border challenges. (CNS)

4-day wet spell...

the weather system may lead to disruption of surface and air transportation like National Highway (Srinagar-Jammu, Sadhna pass, Razdhan pass, Sonmarg-Zojila Axis, Sinthan top & Mughal Road), etc.

All tourists, transporters and travellers have been advised to plan accordingly.

The DDMA has also issued a general warning, stating that middle and higher reaches of Kashmir and hilly areas of Jammu are most likely to receive moderate to heavy snowfall, while a few higher reaches of south Kashmir and Chenab Valley may receive heavy to very heavy snowfall, particularly on February 27 and 28.

The farmers have been advised to suspend irrigation and other farm operations.

According to the advisory, there is a possibility of landslides, shooting stones and mudslides at vulnerable places. A significant fall in day temperature is also expected during the above period.

The Departments of Revenue, PWD(R&B), Irrigation & Flood Control, MH&ED, SMC, KPDC, Jal Shakti, Health & Medical Education have been requested to make all necessary logistical arrangements for snow clearance and related works.

The field staff of the aforesaid departments have been directed to remain stationed in their headquarters to render immediate assistance.

The general public can contact District Emergency Operation Centre, (DEOC) Srinagar already established by District Administration Srinagar in DC Office Srinagar functioning 24x7 to attend to the public grievances, SOS calls on priority and other Departments. KNO

Will prioritize...

is now demanding it. "Kashmir is the land of Sufis, and Jammu is the land of temples. If the liquor ban is implemented, we support it. The PDP opposed it in the past but is now deceiving the people on this issue," he said.

The BJP lawmaker also took aim at the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference's (JKNC) 12-point manifesto, claiming the party has not fulfilled its promises. "Instead of addressing real issues, the ruling party is misleading the people by focusing on Article 370 and other irrelevant matters," Gupta said. KNO

3-member panel...

Control Board (CPCB), has been given two months to finalize the rejuvenation plan.

The primary focus will be on restoring the ecological balance, mitigating pollution, and rehabilitating the land impacted by unauthorized industrial activities.

Once the plan is approved, it will be implemented within three months, following the deposit of the environmental compensation. This ensures that timely corrective actions will be taken to remedy the damage caused by the stone crusher's unlawful operations.

The legal proceedings surrounding M/s Dewan Stone Crusher have been intense.

The JKPC recently reaffirmed the NGT's order, emphasizing that the stone crusher violated essential environmental norms and must halt its operations immediately. This stance was part of the JKPC's compliance report submitted to the NGT in case OA No. 151 of 2023, which was filed by Hassina Wajid, Sarpanch, against the State of Jammu & Kashmir and others.

The NGT had previously found the stone crusher and its associated hot mix plant in violation of siting norms, mandating their removal within two months. The tribunal also imposed an interim environmental compensation of 7,20,000, requiring the deposit within one month. However, JKPC's latest submission reveals that the stone crusher continued its operations despite several legal orders, prompting authorities to take stronger measures.

JKPC's report underscores that M/s Dewan Stone Crusher's activities have led to substantial environmental damage, including dust pollution, noise hazards, and potential groundwater contamination. The failure to comply with prescribed siting criteria has exacerbated the ecological crisis in the area, making the formulation of the rejuvenation plan crucial for the district's recovery. KNO

DDC Chairman inaugurates newly constructed Community Hall, Dharamshala in Bhaderwah

J1 NEWS SERVICE

BHADERWAL, FEBRUARY 25

District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Dhananter Singh Kotwal, in presence of Vice Chairperson Sangeeta Rani today inaugurated a newly constructed Community Hall here at village Dhamunda in Panchayat Manthla.

Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Manoj Kumar, Block Development Officer (BDO) Yasir Hussain Wani, former Sarpanch and a large number of local people were also present.

Later, the Chairman also inaugurated a Dharamshala at Mandir Thuba, meeting a long-pending demand of the local community.

Earlier, the DDC Chairman chaired a meeting with the functionaries of Rural Development Department, including ACD Manoj Kumar, BDO and other officials at the BDO office to discuss the ongoing and upcoming development projects in the region. The meeting focused on infrastructure improvements and welfare initiatives aimed at enhancing public facilities.

The Chairman reiterated the council's commitment to holistic rural development and assured continuous efforts to address the needs of the people.

7-day Volleyball Tournament hosted by Range Police Headquarters concludes at DPL Rajouri

J1 NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 25

The 7-day Volleyball Tournament hosted by Range Police Headquarters Rajouri under Civic Action Program concluded today here at District police Lines with Shaheed Manjeet Singh Club Poonch emerging as winner of the final match.

The initiative aimed to strengthen Police and public relationship, commenced on Feb 18, 2025 attracting teams from twin border Districts of Rajouri and Poonch.

Today, the final match was played between Choudhary Club Rajouri and Shaheed Manjeet Singh Club Poonch where later emerged victorious.

The closing ceremony was attended by DIG Rajouri-Poonch Range Tejinder Singh; Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police Gaurav Sikarwar, Rajouri and other civil and police officers.

The Officers commended the players for their dedication and perseverance and highlighted the significance of sports in fostering discipline, teamwork and a healthy competitive spirit.

The event concluded with the distribution of trophies/Medals and cash prizes to the winner and runner up teams along with words of appreciation to all participating teams and officials who contributed towards the success of the tournament.

HC orders toll...

the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway project. A Bench comprising Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan and Justice MA Choudhary stated that toll fees should not be collected from commuters if the highway is in poor condition due to ongoing construction.

The court said that tolls are intended to compensate users for smooth, well-maintained infrastructure. However, the current state of the highway, marked by diversions and potholes, fails to provide such facilities to travelers.

"It is unfair to continue charging tolls when the road is in a deteriorated condition," the court said, acknowledging the concerns of commuters. The decision came in response to a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Sugandha Sawhney, who sought exemption from toll taxes at Lakhampur, Thandi Khui, and Bann toll plazas on NH-44.

The highway is currently undergoing construction for the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway project. The plea highlighted the inconvenience caused to the public due to the construction work, which has reduced the four-lane highway to a single lane in many areas.

The court also noted that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the concessionaire had acknowledged the deteriorated condition of the highway, with alternative service roads provided for traffic. Despite this, toll fees were being collected, which the court deemed unfair given the poor condition of the road. The Thandi Khui Toll Plaza had already ceased toll collection since January 26 last year.

The court criticized the government for raising toll fees at Lakhampur and Bann toll plazas while the Thandi Khui plaza was closed. This move was seen as further burdening the public, especially since the highway was in such poor condition. The court referred to a statement by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari in June 2024, which stated that tolls should not be charged for roads that are not in good condition or up to required standards.

Also, the court issued several directions to improve the toll system. It ordered the withdrawal of the order to redistribute toll collection influence between Lakhampur and Bann plazas, effective from January 26, 2024. The court also instructed that no toll plazas should be established within 60 kilometers of NH-44, and existing ones in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh should be removed within two months. Furthermore, the court ordered the reconsideration of toll fees at all plazas, stating that they were excessively high and should be revised to ensure fairness.

The court also directed that only verified individuals should be employed at toll plazas and instructed police authorities to take responsibility for any violations regarding employees with criminal backgrounds. KNO

Measures discussed to expedite PMEGP cases, promote Financial Inclusion in Kishtwar

JINews SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 25

A meeting of the Block Level Bankers' Committee (BLBC) was held today under the chairmanship of General Manager District Industry Centre Phulail Singh, focusing on effective implementation of Prime Minister Employment Generation Program (PMEGP) and other credit linked schemes.

The meeting was coordinated by Lead District Manager (LDM) Harsh Rawal. At the outset, LDM Harsh Rawal presented an overview of the outcomes of various government-sponsored schemes. A detailed discussion was held on the pendency of the PMEGP cases sponsored by District Industries Centre (DIC) and KVIB.

The departments were advised to examine the reasons for delays, which included issues such as borrowers not approaching branches, incomplete documentation, non-availability of shops, and pending Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) training. It was emphasized that the DIC should work

in close coordination with banks to minimize pendency.

Pendency in the Handicrafts and Handloom sector was also reviewed. Banks informed that all beneficiaries have been contacted, but many were not approaching the branches to complete formalities. The Assistant Director, Handicrafts, was asked to mobilize beneficiaries and ensure proper disposal of cases.

Similarly, the pendency of cases in the Fisheries sector was discussed, with banks reporting that most borrowers have already availed Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans under the Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry schemes. The concerned department was advised to collect a list of pending cases from bank branches through the LDM office and facilitate borrower mobilization.

The meeting also reviewed the recovery of stressed loans under government-sponsored schemes. Banks were directed to submit a list of such cases to the district administration through the LDM office. Interdepartmental

coordination was emphasized to ensure better case disposal, with banks and departments instructed to work together for effective resolution. The committee stressed the need for better case sponsorship by departments, ensuring proper guidance, knowledge of schemes, accurate project cost estimations, and timely training wherever required. Banks were urged to enhance loan disbursement to meet targets, while rectifications were to be addressed at the bank's end to facilitate smoother processing.

In terms of social security schemes, all banks were advised to improve progress under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY). LDM was directed to ensure the presence of all bank officials in future meetings. The State Bank of India (SBI) was particularly asked to explain its high loan rejection rate, while ICICI, HDFC, and IndusInd Bank officials were noted absent.

GDC Doda students shine at All India Inter-University Grappling Tournament

JINews SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 25

Himanshi (6th semester) and Madhuri (1st semester) of Government Degree College (GDC) Doda have showcased exceptional skill and determination at the prestigious All India Inter-University Grappling Tournament held at Rohilkhand, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh.

Competing against top athletes from across the country, the duo secured bronze medals in their respective weight categories, bringing pride to GDC Doda and the University of Jammu.

The tournament witnessed intense competition, with participants displaying remarkable strength, agility, and strategic game play. Himanshi and Madhuri stood out with their unwavering focus and technical excellence, proving themselves as formidable contenders. Their outstanding performances reflect their dedication to the sport and their commitment to excellence in athletics.

The College Principal



Dr. Javed Iqbal Zarger congratulated the students and expressed immense pride in their achievements. He praised their hard work and exceptional spirit, emphasizing how their success has brought great honor to the college and university. He also appreciated the efforts of Dr. Jaswant Singh, Head of the Department of Physical Education and Sports, for his guidance and moti-

vation in encouraging students to participate in competitive sports.

Dr. Jaswant Singh commended the duo's perseverance and dedication, highlighting their achievements as an inspiration for young grapplers. He emphasized that their success is a testament to their passion and hard work, reinforcing the significance of discipline and determination in sports.

Orientation program on Inclusive Education held at Marh



JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25

A Zonal-Level Environment-Building Program on Inclusive Education, with special focus on Children with Special Needs (CWSN) was held today in the premises of the office Zonal Education Officer Marh.

The programme was inaugurated by the local Member Legislative Assembly Surinder Kumar Bhagat, in presence of Principal Government Degree College and Zonal Education Officer Kasturi

Lal. The parents of Special Children, PRIs and local residents attended the programme. The programme aimed at raising mass awareness among the community regarding initiatives of the Education department and SAMAGRA Shiksha in particular for the benefit and uplift of specially-abled children.

The speakers highlighted the schemes and benefits available for the betterment of the special children and promotion of Inclusive Education.

Job Fair organized at District Employment and Counselling Centre Reasi



JINews SERVICE
REASI, FEBRUARY 25

The District Employment and Counselling Centre, Reasi, today hosted a one-day Job Fair, bringing together job seekers and employers under one roof. The event aimed to provide employment opportunities to the youth of the district while facilitating the hiring needs of participating companies.

More than 8 employers setup the stalls at the venue. Over 150 job seekers from across the dis-

trict attended the fair, to explore potential career paths as per their qualification.

The job fair served as a bridge between job seekers and recruiters. Assistant Director Annie Vaid said the department is committed to provide a platform that benefits both employers and aspiring candidates.

Several candidates were shortlisted on the spot and others were advised to follow up with employers for further rounds of interviews.

Deputy Chief Minister holds review meeting at Sunderbani; Assesses public grievances



JINews SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 25

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today chaired a review meeting regarding functioning of various departments at Sunderbani.

The meeting focused on addressing the issues and grievances of the general public relating different departments.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the concerned officers to resolve the public grievances on priority basis, ensuring swift and effective solutions to the concerns of the local residents.

During the meeting, the Deputy Chief Minister also had a comprehensive review of the progress on various schemes of different departments. He emphasised the importance of raising public awareness about various

government schemes and programs. He instructed the District Social Welfare Officer and Assistant Labour Commissioner to organise special camps in the district, particularly in Nowshera and Sunderbani, to educate the public about their initiatives and ensure maximum coverage.

The meeting was attended by ADC Nowshera, Babu Ram Tandan; ADC Sunderbani, Rajeev Magotra; SE PWD(R&B), Devi Dayal; ACD, Vijay Kumar; DSWO, Abdul Raheem; DMO, Mohd Sayeed; ALC, Pradyot Gupta and other officers.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister also attended a mega event organised at Guru Ravi Dass Ji temple at Dheri, marking his continued commitment towards community welfare and spiritual engagement.

Mission YUVA project

DC discusses modalities for seamless implementation in Poonch district

JINews SERVICE
POONCH, FEBRUARY 25

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting with the members of the SBDH and BHD committees to discuss their role and responsibilities in the context of the Mission YUVA project.

