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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:

- Headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue
- Stomach pain
- Reddened eyes
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Small red spots on the body

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

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MeT predicts more snow, rains till Mar 3

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, FEB 28 (KNO)

Weatherman on Friday predicted that Jammu and Kashmir would receive more rain and snow till March 3.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad while talking to the news agency said, "There is a forecast of light rain and snow at isolated to scattered places till March 2 while light to moderate rain and snow is expected at many places on March 3."

"The weather will remain generally dry in J&K from March 4 to March 8," he added.

Meanwhile, in its advisory, the MeT said that temporary disruption of surface transportation is expected mainly over Sadhna pass, Razdan Pass, Sonamarg-Zojila-Gumri axis, Mughal Road, Sinthan pass & other major roads of hilly districts in the coming days.

Tourists, travelers and transporters are advised to plan accordingly & follow administration and traffic advisory, it reads, adding that the farmers are advised to suspend irrigation & other farm operations.

Landslides, mudslides and shooting stones at vulnerable places, it reads and added that there is a possibility of snow avalanches over higher reaches. KNO

Govt extends winter vacation for Kashmir schools till Mar-06

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, FEB 28 (KNO)

Education Minister Sakina Masood Itoo Friday said that winter vacations for all classes in Kashmir schools have been extended till March-6.

Itoo said, "Keeping in view the prevalent weather conditions, the government has decided to extend the winter vacation for all government and recognised private schools of Kashmir region.

Talking to the news agency, Itoo said, "The schools in the Valley will reopen on March-7 instead of March-01."

The minister further said that in case any student enrolled for the board exams couldn't reach the exam centre, the government will make sure that it will conduct their exam later.

Meanwhile, the authorities have extended winter vacation for all schools in the Gurez Valley of north Kashmir till March-8.

The decision comes in wake of heavy snowfall, and prevailing weather conditions across Jammu and Kashmir.

"Due to severe weather, movement of students and school staff has been disrupted. The decision to extend winter

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4-day wet spell compensates rainfall deficit by 50% in J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, FEB 28 (KNO)

The ongoing 4-day wet spell compensated the precipitation deficiency in Jammu and Kashmir by 50 percent, and also led to the increase in the water level of River Jhelum, life line of Kashmir, and other water bodies by 3-4 feet.

According to the details provided by the Meteorological Centre Srinagar to the news agency, "The current wet spell has brought the deficit from 80% to nearly 42%. As per the cumulative precipitation during February 25-28, the highest snow depth of 113 cms has been recorded at famous ski-resort, Gulmarg followed by Sonamarg with 75 cm."

In North Kashmir Kupwara and Bandipora districts recorded a rainfall of 79.33 mm and 81.4 mm respectively, while in South Kashmir, Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian and Pulwama districts recorded a rainfall of 49.6 mm, 60



mm, 26.8 mm and 31.7 mm respectively.

Srinagar recorded 30.5mm precipitation during the last 24 hours while Batote recorded the rainfall of 163.7 mm, highest in all the districts, followed by 118mm in Katra and 100 mm in Banihal.

With the deficiency reducing to 42 per cent only from January 01, 2025 to February 28, 2025, the lowest deficit at present is recorded in Kulgam with 69 per cent and followed

by Shopian and Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir at 64 per cent each.

The lowest deficiency has been recorded in Rajouri and Udhampur at just 3 and 4 per cent respectively till today. Samba, as per the details is the only station across Jammu and Kashmir with average normal precipitation as against the normal rainfall of 91.6 mm, the district has received 91.5 mm till today.

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Srinagar emerging as J&K's cultural nerve centre: LG

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, FEB 28 (KNO)



Highlighting the significance of cultural heritage in shaping Jammu and Kashmir's identity Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that Srinagar has transformed into the cultural nerve centre of the Union Territory.

Addressing a gathering at Kashmir Haat, LG Sinha, according to the news agency, emphasized that cultural and heritage values are the very "dhadkan" (heartbeat) of Srinagar. "Sanskriti aur Param-

parti Virasat Srinagar ki dhadkan hain," he remarked, underlining the need to preserve and promote the city's rich traditions.

The Lieutenant Governor stressed the importance of environmental awareness, urging people to contribute towards safeguarding nature. "Amidst climate change people need to become aware about the importance of environment protection," he said.

Reflecting on his tenure over the past few years, LG Sinha shared his observations of Srinagar's transformation.

"During the past few years, I have had the opportunity to live with the dreams of Srinagar city. I have watched and understood the 'mizaj' (temperament) of this place," he said.

LG Sinha while highlighting the international recognition that Srinagar has received said, "In 2021, Srinagar was designated as a UNESCO Creative City. In 2024, the World Craft Council accorded it the title of a World Craft City. These were big achievements."

He stated that several

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Identify, deport Rohingya and Bangladeshi intruders: Amit Shah directs security agencies

J1 NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, FEB 28 (KNO)

Describing illegal entry of Bangladeshis and Rohingyas into the country as an issue of national security, Union Home Minister, Amit Shah on Friday directed the security agencies to identify the intruders and deport them.

Chairing a meeting to review the national capital's law-and-order situation, Shah, according to the news agency, said that illegal entry of Bangladeshis and Rohingyas needs to be dealt with strictly. "Stern action should be taken against the entire network that helps Bangladeshi and Rohingya intruders enter the country, get their documents made and facilitate their stay here.

The issue of illegal intrud-



ers is also related to national security, and it should be dealt with strictly. They should be identified and deported," he said. KNO

Snowfall Aftermath

2 flights cancelled, Srinagar-Jammu highway, other roads closed

J1 NEWS SERVICE

QAZIGUND, FEB 28 (KNO)

The fresh spell of rains and snowfall led to the cancellation of two morning flights at Srinagar International Airport on Friday while all the major roads including Srinagar-Jammu National Highway continued to remain closed for the second straight day.

As per the news agency, two flights including 6E 2641 from Delhi and 6E 262 from Srinagar were cancelled this morning due to inclement weather conditions.

However, an official said that other morning flights faced a delay of 30 to 50 minutes today.

Meanwhile, all highways and major roads remained closed for vehicular move-



ment for the second straight day today.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remained closed due to landslides at over a dozen places in Ramban district, traffic department officials said.

An official said that the

highway was closed for traffic on Thursday due to incessant rain, shooting stones, landslides, and mudslides between Nashri and the Navyug Tunnel. Moreover, a section of the road sunk at Mehad, Ramban. He said authorities were

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Ramadan moon not sighted in J&K, 1st day of fasting on Sunday

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, FEB 28 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir Grand Mufti, Nasir-ul-Islam Friday said that the crescent moon has not been sighted, thus, the first day of Ramadan will be on Sunday (March 02).

Speaking to the news agency, the Grand Mufti said that no witnesses or evidences were received from anywhere about the sighting of Ramadan moon today.

"Therefore, the first day of fasting will be on Sunday," he said.

Earlier this month, he constituted a moon-sighting committee for J&K with Valley's chief cleric and Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq as its member. This comes in the wake of a controversy over moon sighting last year, which split local Muslims over the commencement of Ramadan. KNO

LG addresses 'National Science Day' seminar at KU



J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, FEB 28 (KNO)

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Friday addressed the 'National Science Day' seminar at University of Kashmir.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his greetings on the occasion and paid tributes to renowned scientist Sir C.V. Raman. This year, the theme for National Science Day is "Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science and Innovation for Viksit

Bharat". In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized on promotion of advancements in Science & Technology, knowledge exchange and to foster creativity, innovation for a sustainable future.

Speaking on the unprecedented technological advancement taking place globally, the Lieutenant Governor urged all the Universities of J&K UT to set up Artificial Intelligence Labs for cutting-edge research

and innovation.

He said, the AI Lab will be a separate entity within the Science & Technology Department through multidisciplinary collaboration with industry, researchers, educators and technologists.

"We cannot imagine a future without AI. It will have a profound impact on every aspect of our lives and that's why it is critical to enable our youth to develop their AI knowledge, reskilling and upskilling

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To keep NC-led govt on toes, BJP forms "shadow cabinet"

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, FEB 28 (KNO)

In a first such move by an opposition party in Jammu & Kashmir, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has formed a "shadow cabinet" to keep a close watch on the performance of the National Conference-led government in the Union Territory.

Sources told news agency that BJP has formed a group of senior MLAs to closely examine performance of different departments and question their performance within and outside the Assembly.

"The party has tasked senior MLAs, who served as ministers in the previous PDP-BJP government, to closely monitor departments assigned to them for assembly interventions and other issues," they said.

According to sources, the leader of opposition Sunil Sharma has played a key

role in the formation of the "shadow cabinet".

Sharma, who is close to the top leadership of BJP, was chosen by the party as its first leader of opposition in Jammu & Kashmir after the party secured 29 seats in 2024 Assembly polls.

Sources privy to the development disclosed that the party has assigned different departments to its senior MLAs to lead the assessment and challenge the ministers holding them within and outside the Assembly.

"This move will enhance the party's role in scrutinising government actions and policies. It would also help us in effectively raising public issues within and outside the Assembly," a former BJP minister, who is part of the group, told KNO on condition of anonymity.

The move comes ahead of the budget session of

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Ahead of budget session, Congress calls its legislature party meeting on March 2

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, FEB 28 (KNO)

Ahead of the budget session of the J&K Assembly, the Congress party has scheduled a meeting of its legislature party on March 2 in Jammu.

In a letter, the party's chief whip and MLA Bandipora, Nizamuddin Bhat, invited all MLAs to attend the meeting on Sunday at 2:00 PM at the party headquarters in Jammu.

"Ahead of the upcoming assembly budget session, the high command of the J&K unit of the Indian National Congress has desired to convene a meeting of party legislators. All Honourable members of the Congress legislature party are requested to ensure their presence at the meeting scheduled for Sunday, March 2, at 2:00 PM at the Congress party headquarters, Jammu," reads the letter, a copy

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

DC reviews implementation of RDD Sector schemes in Kishtwar District

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 28

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan on Friday convened a crucial meeting with officers from the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj to review the implementation of various flagship schemes, including the Aspirational Block Development Program (ABDP), Aspirational Panchayat Development Program (APDP), MGNREGA, PMAY-G, SBM-G, Awaas Plus Survey, and other key initiatives.

At the outset of the meeting, Assistant Commissioner Development Phulail Singh gave a detailed presentation on the development schemes, including physi-

cal and financial progress achieved at the block level. The meeting also covered the procurement status of essential items by Block Development Officers (BDOs), including water coolers, PA systems, tents, canopies and other items under the Area Development Plan.

Further, the DC reviewed the recovery status of PMAY defaulters and instructed Tehsildars to take stringent actions against the defaulters. "All PMAY defaulters be summoned and required to start construction of houses within the next 15 days, with legal action to follow in case of non-compliance" the DC stressed and advised for close monitoring of geo-tagging of the houses to ensure accurate tracking

and progress. A committee comprising CPO, members of the designated cell and a Village Level Committee (comprising 20 local persons) were constituted to oversee the verification of parallel works, completion of tasks and other essential activities. The DC emphasized the achievement of 100% Aadhaar seeding and also reviewed the status of the plantation drive under MGNREGA.

Further, the DC directed ACD to submit the details of total job card holders and corresponding demands. Furthermore, Tehsildars were instructed to identify suitable land for the construction of Panchayat Ghars.

The DC also reviewed the construction of com-

post pits and set a 5-day deadline for BDOs to verify individual household latrines (IHHL). Additionally, strict actions were outlined for blacklisting contractors who fail to meet the required standards of work, and re-tendering will be initiated where necessary.

The DC set a deadline of March 4 for all BDOs to finalize the list of works to be taken up under the upcoming Capex Budget after approval from the Gram Sabhas.

The meeting was attended by CPO Shahnawaz Bali, ACD/ACP Phulail Singh, all BDOs, XEN REW, AD Planning RDD, AEEs, JEs, Panchayat Account Assistants, all Tehsildars, Panchayat Secretaries (via virtual mode) and other RDD officials.

GDC Marh organises Interdisciplinary Quiz Competition

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28

To foster scientific temperament, creativity and innovation among students, Government Degree College Marh Science club, in collaboration with IIC and IQAC, organized Inter-Discipline quiz competition to mark National Science Day celebrating this year's theme "Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science and Innovation for VIKSIT BHARAT."

Principal Prof (Dr.) Rakesh Kumar Koul emphasised the importance of science and technology in shaping the future. He appraised the students that the aim of this competition is not about winning and losing but learning and enhancing their scientific temperament.

The competition featured basic concepts from Bio-Sciences, Physics,



Chemistry, Geography, Mathematics, Environmental Sciences, Computer Sciences, Current affairs & Science and Technology, allowing students to showcase their knowledge, social responsibility and problem-solving skills.

As many as 12 students, divided in 4 teams, participated in the four round quiz competition.

In the valedictory session, prizes (mementos and certificates) were given away to the winning teams and the participants. First prize was won by team D, Mercury (Kunal, Sanjay, and

Suresh), while Team B Venus (Diksha, Shilpa, Abhishek) won second prize and Team C Earth (Mohit, Geetanajli and Shivansh) won the third prize. IQAC convener, Prof. Imtiaz Shahid made all the requisite preparations for ensuring a flawless execution of the competition. Dr. Balwinder Saini (HOD Chemistry) conducted the proceedings of the programme.

The event was conducted with full cooperation by Dr. Madhvi Parasher (HOD Botany), Dr. Rahul Sharma (HOD Computer Applications), Dr. Ram

Dayal (HOD Maths), Prof. Anjana Chib (HOD Environmental Sciences), Prof. Ashakumari (HOD Geography) and Dr. Gurleen Kour. Prof. Sachin Kumar Bhagat (NSS PO), Ravi Kumar (PTI) and BrijBir Jaswal (HOD Physics) were also present during the event.

The students provided highly positive feedback regarding the competition and stated that such contests need to be held on regular intervals to spread knowledge and develop decision making and problem solving skills among them.

MLA Sonawari visits fire-affected Teli Mohalla Hajin; directs immediate Damage Assessment

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 28

The Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Sonawari Constituency, Advocate Hilal Akbar Lone on Friday visited the fire-affected area of Teli Mohalla Hajin to assess the damage caused by a devastating fire that broke out during the intervening night of February 27 and 28.

During his visit, the MLA expressed sympathies to the affected families and assured them of all possible support. He emphasized the importance of quick and effective relief for fire victims and directed the concerned departments to immediately assess the extent of the damage and submit the



report to the concerned authorities for timely assistance and intervention.

Hilal Akbar Lone said, "we stand with the affected families during this difficult time, and every

effort will be made to provide them necessary relief and support."

SDM Sumbal, Tehsildar Hajin and other concerned officers were also present on the occasion.

J&K has additional Agri credit potential of nearly Rs 3000 cr: Chief Secretary

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, while taking stock of progress registered under different credit linked schemes of the Agriculture Production Department (APD) remarked that agriculture sector in J&K has an additional credit potential of around Rs 3000 crore if tapped optimally by the financial institutions here.

Besides Principal Secretary, APD and MD, J&K Bank, the meeting was attended by MD, HADP/JKIP; DG, Budget; Deputy Commissioners; HoDs of APD; Convenor, UTLBC; representatives from BIS-AG-N and other concerned officers while outstation officers participated virtually.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the Deputy Commissioners and the concerned department to be in close coordination with J&K Bank in order to enhance the approval and disbursement rate of the applications. He said that there is still greater potential of growth in this sector as the banks could tap additional Rs 3000 crore business by laying more focus on it. He advised the finan-



cial institutions to tap this potential for there is lesser NPA rate as well. He maintained that almost half of the applications received by the department on the portal should be credit linked as the products are highly attractive guaranteeing the interest subvention and moratorium period that is not available anywhere else.

Dulloo enjoined upon the Bank to designate some of their best human resources to look after the progress on these schemes to improve their uptake and increase their number proportionate to the total number of applicants registered on the official portal. He also reviewed scheme-wise progress and pendency in each district and enquired from respective DCs about the reasons of poor performance, if found anywhere. He took note of the applications

pending from last more than 100 days and directed the banks to clear the backlog without any further delay.

He also laid emphasis on creation of awareness among the public besides handholding them by helping in generating successful DPRs thereby increasing the rate of approval of their applications. He asked for assisting people to have fair idea about the schemes, credit and benefits available for them based upon their areas of interest.

The Chief Secretary also sought suggestions from the Department, DCs and the Bank officers about the measures needed to be taken to improve the overall performance of these schemes for these are in vogue now for the 2nd year. He asked them to further improve the progress in high density planta-

tion, distribution of smart cards under KCC, KCC term loans, PM Kisan, AIF, AHIDE, PMFBY and other similar schemes.

On the occasion, Principal Secretary, APD, Shaileendra Kumar, informed the meeting that the Department targets coverage of 13 lakh farmers under KCC scheme which currently hovers at around 10.82 lakh active customers. He also revealed that the Department in coordination with the banks is in a process of streamlining the credit availing facility for farmers by developing an IT solution named 'KhetScore' to determine the credit worthiness of each farm. He made out that the same would be done based upon historical data, external risk assessment and taking of geographical factors into account.

MD, HADP, Rahul

Yadav, informed the meeting about other measures being taken by the Department to improve the uptake of these schemes by the farmers. He also threw light on the overall progress of these schemes over the past few months.

The MD also enumerated certain measures including launching of IT tools like credit scheme advisor, DPR generating portal and Grievance redressal portal with banks for real time registration and tracking of credit related grievances by the banks and administration on the directions of the Chief Secretary.

Later, the Chief Secretary had live demonstration of these developing applications as given by the BISAG-N. He asked them to converge all the Agriculture related tools and apps on a single platform which would give access to them with ease and comfort.

He also released a number of publications depicting the progress and success stories of HADP and other programmes to revolutionise Agriculture sector besides increasing the farmers income manifold across the UT of J&K.

Principal Secretary DMRR&R chairs review meeting regarding "Disaster preparedness-cum-coordination"



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28

Principal Secretary, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRR&R), Chandraker Bharti, today chaired a review meeting regarding 'Disaster preparedness-cum-coordination' at civil secretariat here.

