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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:

- Severe and continuous headache
- Diarrhea
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Two Minor Girls Found Dead In Samba

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 2

Two minor girls were found dead in a trench filled with rain water in Samba district, while a nine-year-old boy died in an accident here on Sunday, officials said.

The bodies of Asiya (10) and Tahira (9) were recovered from the ditch at Lower Birpur in Bari Brahmana area of Samba, they said.

The officials said the girls, belonging to nomadic families from south Kashmir's Anantnag district, were grazing their animals when they were reported missing on Saturday evening.

However, the girls remained untraced despite a search and finally their bodies were retrieved from the ditch, they said, adding preliminary investigation suggested that the girls might have accidentally fallen into the water body and died due to drowning.

The exact cause of their death would be known only after post-mortem, the officials said.

In another incident, the officials said that Pranev Sharma (9) died in a collision between a scooter and an army crane at Patyari in Bishnah area on the outskirts of Jammu.

The boy was on the two-wheeler driven by his father, they said and added that he died on-the-spot, while his father sustained injuries and was hospitalized. (AGENCIES)

Duplication of voter card numbers does not indicate fake voters: EC

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 2

Amid reports flagging issuance of identical voter card numbers to electors in two different states, the Election Commission on Sunday said duplicate numbers do not necessarily imply fake voters.

It also said that while elector photo identity card (EPIC) numbers of some of the voters "may be identical", the other details including demographic details, assembly constituency and polling booth are different.

"Irrespective of the EPIC number, any elector can cast a vote only at their designated polling station in their respective constituency in their state or union territory where they are enrolled in the electoral roll and nowhere else," the poll panel said.

It explained that identical EPIC numbers or series were allotted to some electors from different states and union territories due to a "decentralised and manual mechanism" being followed prior to shifting of the electoral roll database of all states to the ERONET platform.

This resulted in certain state chief electoral officers using the same EPIC alphanumeric series and leaving a scope for the possibility of duplicate EPIC numbers being allotted to electors in different assembly constituencies in different states, the poll body said.

According to the EC website, ERONET helps election officials maintain the electoral system "by removing duplicate entries and inclusion of migrated electors".

"To allay any apprehensions, the commission has decided to ensure

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CM Omar chairs meeting of coalition partners ahead of budget session in Jammu

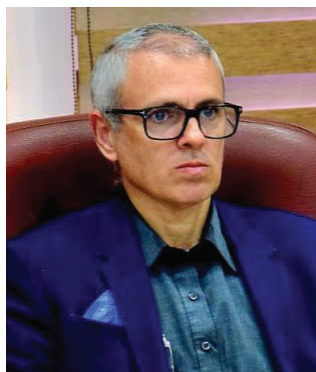
JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 2

A day ahead of the first budget session of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly in seven years, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday chaired a joint meeting of coalition parties here to discuss smooth functioning of the house.

The meeting, attended by Congress legislative party leader G A Mir and CPI(M) MLA M Y Tarigami, took place shortly after Abdullah presided over a separate legislature party meeting of the National Conference at his official residence here.

The Congress legislature party also met separately at Residency Road party headquarters before Mir joined the meeting convened by Abdullah.

"It is a tradition for both the



ruling and the opposition parties to convene their legislature party meetings before the start of the assembly session to discuss the issues needed to be raised in the house," Mir told reporters at the party headquarters after the meeting.

The Congress leader said he is joining the joint legislature party meeting of the ruling coalition.

"Only four-and-a-half

months have passed since the formation of the (NC-led) government but many people are questioning the government that it has not done this or that. They should remember that when the government was formed (on October 16), the budget had already been decided and it was also a big hurdle in the way," he said.

Mir hoped that the budget being presented by the government will address the popular public issues and will also lay the foundation for the implementation of the manifesto during the financial year 2025-26.

He said the government has already passed a resolution for restoration of statehood in the last session held in Srinagar and so the delay is from the BJP-led central government which has made

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Modi govt unsparing in punishing drug traffickers: Amit Shah

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 2

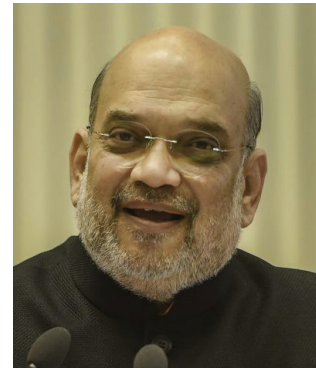
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the Modi government is unsparing in punishing drug traffickers who drag the youth into the dark abyss of addiction for the greed of money.

In a post on X, Shah said under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government pledges to continue combating the drug menace with ruthless and meticulous investigations to build a "drug-free Bharat".

He said, as a result of a foolproof investigation with a "bottom to top" and "top to bottom" strategy, 29 drug traffickers have been convicted by courts in 12 different cases across India.

This success is a testament to the "bottom to top" and "top to bottom" approach adopted by the government, an official release said.

In pursuit of Modi government's zero-tolerance policy



against drugs, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has achieved this significant success, it said.

The details of 12 cases include the seizure of 23.859 kg of charas at the Sabarmati Railway Station in Gujarat's Ahmedabad in 2019, where three people were arrested and sentenced to 14 years in jail.

In July 2022, the NCB in Madhya Pradesh's Mandasaur intercepted two vehicles in Shahdol and seized 123.080 kg of ganja. Four people were arrested in the case and sen-

tenced to 12 years rigorous of imprisonment with a fine of Rs 2 lakh each.

In the Chandigarh Zone last year, a parcel containing two hockey sticks packed with 438 grams of opium was intercepted at DHL Express, Ludhiana, by the officers of the NCB.

Two arrested accused in the case were sentenced to three years of imprisonment by a Punjab court for their role in attempting to transport the opium to Canada.

In another case, the NCB arrested one person at the Chandigarh Railway Station in 2021 for possession of 390 grams of charas.

The accused was formally arrested, and upon completion of the investigation, a special court sentenced him to six months in jail.

In June, 2021, the NCB intercepted a Zimbabwean woman on her arrival at the Cochin International Airport. The examination of her luggage led to the recovery and seizure

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Month-day long J&K Budget Session to begin with LG address today

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 2

The month-long budget session of Omar Abdullah headed Jammu and Kashmir government will begin tomorrow with ceremonial address of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in the Assembly Complex here at the Civil Secretariat.

This will be the first budget of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah led National Conference government after assuming power in October last year.

"All arrangements are in place ahead of the commencement of the budget session from March 3," said an official.

He said that the Assembly Complex is set to welcome the legislators after a gap of around seven years.

The last budget session



had taken place during the PDP-BJP government in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir in 2018.

Meanwhile the National Conference and the Congress Party also convened Legislature Party meetings here to hold deliberations with party legislators. Issues of people's welfare, development, bill

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Bodies of three more missing workers recovered from avalanche site, search goes on for another

AGENCIES
DEHRADUN, MAR 2

The bodies of three labourers were pulled out from the avalanche-hit Border Roads Organisation (BRO) camp in Chamoli on Sunday, bringing the death toll to seven, while efforts were on to rescue another missing worker on the third day of the operation.

Army doctors said 46 workers who were earlier rescued have been brought to the military hospital in Jyotirmath while one with a spinal cord injury was airlifted to AIIMS, Rishikesh. Three of the workers are in critical condition, Lt Col DS Malhaya said.

Helicopters, sniffer dogs and thermal imaging technology were being used to expedite the rescue operation due



to apprehensions about possible inclement weather on Monday, officials said.

Three bodies of the missing labourers were found on Sunday, district administration officials said in Gopeshwar. With this, the number of workers who lost their lives in the Mana avalanche has mounted

to seven. One person is still missing for whom the search is in progress, they said.

The bodies have been brought to Jyotirmath by helicopter where the post-mortem was being done at the Community Health Centre. The deceased include Anil

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Rusted anti-tank mine found in Samba

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JAMMU, MAR 2

A rusted anti-tank mine was found and subsequently destroyed in a controlled explosion by the bomb disposal squad in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Sunday.

The mine was noticed by a villager during cremation of a person at village Kamore near border out post Tanwar on Saturday.

Police summoned the bomb disposal squad and the mine was safely destroyed in a controlled explosion.

Gangster held, three sophisticated weapons recovered: Punjab Police

AGENCIES
CHANDIGARH, MAR 2

Punjab police on Sunday said it has arrested a gangster and recovered three sophisticated weapons, which were sourced from across the border, from his possession.

The accused was identified as Hardeep Singh, a resident of Ferozepur.

"In an intelligence-based operation, Counter Intelligence #Ferozepur apprehends smuggler-cum-gangster Hardeep Singh @ Deepa of village Ghall Khurd, Ferozepur, and recovers 3 sophisticated weapons arsenal and narcotics," Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said in a post on X.

"Recovery: 3 Pistols (One Glock pistol, One Beretta .30 MM pistol, One pump action gun), 141 assorted cartridges (9MM, .30 caliber, 12 bore), 45 grams heroin, and a car," he said.

Preliminary investigation reveals the weapons were sourced from across the border for terror and criminal activities, the DGP said.

A case has been registered in Fazilka, police said, adding further investigation is underway.

MeT predicts widespread light to moderate rain, snow over J&K during next 48 hrs

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 2

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has predicted isolated to widespread light to moderate rain and snow over Jammu and Kashmir during the next 48 hours, officials said.

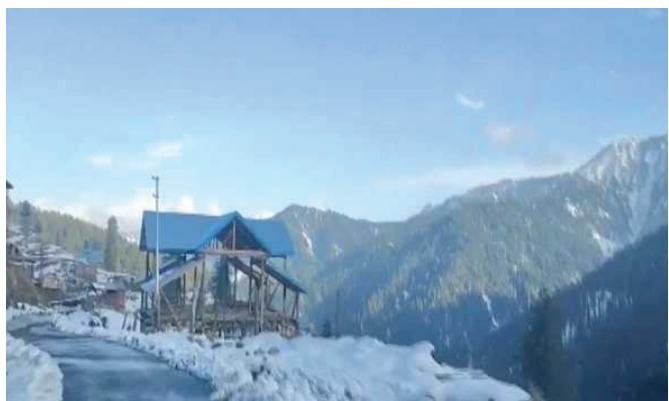
The MeT office said the weather will generally remain cloudy with the possibility of light rain and snow at isolated places on Sunday.

"There is a possibility of light to moderate rain/snow at most places, while a few higher reaches of North and Central Kashmir may receive moderate to heavy snowfall on March 3," the MeT office said.

The weather will generally remain dry from March 4 to March 9.

Another spell of rain and snow is possible from March 10 to 12, it said.

It has also issued an advisory urging tourists/travellers/



transporters to follow admin/traffic advisories during the period.

Farmers are advised to suspend irrigation and other farm operations till March 4.

There is also the possibility of landslides/rockfall/shooting stones at vulnerable places, the MeT office said, urging people to avoid sloppy slopes and avalanche-prone areas and follow DGRE's avalanche warning/bulletin.

The day temperature has slightly increased by 5 to 8°C in many parts of Jammu and Kashmir during the past 24 hours.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded 12.0°C on Saturday, and this was normal for this period of the season, while Kulkernag recorded 10.2°C, the highest among other weather stations in the valley.

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Two associates of USA-based gang arrested in Jalandhar for killing J&K Police SI



AGENCIES
JALANDHAR, MAR 2

Jalandhar commissionerate police have arrested two associates of a USA-based gang who were wanted in connection with the killing of Jammu and Kashmir (J-K) police Sub-Inspector Deepak Sharma on April 2, 2024, a top police officer said.

SI Deepak Sharma suffered head injuries during an exchange of fire between police and gangsters in J-K's Kathua in April 2024. He later

succumbed to his injuries during treatment at the Government Medical College.

In a major breakthrough, Jalandhar Commissionerate Police apprehends 2 associates (Sukhwinder @ Sukha and Harpreet) of #USA based Sonu Khatri Gang after a long chase and cross-firing and recovers 2 sophisticated weapons

Punjab Director General of Police (DGP), Gaurav Yadav, said that the accused duo were arrested after a long chase and cross-firing.

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Obesity and Cardiac Ailments -A Silent but Deadly Connection: Dr Sushil

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 2

With the impending pandemic of obesity and cardiac ailments Head department of Cardiology GMCH Jammu Dr Sushil Sharma held a day long cardiac awareness cum health Check up Camp at Hari Mandir, Rehari Colony Jammu where people from all walks of life were educated to follow cardiac friendly lifestyle and adopt environmental friendly approach to decrease the morbidity and mortality and improve quality of life.

While interacting with the people Dr Sushil stated that in today's fast-paced world, lifestyle diseases have become a growing concern, with obesity emerging as a major health issue. Obesity is not just a matter of appearance; it is a serious medical condition that significantly increases the risk of various diseases, particularly cardiac ailments. The link between obesity and heart disease is well-established, with excess body fat contributing to high blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol imbalances, all of which can lead to severe cardiovascular complication. Obesity is defined as an excessive accumulation of body fat, typically measured by the Body Mass Index (BMI). A BMI



of 30 or above is considered obese. The primary causes of obesity include poor dietary habits, a sedentary lifestyle, genetic factors, hormonal imbalances, and environmental influences. Excessive consumption of processed foods, sugary beverages, and unhealthy fats, coupled with a lack of physical activity, leads to weight gain and ultimately obesity. New studies reveals that People with pockets of fat hidden inside their muscles are at a higher risk of dying or being hospitalized from a heart attack or heart failure, regardless of their body mass index.

He elaborated that Obesity is a significant risk factor for cardiovascular diseases, as it affects the heart in multiple ways, Hypertension (High Blood Pressure): Excess fat tissue requires more blood supply, increasing the heart's workload and

leading to high blood pressure. Over time, this can damage the arteries and increase the risk of heart attacks and strokes. Obesity often leads to Type 2 diabetes, a condition that affects the body's ability to regulate blood sugar levels. High blood sugar damages blood vessels and the heart, significantly raising the risk of cardiovascular disease. Obesity is associated with high levels of bad cholesterol (LDL) and low levels of good cholesterol (HDL). This imbalance contributes to the formation of fatty deposits in the arteries (atherosclerosis), restricting blood flow and increasing the risk of heart attack.

He added that Preventing obesity and its associated cardiac ailments requires a commitment to a healthier lifestyle. Some essential steps include Balanced Diet: Eating a nutri-

ent-rich diet with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins while reducing processed and high-fat foods. Regular Exercise: Engaging in at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity daily, such as walking, jogging, swimming, or cycling. Weight Management: Maintaining a healthy weight through portion control and mindful eating. Regular monitoring of blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and blood sugar to detect early signs of heart disease. Practicing relaxation techniques like meditation and yoga to reduce stress, which can contribute to unhealthy eating habits and heart problem, He Said

In his concluding remarks while addressing gathering Dr Sushil Sharma told that Obesity and cardiac ailments are deeply intertwined, with obesity acting as a catalyst

for various heart-related complications. Addressing obesity through a healthy lifestyle, proper diet, and regular exercise is crucial to reducing the risk of heart disease. By making informed choices, individuals can protect their hearts and improve their overall well-being, ensuring a longer and healthier life.

