

**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 joint/muscle pain
- Severe headache
- Severe vomiting
- A drop in platelet count
- Severe skin pain (on the back, chest, or face)

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## Day 3: J&K continues to receive snow, rain

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 27 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir continued to receive snow and rainfall for the third consecutive day on Thursday with multiple places experiencing a snow depth of 3 to 4 feet during the period.

As per the reports received by the news agency, Sadhna Top and Gurez valley received 4 feet snowfall while Sinthan Top, Z Gali and Zojila pass recorded a snow depth of 3 feet till this evening.

Sonamarg, Gulmarg, Doodhpatri, Peer ki Gali have recorded a snow depth of 2 to 2.5 ft while DK Marg saw

a snow depth of 1 feet and Aherbal 8 inches and Shopian 5 inches.

The fresh snowfall has also been witnessed at multiple other places including Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir where the intermittent rainfall was occurring in the last two days.

Meanwhile, as per the forecast, there would be a slight improvement in the prevailing weather conditions from tomorrow afternoon.

However, the Director Meteorological department (MeT) has stated that generally cloudy weather is expected from March 01 to



March 2 with the possibility of light rain and snow at isolated to scattered places.

On 3rd March, he said light to moderate rain and snow is expected at many places while from March 4 to 8, the weather would remain generally dry.

**MAJOR ROADS, HIGHWAYS CLOSED**

All the major roads and highways have been closed by the authorities in view of slippery conditions triggered by the fresh snowfall.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway has been closed to vehicular movement from both sides due to mud slush and shooting

stones at Mehad, Ramban, amid continuous heavy rainfall.

Officials told KNO that all types of traffic have been halted between Nashri and the Navyug Tunnel as inclement weather continues to trigger shooting stones at multiple locations.

"Men and machinery have been deployed to clear the debris and restore traffic. However, relentless rainfall and fresh shooting stones are hampering the process," officials said. Traffic has been stopped at Jakhani (Udhampur) and Qazigund as a precautionary measure due to worsening

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**5 Persons injured in Doda Road Mishap**

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 27

At least five passengers were injured after a vehicle they were travelling in, met with an accident in Thatri area of Doda district on Thursday morning.

An official told news agency Kashmir Bulletin that an Eeco vehicle, bearing registration number JK06C 1947, on its way from Cheera to Thatri, fell nearly twenty feet down. In the incident, at least five

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**Two arrested for robbing Rs 19.51 lakh from J&K Bank**

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 27

Two men were arrested for allegedly robbing Rs 19.51 lakh from a bank in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, a police officer said on Thursday.

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**Amid inclement weather, Govt likely to extend winter vacation till Mar 5**

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 27 (KNO)

Amid inclement weather, the government is likely to extend winter vacation for schools till March 5 in the Kashmir division.

Speaking exclusively with the news agency,

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Assembly in UT is hybrid system: CM

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 27 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that having an assembly in the Union Territory is a hybrid system and that the country should either have only states or only UTs.

He also said that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is not organic, but driven out of fear.

In a programme, 'Ummedu Ka Jammu Kashmir' by 'THE RED MIKE DIALOGUES With Omar Abdullah', the Chief Minister as per the news agency, said that he wishes to have a J&K with peace, and communal harmony.

About the statehood restoration with half powers, he said, "There is no model in India where you have a full state without all powers. So unless you are envisaging a situation where J&K would be treated uniquely, I don't see how this will work, if you plan to treat JK uniquely then please explain what August 5,



2019 was about. If I am not mistaken, all of those were saying that JK has been brought at par with the rest of the country." "The whole idea was that you can't have two systems in one country, if it is one country with one system then how can you now propose a new system just of JK. You have to treat us at par."

"If what is happening today in JK today is organic nothing

like it, if it is driven out of fear then you have a problem, because you can only control a situation out of fear for a limited time, if it is organic then it will remain forever. But I will hazard that the forces and the people who you talk to in JK, even they don't believe it is organic, they wouldn't have closed Jama Masjid for Mirwaiz to offer his father-in-law's funeral prayers," he said.

"Law and order doesn't break out when normalcy is organic, but it happens when it is forced. It is not organic normalcy in JK but it is forced and this is because you are trying to run JK through the second model you are proposing where governance would not have a role in law and order and security. I will hazard that there are limitations to the second model that you are proposing because you will never be able to carry the population as the partners for normalcy unless the elected government is part of the paradigm," the Chief Minister said.

About his statement on Article 370 judgement, he said that he has made it clear that the top court has already given the decision in favour of Article 370 in the past and now that the verdict has been given against it, then there are expectations for a favourable decision again.

He added that the removal of Article 370 has not

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## Rule of law established in J&K: LG Sinha Sinha

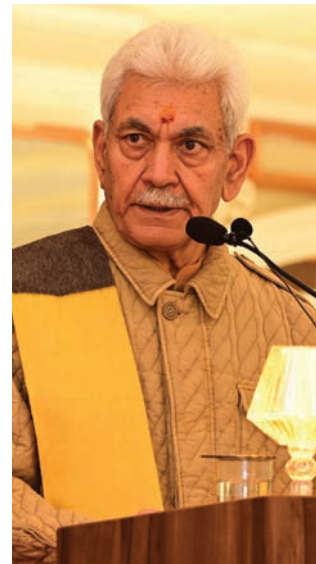
**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 27 (KNO)

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that the rule of law has been firmly established in Jammu and Kashmir, paving the way for progress and development.

Addressing a function here the Lieutenant Governor, according to the news agency, stressed on the need for collective efforts to transform J&K into an educational, research, and technological hub of the country.

"We have to try to transform J&K, and for that, everyone must contribute. We have achieved many successes, with the rule of law being given paramount importance. An attempt has been made to ensure that J&K is governed strictly according to legal principles," he said.

Highlighting the region's rapid development, the Lieutenant Governor revealed



that 92,000 projects were completed in the last financial year.

He said that J&K has emerged as a leading technological Union Territory, with maximum online services available to the public.

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**All-Party Meeting On Budget Session Don't allow any unconstitutional, anti-national resolution or question: Lop Sharma tells Speaker**

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 27 (KNO)

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday demanded that the Speaker shouldn't permit any unconstitutional or anti-national activity during the budget session of the Assembly starting on March 3.

After attending the all

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## LG reiterates that the J&K Administration is working for inclusive growth with sincerity and commitment

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 27 (KNO)

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today felicitated the recipients of 'Maharaja Hari Singh Dogra Samman Award 2025', organised by Women Club Meri Pehchan at Jammu. The event was also graced by Ramdas Athawale, Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment.

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**



## Article 370 revocation ended terrorism in J&K: Union Minister Athawale

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 27 (KNO)

Stating that the revocation of Article 370 and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories had a positive impact on the region, Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale on Thursday said that move ended terrorism in the region.

Athawale, according to the news agency, while talking to reporters, here said, "Scraping of the Article 370 led to significant improvements. It ended terrorism and led to an increase in development,



peace, and economic growth." "Before August 5, 2019 (when J&K's special status was revoked) there was widespread fear among tourists about visiting the region but

the situation has improved since then. It can be gauged from the fact that over 2.5 million tourists visited J&K last year, a significant increase compared to the past," he

said. Revocation of Article 370, he said, created a more peaceful environment, fostered development, and opened up new employment opportunities in the region. "The tourism getting a boost has contributed to economic growth," said Athawale.

He asserted that J&K would get its statehood back at an appropriate time.

Athawale also pointed out the record voter turnout in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections held last year, which he viewed as a positive sign of increasing democratic participation in the region. KNO

## Terror funding CIK sleuths arrest terrorist from Delhi in covert operation

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 27 (KNO)

Sleuths of Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) in collaboration with CID cell Delhi and Delhi Police have arrested a terrorist in a covert operation in the national capital, an official told news agency on Thursday.

The CIK in a secret/covert operation arrested a terrorist Parvez Ahmad Khan @ PK @ Sheikh Tajamul Islam @ Khalid S/O Bashir Ahmad Khan R/O Farooq Colony, Bemina, Srinagar, from Delhi, the official said, adding that he

was wanted in a case FIR No. 02/2024.

"He is involved in terror funding and having links with terrorists of proscribed terrorist organization(s) sitting across the LOC," he added.

"The case was registered in P/S CIK relates to providing of logistic support to terrorists of proscribed terrorist organization(s) active in J&K by variety of means including providing/passing on funds to them for carrying terrorist activities in the UT.

This money is being routed through various means from

across LOC then pushed into India through their couriers which included the arrested accused," he said.

"The operation was planned at CIK Headquarters few days ago and the accused terrorist was on surveillance (both technical and physical). The accused was hiding and evading arrest and was planning to abscond from the present location," he said.

"The arrest was made in compliance to a warrant of arrest issued by competent court at Srinagar.

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

# Rana holds public outreach camp at Mankote; inaugurates Water Supply Schemes

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, FEBRUARY 27

Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Thursday inaugurated two Water Supply Schemes (WSSs) at Barooi Chowki and Sheikhhan Barja in Mankote block, Poonch.

These WSSs have been completed at a cost of Rs 3.85 crore and Rs 2.82 crore respectively, as part of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The schemes were inaugurated during a mega public outreach camp held at Mankote which aimed to address the issues and grievances of the local population.

Scores of delegations and individuals called on the Minister during the camp with their grievances while seeking speedy redressal.

Deputy Commissioner, Poonch, Vikas Kundal, along with HoDs and senior officers from various departments of the district were present during the outreach camp.

Addressing on the occasion, Javed Rana said that water security is one of the prime objectives of the government. "We are fully committed to ensure that adequate, quality drinking water reaches to every household and significant focus is being laid on augmentation of water infrastructure facilities across Jammu and Kashmir," asserted the Minister.

The Minister said that with the inauguration of these schemes, much of the water problems of the locality will be solved.

The WSS Barooi Chowki will benefit a population of



2,948, covering 440 households with installation of 140 new connections while the WSS Sheikhhan Barja Mankote will serve a population of 3,991, providing water access to 611 households.

Javed Rana exhorted upon the people to supplement government's efforts in realising the vision of holistic develop-

ment besides working for protection and preservation of water resources. "It is the responsibility of every individual to ensure that our water sources are clean and safe," he added.

While commenting on the outreach camp, Rana said that it is a good concept prevalent in other parts of the country also, but it needs few modifica-

tions to achieve tangible results. "The main aim of the outreach programme should be to provide on spot sustainable solutions to the issues faced by the public. We are taking governance to the doorsteps of people and we will be guided by our unwavering commitment to serve the public," he reiterated.

He said that the outreach camps should be a regular feature so that the plans and policies are prioritised accordingly. "If public darbar is conducted with transparency and commitment and followed with actions, most of the developmental problems will be solved," he said. He also praised the local administration for the work done during the last few months.

Despite the inclement

weather, the Minister continued with the outreach programme and held detailed interactions with the locals, listened to their concerns and reviewed developmental works.

He gave a patient hearing to the issues raised and said that specific directions have been passed to the concerned officers for their resolution.

Stressing accountability, Rana called upon the district administration Poonch for active monitoring of all developmental activities to maximize their impact on public welfare. He further emphasised the need to enhance performance across sectors, address gaps, expedite project execution and achieve tangible outcomes that directly benefit the residents.

## DC Kishtwar reviews progress under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP)



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 27

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan today convened a meeting to review the progress achieved under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district.

Nodal Officer HADP (Chief Agriculture Officer), Amjad Hussain Malik presented an in-depth report on the programme's implementation.

He informed that a total of 19,760 applications seeking schemes benefits have been received across agriculture and allied sectors. "Of these, 14,484 applications were approved, including 10,616 in Agriculture, 1,052 in Horticulture, 1,870 in Animal Husbandry, 717 in Sheep Husbandry, 207 in Sericulture, 19 in Fisheries, and 3 in the Marketing sector, by the District Level Committee (DLC)" he added.

During the review, the DC emphasized the significance of enhancing registration of eligible

persons across the district. He directed field officers to intensify efforts to broaden the scheme outreach.

The review also included an assessment of the physical and financial progress in key sectors, including Horticulture, Fisheries, Sheep Husbandry, and Animal Husbandry.

The DC further set new targets for the stakeholder departments, urging them to ensure continued progress in the saturation of the program and to achieve top rankings in the Union Territory (UT).

The DC also set the target of 2,500 registrations on the Daksh Kisan Portal and 8,000 on the Kisan Sathi Portal. Other targets included addition of more farms to the KKG app. The review meeting was attended by CPO Shah Nawaz Bali; Chief Horticulture Officer Sajid Mustafa; District Sheep Husbandry Officer, LDM, DAO, DDM NABARD, Area Marketing Officer and other officials from the agriculture and allied sectors.

## Sakeena Itoo condoles demise of Dr Sibtain Masoodi

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 27

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, has deeply condoled the demise of Dr. Sibtain Masoodi, brother of her colleague and MLA Pampore, Justice (Retired) Hasnain Masoodi.

In her condolence message, Sakeena conveyed heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family. She also prayed for peace for the departed soul and forbearance for the family to bear this irreparable loss.

## Srinagar Municipal Corporation intensifies Public Awareness Events on River Conservation

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 27

In a significant effort to promote river conservation and environmental sustainability, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), in collaboration with the National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, organized a series of public awareness programs across the city.

The events included a Walkathon, Plog Run, Plantation Drive, Cleanliness Drives for Water Bodies, Quiz Competition, Essay Writing and Slogan Competition, all aimed at educating and engaging the public in the preservation of water resources.

The activities witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, environ-



mentalists, volunteers, and local citizens, underscoring the collective responsibility to protect the region's vital water bodies.

Commissioner SMC, Dr. Owais Ahmed actively par-

ticipated in the Plog Run, Plantation Drive, and Walkathon, setting an example for citizens and emphasizing the importance of collective action.

Speaking at the event,

Dr. Owais highlighted the critical role of sustainable water management and urged citizens to adopt eco-friendly practices.

"Rivers are the lifelines of our ecosystem, and it is our duty to conserve them for future generations. Through these awareness programs, we aim to instill a sense of responsibility among the public. I urge everyone to join hands in protecting our water bodies and ensuring a greener, cleaner environment," Dr. Owais said.

The Plog Run combined fitness with environmental action, as participants collected plastic waste along riverbanks. The Plantation Drive focused on enhancing green cover along water bodies to prevent soil erosion and improve water quality.

Meanwhile, the Clean-

liness Drive targeted the removal of pollutants and the restoration of the natural flow of water channels.

The Quiz Competition, Essay Writing, and Slogan Competition provided a platform for young minds to showcase their knowledge and creativity on the theme of river conservation. Winners were felicitated with certificates and awards to encourage their continued efforts in environmental protection.

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation reaffirmed its commitment in preserving natural resources and called upon the community to actively participate in such initiatives. Citizens were encouraged to avoid littering, reduce plastic usage, and support local conservation efforts to ensure a cleaner and healthier environment.

## DC Srinagar finalizes arrangements for holy month of Ramadan



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 27

In the wake of forthcoming holy month of Ramadan, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat on Thursday chaired a meeting at DC Office Complex here in order to take review of the preparations/ arrangements being made by the line departments for ensuring all basic amenities and essential supplies during the blessed month.

At the outset, the DC sought a detailed action plan from concerned departments regarding the arrangements being put in place during the holy month of Ramadan related to availability of essential commodities, supply of electricity & water, sanitation & cleanliness measures, transport facilities, etc. On the occasion, the

DC directed KPDCL to ensure scheduled power supply in the month, particularly during Sehri and Ifari times. He asked the PHE Department to make proactive arrangements for adequate supply of drinking water in all areas of the district.

Similarly, the Department of FCS&CA was asked to ensure adequate supply of essentials including Ration, LPG and distribute monthly ration to the consumers well in advance.

He also stressed on deploying joint market checking teams under the supervision of SDM, East and SDM West from tomorrow to carry out market checking in order to curb profiteering, hoarding of essentials in the market, in addition to maintain quality and standard of the food items.

The DC also directed Chief Animal Husbandry

Officer, AD FCS&CA/ Food Safety Officer/ Tehsildars/ BDOs to check quality of chicken/ meat and other daily consumable food items so that no adulteration exists in the markets of Srinagar.

The SMC authorities were directed to conduct sanitation and cleanliness drives in all areas to ensure proper cleanliness, besides instructions were given that all defunct street lights be restored on war footing in all areas.

Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Khalid Hussain Malik and Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Ahmad Kataria, the meeting was attended by Superintendent of Police, Chief Planning Officer, SDM East, SDM West, Tehsildars, BDOs, Senior Officers from all concerned Departments and representatives from J&K Wakf Board.

## Special drive conducted in Katra to reinforce compliance with MV Act



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
KATRA, FEBRUARY 27

A special enforcement drive was conducted today at Katra under the directions of Transport Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan and under the guidance of Regional Transport Officer Pankaj Bhagotra to curb violations of the Motor Vehicles Act (MV Act) and associated rules.

The focus of the drive was on three-wheeler auto-rickshaws, which were found overcharging passengers and indulging in overloading.

The Auto Rickshaw drivers and owners were strictly instructed not to overcharge passengers or overload their vehicles. A meeting was also held with the Auto Rickshaw Union President and Vice President, along with vehicle owners and drivers, at Railway Station Katra, Katra Bus Stand and Banganga Auto Stand.

During the drive, ARTO (Flying Squad) emphasized strict adherence to traffic norms and MV Act rules, including prohibition of overcharging and overloading.

They were asked to follow mandatory wearing of uniforms along with name plates, keep vehicle documents updated, behave properly with passengers, avoid driving under the influence of alcohol or contraband substances.

As part of the enforcement, around 400 vehicles were checked, and 33 were e-challaned for various violations, including 15 for overcharging.