A comprehensive and detailed presentation was shared with the members, outlining the specific roles and duties of each member.

The Deputy Commissioner guided the committee members through a detailed PPT, ensuring



that everyone clearly understands his individual responsibilities. The personalized approach helped to clarify expectations and facilitated a deeper understanding of the tasks at hand. "A clear comprehension of responsibilities will ensure a smooth and efficient

execution of the Mission YUVA project," he added.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner directed that each Yuva Doot will be provided identity cards after filling all the details of their selection as per the Yuva Doot Document. "Each of them will be allotted a

GDC Vijaypur hosts 2-day workshop on Stock Market; Takes out HIV awareness rally



JINews SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 25

Department of Commerce, Government Degree College (GDC) Vijaypur, successfully conducted a two-day workshop on the stock market, while its Red Ribbon Club, in collaboration with J&K AIDS Control Society took out a Rally to raise HIV/AIDS awareness.

The workshop aimed at educating students on investment strategies, trading principles, and financial literacy. The event was organized in collaboration with stock market expert Prof. Arjun Gupta, GDC Ramban to provide students an insight into the world of

stock trading. The expert conducted interactive sessions on stock market fundamentals, risk management, technical and fundamental analysis, and the role of the stock market in economic growth.

Meanwhile, the rally commenced from the college premises and proceeded with participants holding colorful banners and placards bearing messages of hope, prevention, and solidarity. Nearly 80 Volunteers of the college actively participated in the Rally. The enthusiastic participants chanted slogans, promoting awareness and combating stigma associated with HIV/AIDS.

MD takes financial review of Jal Jeevan Mission



JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25

Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, today had a financial review of implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Jammu & Kashmir through virtual mode.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department besides Superintending Engineers Hydraulic circle's and Executive Engineers of all divisions including their counterparts of Mechanical Engineering.

The Mission Director enquired about the unspent funds above one crore in Single Nodal Account (SNA) of each division. He directed the Executive Engineers to expedite the process of payment to the firms who

have satisfactorily completed the works allotted.

Khurshid Shah called for synergy between the Executive Engineers and Superintending Engineers for clearing the liabilities well before the completion of financial year in March.

The Mission Director enjoined upon the officers to clear the liabilities on account of completed works which will pave way for transition to new payment system.

The meeting further directed the divisions to upload the details of infrastructure created on Gati Shakti portal for which training is being imparted by National Jal Jeevan Mission to the nodal officers.

The meeting concluded with directions that the next financial review will be held on weekend to monitor the progress on this account.

Javed Dar extends Maha Shivratri greetings to people

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25

On the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri, also celebrated as Herath in Kashmir, Minister for Agriculture Production and Rural Development, Javed Ahmad Dar, today extended his hearty greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the significance of the festival, which is celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm across both Kashmir and Jammu regions, the Minister said that the festival

hold deep cultural and spiritual importance for devotees, symbolising faith, unity and the spirit of togetherness.

He emphasized that such festivals reinforce the values of peace, harmony and the idea of co-existence among different communities. "These occasions remind us of our rich cultural heritage and the need to uphold communal harmony. Such auspicious occasions serve as a unifying force, bringing people together beyond religious and regional boundaries," he said.

LG greets people on Mahashivratri, Herath

JINews SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha has extended his heartfelt greetings to the people on the occasion of Mahashivratri, which will be celebrated tomorrow on February 26. In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "On the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri, I convey my hearty greetings and felicitations to all and wish them health, happiness and prosperity."

The sacred festival, celebrated as 'Herath' by Kashmiri Pandit community, is an occasion to rededicate ourselves to a life of commitment, truth, brotherhood and compassion. It is a celebration of devotion, divinity and symbolises our inner journey to rise to higher levels of consciousness.

I pray to Lord Shiva to guide us on the path of righteousness and shower His blessings on all of us for years to come".

EDITORIAL

Maha Shivratri: A Festival of Devotion, Reflection, and Renewal

Maha Shivratri, one of the most significant festivals in the Hindu calendar, is an occasion that transcends religious rituals to embody profound spiritual and philosophical meanings. Celebrated annually in honor of Lord Shiva, the festival marks the convergence of divine energy, symbolizing destruction and renewal, penance and liberation, and the ultimate pursuit of truth.

Unlike many other Hindu festivals that emphasize grand festivities and social gatherings, Maha Shivratri is observed with solemnity, deep meditation, and personal introspection. Devotees undertake rigorous fasts, chant prayers through the night, and engage in rituals that pay homage to Lord Shiva. The nightlong vigil, often accompanied by the continuous chanting of "Om Namah Shivaya," is symbolic of overcoming darkness and ignorance through wisdom and devotion.

The festival also holds immense spiritual significance. Shiva is often regarded as the Adiyogi—the first yogi—who imparted the wisdom of yoga to humanity. Maha Shivratri, therefore, serves as an opportunity for seekers to embrace self-discipline, self-awareness, and inner peace. The observance of fasting and meditation is not merely a ritualistic practice but a means of spiritual purification, fostering resilience and mental fortitude.

Maha Shivratri also conveys a universal message of balance and transformation. As the deity of destruction and regeneration, Lord Shiva embodies the cyclical nature of existence, where endings lead to new beginnings. This philosophical insight is particularly relevant in today's fast-paced world, where individuals often struggle with personal and professional transitions. The festival serves as a reminder that change, though often feared, is an essential part of growth and evolution.

In a broader cultural and social context, Maha Shivratri fosters a sense of unity and devotion among communities. Temples across India witness an influx of devotees, cutting across social barriers, as people from different walks of life come together in prayer and reverence. The festival is a testament to India's rich spiritual heritage and the collective pursuit of higher consciousness.

As Maha Shivratri approaches, it is essential to reflect on its deeper essence beyond ritualistic observance. It is a call to embrace discipline, self-discovery, and the realization that true devotion lies in the pursuit of truth and righteousness. Whether one observes it through fasting, prayer, or meditation, the festival offers an opportunity to renew one's commitment to personal and spiritual growth.

May this Maha Shivratri bring wisdom, peace, and renewal to all who seek it.

M23 rebellion and Rwanda's role: The escalating crisis in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo

DEBASHIS JENA

The recent escalation of violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is a stark reminder of the region's deep-rooted instability. The resurgence of the M23 rebellion, which led to the seizure of Goma and further advances into South Kivu, is not merely an internal Congolese crisis—it is a conflict with significant regional and international implications. Rwanda's involvement, whether direct or indirect, remains contentious, as accusations of its support for M23 persist.

While Kigali denies these allegations, the sophistication of M23's operations raises serious questions about its backing. At the heart of this crisis lies a complex mix of ethnic tensions, political grievances, and economic exploitation, particularly concerning the DRC's vast mineral wealth. For years, Rwanda has been accused of providing M23 with financial and military support, a claim reinforced by multiple UN reports and statements from Western governments. Kigali, however, insists that it is acting in self-defence, citing the threat posed by the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), a Hutu militia operating

in eastern DRC with historical ties to the perpetrators of the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Yet, Rwanda's actions go beyond border security. The conflict's economic dimension cannot be ignored, with Rwanda being accused of profiting from the illicit exploitation of Congolese minerals, particularly coltan, a key component in electronic devices.

The capture of Rubaya, a coltan-rich area, by M23 last year suggests that economic interests play a crucial role in shaping the rebellion's trajectory. M23 claims to be fighting for the rights of ethnic Tutsis in eastern DRC, arguing that the Congolese government has failed to protect them from persecution. While there is historical evidence of ethnic violence against Tutsis in the region, M23's actions undermine its credibility. Rather than advocating for political rights through diplomatic means, the group has engaged in violence, forced displacement, and human rights violations. Its strategy of seizing key cities and resource-rich territories suggests an agenda extending far beyond self-defence.

The DRC, backed by the international community, has dismissed M23's claims, arguing that the group



is acting as a proxy for Rwanda's regional ambitions. The latest attempt by regional leaders to broker peace, with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC) calling for an immediate ceasefire, reflects a growing recognition that the crisis cannot be resolved through military means alone. However, the reality on the ground tells a different story. M23 had briefly declared a ceasefire before resuming attacks, signaling that diplomatic efforts are struggling to keep up with battlefield developments.

The DRC's call for UN sanctions against Rwanda, coupled with protests in Kinshasa where demonstrators burned portraits of President Paul Kagame, indicates a deepening rift between the two countries. With diplomatic ties severed and hostilities intensifying, the prospects for a negotiated settlement remain bleak.

A purely military solution is unlikely to yield lasting peace. The Congolese army has historically struggled to contain well-equipped rebel groups, and the presence of the UN peacekeeping mission, MONUSCO, has done little

to prevent the latest wave of violence. Foreign military intervention, whether from regional forces or international actors, risks escalating the situation rather than resolving it.

The most viable path forward is a combination of military containment and political engagement. Strengthening the DRC's security forces to prevent further territorial losses is crucial, but diplomatic efforts must also address the root causes of the conflict, including ethnic grievances and economic exploitation.

The global demand for coltan and other precious

resources ensures that armed groups can sustain themselves through illegal mining operations. Without stronger international regulations and accountability measures, companies sourcing minerals from conflict zones will remain complicit in financing violence. Holding both state and non-state actors accountable for their role in resource exploitation is essential for breaking the cycle of conflict. The ongoing crisis in eastern DRC is not just about M23 or Rwanda's alleged involvement—it is part of a larger geopolitical struggle that has plagued the region for decades. Unless regional actors commit to genuine peace efforts and the international community enforces stricter measures against illegal mineral trade, the conflict will persist.

The path to stability requires addressing both security concerns and economic incentives that drive armed groups. Without meaningful action, eastern DRC will remain trapped in a cycle of violence, with its people bearing the brunt of a war that serves the interests of powerful actors far beyond its borders.

(The writer is a foreign policy researcher, views are personal)

The Handwriting Blues: A Story of Decline

APS MALHOTRA

Some conjecture that a person's handwriting can give a glimpse into that person's character. But I am a sceptic in this regard, because, in my opinion, the handwriting of an individual is not a constant, but keeps on morphing as time goes by. A case in point is your humble friend, who has seen his handwriting deteriorate over the past few decades, till now, in my fifth decade, it is nothing more than a painstaking, almost illegible scrawl—although, with the advent of the now ubiquitous personal computer and other sundry devices, the negative impact of this deterioration has been minimised, especially in official work. Because today, when I write a note on any file with my hand, others find it rather diffi-

cult to 'decrypt'.

Even filling simple financial documents like a cheque is a nightmare now, a stiff challenge, that is increasingly being left to my better half to handle, as bank people, on a few occasions, have raised doubts about the authenticity of my signature. But before the readers start commiserating about the sad and agonising state of my handwriting, I will share with them that this was not always the case. In the early years of school, I was the darling of my teachers because of my neat and clean handwriting, which made me the cynosure of my peers. Writing on four-line copies, I would get full marks in English handwriting.

The slide commenced from middle school onwards, when I shifted from writing with a pencil



to writing with a ball pen, and the copy changed from one with four lines to that with two lines. But the hand was still steady, and teachers did not have any problem reading my answer sheets, as was evident from the good grades I continued to get in my exams. But I am sure, that as I entered college and the university in the mid-

eighties, the good professors would have become increasingly impatient in poring over my messy answer sheets, with scribbles galore. Throughout, my father, a diligent and thorough gentleman, with very precise and beautiful handwriting, kept counselling me to stem the rot, even as I secured a job in the public sector in 1991.

He gently warned that it would adversely impact my prospects of growth in the corporate world, especially when this was the period when all office work was conducted on well-defined sheets of paper—which, in my case, were to be yellow pages.

Before leaving for Bombay (as Mumbai was then called), I scoffed at Dad's gentle, but consistent reprimands. It was only when I took my first, tentative steps in the company did I realise that what Dad had been emphasising over the years was not an iota away from the truth. I faced a mild, personal nudge from some bosses on this account, but others were not so kind, and their reaction bordered on outright contempt, reprimand and disapproval. But Dad was an eternal optimist. He still harboured a strong wish to get my handwrit-

ing back on track, even at this stage, for which he purchased a book—'Techniques to improve your handwriting'. I was back in kindergarten.

So, whenever I came home to Delhi for a break, he would insist that I sit with him, at least for some time, and practice on ways to improve my, by now abominable handwriting. But by this point, my mind, like that of all young men, was engrossed in finer things of life than improving my writing ability, which, I realised, was destined to be an exercise in futility. This cat-and-mouse game continued even after I got married in 1993. It was only after I became a father in 1995 did Dad finally buried his desire to improve my handwriting to a decent level.

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

RBI should go for an 'accommodative' stance

UTTAM GUPTA

On February 7, 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra announced the decisions taken by the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in its sixth bi-monthly meeting of the current financial year (FY). It has reduced the policy rate or the repo rate (the interest rate at which the RBI lends to banks) by 25 basis points to 6.25 per cent. This marks the first repo rate cut in nearly five years. Moreover, it has continued with a neutral stance which it shifted in its fourth bi-monthly review/announcement on October 10, 2024, from its earlier stance of "withdrawal of accommodation". In 2016, the Union Government put in place an institutionalized framework to enable the MPC to formulate monetary policy and determine the key interest rates including the policy rate for inflation targeting. It mandated the RBI to fix the policy rate in such a manner as to maintain the Consumer Price Index or CPI (it corresponds to a basket that includes food, fuel, manu-

factured goods, and select services) within the target range of 4 per cent (+/- 2 per cent).