Management Committee of the Hari Mandir Ashwani Suri (President), Anu Bali (Former Corporation), Sanjay Bali, Saudaghar Gupta, Anil Gupta, Bhupinder Bhasin, Anil Chadda, Vijay Suri, Hans Raj Gupta and Kishore Sharma appreciated the efforts of Dr Sushil and his team for conducting cardiac awareness cum health check up camp in their premises. Arvind Gupta (MLA Jammu West) and Dr Jitendra Udhamपुरi (Padma Shri) also graced the occasion.

Others who were part of this camp includes Dr Yashwant Sharma, Dr Nipun kalsotra and Dr Abhinav Choudhary. Paramedics and Volunteers include Raghav Rajput, Ranjeet Singh, Mukesh kumar, ParamVeer Singh, Jatin Bhasin, Amnisha Dutta, Amish Jammwal, Rahul Vaid, Rohit Nayyar, Rajinder Singh, Gourav Sharma, Vikas kumar, Maninder Singh, Makhan Sharma, Himanshu Vaid and Shubham Sharma.

Rekha Mahajan meets chairperson National Commission for Women

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAR 2

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Rekha Mahajan recently met with Vijaya Rahatkar, a prominent politician and chairperson of the National Commission for Women in Delhi. This meeting was a significant step forward in promoting women's empowerment, especially in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

Rekha Mahajan and Vijaya Rahatkar engaged in a fruitful discussion on various issues related to women's empowerment, with a focus on J&K. They emphasized the importance of creating opportunities, enhancing skills, and ensuring safety and equality for women in every sphere of life. Vijaya Rahatkar, who has always worked towards empowering women, assured Rekha Mahajan that she would visit Jammu in the near future to further promote women's empowerment in the region.

Vijaya Rahatkar's commitment to women's rights and justice is unwavering. As the National Secretary of the BJP and former National President of the BJP Mahila Morcha (Women Wing of BJP), she has been instrumental in promoting women's



empowerment and ensuring justice for victims of gender-based violence. Her experience as the former chairperson of the Maharashtra State Commission for Women has also equipped her with the knowledge and expertise to address the unique challenges faced by women in different regions.

The meeting between Rekha Mahajan and Vijaya Rahatkar is a testament to the BJP's commitment to women's empowerment. The party has been at the forefront of promoting women's rights and ensuring their participation in the political process. The Shakti Vandan Abhiyan, launched by the BJP, aims to empower women and recognize their contribu-

tions to society. The assurance by Vijaya Rahatkar to visit Jammu in the near future is a significant step forward in promoting women's empowerment in the region. Her visit is expected to boost the morale of women in J&K and provide them with a platform to voice their concerns and aspirations.

In conclusion, the meeting between Rekha Mahajan and Vijaya Rahatkar is a significant step forward in promoting women's empowerment in J&K. The BJP's commitment to women's rights and empowerment is unwavering, and the party will continue to work towards creating a society that is inclusive and progressive.

Rehearsal: Natrang's Satirical Play Highlights Chaos in Theatre without Discipline and Commitment

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 2

Natrang featured 'Rehearsal', a play in Hindi written by Lakshmi Kant Vaishnav and directed by Neeraj Kant here today at Natrang Studio Theatre Kachi Chawni in its weekly Theatre Series, Sunday Theatre. In the play the writer has very satirically mocked the people who want to do something without its proper knowledge and also without possessing the basic eligibility of the field.

The play 'Rehearsal' very interestingly portrays the rehearsal scenario of a play where the cast is all



women. Though they (Kitty-mates) want to present a good show, their approach is not good enough and too much immature. The basic ingredients which

are required to mount a professional theatre production like discipline, punctuality, team spirit, self-motivation, neutrality of the mind etc were

all missing in these ladies and they were instead full of the traits like jealousy, gossip, lack of coordination and egotism.

The rehearsal becomes a free for all situation where everyone reveals her mind in a dramatic manner. Though there is a director also but because of her own limitations and lack of mettle, she is not able to control the team. Where these ladies were required to act with compassion towards their fellow artists they had their own whims and fancies, few of them even had proud in their mind as their husbands are at higher posts resultantly

they seek pampered treatment. Finally the rehearsal which was shown in the play Rehearsal ended up to be a chaos leaving a stern message that we need to be disciplined and committed to create a meaningful work of art.

Natrang artists who performed in the play included Kananpreet Kaur, Kartik Kumar, Vandana Thakur, Supria Gorka, Priyal Ashok Gupta, Mehak Chib and Palshin Dutta. The lights of the play were operated by Neeraj Kant. The presentations were done by Aryan Sharma and the show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

Police arrests 4 drug peddlers in Srinagar, Budgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, MAR 2

In its ongoing mission to eliminate the scourge of drugs from society, Police have arrested four drug peddlers in Srinagar & Budgam and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

A Police team of Police Post Noorbagh at a checkpoint established at Noorbagh Chowk, intercepted a vehicle (KUV-100) bearing registration number JK01AD-2899 with three persons on board. They have been identified as Ahmad Bin Ishaq Kawa son of Mohd Ishaq Kawa resident of Nawakadal, Daniyal Ahmad Basati son of Ajaz Ahmad resident of Palpora Noorbagh and



Taha Yasir son of Yasir Ahmad Bhat resident of Aalikadal Srinagar. During search, 184 grams of Charas was recovered from their possession. They have been arrested and the vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized.

Meanwhile in Budgam, a Police party of Police Station Magam at a checkpoint estab-

lished at Aripanthan, intercepted a suspicious person identified as Ishfaq Ahmad Ganie son of Ghulam Mohammad Ganie resident of Saranhal Batpora Budgam. During search, 03 sticks of charas like substance wrapped in corn husk, weighing about 61 grams was recovered from his possession. Subsequently, he was arrested.

Workshop held on Advanced and Innovative Adhesives / Waterproofing/ Waterproofing Coating Technologies under IIC, SMVDU

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 2

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, successfully hosted a workshop under the Institute Innovation Council (IIC) at the School of Architecture & Landscape Design. The event aimed to provide students and professionals with insights into advanced construction materials and techniques, with a focus on adhesives and sustainable solutions. The workshop was divided into two sessions - morning and afternoon - featuring distinguished industry experts who shared their knowledge and expertise. The event commenced with a welcome address by Ar. Abhinay Gupta, Head of Department, School of



Architecture & Landscape Design, SMVDU, followed by the introduction of resource persons by Ar. Aditi Sharma. The morning session commenced with an insightful session by Mr. Gourav Choudhary, Plant Manager, on "Tile Fixing Adhesives and Ready Plaster for Walls and Roofs." This was followed by Mr. Virinder Khosla from Permafixer Corporation, who delivered a talk on "Overview of Permafixer Corporation & Sustainability in House Construction." A highlight of the morning

was the hands-on workshop and live demonstration of Tile Fixing Adhesive Application, where participants got practical exposure to modern adhesive technologies in construction. The afternoon session resumed with a lecture on "Advanced Adhesive Technologies in Construction" by Mr. Jeewan Joshi, Senior Training Technical Manager, North, from Pidilite Industries Ltd. Following this, Mr. Navneet Mishra, Manager at Pidilite Industries Ltd., spoke about "Innovative Pidilite Solu-

tions for Modern Construction." The event concluded with an engaging Live Demonstration of Pidilite Products, where participants witnessed the application and benefits of advanced adhesive solutions in real-world scenarios. The workshop provided an enriching experience for attendees, equipping them with practical knowledge of innovative construction materials and sustainable practices. The Institute Innovation Council (IIC) at SMVDU continues to foster industry-academia collaborations, ensuring students remain at the forefront of emerging trends in architecture and construction technology. The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Ar. Navin Gupta.

SMVDU Organizes International Conference on Multidisciplinary Research for Sustainable Future in collaboration with JKSTIC, Udhampur

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 2

A two-day international conference on Multidisciplinary Research for Sustainable Future (ICMRSF-2025) was organized by the Board of Professional Activities, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC). The prestigious event brought together researchers, academicians, and industry professionals to discuss ground breaking advancements Focusing on "Multidisciplinary Research for a Sustainable Future," the conference addresses urgent global challenges such as climate change, resource depletion, and social inequities. By foster-



ing interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge exchange, SMVDU invites participants to contribute research abstracts and be part of this vital discourse on sustainable development. The conference was inaugurated by Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor SMVDU along with Prof. Anil Koul, Acting Vice Chancellor, IIPH, Hyderabad, Prof. Anuj Kumar, Head of Research, Rushford Business School, Switzerland, Ms. Shruti

Khanna, Asstt. Director, JKSTIC, Prof. R. K. Mishra, Dean Student Welfare and Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Registrar, SMVDU. Earlier in the inaugural address, Prof. Pragati Kumar emphasized on the significance of such conferences its crucial role in upbringing the research aptitude among the participants. He highlighted the urgent need for awareness through such activities. He highlighted the significance of the conference as a platform to explore innovations in the field of science and technology and urged the young minds to develop technology for grass root levels. Dr. Ankush Raina, Chairperson, BPA, SMVDU highlighted the significance of conference and

the details of the keynote speakers for the conference. Keynote and invited lectures by internationally acclaimed eminent experts in different areas shall be presented during the two day conference. Scientific sessions of the conference have been divided into different themes. There are 04 invited speakers of various fields from all around the globe and more than 100 participants from all over the country who shall come together during the conference to share their research experience through oral and online presentations. Dr. Sakshi Arora, Associate Professor, SoCSE explained in detail the conference themes and different sessions. Dr. Isha Malhotra, Assistant Professor, SoLL, SMVDU presented the vote of thanks.

Selective ST Status undermines Article 370 Abrogation

Pt Ashok Khajuria calls for equal ST Status for all POJK DPs, warns of agitation

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 2

Pt. Ashok Kumar Khajuria, a prominent leader of the Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK) Displaced Persons (DPs) community, convened an urgent meeting today to address the growing discontent over the selective grant of Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. The meeting, attended by key social and political activists, ex-Panchayat representatives, and members of the Jammu South-R.S. Pura constituency, witnessed strong criticism of what was termed as "step-motherly treatment" towards Pahari-speaking POJK refugees residing outside Rajouri-Poonch.

Raising serious concerns over the discriminatory policy, Khajuria stated, "If all POJK refugees are Pahari-speaking, then why should their rights be determined by where they reside? If the government grants ST status to Pahari-speaking people in Rajouri-Poonch, why are those settled in Jammu and other regions deprived of the same benefits? A community should not be divided based on electoral calculations or political convenience."



Khajuria and other attendees criticized the existing policy, arguing that it unfairly excludes thousands of POJK refugees who share the same ethnic identity, language, and cultural background as those in Rajouri-Poonch. He highlighted the paradox of the policy, questioning why a family's decision to seek better livelihood opportunities outside Rajouri-Poonch should result in losing their rightful claims to benefits.

"One brother living in Rajouri-Poonch gets ST status, while another, who migrated to Jammu or elsewhere in search of livelihood, is denied the same right. This is nothing but an absurd and politically motivated decision," he stated, adding that such a

divisive approach contradicts the spirit of equitable governance.

Khajuria called upon former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take urgent note of this "grave injustice" and push for policy corrections that ensure equal treatment of all Pahari-speaking POJK refugees across Jammu and Kashmir.

Reminding the gathering of the long history of suffering endured by POJK refugees, Khajuria noted that nearly 50,000 families were forced to flee their homeland in 1947 and resettle in India under extremely challenging circumstances. Today, their population has grown to over 13 lakh, with approximately 10.5 lakh residing in Jammu alone, yet they continue to struggle for

basic rights.

He argued that while the abrogation of Article 370 was hailed as a step toward eliminating discrimination in Jammu and Kashmir, the selective grant of ST status contradicts the government's claims of "justice for all." "If the government truly believes in equitable development, it must end this step-motherly treatment towards POJK refugees. Otherwise, the entire justification for abrogating Article 370 falls flat," Khajuria asserted.

Khajuria emphasised that if the government fails to rectify this policy and extend full ST status to all Pahari-speaking people of Jammu and Kashmir, the community will be left with no choice but to launch an "aggressive agitation" to secure their rightful demands.

Prominent among those present include Ex Sarpanch Vijay Sharma, Vikas Sharma, Pt Surinder Kumar, Sdr Surjeet Singh, Ex Panch Bharat Sharma, Naresh Kumar, Smt Sunita Sharma, Smt Neelam Kumari, Gourav Raina, Rohit Khajuria, Pawan Kumar Sharma, Sarwan Dass, Pt Rakesh Sharstri, Vijay Kumar Sharma, Sankeev Khajuria beside others.

Bhalwal Hosts 'Watershed Yatra' Culmination: Leaders Advocate for Solar Energy, Water Conservation, and Sanitation Initiatives

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 2

On March 2, 2025, Bhalwal in Jammu hosted a significant event as part of the nationwide 'Watershed Yatra' campaign under the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY

2.0). This campaign, initiated on February 5, 2025, aimed to enhance water conservation, promote sustainable land management, and empower local communities through effective watershed development strategies.

The event was graced by prominent figures, including Hon'ble District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Shri Bharat Bhushan, Hon'ble MLA North Jammu Shri Sham Lal Sharma, many prominent Ex-PRI Members, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Jammu, Shahzada Noor UI Ain, Block Development Officer Bhalwal Dr. Sunil Sharma, and officials of RD&PR, ICDS, NRLM(UMIED), PDD. A huge gathering of local residents of Block Bhalwal also participated in the event.

A highlight of the event was the e-inauguration of various watershed developmental works aimed at improving local soil and water conservation practices. The dignitaries addressed the gathering,



emphasizing the critical importance of watershed management. They highlighted that effective watershed development is essential for improving soil moisture, enhancing agricultural productivity, and ensuring sustainable livelihoods for rural communities.

The 'Watershed Yatra' campaign, which commenced on February 5, 2025, included a state-of-the-art 'Watershed Yatra Van' equipped with Augmented Reality (AR) tools and digital demonstrations. This van has traversed approximately 2,400 km across Jammu and Kashmir, targeted over 500,000 residents through interactive workshops, community activities, and awareness drives. The campaign has today culminated in Jammu, showcasing cutting-edge techniques in watershed conservation, soil health enhancement, and rainwater harvesting.

The event in Bhalwal reflects the collective commitment of local leaders and officials to promote sustainable water manage-

ment practices, aligning with the broader objectives of the 'Watershed Yatra' campaign.

Chairman DDC Jammu Shri Bharat Bhushan, highlighted the importance of watershed schemes and also jointly exhorted the participants to avail maximum benefits of PMSURVA scheme and SBM(G) and appealed people to keep your surroundings visually clean and construct more and more soakage pits and composite pits so that real objective of SBM(G) and mission of Hon'ble Primer Minister of India is achieved. The event concluded after plantation under the theme EK Ped Maa Kay Naam and flagging off Watershed Yatra Vehicle by the dignitaries.

Addressing the gathering, Hon'ble MLA North Jammu Shri Sham Lal Sharma Ji spoke about the government's commitment to environmental conservation and rural development, highlighting key initiatives that align with the Prime Minister's vision for a sustainable

India. He underscored the significance of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, which encourages solar energy adoption by allowing households to install solar panels, thereby reducing electricity costs and promoting clean and renewable energy. He urged residents to take full advantage of this scheme, emphasizing that solar power is the future and a crucial step towards energy self-sufficiency.