Additionally, one vehicle was seized for lacking fitness and kept at Katra Police Station. The expected fine from e-challans amounts to Rs. 46,400.

The enforcement team included MVI Jasbir Singh and MVTA Taranjot Singh, under the supervision of ARTO (Flying Squad)

Bipen Singh Charak.

Furthermore, another enforcement Flying Squad comprising NHW Pawan Sharma conducted road checking with SMVI Amanish Sharma on the Jammu-Katra National Highway, booking violators under various provisions of the MV Act and rules. More than 90 vehicles were checked, out of which 21 vehicles were e-challaned for different offenses. Additionally, one Tata 207 Load Carrier was seized for lacking fitness and kept at Police Post Nomian. The expected fine from these e-challans amounts to Rs 79,900.

This initiative in and around Katra and NH 44 plays a vital role in ensuring passenger safety, preventing overcharging, and maintaining transport discipline. Strict enforcement of MV Act regulations will help streamline public transport operations, benefiting both locals and pilgrims.

## Dy CM launches work on Chewdara Beerwah Bridge



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
BEERWAH, FEBRUARY 27

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Chuadhary, today launched work on Chewdara Beerwah bridge being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 14.15 crore.

The project, being executed under NABARD, will cater to a large chunk of commuters and general public as well, augmenting the connectivity in the area to great extent.

MLA Chadoora, Ali Mohammad Dar; MLA Beerwah, Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani; MLA Khanshaib, Saifud Din Bhat; DC Budgam; Chief Engineer R&B; concerned district officers and eminent citizens of Beerwah attended the event.

While speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the government is committed to holistic and sustained development of Jammu

and Kashmir. He said that a new era of progress and prosperity has been ushered in the region with tremendous development in every nook and corner of the UT.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the executing agencies to address the challenges impeding the project's advancement.

"Work should be completed within the stipulated time so that cost escalation does not take place and the vital project is dedicated to the people in time", the Deputy Chief Minister maintained and directed for a synergistic approach to remove bottlenecks, if any.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister interacted with several deputations at Town hall and reiterated the Government's commitment towards speedy development besides prompt public service delivery and redressal of grievances.

## Stock, supply & distribution scenario of fertilizers reviewed for Kashmir Div

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 27

To review the overall scenario (stock, supply and distribution) of fertilizers in Kashmir division, a meeting of concerned stakeholders was today organised at Agriculture Complex Lalmandi, here.

The meeting convened by Joint Director Agriculture Extension Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah witnessed participation of heads/ representatives of fertilizer companies carrying out their business in Kashmir division and concerned officers of the enforcement wing of the Department of Agriculture.

Addressing the meeting, JD Agriculture said that the Department is committed to safeguarding the interests of the farming com-



munity of the region. He exhorted the stakeholders including representatives of fertilizer companies to put in all the efforts and ensure that only the quality inputs including fertilizers reaches the farming community.

He highlighted the importance of transparency and accountability in the system to ensure smooth distribution of quality fertilizers to the growers and farmers.

He said that the primary objective of the law enforcement wing of the department is to ensure the availability of quality inputs to the farming community of the region through proper sale outlets at appropriate times. He impressed upon the concerned officers to make sincere efforts for online service delivery to the farmers.

Shah said that while functioning in the field,

the concerned officers must ensure that all the provisions of the insecticide act, fertilizer control order are implemented in letter and spirit.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Director Law Enforcement, Plant Protection Officer Kashmir, District Law Enforcement Officer North, District Law Enforcement Officer South and other senior officers of the Enforcement Wing of Agriculture Department.

## Transport Commissioner emphasizes transparent services, people friendly measures

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, FEBRUARY 27

Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, today paid surprise visit to the office of Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Reasi and issued several directives aimed at ensuring deliverance of all services within the notified timelines as outlined under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA).

The Commissioner cautioned that any deviation from these standards would lead to severe consequences and the erring officials would be dealt with strictly as per law. He reiterated the department's unwavering commitment towards ensuring added transparency, accountability and public service efficiency. He called for concerted efforts from all



stakeholders to elevate the transport infrastructure in the region which is prerequisite to prevent fatal accidents. He underscored the need to identify "hungry routes" where public transportation is severely lacking so that immediate action is taken in collaboration with the district administration ensuring enhanced connectivity and accessibility for the public.

During the visit, the Transport Commissioner

also supervised the scheduled driving tests in Reasi and issued strict instructions regarding fair conduct of the trials with zero tolerance against any discrepancy on this account. He stressed that every aspect of the driving test must fully comply with the Central Motor Vehicles Act (CMVA) and all associated regulations.

Earlier, during a surprise inspection at the Trial Ground in Samba, the

Transport Commissioner found that a Motor Vehicle Inspector (MVI) was conducting the trials without the requisite orders. Taking cognizance of the lapse, the Transport Commissioner swiftly ordered MVI's attachment in his office as a disciplinary measure and also sought explanation from the ARTO Samba.

Simultaneously, the enforcement team of the flying squad laid a Naka at Katra to check complaints regarding overcharging by the Auto Rickshaws. The team instructed the Auto drivers to ensure plying of their vehicles on fare meter otherwise strict action would be initiated against the violators which may lead to suspension and cancellation of their Route Permits and Driving Licenses.

## Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan inaugurates New Court Building at Kupwara

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 27

Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Tashi Rabstan, today virtually inaugurated the newly constructed Court Building at Kupwara in the physical presence of Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, the Administrative Judge for District Kupwara.

The state-of-the-art court complex is a significant milestone in strengthening judicial infrastructure in the region. The three-story building, with a total plinth area of 10,000 sq. ft., was approved on October 19, 2020, and successfully completed on November 25, 2024, at a cost of 1,020 lakhs. The facility has been designed to provide a modern and efficient working environment for judicial officers, advocates, litigants, and court staff.

Shazia Tabasum, Pr. Distt. and Sessions Judge Kupwara delivered the welcome address, which was followed by the address by Ahrar Dar, President Bar Association Kupwara, thereafter Ayushi Sudan DC Kupwara also expressed her views.

While expressing his views on the occasion of inauguration of new court building at Kupwara, Justice Tashi Rabstan expressed his honor and excitement on being part of the occasion. He described the event as a momentous day for the people of Kupwara and the larger judicial community, emphasizing that the judiciary remains a pillar of justice, ensuring the protection of individual rights.

Justice Rabstan stated that the newly inaugurated facility is more than just a physical structure; it symbolizes the judiciary's commitment to accessible and fair justice for all. He highlighted the modern court's role in expediting case proceedings, reducing delays, and strengthening the rule of law. The complex, he noted, reflects the evolving needs of the judicial system by integrating advanced infrastructure and improved facilities to enhance judicial efficiency.

He acknowledged the contributions of architects, engineers, construction workers, and



the local administration in bringing the project to fruition. He also extended gratitude to Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, the government, and local authorities for their unwavering support in strengthening judicial infrastructure in Kupwara.

Justice Rabstan underscored the significance of digital transformation in the judiciary, stating that the new court building, along with technological advancements, would help eliminate geographical barriers to justice. He expressed confidence that the facility would improve judicial efficiency and further instill trust in the system.

In conclusion, he congratulated all those involved in the project and reaffirmed the judiciary's commitment to ensuring that justice remains accessible, transparent, and fair for all citizens, regardless of location.

Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Administrative Judge for District Kupwara, also expressed his views during the inauguration of the new District Court Complex in Kupwara.

Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal highlighted the significance of the occasion, calling it a milestone for both the district and the judicial system. He emphasized that justice is not only built on legal principles but also on the physical infrastructure that supports its administration. The new complex, he noted, stands as a testament to the judiciary's commitment to accessibility, efficiency, and dignity in the legal process.

Justice Nargal acknowledged the dedicated

efforts of Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan, the Principal District Judge, and the various agencies involved in the construction, including the District Administration. He credited the Hon'ble Chief Justice's vision for not only advancing judicial infrastructure but also ensuring accessibility for all, regardless of social, economic, or geographical status.

Describing the new complex as more than just a building, he stated that it symbolizes the judiciary's promise of impartial, fair, and timely justice. He underscored the importance of modern infrastructure in expediting legal proceedings and ensuring a dignified space for litigants, lawyers, and court staff.

Justice Nargal pointed out that the project initially included only two court halls, but due to the intervention of the Chief Justice, it now houses four. He commended the J&K Housing Board for completing the project within the designated timeframe despite challenging weather conditions.

Speaking on the role of technology in the judiciary, he highlighted the introduction of e-courts under the National Governance Plan. He emphasized that Kupwara has embraced digital advancements such as video conferencing and digital case management to improve accessibility. However, he noted that while technology is essential, institutional reforms and efficient processes remain equally critical for justice delivery.

Looking ahead, Justice Nargal called for continuous improvements in the

legal system to eliminate barriers to justice. He concluded by reaffirming the judiciary's commitment to its constitutional mandate of delivering justice with fairness, integrity, and respect for all.

### Digitization of Court Records Launched

On this occasion, the Digitization Section of the District Court Kupwara was also inaugurated. This initiative aims to convert paper-based records into electronic formats, ensuring easy accessibility of legal documents through the internet. The move is expected to improve record management, expedite judicial processes, and facilitate seamless case tracking for litigants and advocates.

The inauguration of the new court complex and the digitization project marks a significant step toward modernizing judicial services in Kupwara, reaffirming the judiciary's dedication to ensuring efficient, accessible, and technology-driven justice delivery.

The event was attended by key dignitaries, including Shazia Tabasum, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Kupwara; Ayushi Sudan, Deputy Commissioner; Khem Raj Sharma, Additional District & Sessions Judge (Designated Special Court under the N.I.A. Act) Kupwara; Umi Kulsom, Additional District Judge, Handwara; Ghulam Jeelani, SSP; Chief Judicial Magistrate, Handwara and other Judicial Officers of the District.

The event ended with a vote of thanks by Khem Raj Sharma, Additional District & Sessions Judge, Kupwara.

## New Radiology Block inaugurated at Central Veterinary Hospital Srinagar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 27

In a significant development, a newly constructed radiology block was inaugurated at the Central Veterinary Hospital (CVH) Srinagar to address long-standing challenges in providing accurate and timely diagnosis for animals in the region. The Radiology Block aimed to enhance radio-diagnostic services marks a significant advancement in veterinary healthcare services for pets in the region.

The inauguration ceremony was presided over by Ahsan Pardesi, Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Lal Chowk, alongside officers including Dr. Parvinder Singh Sudan, Director of Animal Husbandry Department Kashmir and Dr. Syed Altaf Gilani, Superintendent of the Hospital.

MLA Lalchowk praised the all round development of the department and announced providing an ambulance out of CDF



for CVH besides extending every possible help. He also requested the authorities to start a dedicated service for rescuing abandoned animals.

This new facility is designed to meet the growing radio-diagnostic needs of pet owners, reflecting a notable increase in demand for advanced veterinary care over recent years. The establishment of this block is expected to provide state-of-the-art diagnostic services that will enhance the overall health management of pets, ensuring timely and accurate diagnosis.

The introduction of specialized radio-diagnostic services is anticipated to significantly improve

treatment outcomes for pets suffering from various conditions that require imaging techniques such as X-rays and ultrasounds. This initiative not only underscores the commitment of local authorities towards animal welfare but also aims to elevate the standard of veterinary practices within the region.

With this new facility, the Central Veterinary Hospital aims to become a leading center for pet healthcare in Kashmir, fostering an environment where both pet owners and their beloved animals can receive comprehensive medical attention tailored to their specific needs.

## DC Kupwara chairs Rent Assessment Committee meeting

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 27

In order to finalize various Rent Assessment Cases of the buildings which are under the utilization of different Government Departments, a meeting of the District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) was held under the chairpersonship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan here. As many as 42 rent cases of buildings presently housed by various Government Departments in the district were put forth before the Committee for fixing of monthly rent. The Committee deliberated on all the rent assessment cases in detail, and each case was examined thoroughly keeping in view various administrative and other requirements. Out of the total 42 cases, 37 cases were approved while 5 were deferred due to absence of concerned stakeholders. On the occasion, the DC impressed upon the Officers to ensure that vacant government buildings are occupied for official purposes and rented accommodation remains the last option. She emphasized that government buildings should be constructed by concerned departments on priority. The meeting was attended by ADC, CEO, CMO, CPO, DSWO, Executive Engineers and other concerned officers.

## DC Kishtwar reviews Power Projects Catchment Area Development Plan



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 27

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan chaired a meeting to discuss the Catchment Area Development Plan for the ongoing power projects in the district.

The meeting focused on evaluating aspects related to the development and implementation of the Catchment Area Plan for by power project authorities, including the crucial environmental conservation plan.

The Heads of Projects (HOPs) provided detailed briefings on different key aspects of the plan including the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Plan for displaced people, Public Health Engineer-

ing Plan, Compensatory Afforestation Plan, Biodiversity Management Plan, Fisheries Management Plan and others.

The DC emphasized on ensuring the sustainability of these projects while prioritizing the welfare of the local population and the preservation of the environment.

In this regard, he directed the authorities to focus on the timely implementation, ensuring that the power projects contribute positively to the development of Kishtwar.

Additionally, the DC asked all Heads of Projects (HOPs) to share a detailed plan for both financial and physical expenditures for the upcoming financial year. This would ensure trans-

parency, proper tracking, and accountability in the execution of these critical infrastructure projects.

The DC also directed project authorities to place special emphasis on Skill Development Plans for the youth of Kishtwar, the Healthcare System, and the Environment Conservation Plan. He further directed the Power Projects Authorities for putting the details of work done under civil component in Public Domain.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, DFO Marwah, DFO Doda and the Heads of Projects (HOPs) for various power projects, including Pakkal Dul HEP, Rattle HEP, among others.

## Speaker condoles demise of Dr Sibtain Masoodi

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 27

Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather, has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the demise of Dr. Sibtain Masoodi, brother of MLA Pampore, Justice (Retired) Hasnain Masoodi. In his condolence message, the Speaker expressed deep sympathies with the MLA and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and forbearance for the family to bear this irreparable loss.

## FROM THE PAGE 1...

## Day 3: J&amp;K continues...

weather conditions.

"People are advised to avoid traveling on the highway at night. A decision on reopening will be taken tomorrow if the weather improves," officials added.

ONE DEAD, ANOTHER INJURED

A tragedy struck on the Surankote-Poonch highway as a man died after a boulder hit a Scorpio vehicle near Madana Ziarat, Surankote, on Thursday.

Two CRPF personnel in the vehicle also escaped unhurt.

The deceased was identified as Wahid Iqbal of Upper Surankote.

In a similar incident, a Tata Sumo traveling from Akhral to Ramban was struck by a falling rock at Battery Chashma on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, seriously injuring passenger Nasrullah Bali of Pogal, Harastan. He was shifted to the hospital.

Avalanche Damages Two Houses in Gurez Village

An avalanche struck Khandiyal village in Gurez Valley of north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Thursday, damaging partially two residential structures.

An official told KNO that the incident occurred on Thursday evening when heavy snowfall in the higher reaches of the Kashmir Valley and Gurez triggered the avalanche.

Locals said that the avalanche caused damage to the two homes while no casualties or injuries have been reported.

Meanwhile, the administration has initiated rescue and relief operations to assist the affected families. The snowfall has increased the risk of avalanches in several mountainous regions, prompting authorities to issue a warning for those in vulnerable areas. KNO

## Assembly in UT...

made any visible changes in Jammu and Kashmir, adding that the situation is not normal as the terrorist incidents are still there.

He added that he is not disagreeing with the statistics as during his tenure, the trend of militancy related incidents, recruitment and other related things had also gone down in the past. "The progress has not been made due to the removal of Article 370. It is because the Centre took measures which J&K government would have never taken," he said, adding, "Removal of Article 370 has had no impact on improvement on the security situations. That is because of the territory under President's rule and it is how you handled the security forces."

"The officers I am working with have not been appointed by me. They will listen to those who have the right to remove or appoint them," he said when asked whether the officers are listening to the elected government. "There should be either UTs or States only. If it is UT then there should be no assembly, don't make the hybrid system," he said.

He also said that he does not have a nature to make excuses; they (officers) are not doing and listening to us.

He also said that Amit Shah is the Union Home Minister and meeting him was nothing unusual. "When I met Chidmabaram and other HMs in the past, nobody talked about it, you cannot work without the support of the Centre."

He also said that the Centre has not kept any way for the confrontation, they are supporting the elected government in any way, they have promised the restoration of statehood restoration, "but if they change their stance, then we will also change our approach."

About the Prime Minister Narendra Modi nominating him for his obesity campaign, he said had there been a chief minister, who has completed a half marathon then he would have stated that there was injustice with him. "Obesity is not a political problem. It is a social problem," he said.

About INDIA bloc, he said, "We have been fighting against each other very much. INDIA bloc should decide its role. If it is for the Lok Sabha polls only then we should wind it up and form it again in the next parliamentary polls. But there is a need to fight joint assembly polls too. In J&K we barely managed to save the alliance and till the end, it was not showing any signs of going for the polls jointly. When we were discussing the seat sharing with Congress, we were not ready to reduce our numbers as we were sure that we would manage to secure this number of seats."

He also said that the Congress has willingly decided to stay away from the cabinet as JKPCC Chief had told him during the swearing-in ceremony that they will not be a part of the government till the statehood is restored. However, he said that a space in the cabinet has been kept for them.

Asked whether the INDIA bloc is dead, he said, "No, we still have a sizable number in parliament. Whether we are able to deliver or not is a different question, but this government depends on alliance. Therefore, as long as the INDIA bloc is able to deliver, it is not dead."