Representatives of various Administrative Departments, Divisional and District Disaster Management Authorities, SDRF, Fire & Emergency Services and other concerned agencies were present in the meeting. The outstation officers participated virtually.

The Principal Secretary said that the UT Government is striving hard to mitigate the damage and destruction caused by natural and manmade disasters through collective

efforts of all government agencies, Non Government Organisations and the people.

He had a comprehensive review of measures being implemented by various departments and agencies on this account. He asked all the emergency support functionaries, line departments, Divisional & District Disaster Management Authorities, SDRF, Fire & Emergency Services and other agencies to adopt proactive approach to deal with any disaster like situation or eventuality.

The Principal Secretary asked the concerned to focus on developing disaster management plans in every department, capacity building trainings besides ensuring regular mock drills in Schools, Colleges, Hospitals, Panchayats and disaster prone areas. He also

emphasised the need for training of frontline workers of all the departments on regular basis. He asked for involvement of youths and Aapda Mitras in all the disaster management programs at Ward, Village, Panchayat, Block, Tehsil and community level.

The Principal Secretary asked all the departments and DDMA to regularly update details regarding human resources besides machinery and equipments on IDRN portal. He stressed upon the departments to ensure regular use of 'SACHET App'.

Pertinently, the general public can report through ERSS (Dial-112) regarding disaster incidents. The system will also reflect the nearby emergency support functionaries, following which prompt action can be taken accordingly by the concerned.

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28

As part of its ongoing district-wide awareness campaign on the new criminal laws, District Administration Jammu, under the leadership of District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya, organised an awareness session at RS Pura.

The programme focused on educating officials and citizens about the provisions and implications of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) and Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

The event was presided over by Additional District Magistrate Anusya Jamwal and attended by SDM RS Pura Seema Parihar, Tehsildars, BDOs, medical experts and other offi-



cial, along with members of market associations and local citizens.

Also present were SP Headquarters Jammu Irshad Hussain Rather, SDPO RS Pura, SHO RS Pura, prosecutors and advocates, who participated as legal experts and resource persons.

Speaking at the event,

ADM Anusya Jamwal reaffirmed the District Administration's commitment to ensuring that all stakeholders are well-informed about the new legal framework.

"The implementation of these laws marks a significant shift in our criminal justice system; from punitive to justice oriented

approach. Provisions such as Zero-FIR, e-FIR, preliminary inquiry and the integration of forensic and digital evidence will enhance efficiency, strengthen victim protection and streamline the justice delivery mechanism," she stated.

She also shed light on various offences and their legal provisions, including sections of BNS covering sexual offences through deceitful means, offences against women under 18 years of age, hiring or engaging a child to commit an offence, mob lynching and other serious crimes.

The new legal framework strengthens protections against crimes, such as mob lynching, targeting vulnerable sections of society, the ADM explained.

SP Headquarters Irshad Hussain Rather elaborated on various sections of the law and their role in safeguarding citizens' rights. Legal and police experts conducted detailed presentations on key aspects of the new laws, particularly their role in curbing serious crimes and improving access to justice.

The awareness programme at RS Pura was one of 16 such events conducted across the district in the fourth week of February as part of the District Administration's initiative to disseminate legal knowledge at the block level. These programmes, scheduled for the second and fourth weeks of every month, aim to facilitate the smooth implementation of the new legal framework through regular engagement with officials and the public.

Secy RDD reviews MGNREGA draft Annual Action Plan for Kashmir division

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28

Secretary Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD & PR), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today conducted a comprehensive review of the draft Annual Action Plan (AAP) and Labour Budget (LB) for MGNREGA for the fiscal 2025-26, focusing on 10 districts of Kashmir division.

Secretary in RDD & PR Department, Rachna Sharma; DG Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra; Mission Director JKRLM, Shubhra Sharma; Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal; Director Finance, Umar Khan; Director, RDD Kashmir, Shabir Husain Bhat; Chief Executive Officer, IWMP, Rajnish Kumar; Additional Secretary RD&PR, Waseem Raja; Superintending Engineer REW Kashmir, Aamir Ali; Director Social Audit, Shafia Naqshbandi; Assistant Commissioner(s) Development and Executive Engineers of Kashmir division attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Secretary emphasized the importance of realistic and achievable plans. He urged

upon the officials to adopt a "people-centric" approach to planning, emphasizing that communities should be actively involved in planning and execution of projects.

The meeting also addressed several areas including geo-tagging, use of the National MGNREGA Management System (NMMS), timely wage payments, implementation of the Area Officer app, compensation status, identification of Amrit Sarovar sites for Phase II and ensuring that PMAY beneficiaries receive the mandated 95 days of work until their houses are completed.

The Secretary laid emphasis on Category B works and stressed that every PMAY-G beneficiary must be guaranteed 95 days of labor support under MGNREGA. He also instructed the district authorities to complete the PMAY-G survey by March 31st, ensuring that all eligible beneficiaries are included.

The Secretary emphasized the need to utilise MGNREGA funds for repairing and maintaining Panchayat Ghars, ensuring they function effectively as community hubs. He

mentioned about establishment of Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs) along highways to improve sanitation services for rural communities, ensuring better hygiene and accessibility.

The Secretary asked the districts to prioritise livelihood activities, such as constructing orchard footpaths, desilting water bodies and planting fruit bearing trees to boost rural productivity. He asked them to prioritise low maintenance, cost effective and high revenue generating activities.

He also highlighted the importance of convergence in all allied works. He emphasized convergence with the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) to boost agriculture and allied sectors. He directed the officials to create professional workspaces for Self Help Groups (SHGs) in every panchayat, focusing on employment opportunities and boosting product sales.

The Secretary stressed on making panchayats self-reliant by generating revenue through sustainable initiatives. He also called for utilisation of convergence strategies to

build marriage halls and community facilitation centres, enhancing social infrastructure in rural areas. He called for identifying and allocating land for dumping sites, incorporating these into development plans to ensure proper waste management.

The Secretary also called for retrofitting of single-pit Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs) to double pits under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G). He recommended promotion of fruit-bearing trees to enhance rural economic activity.

He emphasized the urgent need to prioritise identification and preparation of Amrit Sarovar sites for Phase II, issuing clear instructions to ensure that the groundwork is completed without any delay.

Additional Secretary RD&PR, Waseem Raja, provided a detailed presentation on the Annual Action Plan (AAP) for MGNREGA 2025-26, prepared with due consultation of the stakeholders highlighting key focus areas and challenges.

Earlier, the Secretary had conducted a thorough review of the Annual Action Plan (AAP) for ten districts in the Jammu division.

KVK Samba organises monthly officers' workshop

JINNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 28

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Samba under the aegis of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology-Jammu (SKUAST-J) organised the monthly officers' workshop here today.

The workshop was attended by a number of extension officers from across the District and organised under the stewardship of Vice Chancellor, Prof. B.N. Tripathi and Director Extension, Prof. Amrith Vaid of SKUAST-Jammu.

Chief Scientist and Head KVK Prof. Sanjay Khajuria coordinated the workshop. He discussed various field related issues and stressed on the



timely and efficient management of different field problems by the farmers. He also discussed natural farming and stressed on the adoption of cluster approach for the economic development of rural areas. He also spoke on the SHGs/FPOs

formation and food processing. He highlighted the formulation and use of biopesticides, biofungicides and biofertilizers in the organic crops. He added that natural farming can reduce the cost of cultivation and can play a significant role in enhancing

the income and employment among the farmers.

Professor Fruit Science SKUAST Jammu Dr. Aakash Sharma discussed the commercial cultivation of fruits and encouraged the farmers to go for the scientific cultivation. He also discussed in detail the organic treatment of various insects-pests in various crops. Professor, Plant Physiology SKUAST Jammu Dr. Bhav Kumar Sinha spoke on the advance technologies in agricultural/horticultural crops. He stressed on eco-friendly practices so as to produce safe and healthy products.

BBBP, NMBA Action Plans discussed, finalised for implementation at Shopian



JINNEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 28

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishar Gupta today chaired a meeting of concerned officers for effective implementation of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and Nasha Mukhta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) in the district during the ongoing year.

Nodal Officer, DSWO Shopian on the occasion apprised about the calendar of IEC activities with diverse range of activities and put forth the same for implementation.

DC sought effective and result oriented action from stakeholders on both these themes and instructed for conduct of collaborative and extensive mega aware-

ness campaigns across the district.

He also directed weekly reports of Drug Control inspection of pharmacies while directing for enhanced inspections of pharmacies across the district.

Collaborative, extensive awareness campaigns by Education, Social Welfare, Health, NRLM and DLSA and others were emphasized for better results in terms of awareness and impact.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Dr. Zakir Husain Faaz; ACR, CEO, CMO, DIO, STO, DSWO, CDPO, DYSSO, Drug Control Officer, DPM, NRLM, Co-ordinator SHEW, Representative of DLSA among other concerned.

Agriculture Department bids farewell to retiring DSCO



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28

Agriculture Department today accorded a warm and heartfelt farewell to Prem Singh, Divisional Seed Certification Officer (DSCO) Jammu, who retired after more than 30 years of dedicated service. The farewell ceremony brought together staff and officers, who expressed their deep appreciation and gratitude for Prem Singh's unwavering commitment to the

welfare of the farming community. The gathering, imbued with warmth and camaraderie, was graced by the Director of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu, Arvind Singh Reen, along with Joint Director Agriculture (Extension/SLUB) Jammu, Satish Sharma, Deputy Director (Central), Dr. Ashwani Sharma, and other officers, who collectively wished Prem Singh a fulfilling and prosperous post-retirement life.

ACS Education visits Amar Singh College; reviews functioning

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 28

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Education, Shantmanu, visited the Amar Singh College. The ACS was accompanied by Director Colleges, Professor Sheikh Ajaz Bashir.

Principal, Professor Aijaz Ahmad Hakak, presented a comprehensive presentation on the academic, administrative and developmental progress of the institution besides its future vision plan.

During his visit, Shantmanu had a detailed review of the college's academic performance, enrolment trends, gender parity, student-faculty ratio and infrastructural development. He also inspected the newly constructed state-of-the-art Science Block and the fully automated college library, equipped with RFID technology.

The college librarian demonstrated the automated system, showcasing searching, issuance and return of books efficiently through the RFID system.

Interacting with the Principal and faculty members, Shantmanu emphasised the importance of competency-building for personal excellence. He highlighted key areas such as role of the Art of Living in professional growth, drug de-addiction initiatives and mental health support for students.

The visit concluded with the ACS reiterating the commitment of the Higher Education Department towards fostering academic excellence and holistic student development in the region.

DC Reasi reviews arrangements for holy month of Ramzan

JINNEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEBRUARY 28

Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik convened a meeting of officers to review and finalize the arrangements for the ensuing holy month of Ramzan.

The DC instructed officers of JPDCL and Jal Shakti to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply, especially during Sehri and Iftar times.

Emphasizing on the sanitation of towns and municipality areas, the DC directed Executive Officers of Municipal Committees to launch special cleanliness drives in the district with focus on roads, lanes, drains and regular lifting

of waste from markets.

The CMO was directed to ensure the availability of medical staff and medicines to cater to medical emergencies. She directed fire departments to ensure proper arrangements to deal with any untoward incident.

The Food safety officials were asked to conduct regular market inspections to check food quality in the market during the month. She also directed for installation of more lights in their respective towns.

Enforcement squads were constituted to keep check on profiteering, hoarding and overcharging by shopkeepers by conducting market checking on regular intervals.

Availability of essentials in the market was also reviewed during the meeting, while traffic authorities were directed to ensure availability of transport in evening hours.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ADC Rakesh Kumar; SDMs, Dy. SP HQ, ARTO, Tehsildar Reasi, Tehsildar Bhomag, Executive Engineer JPDCL, EOs officials from Sheep Husbandry and Fire departments, Mufti Ashraf Misbahi Chairman (Madrasa-Darul uloom Payam e Raza), Vice President and General Secretary of Masajid Development Committee, Hafiz Mukhtar Qadri from Imam Jama Masjid Reasi.

Javed Rana holds public outreach camp; assures time bound redressal of public grievances

JINNEWS SERVICE
MENDHAR, (POONCH) FEBRUARY 28

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today conducted a mega public outreach camp at Mendhar, where a large number of delegations and individuals apprised him of their issues and concerns.

During the camp, aimed at assessing the development scenario of the area, the Minister listened to the concerns raised by the locals regarding water supply, healthcare services, implementation of Forest Rights Act, PMAY-G and Tribal welfare among others. Additionally, the delegations highlighted demands for improved road connectivity and Eklavya Model Residential Schools as well as other developmental needs.

The Minister assured the delegations that all their issues would be addressed in a time bound manner,



emphasising the government's focus on delivering services at the people's doorsteps.

"We are deeply dedicated to deliver effective governance while ensuring that public grievances are addressed on priority," asserted the Minister.

Rana highlighted several key initiatives being taken by the government, including measures to provide safe drinking water to every household, implementation of Forest Rights Act, resolving issues of tribals, improved healthcare and better road connectivity among others. He also underscored the impor-

tance of engaging with the grassroots to identify and resolve problems effectively.

During the outreach program, the Minister issued specific directions to the line departments for swift action on critical issues, including timely preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for enhanced execution of works. He also asked the Irrigation, Flood Control and Forest Departments to prioritise water and soil conservation, emphasising the importance of rainwater harvesting through construction of check dams.

Defence land issues, compensation cases discussed at Rajouri

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, FEBRUARY 28

A meeting to discuss and address defence land and compensation cases was held here today under the chairmanship of Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Mohammad Jahangir Khan.

The meeting aimed to ensure smooth coordination among stakeholders and accelerate the resolution process. Stress was laid on resolving bottlenecks and expediting pending compensation cases to facilitate smooth execution of the ongoing works.

The ACR directed officials to work in close coordination to complete necessary formalities to ensure that rightful claimants receive their dues without unnecessary delays.

The officers present provided updates on the current status of cases and assured full cooperation in expediting the

Defence land issues, compensation cases discussed at Rajouri

process. The meeting was attended by Assistant Defence Estates Officer Rajouri, Adm. Comdt. Stn HQ Rajouri, SO Land Stn HQ Rajouri, Tehsildar Rajouri, Tehsildar Qila Darhal, Naib Tehsildar Chingus, Naib Tehsildar Manjakote and other staff members.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on <https://www.ireps.gov.in> against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-49-24-25 Closing Date/Time 24.03.2025 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money **only through online payment modes** available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

NIT HEADER

Contract Type	Works
	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance contract of Hitachi Rail STS India Private Ltd. make Electronic Interlocking System installed at 6 stations on FZR-BTI section & 1 station on FZR-JUC section for three years.
Tender Closing Date Time	24.03.2025 15:00
Advised Value (Rs.)	10509461.13
Earnest Money (Rs.)	202600.00
Date Time of Uploading Tender	27.02.2025 11:02
Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	10.03.2025
Period of Completion	36 Months

Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-T-49-24-25 Date:- 27.02.2025 Closing Date/Time : 24.03.2025/15:00 639/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-AUCTION NOTICE

The Senior Divisional commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:

Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAFZR-SLR 25-31	13.03.2025 at 11:00 hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 14624/F1, 14628/F2, 14630/F1, 14730/F1, 14730/R1, 14630/R1, 14028/R1, 14730/F2, 14028/F1 & 20434/F1
EAFZR-SLR 25-32	14.03.2025 at 11:00 hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 12242/F1, 14634/F2, 14505/F1, 14634/R1, 14633/F2, 14633/R1, 14616/F1, 14633/F1 & 19614/F1.
EAFZR-SLR 25-33	17.03.2025 at 11:00 hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 22424/F1, 14674/F1, 19108/F1, 14604/F1, 22432/F1, 20986/F1, 22402/F1, 22942/F1, 14650/F1 & 14618/F1.
EAFZR-SLR 25-34	18.03.2025 at 11:00 hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 12460/F1, 22462/F1, 12238/F2, 19804/F1, 12014/F1, 14036/R1, 12030/F1, 16788/F1, 14036/F2 & 14036/F1.
EAFZR-SLR 25-35	19.03.2025 at 11:00 hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 15098/F1, 22552/F1, 11450/F1, 15532/F1, 12238/R1, 14632/F1, 14632/R1, 16318/F1, 12498/F1 & 12478/F1.
EAFZR-SLR 25-36	20.03.2025 at 11:00 hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 12266/F1, 12446/F1, 12752/F1, 14612/F1, 12422/F1, 22446/F1, 19028/F1, 22430/F1, 12478/F1 & 12470/F1.

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMER WITH A SMILE

644/2025

FROM THE PAGE 1...

4-day wet spell...

Water level in Jhelum increases
Moreover, for the first time in the past three months, the river Jhelum has recorded a rise in water level by almost 3-4 feet.

From -1.01 ft till February 25, the water level at Sangam station was recorded 2.31 ft at 7:01 PM while at Ram Munshi Bagh, the water was flowing at 4.75 ft. The other streams too have recorded the rise in water level including Vishow Nallah where the 1589.6 m gauge was recorded this evening while Lidder was flowing at 1954.2 m and Doodhganga at 1585.3 m.

JAMMU RIVERS NEAR FLOOD ALERT LEVEL

An Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng in a statement has mentioned that following heavy rainfall in Jammu region, the water levels of the Tawi River, along with other rivers and streams, have risen significantly, now just a few feet below the alert level. "Residents are advised to exercise caution and refrain from going near the rivers until conditions improve," he said.

Pertinently, the weatherman had predicted a four-day wet spell from February 25 to February 28 while 'yellow and orange' alerts were also issued for the four days.

For the next three days till March 03, the weatherman here has predicted light rain and snow at isolated to scattered places. KNO

Srinagar emerging...

initiatives have been taken in recent years to develop Srinagar, with a strong focus on reviving its cultural heritage. "When we started working on improving the quality of life of the people, I was of the firm belief that cultural heritage had to be revived. Srinagar is the center of Bharat's ancient art. Artists have been an integral part of Srinagar's culture. Man cannot survive without his culture and heritage."

Highlighting the balanced approach towards modernization and heritage conservation, LG Sinha said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has shown the way to turn Kashmir into a paradise."