The RBI decides the policy rates once in two months during each FY. The mandate initially given for five years ending March 31, 2021, has since been extended for a further period of five years. The current mandate will continue till March 31, 2026. The other crucial policy instrument the RBI uses for targeting inflation is Liquidity—jargon for the quantum of credit available in the banking system. Pumping more liquidity along with a reduction in the policy rate represents a scenario which in jargon is described as an 'accommodative' policy stance. The terminology was coined by the outgoing governor Shaktikanta Das in June 2019 when he started going for aggressive cuts in the policy rate and an increase in credit availability.

Since June 2022 the RBI changed its stance to "withdrawal of accommodation" and had stuck to it till October 9, 2024, when in the fourth bi-monthly review, the MPC decided to go for a "neutral" stance. A "neu-

tral" stance connotes that the RBI has vowed to keep its options flexible meaning it will neither squeeze liquidity by restricting credit availability and keeping policy rates high nor go for unrestrained lending at low interest rates.

While inflation targeting is important, it is equally necessary to dovetail the monetary policy to sustain the momentum of high growth. During the second quarter of the current FY, growth in GDP plummeted to a low of 5.4 per cent down from a high of 8.1 per cent during the second Qr of FY 2023-24.

For the current FY 2024-25, it is estimated at 6.4 per cent as against 8.2 per cent recorded during FY 2023-24. Seen in this backdrop and an overarching need to achieve a growth of 8 per cent on a sustained basis in line to make India a 'developed economy' by 2047, the RBI could have given the desired push. It could have gone for an 'accommodative' policy stance by opting for a significant cut in the policy rate and pumping sufficient cash into the banking system. However, it has stuck to a "neutral"

stance while reducing the repo rate by a small 0.25 per cent. RBI's reluctance has to do with a mindset that was reflected in ex-Governor Das's observation while announcing the first bi-monthly policy of the current FY. He had said "The elephant has now gone out for a walk and appears to be returning to the forest."

We would like the elephant to return to the forest and remain there on a durable basis." Put simply, he meant there was no need to start reducing interest rates until inflation reached the target of 4 per cent and stayed at that level. The incumbent Governor has continued with this mindset. In February 2023, the policy rate was at a peak of 6.5 per cent. During FY 2022-23, the CPI inflation was hovering around 8 per cent. In the following year, it started decreasing from 7.4 per cent in July 2023 to 5 per cent in September 2023, 4.8 per cent in October 2023 and 5.1 per cent during January/February 2024. For FY 2023-24, it was 5.4 per cent. During the current FY also, it has kept low; 5.08 per cent in June 2024 and 3.54 per cent in July of 2024. After a

brief spurt of 6.2 per cent in October 2024, in January 2025, it declined to 4.3 per cent.

During FY 2024-25, the RBI has estimated it at 4.8 per cent. Given the above, from the third quarter of FY 2023-24, the CPI inflation has remained well within the target range of 4 per cent (+/- 2 per cent). This position continues during the current FY. For FY 2025-26, the RBI expects it to be 4.2 per cent. Thus, there was a strong case for a significant reduction in the repo rate besides the injection of sufficient liquidity. This would have helped in stimulating demand thereby giving a boost to economic growth besides helping millions of borrowers reduce their EMIs and helping industries, especially MSMEs reduce the cost of servicing their loans. But, this was not to be.

The problem is RBI's obsession with inflation. Malhotra recognizes that inflation is on a downward trajectory. Yet, he doesn't want to relinquish his neutral stance citing global economic challenges "progress in global disinflation is stalling."

Put simply, he fears imported infla-

tion impacting CPI hence, a "neutral stance will provide MPC flexibility to respond to evolving macroeconomic environment." A major factor contributing to wide variations in CPI inflation is food inflation which has a weight of around 40 per cent and is impacted predominantly by supply side/seasonal factors whereas monetary policy instruments work on the demand side. Invariably, food inflation maintains an upward trend even as a small disruption in supply caused by seasonal factors can lead to spiralling prices.

As long as food remains a part of the CPI basket, inflation targeting will always remain a problem. There is an urgent need to exclude it while setting benchmark interest rates, an idea that was mooted by the Chief Economic Advisor in the Economic Survey (ES) for 2023-24. The CEA argued that monetary policy has no bearing on the prices of food items, which are dictated by supply-side pressures.

For instance, during 2021-22, wheat output was affected by unusually high temperatures. During 2022-23, rains accompanied by hailstorms

acted as a spoiler. During the first half of FY 2023-24, food inflation went up due to a spike in the prices of vegetables caused by seasonal factors. The spurt in food prices during October 2024 also had to do with supply-side pressures only. The RBI can achieve little to control them by keeping the policy rate high. The RBI should take the idea mooted in the ES - 2023-24 on board. Meanwhile, it should consider reducing the weight of food inflation in CPI to reflect the contemporary reality. The current 40 per cent weight is based on the Consumption Expenditure Survey (CES) of 2011-12 whereas Summary Statistics from the 2022-23 CES point towards a significant reduction. While formulating its monetary policy, the RBI's prime responsibility is to ensure macro-economic stability its pivotal focus being on keeping inflation within reasonable bounds. However, it can't be oblivious of the dire need to support economic growth which could be adversely impacted if it doesn't relax the credit environment.

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

DC reviews progress of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme in Poonch

J I NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, FEBRUARY 25

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, chaired a crucial meeting today in the DC office complex to review the progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) for the financial year 2024-25.

During the meeting, the DC sought detailed updates from various departments involved in the programme, including Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Sericulture, and other relevant sectors. He emphasized the importance of collaboration among departments to enhance the overall effectiveness of the programme.

The DC directed the concerned departments to focus on key indicators to improve statistics at the Union Territory level. He stressed the need to increase the registration of farmers to meet the established targets promptly.

The meeting was attended by key officials, including the Chief Agriculture Officer Poonch, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, District Sericulture Officer, Assistant Director of Fisheries and other stakeholders.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated the government's commitment to advancing agricultural development and ensuring the welfare of farmers in the region.

DC Pulwama chairs review meeting of NCORD

J I NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, FEBRUARY 25

A district-level coordination committee meeting of the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) was convened today at the Administrative Complex, Pulwama, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom.

The meeting commenced with a comprehensive review of the progress achieved viz-a-viz strong enforcement measures, awareness, treatment and rehabilitation.

Concerned departments including Police, Health, Education, Revenue, Agriculture and Horticulture on the occasion presented their progress and action plans for coming months.

Nodal Officer, NCORD Pulwama, apprised the meeting of the various initiatives under Nasha Mukta awareness campaign to combat the scourge of drug abuse.

Dr. Qayoom directed close coordination between the revenue and agriculture departments to assess and address illicit cultivation.

He also emphasized the need to inform the police as a priority. DC directed for stringent measures against persons indulging in illicit crop cultivation including attachments of both movable and immovable properties under the relevant provisions of laws.

Furthermore, he instructed officers to provide cash crop alternatives to cultivators as a means of rehabilitation.

Also, the DC called for a reevaluation of Panchayat Halqas previously declared drug-free, along with a comprehensive review to ensure sustained compliance. He directed to intensify efforts with greater focus and diligence to incorporate more panchayats into the drug-free list.

Dr. Qayoom also reviewed the progress of ongoing cases under NDPS act, and directed that a fortnightly status report be submitted to the Nodal Officer, NCORD, along with a thorough case-wise analysis to ensure stringent monitoring and effective legal action.

Highlighting the importance of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities, Dr. Qayoom called for batch-wise training of retail and wholesale medical shop salespersons involved in the sale of psychotropic drugs.

Musical Event enthralled Audience at Pir Panjal Winter Festival- 2025 at Surankote, Poonch



J I NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, 25 FEB 2025

The Pir Panjal Winter Festival, organized by the Indian Army, witnessed a spectacular Musical Event, leaving an audience of over 2,000 people spellbound under an afternoon of soul-stirring melodies and electrifying performances. The event, held as part of the Festival's grand celebrations, brought together music lovers from across the region, fostering joy, unity, and cultural appreciation.

Renowned local singer Waqar Khan captivated the crowd with his dynamic stage presence and an eclectic mix of Pahari, Gojri, Punjabi, Qawwali and Hindi soulful tunes and high-energy tracks.

The concert created an electrifying atmosphere, with enthusiastic attendees swaying to the beats, singing along, and immersing themselves in the magic of live music.

Organized by the Indian Army as part of its ongoing efforts to promote peace, harmony and community engagement, the Pir Panjal Winter Festival continues to serve as a beacon of cultural vibrancy and artistic expression. This grand Musical Event not only entertained but also reinforced the Festival's mission of bringing people together through the universal language of music and folk dance.

In addition to the musical extravaganza, the festival also recognized and celebrated local talent. Prizes

were awarded to the winners of the Pir Panjal Sports Festival, which featured Cricket and Volleyball for boys and girls, as well as Kho-Kho for girls. A Talent Hunt Competition showcased the region's artistic and creative excellence, further highlighting the festival's commitment to nurturing local talent.

The event concluded with a heartfelt appreciation for all the artists as well as gratitude toward the Indian Army for curating such a memorable experience for the local population amidst the chilling Winter season. As the Pir Panjal Festival progresses, it remains a testament to the power of music, art and sports in strengthening bonds and celebrating the rich heritage of the region.

Jammu Police apprehends drug peddler with poppy straw, cash in Kanachak

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 25 (UNI)

In a major crackdown on drug trafficking, police on Tuesday apprehended a notorious drug peddler with poppy straw and cash at Ring Road Kantwala in Kanachak area in Jammu district.

Police said that during a routine vehicle check, they intercepted one vehicle coming from Jammu towards Bhawal via Ring Road.

Upon checking, 1.54-kg of poppy straw and cash of Rs 48,000 was recovered from the vehicle. The driver was identified as Shoket Ali, resident of Kanger, Tehsil Bhalwal, Jammu was arrested.

Following the recovery, an FIR was regis-



tered under the NDPS Act, and further investigation is underway.

Jammu Police continued their efforts to curb

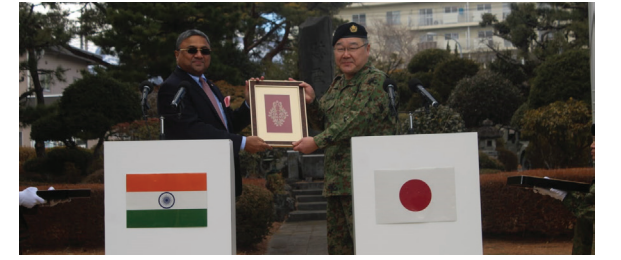
drug trafficking, urging citizens to report any suspicious activities to help in the fight against narcotics.

India-Japan Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' commences in Japan

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 25 FEB 2025

The 6th edition of the India-Japan joint military exercise, Dharma Guardian, began on February 24, 2025, at the East Fuji Training Area in Japan. This significant exercise marks a major milestone as it is being conducted at an enhanced scale, with the participation of troops expanded to a company-strength level for the first time since the inception of the exercise.

The opening ceremony was graced by key dignitaries, including India's Ambassador to Japan, Mr Sibi George, and Lieutenant General Toriumi Seiji, the Commanding General of the Japan Ground Self-Defence Force (JGSDF) 1st Division. Both dignitaries conveyed their best wishes to the participating troops, expressing hope that the exercise would foster greater cooperation and mutual understanding between the two nations' armed forces.



They further emphasised that this joint exercise will not only enhance the operational readiness of both armies but also contribute to strengthening the enduring India-Japan defence relationship.

This edition of the exercise, which is scheduled to run from February 24 to March 9, 2025, is set to include an expanded range of activities that reflect the growing defence cooperation between India and Japan. Notably, the joint drills will involve counter-terrorism operations in urban terrain, a critical area of operational focus given the contemporary security landscape. The troops will also rehearse

activities conducted during United Nations peacekeeping operations, simulating real-world situations where multinational forces must collaborate effectively in complex environments. This collaboration aims to improve both forces' ability to respond swiftly and effectively during operations.

As the exercise progresses, the participating forces will engage in a series of tactical drills, exchanging knowledge and expertise, while building lasting ties of friendship and trust. The culmination of the exercise will see the two armies further solidifying their commitment to peace, security, and stability in the region.

J&K IT deptt wins prestigious "Technology Sabha Award-2025" for e-Unnat



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25

The Indian Express Group, in its 37th edition of the Technology Sabha & Awards, has conferred the Technology Award-2025 in the Enterprise Application category to the Information Technology Department, Jammu & Kashmir, for its in-house project "e-Unnat."

The award ceremony was held at the Novotel Convention Centre, Hyderabad.

Aijaz Qaiser, Additional Secretary, IT J&K and

Rachna Sharma, Deputy Secretary, IT Department received the prestigious award on behalf of the department.

Pertinently, e-Unnat is a revolutionary single unified portal developed in-house by the IT Department, J&K, aimed at providing seamless access to government services for the citizens. By integrating all online services onto one platform, it has significantly enhanced transparency, efficiency and ease of access.