About the restoration of statehood, he said that he is not waiting for five years, but expecting the restoration for statehood this year only. The discussion is going on, he said. He said they have plan B and plan C. "But, I am not going to sit here and say we will do this and that if we don't get statehood by this date. I am assuming that the government has said that it is committed to restore it, SC has also asked for the complete statehood restoration a year ago. I think as soon as possible and at earliest qualify for some time in the next few months."

Omar also reacted to the query over the expectations of the people on his first budget, saying that from this budget, whatever they have promised, they will start delivering it.

He also said that the government led by him in Jammu and Kashmir has started providing employment to the people and said that they will discuss the number of employment in detail and that they will raise this issue during the time of elections. "I have provided appointment letters to the doctors and pamphlet secretaries," he said when asked about the PM providing job letters to youth.

He also reacted to the question on direct train services and people's apprehensions, highlighting the public grievances from Jammu in this regard, who feared that the Katra station would neglect Jammu.

"It is for the first time after his grandfather that there is no coalition pressure and the CM his Dy are from the same party. My government has been addressing the concerns of people by ensuring the cabinet members from different divisions and communities"

About Ladakh, Omar said, "I am sorry, but Ladakh has been betrayed. We were asking people there to think before raising the demand of becoming UT. We were telling them that the resolution of their grievances would not come by making Ladakh UT."

Replying to a query about alcohol ban and signature campaign by PDP leaders, he said they will remind PDP about what they did on alcohol ban during their tenure. "At present, the Speaker has directed not to talk about the bills that have not been admitted yet. We will talk in the assembly," he said

However, he said that if they had to talk about it then they could have mentioned it in their manifesto. "Let it be brought to the assembly, we will discuss it there."

Asked whether his government is taking measures for the return of Kashmiri Pandits, he asked how many have been brought back to the Valley after the removal of Article 370. "We have seen targeted attacks against minorities. We can only expect to do something about their return as a state. We will do everything to get their sense of security back for their return," he added.

About one nation, one-election, he said that it can save money, but he doesn't see how practically it is possible. He added that after the parliamentary elections were held, only one meeting of the INDIA bloc was held since then. We should at least discuss these issues.

Asked about the rigging of elections in Jammu and Kashmir, he said, "If I am elected through robbery then what is the reason for me to sit on the chair of CM. Show me one single person, who has said that there was rigging. Compared to other places, J&K has not seen even a single re-poll. I have never complained of rigging and fault in machines even if I lost."

He also said that there is a difference between Vajpayee and Modi as Vajpayee didn't remove Article 370, he talked about Insaniyat, and even stated that the neighbours can't be changed.

He also said that the security to Mirwaiz is again an indicator that things are not normal. "If you need to protect Mirwaiz from the CRPF then how can you claim normalcy? It means the threat to Mirwaiz has increased not decreased, it means that the ability of militants to strike has gone up not down. The fact that the Mirwaiz had to be protected from the same commandos that protect your national leaders like Home Minister and Rahul Gandhi and others would suggest to you that the security situation in JK is far from normal. We didn't give him CRPF during my rule, we protected him by Police."

He also stated that there is a fight for the new leaders in PDP, and that anyone who wants to contest the elections should come, which is the beauty of democracy.

He added that JK has the highest unemployment compared to other places. The centre has failed to achieve the goal by abrogating Article 370 as despite the untrue claims, there is no visible change after it on the ground. KNO

## Rule of law...

## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

During his address, the Lieutenant Governor stressed the importance of ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women in Jammu and Kashmir. He called for greater efforts in empowering women beyond welfare measures, ensuring their active participation in the region's development. "We must ensure that women enjoy the same rights as men. Over the past four and a half years, every effort has been made to guarantee women's rights and integrate them into the development process. A new team of women entrepreneurs must be created, and their numbers should match those of men," he asserted.

## GIRLS BAG 70% OF GOLD MEDALS IN UNIVERSITIES

Highlighting the achievements of women in J&K, he stated that 70% of gold medals in universities are bagged by female students.

He also pointed out that government schemes like Tejaswini and self-help groups have played a crucial role in uplifting women. Currently, 300 startups in J&K are being led by women, further showcasing their growing influence in the entrepreneurial landscape.

"In big industries, the perspective must change to allow women to take leadership roles. Women must not only participate but also lead from the front in economic and social sectors," he said.

Lieutenant Governor Sinha underscored the significance of skill development among young people to drive J&K's progress. He stressed that every individual possesses talent, and it is essential to nurture these skills for national development.

"There is no individual who lacks ability. We need to hone the skills of our young people and empower them to lead J&K's transformation. Work empowerment is the key to giving a new direction to progress," he remarked.

The Lieutenant Governor also acknowledged the vital role of women's clubs in J&K's transformation, stating that such platforms could serve as catalysts for change.

"Women's clubs can play an essential role in shaping J&K's future. We have strived to establish J&K as a place where governance is rooted in the rule of law and where equal opportunities are available to all," he said—(KNO)

## Don't allow any...

party meeting called by speaker Abdul Rahim Rather, Leader of the Opposition (LoP) and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma told the news agency that they won't allow any unconstitutional or undemocratic or anti-national resolution, question or any bill in the House.

"I urged the Speaker that he shouldn't allow any such activity and run the House impartially," he said.

The LoP said that the public issues need to be highlighted during the assembly session which is possible

only when no disruptions occur.

He said that the credibility of MLAs is at stake during the proceedings of the house and members need to be responsive towards public issues and make the government accountable on that rather than indulging in disruptions.

Sharma assured the Speaker that the legislators of his party will ensure smooth business of the house.

Earlier Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather chaired an all-party meeting here to seek cooperation from political parties for smooth functioning of the House during the budget session.

Sources told KNO that the Speaker urged members to ensure that question hour should not be disrupted which, he said, is "important for holding the government accountable. Legislators must utilize this time effectively to raise public concerns and seek concrete responses."

"The Budget Session is a crucial time for policy deliberations and financial planning. I urge all of you and your members to engage in meaningful debates, uphold house decorum and work towards the collective good of our people as well as the entire Jammu and Kashmir," the Speaker said.

The Speaker called upon all the political parties for effective coordination during the entire session of the house. He underlined that productivity of the house is possible only after there is coordination between opposition and the government in highlighting peoples issues and addressing them respectively.

According to sources, the participants of the meeting urged the Speaker that they should be given adequate time to raise issues of public concern.

The Speaker underscored the need for dialogue, coordination and consensus building to facilitate smooth legislative proceedings.

During the meeting, PDP MLA Waheed-Ur-Rehman Parra vociferously pushed for equal space for opposition, saying they have the right to be heard and raise issues affecting the public.

Talking to KNO, MLA Rajouri Muzaffar Iqbal Khan said that the meeting discussed ways and means to ensure smooth functioning of the House.

"There was agreement among all parties that there wouldn't be disruptions and it would be ensured that the executive is accountable to legislature," he said.

In his remarks during the meeting, Ghulam Ahmad Mir of INC said that question hour, being an important tool for making government accountable, should not be disrupted.

CPI (M) Legislator, M.Y Tarigami, underlined that accountability of the government is possible only through smooth conduct of house proceedings. He also called for coordination between government and the opposition to make house proceedings productive and fruitful.

During the meeting, NC Legislator Mubarak Gul, said that the public issues need to be highlighted during the assembly proceedings as legislators are the face of the people during the session of the house.

The meeting was attended by Sunil Sharma and Surjit Singh Salathia (both BJP), Mubarak Gul (NC), Ghulam Ahmad Mir (Congress), Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami (CPI-M), Waheed-ur-Rehman Para (PDP), and Muzaffar Iqbal Khan (Independent).

However, Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone and National Conference leader Ali Muhammad Sagar didn't attend the meeting. KNO

## LG reiterates that...

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor appreciated the 'Women Club Meri Pehchan' for recognising the outstanding work of individuals in the service of the nation. Every nation and society must recognize the valuable contribution of its great personalities. It is our prime responsibility to honour those because of whom we are able to live freely, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the awardees and called upon them to work towards transforming the youth into enlightened citizens. He observed that, in the current era of unprecedented technological advancement, where AI is reshaping our work environment, we need to prepare human resource capable of driving the change.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "In our journey of Viksit J&K, we need support of valiant soldiers, leaders from social sectors, farmers, entrepreneurs, youth and women. We need to identify those sections of the population who have got left behind due to discriminatory laws and keep working for their upliftment.

We need to build a J&K where the rural and urban divide is completely bridged. A J&K where there is social equity and which runs on the principles of rule of law and equal opportunity. A J&K where tourism, handicraft, agriculture, horticulture, industry and service sector works together"

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that the J&K Administration is working for inclusive growth with sincerity and commitment.

"I can proudly say that in the past four and half years we have ensured development of social sectors to complement our economic growth to achieve the ultimate goal of social equity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He highlighted that, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the government has implemented a framework of policies and programmes for the benefit of the underprivileged and those discriminated and the saturation of benefits should be ensured.

"I also want great personalities and intelligentsia to act as a monitoring system for the proper implementation of programmes and policies designed for the upliftment of the weaker sections of society.

This goal can be achieved with the collective effort of the administration, civil society organizations like Women Club Meri Pehchan and the leaders like you. Your active participation in fact, holds the key to the success of all the projects for socio-economic change," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also paid tributes to Mahara Hari Singh and recalled his visionary policies and reforms dedicated to public welfare.

He emphasised that every person will have to discharge his duties and responsibilities to bring a posi-

## Fresh snowfall, rain bring relief to farmers, fruit growers

## JI NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, FEB 27 (KNO)

The fresh snowfall in the upper reaches, along with incessant rainfall, has brought much-needed relief to thousands of fruit growers and farmers across Kashmir. The precipitation has ended the prolonged dry spell in the region, raising hopes for a productive agricultural season ahead.

Experts had previously warned that the extended dry weather, with no rain or snow, was a cause for concern among fruit growers and farmers. The lack of soil moisture was expected to negatively impact both the quality and yield of fruits, particularly apples, in the upcoming season.

The dry conditions had also delayed the germination of Rabi crops, which could have led to reduced production.

Experts, speaking to the news agency, said the lack of rain over an extended period dries up soil moisture, affecting flowering and fruit-setting, which directly impacts both the quantity and quality of crops. However, they said the fresh snowfall and rainfall have brought much-needed relief to the region's agricultural community.

tive change in the society.

The Indian Army veterans, martyrs and gallant heroes who are decorated with Param Vir Chakra, Ashok Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Shaurya Chakra, Kirti Chakra, and Sena Medal including Lt Gen Anup Singh Jamwal (Retd); Maj Gen Sunita Kapoor (Retd), Col. Rajinder Kumar Sharma (Retd); Captain MV Pranjal; Subedar Major Sanjay Kumar PVC; Naib Subedar Chuni Lal; Lance Naik Nazir Ahmed Wani and Subedar Sansar Chand MVC, were conferred with the Maharaja Hari Singh Dogra Samman Award 2025.

Ravinder Singh Vicky, General Secretary, Shaheed Sainik Parivar Suraksha Parishad, Punjab; Jatinder Singh Gurjar, Security Guard and Supriya Hoon, Social activist were also honoured with the prestigious award.

Sandhya Gupta, Founder, Women Club Meri Pehchan; army veterans and their family members, senior officials, members of Women Club Meri Pehchan and various other social organizations were present. KNO

## CIK sleuths arrest...

The arrested terrorist will be produced before competent court at Srinagar after his transit from Delhi to Srinagar for which transit remand has been obtained from Delhi court.

Further arrests in the case are expected," the official added. KNO

## 5 Persons injured...

occupants suffered injuries, and were taken to PHC Thatri for immediate treatment.

## Two arrested...

Senior Superintendent of Police (Kishtwar) Javid Iqbal Mir said Rs 14 lakh of the looted money was recovered based on the disclosure of the arrested persons.

On February 3, a complaint was received from the branch manager of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank in Dachhan, reporting a robbery of Rs 19,51,600 (Rs 19.51 lakh) by unidentified individuals.

An FIR was registered at Dachhan police station and an investigation initiated, Mir said.

A special investigation team was constituted that cracked the case and arrested Mohd Yasin of Sounder and Bilal Ahmed of Lidhri, Dachhan, and recovered Rs 14 lakh, he said.

Further investigation is underway to recover the remaining amount, he added.

The accused burnt their clothes, shoes and bag containing the cash with the intention to destroy evidence, the officer said.

## Amid inclement...

Education Minister, Sakina Itoo said that the government will hold a meeting in this regard tomorrow.

"Keeping in view the prevailing weather conditions, we are going to hold a meeting tomorrow regarding the extension of winter vacations for schools in Kashmir division," Itoo said.

The minister further said keeping in view the health and safety of students, they will take a decision accordingly

"If weather conditions do not improve, we may consider five days extension in vacation for primary level classes and in case there is more snowfall, we will consider extending the vacation till March 5 for all classes," she said.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) official said that there is no change in exams slated for Friday.

"As of now, there is no change in schedule for the exams that are slated for Thursday. Tomorrow, we have only one paper for 11th class," the official said.

Pertinently, the government on December-06 had announced winter vacation for all public and recognised private educational institutions in the Kashmir division as well as in the winter zones of Jammu division in two phases starting from December 10.

Winter vacations for Classes upto 5th primary were announced from December-10-2024 to February 28, 2025.

Similarly for the 6th standard to 12th standard, the vacations were announced from December 16 to February 28, 2025.

Earlier, the Meteorological Department Srinagar had forecasted four-day wet weather with light to moderate rain and snow at most places from February 25 over Jammu and Kashmir. KNO

## DC Bandipora inspects restoration work on road collapse site in Hajin

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 27

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Thursday visited the Hajin town to inspect the restoration work on the road that had recently collapsed after developing cracks.

During the visit, the DC assessed the progress of the restoration work, which is being carried out by the Department of Irrigation and Flood Control, to ensure the quick re-establishment of the road.

Emphasizing the urgency and importance of the road, DC urged the concerned departments to complete the repairs at the earliest to minimize any further inconvenience to the local population.

During the visit, Qadri also visited the temporary accommodation facilities provided to the families evacuated after the road collapse.

Pertinent to mention that the families living adjacent to Jehlum near the road collapse site have been temporarily relocated to safer locations until



the restoration work is completed. The DC interacted with the evacuated families, assuring them that every effort is being made to ensure their safety and well-being. Speaking on the occasion, DC said that the Administration is closely monitoring the progress to minimise the impact of the road collapse and ensure the restoration process is carried out efficiently and promptly.

The DC also directed the concerned authorities to continue providing assistance to the evacuated families, ensuring that their basic needs, including shelter, food, and other essentials are being met.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by ADC Zaffar Husson Shawl, Executive Engineer I&FC Sumbal, SDPO Sumbal and other concerned.

## EPFO Jammu conducts 'Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0' Awareness Program at Ramban



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 27

The Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO), Jammu, in collaboration with the District Administration Ramban, hosted 'Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0', an awareness and outreach program here today in the Conference Hall, Maitra.

The program, presided over by P.F. Commissioner Jammu Rizwan Uddin, aimed to educate employers, employees, and other stakeholders about the EPFO schemes and grievance redressal mechanisms. Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, extended full support to the initiative.

The event was attended by ACD Shrinath Suman, PD PIU Ramban Parshotam Singh, ALC Amit Kumar, senior officers, and various stakeholders. During the session, participants were sensitized about grievance filing through EPFiGMS, CPGRAMS, and other digital portals, along with fraud prevention measures and employees' rights. Detailed discussions covered Provident Fund (PF), Pension, and Insurance schemes, ensuring that all eligible employees receive social security benefits from their first day of employment.

Reviewing the EPF compliance status of various construction companies, firms, contractors, and subcontractors, the P.F. Commissioner directed all private schools and firms to ensure 100% enrollment of their employees and the timely deposit of EPF contributions to provide them with social security under insurance and pension benefit schemes. Companies were also advised to obtain EPF codes from Jammu to facilitate local staff.

Key district officers, including the ACD, CEO, CMO, DMO and Executive Engineers, were instructed to ensure the registration of employees working under different firms, agencies, and contractors operating under their jurisdiction.

A special focus was laid on sensitizing participants about the schemes covered under the EPF and MP Act. Hands-on training was provided on UAN activation, Aadhaar and bank seeding, e-nomination, online claim filing, and employer compliance requirements. Additionally, queries from employees, employers, and company representatives were addressed by the P.F. Commissioner and District Nodal Officers.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from various sectors, reinforcing awareness and implementation of EPFO schemes in Ramban.

## DC Shopian reviews arrangements for the holy month of Ramadan



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 27

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the holy month of Ramadan.

The DC directed KPDCL functionaries to ensure uninterrupted power supplies especially during Iftar and Sehri times, also emphasising Jal Shakti department to provide potable water to the public.

To regulate market practices as per the standards, the DC instructed Officers to intensify the joint market checking by teams already in action and take strict penal measures against violations of

over pricing, illegal practices and non compliance to rules.

Furthermore, the DC stressed the importance of sanitation and cleanliness at places of worship and congregation sites.

The Municipal Council, Shopian was directed to take immediate measures to maintain hygienic conditions and remove encroachment on road and pavements across the market places throughout the holy month.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; ADC Shopian Dr. Zakir Husain Faaz; ACR, DIO, Ex. Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE), CMO, CAO, DSHO and other representatives of Revenue, KPDCL, MC etc.

## SBI RSETI Ramban organises awareness Camp themed 'Financial Literacy: Women's Prosperity'

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 27

SBI Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) Ramban organized an awareness Camp here today, focusing on the theme 'Financial Literacy: Women's Prosperity'.

The event aimed to empower women and the local community with essential financial knowledge and creating awareness about the risks of cyber frauds.

The program was attended by Branch Manager SBI, Sachin Kumar, as the Chief Guest.