Shifting focus to water conservation, Shri Sham Lal Sharma Ji stressed the importance of sustainable water management and called for community-driven efforts in rainwater harvesting, watershed development, and ensure efficient irrigation. He encouraged farmers and households to adopt water-saving techniques as a fundamental step toward securing a sustainable future.

He also highlighted the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) [SBM(G)], emphasizing the role of clean surroundings and effective waste management in ensuring a healthier society. He appealed to the public to build soakage pits, compost pits, and actively participate in cleanliness drives, reinforcing the government's vision of a Swachh and Swasth Bharat.

Dr D.K Manyal urged parents, teachers to devote more time to development, growth of students

JNEWS SERVICE
RAMGARH, MAR 1

The Annual Function of National Public High School, Abtal, Ramgarh was held with great enthusiasm and grandeur. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Ramgarh and Former Minister for Health and Medical Education, J&K, who was the Chief Guest for the occasion.

In the presence of distinguished guests, including Chairman of the School, Ram Paul, and Principal of the School, Devinder Singh Bhatti, the function witnessed a celebration of the school's academic and co-curricular achievements.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Ramgarh, addressed the gathering and emphasized the importance of education in shaping the future of children. He also urged the parents and teachers to devote more time to the development and growth



of students.

Present on the occasion were Mandal Pardhan Ramgarh, Nancy Choudhary; Former Sarpanch, Tijinder Singh; Krinal Singh; Bharat Bhushan; Garmal Singh, Vice President DGPC; Amit Dubey; Tilak Thappa; Panku, Former Naib Sarpanch; Trilok Singh; Dheeraj Kumar; Baljeet Kaur; Satish Sharma; Manu; Kalu; Rattan Singh; and Pritam.

The function also highlighted the achievements of students who had brought laurels to the school in academics and various co-curricular

activities. These exceptional students were felicitated in recognition of their hard work and dedication.

Both the Chairman and Principal of the school appealed to MLA Ramgarh, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, to ensure that justice is being done to all regions of the State, particularly in the field of education.

To mark the occasion, mementoes were presented to the Chief Guest and other dignitaries as a token of appreciation for their support and encouragement.

The event was a

resounding success, showcasing the academic excellence and overall development of the students at National Public High School, Abtal.

Dr. Manyal announced today during the school annual program that the long-awaited construction of roads and streets in Abtal, Ramgarh, will begin soon. This project addresses a long-standing demand from the local community and aims to improve connectivity and living conditions in the area. Dr. Manyal assured the residents that the construction will be completed in the coming days.

Pt. Abhay Sopori awarded Swar Shri Samman 2025

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 1

Santoor maestro and composer Pandit Abhay Rustum Sopori has been conferred with the Swar Shri Samman 2025 by Sargam Mandir during its 61st year celebrations in Delhi recognizing Pt. Abhay Sopori's path breaking works and contributions in the field of music at Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi. Sargam Mandir is a well-known cultural organization of Delhi which was founded in 1964 by late Pt. Jagdish Mohan, an eminent vocalist of Kirana Gharana. Dr. Deepak Sharma, Secretary of Sargam Mandir congratulated Pt. Sopori while presenting the award. Pandit Abhay Rustum Sopori is the present custodian of the age-old Santoor tradition and the Shaiwite - Sufi



musical tradition of Kashmir. A scion of the fabled Sopori - Sufiana Gharana of Kashmir, he represents the 3 centuries old Santoor legacy.

Taking forward the legacy of great masters like Pandit Shambhu Nath Sopori ji and Pandit Bhajan Sopori ji, Pt. Abhay Sopori dedicated the award to his Gurus, his father and grandfather, and thanked Sargam Mandir organization for bestowing the honour upon him. Post

award function Pt. Abhay Sopori presented his Santoor recital accompanied by Pandit Ram Kumar Mishra on Tabla. Pt. Sopori presented Aalap, Jod and Gats in Vilambit and Drutlaya Teentaal in Raga Bageshree highlighting his 'Sopori Baaj' style of Santoor with variations of Meend, Gamak, Laya, Chhand and Bol patterns and his Gayaki and Tantrakari aspects receiving a long standing ovation from the music connoisseurs.

Ajeet Bhagat Urges Teacher Detachment & Clerical Appointments in Kishtwar

JNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR

Senior National Conference leader, Spokesperson of Chenab Valley Zone Ajeet Bhagat has demanded detachment of all teaching staff from Chief Education Office (CEO), ZEO Offices, Higher Secondary Schools, High Schools in order to save the future of students living in farflung areas. Bhagat has also condemned the attachment of influential teachers in CEO and ZEO offices and in various institutions of Kishtwar District and demands for immediate detachment in order to save the future of students whose future is at stake due to shortage of staff. The National Conference leader added that every body with apparent vision knows that attachment on favouritism in city schools from down-trodden areas cannot be justified.

The National Conference leader has also urged the recruit clerical staff in Chief Education Office (CEO), and ZEO Offices of Kishtwar District in order to meet the required Clerical Staff in these offices. The National Conference leader has demanded free hand to CEO Kishtwar to tackle such problems in the Education Department.

Bhagat said that he is having full faith on the Honorable Education Minister Sakeena Masood Itoo and hope that detachment order will be issued at an earliest, in order to save the future of students residing in farflung areas.

Baramulla Police Registers First-Ever e-FIR via WhatsApp

JNEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, MAR 1

In a significant step towards digital policing, Police Station Pattan has registered its first electronic First Information Report (e-FIR) following a complaint lodged via WhatsApp on 28th Feb 2025. The complaint was filed by a resident of Bemina, Srinagar (name withheld), a government employee in the Horticulture Department. The complaint is against Shakeel-Ur-Rehman, who is also a government employee in the same department.

Movement Kalki's Protest for 'National Mother' Status to Cow Mata Enters 134th Day

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 1

Movement Kalki's protest demanding the declaration of Cow Mata as the 'National Mother' and the enforcement of a strict anti-cow slaughter law has entered its 134th consecutive day. The movement is also advocating for the formation of a Sanatan Board and the construction of Gaushalas for cow protection.

With the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly session underway, Movement Kalki has issued a strong warning to the government, urging it to pass a strict law against cow slaughter and approve the proposal for granting Cow Mata the status of 'National

Mother.' The movement has received widespread support from saints, religious leaders, and Sanatan Dharma followers from across the region.

A delegation from Movement Kalki, led by Advocate Harmeet Singh, met Sahil Ji Maharaj to garner his support for the cause. Expressing his solidarity, Sahil Ji Maharaj stated that Cow Mata is the soul of Sanatan culture and that it is the duty of saints to stand up for her protection. He assured his presence at the protest site soon to strengthen the movement. The delegation included Advocate Harmeet Singh, Sanjeev Dubey, Dr. Sudesh Kumar, and other prominent members.



As part of the awareness drive, a delegation led by Sunita Kundal participated in a religious program at the Baglamukhi Mata Temple. The event featured a Havan-Yagya, Bhajan-Kirtan, and Bhandara, where spiritual leaders voiced their support for the movement. Pandit Madan Gopal Ji Maharaj emphasized the necessity of the movement, urging the government to declare

Cow Mata as 'National Mother' and enforce a strict anti-cow slaughter law at the earliest.

Reaffirming the movement's dedication, Board Member Sunita Kundal declared that they would fight for the honor and protection of Cow Mata till their last breath. She emphasized that the movement is the voice of the entire Sanatan society and that the struggle

would continue until their demands are met.

Several key figures attended the protest and awareness events, including Advocate Harmeet Singh, Sanjeev Dubey, Vikram Mahajan, Dr. Sudesh Kumar, Sunita Kundal, Pritam Sharma, Karnail Chand, Sapna Hindu, Antu Kotwal, Sardar Sukhdev Singh, Santosh Kundal, and several other respected members of the Sanatan community.

Movement Kalki Founder Deepak Singh reiterated the movement's objectives, stating that the protest would not stop until the government grants 'National Mother' status to Cow Mata and implements

a strict anti-cow slaughter law. He emphasized that this is not just a protest but a spiritual revolution to protect the essence of Sanatan Dharma and that the movement would reach every village and household across the nation.

Movement Kalki has called upon saints, religious leaders, and Sanatan Dharma devotees from all over the country to join this movement and push for a stringent law against cow slaughter, as well as the formal recognition of Cow Mata as the 'National Mother.' The protest continues to gain momentum, and the coming days will be crucial in determining the government's response to these demands.

Budget Session 2025

IT Commissioner Secretary reviews readiness of digital infrastructure in LA Complex

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 2



In order to take stock of the preparations for the upcoming Budget Session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, scheduled to commence on March 3, 2025, the Commissioner Secretary Information Technology Department conducted a comprehensive inspection of the internet connectivity infrastructure at the Legislative Assembly Complex in Jammu.

The inspection was led by Commissioner Secretary, Information Technology, Saurabh Bhagat, to ensure the digital infrastructure was fully prepared for a seamless and

efficient legislative session.

During his visit, Saurabh Bhagat emphasised the importance of a robust IT framework in facilitating legislative proceedings. He directed that the Assembly hall, along with all essential rooms within the complex, including areas designated for media personnel and the general public, be equipped with necessary Access Points (APs) to provide uninterrupted internet connectivity. Ensuring seamless digital communication

and real-time access to information is priority of the department for smooth functioning of the assembly.

The Commissioner Secretary instructed CEO JaKeGA, Rupesh Kumar and Jaskaran Singh Modi, SIO NIC, to oversee and implement measures to guarantee uninterrupted connectivity throughout the Budget session.

The CEO JaKeGA, mentioned that an additional redundant internet link of 5 Gbps has been provisioned in the Assembly Hall besides the primary 1 Gbps NIC link. He also directed that four JaKeGA resource persons along with service vendors be deployed in shifts to

ensure continuous monitoring of internet connectivity, preventing service disruptions and maintaining optimal network performance. Besides this, capacity building sessions will be arranged for the MLAs as per schedule to enhance their digital proficiency. This proactive initiative by the IT Department underscores the government's commitment towards leveraging technology for efficient legislative operations. The department remains dedicated to implement best practices in digital connectivity, reinforcing Jammu and Kashmir's progress towards a more advanced, technology driven governance model.

AGENCIES
DUBAI, MARCH 2

Mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy starred with a match-winning five-wicket haul as India secured a 44-run victory over New Zealand in their final Group A clash of the ICC Champions Trophy here on Sunday.

The win propelled India to the top of Group A, setting up a semi-final encounter against Australia here on March 4.

Defending a modest total of 249 for 9, India's spinners turned the game around, with Chakravarthy returning figures of 5 for 42, while Kuldeep Yadav (2/56) and Axar Patel (1/32) provided key breakthroughs.

New Zealand, despite a fighting 81 from Kane Williamson, were bowled out for 205 in 45.3 overs.

Chakravarthy's introduction into the attack rat-



ted the Kiwi middle order. He claimed his first victim in the 12th over, knocking over Will Young (22) with a deceptive delivery.

The spinner continued his rampage, dismissing Glenn Phillips (12) and Michael Bracewell (2) leg before in quick succession before cleaning up New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner (28) with a skidding delivery. His final strike came when Matt Henry (4) was caught by Virat Kohli.

Kuldeep provided the finishing touch, bowl-

removing Williamson via stumping, leaving New Zealand reeling at 169 for 7. With his departure, New Zealand's hopes faded despite some late hitting from Santner.

Put in to bat, India had a shaky start, losing Shubman Gill (2), Virat Kohli (11), and Rohit Sharma (15) inside the first 10 overs. However, Shreyas Iyer's patient 79 (98 balls) helped stabilise the innings. Axar Patel (42) and Hardik Pandya (45 off 45 balls) provided crucial contributions in the latter half, ensuring India reached a competitive total.

For New Zealand, Matt Henry was the standout bowler with figures of 5 for 42, his best in Champions Trophy history. Kyle Jamieson (1/31), William O'Rourke (1/47), and Santner (1/41) chipped in with wickets, but India's late surge proved decisive.

FROM THE PAGE 1...

CM Omar chairs...

repeated promises to the people of J&K on the subject.

"When the prime minister chaired the All Party Meeting of J&K leaders (in June 2021), we were all witness to his statement that reorganization will be followed by delimitation, elections and then restoration of statehood. The centre should have fulfilled its promise after the formation of the popular government in J&K but the delay is on their side," he said.

Mir said the Congress has been repeatedly saying that restoration of statehood was the biggest issue during last year's assembly elections and "INDIA alliance is committed to it. Cong being the largest party in the INDIA bloc has already made it clear in their working committee meeting and during the election campaigns." Asked about PDP planning to introduce bills to push for the prohibition of alcohol and seek regularization of property rights of residents on public land, he said it is up to the house to decide on such bills.

"It is also a matter of thought that when they were in power with BJP why they did not introduce such bills. The government is more concerned about the issues raised in the election manifesto for which the people voted for it," he said. (Agencies)

Modi govt unsparing...

of 2.910 kg of heroin.

She was subsequently arrested and a court in Ernakulam sentenced her to 11 years in jail.

In January 2018, the NCB seized 450 grams of charas, leading to the arrest of one person in Dehradun, who was later sentenced to one year in jail.

In 2021, the NCB seized 1.950 kg of charas from the possession of two accused who were later arrested. A court in January 2025 sentenced the accused to 10 years in jail.

In February 2021, the NCB seized 681.8 kg of ganja in the Ranga Reddy district of Telangana. Eight accused were arrested and charged with drug trafficking. A local court sentenced them to 10 years in prison.

In September 2021, the NCB intercepted a truck in Seoni, Madhya Pradesh and seized 152.665 kg of ganja. Four people were arrested sentenced by a special court to 15 years of rigorous imprisonment.

In July 2020, the NCB seized 1,301 kg of ganja from a truck between Plassay and Krishnanagar in West Bengal. Two accused were arrested and charged with drug trafficking and one of them was sentenced for 15 years of imprisonment.

"These convictions exemplify the NCB's dedication to ensure successful prosecution of its cases filed before courts," the release said.

The home ministry said under the guidance of Shah, the NCB is working relentlessly to realise the prime minister's vision of a drug-free India by 2047. (Agencies)

Month-day long...

on liquor ban and statehood are expected to remain key highlights during the session.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who holds finance portfolio, will present his first budget on March 7.

Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on February 27 chaired an all-party meeting of the legislators and sought their cooperation during the budget session.

The erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two Union Territories after abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019.

Bodies of three...

Kumar (21) from Rudrapur in Uttarakhand's Udham Singh Nagar district, Ashok (28) from Fatehpur in Uttar Pradesh and Harmesh from Una in Himachal Pradesh, the officials said.

The lone worker who remains missing is 43-year-old Arvind from the Clement Town area in Dehradun.

The avalanche hit the BRO camp between Mana and Badrinath on Friday, burying 54 workers inside eight containers and a shed. Earlier, it was believed that the total number of trapped labourers was 55 but one of them was on unauthorised leave and had reached home safely.

By Saturday evening, 50 workers trapped under the snow were pulled out and four of them had died.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama visited the Uttarakhand State Emergency Operation Centre here to take an update on the rescue operation.