Recognized for pioneering innovative solutions

and impactful digital governance initiatives, J&K has emerged as a leader in the country's digital transformation journey. This award is a testament to J&K Government's unwavering commitment to public service and technological excellence.

With 100% availability of 1,164 online services on the e-Unnat unified portal, Jammu & Kashmir has set a national benchmark in seamless digital service delivery, reinforcing its position at the forefront of e-Governance in India.

Amar Singh Club Srinagar hosts Program On 'Digital Addiction - The Invisible Pandemic'

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 26

To address growing concerns over excessive internet use and smartphone dependency, Amar Singh Club Srinagar organized a thought-provoking program titled "Digital Addiction - An Invisible Pandemic." The event shed light on the harmful effects of excessive screen time, social media overuse, video gaming, e-shopping, and smartphone addiction, particularly among children and youth.

The program was organized by the Secretary of Amar Singh Club Srinagar, Nasir Hamid Khan and was presided over by renowned Supreme Court lawyer and Senior Counsel Advocate Zaffar A. Shah. Several distinguished guests and experts from the education sector participated, sharing valuable insights on the issue.

school interventions and responsible digital habits. The speakers underscored that while technology is a vital tool in modern life, its excessive use can lead to anxiety, depression, and academic decline, particularly among students.

Senior Counsel Adv. Zaffar A. Shah stated, "Digital addiction is emerging as one of the biggest challenges of our time, impacting not just academic growth but also the physical and mental well-being of children. Education today cannot be limited to textbooks alone; we must integrate sports, outdoor activities, and real-world learning experiences to counter the over-dependence on screens. Parents, schools, civil society and the government must create safe spaces where children can engage in physical activities, as an active lifestyle is crucial for their development. If we do not take immediate action, the consequences will be far-reaching, affecting future generations' ability to think, create and engage

with the real world." Advocate Shah also stressed the role of parents in regulating children's screen time. He urged families to prioritize real-world interactions, promote outdoor activities and monitor digital consumption to ensure children use technology for educational purposes rather than excessive gaming, social media, and entertainment.

Prof. Gul Mohammad Wani remarked, "The days are long gone when education was only about preparing students for exams. In this digital era, where technology has advanced to unprecedented levels, we must rethink how we educate with innovation and creativity. The real challenge lies in guiding our younger generation, especially children, without falling into escapism. Unfortunately, we are not doing enough—not in schools, not in universities and even parents are caught up in their own busy lives."

Prof. Wani emphasized that digital addiction has significantly reduced the habit of book reading, which is a serious concern. He called for immediate measures at all education levels to counter this addiction and implement precautionary steps.



G.N. Var, PSAJK State President, commended the Amar Singh Club management for organizing such a crucial discussion and debate, emphasizing that conversations like these are necessary to bring meaningful change to society. He highlighted the role of PSAJK Women's Wing President Sheikh Ishrat Tanki, under whose leadership 82 women-led schools across urban and rural areas of J&K continue to provide quality education to low-income families, with some students receiving free education.

Var pointed out that teachers hold immense power in shaping young minds. He shared an example of how many parents struggle to control their children's excessive screen time and often rely on teachers for behavioral correction, stating, "Parents often find their children refusing to listen, deeply engrossed in their smartphones. In frustration, they tell them, 'I will inform your teacher.' This simple statement highlights the power and respect that teachers command. As educators, we must use this influence to guide students toward responsible technology use and digital discipline." He further emphasized the need for structured policies in schools to minimize screen dependency and promote a balanced

and healthy learning environment.

Nasir Hamid Khan, Secretary of Amar Singh Club Srinagar, stated, "Digital addiction is an invisible pandemic silently affecting all age groups. Through this program, our aim is to raise awareness about the harmful effects of excessive internet use, video gaming, social media, e-shopping, and smartphone dependency. It is essential to strike a balance between technology and real-life interactions to safeguard our mental and physical well-being."

Khan stressed that educating the younger generation about the long-term consequences of digital overuse is critical. By promoting mindful technology use, individuals can regain focus, creativity and meaningful social connections, ensuring a healthier and more productive future.

PSAJK Women's Wing President Sheikh Ishrat Tanki warned about the overuse of digital devices, leading to increased mental stress and anxiety among children's.

"The long-term impact of unchecked digital addiction is alarming. If we fail to act now, we risk raising a generation that is socially disconnected, mentally stressed and physically unfit. It is our collective responsibility—parents, teachers, policymakers and the community to create an environment that fosters balanced digital habits and encourages active, engaged and innovative young minds."

PRO PSAJK Dr. Syed Rifaida Souleh emphasized the urgent need to address digital addiction, stating, "The unchecked rise of digital dependency is quietly transforming our society. If we fail to intervene now, the consequences will be far-reaching. It is crucial for parents, educators and policymakers to foster a balanced digital culture—one that promotes meaningful engagement, sharpens critical thinking and nurtures a healthier lifestyle."

Other distinguished speakers who addressed the event included Former

KCC&I President Rouf Punjabi, Vice Principal of The Heritage School of Knowledge Mumtaza Akhter, Principal of Islamic Global School Urooj Qadri, Administrator of Greenland School of Education Afeefa Khawar, Kashmir Harvard Principal and others at "Digital Addiction - An Invisible Pandemic," organized by Amar Singh Club Srinagar.

The discussions underscored the alarming consequences of excessive digital consumption, particularly among children and young adults. Speakers urged parents, educators and society at large to take proactive measures in regulating screen time and fostering healthier alternatives. The event served as both a wake-up call and a call to action, with participants commending Amar Singh Club management for leading this crucial conversation. They stressed the need for continuous awareness campaigns and collaborative efforts to safeguard the mental and physical well-being of the next generation.

Raksha Mantri confers 32 gallantry, distinguished service & meritorious service medals to ICG personnel

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 25

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh conferred gallantry, distinguished service, and meritorious service medals to the personnel of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) during the 18th ICG Investiture Ceremony held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on February 25, 2025. A total of 32 medals - six President's Tatrakshak Medals (Distinguished Service), 11 Tatrakshak Medals (Gallantry) and 15 Tatrakshak Medals (Meritorious Service) - for 2022, 2023 and 2024 were presented to the personnel for their exemplary service, acts of valour, and selfless dedication to duty, often in challenging & extreme conditions.

Congratulating the personnel, Raksha Mantri

described the medals as not just a memento, but a symbol of bravery, perseverance and unwavering resolve towards maintaining the honour of the tricolour. He commended the personnel for their efforts in ensuring coastal security, organisational efficiency, seizure of drugs, rescue operations and international exercises.

Shri Rajnath Singh highlighted the growth of ICG into a formidable, trustworthy and one of the most efficient marine forces in the world. "Geographically, India is surrounded by sea on three sides and its coastline is vast. The nation's strategic security faces two types of threats. The first is war which is dealt by the Armed Forces, and the second are the challenges



of piracy, terrorism, infiltration, smuggling & illegal fishing for which the marine forces, especially ICG, are always alert. ICG, working proactively to tackle these challenges, is a key player in ensuring strategic security," he said.

In the last one year, ICG has achieved significant achievements in maritime safety, security and

humanitarian operations. It apprehended 14 boats and 115 pirates, apart from carrying out a major drug seizure of about Rs 37,000 crore. In addition, ICG saved 169 lives through various rescue operations and provided medical assistance to 29 seriously injured people.

Raksha Mantri termed these achievements as not

just statistics, but a story of ICG's courage and dedication towards national security. By being alert on the maritime borders, ICG not only stops illegal infiltration, but also helps in positively impacting India's sovereignty and internal security, he said. Shedding light on the emergence of unconventional threats due to the latest technological advancements, he called upon the marine forces, especially ICG, to remain alert of challenges such as cyber attacks, data breach, signal jamming, radar disruption and GPS spoofing, in addition to the conventional threats.

Shri Rajnath Singh asserted that the vision of a secure & prosperous India can only be realised if its security system is robust and the forces are strong.

He reiterated Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi-led Government's commitment to increasing the efficiency of ICG. "Indian Coast Guard has been allocated Rs 9,676.70 crore for the Financial Year 2025-26, which is 26.50% more than the previous budget. It is a crucial step towards modernising ICG. In addition, the procurement of 14 Fast Patrol Vessels, six Air Cushion Vehicles, 22 Interceptor Boats, six Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels and 18 Next Generation Fast Patrol Vessels has been approved to make ICG stronger," he said.

Raksha Mantri acknowledged ICG's focus on technological advancements, while commending the foundation laying of the Digital Coast Guard proj-

ect. All these efforts will continuously strengthen the ICG to effectively deal with conventional and unconventional threats, he said, assuring the Government's full support in achieving this objective.

Prior to the ceremony, Raksha Mantri inspected the Ceremonial Guard of Honour, reflecting the solemnity and importance of the occasion. The awardees and their families also interacted with Shri Rajnath Singh, marking a fitting conclusion to the event. Raksha Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth, Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, ICG Director General Paramesh Sivamani, other senior officials of ICG & Ministry of Defence and the families of the awardees were present on the occasion.

Man found dead mysteriously in Pargwal area

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 25 (UND)

A man was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Pargwal area here in the city outskirts.

Police sources said that a body of a male person was found lying on the bank of river Chenab in village Sajwal near the under-construction bridge. Police identified the deceased as Sanjay Kumar, resident of Uday Bala Jammu.

"Body is found under suspicious circumstances but a case has been registered and investigation is taken up," said police.

Absconder arrested by police station Bus Stand, Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 25.02.2025

Today Police Station Bus Stand, Jammu arrested an absconder namely Vikas Bharti @tuti s/o Sankar Chand R/O Jandar Kallan RS Pura who was absconding in case FIR No 15/2017 u/s 307/201/34 IPC 4/25 arms Act of PS Bus Stand and produced him before the Hon'ble Court.

This arrest was made by police team of Police Station Bus Stand led by SHO Bus Stand under the close supervision of SP City North Jammu and SDPO North Jammu.

Jammu Police is continuously working hard for prevention of crime and maintenance of law and order by arresting the criminals and absconders.

Former Mayor Rajendra Sharma extends support to Movement Kalki

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 25

Movement Kalki's ongoing protest received a significant boost today as former Mayor Shri Rajendra Sharma visited Amphala Chowk, Jammu, to extend his support to the movement. His presence infused new energy and strength into the cause. The protest has been continuously running for 129 days, advocating for cow protection and the preservation of Sanatan Dharma.

On this occasion, Movement Kalki's Advisor Pritam Sharma and several key office bearers and supporters were present. The meeting focused on discussing future strategies and upcoming plans for the movement.

Shri Rajendra Sharma praised the efforts of Movement Kalki, stating that the organization is playing a cru-



cial role in protecting Sanatan Dharma, ensuring cow protection, and promoting social welfare. He formally announced his full support for the movement and urged the public to actively participate in it.

He stated, "This movement by Movement Kalki is not just for Jammu and Kashmir but serves as a message of social and religious awakening for all of India. It is a major step towards preserving Sanatan culture and creating a corruption-free society."

Movement Kalki's Advisor Pritam Sharma emphasized

that Rajendra Sharma's support has given new strength to the organization. He urged all Sanatanis to unite and become part of this sacred movement, raising their voices against evils like cow slaughter.

He also highlighted Rajendra Sharma's remarkable contributions during his tenure as Mayor, particularly in fighting corruption and ensuring transparency in educational institutions and government departments. His efforts helped curb bribery and corruption in schools, colleges, and government offices.

"Movement Kalki shares the same vision of creating a corruption-free society while upholding religious and social values," - said Pritam Sharma.

The event was attended by key members of Movement Kalki's Legal Advisory Board, including Advocate Someshwar Kohli, Board Members Pawan Sharma, Anuradha Yogi, Sunita Kundal, Antu Kotwal, Monika Sharma, Sapna Hindu, Neha Malhotra, Mela Ram, and several other prominent figures.

Additionally, a large number of media representatives, social activists, and Movement Kalki supporters were present at the gathering.

Movement Kalki leaders emphasized that this support will further strengthen the organization, and they remain committed to relentlessly pursuing their goals.

Women Empowerment Event conducted at Chandrasi, Poonch



J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH: 25 FEB 2025

The Indian Army conducted a women empowerment event in Chandrasi, Poonch District, on February 25, 2025, with the aim of motivating women and students to take charge of their lives and become active contributors to society. A total of 35 civilians attended the event, which

featured interactive sessions, discussions, and presentations focused on women's empowerment, education, and self-reliance. The initiative sought to inspire women and students to pursue their dreams, overcome challenges, and become agents of positive change in their communities.

The Indian Army's women empowerment

event is part of its ongoing efforts to promote social equality, education, and community development in remote and underprivileged areas. By empowering women and students, the Army aims to create a more inclusive and equitable society, where everyone has the opportunity to thrive and contribute to the nation's growth.

IYC hosts 'Young India Ke Bol' in Jammu & Kashmir



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 25

The Indian Youth Congress successfully organized the 'Young India Ke Bol' event in Jammu & Kashmir here today at PCC Hq, under the leadership of National Secretary Maan Singh Rathore. The event saw enthusiastic participation from 47 contestants representing different districts of the region.

Young India Ke Bol is a flagship initiative of the Indian Youth Congress aimed at identifying and nurturing young spokespersons who can effectively represent the organization. As part of this initiative, a formal appointment letter will be issued to the

selected candidates in the coming days, officially recognizing their roles and responsibilities.