In his address, the Branch Manager emphasized the importance of financial independence for women, encouraging them to actively participate in banking services, savings, investments and entrepreneurship. He also spoke about various financial products and government schemes available to support women in their economic growth.

Director, RSETI S. Harvinder Singh, conducted an insightful awareness session on financial management, digital banking, and cyber fraud prevention. He educated participants on the risks of phishing, OTP frauds, UPI scams, and fake calls, advising them on how to safeguard their financial assets and personal information in the digital era.

The camp witnessed active participation from women entrepreneurs, self-help group members and aspiring businesswomen, who were encouraged to utilize financial services effectively for economic self-reliance. Discussions were held on topics including Importance of Savings & Investments, Digital Banking & Secure Online Transactions, Government Loan Schemes for Women (PMEGP, Mudra Yojana,



HADP, etc.) and Cyber Security Measures & Fraud Prevention.

The interactive session allowed participants to ask questions and clarify doubts about banking security, business loans, and digital payments. The experts provided practical tips and guidance on financial planning, securing small business loans, and leveraging government schemes for self-employment opportunities. Participants expressed gratitude for the informative session and pledged to implement financial awareness in their daily lives.

In his remarks, the DC noted that the new laws are justice-oriented and victim-centric. He said that in the new laws, priority is given to justice instead of punishment besides ensuring speedy trials and speedy justice. He also said that prior-

## Awareness program on New Criminal Laws held at Achabal Anantnag

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
ANANTNAG, FEBRUARY 27

An awareness programme on the three newly introduced criminal laws viz. Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam was today held at Town Hall Achabal, Anantnag.

The programme, presided over by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid aimed to raise awareness about the three laws and to educate the people. District and sectoral officers from administration including Assistant Commissioner Development Anantnag and Superintendent of Police (Operations) Anantnag were present on the occasion among others.

In his remarks, the DC noted that the new laws are justice-oriented and victim-centric. He said that in the new laws, priority is given to justice instead of punishment besides ensuring speedy trials and speedy justice. He also said that prior-



ity in the new laws is to tackle crimes against women and children.

Hamid further added that these laws have incorporated recent technological developments also.

The program included a series of presentations by legal experts who detailed the key aspects of the new criminal laws, including victim protection measures, reporting procedures, and the rights of the accused.

The event also featured a Q&A session, giving attendees the chance to engage directly with

experts and gain a better understanding of the laws that directly affect them.

The public response to the awareness program was positive, with many expressing their appreciation for the opportunity to learn about the new legal changes. The participants also emphasized that such initiatives empower citizens with the knowledge to protect their rights. Notably, more such outreach programs are proposed to be organised in various parts of the district in order to spread awareness related to the new laws.

## 5th District Level Cooperative Development Committee Meeting held at Srinagar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 27

A meeting of the District Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC) was held today at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here.

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, the meeting was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr. Khalid Hussain Malik.

At the outset, the Deputy Registrar presented a brief video showcasing the success stories of Cooperative Societies in



District Srinagar. The chair was apprised about the various activities and initiatives to be undertaken by the Department of Cooperatives during the course of the year as part of 'International Year of Cooperatives' celebrations.

On the occasion, the ADC stressed the Committee members to expedite all Cooperative devel-

opment initiatives and ensure seamless coordination among Departments for the effective implementation of cooperative schemes.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Srinagar, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies (DRCS) Srinagar and other members of DCDC.

## ADC Jammu imposes Rs 1.54 lakh fine for food safety violations

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 27

As part of ongoing efforts to uphold food safety standards and protect public health, Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Rakesh Kumar, has imposed a penalty of Rs 1,54,000 under the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSAI), 2006, on multiple businesses in the district. The fines

were levied against manufacturers, distributors and retailers found selling substandard and misbranded food products. The action aims to prevent the sale of unsafe consumables and ensure strict compliance with food safety regulations.

Commercial establishments have been directed to maintain proper hygiene and sanitation in food handling, conduct regular

quality checks to prevent contamination and adulteration, ensure accurate labeling and packaging as per FSSAI guidelines, and train staff in safe food handling practices.

The administration has also issued stern warning to businesses, emphasising strict adherence to food safety norms to protect consumers and prevent further legal consequences.

## J&K Local Bodies dedicated OBC Commission submits its final report, recommendations



JAMMU, FEBRUARY 27: In a significant development, the Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Dedicated Backward Classes Commission submitted its final recommendations to the Chief Secretary, J&K, Atal Dulloo, on Thursday.

The report, presented in presence of Secretary RDD&PR, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, is expected to highlight the objectives laid down at the time of its constitution.

Director Panchayati Raj, J&K, Sham Lal; Secretary in OBC Commission, Reyaz Ahmad Shah; Deputy Secretary in OBC Commission, Mohinder Sharma and others were also present on the occasion.

The Commission, headed by Justice (Retired) Janak Raj Kotwal, a former Judge of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, with former IAS Officer, RK Bhagat and former Dean of SKUAST Jammu, Dr. Mohinder Singh Badwal as members, was constituted with determining OBC reservation quotas. The Commission's term officially ended on December 31, 2024, however, its tenure was extended till February 28, 2025 for accomplishment of the complete work.

Pertinent to mention that the Commission was constituted for the purpose of conducting empirical studies on OBC representation, engaging with stakeholders and recommending proportional reservations in urban and rural local bodies. Accordingly, during its tenure, the Commission analyzed records, surveys and census data to determine

the OBC population share and their representation in the local bodies governance structure.

The panel sought data inputs from the government departments, institutions and experts; held consultations with researchers and conducted field visits across J&K to ensure a comprehensive assessment before submitting its report to the government.

The J&K Local Bodies Dedicated Backward Classes Commission was established on June 11, 2023, in compliance with Supreme Court Ruling in the K. Krishnamurthy Vs Union of India (2010) and Vikas Krishna Rao Gawli v. Maharashtra (2021) case.

Currently, Municipal Bodies, Panchayats and Block Development Councils in J&K are without elected representatives for a period of more than a year. The term of Municipalities ended in October-November 2023, while Panchayats and Block Development Councils completed their five year term on January 9, 2024.

In the recent electoral history of J&K, the three phases of panchayat elections including the Halqa Panchayat Elections (November 2018), Block Development Council Elections (October 2019) and District Development Council Elections (November-December 2020) were successfully conducted leading to significant devolution of Power in terms of Funds, Functions and Functionaries strengthening the grass-roots democracy.

## EDITORIAL

## Sonamarg's First Snowfall: A Wintry Welcome to Tourists

The much-anticipated snowfall in Sonamarg, nestled in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, has finally arrived, draping the region in a pristine white blanket and marking the onset of winter. After a prolonged dry spell, the enchanting tourist destination received a breathtaking one-foot layer of fresh snow on Saturday, instantly transforming it into a winter wonderland. The arrival of the season's first snowfall has not only lifted spirits but also reinvigorated tourism in the region, offering a much-needed boost to the local economy.

Tourists from near and far, including a thrilled family from Hyderabad, expressed sheer delight at witnessing Sonamarg in its full winter glory. The charm of snow-capped peaks, thrilling sled rides, and playful snowball fights have added to the allure, making Sonamarg an irresistible destination for winter enthusiasts. The transformation of this scenic retreat into a frosty paradise underscores the region's unmatched appeal and its potential as a premier winter tourism hub.

However, what makes this year's snowfall particularly significant is the recent inauguration of the Sonamarg Tunnel. This infrastructural milestone has greatly improved accessibility to the region, enabling tourists to reach Sonamarg more easily and extending the window for winter tourism. The tunnel's opening is a game-changer, ensuring that Sonamarg remains a viable tourist hotspot even during harsh winter months when accessibility has historically been a challenge.

The Sonamarg Development Authority (SDA) and local administration deserve commendation for their swift efforts in accommodating the influx of tourists. From road clearance to the provision of essential facilities, their proactive approach has ensured that visitors experience the best of what Sonamarg has to offer. Such initiatives are crucial in maintaining the region's reputation as one of Kashmir's top travel destinations.

While the picturesque snowfall has drawn admiration and excitement, it also brings a responsibility to ensure sustainable tourism practices. The authorities and local stakeholders must work together to balance the economic benefits of increased footfall with environmental preservation. Measures such as waste management, eco-friendly tourism initiatives, and controlled development should be prioritized to protect Sonamarg's fragile ecosystem.

As Sonamarg basks in its newfound winter splendor, the season's first snowfall is a reminder of Kashmir's unparalleled natural beauty. With improved connectivity and dedicated efforts toward tourism development, Sonamarg is poised to reclaim its status as a cherished winter retreat. The onus is now on both the administration and visitors to ensure that this winter paradise remains as enchanting for generations to come.

## Allahbadia's remarks: Digital decency under fire

RAJDEEP PATHAK

The recent uproar over content creator Ranveer Allahbadia's controversial remark on comedian Samay Raina's show, India's Got Latent, has sparked widespread condemnation across political, social and cultural spectrums. The backlash began with netizens expressing outrage and quickly escalated into a national debate, drawing criticism from political leaders, women's rights organisations and public figures, so much so that Shiv Sena MP Naresh Ganpat Mhaske even raised the matter in Parliament. Veteran artist Raza Murad and singer B Praak expressed their dismay at the decline in the quality of entertainment, questioning how obscenity could be passed off as humour.

Moreover, the joke in question had been lifted from a previous 'Western' online video, reinforcing concerns about not just the vulgarity in digital content but also its lack of originality. Social media swiftly linked the question to Truth or Drink, a comedy show from Australia hosted by Sammy Walsh. In the original episode, Walsh presented the same bizarre hypothetical to comedian Alan Fang.

The controversy surrounding Ranveer Allahbadia, also brings to the forefront, a critical constitutional debate - where do we draw the line between freedom of speech and responsibility in content creation? Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution guarantees the Fundamental Right to 'Freedom of Speech and Expression',



but it comes with reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2), including public decency and morality. The focus must shift from merely advocating Fundamental Rights to instilling a deeper commitment to Fundamental Duties.

Article 51A of the Indian Constitution enshrines these duties, urging citizens to uphold the dignity of women, respect India's rich cultural heritage and foster a spirit of scientific temper and humanism. In today's digital age, where content creation holds immense power, social media influencers must be more aware of these responsibilities.

The recent incident - among many others in the past, though none as brazen - reflects a troubling cultural decline. The relentless pursuit of profit and popularity has overshadowed the essence of responsible communi-

cation. Merely imitating Western trends for the sake of TRPs not only erodes societal values but also exposes influencers to unintended consequences. Upholding decency and cultural integrity in digital spaces is not just a moral obligation but a necessity for preserving the ethos of our nation.

### The Historical Context of Drama

This discussion further leads us to the historical context of artistic responsibility, as encapsulated in the 'Natyashastra', an ancient Indian treatise on drama and performance. Authored by sage Bharata between 200 BCE and 200 CE, 'Natyashastra' is the cornerstone of Indian performing arts. While advocating ethical storytelling, it stresses discipline, humility and cultural integrity in performances.

The text warns against arrogance and artistic

misuse, highlighting the role of art in societal upliftment and moral education. If lessons of 'Natyashastra' were to be imbibed by content creators, they would recognise the power of their platforms and exercise restraint in their expression.

Historically, India has also had a vibrant tradition of live performance and satire in the form of 'Bahurupias', a community of street performers who entertained audiences through mimicry, storytelling, and political satire. Unlike today's digital comedians, 'Bahurupias' adhered to ethical storytelling, ensuring their humour remained socially constructive rather than destructive.

Offending sensibilities in their era could lead to stringent punishments, yet they managed to craft thought-provoking and respectful humour. The 'Bahurupiyas', named

after Sanskrit "bahu" (many) and "roop" (form), are traditional impressionists known for their ability to assume multiple identities depicting their art that required deep cultural understanding. Dhirubhai Thakar, the renowned Gujarati literary historian, highlighted the significance of folk traditions like Bahurupias, stating, "The Bahurupia tradition is a testament to how humour, when wielded responsibly, can be both entertaining and enlightening."

### Setting Norms

In the face of rising controversial digital content, a structured ethical framework is essential to balance creative freedom with social responsibility. Indian knowledge systems have long emphasised a two-fold approach - one for creators and another for consumers, much like Master Abhinavagupta's - (an illustrious Spiritual

Master who injected new meaning into the Shaiva Philosophy, which 1,000 years later became more popularly known as Kashmir Shaivism) - the distinction between 'Nata' (performer) and 'Rasika' (audience). Digital creators should be trained in ethical communication, while audiences must develop discernment. Social media influencers, given their reach, need structured value-based training, akin to traditional performers, with a self-regulatory body overseeing content. Strengthening community guidelines on platforms like YouTube and Instagram to align with Indian cultural and legal norms can curb harmful content. Additionally, inspired by 'Natyashastra's' role in guiding performers, public awareness campaigns can foster responsible digital consumption beyond punitive measures. In On Liberty (1859), John Stuart Mill emphasises the ethical boundaries of personal freedom, asserting that individual liberty must be limited when it infringes upon others. He says, "The liberty of the individual must be thus far limited; he must not make himself a nuisance to other people."

The Ranveer Allahbadia controversy is not an isolated incident but a reflection of a larger societal issue - the gradual erosion of ethical entertainment. The challenge lies not just in regulating social media but in fostering a culture of conscious content creation and consumption.

**(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)**

## A legacy of visionary education and unyielding innovation

SAKSHI PRIYA

Education is the cornerstone of societal transformation, shaping individuals who drive progress and innovation. BIT Mesra, celebrating seventy years of excellence, exemplifies how a visionary commitment to learning can create enduring impact.

Founded in 1955 by industrialist B M Birla at a time when India was laying the groundwork for its technological future, BIT Mesra quickly emerged as a prestigious centre for innovation.

Originally established to foster technological growth, it has expanded over the decades to offer diverse programmes in engineering, science, management, architecture, and space research. Today, a dedicated faculty of 600 and a vibrant student body of over 10,000 continue to make the institution a hub for knowledge and creativity.

The Platinum Jubilee celebrations underscored both the rich legacy and forward-thinking vision of BIT Mesra. Dignitaries, including President Droupadi Murmu, attended

the event, where discussions highlighted the institute's contributions to advancing technology - particularly in artificial intelligence and machine learning - and recognised the increasing participation of women in STEM fields. These milestones not only celebrate past achievements but also pave the way for future innovations.

BIT Mesra's impact on India's technological journey is profound. The establishment of the country's first Department of Space Engineering and Rocketry in 1964 set a

precedent for pioneering research, while collaborations with organisations like ISRO keep its academic community at the forefront of scientific development. Moreover, a vast and active alumni network reinforces the strength of its academic foundation and continues to drive advancements across various industries. Beyond classroom learning, BIT Mesra emphasises inquiry, critical thinking, and the practical application of knowledge to solve real-world challenges. Commemorative symbols such as the silver medal,

stamp and envelope released during the Jubilee serve as tangible reminders of the institute's role in molding innovative minds prepared to meet future demands.

Creating and sustaining such an institution is a collaborative effort. Leadership, faculty, students, and alumni all contribute to a culture that values excellence, innovation, and independent thought. As industries and technologies evolve, BIT Mesra's role expands from merely imparting education to equipping individuals to navigate change, lead

advancements and contribute meaningfully to society.

Fostering interdisciplinary research, nurturing entrepreneurship and promoting inclusive education are essential strategies for ensuring its continued relevance. With seventy years of legacy behind it, BIT Mesra remains both a guardian of its proud traditions and a dynamic force for future progress. Its ongoing mission is to build on its storied past while relentlessly pushing the boundaries of knowledge, research, and education in an ever-changing world.

## What powers the dollar hegemony

AJITRANADE

President Donald Trump's electoral victory last November was decisive and sweeping. He now has majority control over both legislative houses, i.e. the lower house called the Congress or House of Representatives, and the upper house called the Senate. Sometimes both houses together are also misleadingly called the "Congress".

He has of course the control of the White House, and this is called a "governing trifecta", which is a sweet spot. He has already exercised his increased influence in the passage of 64 executive orders in barely three weeks of assuming office of the President for the second time.

Unlike his first term which began in 2017, he also has a two third majority of the conservative judiciary. This might prove crucial if he tries to deliver on his promise of no birthright citizenship. This cannot be

merely done by an executive order, and might require a constitutional amendment, which might in turn be challenged in the Supreme Court. The apex court could come to Trump's aid, although this is not guaranteed in this case of citizenship debate.

Trump's popularity is also supposed to be ten percent higher than what he got from his voters, which means that even some of those who did not vote for him now support his policies. These policies cover tariff action against trading partners, stricter action against illegal aliens, withdrawing from expensive wars in distant theatres and making NATO allies pay more, and finally reducing the size of the government.

The President has threatened that America will charge reciprocal import tariffs, as a tit for tat strategy. In response India has immediately reduced import duty on American Bourbon whiskey from 150 to 100

percent. The duty on Harley Davidson motorcycles was reduced earlier. India enjoys a trade surplus of about 30 billion dollars with the U.S., and it is this that Donald Trump wants to reduce. The defense purchases of F35 fighters and other combat vehicles are on the cards, partly to assuage U.S. sentiment.

Some of President Trump's wishes seem contradictory. On one hand his desire to reduce the trade deficit and make the dollar cheaper is to increase American exports and jobs. On the other hand, he wants the dollar to remain the strong and dominant currency in the world.

He threatened the BRICS nations, of which India is a member, that if they contemplate trading among themselves in non-dollar currencies, then he will impose 100 percent import tariffs on them. You can't simultaneously ask for a weak and a strong dollar. The fact is that the dollar

index, measured as DXY is close to being the highest it has been in the past twenty-five years.