"We have taken care of integrating Srinagar's culture while making it a modern city. It is important to safeguard the culture of any place. Jammu and Kashmir is a land that has always preached humanity," he added.

He credited various departments for their efforts in reviving cultural activities, including the reintroduction of cinema halls and promotion of art and crafts. "In October 2020, when the Srinagar Smart City project was initiated, we were of the firm belief that there should be open public spaces. The new city has abundant open spaces where people can be seen relaxing and spending quality time," he said, adding, "In the past few years, Srinagar has been developed into a modern city with all necessary facilities while preserving its cultural essence."

The modernization of Srinagar Smart City is now being widely discussed across the country, he said. "It shows that our efforts have succeeded to some extent. Srinagar is the best example of a blend of modernization and culture."

Referring to historical comparisons, LG Sinha mentioned how the British once likened Srinagar to Venice. "Famous British writer Sir Walter Scott had written that Srinagar cannot be compared with any place in the world; it is different from all other places," he quoted.

LG Sinha also acknowledged the remarkable talent of Srinagar's youth, who are actively showcasing their skills at Polo View and along the Jhelum banks, adding to the city's vibrant cultural landscape. KNO

2 flights cancelled...

working since Thursday to clear the landslides and shooting stones to restore traffic on the highway, connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country. "Commuters are advised to avoid traveling on the Jammu-Srinagar highway until the weather improves and the road is clear," he said.

Talking to KNO, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) (Traffic) Rural Kashmir, Ravinder Pal Singh said that more than 200 Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMVs) are stranded on the Qazigund side of the highway.

He said that the condition of the highway in the Banihal-Ramban sector remains poor due to shooting stones and landslides, but restoration work is being carried out on a war footing. "People should not travel until there are official directions allowing traffic on the highway. Travelers should plan accordingly. Priority will be given to vehicles already stranded on the highway. First, light motor vehicles (LMVs) will be allowed to move towards their destinations, followed by HMVs if the road is cleared," he said.

The other roads including Kishtar-Sinthan-Anantnag road, Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri, Mughal Road and Baderwah-Chamba road also remained closed, officials said.

Moreover, the train services were also affected this morning. Train services were partially affected due to snow accumulation. KNO

LG addresses 'National...

of workforce to keep up with AI trends and to make J&K UT more competitive.

AI Labs in the Universities will directly coordinate with local industries for integration of new discoveries and innovation of AI into businesses. The research will also focus on the current status of AI use and ways to enhance its adoption to boost productivity and profit," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He further asked the Universities to adopt a flexible approach towards AI and offer short-term courses keeping in mind the rapid advancement of AI and according to the industry trends.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "Scientists, Technologists and Entrepreneurs will power the journey of Viksit Bharat. They will drive India's scientific and technological progress and provide a strong foundation to the innovation ecosystem of Jammu Kashmir.

In the near future, AI will be most needed by health and emergency services workers, industry managers, and social and business leaders. It will be the responsibility of all AI Labs of Universities to conduct workshops and weekly training modules for them so that our entire workforce in J&K becomes AI literate and leaders from various sectors are also better equipped to make the right decision."

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the students and the faculty members to collectively work on integrated action, through a five-year plan, to use the power of new technology like AI in the development of Jammu Kashmir.

Along with path-breaking discoveries, our focus should also be on such innovations that provide solutions to the challenges of different sectors at the local level. We also have to pay special attention to the fact that technology like AI should be according to ethical standards and be free from any kind of bias, he added.

The Lieutenant Governor also lauded the valuable contribution of Kashmir University in scientific innovation and education sector.

Prof. Ajit Kembhavi, Emeritus Professor, Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) and Prof. Anil Bharadwaj, Director Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, who joined through virtually, spoke on Astronomy for Citizen and progress of Space Science in India, respectively.

The seminar was organised by the Department of Physics, University of Kashmir, in collaboration with Vigyan Bharati, New Delhi commemorating the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' made by Sir C.V. Raman.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated Synthetic Athletic Track Surface at Kashmir University campus.

Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Saurabh Bhagat, Commissioner/Secretary, Science & Technology Department; Dr. Som Dev Bharadwaj, Organizing Secretary, Vigyan Bharati; scientists, faculty members and youth in large number were present. KNO

To keep NC-led...

the Assembly, which is expected to be stormy over issues ranging from Article 370, reservation row and other issues.

For the first time in history, the BJP is the main opposition party in Jammu & Kashmir. Before 2008, BJP never crossed a double-digit seat tally in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. In 2008 polls, it managed to secure 11 seats. In 2014, it secured 25 seats and became part of any government for the first time in J&K's history. KNO

Ahead of budget...

of which is in possession of the news agency.

As previously reported, the National Conference (NC) has also scheduled its legislature party meeting around the same time at the Chief Minister's official residence on Wazarat Road, Jammu.

Meanwhile, Congress leadership stated that they have not been officially informed by the National Conference about any joint meeting of legislators of the ruling alliance. "We have not been informed about it yet," said Pradesh Congress Committee president and MLA Central Shalteng, Tariq Hamid Karra, when asked whether any joint meeting of the ruling allies has been scheduled ahead of the budget session. KNO

DDC reviews performance of banks in Reasi District



JNEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEBRUARY 28

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Nidhi Malik chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting here today to assess the performance of the banks during Quarter Ending December 2024.

The review focused on the Credit-Deposit Ratio (CDR), the flow of credit to priority and non-priority sectors, and the effectiveness of government schemes designed to aid economic growth across different sectors. The banks were instructed to work more effectively to provide credit facilities to sectors such as industry, agriculture, and small and medium-Enterprises (SMEs), which are vital for the economic growth of the district.

The DDC also emphasized the importance of continuous collaboration between banks and gov-

ernment departments to ensure the swift disbursement of loans and benefits under the government schemes. She highlighted the need for faster processing of beneficiary cases to ensure that the assistance reaches the intended recipients in a timely manner. "This collaboration is crucial to ensure that the government's financial support programs are implemented effectively and efficiently at the grassroots level" she added.

In addition, emphasis was laid on improving banking penetration in the district, particularly in unbanked and underserved areas, to enhance financial inclusion.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Samyal; CPO Narinder Kumar; LDM SBI, RBI representative, Cluster Head J&K Bank, CAO, CAHO, CHO and other bank representatives and Government officials were present.

38 Women get certificates on completion of Tailoring course conducted by RSETI Ramban



JNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, FEBRUARY 28

SBI Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) Ramban awarded certificates to 38 trainees from two batches of the Women's Tailoring Training Program successfully completed at Ramban. The initiative aims to empower women by equipping them with professional tailoring skills, enabling them to become self-reliant entrepreneurs.

The event was graced by Branch Manager State Bank of India, Sachin Kumar, as the Chief Guest. In his address, he congratulated the trainees on their achievement and encouraged them to use their newly acquired skills to start their own businesses, become financially independent, and contribute to

the local economy.

Presiding over the function, Director, RSETI S. Harvinder Singh, applauded the efforts of the trainees and emphasized the importance of vocational training in fostering self-employment opportunities. He urged them to take advantage of financial assistance programs such as PMEGP, Mudra Yojana and HADP to establish their own tailoring businesses.

The program concluded with the signature RSETI Claps, symbolizing encouragement and support for the newly trained women entrepreneurs. The participants expressed their gratitude to SBI RSETI Ramban for providing them with valuable training, promising to utilize their skills effectively for economic growth.

Govt extends winter...

vacation has been taken for the wellbeing and safety of students and staff," an official said.

He said that heads of all institutions within the subdivision have been directed to ensure compliance with the extended winter vacation schedule.

In the meantime, following the bad weather conditions, JKBOSE also postponed all exams of 10th to 12th classes scheduled on March-01 and March-03 in hard zones.

JKBOSE in an order said, "In view of inclement weather, the examinations for classes 10th, 11th and 12th scheduled to be held on 01-03-2025 and 03-03-2025 as per date sheet already issued, are hereby postponed and rescheduled."

The board said that the examinations that were earlier scheduled to be held on March-01 for classes 10th and 11th will be held on March-25. In case of 12th standard, the examinations that were scheduled to be held on March-01 will be held on March-24.

JKBOSE in the meantime further said that the time and venue of the examinations will remain unchanged. KNO

Cantabil Expands Retail Footprint in Jammu with New Store Launch in Janipur



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

Cantabil Retail India Ltd., one of India's leading apparel manufacturers and retailers, has further strengthened its footprint in Jammu with the launch of a new store in Janipur.

Spanning 1,007 sq. ft., the newly opened store at Cantabil Retail India Ltd., Janipur is designed to meet the evolving fashion needs of Jammu's growing urban population. The outlet features Cantabil's complete range of menswear and accessories, bringing the latest fashion trends to the city's style-conscious customers.

Expressing his enthusiasm about the expansion, Mr. Deepak Bansal, Director of Cantabil Retail India, stated, "We are thrilled to enhance our presence in Jammu with our new store in Janipur. As a thriving industrial hub with a

dynamic community, Jammu is a key market for us. This expansion aligns with our vision of making high-quality fashion accessible to customers in tier II and III cities while maintaining our commitment to style and affordability."

The new store will offer Cantabil's latest collections, ensuring that fashion enthusiasts in Jammu have access to contemporary styles on par with metropolitan cities. This launch reinforces the brand's ongoing commitment to delivering a superior shopping experience and expanding its reach across India.

About Cantabil Retail India Ltd.

Embark on a sartorial journey with Cantabil Retail India Ltd., shaping the fashion landscape since its inception in 2000. As pioneers in the industry, we've curated a comprehensive range of

apparel under the iconic CANTABIL brand, spanning men's and women's wear alongside a vibrant collection for kids.

Over the past 24 illustrious years, we've evolved into India's foremost family-wear brand, introducing Men's apparel in 2000, Women's wear in 2007, and a delightful Kids' line in 2018. Our commitment to innovation continued in 2023 with the launch of Athleisure Wear and Shoes, complementing our diverse portfolio that includes Shirts, Trousers, Denim, Suits, Blazers, Jackets, and more. Venturing beyond apparel, we've ventured into Accessories, from perfumes to wallets, ensuring a holistic shopping experience.

Find us on leading marketplaces like Myntra, Ajo, Flipkart, Amazon, Nykaa, Tatacliq or explore our offerings firsthand at Cantabilshop.com.

Indian Army organizes Motivational Talk for Youth to Join Armed Forces at Sadda, Rajouri

JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, 28 FEB 2025

A Motivational talk on how to join armed forces was organized by Indian Army at Sadda on 28 Feb 2025 to encourage the youth to join the armed forces. The aim of conducting this motivational talk was to motivate the talented and potential youths to join the armed forces of our country. Motivational talk focused on motivating the youths to plan their career in armed forces based on their respective inclination, interests and various opportunities available to join the armed forces.

During the motivational talk, youths were briefed about the selection procedure of an Officer in armed forces. This is a unique step by the Army towards winning hearts and minds of local population. A total of 65 youths attended the motivational talk.

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

Mahashivratri celebrated in Shree Bankey Bihari Lal Gorkha Mandir Sec 4, Nanak -Nagar, Jammu



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

Thousands of devotees paid obeisance to Lord Shiva at Shree Bankey Bihari Lal Gorkha Mandir Sec 4, Nanak -Nagar, Jammu.

On the occasion, thousands of devotees from various parts of the region thronged temples to pay obeisance. The temples are decorated befitting to the occasion to facilitate the devotees. Special arrangements were made by the temple management to perform Shivratri Poojan.

The devotees are offer-

ing prayers to Lord Shiva and his family members, Mata Parvati, sons Kartikay and Ganesha. The temple's management made elaborate arrangements for langer for the whole day for the devotees. The members who were participated are Harbans Lal Choudhary, Sohan Singh Billawria, Rakesh Billawria, Brinder Pratap Singh, Darshan Singh Sambyal, Vikas Jamwal, Sandeep Jamwal Bhanu Pratap Singh, Dheeraj Singh Billawria, Jatinder Sharma, Sachin Gupta, Karan Singh, Sandeep Singh, Mukesh Sharma, and others.

10TH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we regret to inform you to sad demise of our beloved **Late Sh Bikhram Singh Manhas** S/o of late. Sh. Milkhi Singh R/o Ward No. 75 Akalpur Jammu Death (20-02-2025) and



Late Sh Bikhram Singh Manhas

10TH DAY will be performed on 01-03-2025 (Saturday) at our residence Akalpur at 11 AM.

GRIEF STRICKEN:-

Smt. Sumitri Devi - Mother

Smt. Parmila Manhas - Wife

Khushi Manhas - Daughter

Mob. No. 7889722346, 8899449783

NCORD meeting discusses drug control measures in Reasi

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, FEBRUARY 28

District Magistrate Nidhi Malik today chaired the monthly meeting of the District level Committee under Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to assess and strengthen Drug control measures in the region.

Taking a thorough review of enforcement measures, the DM directed local police to identify hot spots where drug peddlers and addicts are active. She emphasized the need to adopt a targeted approach to ensure effective enforcement in these areas.

Stressing on community awareness, she called for launching extensive campaigns in educational institutions to educate youth about the dangers of drug addiction. The DM directed SDMs to conduct Panchayat level campaigns under the supervision of local Tehsildars, CDPOs and BDOs with active community participation and inputs from intellectuals and religious leaders.

The Police administra-



tion was asked to collaborate with the drug control department to conduct regular checking of pharmacies to enforce compliance with government regulations. She also directed authorities to establish channels to identify and destroy illicit poppy cultivation, followed by strict legal action against those involved in such activities.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) was asked to monitor the follow-up care of persons treated for drug de-addiction, ensuring their proper rehabilitation and con-

tinued support. She concluded by reaffirming the district administration's commitment to fighting the drug crisis in "full mission mode," with a coordinated approach involving law enforcement, medical professionals, community leaders and educational institutions.

ADC Reasi Rakesh Kumar, ACR Anshumali Sharma, SDMs, Tehsildars, DSWO, Dy. SP HQ, CMO, CEO, DIO, officials from drug control and Excise departments and other concerned officials were present.

KVK Samba organises monthly officers' workshop

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 28

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Samba under the aegis of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology-Jammu (SKUAST-J) organised the monthly officers' workshop here today.

The workshop was attended by a number of extension officers from across the District and organised under the stewardship of Vice Chancellor, Prof. B.N. Tripathi and Director Extension, Prof. Amrith Vaid of SKUAST-Jammu.

Chief Scientist and Head KVK Prof. Sanjay Khajuria coordinated the workshop. He discussed various field related



issues and stressed on the timely and efficient management of different field problems by the farmers. He also discussed natural farming and stressed on the adoption of cluster approach for the economic development

of rural areas. He also spoke on the SHGs/FPOs formation and food processing. He highlighted the formulation and use of biopesticides, biofertilizers and biofertilizers in the organic crops. He added that natural farm-

ing can reduce the cost of cultivation and can play a significant role in enhancing the income and employment among the farmers.

Professor Fruit Science SKUAST Jammu Dr. Akash Sharma discussed the commercial cultivation of fruits and encouraged the farmers to go for the scientific cultivation. He also discussed in detail the organic treatment of various insects-pests in various crops. Professor, Plant Physiology SKUAST Jammu Dr. Bhav Kumar Sinha spoke on the advance technologies in agricultural/horticultural crops. He stressed on eco-friendly practices so as to produce safe and healthy products.

Power shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to District Reasi, partially Katra Town will remain affected on March 02 from 7 am to 1 pm. However, as intimated by Chief Engineer (Transmission) JKPTCL Jammu, the essential load of Katra Railway Station feeding from Sangaldan route can be accommodated by 132/33KV Grid Station Samba and of Vaishno Devi Shrine and Katra Town can be catered by 132/33KV Grid Station Jhajarkoti.

Similarly, the power supply to New Nandpur, Old Nandpur, Jerada BSF, Pindi, Adlehar, Baba Chamlyal and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 02 from 8 am to 2 pm.

DC B'pora chairs DCC/ DLRC meeting for Quarter ending December

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 28

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri today chaired District Consultative Committee (DCC)/ District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting for the December quarter of FY 2024-25 at the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, Bandipora. LDM Bandipora, Shameem Ahmad Haji briefed the chair regarding the performance of banks in both priority and non-priority sectors, as well as the progress of various beneficiary-oriented social security schemes.

During the meeting, the DC urged all stakeholders to work on addressing the challenges and bottlenecks affecting the performance of banks in the district. He also emphasized the importance of improving coordination between line departments and banks to address these issues.



During the meeting, it was informed that the District has achieved 46% of ACP (FY 24-25) in three quarters by disbursing an amount of Rs 779.10 crores against the target of 1691.29 crores, with both sectors priority and non-priority contributing equally with priority sector showing achievement of Rs 394 crores and non priority sector recording achievement of 385 crores.

On the occasion, the DC directed all the banks to ensure achievement of 100% against the allocated target by March end. He further urged the banks and departments to improve the credit in all 29 schemes under HADP

scheme.

Qadri further directed all banks and departments to vigorously participate in jan suraksha campaign for mobilizing more applications under social security schemes with the help of all resources available for 100% achievement.

Speaking on the occasion, ADDC urged for 100% coverage of active KCC for issuance of KCC smart cards, and all banks were directed to report the progress and make strategy for its saturation.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Mohammad Ashraf Bhat; Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Chief Agriculture Officer Bandipora, Chief Horticulture Officer, officers from various departments, and representatives from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), NABARD and other stakeholders.

ACS Education inspects exam centres of class XI in Srinagar, appreciates arrangements



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 28

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Education, Shantmanu, today visited different schools in Srinagar district and inspected several examination centres of class XI and reviewed the facilities being provided to the students there.

During the inspection, the Additional Chief Secretary was accompanied by Director School Education, Kashmir, Dr. G N Itoo, who briefed him about the arrangements made by the department in connection with the ongoing examinations for

class XI.

While inspecting the examination centre at Girls Higher Secondary School Kothibagh, the ACS interacted with the students and enquired about the examination papers and other facilities being provided to them.

The Additional Chief Secretary expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made by the School Education Department at the examination centres. He directed all the school heads to make adequate heating arrangements in the examination halls in view of the inclement weather in the region.