Ravinder Singh Chouhan secured the first position, earning a cash prize of Rs 10,000 along with a certificate of achievement. Divya Sharma claimed the second position, receiving a cash prize of Rs 7,500 and a participation certificate, while Faisal Iqbal Wani stood third. All participants were awarded certificates of appreciation for their contributions.

The program was graced by esteemed dignitaries, including Ravinder Kumar Sharma, Chief Spokesperson of JKPC & Ex-MLC; Ved Mahajan, Ex-Vice President of J&K

Pradesh Congress Committee & Ex-MLC, Shashi Sharma, Namrata Sharma Ex General Secretary PCC & Spokesperson, Kapil Singh, PCC Spokesperson; Prof. Pardeep Pandita; and other prominent figures.

The event was meticulously organized by Rahul Tandon State General Secretary PYC J&K. A panel of professional jury members analyzed the speeches, and the winners were declared based on their evaluations.

The event underscored the commitment of the Indian Youth Congress to providing a platform for young voices, encouraging youth participation in constructive discourse and leadership.

Indian Army organizes World Peace Understanding Day at Chhatral, Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH: 25 FEB 2025

In a thought provoking lecture on World Peace Understanding Day, Rashtriya Rifles Battalion addressed a gathering of school students, emphasizing the importance of global harmony, mutual respect, and cultural understanding. The event, held at Chhatral Higher Secondary School, Chhatral aimed to instill the values of peace and cooperation among young minds, shaping them into responsible global citizens.

A total strength of 175 including 150 students and 25 teachers attended the event. During the session, the speaker from Rashtriya Rifles Battalion highlighted how peace is not merely the absence of conflict but the presence of justice, equality, and mutual respect. He engaged students in discussions about historical peace movements, the role of international organizations, and the power of dialogue in resolving disputes. With inspiring anecdotes and real world examples, Rashtriya Rifles



speaker encouraged students to embrace empathy, tolerance, and non-violence in their daily interactions. The future of our world lies in the hands of the younger generation.

By fostering understanding and promoting peace, we can build a world where conflicts are resolved through dialogue and compassion, Rashtriya Rifles speaker stated. The interactive session also included a Q&A segment, where students eagerly asked questions about ways to contribute to world peace. Rashtriya Rifles speaker provided

insightful responses, urging them to practice kindness, respect diversity, and engage in community service. The principal and teachers of School, expressed gratitude for Rashtriya Rifles speaker's impactful session, stating, "This lecture has provided our students with a fresh perspective on global harmony and their role in promoting peace." The event concluded with a pledge by students to be peace ambassadors in their communities, reinforcing the message that peace begins with individuals.

Indian Army conducts Medical Petrol for Awam at Bhattawali Poonch



J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH: 25 FEB 2025

In order to provide medical assistance to AWAM residing in far flung areas of Poonch district, an initiative was taken by the Indian Army wherein a medical patrol was conducted at Bhattawali, Mendhar to provide essential healthcare services and to conduct health checkup for the local population in the area.

A total of 48 locals including 20 males, 21 females & seven children reaped benefits from the

medical facilities provided by the Indian Army. Medical facilities to include BP monitoring and distribution of medicines for minor ailments was also carried out.

The local populace expressed gratitude & appreciated the selfless efforts of the Indian Army. Civilians stated that such events not only assist in bringing medical aid to their doorstep but also help in building synergy between the Indian Army and the AWAM leading to collective development of the region.

DARPG released 30th Report CPGRAMS for States/UTs of Jan, 2025

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 25 FEB 2025

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) released the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) 30th monthly report for States/UTs for January, 2025. The said report provides a detailed analysis of types and categories of public grievances and the nature of disposal by the States/UTs.

A total of 58,586 grievances were redressed by the States and Union Territories in January, 2025. The pendency of grievances on the CPGRAMS portal stands at 1,88,408 grievances across the States/UTs Governments, as of 31st January, 2025.

The report provides the data for new users registered on CPGRAMS through CPGRAMS Portal in the month of January, 2025. A

total of 56,214 new users registered in the month of January, 2025, with maximum registrations from Uttar Pradesh (8,843) registrations.

The said report also provides the state-wise analysis on the grievances registered through Common Service Centres in January, 2025. CPGRAMS has been integrated with the Common Service Centre (CSC) portal and is available at more than 5 lakh CSCs, associating with 2.5 lakh Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs). 5,863 grievances were registered through CSCs in the month of January, 2025, in which maximum grievances were filed from Uttar Pradesh (1,725 grievances) followed by Odisha (829 grievances). It also highlights the major issues/categories for which the maximum grievances were registered through CSCs.

In January, 2025, the

Feedback Call Centre collected 53,821 feedbacks, out of the total feedbacks collected. In January, 2025, 20,973 feedbacks were collected for States/UTs by the Feedback Call Centre.

Uttar Pradesh has received the maximum number of grievances in January, 2025 with the number standing at 23,337 grievances. 16 States/UTs have received more than 1,000 grievances in the month of January, 2025. Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra disposed the maximum number of grievances in January, 2025, with the number standing at 21,899 and 5,138 grievances respectively. 14 States/UTs have disposed more than 1,000 grievances in the month of January, 2025.

The report also includes the status of grants released under the Sevottam Scheme in the FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24. In the last three Financial Years (2022-23,

2023-24, 2024-25), 713 training courses have been completed, in which -23,368 officers have been trained.

Key Highlights for the month of January, 2025, are as follows: Status of Public Grievances on CPGRAMS: In January, 2025, 61,465 PG cases were received for the States/UTs and 58,586 PG cases were redressed.

The monthly disposal in States/UTs decreased from 67,193 PG cases at the end of December, 2024, to 58,586 PG cases at the end of January, 2025. Status of Pendency of Public Grievances on CPGRAMS: 23 States/UTs have more than 1,000 pending grievances as on 31st January, 2025.

For States/UTs, as on 31st January, 2025, there exists a pendency of 1,88,408 PG cases.

The pendency in the States/UTs has increased from 1,85,519 PG cases at the end of December, 2024 to 1,88,408 PG cases at the

end of January, 2025

The report also features 5 success stories of effective grievance resolution from Central Ministries/Departments: Grievance of Smt. Indira Devi - Issuance of Certificate for single women.

Smt. Indira Devi, a resident of Chudoli village, has lived alone for 15-16 years after being abandoned by her husband. Despite caring for her children alone, she was not receiving government benefits like Palanhar or pension. Following a request from the Sarpanch, the District Collector directed an investigation by the Village Development Officer and Patwari. Based on the findings, the Magistrate of Dhod issued a certificate of abandonment on the spot during the "Prashasan gaon Ki Ore" campaign. This enabled Smt. Indira Devi to receive immediate pension approval and access to other benefits for single

women. Grievance of Shri Prashant Sharma - Issuance of EWS Certificate

Shri Prashant Sharma stated that he had applied for an EWS certificate, however, his application was not processed. Despite addressing all objections and resubmitting the required documents, no action was taken, and the certificate remains unapproved. The complainant requested necessary action, following which the EWS certificate was issued to the applicant. Grievance of Shri Deendayal Sharma - Disbursement of pending pension

The pension application of Shri Deendayal Sharma was initially rejected due to discrepancies in the submitted documents. Seeking to resolve the issue and have his pension approved, the complainant lodged a formal grievance. Upon contacting him over phone, he was requested to visit the

Tehsil Office in Karauli with all necessary documents. After thorough verification at both the first and second levels, the discrepancies were resolved, and Shri Deendayal Sharma's pension was successfully sanctioned. Grievance of Smt. Sudesh Rani - Disbursement of pending pension under National & State Single Woman Pension Scheme

Smt. Sudesh Rani filed a grievance regarding delayed pension payments under the National and State Single Woman Pension Scheme. Despite her application being approved, pensions for July, August, and September 2024 had not been credited to her account via the DBT system, causing financial hardship. The authorities promptly acted on the grievance, verified the records, and disbursed the pending payments for July to October 2024 directly to her account

under the DBT mechanism. Grievance of Shri Sobaran Singh - Ration not provided to cardholders

Shri Sobaran Singh, village head of Digwar, Tehsil Pali, reported that the operator of a government ration shop, Shivcharan, refused to provide ration to cardholders, instead weighing sacks of sand after recording their fingerprints. Those who protested faced abuse and threats of false cases. Concerned villagers raised their grievances during Sampurna Samadhan Diwas. Their complaint prompted an investigation, which confirmed the misconduct and irregularities committed by the fair price sellers. With the District Magistrate's approval on 26th November 2024, an FIR was lodged against Shivcharan, Fair Price Seller. Further action is under process regarding which the complainant has also been informed.

CU Jammu holds Annual Meeting of Advisory Committee for DBT-Supported M.Sc Biotechnology Program

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 25

The Centre for Molecular Biology (CMB) at Central University of Jammu, established in 2016, recently hosted its annual meeting of the Advisory Committee for the DBT Government of India-supported M.Sc. Biotechnology program, introduced by the Department of Bio-technology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, commenced in 2020 and has been running successfully with financial sup-



port until the academic year 2026-2027. Admission to this program is based on the Graduate Aptitude Test (GAT-B) conducted annually by the National Testing Agency (NTA), and each selected student is granted a monthly fellowship of Rs 5000 for the entire two-year duration.

The meeting was attended by distinguished members, including Prof. Amitabha Bandopadhyay from the Department

of Bioengineering, IIT Kanpur; Prof. Salgotra from the Department of Biotechnology, SKUAST Jammu; Sh. Anil Suri, President of the Industrial Organization, Bari Brahmana, Jammu; and all faculty members of CMB. The session witnessed an insightful presentation of the annual report by Prof. Mushtaq Ahmed, Project Investigator, who shared key updates on the program's progress.

In his report, Prof. Ahmed highlighted that DBT had extended the program until the academic session 2025-2027, following a positive evaluation of its performance over the past five years. Prof. Sanjeev Jain, while chairing the meeting, expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the dedicated faculty of CMB in successfully running the program and in ensuring its continued growth and success.

ADGP Armed inaugurated 02 weeks Specialized Training Course for Armed Police personnel at CTC Sunjwan

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 25

Anand Jain, IPS, Additional Director General, Armed Police, today visited the Commando Training Centre (CTC) in Sunjwan, Jammu, and inaugurated the 02 weeks Quick Reaction team Training Course. The course is designed to enhance the operational capabilities of police personnel & also improve their tactical skills.

On his arrival, the ADGP was presented Guard of Honour by a contingent of CTC Sunjwan, Ms. Sarah Rizvi, IPS, DIG IRP Range Jammu and Shri Vinod Kumar, IPS, DIG, Armed Range Jammu were also accompanying the ADGP.

On the occasion, the ADGP Armed inspected the facilities provided to



the trainees in the said training centre. During his address, the ADGP Armed emphasized the significance of these Refresher/Specialized courses and their crucial role in preparing the Police personnel in tackling emerging situations & future challenges. The ADGP also

stressed upon the trainees to fully utilize this opportunity to sharpen their skills and enhance their tactical knowledge.

Among others the officers who were present on the occasion include Shri. Abrar Choudhary, SSP, Commandant, IRP 14th Bn. & other Officers.

PS Hiranagar catches truck carrying stolen cows

JI NEWS SERVICE
HIRANAGAR, FEB 25

Today a Police Party from Police Station Hiranagar set up a naka at Londi Morh. During naka duty, naka Party intercepted a truck bearing registration no. PB03AP/0728 loaded with 18 bovine animals.

Driver arrested on the spot.

Truck was travelling through National Highway towards Samba.

In this regard, FIR has been registered under relevant sections at Police Station Hiranagar.

Northern Railway honoured with "Build India Infra Awards 2025" for transformative Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link, a testament to India's engineering ingenuity

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEB 25

In a significant recognition of engineering excellence, Northern Railway has been awarded the prestigious Build India Infra Awards 2025 for its contribution to the amazing Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link project. The award was presented by Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Ram Mohan Kinjarapu. The distinguished accolade was accepted by Shri Ashok Kumar Verma, General Manager of Northern Railway, who acknowledged the diligence, innovation and commitment of the team involved in the project.

The award was presented in the Railways sector, highlighting its impactful influence on the industry and the communities it is set to serve. This transformative rail link stands as a testament to India's engineering ingenuity and dedication to making the Indian Railways a state-of-the-art transit network.

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link is a national project which shall play a pivotal role in enhancing all weather



connectivity across the nation by connecting the Kashmir Valley to the rest of the country. This link is set to play a crucial role in driving socio-economic growth all across North India as well as the rest of the nation.

Embark on a journey of recognition and distinction with yet another year of the annual Build India Infra Awards 2025, an extraordinary initiative that spotlights and commends trailblazing infrastructure projects and initiatives across India. This exclusive platform serves as a beacon, illuminating the exceptional

endeavors of both organizations who have etched their mark on the canvas of India's infrastructure sector.

These awards not only recognize excellence but also celebrate and honor the significant contributions made towards the development and progress of India's infrastructure landscape. Through these awards, Build India acknowledge the spirit of innovation, perseverance, and transformative contributions that have propelled the nation's development forward and serve as a testament to future generations.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah appoints T P Singh Aman as Provincial President Jammu Province of JKNC

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 25

Dr. Farooq Abdullah, President of the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) former Chief Minister, appointed Sardar Tejinder Pal Singh Aman as the Provincial President Jammu Province of JKNC Youth Wing in a programme held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu.