So, what is the real source of the dollar strength and its hegemony? Is it due to President Trump's political support and popularity? Or his enjoying the governance trifecta? Not really. Incidentally, the trifecta is still not good enough because in the upper house, the Senate, the bills need a 60 percent majority to be passed as law. Which Trump does not have at this stage. There are some murmurs from within the Republican Party, which indicate less than enthusiastic support for some of Trump policies, especially on downsizing government and cutting benefits.

Yet what is the real source of dollar's hegemonic status? The first is simply that there is no other candidate currency. Neither the pound sterling in terminal decline since the second world war, nor the euro born

in 1999, nor the Chinese yuan are anywhere close to the dollar's unmatched supremacy. In terms of global trade, the U.S. share is barely 11 percent. But the U.S. economy makes up one fourth of the global GDP and of course is the largest. President Trump is upset about the trade deficit which is close to 1 trillion dollars.

Mirroring that, the Chinese have a trade surplus of 1 trillion dollars, one third of which is with the United States. Many countries including India have a trade surplus with America. So, what happens to all the surplus dollars held by export surplus countries? It is in the form of exchange reserves. A whopping sixty percent of all reserves worldwide are held in dollar assets, i.e. United States government issued bonds.

So that is the real reason for dollar hegemony. It is due to the strong desire of the rest of the world to hold dollars, or dollar assets. This creates a strong demand for U.S. bonds, which

reduces the cost of borrowing for the U.S. government. This is the enormous privilege enjoyed by the U.S. due to the dominant status of its currency.

To add to the privileges of dominance is another favorable factor, and it is that ninety percent of all foreign exchange transactions worldwide are in dollars. It is the most preferred invoicing currency. Trump has already warned BRICS nations not to transact in non-dollar currencies. The preference for dollar invoicing is due to its inherent stability.

And the belief that America will never default on its debt. This is tested from time to time, since the law and constitution does not allow the U.S. government to pile on unlimited debt. It is currently about 33 trillion dollars. But the debt ceiling cannot be breached unless approved by the Congress, which sometimes leads to brinkmanship between the ruling party and the opposition. But invariably the debt

ceiling is relaxed, until the new limit has to be relaxed again in a few years.

Whenever there is global turmoil and uncertainty, investors rush to dollar assets, causing outflows from developing countries, and leading to a fall of their currencies. This has happened to India as well. But the real reason is that implicitly the world has faith in the stability of America's financial system, its judiciary in resolving disputes speedily and fairly, its capability of resilience, and the US government's way of not passing too many irrational and isolationist laws and policies.

Of course, none of this can be taken for granted. The rise of India and China in the twenty first century will surely challenge the hegemony of the dollar. India's rise is benign, while China's rise threatens the west. Their evolving bilateral relationship will surely shape world trajectory as well as affect the dollar's dominance. But for now, the dollar is king.

## Combating Drug Menace: Distt Admin Kulgam organizes Orientation program for religious leaders

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 27

Under Nasha Mukht Bharat campaign, the District Administration Kulgam today organized an orientation programme on combating drug menace for religious leaders here at conference hall of mini-secretariat Kulgam under the theme 'Khushall Kulgam.'

The programme was attended by ADC, Viqar Ahmad Giri; ACR, ACP, DSWO, Resource Persons from Health, Drug Controller, Excise and Taxation, Police and DAC besides a large number of religious leaders from different areas of the district.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan said that religious leaders play a vital role in raising awareness vis-a-vis combating drug menace.

He underscored the significance of a collective fight by all stakeholders to make Kulgam a drug-free district and urged all sections of society to join hands in this fight.

The DC also highlighted



various initiatives taken by the District Administration to curb drug abuse which include massive awareness campaigns and intensive drives to destroy poppy and bung cultivation across the district besides strict action against those involved in drug peddling.

He advocated supporting the victims and working for their rehabilitation, rather than stigmatizing them.

The programme witnessed active participation from religious leaders and

other key stakeholders, who expressed their support in spreading awareness and guiding the youth towards a drug-free future.

Meanwhile, the District Administration is going to organize more orientation programmes under the theme 'Khushall Kulgam' with the objective to reach out to different sections and stakeholders of the society to spread awareness about drug free.

## Annual Day Celebration at Modern Education Institute, Choudhary Nar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, FEB 27

The Modern Education Institute, Choudhary Nar, Rajouri, celebrated its Annual Day with great enthusiasm and zeal. The management of the school organized its 10th Annual Day Function 2025 by creating a memorable event for children, parents, and teachers alike. The annual day celebration included many performances including speeches, skits, drawing, and writing competitions, along with Gogri and Pahari stage performances, which captivated the audiences. The dedication and enthusiasm of the children were very much evident through the quality of their performance, which reflected the exceptional training and the supportive environment they are receiving from their school.

As part of the celebration, sweets, and soft drinks were given to the participants and attendees, spreading joy and camaraderie among all present, later on lunch was also given. During an interview with the



media, Ms. Shaheen Akhter Wani, Principal of the school, shared the institution's mission to redefine early education. She emphasized their commitment to shaping children into future leaders, fostering innovation, cultural awareness, and a deep love for learning. Ms. Akhter explained that the school's curriculum is designed to ignite creativity and curiosity through innovative, play-based learning approaches. Furthermore, the school prioritizes the well-being of its students by conducting quarterly health checkups, ensuring their holistic development. In addition, the school embraces technology.

The event, held in the school's premises, was graced by the presence of the esteemed chief guest, Ex-Sarpanch Abdul Rehman, who commended

the school's efforts in providing quality education to the students. The program started with a welcome speech by the principal of the school. Students showcased a variety of cultural performances, including folk dances including Gogri and Pahari, and various musical renditions, reflecting the rich heritage and talent nurtured within the institution. The audience, comprising parents, teachers, and distinguished guests applauded the young performers for their dedication and creativity.

Addressing the gathering, Ex-Sarpanch Abdul Rehman emphasized the importance of education in shaping the future of society. He praised the school's commitment to academic excellence and holistic development urging students to

work hard and make the most of their educational opportunities. "Education is the foundation of a progressive community and institutions like Modern Education Institute Choudharynar play a crucial role in shaping young minds," he remarked. A key highlight of the event was the prize distribution ceremony where meritorious students were awarded for their achievements in academics, sports, and extracurricular activities. The chief guest along with school authorities presented the awards and certificates encouraging them to contribute and strive for excellence.

The school principal expressed gratitude to all attendees and reiterated the institution's dedication to fostering a nurturing and intellectually stimulating environment. The event concluded with a vote of thanks, followed by the national anthem. The Annual Day celebration at Modern Education Institute was a resounding success, leaving students, parents, and teachers inspired and motivated for the future.

## Free Screening Camp for Cleft Lip & Palate Patients organized at Distt Hospital B'pora

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 27

A free awareness and screening camp for patients with cleft lip, cleft palate, nasal, facial and cranial deformities was today organized at District Hospital Bandipora.

The initiative aimed to identify and support individuals in need of corrective surgery and medical treatment, ensuring that patients, especially children, get access to life-changing healthcare services.

A large number of patients from Bandipora and surrounding areas attended the camp, where they received free medical consultations, screenings, and expert guidance on further treatment.

The camp was conducted by Smile Train India, in collaboration with the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Bandipora and District Early Intervention Centre District Hospital Bandipora.

Doctors and healthcare professionals conducted detailed examinations and provided counseling to patients and their families. Those in need of surgical intervention were enrolled for free treatment under Smile Train India's cleft care program. The initiative is expected to bring hope and improved quality of life to many individuals affected by cleft conditions.

Families who attended the camp appreciated the efforts of the organizers, stating that such initiatives are crucial in providing accessible healthcare to underprivileged patients.

## Labour Department Kashmir checks on the Placement Agencies deploying workers for domestic purposes

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 27

The Labour Department, Kashmir today started a campaign in all the districts to have checks on the Placement Agencies, who usually get their workers from other states and deploy them for the domestic purposes at various residential homes of the Kashmir Valley.

The aim of this campaign is only to ensure that these workers are formally brought from the other states with their consent and are not Bonded Labours. Further, it is also to ensure that these workers/domestic helpers are insured under various schemes of the department so that during any untoward incident the house owner, the worker and the establishment owner remain secured, so far as the health or any accident is concerned.



Accordingly, it was found that 40 number of Placement Agencies are registered with the Labour Department of Kashmir who have been deploying 2000 (approx.) number of workers as domestic helpers to the various sites.

Today 40 Placement Agencies were inspected in the districts of Kashmir Division in which compulsory registrations of the Labour Department were obtained from the establishment owners, the details of the workers was also obtained from the establishment owners in which first of all it was

ensured that no worker was below the age of 14 years deployed for this purpose.

Secondly, it was also ensured that every worker has come with his consent and payment is made in the bank accounts of the respective worker.

The workers were personally interacted by the teams at various offices of these Placement Agencies and confirmed from them the living conditions, wages, their age and other necessary help provided to them during their stay and transport from their homes to the final destination.

During the inspections each and every Placement Agency was informed to have each worker registered under Employees State Insurance Scheme so that everybody in the chain remains secured, particularly the labourer and the house owner.

It is also requested of the general public to ascertain the ESIC registration of these workers before getting them for any kind of help so that in case of any untoward incident, with this helper, both the helper and the owner remain secured.

The campaign was launched under the guidance of Deputy Labour Commissioner, Kashmir who along with Assistant Labour Commissioner, Srinagar and other Labour Officers/Labour Inspectors inspected various placement agencies of Srinagar District.

## ZPHQ Kashmir & RPHQ SKR, in Collaboration with NCB, Organizes Training Programme on NDPS Case Investigation at DPO Anantnag

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
ANANTNAG, FEB 27

In a concerted effort to strengthen the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, Zonal Police Headquarters (ZPHQ) Kashmir & Range Police Headquarters (RPHQ) South Kashmir Range (SKR), in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) J&K, organized a two-day training programme for officers investigating Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS)

cases. The training, held at District Police Office (DPO) Anantnag, aimed to enhance awareness, capacity building, and effective enforcement of NDPS laws among police personnel.

The programme was inaugurated by DIG SKR, Shri Javid Iqbal Matoo, in the presence of SSP Anantnag, Dr. G.V. Sundeep Chakravarthy. Addressing the participants, they emphasized the increasing threat of drug abuse and the urgent need for a collective, strategic approach

to combat it effectively. Experts from law enforcement agencies, legal professionals, and health specialists conducted interactive sessions covering various aspects of the NDPS Act, investigation techniques, forensic analysis, and rehabilitation strategies for drug addicts. Senior officers, investigation officers, and field personnel actively participated, gaining valuable insights into handling narcotics cases with a legally sound and strategic approach.

## MLA Sonawari visits Hajin, assesses Road Collapse Situation

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 27

Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Sonawari Constituency, Advocate Hilal Akbar Lone today visited Hajin area to take stock of the situation following the collapse of a road due to cracks that developed near Sheikh Mohalla.

The MLA met local residents to take first hand appraisal of their concerns and assured them of prompt action.

During his visit, Lone assured the public that, once the weather conditions improve, work on the road project will resume on a war footing basis.

Meanwhile, temporary measures are being implemented to prevent further



efforts are underway to provide relief to those affected.

He said the matter has been taken up with the concerned authorities, and assured the people that rehabilitation efforts will be carried out wherever possible.

In addition to inspecting the situation in Hajin, MLA also visited Receiving Station Nadihal, Gujjarpati Aragam, Chanpal, Chapran and other adjacent areas to take stock of the situation amid incessant rains.

deterioration of the road. MLA emphasized that

the authorities are fully aware of the issue, and

take stock of the situation amid incessant rains.

**Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir**  
**Jal Shakti (Irrigation & Flood Control) Department**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division No.II Jammu**  
E-Mail: ifcjmunxid2@gmail.com, xenirrigation-div2@jk.gov.in, Tel/Fax: 0191-2457756

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**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<sup>nd</sup>** 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

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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)

1. The bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in/w.e.f> 24-02-2025 from 09:00AM onwards.  
2. 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.  
3. The complete bidding process will be **ONLINE**.  
4. 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 No. II** presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed, the bids will be opened on the next working day.

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

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

**DIP/J-10567/24**  
**Date: 27-2-25**

# India-EU Relations reach historic milestone as President Ursula von der Leyen arrives in New Delhi

JNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 27

Gaurav Gupta, BJP Spokesperson, hailed the visit of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and the entire College of Commissioners to New Delhi as a historic milestone in India-EU relations. He emphasized that this unprecedented visit underscores India's growing stature and dynamic leadership under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, making India a trusted and strategic partner for Europe.

President von der Leyen, upon landing in New Delhi, tweeted:

"Touchdown in Delhi with my team of Commissioners. In an era of conflicts and intense competition, you need trusted

friends. For Europe, India is such a friend and a strategic ally. I'll discuss with Narendra Modi how to take our strategic partnership to the next level."

Reacting to her statement, Gupta said, "President von der Leyen's remarks reaffirm India's position as a key partner in shaping global stability. This visit goes beyond diplomacy—it signifies India's growing role in defining the global economic and strategic landscape."

Gupta highlighted the rapid progress of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, noting that a strong FTA would unlock vast opportunities for Indian businesses in Europe, boost trade, attract investment, and create numer-



ous jobs.

He also pointed out that India's trade engagement with Europe is gaining momentum amid rising global tariff uncertainties. "With the United States reviewing its tariff structures and increasing trade barriers in certain sectors, many global businesses

are looking for alternative, stable trade relationships. A robust India-EU FTA can provide European companies a reliable supply chain and give Indian exporters greater access to European markets at a time when global trade dynamics are shifting," he added.

Additionally, he highlighted the establishment of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC), making India only the second country after the US to have such a platform with the EU. "With India's focus on self-reliance and cutting-edge technologies, the EU's investment in India will further enhance our global competitiveness," he stated.

Speaking on the geopolitical significance of the

visit, Gupta remarked, "At a time when Europe finds itself excluded from key discussions on Russia-Ukraine peace talks and faces growing uncertainties in transatlantic relations, its engagement with India is more crucial than ever. As China's influence in Central and Eastern Europe weakens, European nations are looking towards India as a reliable and stable partner."

He further stressed that at a time of shifting global power dynamics, India and the EU must collaborate to advance global security and stability. "As Europe redefines its strategic priorities, it sees India as a responsible and dependable ally," he added.

Gupta also highlighted India's growing diplomatic influence in Central and

Eastern Europe, stating, "India is engaging with these regions as an equal partner, shaping its own future and strengthening global ties."

Gupta concluded by reaffirming India's strong global leadership "Unlike in the past, when India was expected to follow global trends, today we set them. Our independent foreign policy, economic resilience, and commitment to multilateral cooperation have made us a key global force."

With the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 in mind, Gupta underscored that strategic international partnerships, such as this enhanced India-EU collaboration, will play a crucial role in driving India's economic and strategic goals in the years to come.

## MLA Arvind conducts surprise visit to Govt Boys Higher Secondary School Sarwal



JNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEB 27

Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta today conducted a surprise visit to Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Sarwal, to assess the school's infrastructure, academic environment, and innovative practices being implemented.

During the visit, Principal Anshul welcomed the MLA and apprised him about the school's ongoing initiatives, including the plantation drives and the creative use of waste materials for model-making in open areas, fostering an eco-friendly learning environment. The visit was also attended by Thakur, school teachers and staff, along with Veenu Khanna (State Secretary), Kushant Prajapati (Mandal President), Atul Bakshi (Senior Leader), and Kiran Sharma.

Expressing satisfaction over the well-maintained premises and proactive approach of the school management, MLA Arvind Gupta lauded the efforts of the administration and staff, stating that this institution stands out as one of the best-performing government schools he has visited so far.

Arvind Gupta also asked the teachers to focus on enhancing the quality of education by adopting innovative teaching methods and ensuring a disciplined yet interactive learning environment. Emphasizing the role of teachers in shaping the future of students, he urged them to instill moral values alongside academic excellence.

The senior BJP leader further emphasized that other government schools should take inspiration from Sarwal School's model of cleanliness, discipline, and sustainability-driven learning.

Notably, MLA Arvind Gupta has been conducting regular visits to government schools across his constituency to evaluate their conditions and ensure necessary improvements. His commitment to strengthening the education system and promoting quality learning environments reflects his vision for an academically progressive and resourceful Jammu West.

Arvind assured the school administration of his continued support in upgrading educational facilities and encouraged them to sustain their efforts in nurturing young minds with innovative and holistic approaches.

## Tony leads delegation to CS Atal Dulloo against Police Ammunition Depot Construction in Chowadi

JNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEB 27

Senior Congress leader and DDC Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony today led a delegation of prominent residents from Chowadi, Mohalla Messi, and Mohalla Mehra to meet the Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, raising serious concerns over the proposed construction of an ammunition depot by the J&K Police in Chowadi. The delegation apprised the Chief Secretary of the grave threat posed to over 400 families currently residing in the area.

Expressing deep anguish, Tony lambasted the authorities for their blatant disregard of legal norms and public safety. He stated that despite an alternate site being identified, the police per-

sonnel remain adamant about proceeding with the depot's construction at the existing location. "It is ironic that those entrusted with upholding the law are themselves violating it," he remarked.

Highlighting the legal violations, Tony pointed out that under the Works of Defence Act, 1903, specific safety distances are mandated for construction around ammunition depots to ensure the safety of life and property and the same law applies here also. Under this act, a minimum safety distance of 1000 meters is mandated for construction around ammunition depots. However, in Chowadi, the two affected mohallas lie a mere 100 meters away from the proposed site, endangering the lives of



hundreds of families.

"The police are hell-bent on setting up this depot at the cost of human lives. For the past five days, construction has been going on unabated, despite the Tehsildar, deputed by the Deputy Commissioner Jammu, instructing a halt to the work. Adding to the residents' woes, the ongoing work has disrupted the area's drinking water supply for the last 15 days,

exacerbating the hardships faced by the people," Tony stated.