Healthy Baby competition organized at Doda to promote child development

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, FEBRUARY 28

District Programme Officer ICDS (Poshan), in collaboration with the District Administration Doda, organized a Healthy Baby Competition today at Town Hall Doda, under the IEC initiative, "Healthy Children Make a Healthy Nation."

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh- the Chief Guest inaugurated the event and inspected stalls set up to raise awareness about child health and nutrition.

The DC emphasized the critical role of Anganwadi workers in shaping the early years of childhood development. He urged them to act as foster mothers, ensuring the physical and mental well-being of the children under their care. He also highlighted



the importance of fostering cognitive skills, including decision-making abilities and presence of mind, to prepare children for a bright future.

As part of the event, certificates were distributed among Anganwadi workers, acknowledging their dedicated service.

Additionally, books

were distributed to children, encouraging early learning and development.

The event was attended by the District Programme Officer ICDS Paramjeet Singh, CEO Doda Mohammad Hafiz, EO MC Doda Ravi Parihar, CDPOs, supervisors, Anganwadi workers, helpers, childrens and others.

Javed Rana inaugurates Water Supply Schemes in Mendhar

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, FEBRUARY 28

Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, today reaffirmed government's commitment of providing safe drinking water to every household of the Union Territory.

The Minister was addressing the gathering after inaugurating two Water Supply Schemes (WSSs) at Kasab and Malikpur, Mendhar during his extensive visit to the district. These WSSs have been completed with a cost of Rs 3.25 crore and Rs 5.45 crore respectively, as part of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

Rana said that the government is committed to ensure that every individual has access to safe drink-



ing water and today's inauguration of WSSs is a step towards that direction. "Water security ensures a strong future and concrete measures are being taken to improve water supply and better management of water resources in uncovered areas, which is crucial to address water supply issues," maintained the Minister.

The Minister said that the WSS Kasab will benefit

a population of 1,560, with installation of 205 new connections while the WSS Malikpur will serve a population of 2,075, souls with installation of 150 new connections.

He asked the locals to remember that our rights to this infrastructure come with our collective responsibility as the community to protect and preserve it so that it can serve us better and for longer.

The locals expressed gratitude to the Minister for making the schemes operational thereby fulfilling their long pending demand.

DC Samba leads anti-drug IEC Campaign at Naran Panchayat



JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, FEBRUARY 28

A significant outreach program was conducted today here at Naran Panchayat under the ongoing anti-drug IEC campaign.

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma led the event. The local community actively engaged in discussions on drug prevention, rehabilitation and the collective responsibility of society in tackling substance abuse.

The DC underlined the significance of organizing awareness programs in schools and local institutions in promotion of the campaign, directing Education officials to integrate

drug prevention initiatives into school curricula and conduct regular sensitization sessions. He also urged teachers and parents to stay vigilant, identify early warning signs and promote open communication with children.

Medical and healthcare representatives highlighted the physical and psychological impact of drug addiction, emphasizing the need for early intervention, routine health check-ups and counseling facilities. DC Samba instructed medical teams to organize regular awareness drives in schools and public spaces to help in early detection and prevention.

He emphasized the need for a united and proactive approach to combat drug abuse, highlighting the role of education, healthcare and community participation in addressing this challenge.

The event witnessed the participation of SDM Ghagwal Sunaina Saini along with Tehsildar Ghagwal, BDO Ghagwal, public representatives and officials from the medical and education sectors.

The program concluded with emphasis on a coordinated approach between administration, law enforcement and civil society to make Samba a drug-free district.

Traffic Police Rural issue advisory in view of bad weather

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28

In view of prevailing bad weather conditions, the Traffic Police Rural have advised commuters to take precautions while driving as continuous raining and snowfall has led to slippery roads, land/ mudslides, blockade of roads at multiple locations.

"The general public is suggested and advised to follow these guidelines to ensure

your safety; Slow down the vehicle speed to match the road conditions and use heavy gear while driving uphill and downhill; Switch to a low beam to reduce glare from rain and fog; Increase your vehicle distance while in traffic alignment on the road during bad weather conditions; Avoid sudden acceleration as it can lead to loss of control or skidding; Be aware of vulnerable road users and give them plenty of space; If you can't see the road

surface, it's not safe to drive through; Ensure your vehicle's tyres, brakes and windshield wipers are in good working order; Avoid driving through flooded/ muddy/hilly areas and keep a safe distance from Pedestrians and cyclists; Take extreme care while driving on the under construction NHWs and other roads. Avoid snow-bound hilly areas. Include items like a flashlight, first aid kit, and snacks in case you become stranded.

JKMPCL inaugurates bulk milk cooler, Amul cattle feed store to mark Int'l Year of Cooperatives-2025



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28

In a significant step towards strengthening the dairy sector, the Jammu and Kashmir Milk Producers' Cooperative Limited (JKMPCL), in collaboration with the Cooperative Department, Jammu, inaugurated a Bulk Milk Cooler and an Amul Cattle Feed Store at Rehal, Block Bishnah, District Jammu. The initiative was led by Deputy Registrar Jammu, Tasbina Sheikh, as part of the International Year of Cooperatives 2025 celebrations.

The newly established Bulk Milk Cooler at Rehal is expected to reduce

milk wastage, particularly during the summer months, thereby enhancing the income of dairy farmers. Additionally, the collaboration with Amul is poised to bring valuable insights into best practices such as quality standards, branding, and efficient supply chain management, bolstering the dairy industry in the region.

This event is part of a series of activities planned across District Jammu to mark the International Year of Cooperatives 2025. These initiatives aim to empower cooperative societies, promote sustainable development, and encourage community-driven economic growth.

EDITORIAL

More trouble within Congress

The Congress party in Jammu and Kashmir is once again in the spotlight for all the wrong reasons. Internal bickering continues to plague the party, and the recent controversy sparked by senior leader Tara Chand's remarks at a party rally is yet another embarrassment that exposes the deep fissures within the state unit. Tara Chand's statement, made during a rally organized by the District Congress Committee (DCC) Jammu Rural in connection with the "Himari Riyasat Hamara Haq" campaign, has caused significant unrest among party members. His comments, which many perceive as caste-sensitive, have raised concerns about the party's ability to maintain unity and credibility in the region. He made a statement about his decision to contest the Assembly elections on an open seat, mentioning that his decision was not "tolerated by the people." Though he did not directly name any caste, Congress leaders quickly interpreted his words as an indirect reference to certain communities. Given his past electoral history, including his loss from the Chhamb constituency in 2014, party insiders believe that his comments were a thinly veiled criticism of the voters and communities that rejected his candidacy when Chhamb became an open seat after the Delimitation Commission's report. Tara Chand's remarks are seen by many within the party as an example of the caste politics that have long shaped the electoral landscape in Jammu and Kashmir. His comments have sparked backlash from within the ranks, with some Congress leaders arguing that the former Deputy Chief Minister's words could alienate vital voter bases and further exacerbate internal divisions. A deeper issue lies in Tara Chand's reluctance to adapt to the changing political dynamics. After the delimitation, Congress leaders advised him to contest from the Akhnoor Assembly segment, which had been reserved for Scheduled Castes, and leave the Chhamb seat for Satish Sharma. Tara Chand, however, chose to stubbornly contest from Chhamb to settle personal scores with Satish Sharma, the son of the late Congress leader Madan Lal Sharma. This decision was costly for the party, as it led to losses in both the Chhamb and Akhnoor constituencies. Satish Sharma won Chhamb, relegating Tara Chand to third place, a blow to the party's unity and electoral prospects. Tara Chand's actions and words are emblematic of the Congress party's struggle with internal unity. The internal bickering, marked by factionalism, personal vendettas, and a reluctance to adapt to changing political realities, has become a significant hindrance to the party's efforts to rebuild and reconnect with the electorate. The failure to address factionalism and personal vendettas within its ranks continues to hamper the party's ability to present a united front. As the Congress battles with its internal contradictions, it risks losing relevance in a region that is increasingly turning to other political forces. Without resolving these internal issues, Congress's future in Jammu and Kashmir appears uncertain.

Trump's deal-making redefines Ukraine's fate

NILANTHA LLANGAMUWA

Ukrainian President Zelensky's colossal misstep in dealing with President Donald Trump could ultimately become one of the most profound blunders in recent history. To Trump, Zelensky is merely a "modestly successful comedian" and a "dictator." However, it is a misguided assumption to believe that Russia will inevitably win this war, yet the divisions within Ukraine's ranks are deepening, fuelled by ambitions that go beyond territorial conquest, pushed by Western powers steering Ukraine down an uncertain path. It is not far-fetched to suggest that Zelensky's days are numbered. A professional comedian skilled in turning tragedy into spectacle, as Marx famously said of history, he now finds himself caught in a high-stakes game where the true motivations remain obscured. One cannot forget that Donald Trump is no traditional dictator, nor a political liberal.

At his core, he is a deal-maker—driven by the pursuit of fame and profit. Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu knows this; Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is trying to understand it, while Russian President Vladimir Putin is exploiting it. Chinese President Xi has structured it, while the rest of the leaders, particularly in Europe, are struggling to grasp it. To grasp Trump's approach to global affairs, one must abandon the reductive comparisons to tyrants

like Stalin, Hitler, or Mussolini. Trump operates in a different sphere entirely, one that requires a certain mental flexibility to understand. He is not concerned with maintaining power for the sake of ideology or historical legacy; his concern is to make deals that secure material gain.

The world should not mistake him for a man of irrational impulses, for Trump understands the machinery of influence as few others do. His transactional nature is evidenced in his interactions with foreign powers, where his primary concern is leverage, not political principles. A prime example of this comes from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the White House. When an Indian journalist posed a question regarding India's role in countering China, Trump's response was strikingly unconventional. Rather than fall into the trap of aligning with India against China, Trump instead spoke of bringing China, Russia and India together for mutual benefit. This pragmatic approach—concerned not with antagonising one party but rather with securing cooperation from all sides—highlights the difference between Trump's brand of leadership and that of conventional political figures who cling to rigid ideologies.

Trump's worldview is not shaped by traditional political theories; his primary motivation lies in extracting profit from every situation. In this sense, he is a modern-day merchant who sees inter-

national relations not as a matter of diplomacy, but as an opportunity for lucrative transactions. This is, after all, a man who, in his bestselling book *The Art of the Deal* (1987), writes, "Sometimes by losing a battle, you find a new way to win the war." This is not the rhetoric of a conventional politician; it is the language of a businessman who understands that in the grand game of power, winning often means losing a few battles along the way. Trump was notorious for cultivating a media presence that exaggerated his wealth and success, as evidenced by the time he manipulated *Forbes* magazine into listing him as one of the wealthiest individuals, despite his financial situation not reflecting the claim. This is the same man who views international politics through the lens of economic opportunity, where every diplomatic interaction is an avenue for profit. History is replete with similar deals between empires and powerful states—arrangements that were often secretive, strategic and ultimately aimed at controlling the flow of resources and wealth.

Take, for instance, the Treaty of Kadesh in 1259 BCE, a diplomatic agreement between Egypt and the Hittite Empire. While the public version of the treaty touted peace and cooperation, hidden elements revealed that both empires carved up regions like Syria for their benefit, securing timber from the cedars of Lebanon and ensuring access to crucial

trade routes. These covert arrangements were not only about peace—they were about ensuring control over vital natural resources. The very fabric of ancient geopolitics was woven from such secretive deals, where military confrontations were often avoided in favour of securing wealth through backdoor agreements. In the late 19th century, European powers engaged in secretive deals to partition Africa and exploit its resources. The Berlin Conference of 1884-85 is the most notorious example, where the European powers divided Africa without regard for its indigenous populations. This was not merely an exercise in territorial expansion; it was a calculated effort to control Africa's mineral-rich regions—such as the Congo, with its vast deposits of rubber, ivory, and later, uranium and cobalt. These resources were not just crucial to the European economies—they were the lifeblood of the empires' military and industrial prowess. It is a tragic irony that while European powers publicly championed the benefits of their imperial ventures, the truth behind their actions was one of resource exploitation, where local populations were trampled in the pursuit of wealth. East Timor, in the late 20th century, is one of the blunt examples. Following the region's independence from Portugal in 1975, East Timor was invaded by Indonesia, with the tacit approval of Western powers, particularly Australia and the

United States. While these nations publicly condemned Indonesia's actions, they secretly supported its annexation in exchange for access to the Timor Sea's oil and gas reserves. The 1989 Timor Gap Treaty between Australia and Indonesia was signed behind closed doors, securing Australia's share of East Timor's undersea resources despite the ongoing political turmoil.

The exposure of these secret dealings years later revealed how, even in the post-colonial era, resource-rich nations were still subject to exploitation by global powers looking to maximise their profits at any cost. Now, as we return to the present-day conflict between Russia and Ukraine, we see similar patterns at play.

It is no secret that the United States has provided substantial military 'aid' to Ukraine, while making American defence industries the most profitable companies from the war, consequently indebting Ukraine with heavy financial burdens. Zelensky, in his pursuit of securing Ukraine's future, has unwittingly become a puppet of Western interests, never considering the long-term consequences for his country.

Meanwhile, Russia, with its military operations focused on specific regions rich in minerals, continues to tighten its grip on strategic areas like Donetsk and Luhansk, which are abundant in coal, graphite, and other vital resources. As of February 2025, Russia controls approximately

18.6 per cent of Ukrainian territory, including these resource-rich regions.

It is no coincidence that these areas, crucial for energy production and manufacturing, are the focal point of Russia's military campaign. US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, during his first visit to Europe recently, declared that a return to Ukraine's pre-2014 borders is unrealistic, and the Trump administration does not view NATO membership for Kyiv as a solution. On the other hand, President Putin, with his characteristic bluntness, recently remarked that had the 2020 US elections not been 'stolen,' Donald Trump would have won, and the war in Ukraine would never have begun.

This is realpolitik in action. Putin knows how to play the game, not just with Trump, but with any leader, as Angela Merkel aptly noted. Therefore, Trump and Putin could sign a secret deal on Ukrainian minerals, marking a crucial point in history. What is particularly striking is the growing divide between the political circles in Ukraine.

Zelensky's leadership is increasingly seen as compromised, with many wondering if his time is up. Trump, whose sharp criticisms of Zelensky have become more pointed, continues to offer a path to deal with the mineral wealth of Ukraine—one that may well align more with Russia's interests than those of the West.

(The writer is a journalist and policy analyst. Views expressed are personal)

Donald Trump's Global Gambit

KUMARDEEP BANARJEE

The world has undergone massive change since the new US President's inauguration nearly a month back. The disruptor in town, President Donald Trump is changing every lever of the established global world order, since World War Two. What was unimaginable a month back is a reality, this week! Exhibit A is that, the US and Russia are almost on the same page, as far as Ukraine is concerned. President Trump has called for an early end to the war raging in Europe and is willing to negotiate and even travel

to Moscow, if the terms of the negotiation are cosy for his worldview and more importantly can be sold to his domestic political constituency.

Putting an early end to the Ukraine war may be a blessing for several countries especially in the Global South, which are facing high inflation and economic rout. However, the way the US moved on Ukraine, by having a bilateral conversation with Russian President Putin, keeping Europe out of the negotiations and setting economic clauses for Ukraine instead of the billions of dollars worth of military aid it has received from the US, has shocked

the global community. US President and his team A, led by billionaire Elon Musk and VP Vance have not minced their words regarding the way Europe and the UK etc. are weak nations, with much of their economy being bankrolled by the US since World War 2.

It has sent shock waves, being felt across the entire of Europe, where, there is renewed vigour for right-centric political parties, gaining political legitimacy in democratic elections. There is open support for pro-right-leaning parties by the Trump administration, which means the left of the centre political

forces, and those who have dominated the narrative for nearly three decades are facing the heat. Many analysts and policy space observers point out that, President Trump believes in creating a Shock and Awe scenario at the negotiating table rather than engaging in traditional surgical strikes to neutralise possible threats to the US.

It may be a smart tactical move, which can force the other parties to come up with out-of-the-box ideas to bypass the US wrath with a hundred and eighty degrees turn by the US on several global issues. It is disruptive and could very

well be one of the most consequential events of the 21st century, where, global power equations are being reimagined. That brings us back to how India, with a firmly placed NDA government for more than a decade now, finds itself in the conundrum. Prime Minister Modi was one of the first visitors to the White House after President Trump's inauguration, to revive and remind of the old and cherished friendship between the two nations, while also trying to reassure that India, will reinvestigate the bilateral relation and take it to a different level.

India agreed to buy

more oil and defence equipment from the US, while signalling it would also mean, buying less, from long-standing ally Russia. However, US, and Russia relations are almost on the verge of a reset, which could define how planet earth evolves at least in the next five years. Europe UK and India are feverishly trying to cut mutually beneficial bilateral trade deals, to hedge some of the tariff tirades being pushed by the US President. If not, anything, it has put the fire back in the cold ovens of the new world order.

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

Beyond the hype: Reclaiming authenticity in an AI-driven social media era

TANYA MICHAEL

Social media was once a game-changer for brands looking to engage with their audience. It gave businesses a direct line to customers, fostering real conversations and community building. But in the age of AI-driven content, that dynamic is shifting. From content to images to news, AI-generated material is so scarily real that audiences are beginning to question everything they see. Was that viral image doctored?

Is that news article genuine or just AI-generated clickbait? This scepticism has led to a trust crisis—where audiences are unsure if they are interacting with real content or an automated illusion. Naturally, now the audiences are sharper, more discerning, and less tolerant of inauthenticity. They can spot a robotic, soulless brand from a mile away. The real differentiator isn't just what a brand posts—it's how deeply it

connects on a "human" level. In this landscape, it's no longer enough to create routine posts or polished campaigns alone.

To stand out, we must truly understand our audience, which makes the value of data immeasurable. But what truly matters now is how we use that data to create meaningful connections. While data and analytics provide valuable insights, they only tell part of the story. Brands that stay relevant don't just analyse past trends; they incorporate real-time learnings into their content strategy. By actively engaging in ongoing discussions and tapping into recent themes, they make their audience feel seen and heard today and now.