Tejinder Pal has assumed the chair in presence of Dr Farooq Abdullah, Deputy Chief Minister Mr Surinder Choudhary, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra former minister and Additional General Secretary Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC Jammu; Ajaz Jan MLA, Altaf Kaloo MLA and other senior party leaders. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Farooq Abdullah emphasized the vital role of youth in shaping the future of Jammu & Kashmir. He said, "The youth are the backbone of our party and the driving force behind a progressive and peaceful J&K. I am confident that Sardar Tejinder Pal Singh Aman will uphold the values of the National Conference and work towards



empowering young voices in the region." Dr. Farooq Abdullah appreciated the role of Mr Ajaz Jan MLA to mobilize the youth in Jammu region now his engagements in the constituency may not be able to work in Jammu Province for the youth as such Sardar Tejinder Pal Singh Aman who is District President Jammu Urban YNC is elevated as Provincial President Jammu Province YNC. He hoped that he will delivered the services for the interest of the youth and mobilize at grass root level.

Surinder Choudhary Deputy Chief Minister, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra former minister and Additional General Secretary Jammu and Rattan Lal Gupta, they congratulating Aman on his new role, stated, "JKNC has always believed in giving young and dynamic leaders a platform to serve the people.

MLA Ajaz Jan also extended his best wishes, remarking, "The Youth Wing of JKNC plays a crucial role in mobilizing the younger generation towards constructive political participation. Tejinder Pal Singh Aman's dedication and experience make him the right choice to lead this important responsibility."

After assuming charge, Tejinder Pal Singh Aman expressed his gratitude to the party leadership for reposing faith in him. He assured that he would work tirelessly to strengthen the party at the grassroots level and engage the youth in meaningful political and developmental activities.

The event marked a significant step in further energizing the youth cadre of the party, with senior leaders and workers pledging their support to Aman's leadership in the Youth Wing.

Awareness program on J&K Assembly Election-2024 held at GCW Udhampur



JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 22

Department of Political Science, Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur, under the aegis of IQAC and under the able guidance of Principal of the college, Dr. Nalini Pathania, organized an awareness program on the theme "Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Election-2024 at college campus here today.

The aim of the programme was to make the students aware about the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Election of 2024.

Principal, GCW Udhampur, Dr. Nalini Pathania was the Chief Guest on the Occasion. In her speech, the Principal of the college congratulated the Department of Political Science for conducting such an informative Programme. The Programme began with the formal welcome address by Dr. Roohul Amin Malik.

Resource Person for

the Awareness Program was Dr. Nazim Mohi Ud Din (Political Science) who delivered a special Lecture on "Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Election-2024". He gave a detailed account of Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature, before Reorganization Act, of 2019 and after the same. He also discussed in detail about the election results of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, 2024.

The Whole Programme was organised by the Organizing Committee including Prof. Swarna Devi, HOD of the department, Dr. Nazim Mohi Ud Din, Dr. Tanveer Ahmed Lone, and Roohul Amin Malik.

Other members who were present on the occasion were Dr. Swati Dutt, Dr. Sarabjeet Kaur, Prof. Meenakshi Jamwal, Dr. Sareer Ahmad Bhar, Dr. Azad Ahmed Wani etc. The programme was ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. Tanveer Ahmad Lone.

IIM Jammu inaugurates Trekking-Based MDP for Leadership Skills for NTPC Managers

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 25

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu inaugurated a unique trekking-based Management Development Programme (MDP) for NTPC's dynamic young leaders at the Pralahad Classroom on 25th Feb 2025. This leadership training program, conducted from 24th Feb to 26th Feb 2025, is designed to enhance leadership skills through experiential learning in the picturesque lower Himalayas. The program features seven carefully curated sessions aimed at fostering personal and professional growth. The batch featured 49 Participants from the different part of the country.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Prof. Jabir

Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Program Director, Dr. Ateeque Shaikh, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy (EE &C), IIM Jammu and Dr. Chinmaya.K. Swain, Program Director, IIM Jammu.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, emphasized that NTPC is the pride of India, playing a crucial role in shaping the nation's future. He highlighted that the program serves as a platform to connect, collaborate, and envision the future together. He noted that while IIM Jammu brings academic expertise, NTPC professionals contribute practical knowledge, creating an opportunity for synergy and co-creation. Reflecting on IIM Jammu's journey, he spoke about the Institute's rapid journey from the transit campus of Canal Road Campus to Permanent Campus at



Jagti and the introduction of various other programs under the visionary leadership of Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu. He encouraged participants to actively engage, take note of key takeaways, and make the most of this opportunity to create a meaningful impact.

Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Program Director, IIM

Jammu, during the inaugural ceremony, emphasized the boundless potential of human capacity. Quoting Mark Twain, he highlighted that the two most important days in life are the day one is born and the day one discovers why. He extended his warm wishes to all the participants, stating that the journey ahead is both

promising and make best use of this training program. Dr. Ateeque Shaikh, Chairperson, EE&C, IIM Jammu, welcomed participants, highlighting the program's uniqueness. He thanked NTPC for their nominations and provided an overview of IIM Jammu's expanding training initiatives. Introducing the EE&C division, he empha-

sized its objectives and impact. He encouraged participants to maximize their learning experience while enjoying the institute's lush green campus.

The inaugural event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Chinmaya. K. Swain, Program Director, IIM Jammu followed by the National Anthem.

The program includes field-based experiential learning activities such as trekking in the Himalayas, empowering leadership, team building, sustainability and good governance, conflict resolution, negotiating solutions, intrapreneurship skills, strategic thinking, mastering communication for leadership, and digital transformation. Through initiatives like these, IIM Jammu reaffirms its role in shaping future-ready leaders who can make meaningful contributions to society and industry.

District Level Sports meet held at The Shri Ram School

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 25

The Nations Development Association, in collaboration with MyBharat NYK Jammu, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, successfully organized a District Level Sports Meet at The Shri Ram Universal School. The event witnessed spirited competition among young athletes, fostering sportsmanship and unity.

The event featured various sports competitions, showcasing the talent and dedication of the participants. The winners of the Meet were Barjani Youth Club, Ramgarh Club, Rahian, Khanwal Club, SRC Club and The Shri Ram Universal School. The winners in different categories were Race: Jatin Kumar, Rope Skipping: Lakshmi Shukla, Shot Put: Gautam, Kho-Kho: The Shri Ram Universal School, Badminton: Priya Choudhary and Pranamya Tripathi, Volleyball: Barjani Club.

Chief Guest was Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Ramgarh and Former Minister for Health & Medical Education J&K. Guest of Honour was Sanjeev Gupta, Chairman, The Shri Ram Universal School. Special Guest was Darshan Singh BDC. They encouraged the participants with their moti-

national words and support.

Additionally, the event was attended by distinguished guests including Former Sarpanch Bhagwaan Singh and Tajinder Singh, Former Vice Chairman Municipal Committee Ramgarh Anil Gupta, President Ramgarh Nancy Choudhary, and President Sawankha Naveen Sharma.

Mr. Sushil Singh Charak, Founder cum Chief Functionary of the Nations Development Association, served as the principal organizer of the event. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the management of The Shri Ram Universal School for their unwavering support and for providing excellent facilities that contributed to the success of the event.

The Sports Meet saw enthusiastic participation from various clubs and schools, contributing to a lively and energetic atmosphere. The Shri Ram Universal School played a crucial role as the Venue Partner, ensuring the seamless execution of the event.

The successful conclusion of the District Level Sports Meet underscored the importance of sports in youth development and community engagement. The organizers extended their gratitude to all participants, dignitaries, and supporters for making the event a grand success.

Indian Army conducts Lecture on Upliftment and Empowerment of People of J&K at Bhala, Doda



JNEWS SERVICE
DODA: 25 FEB 2025

As a part of ongoing process of educating the local population on 'Upliftment and Empowerment of People of J&K', a lecture was conducted at Bhala on 24 February 2025. Speaking on the occasion, a local Teacher said that the initiative reflects a collective effort to bring positive change to the lives of people in the region.

By focusing on education, entrepreneurship and cultural preservation, we are paving the

way for a brighter future. The highlight of the event is educating the local populace to uplift and empower them through various courses like Computer Operator, Welding Courses, Women Nursing, Motor Driving and Beautician courses which are being conducted every year. A total of 35 people attended the lecture. Mr Aashiq Hussain, Naib Sarpanch appreciated the measures projected by the event to uplift and empower the people of J&K and to choose a progressive life.

SWD organizes Awareness Program on Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan at GDC Kathua



JNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEB 25

The Social Welfare Department of Kathua organized a crucial awareness program on the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan at the Government Degree College Kathua today, aiming to educate students about the harmful effects of addiction and promote a drug-free lifestyle.

The program featured two distinguished resource persons, Dr.Mir Anayat, Associate Professor GMC Kathua and Dr. Riaz Bhat ,Associate Professor, GHMC,Kathua who shared valuable insights on the dangers of substance abuse, including alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. They discussed the significant

impact addiction has on mental health, physical well-being, and social relationships, particularly among the youth.

They also highlighted the importance of prevention and early intervention, stressing the need for students to be aware of the risks associated with substance use.They elaborated on the role of educational institutions, families, and communities in combating addiction and supporting individuals who may be struggling with it.

The event was part of the ongoing efforts by the social welfare Department to create a drug free society and to educate the younger generation about the benefits of living free from addiction.

ACD conducts field visit, convenes public outreach camps in Block Inderwal

JNEWS SERVICE
KISHITWAR, FEBRUARY 25

Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Phulail Singh today conducted a comprehensive field visit in Panchayat Inderwal-C of Block Inderwal, inspecting various ongoing works under MGNREGA, Capex, SBM-G, and PMAY-G.

The concerned officials were asked to ensure timely completion of the projects by adhering to the quality standards and stipulated timelines.

The job card holders were asked to ensure their presence at work sites, emphasizing the importance of quality work and community use. Contractors were instructed to complete their allotted work within the stipulated time frame, maintaining quality standards.

Later, the ADC convened public outreach camps at Arya Singpur and Gujarari, where he listened to public grievances and resolved them on the spot.

Power shutdown

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Jakh, Jogpur, Sarore, Patli Industry, Smailpur, Rahya, Gurah, Utterbehni, Mandal, Central University and adjoining areas will remain

affected on February 27 and 28 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Meanwhile, the Superintendent Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Sehora and its adjoining areas will remain affected on February 27 from 9 am to 2 pm.

GDC Ramgarh organises HIV awareness programme

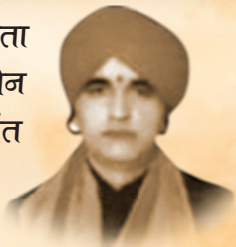
JNEWS SERVICE
SAMBHA, FEBRUARY 25

The Red Ribbon Club of Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh organized an awareness programme on HIV/AIDS, to educate the community on HIV prevention, treatment, and the importance of reducing stigma against those living with HIV.

The highlight of the event was the formation of a human chain in the shape of a crossed red ribbon symbol, where students held red balloons to symbolize unity in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The event was conducted under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra. The programme was coordinated by Prof. Sandeep Kumari, the convenor of the Red Ribbon Club along with the support of other members including Prof. Brham Dutt, Dr. Shivali Panjgotra, Priya Sharma, Dr. Susheel Kumar, Dr. Neeraj and Mr. Darpan Malhotra.

सभी धर्म प्रेमियों को सूचित किया जाता है कि मन्दिरों के शहर जम्मू के प्राचीन धार्मिक एवं ऐतिहासिक स्थान जामवंत गुफा पीर खोह मठ में महाशिवरात्रि बुधवार, दिनांक 26 फरवरी, 2025 के उपलक्ष्य में चार दिवसीय मेले का आयोजन किया जा रहा है। जिसमें ऊच कोटि के सन्त महन्त पधार रहे हैं।



महन्त पीर राजेन्द्र नाथ जी

मेला कार्यक्रम

उद्घाटन	मंगलवार, 25 फरवरी, 2025	3 बजे सायं
रुद्राविषेक	बुधवार, 26 फरवरी, 2025	प्रातः 3 बजे
हवन यज्ञ	बुधवार, 26 फरवरी, 2025	प्रातः 5 बजे
गद्दी पूजन	बुधवार, 26 फरवरी, 2025	प्रातः 6 बजे
सत्संग	बुधवार, 26 फरवरी, 2025	प्रातः 10 बजे
सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम	बुधवार, 26 फरवरी, 2025	3 बजे दोपहर
विशाल भंडारा	वीरवार, 27 फरवरी, 2025	12 बजे दोपहर
सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम	वीरवार, 27 फरवरी, 2025	4 बजे सायं
ध्वज पूजन	शुक्रवार, 28 फरवरी, 2025	1 बजे दोपहर
विशाल वंगल	शुक्रवार, 28 फरवरी, 2025	2 बजे दोपहर

75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Jal Shakti (Irrigation & Flood Control) Department
Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division No.II Jammu
E-Mail: jfcmuxenid@gmail.com, xentrrigation-div2@jk.gov.in, Tel/Fax: 0191-2457756

NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM E- TENDERS

E-NIT No.: 36 of 02/2024-25

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer Irrigation Division No-II, Jammu invites e-tenders in two cover system **Cover 1***containing prequalification documents and **Cover 2**nd containing Price Bid from registered contractors of appropriate Class for the below mentioned work:

S.No	Name of the work	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Documents (Rs.)
1.	Temporary Restoration of damaged portion at RD 3000M Left Side of D-10 of MRC	0.51	2% of the Advertised Cost	10 Days	B, C & D	200
2.	Restoration of entrance of cattle ghat existing between RD 3025-3038 mtr of D-10 of MRC along the road and left side	1.53	-do-	15 days	B, C & D	200

Position of A.A. A : Accorded
Position of T. S : Under Process
Position of Funds : Budgetary Provision 023-M&R

Important Dates:

- i) Date of Publishing from : 24-02-2025 (09:00 AM)
- ii) Downloading from : 24-02-2025 (09:00 AM)
- iii) Uploading from : 24-02-2025 (09:00 AM)
- iv) Uploading stops on : 01-03-2025 (18:00 PM)
- v) Tender opens on : 03-03-2025 (12:00 Noon or Subjective)

- The bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> w.e.f. 24-02-2025 from 09:00AM onwards.
- The bids shall be uploaded/ submitted in electronic format on the website <http://jktendersgov.in> w.e.f. 24-02-2025 from 09:00 AM onwards.
- The complete bidding process will be **ONLINE**.
- The tender uploaded on the website up to due date will be opened on **03-03-2025 (12:00 Noon or Subjective)** in the office of the **Executive Engineer Irrigation Division II** presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working venues.