He informed that the District Administration under DC Jammu has already identified an alternative site for the construction of the ammunition depot in the same Chowadi area.

Questioning the administration's apathy, the senior Congress leader asked, "Is this the human

face of governance? Why are senior officials turning a blind eye to such blatant lawlessness?" He urged immediate intervention, demanding that the construction be stopped and the water supply restored without further delay.

The deputation included Anjum Choudhary, Ghulam Rasool, Anwar, Mohd Aftab, Haji Khurshed, Sohail Choudhary, Riyaz Khan, Talib Husain, Rehmat Ali, Mekbol, Qasim, Anjum Ali, and several other concerned citizens. Over 100 residents were signatories to the representation submitted to the Chief Secretary.

Tony reaffirmed his commitment to fighting for the rights of the people and warned of intensified protests if the authorities fail to act immediately.

"We will not allow the safety and well-being of our people to be compromised. The administration must uphold justice and relocate the depot to a safer location without delay," he asserted.

Responding to the concerns raised, the Chief Secretary assured the delegation that the matter would be looked into on an urgent basis, and necessary action would be taken to safeguard the interests of the residents.

Later, the delegation visited the office of the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com), Jammu, and submitted the same memorandum, as recommended by the Chief Secretary (CS), to the Div Com's office for further necessary action in this regard on priority basis.

## Apollo hosts International Health Dialogue 2025, launches World Economic Forum's India Digital Health Activator

JNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEB 27

The International Health Dialogue (IHD) 2025, hosted by Apollo Hospitals, marked a significant meeting of healthcare leaders and policymakers, focusing on practical solutions for modern healthcare challenges. The event also featured the launch of the World Economic Forum's India Digital Health Activator.

Union Health & Family Welfare & Chemicals & Fertilizers, Minister Govt. of India J.P. Nadda, during the inauguration ceremony, remarked, "India is poised to lead the global healthcare revolution by leveraging technology alongside human-centered care. The vision of IHD 2025 aligns with our national goals to enhance the reach, accessibility, and quality of healthcare services across India and beyond."

IHD 2025 brought together multiple specialized forums. The 12th International Patient Safety Conference (IPSC) provided a long-standing platform for discussing patient safety and care improvement measures, while the Technology for Health Innovation and Transformation (THIT) conference served as



the setting for the WEF's announcement of the India Digital Health Activator.

Dr. Prathap C Reddy—the founding force behind Apollo Hospitals—stated, "We must embrace both innovation and compassion to create a future where healthcare knows no bounds." His remarks underscored the event's focus on balancing technological advancement with the essential human touch.

Dr. Preetha Reddy, Executive Vice Chairperson of Apollo Hospitals, explained the broader

changes underway in the sector, saying, "Healthcare is undergoing a global transformation. With our 'Heal in India' initiative, we are using state-of-the-art technology to make care more accessible and beneficial for all. Even as we deploy advanced tools like AI and wearables, the human touch remains essential. We must act swiftly, accurately, and with genuine compassion."

This vision was reinforced by Dr. Sangita Reddy, Joint Managing Director of Apollo Hospi-

tals, who remarked, "At Apollo, our mission is clear: healthcare should be accessible, available, and affordable to everyone. We are advancing vaccine development and embracing the latest technologies. I believe that one day, the world will look to India for genuine and effective care."

Dr. Madhu Sasidhar, President and CEO of Apollo Hospitals, highlighted that AI-powered clinical trials are accelerating drug discovery and improving disease detec-

tion rates. He stated, "AI is transforming our clinical trials by speeding up drug discovery and enhancing early disease detection. However, it is essential that we establish robust governance frameworks to ensure these innovations remain ethical, secure, and truly patient-centric."

The second day of the dialogue explored more improvements in operational systems and patient care delivery. Reflecting on the sessions, Dr. Sangita Reddy noted, "This platform helps us come

together to share information and knowledge, with a vision to heal and help the world. It also recognizes the role of Indian healthcare professionals in our healthcare diplomacy. By sharing knowledge, ideas, technology, and improved frameworks, we aim to build a better global healthcare ecosystem." In a similar vein, Dr. S. Jaisankar, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Govt. of India, remarked, "From specialty hospitals to primary healthcare centers, we have strived to make a meaningful impact through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Sharing our medical expertise has always been a core part of our global approach. Through the International Health Dialogue, India has emerged as a hub for global collaboration in the pursuit of equitable and accessible healthcare for all."

IHD 2025 provided a forum for practical dialogue among healthcare professionals, technology experts, and policymakers. The event not only showcased innovative solutions but also offered a comprehensive view of how collaborative efforts can drive a future where healthcare is more accessible, efficient, and patient-focused.

## Kashmir, Kashmiriyat incomplete without KPs: Karra



JNEWS SERVICE

JAGTI (JAMMU), FEB 27

JKPCC President Shri Tariq Hameed Karra along with Working President Raman Bhalla, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, Former Minister Yogesh Sawhney, Ex-MLC Ved Mahajan, Migrant cell Chairman H L Pandita visited Migrant Camp to exchange Mahashivratri greetings.

A number of Kashmiri pandit families welcomed Shri Karra and team of senior Congress leaders in the camp and held a function at Community Hall to celebrate the occasion.

In his message, JKPC Chief said that humanity comes first of all religions. All festivals belong to everyone and should be celebrated together. He said that Kashmir and Kashmiriyat is incomplete without Kashmiri Pandits. He said there is lot of pain in his heart over sufferings of migrant community and their being away

from home. He assured them that their house will be highlighted in every possible manner.

They also appreciated the efforts of Raman Bhalla for them as Minister. Bhalla also assured them full support in future too.

The community felicitated Mr Karra with a shawl on the occasion.

The speakers also recalled the contributions of Dr Manmohan Singh for the welfare of the community.

The participants discussed their issues of concern and hardships faced by them including lack of adequate health facilities in the township. Raj Nath Dhar, M K Raina, Daleep Kumar, Shiban pandit, Manish and others spoke & welcomed them.

Two minutes silence was also observed in the memory of Shadi Lal Pandita, who lost life in a road accident few months back while returning from Rahul Gandhi's rally in Jammu.

## Kavinder chairs meeting on Women's Day celebrations, emphasizes Financial Empowerment, Organ Donation awareness

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 27

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta chaired a crucial meeting to discuss the upcoming Women's Day celebrations, with a special focus on financial empowerment and organ donation awareness.

The meeting, attended by BJP Mahila Morcha President Sanjita Dogra, Parbhari Anuradha Chadak, General Secretary Neha Mahajan, Prerna Nanda, Media Incharge Poonam Gupta, Suman Raina, Santosh Sharma Ji, and Neena Gupta, deliberated on various initiatives to highlight the achievements of women beneficiaries under several welfare schemes launched by the Modi government.

During the meeting, the BJP stalwart emphasized the importance of recognizing and celebrating the role of women in nation-building. He stated that Women's Day should not be just a symbolic occasion but a platform to acknowledge the progress made by women through the Modi government initiatives like Mudra Yojana, Lakpati



Didi, Jan Dhan Yojana, Startup India, Standup India, PMEGP, Svanidhi, and SHG financial assistance. He highlighted that these schemes have significantly contributed to the financial independence of women across the country.

The senior BJP leader also underscored the importance of organizing district-wise events where women beneficiaries of these schemes will be invited to share their success stories. He said that by showcasing these achievements, the BJP aims to encourage more women to take advantage of these government programs and strengthen their economic standing.

Another key agenda of the meeting was the promotion of organ donation

and health awareness, stating that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the party has prioritized the upliftment and well-being of women in every sector.

BJP Mahila Morcha President Sanjita Dogra, in her address, said that the Modi government has empowered women through various initiatives that have helped them achieve financial stability and self-reliance. She emphasized the need to reach out to more women and ensure they benefit from these schemes. She also urged women leaders and party workers to actively participate in the Women's Day events and work towards the upliftment of women across all sections of society.

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## Call for Induction of Value-Based Education in J&K's Curriculum

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 27

In a significant move to instill moral values among students, a memorandum was presented to Shri Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary (Higher and School Education, J&K UT), advocating for the inclusion of Value-Based Education in the academic curriculum. This initiative was led by Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI), which had previously adopted 25 schools to impart moral and ethical education. However, due to the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, there is now an urgent need for a structured and sustainable approach to value-based education.

In the rapidly evolving societal landscape, traditional moral guidance has weakened, leading to growing fear, confusion, and frustration among young minds. Recognizing this alarming decline in moral values, VKMI's President, Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, along with his team, formally requested the Chief Guest, Shri Shantmanu, to advocate for incorporating value education into the school and higher education cur-



riculum. This request was presented during a special interaction and welcome program organized by the Global Peace Organization, where Shri Shantmanu was the Chief Guest. The event was graced by several distinguished personalities, including:

Shri I.D. Soni, Chief Adviser, VKMI  
Shri Sohail Kazmi, Noted Journalist & Chairman, Taskeen Group of Publications

Shri Harminder Kour, Secretary, Cultural Academy of Art, Culture & Languages  
Prof. Seema Rhomeeta, Director, The Law School, Jammu University

Shri S.K. Jain, who presented a poem in honor of the Chief Guest, emphasizing the need for value-based education

During the event, Shri Altaf Hussain, Advocate & Chairman, presented

a roadmap to institutionalize moral education as a compulsory subject in schools, colleges, and universities. The proposal also included:

Establishment of a Directorate of Moral Education

Creation of a dedicated PhD unit for research on moral and ethical education

Setting up of a University exclusively focused on moral and ethical education

The VKMI team, comprising Vice President Shri Ashok Gupta, Vice President Shri K.S. Samyal, Advisor Shri C.M. Sharma, General Secretary & Punjab Coordinator Mrs. Anju Bansal, and Financial Advisor Shri Abhinandan Jain, extended their full support to this transformative initiative.

In his address, the Chief Guest, Shri Shantmanu, assured that he would

make his best efforts to incorporate Moral Education as a subject in the curriculum.

Professor Seema Rhomeeta stressed that a comprehensive assessment of human personality must take into account not only Intelligent Quotient (IQ) but also Social Quotient (SQ) and Emotional Quotient (EQ). Moreover, she highlighted the vital role of parents and teachers in imparting values-based and moral education, which is essential for fostering well-rounded individuals.

The event proceedings were conducted by Shri Gohar Hafeez Fani, President, Global Peace Organization. The program concluded with a strong consensus on the urgent need for value education, ensuring a future generation rooted in ethics, integrity, and moral responsibility.

## Rajdhani College Seminar Sheds Light on Remote Sensing Applications in Environmental Conservation

JINNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEB 27

Today a national seminar on Remote Sensing and Environment was organized by the Committee on Environment and Related Issues at Rajdhani College, University of Delhi. The seminar, which focused on the applications and implications of remote sensing technology, was attended by prominent figures including Prof. Amit Kumar Singh, Chairman of the college, Prof. Radhe Shyam Sharma, the chief guest, and invited speakers Prof. Kiranmay Sharma and Dr. Maya Kumari.

The program commenced with a formal inauguration ceremony, which included the lighting of the lamp, kulgeet, and a welcome address. Prof. Rajesh Giri, the



Principal of the college, addressed the gathering and emphasized that such events not only enhance academic knowledge but also help in developing skills among students.

Prof. Amit Kumar Singh, the Chairman of the college, expressed his desire to organize more such seminars in the future, highlighting the college's commitment to environ-

mental awareness and sensitivity. Dr. Tapasya Tomar, the convener of the committee, thanked everyone for their participation and introduced the concept of Remote Sensing as a dynamic technology that enables monitoring and surveillance in areas inaccessible to humans.

The chief guest, Prof. Radhe Shyam Sharma, linked Remote Sensing

to Artificial Intelligence and ecological entrepreneurship, highlighting its potential applications. The seminar was divided into two sessions. In the first session, Dr. Kiranmay Sharma presented the theoretical aspects of Remote Sensing, using visuals and research papers to support his presentation.

In the second session, Dr. Maya Kumari discussed the practical applications of Remote Sensing, exploring how it can be used in daily life through various websites and platforms. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Ritu Payal, who expressed gratitude to the Principal, the invited speakers, the convener, all participants, and volunteers for their contributions to the seminar.

## Secretary RD Aijaz Asad Releases Manzoor Ul Haq's Gojri Book "Adhritho Sach" at JKAACL

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 27

Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Secretary Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, today released the Gojri book Adhritho Sach, authored by Manzoor Ul Haq Kalaivi, at an impressive function organized by the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL). The event took place at K L Saigal Hall, Writers Club, Jammu.

DIG, CID Mohammad Irshad, SSP Railways Shalinder Singh, eminent writer Khalid Hussain, Secretary JKAACL Harvinder Kour, and Dr. Javaid Rahi, Divisional Head and Chief Editor, shared the presidium.

In his presidential address, Mohammad Aijaz Asad praised Adhritho Sach as a significant literary work that encapsulates tribal life stories, shedding light on the migratory culture, struggles of tribal women, and other socio-cultural challenges faced by the tribal com-



munity. He commended the author for his efforts and appreciated JKAACL for organizing such purposeful literary events. He further urged Gojri writers to actively contribute towards documenting tribal languages and cultures.

Welcoming the guests, Harvinder Kour emphasized the importance of the Gojri language in the Union Territory and highlighted JKAACL's ongoing efforts for its promotion and preservation. She reiterated the Academy's commitment to supporting Gojri literature and culture.

Mohammad Irshad lauded the linguistic richness of the book, describ-

ing it as a valuable treasure trove of Gojri vocabulary. Reflecting on his long association with the author, he noted that the book captures significant life experiences that now form an integral part of Gojri literature.

SSP Railways Shalinder Singh spoke on the thematic depth of the book, which primarily revolves around issues of poverty, societal pressures, and human emotions, reflecting the concerns of the author.

Dr. Javaid Rahi highlighted that the primary objective of the event was to provide a platform for the Gojri language and to showcase the creativity of its writers. He noted that

Adhritho Sach comprises 22 short stories, each portraying the ethos of tribal culture and heritage.

Eminent writer Khalid Hussain discussed the techniques of short story writing, affirming that the book meets all literary standards and is a valuable addition to Gojri literature.

Prominent scholars, including Prof. M. K. Waqar, Dr. Shahnawaz, Maqsood Hussain, Shazia Chowdhary, and Kalsoom Chowdhary, presented their research papers on the book, offering in-depth analyses of its themes and literary significance.

The event was conducted by Naseem Akhter, Gojri writer.

## Mirwaiz's father-in-law passes away

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, FEB 27

Hurriyat chairman's Mirwaiz Umar Farooq's father-in-law, Ghulam Sibtain Masoodi passed away last night.

A statement by Mirwaiz's office said Masoodi passed away in the late hours of the night after a prolonged illness.

The funeral prayers will be offered at Jamia Masjid in old Srinagar.

"Later, he will be buried at his ancestral graveyard in Khrew, Pampore," the statement said.

A well-respected medical professional, Masoodi spent 28 years of his life in the United States.

## Indian Army establishes Outdoor Open-Air Gym for People of Nagrota, Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU : 27 FEB 2025

White Knight Gunners of Indian Army in coordination with civil administration established Outdoor Open-Air Gym for people of Nagrota village, Jammu under Operation Sadhbhavana. Outdoor gym is an excellent platform to improve physical fitness of people of all age groups. It will assist the people to do physical exercise close to their home. Outdoor gym in open air allows for workout similar to fitness centres in the lap of nature. These types of gyms are hit amongst all age groups. Children plan playful activities around them and elderly get some much-needed strength training.

Keeping in view the importance of maintaining high standards of mental & physical health



and request for establishing an Open-Air Gym was brought out by the people of Nagrota via Sarpanch and other civil functionaries to White Knight Gunners. On scrutiny and understanding the importance of the requirement brought out, White Knight Gunners got the Open-Air Gym equipment installed in the area provided by the village sarpanch and officials. The project was accomplished under Operation Sadhbhavana.

The Outdoor open-air gym was inaugurated and handed over to the people of village Nagrota, district Jammu. Sarpanch and other civil functionaries were present during the event. At the same time, people appreciated this event. They said that along with the security of the country, the Indian Army is also working for public welfare. People expressed gratitude to the White Knight Gunners of the Indian Army.

## Medical Camp organized by Indian Army for Locals at Haribudha, Poonch

JINNEWS SERVICE  
POONCH : 27 FEB 2025

Upholding its unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of the people, Indian Army organized a Medical Camp at Haribudha in the remote region of Poonch District on 27 Feb 2025. The primary objective of the camp was to offer free medical check-up and distribute essential medicines to the marginalized communities of the area. Many people in this region reside in isolated locations, often inaccessible by road and face severe



challenges in accessing quality healthcare, particularly during the harsh winter season.

This medical outreach program, conducted through the camp was a crucial initiative aimed at extending healthcare services to these far-flung communities. Apart from offering free health

check-ups the camp also provided vital medicines for common ailments and seasonal diseases. The camp was led by Regimental Medical Officer who meticulously planned the outreach to ensure that medical assistance reached the most remote and needy areas. In addition to addressing imme-

diated health concerns the team also informed the residents about government health schemes, encouraging them to take advantage of available resources.

The heartfelt gratitude of the local populace was visible in their eyes and was further expressed through the blessings of the elders. The community was deeply thankful to the Rashtriya Rifles Battalion of the Indian Army for their continuous support and for spearheading this initiative that has made a meaningful difference in their lives.

## AMERICARES India Foundation Contributes Advanced Fibroscan Machine to Safdarjung Hospital

J I NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEB 27

AMERICARES India Foundation has successfully contributed FIBROSCAN Machine to Safdarjung Hospital as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative aimed at enhancing diagnostic capabilities for liver disease management.