"The ground penetrating radar (GPR) system is being sent to the avalanche site and the help of modern tools like thermal imaging cameras and victim locating cameras is being taken to trace the labourers. The weather may turn bad on Monday again. The effort is to trace the missing on Sunday itself," the chief minister said.

In a post on X, Dhama said he has instructed officials to expedite the ongoing operation.

"The Indian Army, ITBP, NDRF, SDRF and other relief and rescue teams are working on a war footing at the site of the incident," he said.

Chamoli District Magistrate Sandeep Tiwari said the search operation is expected to gain pace as the weather is clear and the GPR system from Delhi is expected to arrive here any moment to aid the efforts.

An Mi-17 helicopter is waiting in Dehradun to fly the GPR system to the avalanche site, he said. State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams with sniffer dogs are at the avalanche site to help in the search and rescue efforts, he said.

Lt Gen Anindya Sengupta, GOC-in C, Central Command, and Lt Gen D G Mishra, GOC, Uttar Bharat, are at the avalanche site to monitor the rescue operations.

Six helicopters – three of the Indian Army Aviation Corps, two of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and a civil chopper hired by the Army – have been engaged in the operation.

Located three kilometres from Badrinath, Mana is the last village on the India-Tibet border at a height of 3,200 metres.

Army officials said the rescue operation on Saturday was mostly carried out by the Army and IAF helicopters as the approach road was blocked by snow at several points, making vehicular movement nearly impossible.

The priority is to bring the rescued workers to the Army hospital in Jyotirmath and look for the four missing workers, they said. If weather permits, specialised RECCO radars, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), quadcopters and avalanche rescue dogs will be pressed into service to trace the missing workers, Lt Gen. Sengupta said.

"Everything depends on the weather," he added.

More than 200 personnel from the disaster management authority, ITBP, BRO, NDRF, SDRF, IAF, district administration, health department and fire brigade are engaged in the rescue operations, he said. (Agencies)

MeT predicts...

The minimum temperature recorded during the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday also witnessed an uptick of 0 to 3°C at many places, with Srinagar recording a low of 2.3°C, and this was 0.2°C below the average for the place during this period of the season.

The lowest minimum temperature recorded at Gulmarg was -7.5°C, and this was 4.3°C below normal for the ski resort of north Kashmir during this period of the season.

The tourist resort of Pahalgam had a low of -4.7°C, and this was 2.7°C below normal for the valley of shepherds, while Kupwara recorded a low of -1.2°C, and it was 2.2°C below normal for the frontier Kashmir north district.

In Jammu, the day temperature reached 23.4°C; Kathua, 24.0°C; and Katra 20.9°C recorded the previous day.

However, the minimum temperature was recorded 1 to 2°C below normal in all weather stations of the Jammu division, the MeT office said.

Two associates...

"In a major breakthrough, Jalandhar Commissionerate Police apprehends 2 associates (Sukhwinder @ Sukha and Harpreet) of #USA based Sonu Khatri Gang after a long chase and cross-firing and recovers 2 sophisticated weapons," DGP Yadav said in a post on X.

"Arrested accused were wanted in connection with the killing of Jammu and Kashmir Police Sub-Inspector Deepak Sharma on April 2, 2024," he added.

DGP Yadav further said that the arrest of the accused "prevented 3 potential murders." (Agencies)

Duplication of voter...

allotment of unique EPIC number to registered electors. Any case of duplicate EPIC number will be rectified by allotting a unique EPIC number," the EC said.

The ERONET 2.0 platform will be updated to aid and assist in this process, it said. (PTI)

Coach McCullum addresses captaincy issue as England look ahead to future



AGENCIES
DUBAI, MAR 2

England will begin a process of self-reflection after their disappointing ICC Champions Trophy 2025 campaign, which starts with their huge leadership decision.

England coach Brendon McCullum is already applying his trademark positivity to a high-stake process his side must now meet front on.

Jos Buttler made the tough decision to end his reign as England's white-ball captain on the eve of their final Champions Trophy appearance. The heavy defeat at the hands of South Africa on Saturday did little to quell England's critics, with Buttler honourably taking accountability for the team's lean patch in 50-over cricket.

It leaves big decisions for McCullum and England, with the coach pointing to a lack of self-belief from his players for their winless tournament run, according to an ICC report.

"I felt that we lacked confidence and I thought today was another example of that," McCullum told the media after their loss to the Proteas.

"Sometimes guys are a little bit low on confidence and we don't necessarily get the output that we want and hence why you find yourself on the outside of the tournament.

"We've got to put our hands up and acknowledge that it wasn't good enough and that's okay in sport, you don't get to be upset if you haven't played well. Sometimes it doesn't work out and you've just got to wear that as best you can and try and keep moving forward."

Now, all eyes are on McCullum and England to make crucial leader-

ship decisions, whether they identify one player to handle the captaincy of both the ODI and T20I teams or opt for multiple skippers.

"(We'll) work it out over the next few weeks," McCullum continued.

"(We'll) make sure we have a good look at how the structure looks, how things are placed, and what each side needs. And if it's the same person, then great. If it's two different people, then great too.

"We've obviously now got a structural change which is going to take place ... and then with that they'll bring some of their own ideas and want to stamp their own style on things. So, there'll be a natural evolution of the team."

From England's point of view, there will be no hesitation to commence their captaincy search.

"I'll get home in the next couple of days and then start to think about it and start having some conversations with (England's cricket manager) Rob Key and the guys at the ECB about who is the right person for us," McCullum continued.

"Then what do they need and how do we start to learn some of the lessons that we've been dealt on this tour and in this tournament to ensure that we're a lot more competitive than what we've been.

"It's a matter for us as coaches and leaders to try and get the best out of that and to try and bring the right combination of players together for the task at hand. And that's what's in front of us over the next little while, which is exciting.

"We're going to find out pretty quickly ways to be able to make sure that our team walks out there a lot more confident than what we are at the moment."



Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in J&K Legislative Assembly today called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha and discussed various important matters pertaining to the forthcoming Budget Session of the Assembly which will commence from Monday, 3rd March, 2025.

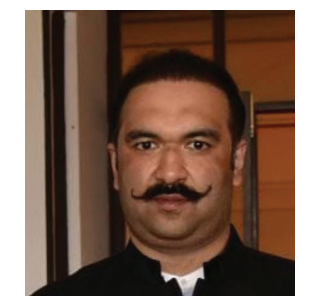
Ranvijay Singh urges MLAs to prioritize public welfare in Upcoming Budget Session

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 2

Ranvijay Singh, great-grandson of Maharaja Hari Singh Ji, has issued a heartfelt appeal to the Members of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, urging them to prioritize the pressing issues of the populace in the forthcoming Budget Session starting from Monday i.e., March 3. This session, notably the first in nearly seven years, presents a pivotal opportunity for Legislators to address the aspirations and concerns of the people.

Reflecting on the significance of the Assembly sessions, Ranvijay Singh remarked that they serve as vital platforms for highlighting and resolving the challenges faced by citizens. He emphasized the imperative for elected representatives to engage in meaningful discussions, focusing on policy-making and development initiatives that directly impact the welfare of the region's inhabitants.

"The prolonged gap of legislative proceedings has heightened public expectations," he said, adding "It is



incumbent upon our Legislators to utilize this session effectively, ensuring that the voices of our people are heard and translated into actionable policies."

He asserted that any disruptions or unruly behavior that could derail the proceedings, underscoring that such actions would be a disservice to the electorate.

Ranvijay Singh expressed optimism that the upcoming session would mark a new chapter in the region's legislative history, characterized by collaboration, transparency, and a steadfast commitment to public service. He called upon all stakeholders to rise to the occasion, fostering an environment where democratic values thrive, and the collective aspirations of the people are realized.

Yuva Rajput Sabha intensifies Mission Statehood

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 12

In a bid to fortify the movement for the restoration of Jammu Kashmir's statehood, nearly one hundred youth from across Jammu have joined the Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS) under the leadership of Vishal Singh Rakwal. The joining ceremony was held on Sunday at Patoli Brahmana village, where thousands of people, including children and elders, gathered to show their support for the mission.

During the event, the President of YRS, Vikram Singh Chib expressed his happiness, saying, "Today's joining ceremony was organized under the guidance and direction of our Chairman Raghbir Singh, with consultation from our core committee. We are pleased to announce that Vishal Singh Rakwal has been appointed as the General Secretary of YRS, and under his leadership, around 150 youth have



joined the Sabha today." Ex-President of YRS, Rajan Singh, commended Rakwal's long-standing dedication to the Rajput Dogra community. "Vishal Singh Rakwal has been a steadfast supporter of YRS for many years, working tirelessly for the community. His joining, along with other youth, will significantly strengthen the statehood mission. We are confident that we will soon restore Jammu Kashmir's statehood," he said. Vishal Singh Rakwal, who has been appointed

General Secretary of YRS, thanked the leadership for their trust. He stated, "I am deeply grateful to YRS Chairman, President, and the entire team for placing their faith in me and my fellow youth. I assure you that we will leave no stone unturned in our efforts to uphold and strengthen the pride of YRS in the future." The event marked a significant step in the ongoing efforts to restore Jammu Kashmir's statehood status, with growing youth support under the banner of YRS.

ABVP Kashmir Submits Memorandum to JKBOSE; Demands Immediate Action

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 2

Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad Kashmir met with officials of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) today and submitted a memorandum highlighting two critical issues affecting students in the ongoing board examinations.

The memorandum demands Re-Examination for Weather-Affected Students: Many students were unable to reach their exam centers due to severe weather

er conditions. ABVP has urged JKBOSE to conduct a re-examination or implement an alternative assessment method to prevent academic loss.

Grace Marks for Out-of-Syllabus Questions: Students have reported out-of-syllabus questions in Class 10 and 11 exams. ABVP demands grace marks for affected students to ensure fairness.

JKBOSE authorities have assured ABVP Kashmir that they will review the matter and take appropriate action soon.

However, ABVP Kashmir makes it clear that words alone are not enough. Speaking on the issue, Akeel Ahmad Tantray, National Executive Council Member, ABVP, stated: "ABVP will not rest until these issues are fully resolved. If JKBOSE fails to take immediate action, we will take to the streets in the interest of students' welfare."

He further said that ABVP remains committed to protecting students' academic rights and will intensify its movement if JKBOSE fails to redress the matter urgently.

JP Juniors Hosts Annual Sports Day 2024-25 with Grandeur

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 2, 2025:

JP Juniors celebrated its Annual Sports Day 2024-25 on March 2, 2025, with great enthusiasm and energy. The event was a perfect blend of sportsmanship and teamwork, showcasing the athletic spirit and holistic development of young learners.

The occasion was graced by Mr. Ranjeet Kalra, Member of the J&K Government UT Sports Council & Member of the Governing Council (Sports) Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, as the Guest of Honour*. The school was also privileged to welcome Ms. Aparana Kohli, Principal of Birla Open Minds International School, as the Special Guest.

The event began with a warm welcome address by the anchor, followed by the felicitation of the esteemed guests with bouquets. The Opening Ceremony was led by the school's student leaders—Mr. Shinoy Chopra (Head Boy), Ms. Samairah Sharma (Literary Captain), and Mr. Aadvik Rai (Sports Captain)—who set the stage for an action-packed day.

The audience was enthralled by a vibrant Welcome Dance, which



was followed by a Yoga Performance, highlighting the significance of mindfulness and physical well-being. The Fun Races brought an exciting competitive spirit, where young athletes displayed agility, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship.

The winners of the races were honored with medals, celebrating their dedication and achievements. To acknowledge every child's participation and effort, all young athletes received medals, reinforcing the school's commitment to encouragement and inclusivity.

During his address, Guest of Honour, Mr. Ranjeet Kalra, appreciated the Branch Head, Ms. Sonal Gupta, and her team for their exceptional efforts in organizing the event and ensuring its grand success. He commended the school's dedication to

fostering young talent and providing students with opportunities to shine beyond academics. Mr. Kalra also applauded the performances of the students, praising their confidence, enthusiasm, and discipline, which reflected the school's commitment to all-round development.

The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Ms. Sonal Gupta, Branch Head of JP Juniors, expressing gratitude to the dignitaries, parents, teachers, and students for making the celebration a resounding success. A final round of Fun Races ensured that the day ended on a joyous and energetic note.

With yet another successful edition of its Annual Sports Day, JP Juniors continues its mission of fostering well-rounded, confident, and spirited young learners.

IDPS Ghou Manhasan Hosts 'Wings on Her Feet' Marathon & Cyclothon for Women's Day



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 2

IDPS School Ghou Manhasan celebrated International Women's Day with a spirited 'Wings on Her Feet' marathon and cyclothon event, promoting women's empowerment, health, fitness, and community engagement.

Participants of all ages and genders embarked on a 3-kilometer journey from the school to Ring Road, Jammu. The event featured inspiring addresses from Chief Guest Ms. Priya Sethi, Former Minister, and other esteemed personalities, including Mr. Rajesh

Padha, Ms. Anissa Nabi, Ms. Ruchita Bakshi, and members of the Jammu Cyclist Group.

The event was supported by generous sponsors and opened with a welcome by Principal Ms. Sahrish Ismail, closing with a Vote of Thanks by Vice Principal Ms. Mubeen Butt. Managing Director Ms. Siya Singh and Academic Director Ms. Vandana Sharma praised the event's success, highlighting its role in promoting equality, health, and community service. The school extends gratitude to all participants, guests, and sponsors for making the event a success.

Hamari Riyasat, Hamara Haq

BJP denying statehood, after failing to get mandate to rule -Karra



JI NEWS SERVICE
SALERH (BISHNAH), MAR 02

JKPCC President Shri Tariq Hameed Karra has lashed out at BJP for doing injustice to the people of Jammu & Kashmir by not fulfilling the commitment for statehood, since people didn't give BJP mandate to rule in J&K.

Addressing a large gathering of Congress workers here today, Shri Karra accused BJP of giving punishment to the people of J&K as the party didn't get mandate to rule UT in the recent assembly elections. BJP wants to now rule by proxy through LG administration.

This is great injustice to the people and a betrayal after repeated commitments for early restoration of statehood and this is defiance of Supreme Court direction also.

Carrying forward party's mission for restoration of full statehood besides Jai Babu Jai Bhim Jai Samvidhan,JKPCC Chief today addressed the rally at Salerh in Bishnah organised by the contested candidate and Aicc secretary Neeraj Kundan which was attendant by several senior leadership of the party.

Karra said that it is irony of the time that we have to demand the statehood from those in power, whose political ancestors sided with Britishers when Congress was fighting for freedom on the roads and in Jails. They have no history in freedom of country but trying to erase the history of Congress leaders in freedom struggle.

JKPCC Chief recalled the contribution of dogra warriors for expanding the boundaries of Jammu Kashmir Ladakh upto Gilgit - Baltistan but BJP

dismembered the historical dogra state ruthlessly and now not willing to restore the same forcing people especially dogras to fight on streets.

Seeking mandate of people to support the movement of Congress- "Hamari Riyasat, Hamara Haq", Karra asked gathering to raise hands as they responded positively. He praised Organizer of the rally and said that Shri Rahul Gandhi has encouraged and promoted young leadership at the national level including Shah Nawaz and IYC President Uday Chib from J&K, who were also present & addressed the gathering urging for support to Congress movement for statehood.