This real-time approach is possible by identifying channels where brands can interact directly with their audience—be it customer support, social media, or community forums. And that's where AI can play a role in making advertisers' lives easier. The key is blend-

ing human intuition with AI efficiency for smarter, more personalised engagement.

AI-powered tools can help brands process vast amounts of data while human teams extract the most valuable customer insights. Ultimately, mastering social media connections comes down to truly understanding your audience. In a digital world where trust and authenticity are in short supply, building genuine connections is more important than ever. That's why making your brand as human and audience-centric as possible is key to standing out and fostering real engagement. Here are a few tips to keep in mind.

1. Make It Fun, Not Just Promotional

People don't come to social media to be sold to; they come to engage, learn, and be entertained. Successful brands create content that feels like a natural part of their audience's feed rather than a disruption.



Amul uses meme-inspired, quirky posts to entertain users while subtly reinforcing brand recall.

2. Inject Personality into Your Brand

Voice Jargon and generic content don't belong on social media. A distinct and consistent brand voice—whether witty, warm, or bold—helps brands resonate with their

audience. Zomato, for example, balances humour with real-time engagement, making its Twitter presence feel friend-like rather than a marketing channel.

3. Making Users Your On-Ground Advocates

The perfect example of this is the beauty and lifestyle space. Many brands are moving away from celebrity

endorsements and instead leveraging customer reviews, user-generated content, and a balance of macro and micro-influencers. Real user demos and authentic experiences have proven to be more effective in building trust and driving engagement, helping even newer brands compete with industry giants.

4. Engage in Meaningful Conversations

Social media isn't just about broadcasting; it's about engaging. Brands that actively respond to comments, DMs, and discussions create a sense of community. For instance, Myntra's Facebook group, Myntra Insiders, fosters a community where fashion enthusiasts discuss trends and share style tips—prioritising conversation over sales.

5. Tailor Strategies to Your Audience's Platform

Every brand has a primary audience, and understand-

ing where they spend most of their time online is key to crafting an effective strategy. Instead of relying on a generic approach that can be applied across all platforms, take the time to understand which platform your audience prefers and create a strategy that's tailored to it. Use the platform's features strategically to ensure maximum visibility and engagement. For example, on Instagram, Reels are crucial for visibility, while on Facebook, interactive posts and community-building are the focus.

By aligning your strategy with the platform's strengths, you'll drive better results and engage your audience more effectively. By focusing on meaningful connections and genuine engagement, brands can rise above the noise, earning trust and loyalty that goes beyond the digital space.

(The writer is Co-founder and Creative Head at Voynic Media; views are personal)

Indian pharma sector sees growth at 8 pc CAGR, export rates spike by 9 pc in 2024: Report

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Indian pharma sector has grown at 8 per cent CAGR and has also seen a 9 per cent increase in export rates in 2024, according to a report.

The report by McKinsey & Company showed that the pharma sector in the country is witnessing rapid production growth. Expanding its capabilities in APIs and biotechnology, it has grown at 8 per cent CAGR, twice the global average. The country also emerged as the world's largest supplier of generic medicines, with a 9 per cent pharma export growth rate, nearly double the global average, the report said. Currently, India meets 20 per cent of global demand. This includes over 40 per cent of generic medicines being supplied to the US, and 25 per cent to the UK. The country also supplies over 60 per cent of the world's vaccines and 70 per cent of global antiretroviral



drugs for HIV treatment.

Further the report showed that India is also marching ahead in terms of emerging modalities like mRNA, cell and gene therapies, and antibodies. These are witnessing a growth at 13-14 per cent CAGR, surpassing conventional drug growth.

Notably, the pharma sector in India has seen an increase in the number of US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) registered generic manufacturing sites. In 2024,

India had a network of 752 FDA-approved, 2,050 WHO GMP-certified, and 286 EDQM-approved plants.

There has been a sharp improvement in compliance outcomes over the last several years. The incidences of 'official action indicated' (OAI) after USFDA inspections dropped by 50 per cent between 2013-14 and 2023-24.

The pharma sector has also seen a surge in green manufacturing initiatives,

with 10 of India's top 20 pharma companies pledging for over 30 per cent emissions reduction by 2030.

Despite these progresses the industry faces critical challenges as it reaches a tipping point. Disruptions such as digital transformation, smart automation, and the rise of new treatment modalities could reshape pharmaceutical operations. Geopolitical shifts, nearshoring trends, and increasing sustainability demands also pose potential risks, the report said.

"India's pharmaceutical industry stands strong today because of what it has built over the last decade," said Vishnukaant Pity, Partner, McKinsey & Company.

"With disruptions on the horizon, it is crucial for the industry to embrace these strategic themes and fundamentally transform operating model to unlock a high-performance future," he added.

India, EU to conclude FTA by end of this year: PM Modi after talks with EU chief Ursula von der Leyen

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 28

India and the European Union have directed their teams to conclude a mutually beneficial Bilateral Free Trade Agreement by the end of this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said after talks with visiting European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen here today.

In his press statement following the talks held at Hyderabad House with the European Commission President and the European College of Commissioners, the PM also said that both sides have agreed to take concrete steps to take forward the ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor or 'IMEEC'.

He termed the visit of the President of the European Commission and the College of Commissioners to India as unprecedented, adding that it is first such comprehensive engagement of the European Commission in any single country, and also one of the first visits of the new Commission in its latest term.

The PM said the two sides have held nearly 20 ministerial level meetings of different sectors between yesterday and today.



"Sincere and meaningful discussions were held on various regional and global matters. Many important decisions have been taken to elevate and accelerate our partnership."

He said the two sides have prepared a blueprint for collaboration in the areas of Trade, Technology, Investment, Innovation, Green Growth, Security, Skilling and Mobility. "We have directed our teams to conclude a mutually beneficial Bilateral Free Trade Agreement by the end of this year," the PM added.

"To strengthen the investment framework, there has also been talk of moving forward on Investment Protection and GI Agreement. In the field of Technology and Innovation, a trusted and secure value chain is our common priority."

The two sides have agreed on increasing cooperation in semiconductors, AI, high performance com-

puting and 6G, and also decided to initiate a Space Dialogue, PM Modi said.

"We have decided to conduct a Green Hydrogen Forum and Offshore Wind Energy Business Summit. Joint research shall be undertaken on EV Batteries, Marine plastics and Green hydrogen. We shall also take forward our Joint Plan on Sustainable Urban Development," the PM said.

"Concrete steps will be taken, to take forward the India - Middle East - Europe Economic Corridor or 'IMEEC'. I firmly believe that 'IMEEC' shall serve as an engine that drives global commerce, sustainable growth and prosperity in the days to come," the PM added.

Both sides have also seen growing cooperation on issues related to Defence and Security, and will take forward the cooperation on Cyber Security, Maritime Security and Counter Terrorism.

"Both sides agree on

the importance of peace, security, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region," he said, and welcomed the EU's decision to join the "Indo Pacific Oceans Initiative". Both sides will work together on Triangular Development projects for sustainable and inclusive development in the Indo-Pacific region and Africa.

The two sides have reached a new agreement to increase academia, research and industry partnerships between them, he said, adding "I believe that India's young talent and Europe's innovation can together create limitless possibilities".

India and the EU have decided to create a bold and ambitious roadmap for the India-EU partnership for the period beyond 2025. It will be launched during the next India-EU Summit, the PM said.

He said the visit of the European Commission President to India has imparted new momentum, energy and enthusiasm to the bilateral partnership.

"This journey is the biggest catalyst that will translate our ambition into action."

"I eagerly look forward to the opportunity of welcoming you back to India for the next India-EU Summit," PM Modi said.

Twin studies show neurological, respiratory disorders linger up to three years post-Covid

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

While the Covid-19 pandemic is over, its effects continue to haunt a large majority of people infected by the infectious disease. Two separate studies have shown that several neurological and respiratory disorders as well as other health complications continue to affect people who were hospitalised with the disease.

In the first study, a team of researchers from France studied data from nearly 64,000 French residents who were followed for up to 30 months. Their findings, published in the journal Infectious Diseases, showed that patients who were hospitalised due to Covid have experienced a higher rate of deaths from any cause - 5,218 per 100,000 people.

In the 30 months monitored, these people were more likely to be hospitalised for any reason. And they were particularly at



high risk for neurological, psychiatric, cardiovascular, and respiratory problems.

While there was no difference between men and women in the risk of hospitalisation, women were hospitalised more due to psychiatric problems. Elderly over 70 years of age were also at high risk of hospitalisation due to organ-specific disorders.

Notably, the risks remained high for up to 30 months for neurological and respiratory disorders, chronic kidney failure, and diabetes.

"Even 30 months after hospitalisation, Covid-19 patients remained at an increased risk of death or severe health complications, reflecting the long-lasting, wider consequences of the disease

on people's lives," said Dr Charles Burdet, an Infectious Diseases specialist, at Universite Paris Cite.

"These findings are a stark reminder of the far-reaching impact of Covid, which extends far beyond the initial infection," added lead author Dr Sarah Tubiana, infectious diseases expert, at the Clinical Investigation Center at Bichat Hospital (Paris).

The second study, led by US researchers from the universities of Rush, Yale, and Washington, followed 3,663 participants for three years.

Their findings, published in The Lancet Regional Health, long Covid patients had worse physical and mental health outcomes up to three years after initial infection.

While the majority of those with long Covid did not resolve, vaccination was associated with better outcomes, the researchers said.

57 workers buried as avalanche hits BRO labour camp in Uttarakhand, 10 rescued

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, FEB 28

As many as 57 workers of a BRO Labour Camp were buried when an avalanche struck the site between Mana and Badrinath on Friday.

According to the Indian Army, the incident took place at around 0715 hours that buried 57 workers inside eight containers and

one shed.

The Indian Army response teams, comprising more than 100 personnel from Ibez Bigade, were immediately mobilised comprising doctors, ambulances and plant equipment, the Indian Army said.

By 1150 hours, the teams had located five containers and successfully rescued 10 individuals, all alive. Of the 10 rescued, four personnel

are reported to be in critical condition.

Search operations are ongoing for the remaining three containers, with the aim of rescuing the trapped individuals, they said.

Due to subsequent small-scale avalanches in the area, progress in rescue operations is slow and being carried out with due caution.

Heavy snowfall continues in the region, and GREF is

working on clearing the road between Joshimath and Mana.

Additional medical resources from Joshimath are being mobilised to Mana to assist with the rescue and medical aid.

Meanwhile Defence Minister Rajnath Singh termed the incident as unfortunate and said that the administration is providing all possible assistance to the affected.

STEM hiring in tier 2 and 3 Indian cities to rise by 15-20 pc by 2027: Report

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

With tech companies expanding their hiring focus to tier 2 and tier 3 cities, jobs for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) graduates from these regions is expected to rise by 15-20 per cent by 2027, a report said on Friday.

STEM opportunities are growing in locations such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Pune. Additionally, India's overall STEM sector is projected to see a 40-45 per cent increase by 2027, driven by rising demand for skilled professionals across industries, according to the report by NLB Services. A Centre for Security and Emerging Technology (CSET) report on the global distribution of STEM graduates reveals that 34 per cent of all graduates in India come from STEM disciplines.



Additionally, industry insights indicate that India's annual STEM graduate output is sufficient to meet the IT-related workforce demands of Europe and the US, including specialised roles. This highlights the important role of STEM in promoting employment and accelerating economic growth. The growing emphasis on STEM education and workforce development is a testament to India's commitment to innovation and economic progress.

"This is also reflected in the Union Budget announcement focusing on transforming India's education landscape with initiatives like 50,000

Atal Tinkering Labs, high-speed internet for rural schools, AI integration, and skill development," said Sachin Alug, CEO, NLB Services.

The tinkering labs will help in research in the STEM field where students can practice new ideas and approaches. Additionally, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'One Day as a Scientist' initiative, for National Science Day 2025, encourages young minds to engage with research institutions, fostering hands-on scientific exploration, Alug mentioned.

Covering engineering, technology, and scientific research opportuni-

ties, the STEM domain includes roles such as software developer, computer network architect, environmental engineer, and biochemist with the most sought-after positions being software developers (24 per cent), data analysts (18 per cent), and AI/ML specialists (15 per cent).

Each year, more than 1.5 million students take the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), competing for roughly 16,000 seats at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

Likewise, the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) sees over 1.8 million aspirants vying for around 90,000 MBBS seats. This fierce competition reflects the high societal and economic value placed on STEM careers, driven by lucrative salary prospects and the perception of greater job stability in these fields.

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD, FEB 28

A suicide blast at Darul Uloom Haqqania seminary in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Friday killed six people, including JUI-S leader Maulana Hamidul Haq Haqqani, and injured 15 others, media reports said.

The blast tore through the main prayer hall of the madressah in Nowshera district as worshippers gathered for Friday prayers, KP Police Inspector General Zulfiqar Hameed, the Dawn reported.

"It was a suicide blast. Three policemen were also injured in the attack," Hameed said.

Rescue officials transported the injured to nearby hospitals. The KP government declared an emergency in all hospitals and health facilities across Peshawar, approximately 70km away from Nowshera by road, the report said.

"The presence of medical staff and necessary medicines must be ensured," read a statement



from the KP commissioner's office.

According to media reports, KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur ordered an immediate report on the incident and directed officials to "provide the best medical facilities" to the wounded. "Targeting innocent people in a place of worship is an inhumane act," Gandapur said, adding that "all available resources should be used to bring the elements involved in the heartbreaking incident to justice."

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari strongly condemned the "heinous act of targeting worshippers in

a suicide attack," according to a statement from the President's House.

"Targeting innocent worshippers is a despicable and heinous act," he said. "Terrorists are enemies of the country, nation, and humanity." He expressed condolences to the families of the deceased.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also condemned the incident and prayed for the recovery of Maulana Haq and others who were injured, according to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office.

He directed that the best medical facilities be administered to the

injured and sought a report of the incident, the report said.

"Such cowardly and heinous acts of terrorism cannot dampen our resolve against terrorism," the PM said. We are resolute to completely eradicate all forms of terrorism from the country.

Haqqani, the son of assassinated cleric Maulana Samiul Haq, served as vice chancellor of the Darul Uloom Haqqania and chairman of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Sami (JUI-S) political party. He previously served as a member of the National Assembly from 2002 to 2007, the report added.

Startup Mahakumbh unveils Startup Maha Rathi for entrepreneurs with a prize pool of up to Rs 30 Cr

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), in collaboration with Avaana Capital, LetsVenture, Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM), IVCA, HDFC, among others, announced the launch of the Startup Maha Rathi challenge as part of the second edition of Startup Mahakumbh. A flagship initiative aimed at empowering Indian startups through every nook and corner of the country with funding, mentorship, and strategic guidance, this challenge aligns with India's long-term vision of becoming a developed economy (Viksit Bharat) by 2047. The challenge is set to provide access to up to a Rs 30 crore fund, mentorship from industry experts, and networking opportunities with global

investors. In addition, it will also entail special awards for innovative startups from emerging states and union territories through a dedicated program.

Startup Maha Rathi - Rising towards Viksit Bharat - is designed to open doors for budding entrepreneurs across 11 key sectors, including AI & DeepTech, BioTech & Healthtech, Gaming & Sports, Fintech, Incubators & Accelerators, Mobility, Agritech, B2B & Precision Manufacturing, D2C, ClimateTech, and Defence & SpaceTech. The program would be awarded in the presence of the Honourable Minister of Commerce and Industry and is aimed at equipping startups with the necessary resources to scale their operations and contribute to India's technological and economic advancement. Startups selected through

this initiative will gain exposure to global markets through Startup India, access to mentorship from industry veterans, investor networking opportunities, and national-level recognition by DPIIT.

The competition will follow a structured, multi-phase selection process, beginning with the application launch on February 26, 2025, and culminate in an exclusive live pitching finale from April 3-5, 2025, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. While each startup shortlisted for the grand jury round receive a guaranteed Rs 1 Lakh, top two startups from each sector will be awarded Rs 10 lakh respectively, while the next five will receive Rs 5 lakh each. Next 5 startups in

STARTUP
mahakumbh
BHARAT INNOVATES

April 3-5, 2025 | Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

each track will gain access to Rs 3 lakhs each in addition to financial grants, participating startups will receive expert guidance and investor access through a jury comprising 100+ leading VCs, angel investors, and domain specialists from Startup India and organizations such as Avaana Capital, LetsVenture, KDEM, IVCA, HDFC among many others.

Sharing his thoughts on the launch, Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Com-

merce and Industry, said, "The Startup Maha Rathi initiative marks a pivotal stride toward achieving India's vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047.' By offering strategic financial support and expert mentorship, this initiative will empower the nation's most promising startups to scale, innovate, and drive transformative change, strengthening India's position as a global leader in entrepreneurship and innovation."

strong innovation-driven culture, the initiative will play a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of disruptive entrepreneurs."

Commenting on the initiative, Sanjiv, Joint Secretary, DPIIT, said, "Our mission is to focus on bridging the gap between startups and investors and this initiative will provide a structured, high-impact platform for startups to showcase their innovations and gain direct access to funding and mentorship."

Anjali Bansal, Founding Partner, Avaana Capital, stated, "Initiatives like Startup Maha Rathi provide catalytic support to entrepreneurs solving for India's critical priorities—green growth, sustainability, energy transition, food systems, agriculture, and deep tech. The programs not only showcase India's entrepreneurial strength but also reinforces our ability to develop scalable solutions aligned with national priorities and position India as a global leader to accelerate towards a sustainable, inclusive and globally competitive Viksit Bharat."

Prashant Prakash, Founding Partner, Accel, remarked, "Aimed at evaluating more than 5,000 startups, Startup Maha Rathi presents a unique opportunity to identify and invest in startups that have the potential

to drive India's economic transformation. We are proud to collaborate on this initiative and support entrepreneurs in scaling their businesses with the right financial and strategic backing."