The formal handover ceremony took place at Safdarjung Hospital in the presence of distinguished guests including Dr. Ulhas Vasave, Director Program of AMERICARES India Foundation, and Dr. Sandeep Bansal, Medical Superintendent of Safdarjung Hospital.

FIBROSCAN, a non-invasive technology used to assess liver fibrosis and steatosis, will significantly improve the hospital's



ability to diagnose and monitor liver conditions without requiring invasive biopsies. This contribution is expected to benefit thousands of patients annually who seek treatment at one of India's largest government hospitals.

"This contribution represents our ongoing commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure

across India," said Dr. Ulhas Vasave during the ceremony. "By providing access to advanced diagnostic tools like FIBROSCAN, we aim to support early detection and better management of liver diseases.

Dr. Sandeep Bansal expressed gratitude for the contribution, stating, "This technology will

transform our approach to liver disease diagnosis and enable our medical teams to provide more accurate, timely, and non-invasive care to patients. We thank AMERICARES India Foundation for their generous support."

The partnership between AMERICARES India Foundation and Safdarjung Hospital exem-

plifies effective collaboration between non-profit organizations and public healthcare institutions to address critical healthcare needs. The handover ceremony was attended by all Additional Medical Superintendents, Dr Pradeep Debata HOD Dept of Pediatrics, faculty, members of CSR Committee and members of Americares India Foundation.

### About AMERICARES India Foundation:

AMERICARES India Foundation is dedicated to saving lives and improving health for people affected by poverty or disaster. Through its various programs and partnerships, the foundation works to provide quality healthcare services and medical resources to underserved communities across India.

## Rajnath Singh releases first edition of MoD's bi-annual Hindi magazine 'Sashakt Bharat'

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 27

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh released the first edition of Ministry of Defence's bi-annual Hindi magazine 'Sashakt Bharat' at South Block, New Delhi on February 27, 2025. The magazine comprises poems on the valour, patriotism and sacrifices of the Armed Forces personnel as well as articles on the policies of the Government written by the personnel of the Ministry, irrespective of their ranks, showcasing inclusivity and unity in diversity.

Raksha Mantri appreciated the efforts of the MoD wing of the Department of Official Language towards promoting Hindi. He stressed on the need to adopt and increase the



use of Hindi, describing the language as the thread that binds the social and cultural fabric of India.

The objective of 'Sashakt Bharat' magazine is to highlight the creative talent of the employees of MoD and encourage them to carry out their day-to-day activities in Hindi. The e-version of the magazine will be available on the official MoD website (<https://mod.gov.in/>).

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Sethi, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary (Defence Production) Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary (Ex-servicemen Welfare) Dr Niten Chandra, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat and other senior officials of MoD were present on the occasion.

## Yudhvir holds Janata Darbar at Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 27

MLA Jammu East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi today held a public grievance camp at Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan Kacchi Chawni Jammu and listened to the issues faced by the public.

The camp witnessed a huge rush of people from across Jammu city who came to the party office to discuss their issues with senior BJP leader.

Various deputations, including individual persons visited the camp to present their grievances on issues such as ration, education, pension, PHE, PDD, revenue, power, water scarcity, roads,



and other development-related topics, as well as personal issues.

Yudhvir Sethi gave a patient hearing to the deputations and assured to resolve their issues by taking up the authorities concerned.

Sethi said that the BJP is committed to addressing the day-to-day problems being faced by the people

in general and Jammu City in particular and that the party is making a sincere attempt to lessen the gap between administration and people.

The senior BJP leader also stated that only BJP can fulfill the dreams and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and address their issues on a priority basis.

## Global PEACE organization hosts interactive session on moral education with Shant Manu (IAS)

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 27

The Global PEACE Organization, dedicated to awakening society's moral conscience, organized an interactive welcome program featuring Shri Shant Manu (IAS), Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), at the K.L. Sehgal Auditorium, Jammu Writers Club, on February 27. The event was attended by retired bureaucrats, senior officers, academicians, civil society members, Bar, Business, Doctors and representatives from various social and educational organizations.

The session focused on developing a roadmap for moral education. Advocate Sheikh Altaf Hussain, Chairman of the Global PEACE Organization, emphasized the importance of moral education in the current context and proposed both short-term



and long-term goals. The chief guest lauded the initiative, outlined governmental measures already in place, and welcomed the organization's suggestions, assuring their incorporation into relevant policies.

He also unveiled the "Golden Principles of Life" during the event. Gohar Hafiz Fani, Convener of the Global PEACE Organization, conducted the proceedings, while Advocate Altaf Hussain Janjua delivered the vote of thanks. A memorandum was later presented to the chief guest, outlining recom-

mendations such as Introducing a Moral Education Policy in schools and colleges in line with the New Education Policy, Establishing moral education cells within both School and Higher Education departments, Organizing seminars, symposiums, debates, and declamations on moral education, Moral education as a mandatory subject in school curricula, Establishing moral education as a distinct discipline at college and university levels and Engaging experts to promote communal harmony

and highlight commonalities among religious scriptures etc.

Prominent attendees included renowned philanthropist I.D. Soni, S. Jain, Sr. journalist Sohail Kazmi, Sardar Balwinder Singh, Sukesh C. Khajuria, Harvinder Kour Secretary Cultural Academy, Dr. Seema Rohmetra Associate Professor and Director Law School Jammu University, Prof. Muneer Alam, Khalid Hussain Retired DC, Prof. M.K Waqar, Prof. Vivak Arya, Prof. Nitin Sharma, Adv. Yasir Janjua, Adv. Waqar Hussain, Adv. Banu Dev Bandral, Adv. Sikander Wani, Rattan Lal Gupta, Anil Suri, Ashok Gupta, S. Rangil Singh, Comrade J.S. Awal, Jugal Kishor Sharma, Sanjeev Gupta, Vivek Sharma, Dr. Trishi Gupta, Mujeeb Malik, besides a large number of social activities from different social and non-governmental organizations.

## Quami Ekta meet organized for Locals at Parat, Rajouri

J I NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI: 27 FEB 2025

A Quami Ekta meet to repose the bonding and to discuss the tribulations of the locals, was organised by Indian Army on 27 Feb 2025 at Health Centre Parat wherein 32 members of the villages enthusiastically participated and contributed for the success of the event. Sarpanchs, Panchs, Ex-Servicemen, School teachers, Religious preachers of Mandir & Masjid participated with passion and contributed in sharing the actions being initiated for development of the villages.

Opinion makers also enlightened the gathering about benefits of District Development Committee along with the working mechanism for resolution of their grievances.

## GDC Vijaypur hosts workshop on "Ikigai: Aligning Passion, Mission, Vocation, and Profession for Career Success"



J I NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYPUR, FEB 27

The Department of Commerce in collaboration with career counselling cell at GDC Vijaypur successfully hosted an inspiring workshop titled "Ikigai: Aligning Passion, Mission, Vocation, and Profession for Career Success," aimed at helping students unlock their potential and align their career choices with their passions, skills, and values. The event began with an insightful introductory speech by Dr. Mamta Gupta, HOD of the Department of Commerce, GDC Vijaypur, who emphasized the importance of finding

purpose in one's career. The workshop featured esteemed guests Achlesh Kumar, Branch Manager, Office of Student Outreach, Chitkara University, and Manddeep Singh, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Outreach, Chitkara University, Punjab, who shared their expertise on applying the principles of Ikigai—a Japanese concept that integrates passion, mission, vocation, and profession—to achieve career fulfillment. Through interactive sessions and reflective activities, students explored how to identify their strengths, align their interests with societal needs, and create a roadmap for a meaning-

ful and successful career. The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Dr. Gunjeet, who expressed gratitude to the speakers, participants, and organizers for making the workshop a transformative experience. The session left students equipped with practical tools to make informed career decisions and pursue paths that resonate with their personal and professional aspirations. The event was coordinated by Prof. Mamta Gupta, HOD Commerce, Prof. Sandhya Bhagat, Dr. Priya, Mr. Shukoor Nazir and Prof. Ragini Gupta (Faculty, Department of Commerce, GDC Vijaypur).

## Congress Statehood Movement

# BJP has betrayed Dogras after huge mandate, Congress stands for dogra identity: Karra

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 27

Accusing BJP & its MLAs from Jammu of the betrayal of dogras over the issue of statehood after getting huge mandate from Jammu, PCC President Tariq Hameed Karra has targeted centre govt & BJP for criminal silence whereas congress is fighting for the restoration of dogra identity, dignity, status, culture and rights.

Addressing a party convention of Jammu Urban today, Karra referred to dogra turban on his head & said that Congress party is fighting for the dignity & honour of this turban, but those who secured huge mandate from Dogras are silent for the restoration status & rights. They should answer to the people why they are silent over the most important commitment made by the Prime Minister in the public and besides before the supreme Court & the parliament.

He said that during the two weeks long tour of Jammu province people have whole heartedly extended their support to the



struggle for restoration of statehood and the day is not far off when Congress will not hesitate to hit the streets.

He said that our struggle has full support of people of all sections and regions and of our leadership as it first issue of party in our manifesto. We stand by that and fight till last.

Urging workers of Jammu city to gear up for intensifying the struggle for statehood and increase mass contact for full fledged struggle as well as for ULB elections as & when held by the government, JKPC Chief asked the party leaders, contesting candidates & workers to forcefully raise the issues of common people regarding power, water, ration, trade etc.

He also referred to the demands of daily wagers, casual, need based, contractual, NHM workers, anganwadi, asha work-

ers, SPOs, other temporary employees etc. and favoured early resolution of their issues.

He said early restoration of full statehood and full powers is necessary for solving problems of people and unemployed youth.

The convention was presided over by DCC President Th. Manmohan Singh while entire Senior leadership attendant the function. Block presidents of Jammu district urban honoured Shri Karra and other top leaders with Dogra Turban. Prominent leaders who spoke include S/Shri Tara Chand, Raman Bhalla, Ch Lal Singh, Th. Balwan Singh, Yogesh Sawhney, Ravinder Sharma, Smt. Kanta Bhan, Ved Mahajan, Dr. Manohar Lal, Rajnish Sharma, Smt. Indu Pawar, T S Tony, Shabir Ahmed Khan, Shashi Sharma, Satish Sharma, Suresh Dogra, Narinder Sharma,

Sanjeev Panda, Sdr. Gurdarshan Singh, Rajesh Sharma, Vijay Shastri, Madan Dogra, Bodh Raj Bhagat former Chairman SC cell from Apni party also joined Congress on the occasion.

Shri Raman Bhalla expressed great concern over the rising crime rate in Jammu city and its outskirts after loosing statehood and special protection to land, jobs. People of Jammu are feeling insecure and loosing jobs, trade, culture and language and peace of mind with unsecured future.

Criticising authorities for disconnecting the power connections of poor people after sending exaggerated power bills to them. This is very unfortunate and govt must listen to the voice of people and fulfill the promise with them.

He also referred to the issue of ration scale and the non issuance of fresh ration card for several years. He also raised the issue of daily wagers, adhoc contractuals etc seeking their regularisation.

He charged BJP of betrayal of mandate snatching our identity, rights and dignity. Now its double betrayal by

refusing to fulfill commitments for early restoration of statehood.

He referred to the issue of abolishment of former house, whereby a forum for giving representation to minorities and other unrepresented sections has been finished.

Ch Lal Singh strongly raised the loot of our resources, land and invasion on the dogra culture and termed it greatest injustice by the BJP. Our identity, dignity, status and rights to land, resources have been destroyed. Our forefathers and dogra rulers fought for safeguarding our identity and rights.

There is rising crime and drugs in the region and future generations are in danger.

Aniridh Sawhney, Pawan Singh, H. S Mehta, Dr R K Khajuria, Prem Sharma, Manjit Bedi, Ricky Dalotra, Ritu Chaudhary, Kewel Yogi, Ram Mangotra, B S Wazir, Suman Wazir, Jatin Vasisht, Vijyant Pathiania, Michael Wazir, Darshan Verma, Latish Sharma several others were present on the occasion.

## Government prioritising JK's economic growth and inclusive development: Ramdas Athawale

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 27, 2025:

The Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Sh. Ramdas Athawale Thursday highlighted the role of the union government in ensuring inclusive development in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. In a review meeting with the Department of Social Welfare Jammu and Kashmir the minister took stock of the implementation and outlined the benefits of various welfare initiatives of the Government of India.

In his speech, Athawale highlighted several key initiatives, including Jan Dhan Yojna, Ujjwala Yojana, Mudra Yojna, PM Awas Yojna among others. The Minister was apprised that, as per the Jan Dhan Yojna, 54.8 crore accounts have been opened in the

country with 28 lakh accounts opened in Jammu and Kashmir, empowering citizens with access to banking services. He was further informed that 4.7 lakh LPG connections were provided in the Jammu division as per the Ujjwala Yojna.

He said that 51.9 crore beneficiaries were provided loans under Mudra Yojana in the country with 1.4 lakh in Jammu Kashmir. He informed that about 90.5 lakh houses were constructed under the PM Awas Yojna at the cost of 167881 crore rupees including 2.5 lakh houses in Jammu. The minister added that pan India 8.2 crore people benefited from Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (Ayush Bharat Yojana) and under



the Ujala Scheme 36.8 crore led bulbs were provided to beneficiaries from 2015-2025.

During the meeting, the minister informed that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will broaden its ambit in the Union Territory so that more and more people are benefited by the government welfare initiatives.

The MoS was also apprised about the progress in Nasha Mukht

Bharat Abhiyaan, noting the successful completion of 646 awareness activities in Jammu with participation from over 10.5 lakh people. The Minister assured that more drug de-addiction centers would be established, with plans for additional centers in Udhampur, Reasi and Ramban.

Further highlighting the government's focus on the elderly, Athawale emphasized that Social Justice

Ministry is taking active role in the establishment of old age homes and day-care facilities in the region. He said that an old age home in every district and an additional one on the way will provide vital support for the elderly in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister also highlighted the ongoing efforts to empower the Divyangjan (differently-abled individuals), ensuring that their needs are met with adequate facilities and provisions. The Minister said that the government is committed to upholding the honour and self-respect of Divyang people adding that many policies and initiatives are implemented by the Modi government aiming at improving the lives of Divyangjan. He reiterated

that the Ministry of State for Social Justice & Empowerment is always ready to provide services to all divyangjan and the senior citizens. He said that 2300 old age homes costing 407 crore rupees have been constructed across the country including in Jammu and Kashmir.

The minister highlighted that the government is prioritizing the region's economic growth and inclusive development by introducing various welfare initiatives from time to time. He informed that in the Union Budget 2025, more funds have been allocated for Centrally-sponsored schemes for their effective implementation in J&K. He said the government has resolved to fruits of development reach maximum people in the Union Territory.

## Speech competition on 'Nasha Mukht Bharat' held at KU



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 27

The Department of Students' Welfare (DSW), University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with the Range Police Headquarters, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) organized a speech competition on the theme 'Breaking the Chains of Addiction: Empowering Youth and Communities for a Nasha Mukht Bharat' at the varsity.

The event witnessed participation from 30 students representing various colleges and university teaching departments. The competition aimed to create awareness about the devastating impact of substance abuse and underscore the role of youth in promoting a drug-free society.

Vice Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, graced the prize distribution ceremony as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, she reiterated the varsity's dedication to promoting awareness and guiding students towards a healthier and purposeful life.

"The strength of a society lies in the hands of its young generation. A Nasha Mukht Bharat is not just a great vision but a necessity as well and it is the responsibility of every individual, especially the youth, to work collectively towards this goal," she said.

DIG, Central Kashmir Range, Rajiv Omprakash Pandey, emphasized the critical role of law enforcement agencies in curbing drug abuse and encouraged youth to take a stand against this menace.

"Substance abuse is not just a personal struggle but a societal crisis. We must work together to safeguard the future of our younger generations," he said.

Earlier, SSP Srinagar, Mr. Imtiaz Hussain, commended the efforts of the University and the J&K Police in organizing such meaningful initiatives.

Dean Students Welfare KU, Prof. Pervez Ahmed, in his welcome address highlighted the importance of youth-led initiatives in eradicating drug abuse.

## One-Day Workshop on Smart PLS-SEM Software organized at SMVDU

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 27

The School of Business successfully conducted a one-day workshop on Structural Equation Modelling using SmartPLS-SEM for research scholars of the School of Business and School of Economics. The workshop aimed to enhance scholars' understanding of advanced data analysis techniques essential for high-quality research. The sessions were conducted by Dr. Dhaval Maheta, Professor, Department of Business & Industrial Management, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat, a distinguished expert in quantitative and qualitative research methods. He provided in-depth insights into PLS-SEM, covering its theoretical foundations along with practical applications. The workshop featured hands-on training, enabling scholars to apply the technique to their research effectively. The workshop was convened by Prof. Jyoti Sharma, with Dr. Shazia serving as the coordinator. The faculty members including Dr. Sarabjot Singh, Dr. Divya Singh Jamwal along with research scholars, namely,



Mr. Manish Kumar, and Mr. Advitiya Indu Mahajan contributed significantly to the event's success. The scholars from the School of Business and the School of Economics participated in this workshop. The scholars expressed their gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor for providing such kind of learning opportunities to attain excellence in the research.

The workshop concluded with an interactive session and received an enthusiastic response from research scholars, who appreciated the session and the opportunity to gain practical expertise in Smart PLS-SEM software. The School of Business reaffirmed its commitment to fostering research excellence through such knowledge-enriching initiatives.

## Omar Govt remains steadfast in its mission to empower women across J&K: Rattan Lal

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU FEBRUARY 27TH

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) today reaffirmed its unwavering commitment in empowering women across the region.