Neeraj Kundan in his address expressed gratitude to the people of Bishnah Assembly segment for giving him a lot of support in the elections and assured them to continue serving them. He raised the issue of smart meters and harassing poor consumers by disconnecting their power for default of payment.

He also raised the issue of eviction of poor farmers from the lands under their cultivation from decades. He also mentioned various issues of common people who have been pushed to the wall by BJP govt and LG administration and asked people to rise to support Congress movement.

Working President Raman Bhalla thanked the people of Bishnah assembly for giving him huge support and votes of over 40000 votes during his Lok Sabha elections and now to Neeraj Kundan in Assembly elections.

He said people of Bishnah are secular and residing along border and

have undergone great sufferings due to BJP policies. The government is snatching their lands and harassing them through water and power taxation. He raised the issue of left out settlement package of refugees and blamed BJP for betrayal with them.

Working President Shri Tara Chand reminded people of the constitutional guarantees & safeguards under Maharaja rule and post independence and the welfare measures for downtrodden.

He asked people to support the Congress movement for restoration of statehood to seek redressal of their grievances.

Ex- MP Ch Lal Singh referred to the struggle of dogras and dogra rulers to establish a vast state but BJP snatched our dogra state ruthlessly and arbitrarily against the wishes of all people including those of Jammu.

He lashed out at BJP for the loot of our resources, land and jobs after abrogation of special status and pressed for constitutional safeguards to save future generations.

He also referred to the plight of farmers due to anti farmers policies of BJP govt and expressed concern over the lack of Legal guarantee of MSP to farmers and lack of quality seed and fertilizers to them.

Prominent those who attended includes S/Shri Yogesh Sawhney, Dr. Manohar Lal Sharma, Hari Singh Chib, Indu Pawar, MLA Iftikhar Ahmed, Manmohan Singh

M K Bhardwaj, Narinder Sharma, Vijay Sharma, (Seva Dal) Dwarka Chaudhary, Ajay Lakhotra (NSUI), Jatinder Bhagat, Jung Bhadur, Vijay Tagotra & other local leaders.

Power outages affecting all aspects of life in both border & rural areas: Kesri

JI NEWS SERVICE
ARNIA, MAR 2

The smart city project has been a total failure on the part of the government. Despite the installation of smart meters and regular payment of dues, there is no relief for common people, as the issue of prolonged and unscheduled power outages remains stagnant especially border and rural areas. Residents are grappling with daily routines due to inadequate power supply while the authorities remain indifferent towards this issue, as they fail to do their job rightfully.

This was stated by Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri while addressing media persons in Arnia area on Sunday. Power cuts are a critical issue that needs to be immediately addressed by the authorities, as it is causing a lot of distress to both individuals and businesses. These power outages are affecting all aspects of life, including education, which is a critical concern. Kesri presses for a reliable and efficient power supply system to



mitigate the hardships faced by the residents, especially students, in these areas.

Kesri observed that people of Jammu district, particularly in the border areas, are shocked and dismayed by the frequent unscheduled power cuts. These power outages are causing immense hardship and disruption to their daily lives. Power cuts causes disruption of educational activities, affecting students' studies and exams, inconvenience to businesses, hospitals and other essential services.

Kesri further said that unscheduled power cuts also results difficulty in

accessing basic necessities like water and communication, increased risk of accidents and security breaches due to lack of lighting besides negative impact on the overall quality of life and economic development of the area. The residents are demanding a reliable and efficient power supply system to address these issues and ensure a better standard of living. Despite the installation of smart meters, the government has failed to deliver on its promise of providing 24x7 power supply to the residents of Jammu district, particularly in the border areas. The frequent unscheduled

Police along with civil administration conducted surprise market checking in Bandipora

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, MAR 2

In order to keep a check on overpricing, profiteering and black marketing especially during the month of holy Ramadan, Police in Bandipora alongwith concerned departments of civil administration held intensive market checking at various markets in the district.

While interacting with the shopkeepers, the team members asked them to display rate lists, keep shops neat and clean and ensure that all packaged commodities sold to consumers must bear MRP, Package date, Net Content and other related information.

They also appealed the general public to bring into the notice of the administration if they found anyone indulging in overcharging of essential commodities so that timely action against the culprits will be taken. Also fine was collected from erring shopkeepers who also were directed to be corrective in future otherwise strict action under law will be taken against them. Unhygienic/rotten fruits/vegetables & expired items were destroyed on spot.

general public of different areas of the district. The chairing officers explained the nuances of the new laws, clarifying their implications and stressing the importance of adherence to legal statutes for maintaining societal order.

These programme witnesses active participation from students and the general public who engaged in interactive discussions, questions and sought clarifications on the legal provisions presented. The new laws include provisions that ensure justice for the victims of crime and the society at large.

Officers also highlighted the ill effects of drugs on the society and anti-drug posters were pasted at various public places across the district.

These programmes were chaired by respective jurisdictional police officers and attended by teachers, students, civil society members and

EDITORIAL

Finding money for 'freebies': BJP faces an uphill task

UTTAM GUPTA

Ladakh stares at the water crisis?

Ladakh, a high-altitude region known for its rugged beauty and unique ecosystems, is confronting a water crisis of unprecedented proportions. Once known for its resilient agricultural practices, Ladakh's lifeline – its glaciers and snowfall – is rapidly vanishing, and with it, the very foundations of the region's agriculture and water supply. The melting glaciers, once the mainstay of water resources, are retreating at an alarming rate, triggering profound changes in the region's climate and way of life. The worrisome is that this year's snowfall in Leh was almost negligible, with only 0.5 cm recorded in both January and February, compared to 4.9 cm and 8.0 cm in the same months of 2023. The stark decline in snowfall serves as a clear indicator of the larger, more critical problem at hand: Ladakh's once-bountiful glaciers, which served as the primary source of water, are rapidly disappearing. This is not a gradual, centuries-long phenomenon, as some may have once believed. The retreat of Ladakh's glaciers is happening at a pace far quicker than anticipated. Within a single generation, the region has seen the complete disappearance of glaciers that once stood as monumental landmarks. The consequences of this environmental degradation are dire. For decades, Ladakh's agricultural systems relied heavily on the seasonal glacier meltwater to irrigate fields and sustain crops. This meltwater, which had a predictable pattern of flow during the warmer months, is now becoming increasingly erratic and insufficient. In response to these challenges, innovative water conservation strategies, such as artificial glaciers and ice stupas, have been implemented. These efforts, which were initially a lifeline for farmers during the spring thaw, are now seen as a vital part of Ladakh's struggle to adapt to this new water-scarce reality. However, the crisis is not solely due to the declining glacier meltwater. The increasing popularity of Ladakh as a tourist destination is placing an additional strain on its already limited water resources. Tourism, which brings in thousands of visitors every year, demands a significant amount of water for both basic consumption and the services required to support the influx of people. The region's traditional water management systems, which once ensured sustainable use, are now under immense pressure. Historically, Ladakh had an effective water management system in place – the 'chures,' which allocated water to farmers on a rotational basis, ensuring that the limited resources were used efficiently. In addition, households traditionally used dry toilets, significantly reducing water consumption. But as modern conveniences, such as flush toilets, have become widespread, and as the influx of laborers and tourists has surged, the demand for water has risen dramatically. The advent of modern infrastructure has worsened the situation further. A growing number of hotels, households, and businesses in Leh and surrounding areas have resorted to digging borewells to meet their water needs. Unfortunately, this practice has resulted in the depletion of groundwater, further exacerbating the region's already critical water shortages. The consequences of this crisis are far-reaching. Climate change, urbanization, and the failure to implement sustainable water management practices are at the heart of this crisis. The traditional systems that once helped Ladakh cope with its harsh environment are increasingly unable to keep pace with the rapid changes. Ladakh's future depends on how well it adapts to the challenges of climate change, population growth, and water scarcity. The time to act is now. Without immediate intervention, Ladakh's water crisis could become irreversible, with far-reaching consequences for the region's environment, economy, and people. It is time for Ladakh to lead the way in sustainable water management, ensuring that future generations can continue to thrive in this unique and beautiful part of the world.

Having swept the polls in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi with a clinching 2/3rd majority, Rekha Gupta-led BJP - government faces the daunting challenge of having to find money to fulfil its poll promises. Amongst others, the BJP had promised Rs 2,500 a month to women under Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY); Rs 21,000 to pregnant women; LPG cylinders for Rs 500 and free cylinder on Holi and Diwali; a stipend of Rs 1000 a month to SC students pursuing technical and vocational courses; free education for needy students from KG to PG; free travel for students on Delhi Metro; Atal Canteens in Jhuggi Basti clusters providing nutritional meals for Rs 5 only; implementation of Ayushman Bharat scheme and additional cover of Rs 5 lakh for senior citizens. BJP had also vowed to continue all existing schemes such as free electricity and free water (for monthly consumption up to a specified threshold) run by the erstwhile AAP - dispensation under the then Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal.

How much will these freebies cost?

Let us look at the Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY) under which the party has promised to give cash assistance of Rs 2500 per month to every woman. The number of women above the age of 18 years in Delhi is around 6700,000. @ Rs 2500 per month or Rs 30,000 annually to

each woman, giving cash assistance to them all will require Rs 20,100 crore per annum (0.67x30,000). The assistance to pregnant women @Rs 21,000 per woman, taking a total of about 1500,000 pregnant women will cost around Rs 3150 crore annually.

As for subsidy on LPG, take consumption of 4 cylinders (14 kg each) per household (HH) in a year. The current cost of supplying a cylinder is around Rs 1000. For two cylinders (Holi and Diwali) promised to be given free, the subsidy will be Rs 2000 whereas for the other two to be given @ Rs 500 each, the outgo will be Rs 1000. This gives an annual subsidy of Rs 3000 per HH.

The current population of Delhi is 330 lakh. Taking an average of 4 members per HH, we get a total of over 82.5 lakh HHs. Multiplied by Rs 3000 being the subsidy per HH, the annual outgo comes to Rs 2500 crore. Look at free education for needy students from KG to PG. According to the latest data available, around 10 per cent of Delhi's population was considered below the poverty line in 2011-12. On this basis, the number of poor persons comes to 33 lakh (330x0.1). About one-third of this or 11 lakh would be persons in the studying age 4 - 25 years. Taking the average expense of educating a child in India at the bare minimum of Rs 20,000 per annum, the total annual expense on "needy students" in the city would be about Rs 2200 crore (0.11x20,000). The additional burden of these



four promises alone on the Delhi government's budget is Rs 27,950 crore (20,100+3150+2500+2200). Other freebies would bloat this figure by several thousand crore. Let us take the total to be around Rs 30,000 crore.

What is the current state of Delhi's finances?

For the current financial year (FY) 2024-25, the total expenditure of the Delhi government is estimated at Rs 76,000 crore. This includes revenue expenditure (RE) of Rs 61,000 crore and capital expenditure (CE) of Rs 15,000 crore. Against this, the total revenue receipts or RR (tax plus non-tax receipts including transfer from the Central government) is estimated at around Rs 58,000 crore. That leaves a revenue deficit or RD (RR - RE) of Rs 3000 crore. This is disconcerting when seen in the backdrop of Delhi's potential to generate substantial surplus given two fundamental factors working to its advantage.

First, due to its special status of being NCT, three major functions namely

law and order, police and land come under the Centre's jurisdiction hence, the latter foots the bill for expenses on those functions. Second, Delhi being a major hub of economic activity, its propensity to garner its tax revenue in terms of higher GST collection besides VAT on petrol and diesel and excise duty and VAT on alcohol (these products are outside the GST regime) is greater.

The RD will increase drastically when we consider the cost of servicing the loans taken by various departments of the Delhi government such as the Delhi Jal Board (DJB): over Rs 70,000 crore and Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC): Rs 60,000 crore (according to the CAG, these are cumulative losses of DTC as at end of FY 2021-22 and would have ballooned further during the following three FYs till end March 2025).

The liability for servicing those debts is vested entirely in the NCT government and should be reflected in its balance sheet. Look at the fiscal deficit (FD) which is the excess of total receipts

over total expenditure. For FY 2024-25, it is estimated at Rs 18,000 crore which is 80 per cent higher than the FD during FY 2023-24 at Rs 10,000 crore. The surge is despite a steep reduction of over 30 per cent in CE from the budget estimate (BE) of Rs 22,000 crore for FY 2023-24 to Rs 15,000 crore for FY 2024-25.

If interest payments on loans taken by DJB and DTC (Rs 130,000 crore plus) which are merely adding to the mountain of debt on the books of those departments year after year are also included, the FD would be much higher. The situation had come to such a pass that the then CM Atishi had approached the Centre seeking a loan of Rs 10,000 crore from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF). The precariousness of the state's finances has a lot to do with the galloping freebies and irregularities and mismanagement in running various schemes and overall governance on a monumental scale. During 2024-25, the cost of free electricity and free water alone is estimated to

be about Rs 11,000 crore. According to CAG, during 2015-16 and 2021-22, the losses of DTC went up by Rs 35,000 crore and that was due to both free bus rides and misgovernance.

Now, consider the impact of BJP promises. Modi has guaranteed that existing schemes won't be discontinued. So, free electricity/water costing Rs 11,000 crore will stay. Add to this, the fresh guarantees which would be at least about Rs 30,000 crore. This takes the RE from Rs 61,000 crore during FY 2024-25 to Rs 91,000 crore during FY 2025-26 (assuming all other things remain unchanged). The RR is Rs 58,000 crore, we get RD of Rs 33,000 crore - up from Rs 3000 crore budgeted for FY 2024-25.

The incumbent government has also promised to clean Yamuna River, clean the air, renovate/build roads, cleanse the drainage systems, build and renovate hospitals and schools in fact, take up and complete a host of physical and social infrastructure projects needed for ensuring a good quality life for Delhiites. That means even if CE is restored to 2023-24 level Rs 22,000 crore, that won't be enough. Even with this insufficient level, the total expenditure will be Rs 113,000 crore. Minus RR of Rs 58,000 crore, we get FD of Rs 55,000 crore. Put simply, the Centre will have to arrange for at least Rs 55,000 crore to enable the BJP to live up to its promises for Delhi.

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

THREE LEVELS OF CONTROL

AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

We, human beings, are under control at three levels. The first one is at the level of self. We have been blessed with faculties such as mind, intelligence, etc. And we have free will to decide what we would like to think, decide and do. However, thinking and deciding are in our control, but being able to do is not. Our actions are limited by circumstances, instruments we have, how much we can apply ourselves and providence of course.

Then, there are constraints like limited

knowledge, facilities, nature, etc. Knowledge is unlimited, but we can have very limited knowledge only. Even good knowledge of a subject is difficult, never mind of countless subjects. This restricts us greatly. Nature is another limiting factor. The three modes of material nature, which are goodness, passion and darkness, determine how we would act in our control, but being able to do is not. Our actions are limited by circumstances, instruments we have, how much we can apply ourselves and providence of course.

The same cannot be said about persons under the control of the modes of passion and darkness. They make many mis-

takes. And we all generate 'karmas' (deeds) by minds, words and bodies (senses). These actions of ours, both good and bad put us in the control of the Divine Authority, appointed by God; it works under the superintendence of God. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 9.10) Imagine the extent of their work.