Applications for Startup Maha Rathi 2025 will open on February 26, 2025, with a deadline of March 7, 2025. The next round for startups that are shortlisted after an initial screening, will need to present virtually a jury panel between March 15 - 25th. Eligible startups must be DPIIT-recognized entities in their early or growth stages, operating in India as a Private Limited Company, LLP, or Partnership Firm. Startups can apply through the official website: <https://www.startupindia.gov.in/content/sih/en/ams-application/challenge.html?applicationId=67bdbb76e4b0c167e9f99da2>

PMIS IEC outreach seminar organized at GPC Bikram Chowk Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

The Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) IEC outreach Seminar was organised at the Auditorium Hall of Government Polytechnic College Bikram Chowk Jammu, in coordination with the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu & Kashmir through the Directorate of Skill Development J&K. The primary objective of this initiative is to spread awareness about the scheme among the youth of the region. The event was represented by Sh. Rajneesh Kumar, Registrar of Companies for the UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh, who highlighted the key features of the PMIS. He shared the outcomes and success stories from Round 1 and encour-



aged youth between the ages of 20 to 24 to actively participate in this valuable initiative, which aims to provide exposure and hands-on experience in various sectors.

Additionally, Sh. Raj Kumar Koul from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs delivered an informative session on the step-by-step process for registering on the PMIS portal. He also demonstrated how to update profiles and ensure a smooth application pro-

cess for interested candidates.

The session concluded with an address from the Er. Talet Mahmood Principal Government Polytechnic College Bikram Chowk Jammu, who emphasized the importance of the scheme tailored specifically for the youth. He urged students and young professionals to seize the opportunity and benefit from the scheme, which offers valuable skill development and career

advancement prospects. The Prime Minister Internship Scheme provides a unique platform for the youth to gain practical exposure and enhance their professional skills. It is an excellent opportunity for young individuals to contribute to national development while simultaneously building their career profiles.

Others were present on the event were HODs, staff, and students of Government Polytechnic Jammu, Government Polytechnic for Women Jammu, Government Industrial Training Institute Jammu and Government Women ITI Jammu.

For more information and registration details, interested individuals can visit the official PMIS portal.

Indian Army organizes Medical Awareness Camp for Women at Khour Akhnoor

JNEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR : 28 FEB 2025

In a significant step towards promoting women's health and well-being, Indian Army aligned with Pradhan Mantri Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana (PMASBY), conducted a Medical Awareness Camp in a remote border village of Khour. This initiative was aimed at educating women about critical health concerns, including cervical, breast, and oral cancer, as well as menstrual hygiene and general wellness. The camp witnessed an enthusiastic turnout of women from the village and surrounding areas, eager to gain insights into health-related issues that often go undiagnosed due to lack of awareness and medical facilities. The event was conducted by Dr. Ritu Mishra, an AWWA functionary who addressed the gathering and shed light on the unique medical challenges faced by women in



rural and border regions. During her address, Dr. Mishra emphasised upon the importance of early detection in combating cancers prevalent among women.

She elaborated on the symptoms, risk factors, and preventive measures for cervical, breast, and oral cancers, encouraging women to undergo regular screenings and self-examinations. She also dispelled common myths and misconceptions surrounding these diseases, highlighting the significance of timely

medical intervention. Another critical aspect of the session was menstrual hygiene management, a subject often considered taboo in rural communities. During the conduct of awareness camp, essential guidance on maintaining proper hygiene during menstruation, addressing societal stigmas, and ensuring young girls and women have access to safe and sanitary menstrual products were also provided. Beyond awareness, the Indian Army facilitated wellness check-ups, ensuring that the women

received basic health screenings and consultations from medical professionals. Such initiatives not only empower rural women with knowledge but also strengthen the Indian Army's commitment to community welfare, fostering trust and goodwill among the local population.

The villagers expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Indian Army and AWWA for organising this much-needed initiative. The event's success underscores the Army's unwavering dedication to nation-building efforts beyond security, contributing significantly to healthcare awareness and accessibility in underserved areas. By bridging the gap between medical awareness and healthcare services, the Indian Army continues to play a pivotal role in enhancing the quality of life for communities living in remote and border regions.

GDC Ramnagar organizes seminar on 'Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science and Innovation for Viksit Bharat'

JNEWS SERVICE
RAMNAGAR, FEB 28

The Department of Physics, in collaboration with the Science Club and IQAC of Government Degree College (GDC) Ramnagar, organized a One-Day Seminar on the theme "Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science and Innovation for Viksit Bharat" under the esteemed patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Bhavnaish Chand Anthal, Principal, GDC Ramnagar.

The seminar commenced with a warm welcome address by Dr. Kewal Kumar, Convener, Science Club, who emphasized the role of science and technology in shaping the future of India. The keynote lecture was delivered by Dr. Rakesh Kumar Pandit, HOD Physics and IQAC Convener, who provided an insightful discourse on the contributions of Sir C.V. Raman. He elaborated in detail on the discovery and significance of the "Raman Effect" on February 28, 1928, highlighting its impact on the



field of physics and its recognition with the Nobel Prize in 1930.

A major highlight of the seminar was the participation of seven science students from different science departments, who shared their perspectives on the theme "Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science and Innovation for Viksit Bharat." They put forth valuable suggestions on how young minds can

contribute to realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Adding to the intellectual depth of the event, two documentaries were screened for the audience. The first documentary focused on the life and contributions of Sir C.V. Raman, while the second showcased the historical significance of Nalanda University, one of the world's oldest centers of learning.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks by

Prof. Sumita Rao, HOD Zoology, who expressed gratitude to all participants, organizers, and dignitaries for making the event a success. The seminar was graced with the esteemed presence of faculty members, including Dr. Pankaj Sharma, Prof. Manmohan Singh, Prof. Ritika Mahajan, Dr. Sham Singh, and Dr. Puyesh Kant Sharma, along with students who actively engaged in the discussions and deliberations.

Tara Chand demands early restoration of statehood with all constitutional rights

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

In a statement Working President JKPC and Former Dy. Chief Minister Shri Tara Chand said that all political parties have promised with the people during elections but after coming to power they have not taken any step towards fulfilling their promises and the general public is facing great hardships.

He said that BJP had promised restoration of statehood with constitutional rights of job and land to people of Jammu and Kashmir but now delay tactics are being adopted in granting statehood which is a big betrayal of BJP with the people of J&K for which the BJP leadership in J&K and at the National level should answer. He demanded ownership rights to local people who are cultivating their land since long.

Tara Chand also raised



burning issues of general public and demanded salvation of people's problems by the Govt., especially unemployed youth. He demanded regularization of all daily wagers, need based workers, besides those working in temporary, adhoc, consolidated & contractual basis for several years on meagre wages/salaries, besides taking care of the genuine demands of employees, pensioners, farmers, common people, traders, transporters and all other

sections of the society, who are facing multiple taxes in the prevailing unprecedented price hike and record unemployment.

He said that near about One Lakh posts in various departments of the Govt. are lying vacant and the unemployment rate in Jammu and Kashmir is rising day by day. The Govt. should fill up these vacancies through time bound recruitment drive with preference to locals. He said that

Several youth got over

aged due to mismanagement in the recruitment drive by the negligence of Govt. for the last 10 years, they should be given one time age relaxation in the recruitment drive.

Former Dy Chief Minister demanded enhancement of old age pension, widow pension, handicapped pension, as the prices of all commodities of life have been increased and the people who are depend on pension are facing lot of hardships in their day today life.

He further demanded that 11 Kg. ration per head should be provided to the people as they used to get 10 years ago. There should be no water tax in both urban and rural areas, besides 200 Units free electricity be provided to those who consume 200 units or less electricity per month. Pump sets installed by the Farmers to cultivate their land should be provided electricity on half rate.

Mr. Reuven Azar, Ambassador of Israel, calls on Dr. Devesh Chaturvedi, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

Ambassador of Israel, Mr. Reuven Azar called on Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Dr. Devesh Chaturvedi at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. The meeting served as a platform to explore opportunities for strengthening cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors, with a focus on food security, sustainable supply chains, and innovative agricultural technologies.

Dr. Chaturvedi emphasized the longstanding partnership between India and Israel in agriculture and allied sectors. He also highlighted the Prime Minister's vision for recycling sewage water for agricultural use, as well as key trade and



grain storage issues.

The meeting focused on the upcoming visit of the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security of Israel, the impact of Centers of Excellence (CoEs) across 20 states on productivity, precision irrigation, post-harvest management, and market access issues.

The discussions concluded with a shared commitment to strengthening Indo-Israeli cooperation in agricultural innovation, technologies, and the horticulture sector, emphasizing mutually beneficial outcomes for both nations. The Israeli delegation included Mr. Fares Saeb,

Deputy Chief of Mission. The Indian side was represented by senior officials from the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW), including Joint Secretary (International Cooperation), Joint Secretary (MIDH) and Additional Commissioner (Plant Protection).

Various organizations condole demise of Ch Ghulam Abass and Ghulam Mohd Malik

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

A meeting of IGM held in Jammu other day in which some members of Gurjar Mahasabha participated through video conference. In the meeting Ch. Rashid Azam Inqlabi

vice president IGM inform the members about the untimely and unfortunate demise of Choudhary Ghulam Abass and Ghulam Mohd Malik who belongs to same village of Dodaj, Tehsil Dehral, District Rajouri. Both were recruited in police in same year and both retired as SSP and both left this temporary World on same day. Both were true gem and belongs to Darhal Valley. Their demise has left a void in the hearts of people of Rajouri.

Participants recall the contribution of Choudhary Ghulam Abass and Ghulam Mohd Malik. Their work, dedication to public service has left an indelible mark on the ground and to the community.

Prof. Rashid Choudhary, Eng. Mohd Abdullah (Xen ret), DR. Ab. Ghani, Dr. Shaikat Choudhary, Dr. Javed Choudhary Nodal Officer Govt Medical College Rajouri, Ch Gulam Abass Joint Director Press and Publication Govt of India, Dr. Mushtaq Choudhary, Dr. Saghir Anjum, Ch. Abrar Ahmed SSP, Ch. Shamsheer Hussain SSP, Ch. Sharief Chouan SSP (ret), Ch. Salha Mohd Ex. ZEO and Ch Hassan Parwez great writer of Gojri also condole the untimely



Group Rajouri-ki-Awaz, Gojri Adab, Rajouri, Gojri Sangat, Civil and Police officers of

Rajouri-Poonch, Pensioner Association also paid their rich tributes to the departed souls and prayed to Allah to grant the highest place in Janha.

Many other Social Organizations like Kissan Sudhar Sabha, Daily Wager Association also pay homage to departed souls. Both were laid to rest in native village Doodaj, Rajouri, thousands of people participated in the Namaz-e-Janaza and forbade them with eyes full of tears. All members prayed to God for giving peace to the departed souls and patience to the bereaved family.

demise of both officer. The former Minister and congress district president Shabir Ahmed Khan, Congress Vice President Sain Abdul Rashid, Advocate Ajaz Zaki also paid the homage to the departed soul. Choudhary Ghulam Abass was father of Mr. Surya Jabeen (Senior KAS Officer Retd) and father-in-law of Dr. Nisar and Dr. Javed. The members of all Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Services also paid the homage to the departed souls. The members of Social

BL Santhosh, Tarun Chugh, Sat Sharma address Training Workshop for BJP MLAs

JINNEWS SERVICE
KATRA, FEB 28

BL Santhosh, National General Secretary (organization) along with Tarun Chugh, National General Secretary & Prabhari J&K BJP, Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP, Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition, Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha), Er Ghulam Ali Khatana, MP (Rajya Sabha) inaugurated the Training Workshop for the BJP MLAs at Katra.

Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization),

J&K BJP, and Amit Malviya National IT & Social Media Head BJP were also present in the training workshop, which was attended by all the BJP MLAs.

BL Santhosh laying thrust on the importance of this training workshop said that these drills further strengthens their will to serve their purpose with dedication. He said that various sessions covered in the training sessions will help them to improve their public skills and guide them in maintaining regular contact with the party



activists and the public to achieve their broader purpose of being elected to the House of esteem importance. He asked them to deal pro-actively with the public and their issues. He also asked them

to dedicate themselves to get the public issues resolved, while boosting the party MLAs to ensure 'nation first' in their every approach.

Tarun Chugh discussed the historical perspective

of the socio-political developments and subsequent conditions in Jammu & Kashmir. He threw light on the constant damage to the erstwhile J&K state, which was done by certain political parties under the garb of Article 370. He also threw light on the development changes in J&K, brought after Article 370 was abrogated by the Modi government.

Sat Sharma said that with the relentless public service acts by the dedicated BJP activists, the

party has emerged as the largest political party in the world. In recently held Assembly Elections in J&K, BJP has secured maximum votes, which signifies the high level of trust of people that has been gained by BJP among all sections of society. He asked the BJP MLAs to strongly resonate the voice of people and give logical conclusion to their issues.

Earlier, All MLAs provided their brief introductions in the inaugural session of the 1st Day of 2-Day training workshop.

Four shopping complexes, 2 residential houses gutted in Bandipora

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 28 (UND)

In a devastating fire incident that broke out at Hajin area of North Kashmir's Bandipora district, four shopping complexes and two residential houses were gutted in the inferno.

Several fire tenders were rushed to the spot from the district headquarters including from Hajin, Naidkhai, Ajas and Sumbal areas to douse the leaping flames. No one was injured in the incident, they said and added the cause of fire is being ascertained.

four shopping complexes involved in the fire incident including three double storey consisting of about ten shops of various kinds were severely damaged in the devastating fire. Two nearby residential houses were also gutted in the inferno.

Several fire tenders were rushed to the spot from the district headquarters including from Hajin, Naidkhai, Ajas and Sumbal areas to douse the leaping flames.

No one was injured in the incident, they said and added the cause of fire is being ascertained.

Indian Army strengthens Bond with Ex-Servicemen in Dehri Raylote and Kotli, Rajouri

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI :28 FEB 2025

In a heartfelt initiative to strengthen the bond, fostering secure environment and developing a deeper sense of belongingness between the Indian Army and the Ex-Servicemen (ESM) community, a meeting was held today with the veterans of Upper Galuthi, Upper Dehri Raylote, Lower Galuthi, Lower Dehri Raylote and Kotli-Kalaban villages. A total of 26 ESM with their families attended the said event. The event, organized by the Indian Army, witnessed active participation from several ESMs, demonstrating the mutual respect and commitment between the Army and those who have served the nation.

During the gathering, the Army showcased its unwavering support for the ESM community, emphasizing the importance of their invaluable contributions to the area's security. The event also highlighted the Army's continuous efforts to



address the welfare needs of veterans. As a part of the initiative, the ESMs were provided with on-site medical facilities, ensuring that their health and well-being are given priority.

A dedicated grievance redressal session was also

conducted, where the veterans were able to voice their concerns, which were noted for further follow-up and redressal by Zila Sainik Board (ZSB) and other offices. This meeting stands as a testament to the deep and enduring

relationship between the Indian Army and the Ex-Servicemen, reaffirming the Army's commitment to the welfare of its veterans and the strong support system they provide to those who have dedicated their lives to the nation.

Avalanche at BRO Camp near Mana Village, Uttarakhand



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU :28 FEB 2025

At around 0715 hours on 28 February 2025, a BRO Labour Camp, located between Mana and Badrinath, was struck by an avalanche, burying 57 workers inside eight containers and one shed. The Indian Army's swift response teams, comprising more than 100 personnel's personnel from Ibx Bigade, were immediately mobilised comprising doctors ambulances and plant equipment. By 1150 hours, the teams had located five containers and successfully rescued 10 individuals, all alive. Of the 10 rescued,

four personnel are reported to be in critical condition.

Search operations are ongoing for the remaining three containers, with the aim of rescuing the trapped individuals.

Due to subsequent small-scale avalanches in the area, progress in rescue operations is slow and being carried out with due caution.

Heavy snowfall continues in the region, and GREF is working on clearing the road between Joshimath and Mana. Additional medical resources from Joshimath are being mobilised to Mana to assist with the rescue and medical aid.

Grand Celebration of Mahashivratri at Amriteswar Shiv Mandir, Dharpur Barnara, Bhamla



JINNEWS SERVICE
SUNDERBANI, FEB 28

The sacred festival of Mahashivratri was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm at Amriteswar Shiv Mandir, Dharpur Barnara, Bhamla (Sunderbani). The spiritual aura of the occasion was elevated by the presence of Shri Akhileshananda Giri Ji, Advisor of the temple and a disciple of Swami Satyamitrananda, the revered founder of Bharat Mata Mandir, Haridwar. The deity of this holy place is Baba Gigoshidh Ji Maharaj, and under the dedicated leadership of Shri Satyapal Sharma, President, this Devsthaan has flourished as a remarkable religious site.

The celebration was graced by Deputy Chief Minister Shri Surender Chowdhry, who was the Chief Guest on this auspicious occasion. The temple committee, including Dr. Bharat

Bhushan (General Secretary), Shri Purnan Sharma (Secretary), and Shri Satish Sharma (Media Secretary), played a pivotal role in organizing the event. Shri Satyapal Sharma, recognized as the real builder of this Devsthaan, received generous donations from dignitaries, political leaders, and the general masses, further contributing to the temple's development.

A special highlight of the event was the visit of the Vichar Kranti Manch International (VKMI) team, invited by Shri Satyapal Sharma. The team, led by Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner, actively participated in the celebrations. Dr. Jain composed and presented a heartfelt poem, emphasizing the significance of Mahashivratri and extending a warm welcome to the Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir UT.

Pawan calls on Omar government to prioritize people's needs in J&K budget

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

Pawan Sharma, a senior BJP leader and former state secretary, emphasized that as the Omar Abdullah government prepares to present the Jammu and Kashmir budget on March 3, 2025, it should prioritize the people's needs, ensuring the budget is justified, productive, and prosperous, addressing long-standing

issues such as unemployment, infrastructure development, and social welfare. Sharma noted that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have high hopes from this budget, emphasizing the importance of the government meeting these expectations. We recommend a budget that supports inclusive growth, stimulates economic development, and ensures equal oppor-

tunities for all. According to Sharma, the social sector requires increased funding for healthcare, education, and social welfare programs, as well as targeted efforts to empower women and marginalized groups. Promoting tourism is essential, as it significantly contributes to our state's economy. Therefore, the government should focus on developing new tourist destinations and upgrading

existing infrastructure. Pawan Sharma has stressed the need for the government to provide job opportunities for the youth in Jammu and Kashmir through its budget, a critical step towards alleviating the region's unemployment crisis. Sharma further reiterated that the BJP has always been committed to the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and we will con-

duct a detailed analysis of the budget to ensure it aligns with our goals for a prosperous and developed Jammu and Kashmir. Pawan Sharma appeals to the Omar Abdullah administration to ensure transparency and accountability in budget allocation, thereby empowering the people of Jammu and Kashmir with knowledge of their tax money's utilization.