In a function held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu, social activist Qamar Sharez, daughter of Mohd Akram and a resident of Mendhar, District Poonch, today formally joined the National Conference in presence of Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President JKNC Jammu; and other senior party leaders.

Welcoming Qamar Sharez into the party fold, the Provincial President emphasized that the present regime of National Conference, under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, remains steadfast in its mission to empower women across Jammu and Kashmir. He reiterated that the NC government has always prioritized policies that uplift women and provide them with equal opportunities in governance, education, and socio-economic development.

Rattan Lal Gupta highlighted the historic role of women in strengthening the National Conference since the time of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Abdullah. He recounted the spirit of Madr-e-Meharban (Begum Akbar Jehan Abdullah), who, during Sheikh Abdullah's detention, assumed leadership and galvanized women to actively participate in the party's mission for a progressive Jammu



and Kashmir. He also reflected on the pivotal role of Madr-e-Meharban in advocating for female literacy and the empowerment of marginalized communities, underscoring the party's longstanding tradition of supporting women's rights.

The Provincial President further detailed several landmark initiatives pioneered by the National Conference, such as allocating 50 per cent of medical college seats to women, thereby promoting their inclusion in the medical profession. He also lamented the regression of progressive measures in recent times and criticized actions that have undermined the region's special status and identity.

Rattan Lal further underscored several initiatives undertaken by the National Conference over the years to uplift women, including education drives, employment schemes, and political representation. He stated that the party remains dedicated to ensuring that women play a crucial role in decision-making and governance.

Expressing her enthusiasm upon joining the party, Qamar Sharez said that the National Conference has a proven track record of advocating for women's rights and empowerment.

She affirmed her commitment to work under the visionary leadership of Party President Dr Farooq Abdullah and the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in addressing the challenges faced by women in remote areas and ensuring their active participation in the socio-political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

She emphasized that she will work under the leadership of Javed Ahmed Rana, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, and Tribal Affairs, in Mendhar and the Pir Panjal region to spread the policies of the National Conference and the present Omar government and address the problems faced by the people.

Among those who were present included: Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu, Abdul Gani Malik former minister and Zonal President Udhampur Reasi, Bimla Luthra former MLA, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, S. Tejinder Singh Aman Provincial President Jammu Province YNC, Rajni Devi Working President Women Wing Jammu Province, Rita Gupta Vice President Central Zone, Sunil Sharma, Joginder Kaur Vice President District Jammu Urban Women Wing, Nitish Gowsami, Jaseen Malik, Yasir and others.

## Ali Mohd Sagar visits BHSS Nowpora

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, FEB 27

Ali Mohammad Sagar, MLA-Khanyar Constituency, Srinagar, Champions Education Reform During Inspirational Visit to BHSS Nowpora and Takes Stock of BHSS Nowpora's Needs, Vows to Boost Education in Khanyar.



Srinagar, [J&K] February 27, Senior Leader of the National Conference and Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) of Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Ali Mohammad Sagar, today visited the Government Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Nowpora, Khanyar, which is set to open its doors on 1st of March after winter vacations, as part of his ongoing efforts to assess the educational infrastructure, address the concerns in the region and took stock of all the preparations for upcoming academic activities.

During his visit, Mr. Sagar interacted with school administrators, and the teachers, to gain firsthand insights into the challenges faced by the institution. He emphasized the importance of quality education and assured the school community of his commitment to improving facilities and ensuring a conducive learning environment.

A grant of 700,000 rupees has been allocated by Jinab Sagar Sahab for the enhancement of school's infrastructural and educational advancements.

Mr. Sagar also reviewed the school's infrastructure, including classrooms, labo-

raries, and other amenities as well. He highlighted the need for timely interventions to address any gaps in resources and promised to raise these issues in the appropriate forums for swift resolution.

The visit was warmly welcomed by the school administration and local residents, who expressed their gratitude for Mr. Sagar's proactive approach to addressing educational challenges.

Speaking to the Principal of the Institute, Dr Masrat Parveen, Mr. Sagar said, "Education is the cornerstone of a progressive society, and it is our collective responsibility to ensure that our schools are equipped to provide the best possible learning experience for our children. I am committed to working with all stakeholders to address the concerns of BHSS Nowpora and other educational institutions in the region."

## Police observes 'Thana Diwas' in Budgam & Shopian

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, FEB 27

As a part of Public outreach programme, Police organized 'Thana Diwas' functions in various police establishments across valley including district Budgam, & Shopian. These meetings were chaired by respective supervisory & jurisdictional Police officers. These meetings were attended by respectable citizens, civil societies of

concerned areas, including members of Auqaf Committees, Numberdars, Chowkidars, Traders Federation and Transporters etc.

In these meetings, participants highlighted various issues of public importance. During these events, all the grievances were heard and were segregated on the basis of area of action and jurisdiction. The attendees were assured that all the grievances pertaining to Police department

will be dealt as per the law and remaining grievances lying outside the domain of Police department will be taken up with the concerned authorities under laid down procedure.

Additionally, participants were made aware of the new criminal laws, including provisions for speedy justice for victims, swift punishment for offenders, community service punishments, Zero-FIR, and e-FIR registration.

## PM Kisan Samman Nidhi ensures financial security to farmers: Balbir Ram



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, FEB 27

The PM Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme is a flagship initiative by the Government of India, aimed at supporting farmers by providing direct financial assistance, said Balbir Ram Rattan, while discussing the significance of this scheme with a group of the SC beneficiaries of the scheme.

Balbir Ram Rattan, BJP Spokesperson and former Vice Chairperson, elaborated that this scheme plays a crucial role in strengthening the agricultural sector and ensuring the well-being of small and marginal farmers.

The primary objective of the PM-KISAN scheme is to provide economic support to farmers to help them manage their agricultural expenses and improve their standard of living. Under the scheme, eligible farmers receive Rs 6,000 annually, transferred in three equal installments of Rs 2,000 each, directly into their bank accounts.

Balbir Ram Rattan said that it reduces the financial burden on farmers ensuring that they have adequate resources for cultivation.

It supports small and marginal farmers, who form the backbone of India's agricultural econ-

omy. Balbir further said that it enhances farmers' income and improves rural livelihoods.

It also helps farmers invest in better seeds, fertilizers, and modern agricultural techniques.

The scheme has had a transformational impact on India's agriculture sector. By directly transferring funds, it ensures transparency and efficiency, eliminating middlemen and leakages. Since its inception, PM-KISAN has benefited millions of farmers, improving their purchasing power and reducing dependency on moneylenders.

The scheme also aligns with the government's vision of "Doubling Farmers' Income", promoting rural development, and ensuring food security. With continued focus, the scheme will further empower Indian farmers, making agriculture more resilient and sustainable.

Prominent among those with whom PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme was discussed included Gulshan Bhagat, State General Secretary, BJP SC Morcha, Som Nath Bhagat (Retd.Principal from Navodya Vidyalaya & also General Secretary of Bhagat Sabha,

Mulkh Raj Bhagat (Retd ExN PWD) & Vice President Bhagat Sabha and Parshotam Bhagat.

# 3-day Mahashivratri Shivkhori Mela concludes

## 91,788 devotees pay obeisance at revered Shrine

JINNEWS SERVICE  
REASI, FEBRUARY 27

The three-day Mahashivratri Shivkhori Mela at Ransoo, Reasi, a sacred congregation celebrating the divine essence of Lord Shiva, concluded today amidst fervent devotion and spiritual enthusiasm.

Organized by the district administration Reasi headed by Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik, Tourism Department Jammu and Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board (SSKSB), the event witnessed an overwhelming turnout of devotees from across Jammu and Kashmir UT and adjoining states.

By 5 PM today, approximately 91,788 individuals marked attendance at the revered shrine to pay homage and seek blessings.

Throughout the mela, the District Administration Reasi and SSKSB collaborated to provide a range of facilities catering to the needs of the devotees.

From accommodations and medical aid to essential amenities like water and power, every possible effort was made by the administration to ensure the comfort and safety of the pilgrims on this sacred journey. The cultural program, including Jhanki, folk and religious



dances, devotional songs, and Dargal, organized by the Tourism Department in collaboration with the District Administration Reasi, added vibrancy and spirit to the event.

On the final day, a Dargal, also known as 'Chinj', was organized by the J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association, headed by Shiv Kumar Sharma, with support from the Tourism Department, District Administration Reasi, Shivkhori Shrine Board and Shivkhori Dargal Committee.

The atmosphere at Shivkhori resonated with reverberating chants of Lord Shiva as devotees immersed themselves in

prayer and introspection. The diligent efforts of the authorities, coupled with strict adherence to safety measures, ensured a seamless and secure experience for all participants. The mela also featured captivating cultural performances, including the mesmerizing Shiv-Parvati Vivah and a soul-stirring rendition of Lord Shiva bhajans by renowned singer Chaman Lehri.

As per the directions of Deputy Commissioner, who also serves as Vice Chairman of Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board, maintaining cleanliness was a top priority for the District Administration Reasi, with dedicated

efforts toward sanitation across all mela sites. She also emphasized the proper inspection of Langar food by the Food Safety Department during the mela. The installation of CCTV cameras and the deployment of additional security personnel further enhanced safety, ensuring a secure environment for all attendees.

All staff members of District Administration Reasi from Revenue, SSKSB, magistrates, police officials and other departments worked tirelessly day and night to ensure the smooth conduct of the event and the availability of all necessary facilities.

# Poonch Administration promotes Water Conservation through Watershed Yatra

JINNEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, FEBRUARY 27

In a significant move towards enhancing water conservation efforts, Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, today flagged off the Watershed Yatra, here from the DC Office Complex. The initiative aims to foster community participation and raise awareness about watershed development activities across the region.

The yatra traversed various routes within Poonch city, culminating at Government High School Kulani, where an awareness program was presided over by DDC Chairperson Tazeem Akhtar.

The event commenced with the National Anthem, followed by a water conservation pledge taken by participants, includ-



ing students, civil society members, and community leaders, committing to conserve water.

Project Manager IWMP Naeem ul Nisa Bhatti, emphasized the critical role of community involvement in the success of watershed programs. She highlighted that such initiatives are vital for mitigating climate

change impacts, enhancing agricultural resilience and ensuring the sustainability of water resources.

Addressing the gathering, DDC Chairperson reiterated the importance of watershed management in boosting rural livelihoods and long-term water sustainability. She encouraged local communities to adopt

sustainable practices like rainwater harvesting and efficient irrigation systems to combat climate change effects.

Other speakers reiterated the urgent need to conserve water for future generation and stressed the integration of watershed development activities into broader

development schemes.

The program also featured a cultural performance by local singers, Bhoomi Pooja, plantation drive and the inauguration of various construction works, marking a comprehensive approach to community engagement and environmental stewardship.

# Sahitya Academy, Distt Admin Kulgam organize Symposium on eminent Poet 'Khazir Malik Safaie'

JINNEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM, FEBRUARY 27

The Sahitya Academy in collaboration with District Administration Kulgam today organized a day-long symposium at conference hall of mini-secretariat here, to honor the eminent Kashmiri Poet, Khazir Malik Safaie of Pahlloo Kulgam.

The event featured two sessions dedicated to exploring his contributions to Kashmiri language and Sufi Poetry.

Scholars and writers from various regions gathered to discuss Safaie's extensive work in the field of linguistics, particularly his efforts in promoting Kashmiri language, tradition and Sufi poetry.

The symposium provided a platform for in-depth discussions on his writing, poetry and the



lasting impact of his work on Kashmiri language and society.

On the occasion the audience read the couplets of Khazir Malik Safaie's poetry from his collections including 'Sikandar Naama', 'Molivi Naama', 'Bagi Shoda' and 'Toti Naama'.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan who was the chief guest appreciated his efforts of Sahitya Akademi

for organizing such programs to honor the local Kashmiri poets.

He added that translation of all the famous literature of the world should be available in Kashmiri language so that the audience and reach of Kashmiri language will rise to its new horizons.

In his keynote address, the Convener Kashmiri Advisory Board Sahitya Akademi Prof Shaad Ramzan gave a detailed account on the poetry of

Khazir Malik Safaie.

It is worth mentioning that Safaie remained in oblivion for centuries until in 1980's when the Cultural Academy did a detailed research on him supervised by Prof Shaad Ramzan.

The presidential address was given by Manshoor Banhali who appreciated the efforts of Shaad Ramzan to discover this eminent poet after a long time. The vote of thanks was given by ADC, Viqar Ahmed Giri who expressed gratitude to the audience and Sahitya academy for organizing such a symposium on eminent Kashmiri local poet. The programme was also attended by ACR, ACP, Tehsildar Kulgam, and civil society members, local poets, writers and some relatives/ residents of poet's native village Pahlloo.

## All Party Meet

# Speaker LA commits impartial conduct for productive Budget session

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, FEB 27

Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather, today urged the representatives of all political parties and independent Legislators for cooperation during ensuing Budget session to ensure productivity of the house.

Chairing an All Party Meeting (APM) ahead of the Budget session, scheduled to commence on March 3, 2025, the Speaker underscored the need for dialogue, coordination and consensus building to facilitate smooth legislative proceedings.

Leader of Opposition (LoP), Sunil Sharma and Surjeet Singh Slathia, represented BJP; Mubarak Gul represented National Conference; Ghulam Ahmad Mir, represented Indian National Congress; Mohd Yousuf Tarigami represented CPI(M); Advocate Muzaffar Iqbal Khan as independent legislator while Waheed ur Rehman Parra represented Peoples Democratic Party during the meeting.

In his opening remarks, the Speaker emphasized on the importance of dialogue, cooperation and consensus building for effective proceedings and productivity of the house. He urged upon the representatives of all parties to contribute actively in discussions and debates as MLAs are vital for highlighting issues of public welfare during the session



of house.

"The Budget Session is a crucial time for policy deliberations and financial planning. I urge all of you and your members to engage in meaningful debates, uphold house decorum and work towards the collective good of our people as well as entire Jammu and Kashmir," maintained the Speaker.

Highlighting the significance of Question Hour, Speaker Rather encouraged the legislators to make the most of this opportunity to hold the government accountable.

"Question Hour is a key tool that ensures government accountability. Legislators must utilize this time effectively to raise public concerns and seek concrete responses," emphasized the Speaker.

The Speaker further called upon all the political parties for effective coordination during the entire session of the house. He underlined that productivity of house is possible

only after there is coordination between opposition and the government in highlighting peoples issues and addressing them respectively.

Speaking during the meeting, LoP, Sunil Sharma, said that the public issues need to be highlighted during the assembly session which is possible only when no disruptions occur. He highlighted that credibility of MLAs is at stake during the proceedings of house and members need to be responsive towards public issues and make government accountable on that rather than indulging in disruptions. He assured the Speaker that the legislators of his party will ensure smooth business of the house.

In his remarks during the meeting, Ghulam Ahmad Mir of INC said that question hour being an important tool for making government accountable, should not be disrupted.

CPI (M) Legislator, M.Y

Tarigami, underlined that accountability of the government is possible only through smooth conduct of house proceedings. He also called for coordination between government and the opposition to make house proceedings productive and fruitful.

During the meeting, NC Legislator, Mubarak Gul, said that the public issues need to be highlighted during the assembly proceedings as legislators are face of the people during session of house.

Waheed ur Rehman Parra of PDP and Independent Legislator, Advocate Muzaffar Iqbal Khan sought proportionate time for all MLAs while raising public issues during the business of house.

The Speaker assured all parties that their concerns and suggestions would be duly considered for fair and impartial proceedings of the house. He highlighted that the road for productive budget session has been laid with this fruitful meeting.

# 7-day NSS Special Winter Camp 2025 commences in GDC Ramgarh

JINNEWS SERVICE  
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The NSS unit "Prabha" of Government Degree College, Ramgarh on Thursday started its 7 day Special Winter Camp on the theme "Women empowerment." The camp began with a fervent inauguration ceremony initiated by the College Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra.

The camp aims to provide an opportunity to the NSS volunteers to engage in social service activities such as community outreach and environmental conservation.

Prof. (Dr.) Geetanjali Andotra formally welcomed the resource person, Dr. Kailash Sharma, NSS Programme Officer of Government MAM PG College, Jammu, faculty members and the enthusiastic NSS volunteers. In her address, Prof. Andotra emphasized the core values of NSS, encouraging students to take part in the winter camp and embrace the spirit of social service. Quoting the NSS motto, "Not Me But You," she highlighted the importance of working for the upliftment and better-



ment of society. She further stressed the need to develop empathy and compassion while participating in outreach programs and various community-driven activities, both within the college and in surrounding areas.

Dr. Kailash Sharma shared valuable insights into the significance of NSS and its role in nation-building. He explained the meaning behind the NSS logo, detailing the importance of its colors and lines. Dr. Sharma also gave a brief history of how NSS started in India and inspired the

volunteers with a quote by Swami Vivekananda: "Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is achieved." To motivate the students, he concluded with a shlok, Kaag Chesta (efforts should be similar to a crow), Bako Dhyanam (concentration of a swan), Shwan Nindra (light sleeper like a dog), Alp-ahari (light eater), Grih Tyagi (less involvement in home matters).

Prof. Brham Dutt, NSS Programme Officer coordinated the event along with the support of faculty members including Dr. Aditi Khajuria, Ashok

Kumar, Dr. Shivali Panjotra, Dr. Neeraj, Dr. Sush-eel Kumar, Anjali, Priya Sharma, Sayema and Darpan Malhotra. Alisha, a NSS Volunteer, outlined the comprehensive schedule of activities planned for the camp, setting the stage for an enriching experience ahead.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by NSS volunteer, Jagmeet Kaur, who expressed gratitude to all the guests, volunteers and the faculty for making the event a grand success.