No: JID/II/2024-25/8509-8545
Dated: 24-02-2025

DIP/J-10567/24
Date: 25-2-25

Sd/-
(Er. Hafiz Ullah Reshi)
Executive Engineer
Irrigation Division No. II
Jammu

Joint Tree Plantation Drive conducted at Mendhar Poonch



JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, 25 FEB 2025

In a significant Military Environmental initiative, the Indian Army along with Forest Department Mendhar Forest Range, Poonch planted Trees inside COB Dhargaloon to promote sustainability and environmental conservation. The plantation was carried out under the theme "EK PED MAA KE NAAM", dedicating each tree to the nurturing spirit of the mother everywhere. This plantation program is a step towards securing fragile ecosystem and tackling climate change.

Indian Army and Forest Department will jointly combat forest fires and such incidents by sharing their resources and expertise. The initiative also focused on strengthening National Security through Environmental Protection by doing plantation in border and sensitive areas. The Joint effort of Indian Army and Forest Department is to carry out afforestation in difficult areas under the theme "EK PED MAA KE NAAM". By this effort, the inter Department gap was bridged and Forest Department has been convinced to actively collaborate in

sharing any information related to anti national activities occurring in or nearby forest areas.

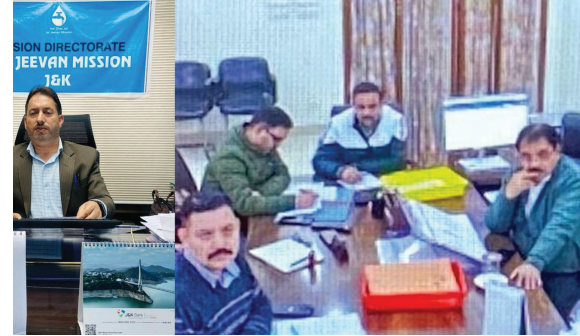
This cooperation will help to enhance security and ensure that potential threats are identified and addressed promptly, contributing to the safety and wellbeing of both the environment and the nation. A total of 30 plants of different species have been planted inside COB Dhargaloon. The effort is part of ongoing series of planting initiatives, with plans to plant many more trees in the Village Navni, Panakha, Behrote, Suyian, Kottan in coming months.

Mission Director JJM, Khurshid Ahmad Shah takes financial review of Jal Jeevan Mission In J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 25

Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K Khurshid Ahmad Shah today took a financial review of implementation of JJM in Jammu & Kashmir through virtual mode. The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Kashmir & Jammu besides Superintending Engineers Hydraulic circle's and Executive Engineers of all divisions including their counterparts of Mechanical engineering.

The Mission Director enquired about the unspent funds above one crore in Single Nodal Account (SNA) of each division and directed the Executive engineers to expedite the process of payment to the firms



who have satisfactorily completed the works allotted. The chair called for synergy between the Executive Engineers and Superintending Engineers for clearing the liabilities well before the completion of financial year in March.

The Officer on Special Duty with Mission Director enjoined upon the officers to clear the liabilities on account of completed works which will

pave way for transition to new payment system. The meeting further directed the divisions to upload the details of infrastructure created on Gati Shakti portal for which training is being imparted by National Jal Jeevan Mission to the nodal officers.

The meeting concluded with directions that the next financial review will be held on weekend to monitor the progress effectively.

Exilr 2025 "Mystery to Mastery": Rajdhani College hosts Two-Day Entrepreneurial Extravaganza



JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEB 25

Rajdhani College's Entrepreneurship Cell successfully concluded its two-day Exilr 2025 "Mystery to Mastery" annual fest. The event, featured a diverse range of speakers, performances, and competitions. The theme of the event was "Mystery to Mastery", which reflects that initiating a start-up and facing ups and downs in the initial stages is always a mystery but the one who faces the challenges diligently and patiently in this Mystery game will become a Master of it at the end.

Day 1 began with an impressive inauguration ceremony, including addresses from Prof. Rajesh Giri (Principal), Prof. Amit Kumar Singh (Chairman, Governing Body, Rajdhani College), Mr. Sujit Piyush Pattanayak (Distinguished Guest), and Dr. Pushpendra, who is a doctor and a successful entrepreneur, served as the chief guest of the event. Prof. Giri addressed the audience and said "Entrepreneurship plays a crucial role in driving innovation by fostering creativity, competition, and economic

growth." Prof. Amit Kumar Singh emphasized that "Ideation, Passion and Patience" are the three keys to be a successful entrepreneur. Mr. Sujit Piyush Pattanayak encouraged the students to initiate their start-ups and gave them important lookouts when the do so.

The day continued with insightful sessions from leadership coach Mr. Viraj Kalra (Life Coach and a distinguished entrepreneur) and Mr. Ankur Goel, CEO of The Skewerup Capital. A compelling women's panel followed, featuring Ms. Shivangi Verma (Co-founder of Book-Leaf Publishing), and Ms. Kirti (CEO, The Education Tree). The afternoon concluded with entertainment from Mr. Tushar Basra who is a Stand-up Comedian from West Delhi. The "Swraag Band," and a Rap Group made the evening musical and memorable.

Day 2 kicked off with the Caserux Inter-College Competition. The afternoon featured a talk by Jitendra Sharma, Founder of Hair Originals, followed by the Phantom Hunt Inter-College Competition and a final prize distribution ceremony. Participants from various

colleges across University of Delhi, such as Maitreyi College, Sri Venkateswara College, Daulatram College, P.G. DAV College, Aryabhata College, out of which, the latter two bagged the first and the second prize, respectively.

The event showcased a dynamic blend of professional insights, engaging performances, and spirited inter-college competitions, providing a memorable and valuable experience for attendees. Exilr 2025 served as a platform for networking, learning, and celebrating entrepreneurship. Ms. Mohini Aggarwal, Convener, E-Cell mentioned that the annual event of E-Cell of Rajdhani College "Exilr" is conducted every year providing platform to students to initiate their start-ups so that they don't have to look for jobs, instead they should become the job-providers as is the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. The insightful sessions ended with a vote of thanks from co-convener, E-Cell Prof. Rajendra Singh. Dr. Anju Gupta, Dr. Mansi Yuvenar Chaudhary and Dr. Mayur Taneja served as the coordinators of the annual event of e-cell.

Narayana Health Expands in Eastern India, lays foundation stone for 21st Unit

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 25

Reinforcing its mission to revolutionize healthcare access in Narayana Health laid the foundation for its largest initiative, Narayana Health.

Dr. Emmanuel Rupert, Managing Director and Group CEO, Narayana Health, highlighted the facility's transformative potential, stating, "Narayana Health City, New Town, Kolkata, will be the largest private hospital facility, redefining healthcare in Eastern India, upon completion. It will feature all Centers of Excellence, cutting-edge technology, and world-class expertise under one roof. This expansion strengthens our commitment to providing advanced medical care, ensuring that patients receive the highest standards of treatment and clinical outcomes." With this flagship unit, Narayana Health solidifies its position as the largest and most comprehensive private healthcare provider in West Bengal, setting new benchmarks in medical excellence and patient care.

R Venkatesh, Group COO, Narayana Health, underscored this aspect, saying, "With rising medical emergencies, having a well-equipped critical care unit is no longer optional—it's essential. This expansion will elevate Kolkata's ability to handle complex and emergency cases with world-class infrastruc-



ture."

It is a matter of pride for all of us as we see our brand scaling new heights and with this strategic expansion, Narayana Health reaffirms its commitment to making high-quality healthcare accessible to everyone." says Dr. M.M. Mathavan, Facility Director, SMVD Narayana Superspecialty Hospital, Katra, J&K.

As a leader in high-quality healthcare, Narayana Health has been serving the people of South India through Bengaluru, Shimoga, Mysore, Dharwad, Davangere and Kolar. East through Kolkata, Howrah, Barasat, Raipur, Guwahati and Jamshedpur. West through Mumbai and Ahmedabad. North through Delhi NCR, Jaipur and Katra.

Set to become the largest private hospital unit in Eastern India upon completion, this state-of-the-art multi-specialty facility will significantly enhance the region's healthcare infrastructure. The new 10-lakh-square-foot facility will house multiple Centers of Excellence across specialties such as Oncology, Cardiac Sciences, Organ Transplants, Orthopedics and Advanced Trauma

Care, Neurology, Gastroenterology, Renal Sciences, and Critical Care.

To ensure efficient, patient-friendly outpatient clinic services, rapid diagnostic care, and comprehensive medical amenities, Narayana Health City in New Town, Kolkata, will be equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure and the latest technology.

Narayana Health City in New Town will be a 1,100-bedded flagship campus on completion. This strategic expansion will increase the total capacity of Narayana Health to 7,350 beds, further strengthening Narayana Health's commitment to accessible and world-class healthcare.

With the foundation stone laid for its fifth hospital in Kolkata, which will be built in phases, Narayana Health becomes the largest private healthcare facility in Eastern India, reaffirming its unwavering commitment to advancing medical excellence and accessibility in the region.

Beyond specialized treatment, the hospital will also strengthen Kolkata's critical care and emergency response capabilities, ensuring better access to life-saving interventions.

Khatana visits DU, listens grievances of students



JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, FEB 25

In a heartfelt effort to bridge gaps and address student concerns, Mr. Gulam Ali Khatana, Senior BJP Leader and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), today embarked on a special visit to Delhi University's iconic hostels—Gwyer Hall and Jubilee Hall. Interacting closely with students, especially those from Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Khatana listened intently to their grievances, aspirations, and challenges, promising to champion their cause at the highest levels.

The visit was marked by candid conversations, where students shared their experiences of navigating life in the capital while pursuing their academic dreams. Mr. Khatana, known for his unwavering commitment to youth empowerment, assured them of his dedication to creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for students from marginalized regions.

During his visit, Mr. Khatana was accompanied by prominent student leaders and faculty

members, who actively participated in the discussions. Their presence added depth to the dialogue, highlighting the collective effort to address student issues and foster a positive academic environment.

Later, the MP made his way to the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) office, where he engaged with the elected secretary, Ms. Mitravinda Karanwal, and other representatives. Discussions revolved around key student issues, with Mr. Khatana emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts to ensure the welfare and progress of the student community. The visit resonated deeply with the students, who expressed gratitude for Mr. Khatana's proactive approach and genuine concern for their well-being. His message was clear "Your voices matter, and I am here to ensure they are heard." This inspiring visit not only highlighted Mr. Khatana's commitment to the youth but also reinforced the importance of dialogue and action in building a brighter future for students across the nation.

Varun Bali declares Qualified for Award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D)

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 25

Mr. Varun Bali (s/o Mr. Rakesh Kumar and Mrs. Chanchal Sharma), a Research Scholar at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), has been declared qualified for the award of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in Physics. He pursued his research on the topic "Morphological, Thermal, and Spectroscopic Studies of Some Biological Samples" under the supervision of Dr. Vivek Kumar Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Physics, Lucknow University, and co-supervision of Prof. Yugal Khajuria, Professor, School of Physics, SMVDU. During his Ph.D., Mr. Varun published his research work in highly reputed SCIE-indexed international journals and presented his papers at numerous national and

international conferences. Professor (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, Dr. S. K. Wanchoo, Dean, Faculty of Sciences, Dr. Ram Prakash, Head, School of Physics, and other committee members congratulated him on his achievement. Expressing his gratitude, Mr. Varun Bali thanked the Honorable Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU for providing the necessary facilities and support. He also extended his appreciation to the faculty and staff of the School of Physics, as well as the university administration, for their guidance, cooperation, and assistance throughout his research journey. The entire SMVDU fraternity extends its heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Varun Bali and wishes him success in his future academic and professional endeavors.