Sharma stressed the importance of continuing to work towards a budget that benefits all sections of society, with a special focus on the marginalized and underprivileged, and called on the government to engage with all stakeholders, including opposition parties, to craft a budget that genuinely represents the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Indian Army felicitates youth with NSDC Certificates, Tool Kits at Tain, Rajouri

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI : 28 FEB 2025

In a significant step towards empowering local youth with various skills, the Indian Army successfully concluded the Carpentry and Electrician Cadres under Operation Sadbhavana at Tain, district Rajouri. The Indian Army felicitated the Youths of Carpentry and Electrician Cadres, with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) certificates and tool kits to support their future endeavours.

The Carpentry Cadre was conducted at Parat over a period of 07 weeks, while the Electrician Cadre was conducted at Kalal over a period of 06 weeks. These skill development programs were designed to equip participants with modern



techniques and practical knowledge, enhancing their employment prospects and fostering self-reliance. The Participants expressed their gratitude towards the Indian Army for this valuable opportunity, which will enable them to seek meaningful employment or start their own businesses.

The initiative has been widely appreciated by the local population, reinforcing the strong bond between the Indian Army and the communities.

The Indian army officials also interacted with the youth, inspiring them to pursue skill development for better career opportunities. This effort is a testament to the Indian Army's commitment of uplifting lesser privileged regions, addressing local needs and promoting socio-economic development. By investing in skill-based training, Indian Army continues to play a crucial role in shaping a self-sufficient and prosperous future for the youth of the region.

Hari Shiv Mandir Ghat Sanstha members leave to run cleanliness drive in Prayagraj Kumbh

J1 NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, FEB 28

A team of Hari Shiv Mandir Ghat Sanstha has left to run cleanliness drive after Prayagraj Kumbh is over.

A team of 47 members of Hari Shiv Mandir Ghat Sanstha left from Akhnoor town in a government bus.

The government bus was provided by Transport and Sports Minister Satish Sharma.

The members of Hari Shiv Mandir Ghat Sanstha will run cleanliness drive in various ghats in Kumbh. In which UP sanitation workers will assist in cleaning. Raman Sharma Billa, senior member of Hari Shiv Mandir Ghat Sanstha, said that crores of people have put their faith in Prayagraj Kumbh, on which 47 members of Hari Shiv Mandir Ghat from Akhnoor will go to Kumbh and provide their services.

He said that the garbage lying on various ghats will



be cleaned and the members will provide service for 2 weeks.

Kuldeep Sharma Tikoo told that Hari Shiv Mandir Ghat Sanstha has performed last rites of about 50 helpless and poor people for free in the last 6 months in Akhnoor town. Apart from this, from time to time, they also provide ration material and treatment to the poor and helpless people. The members of Hari Shiv Mandir Ghat Sanstha perform last rites of poor and helpless people with chanting of mantras from their own pocket money and do not take money

from anyone including the family members. He told that whenever a poor and helpless dead person is brought to the bank of Chenab river, the members of the Sanstha perform the last rites with full chanting of mantras and in the presence of a Pandit with the money collected from their own pocket money. Now they are leaving with a pledge to clean the Prayagraj Kumbh.

On this occasion, Gurjeet Singh (Mannu), Nitish Abrol, Rahul Dogra, Vivek Sanjay, Ashok Kumar, Tilak Raj, Vijay Kumar, Tinku, Veerchander, Nittu, Gara etc. were present.

SLCA J&K organizes 2-days Training on "Drug De-addiction Management & Treatment" in collaboration with MoSJE, Govt. of India

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

JKSPYM State Level Coordinating Agency J&K organized "Two-days Certificate Training Program on "Drug De-addiction Management & Treatment" on Feb 27th & 28th, 2025 at SLCA Training Hall, Jammu in collaboration with the NISD, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India. Training Program was attended by 25 participants. Resource persons for 2-days Training Program were Dr. Arun Sharma, Dr. Abhishek Chauhan, Ms. Pallavi Singh, Mr. Rohit Abrol, Mrs. Virendar Kaur, Mrs. Rajni Bala and SLCA team.

Program initiated with the inaugural ceremony and Ms. Pal-

lavi Singh introduced JKSPYM and SLCA and the motive of training. Dr. Abhishek Chauhan took the first session on "Basic Drug Education", "SUD Principles and Approaches", "Basic Counselling Skills", "Screening and Assessment" "Introduction and administration of ASSIST tool", "Harm Reduction for people using psychoactive substances".

Two-days training program concluded with the certificate distribution function. Program ended with the vote of thanks to resource persons and all the participants by Ms. Kimi Padhiar, SLCA Official.

Omar Government committed for youth empowerment, economic revival: Sadhotra

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

Mr Ajay Kumar Sadhotra former minister and Additional General Secretary JKNC said in his address, stating that the Central Government has consistently failed to address the concerns of J&K's youth. He pointed out that hollow policies and lack of employment opportunities over the last decade have severely impacted the future of young people in the region.

Ajay Kumar Sadhotra further added that the present government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, is committed to reversing this trend by implementing policies that will generate employment and boost economic growth. He called upon the newly inducted members to work with dedication and spread the party's vision among the masses. He reaffirmed the commitment of party leadership to fighting for the rights of the people and ensuring holistic development in Jammu and Kashmir.

The senior NC leader was speaking during a joining programme held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu. The joining programme was organized under the leadership of Tejinder Pal Singh Aman, Provincial President Jammu Province YNC in which several enthusiastic youth joined the party fold. Speaking on the occa-



sion, Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Province JKNC stressed that the upcoming session is an opportunity for lawmakers to raise pressing public issues, including unemployment, economic distress, plight of farmers, existing industries, etc. He urged all political parties to focus on policy-driven debates for the benefit and wellbeing of the people as the upcoming session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, convening after a period of seven years, holds immense significance for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who have high expectations from their elected representatives.

Rattan Lal Gupta further assured that the National Conference government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, is committed to presenting a people-friendly budget that will directly address the concerns of the youth, unemployed population, farmers, industrial sector, focusing to health and education sectors and would cover all sections of the society as well as business community. He reiterated that the National Conference has always worked

for the welfare of the people and will continue to prioritize their needs.

Welcoming the new entrants, Sardar Tejinder Singh Aman Provincial President Jammu Province YNC urged them to work diligently for strengthening the Party's base at the grassroots level. He highlighted that youth play a crucial role in shaping the future of J&K and must be active participants in the democratic process.

Among those who joined the party fold namely: Ravi Kumar social worker and President of Matador Union Ramnagar, Abdul Razaq Bandy and Irshad Ahmad, Youth leaders of Ramnagar.

Those who were present on the occasion included: Ayub Malik Provincial Secretary Jammu, Jugal Mahajan Treasurer, Th. Yashu Vardhan Singh Additional Spokesperson Jammu, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, S. Gurnam Singh Block President Jammu West, Akash Kharka District President Udhampur Rural YNC, Mohinder Kumar Rana Joint Secretary Central Zone, Jaseen Malik, Nitish Gowsami, Mudit Seth, Sunil Sharma, Uttam Singh and others.

Modi Govt delivers justice to OBCs, ends decades of discrimination by Kashmir-Centric Regimes in J&K: Adv Purnima

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

The submission of the final report by the Jammu and Kashmir Local Bodies Dedicated Backward Classes Commission marks a significant milestone in the Modi Government's unwavering commitment to ensuring justice and empowerment for the marginalized communities. The report, submitted to J&K Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, is expected to provide comprehensive recommendations for the rightful representation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in local governance structures.

This was stated by Adv. Purnima Sharma, BJP Spokesperson J&K and former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, while addressing a press conference at Party Headquarters in Jammu.

The senior BJP leader hailed this development as a historic step towards rectifying decades of discrimination against the OBCs. She asserted that the previous regimes, led by Kashmir-centric parties, deliberately sidelined these communities, depriving them of their rightful representation for over 60 years. "The so-called champions of

democracy in J&K never had the intent to empower the OBCs. Their policies were centered around appeasement and favoritism, leaving the backward classes in perpetual neglect," she remarked.

She emphasized that it was only under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that long-overdue justice is being delivered to the OBCs. The formation of the Commission, headed

by Justice (Retd.) Janak Raj Kotwal, was in line with Supreme Court rulings and aimed at conducting empirical studies, engaging stakeholders, and recommending proportional reservations in urban and

rural local bodies. The extension of the Commission's tenure until February 28, 2025, further reflects the government's commitment to comprehensive assessment and fair representation.

GCW Udhampur organizes awareness program on Jammu and Kashmir Re-Organization Act of 2019

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR FEBRUARY 28

Department of Political Science, Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur, under the aegis of IQAC and under the able guidance of Principal of the college, Dr. Nalini Pathania, organized an awareness program under the theme "Jammu and Kashmir Re-Organization Act of 2019" at college campus here today.

The aim of the programme was to make the students aware about the Jammu and Kashmir Re-Organization Act of 2019. Principal, GCW Udhampur, Dr. Nalini



Pathania was the Chief Guest on the Occasion. In her speech, she suggested the students to be aware of their Political System and follow the Participant Political Culture. The Programme began with the formal welcome address by Dr. Tanveer Ahmad Lone. Resource Person for the Awareness Program was

Dr. Nazim Mohi Ud Din (Political Science) who delivered a special Lecture on "Jammu and Kashmir Re-Organization Act of 2019". He gave a detailed account of provisions related to the Act of 2019 and abrogation of Article 370 of Indian Constitution. He also discussed the reac-

tions and responses of the supporters and opponents of the J & K re-organization Act, 2019.

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

Other members who were present on the occasion were Dr. Swati Dutt, Dr. Mool Raj, Prof. Yash Kumar, Prof. Yash Paul, Dr. Om Prakash, Dr. Singh, Dr. Satesh, Dr. Farhat. The programme was ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. Roohul Amin Malik.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER
POSHAN PROJECT DANSAL, DISTRICT JAMMU
E-Mail Id:-cdpodansal@gmail.com Phone No. 0191-2669163

Notice
Annexure B

Whereas vide this office advertisement notification issued, applications for the post of SAHAYIKAS (Anganwadi Helpers) were invited from the eligible female candidates for various vacant posts in Municipal/ Panchayat wards under the jurisdiction of Poshan Project Dansal.

Whereas after receiving application forms, scrutiny was conducted by the members of the selection committee as per laid down guidelines in the New Human Resource Policy issued vide Govt. order no:-222- JK SWD of 2022 Dated 30.11.2022 and provisional selection list has been framed at annexure A and objection notice at annexure B is now issued.

Now therefore objections are invited with regard to residence/Ward No./date of birth etc from the general public/applicants of the concerned municipal/panchayat wards within 10 days from the date of issuance of this notice failing which no claim shall be entertained and the provisional selection list shall be treated as final without any further notice.

No: CDPO/D/621-625/2024
Dated: 21-02-2025

(Member Secretary)
Child Development Project Officer
Dansal

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER, POSHAN PROJECT DANSAL
Subject :- PROVISIONAL SELECTION LIST FOR POST OF SAHAYIKAS under 4TH PHASE (Anganwadi Helpers) OF POSHAN PROJECT DANSAL JAMMU

S.No	Name of Sahayikas (AWHs)	Parentage/Husband name	Residence	D.O.B	Ward No.	Name of AWC	Aadhar No.
1	Rozy Akhtar	Mohd Imran	Nagoila	10-02-1998	01	Nagoila (Nagoila A)	883388125660
2	Sonia Sharma	Vikas Sharma	Jhajarkotli	30-03-1992	02	Panjal A	786573078395
3	Parveen Qouser	Bashir Ahmed	Byepass	04-08-1993	06	Bye Pass - B	570239771629

DIP/J-10610/24
Date: 28-2-25

Child Development Project Officer
Poshan Project Dansal

Indian Army organizes Educational Visit for Students of GMS at Bomal, Akhnoor

JINNEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR: 28 FEB 2025

The Indian Army, in its continuous efforts to foster awareness and instill a sense of pride among young minds, organized an educational visit for 40 students and four teachers from Government Middle School, Bomal. The initiative aimed to provide the students with a glimpse into India's rich military legacy and cultural heritage.

During the visit, the students had the opportunity to interact with Indian Army personnel, gaining first-hand insights into the life, discipline, and dedication of the Indian Armed Forces. They were also given an overview of the glorious military history,



showcasing the valor and sacrifices of soldiers in safeguarding the nation. Special emphasis was placed on local cultural heritage, where students learned about the traditions, values, and historical significance of various landmarks and events. The visit not only educated the students but also inspired them to develop a spirit of patriotism and service toward the nation.

The teachers accompanying the students expressed their gratitude to the Indian Army for orga-

nizing this enlightening experience. They emphasized that such initiatives play a crucial role in shaping young minds and motivating them to contribute positively to society. The Indian Army remains committed to engaging with the community and fostering a strong bond between the armed forces and citizens. This initiative is part of a broader effort to encourage educational outreach and create awareness about India's military and cultural heritage among the youth.

GCW Udhampur organizes Symposium on Women Empowerment: Challenges and Barriers

JINNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR FEBRUARY 28

Department of Sociology, Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur under the aegis of IQAC organised a Symposium on the theme "Women Empowerment: Challenges and Barriers" in the college campus here today.

The whole programme was conducted under the able guidance of Principal of the College, Prof. (Dr.) Nalini Pathania.



Dr. Nalini Pathania, Principal of the College, in her address stressed on the various issues and challenges that women are facing in the present scenario. The welcome address was delivered by

Dr. Swati Dutt (HOD Sociology) while the vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Nishi Sathia.

Further participants expressed their views on the theme Women Empowerment: Challenges and

Barriers and stressed that in spite of various constitutional safeguards and opportunities, women are still facing problems.

The whole event was organised by Dr. Swati Dutt, Dr. Nishi Sathia and Dr. Ravi Kumar.

The faculty amongst the present were Prof. Mool Raj, Prof. Ravinder Kumar, Prof. Yash Paul, Prof. Sarabjeet Kour Sudan, Prof. Shama Rani, Prof. Pooja Bharti and Prof. Yash Kumar.

Samsung Set to unveil Three Galaxy A Series Smartphones in India Next Week

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

Samsung is gearing up to launch three new Galaxy A series smartphones in India next week. Galaxy A is Samsung's most successful smartphone series in India, with Samsung selling millions of these devices every year.

The new Galaxy A series smartphones will be the successors to Galaxy A35 and Galaxy A55 smartphones launched last year. Designed to meet the evolving needs of young consumers, the Galaxy A series smartphones are likely to feature new design, enhanced durability, and advanced security ensuring a seamless and secure user experience.

Over the years, Samsung has introduced several of its flagship features to the Galaxy A series, helping expand its latest innovations to a wider user base. The launch of the three new Galaxy A series smartphones will likely continue the tradition, giving more choice to Indian consumers.

Post-Budget Webinar on "Agriculture and Rural Prosperity" to be held today

JINNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 28 FEB 2025

Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare is organizing a daylong Post-Budget Webinar on "Agriculture and Rural Prosperity" tomorrow. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will deliver the keynote address, it would be joined by all the Union Ministers. Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan would present his views at 3:30 pm tomorrow. This webinar aims to engage stakeholders in a focused discussion and strategizing the effective implementation of the 2025 Budget announcements. The event, scheduled in the form of a webinar, will address key areas on agriculture growth and rural prosperity, ensuring a collaborative approach to realize the vision outlined in the budget. Besides, the webinar is also to align key stakeholders, including private sector experts, industry representatives, and subject matter specialists, in the implementation of the 2025 Budget for "Agriculture and Rural Prosperity" through structured, sub-theme-focused webinars. The goal is to facilitate dialogue, gather insights, and ensure timely and coordinated actions towards achieving the set goals.

Indian Army conducts Medical Patrol for Gujjar, Bakkarwal at Sial Sui, Rajouri

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 28 FEB 2025

Indian Army extended healthcare services to the remote, parts of Rajouri district by mobile medical patrol in the village of Ched to address medical problems of the locals as well as Gujjar and Bakkarwals in the area. The inhabitants of the area are often cut off from mainstream healthcare facilities due to their isolated geographic location and challenging terrain, benefitted immensely from this initiative which contributed to the overall well-being of the locals who often suffer due to disparities in healthcare leading to higher morbidity and mortality rates. The mobile medical patrol, equipped with essential medical supplies and services, reached these areas



to provide healthcare with compassion for local villagers as well as Gujjar and Bakkarwals.

The primary objective was to provide on-the-spot medical care & check-ups, which included basic health check-ups, treatment of common ailments and distribution of necessary medicines. The team emphasized on preventive healthcare by offering immunizations and disseminating information about hygiene, nutrition and disease prevention. The response from the local population has been

overwhelmingly positive

The local population expressed deep gratitude for the Army's initiative, which brings much-needed medical services directly to their doorsteps with special focus on women healthcare. Beyond the immediate medical benefits, the mobile medical patrol played a crucial role in building and strengthening the relationship between the Indian and the local communities. A total of 37 Male, 07 Female & 08 Children were benefitted by the mobile medical patrol.

Col Mahan demands immediate construction of bridges over Bhini River in Kathua

JINNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, FEB 28

Chairman of the District Development Council (DDC) Kathua, Col Mahan Singh (Retd), has expressed deep concern over the long-pending demand for the construction of a bridge over the eastern tributary of River Bhini at Island Village Beril, under Pallan Panchayat of Billawar block, District Kathua. The absence of a bridge has caused immense hardship to over 1,000 residents of Beril, severely impacting school-going children, patients, women, and elderly citizens.

Highlighting the gravity of the issue, Col Mahan Singh (Retd) pointed out that today, around half a dozen students appearing for their 10th and 11th class examinations in Billawar were unable to reach their exam centers due to sudden flash floods in Bhini River. Despite last-minute efforts by the authorities, including the presence of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) team, the students were left stranded.