They have to be alert to record all our actions 24x7. This is nothing compared to what they have to do to decide our rewards and punishments, their timings, etc. In this, they have to correlate how these will impact others associated with us. Therefore, the

Divine Authority may delay the punishment to make its effect on the family a little less harsh.

But the guilty person has no hope of reprieve even if the punishment is to be delayed to the next life. Our 'karmaphalas' (fruits of actions) are carried from life to life. If the job of the Divine Authority is mind-boggling, what God does is simply unimaginable. God has to watch the interest of all His devotees, no matter where they are.

Then, He must appropriately respond to our prayers every time. He must also guide us if we sincerely seek it. Additionally, God must help

if we deserve to come out of troubles we have gotten into due to our past 'karmas'. This is nothing compared to what God does for the Creation; He has to keep it going for millions of years for us souls. Imagine if there was dissolution every hundred years or so. How will we feel?

Then, God has innumerable galaxies to control. He has many planets where we can go to from the earth planet. There is heaven, where pious acts take us for limited periods. This is like going on a vacation to a dream place. There are many such planets which are higher and

higher ending in the 'Vai-kuntha' planet, which is the abode of God. Only those, who have been liberated reach there.

They get freed from the cycle of birth and death. They remain there for good. Knowing all this, we must become wise, really wise. We must seek the shelter of God beginning now, not later. We must follow dharma to please God. God will guide and help. The divine Authority will be giving us more rewards than punishments, which we can tolerate easily. And we will be our best friends.

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

India's solar surge: Powering the journey to net zero 2070

DISHA SHARMA

India's steadfast commitment to achieving Net Zero by 2070 is catalysing a dramatic shift in its energy sector, with solar power emerging as the principal driver of this transformation. Abundant sunlight, rapidly decreasing technology costs, strong government support, and an expanding skilled workforce have combined to place solar energy at the heart of India's renewable strategy. While the country has celebrated significant milestones in solar adoption, it also faces multifaceted challenges that require innovative policy interventions and strategic foresight to sustain its momentum.

Over the past decade, India has achieved remarkable progress in solar energy. The nation not only met its ambitious renewable targets but exceeded them, with solar power now accounting for over 60 per cent of its renewable

energy mix. By 2024, India surpassed the 100 GW milestone, establishing itself as a global leader in solar energy. For example, Rajasthan's solar capacity exceeds 24 GW. Rapid expansion is evident in a 19 per cent increase in solar generation from 2023 to 2024, with solar installations making up over two-thirds of new renewable capacity.

India's role in the International Solar Alliance underscores its commitment to global solar collaboration, as the initiative seeks to mobilise over \$1 trillion in investments for developing countries. National agencies, particularly the Solar Energy Corporation of India, have been vital in driving the development and implementation of solar projects under the National Solar Mission.

Despite these impressive achievements, significant obstacles remain on the path to full solar integration. One major challenge is the limited

connection of solar installations to the national grid, with only 16 per cent of capacity currently integrated. This gap restricts the country's ability to fully exploit its vast solar potential. Moreover, there are stark regional disparities in solar development. While states like Rajasthan and Gujarat lead the charge, many eastern and northeastern regions lag behind, resulting in an uneven distribution of renewable resources.

Financial hurdles also pose serious challenges. Although government subsidies help reduce costs, the high initial capital required for large-scale installations, coupled with elevated interest rates and delayed payments, discourages private investment. Manufacturers struggle with a shortage of competitively priced solar cells, a problem compounded by strict Domestic Content Requirements that strain production capabilities. These financial constraints not



only hinder current project deployment but also threaten future expansion in the sector.

Another critical issue is India's heavy reliance on imported components. Despite having a domestic module production capacity of around 11 GW, India still depends on global supply chains for essential items such as polysilicon, wafers, and solar cells. This

dependency leaves the country vulnerable to supply chain disruptions, particularly amid geopolitical tensions and trade imbalances, as China continues to dominate global solar manufacturing. Furthermore, the scarcity of critical minerals like cobalt, nickel, and lithium – vital for solar panel production – further complicates efforts to build a self-sufficient

solar industry.

Local challenges add another layer of complexity. Land acquisition for solar projects often faces resistance from local communities and farmers, leading to protests, legal disputes, and, in some cases, violent confrontations. In Rajasthan, disputes over land rights have led to project cancellations, highlighting the need for transparent and inclusive processes that respect local interests and ensure fair compensation. Addressing these local concerns is essential for fostering community support and facilitating smoother project implementation.

To overcome these challenges, India must adopt a multi-faceted strategy. Strengthening policy frameworks to provide long-term stability is crucial, as is enhancing inter-state cooperation and ensuring reliable access to energy data for effective monitoring. Public-private partnerships can expand solar

adoption in underserved regions by providing risk mitigation instruments to attract investment. Promoting domestic manufacturing of solar panels and key components will reduce import dependency and bolster energy security. Additionally, investing in workforce development to build a skilled labor pool for solar installation, maintenance, and manufacturing will be vital for sustaining industry growth. By focusing on robust policy support, financial innovation, domestic manufacturing, and community engagement, India can significantly unlock the full potential of its solar resources. With sustained government backing and strategic collaboration between public and private sectors, the nation is well-positioned to lead the global solar revolution.

(The writer is assistant professor IIM Mumbai; views are personal. Inputs from Supriya Kaushik and Asmita Tewari)

Religious conversion intolerable: Jagdeep Dhankhar

AGENCIES
THIRUVANANTHAPURM, MAR 2

Drawing attention towards religious conversions, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday said "while helping someone, do not pull them towards conversion, this is intolerable."

The Vice President said this while delivering the 4th P. Parameswaran Memorial Lecture on "Democracy, Demography, Development and the future of Bharat," organised by Bharatheeya Vicharakendram.

"The challenge is coming in various forms: one is through allurements, temptations, reaching out to the needy and vulnerable, providing support, and then in a subtle way suggesting a change of religion, which is labeled as conversions,"

"The country allows



everyone to have a religion of his or her choice, this is our fundamental right, this is handed to us from our civilizational wealth but if this is tampered with, it is tweaked, it cannot be tolerated. Greed and temptation cannot be the basis for this."

"When someone is in pain, in difficulty, in need, while helping them, do not pull them towards conversion, this is intolerable. No matter how much I try, I will not be able to express the gravity of the concern,

the enormity of the challenge we are facing due to these strategised, orchestrated, financially backed misadventures aimed at affecting conversions."

Bharatheeya Vichara Kendram Director R Sanjayam, Dr. Sudesh Dhankhar, spouse of the Vice-President, R.V. Arlekar, Governor of Kerala, V Muraleedharan, former Union Minister, former BJP MLA O Rajagopal, Kendram President CV Jayamani and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

Lalu known for dacoity, loot, and rape during his regime in Bihar : Giriraj

AGENCIES
GAYA, MAR 02

Union Minister Giriraj Singh on Sunday said that RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav was known for dacoity, loot, and rape during the regime of his party for 15 years from 1990 to 2005 in Bihar.

Singh, also a senior BJP leader, told media persons here that there was complete lawlessness during the regime of RJD for 15 years from 1990 to 2005 in Bihar. Lalu was known for dacoity, loot, and rape during the regime of his party in Bihar, he added.

"Lalu is in desperation to make his son Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, the next Chief Minister of Bihar but it will never be possible", the BJP leader said adding that Tejashwi had no worth in politics on his own. Lalu was trying to launch his



son on his political pitch, he pointed out. But what about Lalu, he was known for "jungle raj" among people of the state, he quipped.

"When Lalu launched his son Tejashwi in Chhapra, he had declared that there would be prosperity all around in Bihar if he became Chief Minister of the state", Singh said adding that kidnapping, dacoity, and loot were models of Lalu for provid-

ing jobs to youths.

"There has been a sea change in the textile sector and heavy machines are being brought to Bihar to boost textile production which would also help in creating employment opportunities for youths", the BJP leader said adding that people of Bihar had tasted the fruits of development and prosperity. They would never accept the Lalu model in Bihar, he stressed.

Congress will now contest as team "A" and not as team "B": Allavaru

AGENCIES
PATNA, MARCH 2

Bihar Congress in-charge Krishna Allavaru categorically cleared that his party would contest the coming assembly elections as "A" team.

Allavaru who has been continuously camping in Bihar since he was made in-charge of the state unit of the party, said here on Sunday that the Congress this time will not play the role of team B and was prepared to play the role of Big Brother in the grand alliance. He said Congress would enter into the electoral battle as team A and would contest the elections with vigour and full strength.

Even after being the national party, the role of Congress in the grand alliance was not according to its status, and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) of Lalu Prasad Yadav, playing the role of team A always dominated the alliance.



For Allavaru the coming Assembly Elections would most likely be a litmus test for him. Realising it Allavaru was continuously interacting with the leaders and workers of every rank and file within the party.

Toeing the lines of aggressive politics Allavaru announced to fight as a team and was preparing the party workers for it.

In the 2020 Assembly Elections, RJD-Congress had entered into the electoral battle along with the left parties. Even after being a national outfit, the Congress had contested 70 seats whereas RJD fought

144. The CPI had got 6 seats while the CPM had contested 4 seats.

Meanwhile, senior RJD leader Bhai Virendra, reacting to the statements of Allavaru said that there is no need to pay attention to anyone's statement as RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav and Congress leader Sonia Gandhi share cozy political relations.

Lambasting Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Allavaru alleged that the double-engine government of Bihar was irrelevant and was even worse than a Khatara gadi.

He said that people should ask Kumar to explain what he has done during the 20 years of his rule.

Speaking about the speculations of Kumar's son Nishant Kumar entering into politics, Allavaru said it was a matter between NDA and Kumar. However, if anyone does something good for the people he is welcomed in politics.

Kerala: Wayanad MP assures to increase honorarium of ASHA workers after UDF comes to power next year

AGENCIES
WAYANAD, MAR 2

AICC general secretary and MP, Priyanka Gandhi, on Sunday gave an assurance to ASHA workers that when the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) comes to power next year in Kerala, it will ensure that their honorarium is raised so that they will receive respect and recognition that they rightfully deserve.

The ASHA workers of Kerala have been on indefinite agitation, under the banner of Kerala ASHA Workers Association, demanding to increase their honorarium and the provision of retirement benefits and incentives, before the Secretariat at Thiruvananthapuram. Their agitation entered 21st day today.

Extending her support to the ongoing ASHA workers agitation, Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi wrote on her social media handle X that "ASHA workers are one of the greatest strengths of our public health system, who are selflessly serving communities, especially in times



of crisis. They became an integral part of India's healthcare network during Dr Manmohan Singh's first term as Prime Minister. From risking their lives on the frontline of the battle against COVID-19, to providing maternal care and health services to countless families across India, they have ensured that healthcare reaches even the most marginalized.

"In Kerala, ASHA workers are protesting for a rightful increase in their meager honorarium of Rs 7,000, far less than what their counterparts receive in Karnataka and Telangana. Their fight is a fight for dignity and respect. It is appalling that women who are the backbone of

society should have to beg for their rights like this. Instead of justice, all they have got from the Kerala government is apathy and attempts to silence them.

"The Congress party stands in unwavering solidarity with Kerala's ASHA workers. My sisters, your fight will not be in vain. When the UDF comes to power next year, we will ensure that your wages are raised and that you receive the respect and recognition that you rightfully deserve," she concluded.

Meanwhile, the Congress has announced that it will take out protest marches to District Collectors in support of the ongoing ASHA workers' stir on March three.

Five killed, 1 injured in Agra road accident



AGENCIES
AGRA (UP), MAR 2

Five youths, including four of a family, were killed and two others injured when two motorcycles collided in the Kagaraul area of Agra district here in Uttar Pradesh, police sources said here on Sunday. Police sources said that the incident took place late on Saturday night when two motorcycles collided on Gaharrakalaan under Kagaraul police station. "Four of the deceased were residents of the Saiya area, and one was from Kiravali," they said. Police sources said that Bhagwan Das (35),

Vakil (30), Ram Swaroop (28), and Sonu (25), all residents of Saiya, had gone to Garhmukha on Saturday evening to attend the wedding of a relative's sister-in-law. "While they were returning home, their motorcycle collided with the bike of Karan and Kanhaiya, both residents of Gaharrakalaan," they said. Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Devesh Kumar said that five people, including Bhagwan Das, Vakil, Ram Swaroop, Sonu, and Karan, died on the spot. "Kanhaiya, who sustained serious injuries, has been admitted to the hospital," he said.

BJP govt conspiring to end reservation: Akhilesh



AGENCIES
LUCKNOW, MAR 2

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday said that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government is conspiring to end jobs and reservation by privatising government institutions.

In a statement issued here, Akhilesh said, "Earlier, the BJP government at the centre handed over many government institutions to private hands. Now, following the same path, the BJP government of Uttar Pradesh is also promoting privatisation. The BJP governments work for capitalists."

He said, "The UP government is hell-bent on handing over Purvanchal and Dakshinchal Vidyut Nigam to private hands. The government wants to give assets worth billions to capitalists under the guise of privatisation."

The SP chief said that the BJP government is against the Constitution and reservation. "The BJP is hatching new conspiracies every day to keep the PDA away from jobs and

reservation. The policy of the BJP is anti-PDA. It hates the PDA," he alleged.

He said that the government jobs are lost due to privatisation. "The private sector increases inflation by acting arbitrarily, which affects the common people. Along with this, due to government institutions going into the private sector, the PDA does not get the opportunity of reservation given in the Constitution by Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar," he said.

Akhilesh said that the BJP government is working on the policy of loot, lies and dishonesty. "Today, employees and the general public are all against this policy of the BJP government. But for its donations, profits and benefits, the BJP is ready to hand over everything to its close capitalists," he said.

He said that the people of the country and the state have come to know about the conspiracy of the BJP. "In the 2027 assembly elections, the people are determined to remove the anti-people government of the BJP," he claimed.

Over 100 cars from bygone era join the Statesman vintage rally

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 2

The much-awaited 58th annual Statesman Vintage and Classic car rally concluded successfully here on Sunday with over 100 vehicles from the bygone era lining up for the car parade. Car connoisseurs and motorheads flocked to the prestigious car rally to showcase their prized possessions. Among the iconic models which were on display included MG YT convertible and Rolls Royce Phantom 1 Open Tourer, adding to the grandeur of the rally.

The grand rally was flagged off from Statesman House, Connaught Place by Indian Oil Chairman Arvinder Singh Sahney. The rally concluded at National Stadium where a prize distribution ceremony was held.

Along the pre-determined route of around

40 kilometres, spectators were left spell-bound by the impressive line-up of vintage cars. Many foreigners and even diplomats were seen among those catching the glimpse.

At the closing ceremony, Delhi Environment and Forest Minister and Chief Guest Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Statesman Group Chairman R. P. Gupta, Statesman's Managing Director Ravindra Kumar, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Law and Justice Manoj Kumar, and Vineet Gupta, Director at Statesman presented trophies to car owners for excellent maintenance and upkeep of cars in the vintage and classic categories.