Deposit additional arm within 1 month: DM Samba directs License holders

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 25

District Magistrate Samba Rajesh Sharma issued an order here today, directing license holders possessing more than 2 firearms to deposit additional firearm(s) as provisioned under Arms (Amendment) Act, 2019. "Since possess-

ing three firearms is not permitted under the law, all firearm license holders in Samba district who possess more than two firearms must strictly comply with the directions within one month from the issuance of this order. Failing to do so will result in action as warranted under the provisions of the Arms

Act" the order issued by DM stated.

As per Section 3(2) of the Arms Act, 1959 (as amended by the Arms (Amendment) Act, 2019), no person, except those covered under sub-section (3), is allowed to acquire, possess, or carry more than two firearms at any time, it stated further.

International Seminar concludes at Central University of Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 25

The Department of Hindi and Other Indian Languages at the Central University of Jammu, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), North-Western Regional Centre, Punjab University, Chandigarh, successfully concluded a two-day international seminar on the theme "Hindi Literature of Jammu & Kashmir in the Light of Indian Knowledge Traditions and Culture."

The first session of the second day was chaired by Dr. Amit Gupta, Assistant Professor at the Compar-



ative Religion Study Centre. The session was conducted by Dr. Shashikant Mishra, Associate Professor in the department. The session began with a welcome speech by Prof. Bharat Bhushan, Head of the Department of Hindi and Other Indian Languages. A total of 5 scholars participated directly and 9

scholars and professors presented their research papers virtually.

The speakers included Dr. Aarti Pathak from Kalindi College, Delhi University, Dr. Chandan Kumar, Assistant Professor at Patliputra University, Patna, Suman Bala (research scholar) from the Hindi Department, Hary-

ana Central University, Meenakshi Giri (research scholar) from Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Punit Kumar (research scholar), Hindi Department, Haryana Central University, Kumar Vishwamanagal (research scholar) from Haryana Central University, Dr. Rajesh V. Chaurpagar, Assistant Professor at Swargiya B.S. Arts College, Prof. N.G. Science & A.G. Commerce College, Sakharkherda, Sonali (research scholar) from Delhi University, Dr. Ashok Kumar from Yash College of Education, Roorkhee, along with research scholars Anshu Kumari,

Indradevi, Shivali, Roshni, and Suman Kumar from the department.

At the end of the seminar, Dr. Shashikant Mishra, the seminar coordinator, presented the report of the two-day international seminar. Certificates were distributed to the paper presenters. It is important to note that the papers presented during the seminar have been compiled into a book titled "Hindi Literature and Culture of Jammu & Kashmir", which was released during the inauguration of the seminar.

The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks by the Head of the Department and the National Anthem.

Ramzan arrangements reviewed at Bhaderwah

JI NEWS SERVICE

BHADERWAH, FEBRUARY 25

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sunil Kumar today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the holy month of Ramadan.

The meeting was attended by officials from the Power Development Department (PDD), Jal Shakti (PHE), Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (CA&FCS), Municipal Committee, Health Department, and Police, along with representatives of religious and social organizations.

The ADC directed PDD and Jal Shakti functionaries to take measures to maintain adequate power and potable water supply during Iftar and Sehri. Directions were also issued



to initiate repair of defunct streetlights, damaged poles, transformers, and water supply infrastructure before Ramadan.

To regulate market prices, the ADC instructed CA&FCS to monitor the public distribution system and ensure the availability of essential commodities throughout the week. A team involving officials from MC Bhaderwah, Veterinary, Health, and CA&FCS was constituted to intensify market inspection to check overcharging

and quality of food. The team was mandated to take strict action against hoarding and black marketing. The ADC also appealed to the public to report any instances of overpricing.

Furthermore, the ADC stressed the importance of sanitation and cleanliness at places of worship and congregation sites. The Municipal Committee was directed to take immediate measures to maintain hygienic conditions throughout the holy month.

District Admin Baramulla Organizes Orientation Program for Mission YUVA

JI NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, FEBRUARY 25

The District Administration Baramulla in collaboration with District Employment & Counseling Centre Baramulla today organized orientation program for Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) and Business Help Desks (BHDs) under Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan) at Dakbanglow Baramulla to foster entrepreneurship and job creation.

Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla Minga Sherpa, who inaugurated the program, highlighted the extensive groundwork done to identify potential entrepreneurs across the district. He informed that a comprehensive baseline survey mapped 57,000



potential entrepreneurs, with a dedicated workforce deployed across Baramulla to collect and analyze data.

This data will help us implement Mission YUVA in a way that ensures aspiring entrepreneurs receive targeted support," the DC said while speaking

to the media. He further announced that Phase 2 of Mission YUVA will be launched very soon, focusing on structured support, financial assistance, and capacity building for identified entrepreneurs.

He further said that 165 Yuva Doots will be deputed to assist entrepreneurs

and facilitate their business ventures. Each Yuva Doot will be responsible for monitoring and supporting entrepreneurs across three Panchayats, ensuring that they receive the necessary guidance, mentorship, and access to government schemes.

The orientation program covered key aspects, including an overview of Mission YUVA, detailed findings from the baseline survey, and the roles and responsibilities of SBDUs, BHDs, and Yuva Doots in providing direct business support and mentorship. Strengthening these units will ensure effective outreach and implementation at the grassroots level.

Mission YUVA operates through a decentralized support system, with SBDUs serving as district-

level incubation and facilitation centers, while BHDs function as sub-division level help desks, offering tailored guidance to entrepreneurs.

The Mission YUVA Portal/App also serves as a key platform, providing access to essential business resources, funding opportunities, and mentorship.

With the successful completion of the first phase, the administration is now set to roll out Phase 2, which will focus on equipping identified entrepreneurs with financial assistance, skill development, and market linkages. The initiative aims to create a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem in Baramulla, empowering youth and boosting local economic growth.

FMPHWs imparted Training on National Rabies Control Programme at Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25

A one day Training Program under National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP) was today organized by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer Jammu with the support of Directorate of Health Services Jammu and National Health Mission (NHM) J&K.

The program focused on different components of NRCP including Management of Animal bite cases, Pre & Post exposure prophylaxis to victims and timely administration of Anti-Rabies Vaccine and Rabies Immunoglobulin to prevent deaths.

Held under the leadership of Secretary, Health and Medical Education, J&K Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, and the supervision of Dr. Director, Health Ser-



vices Jammu Rakesh Magotra, the training witnessed participation from Female Multipurpose Workers drawn from all the Nine Health Blocks and Jammu Urban under administrative control of District Jammu.

Dy. Director Schemes Dr. Poonam Sethi; Dy. Director Dentistry Dr. Sanjay Sharma; State Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Jyoti Jolly; Controller Stores Dr. Ritesh Khullar; State Venerologist Dr. Kiran Kailu; Divisional Nutrition

officer Dr. Jitendra Kour; Assistant Director HEB Dr. Simmi Verma and District Health Officer (DHO) Jammu Dr. Samina Nazir also attended the training inauguration ceremony.

Dr. Deepika Dewan MD Community Medicine (Medical Officer) and Dr. Mehak Gupta (District Epidemiologist, NHM) were the Resource Persons.

Chief Medical officer Dr. Harbaksh Singh highlighted the role of Peripheral Health staff in timely management of Animal

bite cases to prevent the occurrence of deadly rabies disease. He stressed that though Rabies has 100% mortality but it is completely preventable also. He also emphasised that a strong inter-sectoral approach is essential in tackling rabies. He also discussed the ground level challenges faced by Health workers in implementation of this programme.

Director Health Services Dr. Rakesh Magotra and Dy. Director Schemes Dr. Poonam Sethi also shared their valuable insights regarding implementation of NRCP in the field with the Participants.

The training comprised technical sessions, case studies, and hands-on exercises to enhance skills of the FMPHWs in disease surveillance and manage-

DC Shopian meets SBDU, BHD members under Mission Yuva

JI NEWS SERVICE

SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 25

A meeting was today convened by Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta with all the members of Small Business Development Units (SBDU) and Business Help Desks (BHD) to discuss the roles and responsibilities of each member in the context of the Mission YUVA project.

A comprehensive and detailed presentation was shared with the members, outlining the specific roles and duties of each member.

The committee members were sensitised about their job profile and helped to clarify expectations and facilitate a deeper understanding of the tasks at hand.

DC Shopian empha-



sized the importance of their specific and critical roles in the project and stressed that a clear comprehension of responsibilities would ensure a smooth and efficient execution of the Mission YUVA project.

Furthermore, he directed that each Yuva Doot will be identified after filling all the details of their selection as per the Yuva

Doot Document. Additionally, the panchayats will be allocated to them, ensuring that the next steps can be taken accordingly in the project.

One SBDU at district Level and two BHDs at sub divisional level at Shopian and Zainapora have been set up for the effective implementation of Mission Yuva in the district.

Dy CM extends Maha Shivratri greetings to people

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Chaudhary, today extended greetings to people of the Union Territory on the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri.

The Deputy Chief Minister, while emphasising the spiritual significance of the occasion, said that the festival is celebrated with all devotion and religious fervour in the region. He said that it symbolises unity and togetherness fostering inclusivity and mutual brotherhood.

The Deputy Chief Minister further expressed hope that the festival would bring joy, prosperity and well-being to people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sakeena Ito reviews functioning of JKSCSTBC Development Corporation, JKWDC

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 25

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito, today chaired a meeting to review the performance and functioning of Jammu and Kashmir Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes (JKSCSTBC) Developmental Corporation at Civil Secretariat here.

During the meeting, the Minister underlined the Corporation's role in uplifting marginalized communities by ensuring access to financial assistance, skill development as well as entrepreneurial opportunities. She directed the officers for efficient implementation of various schemes being operated by the Corporation so that the desired benefits reach targeted beneficiaries.

The Minister called for maximising awareness among the concerned communities so that maximum people can take benefit of these schemes. "Organise awareness camps and use media, especially traditional media like Radio and TV



to generate awareness among masses of these communities", Sakeena asked the officers.

She further called upon the management of the Corporation to collaborate with schools and colleges as well as skill development institutes for targeting desired beneficiaries in these institutions.

While reviewing loan disbursement procedure, self-employment schemes and other ongoing welfare schemes, Sakeena Ito asked the officers to maintain transparency and efficiency while implementing these schemes. She asked the management of the Corporation to streamline processes, strengthen coordination with financial institutions and introduce measures to facilitate sustainable livelihood opportunities for the

targeted beneficiaries.

The Minister also asked the Corporation for implementing single window system for processing applications under different schemes so that the people don't face any hiccups while applying for any of the beneficiary oriented schemes.

Meanwhile, the Minister also reviewed the performance and functioning of Jammu and Kashmir Women's Development Corporation (JKWDC).

During the review, Sakeena Ito took stock of the Corporation's ongoing schemes, including livelihood generation schemes for women.

Addressing the officers, the Minister underscored the pivotal role of WDC in uplifting women by providing them with oppor-

ment, entrepreneurship and financial independence. "WDC is a vital instrument in our mission to ensure gender equity and empower women to contribute meaningfully to society", Sakeena stated.

She emphasized on the importance of effective implementation of schemes, directing the officials to ensure that schemes reach grassroots levels and deliver tangible benefits. "WDC must be utilised as a catalyst for change, enabling women to overcome barriers and build sustainable livelihoods", she maintained.

The Minister further called upon the officers to maintain transparency in recovery of loans. She asked them to take action against the recovery agents indulging in fraudulent activities.

Sakeena further delved on the officers of both the Corporations to organise interaction camps with the beneficiaries on regular basis in order to gather feedback from them about the implementation of these schemes.

The meeting, among others, was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare, Sanjeev Verma; Secretary Tribal Affairs, Prasanna Ramaswamy; Secretary Planning, Development and Monitoring, Talat Parvez Rohella; Managing Director, WDC, Managing Director JKSCSTBC Development Corporation, Secretary Advisory Board for Development of Pahari Speaking People, representatives of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFC), National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC), representatives of Finance Department and other concerned officers.

Div Com holds preliminary meeting for notification of flood basin areas

JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 25

In a bid to demarcate & designate flood basin areas of River Jhelum, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today held a preliminary meeting to deliberate the modalities for notification of flood basin zones.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama, Srinagar, Budgam, Bandipora and Ganderbal besides Chief Engineer Irrigation & Flood Control; Executive Engineers and officers of Wildlife and Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing departments.

At the outset, the concerned officers of I&FC gave a detailed presentation wherein they gave an overview of inundation areas of September 2014 flood, affected areas viz landuse and flood zoning of area to regulate human activity besides overall status & mapping of flood basins including Hokersar Wetland, Nowgam Jheel, Higam Jheel, Narkara Numbal, Anchar Lake,



Wullar Lake, Left side of River Jhelum from Sangam to Padshahibagh.

The meeting deliberated over the diverse range of issues to tackle and mitigate the impact of floods. The meeting discussed the classification of areas into prohibited zone, regulated zone and warning zone based on permissibility of human activities.

Addressing the meeting, Div Com impressed Deputy Commissioners to conduct meetings of members from Irrigation

& Flood Control, Forest & Revenue departments to conduct comprehensive study & survey of flood basins and submit the tentative proposals for the notification of the areas.

Meanwhile, in view of the inclement weather forecast, Div Com directed DCs to remain vigilant and keep men & machinery in readiness mode to ensure smooth & uninterrupted operation of essential services across the valley to facilitate the general public.