A similar distressing situation prevails in Vil-



lage Bakeli of Deotha Panchayat, Bhaggan Block, where the landlocked residents of Bakeli, Kenta, and Deotha have been suffering for decades. Tragically, multiple lives have been lost over the years due to people being washed away in the Bhini River at both these critical locations.

The construction of bridges at Bakeli and Beril was initially proposed under JKPC nearly a decade ago. However, these projects never materialized. With the concerted efforts of the District Development Council Kathua, fresh proposals for these crucial bridges have now been prepared under the NABARD scheme. The estimated cost for each bridge, one at Bakeli (Deotha) and another at Beril (Pallan),

both falling in Billawar Sub-District, stands at approximately Rs. 15 crores each. Unfortunately, the execution of these projects remains stalled due to the non-release of funds by the government.

Col Mahan Singh (Retd) has fervently urged the Union Territory Government to accord top priority to these long-overdue projects in the larger public interest. The construction of these bridges is not just an infrastructural necessity but a matter of survival and connectivity for thousands of residents in these isolated island villages. Immediate allocation of funds and commencement of work is imperative to prevent further hardships and potential loss of lives, he added.

Sahitya Akademy, New Delhi & JKCA jointly organize Dogri Programme "Sahitya Manch"

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

Today, the Sahitya Akademi New Delhi in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Cultural Academy Jammu organized a literary event "Sahitya Manch", in which four legendary poets of Dogri presented their poems and graced the event. At the outset, Padmashree Mohan Singh, Dogri Convener of Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, addressed the audience and lauded the Sahitya Akademi for its promotion of all Indian languages recognized by the Sahitya Akademi and also revealed the schemes being run by it. Dogri language is also one of these languages. "Sahitya Manch" is an event where veteran poets are given a platform to express their views and share their writing with the audience. Four poets of Dogri were invited to



recite their poetry in the above-mentioned "Sahitya Manch". Among the invited poets Shri Om Goswami, Shri Om Vidyarthi, Shri Mangal Das Dogra and Shri T.R. Magotra presented their poems.

At the end of the programme, the Secretary of J&K Cultural Academy, Jammu, Hon'ble Smt. Harbinder Kaur (JKAS) welcomed the participants and appreciated the poems read by them and

expressed her commitment to collaborate with Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Mrs. Rita Khadaya, Chief Editor of Dogri at the Cultural Academy.

Despite inclement weather and incessant rains, eminent poets, eminent writers and lovers of literature from Duggar Pradesh also participated in the programme and made the "Sahitya Manch" programme a success

Jammu Police, SDRF team rescue dumper driver trapped in flash flood in River Tawi

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

Police and State Disaster Rescue Force (SDRF) team in a joint operation early morning on Friday rescued a dumper driver trapped in River Tawi due to flash flood in Phallianmandal area here in the city outskirts.

Police said that at about 5:40 am, information was received at Police Station Satwari that one dumper driver was trapped in Niki Tawi area near crusher as the dumper was submerged in water due to sudden flash flood in the water body.

"The driver was struggling for his life while standing in cabin roof of the submerged dumper," said police.

"Acting swiftly on receiving the information, rescue operation was launched in assistance with SDRF team and Jammu South police," they added.

They said that "The team successfully rescued the person from the river bed and was given immediate first aid," said police.

Rescued person was identified as Mohan Lal, resident of Om Nagar, Gole Gujral.

The 'Operation Rudder' was supervised by SSP Jammu Joginder Singh.

J&K Police crack multiple sheep theft cases, 3 rustlers held in Shopian

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, FEB 28

Police have successfully cracked multiple sheep theft cases by arresting a gang of three rustlers in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district, officials said.

Police on Friday said, the residents of Heegund Batpora, Ayend Rawalpora and Ramnagri had reported theft incidents involving dozens of stolen sheep causing panic in the area.

Consequently, FIR No. 03/2025 at Police Station Heerpora and FIR Nos. 21/2025, 23/2025, and 31/2025 at Police station Shopian were registered and investigations were initiated.

To expedite the investigation and recover the stolen livestock, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted by the police and a team interrogated multiple suspects besides analyzing CCTV footage from various routes.

During the investigation, police eventually identify and apprehend the culprits besides making recovery of dozens of stolen sheep.

The arrested individuals are identified as Tariq Ahmad Dar a resident of Raiwatan Aasnoor, Kulgam, Nissar Ahmad Malla, of Wazir Check, Imam Sahib, Shopian and Abdul Rehman Mir of Sarmarg Kandimarg, Kulgam.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to their involvement in multiple theft incidents, not only in Shopian but also in Bijbehara (Anantnag) and Kakapora (Pulwama).

Rao appeals for completion of long pending leftover work on road projects, natural tourist spots of Bhadarwah AC

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEB 28

Mr. Kuldeep Kumar Rao, a social & political activist in a press statement issued here has expressed great shock & anguish over the neglect of LAMBI-JAI, of Bhadarwah Constituency in District Doda, a most mesmerizing natural scenic spot which, if exploited, can become a most attractive spot for the Tourists. Mr. Rao said that in "JAI Valley", some huts have been constructed by the Government Agency within a radius of around 100 sq. mts leaving/ ignored a vast adjoining area of LAMBI-JAI having potential of so many scenic tourists' structures/ huts and a beautiful lake within an area of more than 2 kms. Mr. Rao has urged upon the Lt. Governor- Sh. Manoj Sinha, CM, J&K-UT, Sh. Omar Abdullah, Dr. Jatinder Singh, MP, Kathua- Udhampur-Doda & MLA Bhadarwah, Sh. Daleep Singh Parihar to look into the matter personally and deeply & direct the concerned to visit on spot and make a detailed Project Report-DPR for the development of the LAMBI-JAI, having a great potential of vast lake having source of natural stream & its surrounding spots so that tourists flow is ensured & development of the area ushers in giving fillip to the economic conditions of the nearby villagers. He also urged the



Bhadarwah Development authority for maintenance of tourist spots Khellani top & Gatha Park, of Bhadarwah Constituency in District Doda.

Rao has also appealed to the Lt. Governor of J&K UT, Sh. Manoj Sinha ,CM, J&K-UT, Sh. Omar Abdullah ji, Dr. Jatinder Singh, concerned MP & MLA Bhadarwah, Sh. Daleep Singh Parihar & Sh. Mehraj Malik, MLA, Doda to look deep into the left over work on the road projects of the area and issue directions to the concerned to take immediate necessary steps to complete the below mentioned very small projects, on priority bases, so that a population of about 5 Tehsils, comprises of Tehsils, Kahara, Thathri, Phaqsoo, Bhella & Chirala , is benefited giving an end to the age-old hardships to the people besides the area also comes on tourism maps, again benefiting the whole population of all these Tehsils. He further said that for achieving full advantage of the Tourism development schemes in

erstwhile Doda District and for ensuring greater opportunities of employment, the left-over work on some roads needs to be completed on priority. He said that Kahara Jai road, which is complete up to Joura Kalan, needs to be completed from Joura to Jai (10 kms length). It will not only provide employment to the poor people of the area but also boost tourism. It is one of the links in the circuit network. The 19 Kms sanctioned Thathri- Chirra road project is complete from its initial point Jangalwar Nallah to Chirra (length 14 Kms) & the remaining 5 Kms from Chirra to Gallu Top be kindly constructed immediately. Further, if Gallu Top is linked to Joura (2kms only) on Kahara-Jai road, 90% link between tourist places will be achieved. Still further, if Joura Khurd (road already complete) is linked to Chirala- Panshaee road by only a 5 kms stretch, the circuit of roads will be complete. It will greatly boost tourism and also provide employment to thousands of unemployed people. He said that two of the above mentioned Joura to Jai and Chira to Gallu Top (sanctioned projects) be kindly taken up immediately on priority. Kahara-Jai road is perhaps the longest pending project in erstwhile Doda District & this fact should be given due consideration.

Training workshop on Snakebite Envenoming Prevention concludes at Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28

District Health Society (DHS) Jammu under the supportive supervision of Chief Medical Officer Jammu (Vice-Chairman) Dr. Harbaksh Singh today concluded two day training session for Medical Officers and paramedical staff on National Snakebite Envenoming Prevention & Control Programme (SBPC).

District Jammu is the first District in UT of J&K to organize the Training of Medical Officers and paramedical staff on Snakebite Envenoming Management and Prevention and Control.

The training focused on reducing deaths and disabilities due to Snake Bite before 2030. It consisted of technical ses-



sions, case studies, and hands-on exercises to enhance skills of the Medical Officers & paramedical staff in disease surveillance and management.

Resource Persons were Dr. Shehnaz Choudhary (Medical Officer Epidemiology) and Dr. Isha Kohli (District Program Manager, NHM and District Nodal Officer SBPC).

CMO Dr. Harbaksh

Singh highlighted the role of Peripheral Health staff in timely management of Snake bite cases to prevent the occurrence of deaths and reduce disability. He stressed that timely management of Snake Bites can prevent death & disability. He also emphasised that a strong inter-sectoral approach is essential in Snake Bite Envenoming Manage-

ment. He also discussed the ground level challenges faced by Health workers in implementation of this programme.

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

CS accords farewell to Syed Shafi; hails his 37 years of dedicated service



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today accorded an affectionate farewell to Syed Mohammad Shafi, the longest serving employee of Chief Secretary Office.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary lauded Shafi's unwavering dedication, calling him an upright official known for his punctuality and ever smiling demeanour. He remarked that officials

like Shafi leave a lasting impression and are fondly remembered by other colleagues. He extended his best wishes for Shafi's health, happiness, and success post retirement life.

Several officers and colleagues also expressed their appreciation for Shafi's long and distinguished service.

Among those who spoke and conveyed their best wishes to the retiree were Special Secretary in CS Office, K.S. Chib, Deputy

Secretary, Rakesh Sharma, Under Secretaries, Mohit Raina, Saba Noor, Gaurav Gupta and other staff members from the Chief Secretary's personal section.

The farewell gathering was marked by gratitude and fond memories, reflecting the deep respect and affection Shafi has earned over the years. His other colleagues also reminisced about the affectionate moments they had spent together.

DC Kupwara reviews arrangements for holy month Ramadan

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 28

In view of the upcoming holy month of Ramadan, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan chaired a meeting of concerned officers to review and finalize necessary arrangements for the people during the holy month of Ramadan.

The DC directed all concerned departments to ensure the availability of essential services, including uninterrupted power and water supply, sanitation and market regulation. The KPDCI was instructed to provide uninterrupted electricity, particularly during Sehri and Iftar hours, while the Jal Shakti department was asked to ensure adequate water supply.

Sakeena Itoo reviews preparations for International Women's Day celebration across J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today emphasized the importance of recognizing and celebrating the contributions of womenfolk in various fields across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister made these remarks while chairing a meeting held at the Civil Secretariat here to review the preparations for forthcoming International Women's Day being held on 8th March.

Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sanjeev Verma; Commissioner Secretary, Culture department, K Ramesh Kumar; Director Social Welfare Kashmir, Mohammad Akbar Wani; Director Social Welfare Jammu, Rupesh Kumar;



Director School Education Jammu; Director Colleges J&K; Director Health Services Jammu, Director Health Services Kashmir; Mission Directors of ICDS, ICPS and Mission Shakti besides other concerned officers attended the meeting, either in person or virtually.

The Minister stressed on the need to highlight contributions of women in various fields for awareness of common masses,

particularly the female fraternity. "We must not only acknowledge the incredible contributions of women in every field but also ensure they have opportunities and support to excel further in their goals and dreams" Sakeena maintained.

She asked the officers to promote initiatives that empower women folk and create awareness among them about various initiatives of the government

for their empowerment. "Every woman should know about the schemes and support systems available to them to help her achieve her ambitions and purposes of life", Sakeena stated.

The Minister called upon the social welfare, education and health departments to work in coordination and organize this day collectively. She asked them to organize awareness programs

and felicitations of women achievers in their respective districts. She also asked them to constitute teams in their respective districts for better coordination and smooth conduct of the programme.

While speaking on the significance of Women's Day, Sakeena reiterated the government for gender equality and called for collective efforts to create a more inclusive society. She encouraged participation from all sections of society to celebrate the strength and resilience of women.

During the meeting, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare informed the Minister about the preparations being put in place by the department for the International Women's Day scheduled to be held on 8th March across Jammu and Kashmir.

MLA Anantnag West lays foundation stone for Bridge over Nallah Sandran at Damjan

J1 NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, FEBRUARY 28

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Anantnag West, Advocate Abdul Majeed Bhat today laid the foundation stone for a new 3x30-meter, two-lane truss girder bridge over Nallah Sandran at Damjan, Anantnag in order to boost local connectivity.

Chief Engineer R&B South Kashmir, SE R&B South Kashmir, officers and officials from various departments and local residents were present on the occasion.

Highlighting the significance of the project for the region, the MLA stated that the new bridge, once completed, will provide much-needed relief to the local population by improving transportation access, easing traffic congestion, and reducing



travel time.

He added that the project is part of the government's ongoing efforts to strengthen the region's infrastructure and ensure better connectivity for remote areas to key urban centers. The bridge will serve as a vital link, particularly during inclement weather, providing an all-weather route for people and goods.

The bridge will bring economic benefits, boost local trade and make commuting easier for everyone, he further said.

The bridge, expected to be completed in two years, is funded under NABARD, with an esti-

mated cost of RS.1063.04 lakh. It will be designed to withstand harsh weather conditions and accommodate the region's growing traffic needs.

Residents of the area expressed enthusiasm for the new project, noting that it will not only improve transportation but also contribute to the socio-economic development of the region.

The bridge is expected to benefit a large number of households, particularly those in the more remote areas of Anantnag West, by providing safer and quicker access to medical, educational, and commercial facilities.

Legal awareness program held for children held at Ganderbal

J1 NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL, FEBRUARY 28

Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC), Ganderbal, under the aegis of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal, organized a legal awareness program for children at Town Hall Ganderbal, today.

The event was conducted in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department Ganderbal, Child Welfare Committee Ganderbal and the District Child Protection Office Ganderbal.

The program, held under the supervision of Abdul Nasir, Chairman DLSA Ganderbal aimed to educate children, including those with disabilities, transgender children, and children rescued from trafficking, child marriage, child abuse, and denial of education, about their legal rights and protections.

The initiative also sought to promote social inclusion among vulnerable children affected by sexual abuse, trafficking, HIV/AIDS, child marriage, and other forms of exploitation. On the occasion,



Shubana, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Ganderbal, emphasized that the primary objective of the program is to raise awareness among the general public, particularly children, about their rights and protections. She underscored the importance of educating children about the mechanisms for their protection from abuse and exploitation.

She provided valuable insights on how to identify and report cases of child abuse, emphasizing the critical role of the community in preventing and responding to child

abuse. She also highlighted the procedures for reporting suspected cases of child abuse and the support services available to victims.

Advocate Sajid Irfan, Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsel (Member, LSUC) Ganderbal, delivered an informative session on the various laws related to children. He comprehensively highlighted the rights of children in protecting and promoting their welfare.

He also threw light on key legislation, including the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, the Pro-

tection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and the Right to Education Act, 2009. He explained the provisions and safeguards enshrined in these laws, which aim to ensure the care, protection, and development of children.

Advocate Burjeena Hamid, Member, Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC) Ganderbal, delivered a comprehensive presentation on child rights and child abuse.

Shahbaz Hamid, from District Child Protection Officer (DCPU), Ganderbal, highlighted the crucial role of the Child Help Line in providing assistance to children in need of care and protection.

The program was attended by members of Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC) Ganderbal, officials of Social Welfare Department, Ganderbal, Child Welfare Committee, Ganderbal, District Child Protection Office, Ganderbal, PAALASH Kangan, PAREESHA Ganderbal and children from PAALASH Kangan, PAREESHA Ganderbal and other participants.

GCW Parade hosts guest lecture to mark National Science Day



J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28

The Science Club of Government College for Women Parade Ground today celebrated the National Science Day by organizing a guest Lecture and Seminar themed 'Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science and Technology for Viksit Bharat.'

The lecture was delivered by Deputy Secretary JKSSB Pooja Rasgotra, while students across all major streams competed in Seminar. The event commenced with the welcome address by Associate Professor of Chemistry and Convener, Science Club Prof. Anjali Abrol.

The Principal enlightened the students about the indispensability of sci-

ence and technology in the present world scenario. He also praised the Science Club for celebrating the National Science Day successfully.

The resource person, Pooja Rasgotra presented her views on the significance of science in the establishment of a student's career in any field. She shared her journey towards clearing the JKAS examination with Science subjects and encouraged the students to take science as major subjects.

The seminar was judged by Dr Ritu Magotra, Head of English Department and Pooja Rasgotra, the resource person of the event. The trophies were presented to the winners in the valedictory segment of the event.

The event was also

attended by Dr Surinder Singh Parihar (Convener IQAC), Dr. Shally Chadha (Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry), Dr Rajesh Kant (Head, Department of Chemistry), Dr Sarita Parihar (Assistant Professor, Department of Physics), Dr Manjulla Gupta (Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry), Dr Sushma Gupta (Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology) and Dr Atiya Syed (Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry).

Dr Neha Gupta (Assistant Professor, Department of Environment Sciences) presented the vote of thanks.

GDC Vijaypur organises awareness campaign on 3 New Criminal Laws

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SAMBA, FEBRUARY 28

Department of Political Science, Government Degree College Vijaypur on Friday organised an awareness campaign on three new Criminal Laws here on College Campus.

The program started with the welcome address and introduction to Resource Person Rakesh Singh by Dr Anjana Raina.

In his lecture, the Resource Person elucidated that India has recently implemented new criminal laws: "Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita" (BNS), "Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita" (BNSS), and "Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam" (BSA), which would effectively replace the old colonial era codes: The Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and Indian Evidence Act respectively. He also highlighted the key points to remember about these new laws.

The Programme was conducted under the guidance and overall supervision of the College Principal Prof Dr. Vandana Gupta. The program ended with a vote of thanks by Dr Sandeepa Kotwal