Among the vintage category vehicles participating in the rally this time, the oldest car - John Morris Fire Engine (Nizam State No. 1) came from the National Railway Museum. The car was built in 1914



and now only two such timeless pieces are in existence. The second piece adorns the Manchester Museum in London.

The rare vintage car was purchased by the railway company of the then

princely state of Nizam of Hyderabad. It was in service until 1960. The vehicle is currently being maintained by the National Railway Museum.

This year's most striking entry in the vintage car

rally was Daman Thakore's 1950 MG YT convertible, affectionately known as "Lal Pari" within his family.

"This car is a rare gem. Only 900 cars were manufactured, and today, only around 150-200 remain globally," Thakore said.

Another distinct piece joining the rally was Gurpreet Singh's 1928 Rolls Royce Phantom 1 Open Tourer, originally owned by the Maharaja of Bhavnagar.

Many other classic automobiles which were cynosure of attention during the rally were Ashok Gupta's 1936 Rolls Royce, Bareilly's Kaleem Khan's 1919 Citroën, Dr. S. Hussain's 1926 American-

made Oakland and Avani Ambuj's 1926 Austin (UK).

While the penchant for vintage automobiles remains alive among many people, sustaining it seems a daunting task.

Gyan Sharma, a member of the rally jury, stressed the need for government support to preserve the vintage car culture.

"Due to increasing driving restrictions and rising maintenance costs, fewer young enthusiasts are joining such car rallies. It was once a thriving hobby but now only a few dedicated people are pursuing it. The Statesman deserves credit for keeping this tradition alive," he said.

Discussing the evaluation process, Pramod Bhasin, another member of the jury, said that the vehicles were evaluated on the basis of originality, maintenance, paint quality and quality of accessories.

TN govt should take constructive approach instead of faulting the Centre to wipe out tears of fishermen : Guv

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, MAR 2

Instead of politicising and finding fault with the Centre, the Tamil Nadu government should undertake constructive approach and work together with the Union Government that would go a long way in wiping out the tears of the affected fishermen, who were subjected to frequent arrests by the Sri Lankan Navy, Governor R N Ravi said on Sunday.

Referring to the conceding of the Katchatheevu an islet, to Sri Lanka in 1974, he said the then governments in Delhi and Chennai had committed a grave sin by depriving the fishermen their traditional fishing rights around the Katchatheevu island.

Government Must Bring the Real Reservation Amendment Bill 2025: Confederation

JNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MARCH 2

The All India Confederation of SC/ST/OBC Organisations, in a protest conference held today at Dr B R Ambedkar Chowk, Jammu strongly demanded that the government introduce the Real Reservation Amendment Bill 2025 to ensure justice for marginalized communities.

Addressing the media, RK Kalsotra, State President of the Confederation, condemned the recent draft of the Reservation Bill, calling it a direct attack on constitutional reservations. He warned that any dilution of existing reservation policies would lead to widespread protests. "The current proposal circulating in political circles is aimed at weakening the fundamental rights of SC/ST/OBC communities. We will not tolerate any attempt to undermine the hard-won constitutional provisions of social justice," he asserted.

Key Demands of the Confederation included that there should be an Increase in Reservation Quota, SC reservation in recruitment and promotions should be raised from 8% to 10%. Further ST-1 reservation should be increased from 10% to 12%, OBC reservation should be ensured at 27% as per the Mandal Commission. As per bill sc+st-1+obc is 4+7+5=16 and their population is 8+10+52=70 whereas general are 30% claiming 84% reservation and this is the major reason for condemning the alleged bill.



Immediate Restoration of Reservation in Promotions. The government must reinstate reservation in promotions for SC/ST/OBC employees without delay. Age Relaxation for SC/ST in Employment and Education. The five-year age relaxation for SC/ST candidates should be restored, instead of the current three-year concession. Clearing of Backlog Vacancies. The government should fill all pending backlog vacancies for SC/ST/OBC candidates in employment. Land Rights for Marginalized Communities, Government state lands should be returned to SC/ST/OBC communities and legal ownership should be granted. Conduct Caste Census for Fair Representation, A state/nationwide caste census must be conducted to ensure that reservation and resources are allocated in proportion to population share. Filling of SC Member Post in J&K PSC, The post of Scheduled Caste member in the Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission (PSC) has remained vacant since December 2022. The gov-

ernment must immediately appoint a representative to ensure fair representation. Independent Control of Bodhgaya Monastery, The Bodhgaya Monastery site in Bihar should be placed under the independent control of the Buddhist community.

There is also an exponential increase in the caste based atrocities. Recent cases from Billawar regarding suicide of a tribal boy, rape case of a minor school going Dalit girl in Kathua are a few cases which are direct instances of caste based atrocities.

RK Kalsotra further warned that failure to address these demands would result in a state wide agitation. He emphasized that SC/ST/OBC communities would not remain silent if their rights were tampered with. "Our fight is not just for reservations but for dignity, equality, and justice. If the government fails to act, we will take to the streets to protect our constitutional rights," he declared.

The Confederation has urged the government to take immediate action on

these issues and ensure that the Real Reservation Amendment Bill 2025 is introduced in the upcoming assembly session.

The Confederation also urged opposition parties to support the Real Reservation Amendment Bill 2025 in the upcoming assembly session. "Social justice is not a political issue; it is a constitutional responsibility. We call upon all opposition parties to stand with SC/ST/OBC communities and ensure that this bill is passed without any dilution," RK Kalsotra stated.

It was also unanimously decided by all the members that in case a pro SC/ST/OBC bill is not passed by the govt, there will be a gherao of the assembly in coming days by the confederation as a marker of resistance.

Bansi Lal Choudhary Convener of OBC Mahasabha said, Keeping in view the fake & Fictitious reports submitted by all deputy commissioners of all the 20 districts Our demand is fresh door to door Resurvey for counting JK-UT OBC POPULATION for exact OBC population for reservation of OBC in Panchayats and in municipal corporations/committees.

Those prominent who spoke were B L Bhardwaj, Ramesh Sarmal, Ramesh Uttama, Dr Ramesh Kaith, Bansi Lal Ch. K.K Fottra, Arif Ch, Rashpal Bhardwaj, Hurdutt, Shamsher Chand Bhagat, Roshan Ch, Shashi Syal, Amar Nath Bhagat, Mohinder Karlopiya, Kuldeep Raj, Kasturi Lal Basotra. Dr Shiv Pal Sarmal, Dault Ram and many others

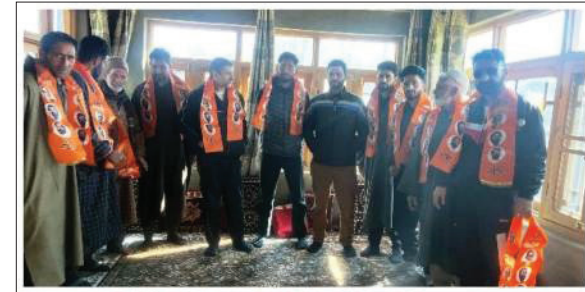
BJP Consititency Secretary & Mann Ki Baat incharge join Shiv sena at district Anantnag

JNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 2

Further strengthening its base in the state, A Joining Program organized by Fayaz Malik at District Anantnag where different Political Parties members joined Shiv Sena in presence of Umer Yaqoob Vice President Yuva Sena Kashmir Division & in District Pulwama Where 30 members Joined Shivsena in Presence of Fayaz Baba District Vice President Pulwama & Ab. Rashid Najar Constituency President. Rajya Pramukh Sh. Ashwani Gupta, State Secretary (org) / Prabhari Kashmir Division Sanjay Bhat Join through Video Conference.

Addressing the party karyakartas Sh. Ashwani Gupta said that under the guidance of Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister State of Maharashtra and Shiv Sena National President Sh. Eknath Shinde Ji has a clear vision as how to bring out the country out of mis-management & mis-



rule of last 60 years. While welcoming to the party the State President Sh. Ashwani Gupta said that every party member has to take the teachings and the ideology of Bala

Sahib Thackeray to each and ever corner of Kashmir. The problem of the public has to brought to the knowledge of administration. Further Sh. Ashwani Gupta said party workers to gear up for

the upcoming municipal & panchayat elections.

On this occasion Sanjay Bhat State Secretary (Organisation) / Prabhari Kashmir Division highlighted the overall development of the nation & its integration. He also stressed the need for making aware about the various self-employment schemes announced by the Central Govt. so that they can take advantage these

schemes.

Umer Yaqoob said that the state unit of ShivSena is actively carrying forward the ideology and teaching of Balasahib Thackeray and even the party chief Sh. Eknath Shinde Ji.

Fayaz Malik, in his speech assured his full support to the Youth in taking up the youth related issues at all levels and stressed upon the need to encourage youth.

Further Joining Program in Pulwama Fiyaz Baba assured the newly joined members to help solve issues of public importance & assured them of all possible support.

While addressing the function in Pulwama Ab. Rashid Najar Constituency President said Shiv Sena will fight for the rights of public & asked all members to work for the betterment of the society.

Newly Joined member Fayaz Malik thanked the Party Leadership for giving me chance to serve the people.

Hike in KCC limit big boon to farmers: Balbir

JNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 2

The Union government has announced an increase in the credit limit under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme in the 2025 budget. This move is expected to provide much-needed financial support to farmers, helping them meet rising input costs, improve productivity, and enhance their overall income. Balbir Ram Rattan, Spokesperson, Jammu and Kashmir BJP & former Vice Chairperson, said this, while terming this decision of Narendra Modi government as a big boon to farmers.

He said that the enhanced KCC limit will allow farmers to access higher credit at affordable interest rates, ensuring



better cash flow for purchasing seeds, fertilizers, machinery, and other essential agricultural inputs. The increase in credit will also support allied agricultural activities such as dairy, fisheries, and poultry, promoting diversification in rural incomes.

Balbir Ram Rattan said that under the revised scheme, the credit limit for KCC holders has been significantly increased

from rupees three lakh to five lakh, addressing the concerns of farmers who face difficulties due to limited access to funds. The decision aims to ease financial stress and reduce dependence on informal lenders who often charge exorbitant interest rates.

He stated, "the hike in the KCC limit is an appreciable decision that will empower farmers to invest more in modern farming techniques and enhance productivity. This will not only benefit individual farmers but also contribute to the overall growth of the agricultural sector".

The increased credit facility can now help farmers to meet their input costs, including seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and irrigation, Balbir said, adding that the farm-

ers can access credit at significantly lower rates compared to informal borrowing.

Balbir further said that the move encourages investment in dairy, fisheries, and poultry, ensuring additional income sources for rural households.

Now the farmers can avoid high-interest private loans and adopt advanced agricultural techniques, improving efficiency and yields.

This enhanced KCC limit aligns with the government's vision of doubling farmers' income and strengthening the rural economy. By ensuring timely credit access, the scheme will play a crucial role in boosting agricultural output and improving the livelihood of millions of farmers.

All J&K Megh Sabha Holds Joint Press Conference on SC Reservation Concerns

JNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 2

Today in the premises of All J&K Megh Sabha jointly press conference arranged by Sh. Narinder Datt (President) where heads of different sabha's participated Sh. Parshotam Lal (President) Saryara Sabha, Sh. Sham Lal Basson (General Secretary) Ravidas Sabha-Bahu fort, Sh. Kali Dass (President) All J&K Mahasa Sabha, Captain Biru Ram (President) Barwala Sabha, Sh. Prithvi Singh (President) Batwal Sabha.

In a joint press conference speaking to media persons Sh. Narinder Datt request to the public of Schedule Caste community not to panic with the bill which is recently circulated in social media with the calcification of percentage of reservation particularly



SC reservation from 8% to 4%, it may be private member bill which either accepted by his party or not. No doubt history is witnessed for curtailment of SC percentage of reservation but now we are very much assured under Govt of Sh. Narendra Modi (Hon'ble Prime Minister of India) whose slogan is "Sabka Sath.. Sabka Vikas", under the Govt of Sh. Manoj Sinha (Hon'ble Lieutenant General JK UT) who is working untirely for integrity, Jenab Omar Abdullah (Hon'ble Chief Minister of JK UT) who is intelligent CM of JK UT even leadership of his family very much inter-

ested for the development & upliftment of SC community & particularly our elected MLA's from SC community capable enough to deal with any kind of circumstances, all are well educated, vigilant, answerable as well & they'll never let the history repeat because every member of SC community watching & supporting them.

Sh. Narinder Datt also appealed to elected MLA's raise voice in assembly in order to increase reservation percentage of SC community from 8% to at least 15% otherwise demand SC reservation as per UT status.

Now it's duty of our elected MLA's keeping personal interests aside & demand for reservation in promotion as per order of Supreme court because now State is only responsible/authority, ask for implementation / maintenance of roaster to Hon'ble Lieutenant General, Hon'ble Chief Minister as well.

Other who participated in conference Sh. Kitting Singh, Smt. Rashmi Devi (city president), Smt. Premila Devi, Smt. Sapna Bhagat, Smt. Neelam Bhagat, Smt. Satya Devi, Sh. Narinder Singh, Sh. Amar Nath Bhagat, Sh. Rajinder Bhagat (vice president), Sh. Ashok Bhagat, Sh. Rakesh Kumar (president) Doda, Sh. Anil Aryan, Sh. Romesh Ex- councillor Doda city, Sh. Daulat Ram (President Kistwar), Baldev Singh Ex Sarpanch, Rajesh Bhagat.

Medical Patrol for Gujjar and Bakarwals Conducted at Gunda, Rajouri

JNEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI : 02 MAR 2025

The Indian Army conducted a medical patrol for the benefit of Gujjar and Bakarwal communities in Gunda, Rajouri District, on 02, Mar 2025. The medical team provided essential medical care to 46 individuals, including

17 females, 21 males, and 8 children. The medical patrol was organized by the Indian Army as part of its ongoing efforts to provide medical aid and support to remote and inaccessible areas.

The team of medical professionals provided free medical check-ups, consultations, and medi-

cation to the local population. The Gujjar and Bakarwal communities, being nomadic in nature, often face challenges in accessing basic medical facilities. The Indian Army's initiative aimed to bridge this gap and provide essential medical care to these communities. The medical patrol was well

received by the local population, who expressed their gratitude for the Indian Army's efforts in providing medical aid and support. The event reinforced the Indian Army's commitment to serving the nation and supporting local communities, particularly in remote and inaccessible areas.

Sadguru Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj Explains the Reality of Hell and Sin

JNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, MAR 2

Sahib Bandagi's Sadguru Madhuparamhans Ji Maharaj, while delighting the congregation with the nectar of his discourses today at Sungal Road Akhnoor, said that all the religions of the world accept one thing that the soul is immortal. All the religions of the world also believe in heaven and hell. If someone stubbornly says that we do not believe, then there is no remedy for it.

A Chaudhary of Delhi announced that whoever explains the eighteenth chapter of the Gita to me, I will donate a cow to him. The cow gives 10 kg of milk. His wife said that you do not do any work, I raise the children by selling this milk. Someone will come and explain the eighteenth chapter and take away the cow. He said that no one will be able to explain. The wife said that there are great scholars, someone will explain it. He said, you fool, keep quiet. I will say that you did not understand at all.

If this is the case then it is a different matter. Otherwise all the religions of the world believe unani-



mously, they also believe in heaven and hell. There was a king. He lived in his own pleasure. Sahib thought that he has to give him knowledge. Sahib made him visit hell.

You see that in dreams some people laugh, some cry, some get scared. Although it is a dream. But such is the play of situations that at that time everyone believes it to be true. The pain of hell is also like a dream. But at that time that pain is felt. At that time the messengers of death were putting the man in the crusher. Just like farmers put sugarcane in the crusher. These are not stories. This is the truth. That is why all religions have said. Just like one sees a dream, similarly this condition is also like a dream. All the saints have confirmed this. Just like a dream, so is the world. Neither the dream is true nor this world. Just like a man eats carrots

and radishes, similarly the messengers of death were eating the man there. Some were being put in a pitcher and were being beaten from above. There are seven pitchers in hell. Seven Kumbhi is hell. There is mud in one pot, blood in another, excreta in another, pus in another, urine in another and fire in another. Sinners are thrown in them. If one raises his neck, he is hit with a hammer from above and is thrown down. Just think what kind of tortures are there. Seeing all this, the king became restless.

You see in the world. Humans also give strange tortures. Uganda's President Idi Amin used to make people stand at crossroads and get them beaten with hammers until they died. Look at Hitler. He beat the Jews very badly.

This is how the pains of hell are. There are very deep pots. The king became very sad after

seeing this. The one who gives false testimony, the snake stings his tongue. The one who kills someone without any fault, he gets a very big hell. The man and woman who love someone other than their husband and wife, they have to embrace the man like hot iron. Some goons scare others and walk away. Don't do this. It is a sin. Crows and vultures are set free on them. They peck at them alive. Alcohol is always forbidden. Those who consume alcohol are punished. This is the path to destruction. Hot oil is made to drink. Those who harass devotees and saints, their entire body is afflicted with leprosy. Their entire body parts burn. Seeing all this, the king requested the Sahib to save him. Sin is forbidden in all religions. You see the Nirbhaya incident. How brutally she was killed. The kind of deeds this man is doing. The person who tells a lie gets the biggest punishment. The Sahib is clearly saying that there is no sin equal to lying. You should never take money from others. But don't go towards women. Ravana lost his ten heads because of women. You should avoid the tortures of hell.

MLA Arvind inaugurates Kashmir Art Emporium

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 2

Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta today inaugurated the Kashmir Art Emporium at Pacca Gharat, Talab Tillo, Jammu, celebrating the colors and creativity of Kashmiri culture.

On the occasion, Tarun Uppal, Chairman of Nirbhay Bharat Foundation, Sanjeev Sharma, Manik Uppal, Chairman of Stand with Humanity, and Brajesh Gupta were present.

The Kashmir Art Emporium aims to promote local artisans and showcase the rich artistic traditions of Jammu and Kashmir. With a diverse range of handicrafts, paintings, and traditional textiles, the emporium provides a platform for artists to display their work and connect with art



lovers.

During the inauguration, MLA Arvind Gupta expressed his support for local businesses and highlighted the importance of preserving the region's cultural heritage. "This emporium is not just a store; it is a celebration of our rich traditions and a step towards empowering our local artisans," he stated.

MLA Arvind also appealed to the youth of

Jammu to take advantage of Central Government schemes to start their own ventures instead of waiting for government jobs. He emphasized that entrepreneurship is a key pathway to economic growth and self-reliance, urging young people to explore opportunities in handicrafts and other traditional arts as promising business prospects.

The opening of the

Kashmir Art Emporium comes at a time when there is a growing interest in Kashmiri art and crafts. The founders, Manju Devi and Vicky Kumar Dr. Sunar Krishi, are committed to creating a space that not only sells art but also educates visitors about the history and significance of Kashmiri craftsmanship. "We believe that every piece of art has a story to tell, and through this emporium, we hope to share those stories with our community and beyond," said Manju Devi.

The Kashmir Art Emporium is set to become a cultural hub in Jammu, fostering a deeper appreciation for the artistic talents of the region. It will also host workshops and events aimed at engaging the public and encouraging the next generation of artists.

BJP committed to address people's issues with dedication: Vikram Randhawa

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 2

Reaffirming the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) unwavering commitment to public welfare, senior BJP leader and MLA Bahu Constituency, Vikram Randhawa, today conducted an extensive tour of Ward No. 20 in Gandhi Nagar today.

The visit was part of his outreach programme aimed at directly engaging with the people to understand and resolve their issues. Accompanied by officials from Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Public Works Department (PWD), Power Development Department (PDD), and key party leaders including Naresh Singh (District President), Rahul Kumar (Mandal President), Riki Gupta, Sandeep Gupta, Ritika Trehan, Pankaj Bral, Naresh Gupta, Dr. Sunita Puri, Satvir



Singh, and Vijay Verma, the MLA listened to people's issues.

During the visit, Vikram Randhawa interacted extensively with the locals, who apprised him of the pressing related to drains, lanes, defunct street lights, etc. in the area.

The MLA listened patiently and directed the concerned officials to take immediate steps for resolving these issues. He asserted that addressing people's concerns has always been his foremost

priority. "If I came to this ward to seek people's vote during Assembly polls, it's also my duty to reach out to them now to resolve their civic problems," Randhawa remarked, emphasizing the BJP's commitment to service beyond elections.

The senior BJP leader further assured the residents that necessary funds would be allocated for upgrading basic infrastructure, including repair of drains, maintenance of lanes, and installation of

new street lights. Randhawa highlighted Modi government's various initiatives aimed at urban development and improved civic amenities. He directed the officials to expedite pending works and ensure that the grievances of the people are addressed without delay. "My doors have always been open for the general public. I am committed to making Bahu Constituency a model for development and efficient governance," he stated.

The residents expressed their gratitude to the MLA for his proactive approach and appreciated the BJP's efforts in resolving local issues.

The tour concluded with a pledge by Randhawa to continue such outreach programmes regularly to bridge the gap between the administration and the people.

NSF tribute of 76th Death anniversary of Sarojini Naidu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 2

National Secular Forum (NSF) paid tributes to Sarojini Naidu on her 76th Death Anniversary at University Campus, who laid her life for the country.

Sh Ankush Abrol Provincial Joint Secretary, JKNC was the Chief Guest and Dr Vikas Sharma, Secretary Central Zone and Coordinator Jammu Distt, J&K National Conference presided over the function. Dr Sukhdev Singh State President NSF was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion Ankush Abrol appreciated the initiative taken by the University Unit NSF to remember the death anniversary of those who have contributed their lives for the Country. He also said that the right tribute to Sarojini Naidu would be to launch the struggle for restoration of full status of Jammu and Kashmir State.

He also said that she was born in Hyderabad on February 13, 1879, she played a pivotal role in India's freedom movement and remains a symbol of strength and eloquence.

On this occasion, Dr Vikas Sharma threw light on the life and supreme sacrifices of "Sarojini Naidu". Sharma said that the real tributes to Sarojini Naidu would be eradicating evils prevailing in the society like drug addiction. He also said that we all should take oath not to sit silent and continue our endeavor to regain Jammu and Kashmir State. He mentioned that people have suffered a lot during the last five years especially after the abrogation of Article 370, bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir and

downgraded of State to a Union Territory.

Dr Sukhdev Singh also said that Sarojini Naidu was a follower of Mahatma Gandhi and played a significant role in the Indian National Movement, which aimed to achieve independence for the nation. After independence, she also became the first governor of Uttar Pradesh. Above all, she is a pioneering figure in Indian English poetry.

Mr Vikshay Vashist State Secretary NSF delivered the welcome address, Abhishhek Uppal was delivering the vote of thanks.

Sant Nirankari Mission organises a voluntarily blood donation camp at Muthi Rakwalan

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 2

Under the Guidance of Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, The Sant Nirankari Mission has organized hundreds of voluntary blood donation camps across India and Abroad in a Year. In this regard Sant Nirankari Mission's Branch Muthi Rakwalan Organised a voluntarily Blood Donation Camp at Sant Nirankari Satsang Bhawan Muthi Rakwalan. Devotees from Branch Hariachak, Dayalachak and Marheen also participated in this camp. A total of 122 Units of blood donated in this camp. The Camp was inaugurated by Sh. Rajeev Jasrotia MLA Jasrota Constituency District Kathua, while speaking on the occasion he said Today, I feel truly honored to be a part of this noble initiative organized by the



Sant Nirankari Mission. Their unwavering commitment to the cause of humanity, especially in the field of blood donation, is truly commendable. The Sant Nirankari Mission has been at the forefront of this noble cause for decades, organizing blood donation camps across the country and ensuring that no life is lost due to a shortage of blood. This is a tremendous contribution to society, and I wholeheartedly congratulate the Mission for its dedicated

efforts. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the organizers of today's camp, who have worked tirelessly to make this event a great success.

Ajit Singh Zonal Incharge Sant Nirankari Mission Jammu said that this initiative reflects the Mission's belief that "Blood should flow in veins, not in drains." Blood donation is one of the greatest acts of service to mankind. It knows no boundaries of caste, religion, or status—it is a gift

of life that strengthens the bonds of humanity. The followers of the Mission believe that serving humanity is the true worship of God, and donating blood is one of the purest forms of service. Tarsem Lal Mukhi Muthi Rakwalan welcome the Chief Guest and Donors presented on the occasion. Other Dignitaries presented on the occasion were Dr. Surnider Attri Principal GMC Kathua, Dr. Sonia Incharge Blood Bank GMC Kathua, Dr. Zulfikar Ahmad Consultant and Dr. Ifa from Blood Bank GMC Jammu, Babu Ram Ji Sanyojak Kathua, Sat Pal Nirankari Khetriya Sanchalak Kathua. The camp was held in collaboration with blood & transfusion dept. of Govt. Medical College Jammu, Govt. Medical College Kathua, Sub-District Hospital Nagri and JKASCS.

Edison Hospital launches state-of-art kidney transplant unit

JI NEWS SERVICE
MOHALI, MAR 2

Edison Hospital, Mohali a cutting-edge multi-specialty hospital today announced the launch of a state-of-art Kidney Transplant Unit.

The unit will be headed by the renowned Chief Transplant Surgeon and Medical Director of hospital Dr. Arjinder Bains, who have over 25 years of experience in successful kidney transplants.

During the launch of the unit, 80 kidney donors, majority of them women across the country, were felicitated to mark International Women Day and World Kidney Day.

Meanwhile Edison Hospital's comprehensive facilities include: state-of-art dialysis unit, blood bank, pathology lab, cardiology department with advanced cath lab, gyne and mother & child department, neuro and ortho departments, ICU and CCU equipped



with advanced life support systems. Speaking during the occasion, Dr. Arjinder Bains said, "We are committed to providing world-class medical care, with a focus on compassion, empathy, and patient-centricity. Our state-of-art facilities and experienced team of doctors are dedicated to delivering exceptional patient outcomes."

This state-of-art hospital is dedicated to providing comprehensive care in kidney transplantation, with a special focus on the selfless contributions of women in the field of organ donation.

Speaking during the occasion, Dr Akansha

Sharma, Nephrologist shared the basic myths on kidney disease.

She said that while age can be a risk factor for kidney disease, it is not the sole cause. Kidney disease can affect individuals of all ages. Moreover, it can be caused by factors such as diabetes, high blood pressure, genetic predisposition, infections, autoimmune diseases, medications, urinary tract obstructions, and lifestyle choices.

While talking about kidney stones, Dr Hitesh Kamal Urologist said, "Each year, more than half a million people go to emergency rooms for kidney stone problems. It

is estimated that one in ten people will have a kidney stone at some time in their lives."

Talking about prevention of kidney stones he said that one should drink water throughout the day, eat fewer oxalate-rich foods, choose a diet low in salt and continue eating calcium-rich foods, but use caution with calcium supplements. Rupinder Kaur Facility Director said, "Women are the epitome of selflessness and compassion. They have always been the caregivers and nurturers in our society. It is fitting that we launch our hospital, which specializes in kidney transplantation, in the month of March, when we celebrate the power and resilience of women."

Without compromising the quality, Edison Hospital will offer economic rates for the society with special benefits for senior citizens and women patients, she informed.

GDC Thannamandi Organizes 'Mehfil-e-Afsana'

JI NEWS SERVICE
THANNAMANDI, MAR 2

The Department of Urdu in collaboration with Cultural Committee of Government Degree College (GDC) Thannamandi organized a literary event, Mehfil-e-Afsana, celebrating the art of story writing. The event featured renowned guest speakers and showcased thought-provoking Afsanas, highlighting the richness of Urdu literature.

The distinguished guest speakers included Iqbal Nazish, who delivered a presidential address on the occasion and also presented his Pahadi Afsana "Kali Padi" that reflected a sorrowful saga of a lost culture and traditional values, and the afsana was read with heightened imagination. Mohd Aslam Mirza captivated the audience with his afsanas "Dad's Gift" and "Ab Kisay Rehnuma Karay Koi", the style and art in both of the stories had a profound impact on the audience. On behalf of Zafar Khokhar, Dr. Abdul Haque Naimi read out her afsana, bringing her literary voice to the audience. Dr. Ashaq Malik contributed with his insightful afsana "Hum Kitnay Shar-



mindah Howay", adding depth to the session by narrating his thoughts on Aligarh culture as lived by him during his scholarly days.

The event was graced by the esteemed Principal of GDC Thannamandi, who expressed his gratitude to the guest speakers and participants, appreciating their contribution to the literary discourse. The proceedings of the event were conducted by Dr. Mudasir Gori, ensur-

ing a smooth flow of the session. At the conclusion, Prof. Abdul Haque Naimi, Head, Department of Urdu, presented the vote of thanks, acknowledging the efforts of all involved in making the event a success.

The event was well-attended by college staff, including Dr. Nazakat Hussain, Prof. Asif, Prof. Rakesh Puri, Dr. Nazir Ul Islam, Dr. Goher Iqbal, Dr. Gulshan Rashid Bhat, Dr. Shiraz Ahmad, Dr.

Altaf Hussain, Dr. Junaid Ahmad, Dr. Ather Aziz Raina, Prof. Fatima, Dr. Rumi Dar, Dr. Nagina Koser, Ms. Rizwana Koser, Dr. Atiq Ul Rehman, Dr. Mohd Zubair, Dr. Showkat Ahmed, Dr. Mohd Shakkor, Dr. Sajid Ali, Dr. Arshid. The Mehfil-e-Afsana served as a platform for intellectual engagement and literary appreciation, reinforcing GDC Thannamandi's commitment to promoting Urdu literature and cultural heritage.

Lecture on National Science Day Organised for Students at Sabra, Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, 02 MAR 2025

On the occasion of National Science Day, Pine Wood School (PWS) Sabra organized a lecture on National Science Day delivered by Gulfranz Akhtar (Teacher, PWS Sabra). The lecture



aimed to promote interest and curiosity among students in the field of

science. Students participated in various science-related experiments and

activities and discussed the importance and applications of science. The event was a huge success, and we hope it will inspire students to pursue careers in science. We are grateful to the Indian Army for their support in making this event possible.

SRO-43 in electoral politics will push Nagrota's development to backburner: Anil Sharma

J I NEWS SERVICE
DANSAL, MARCH 2, 2025:

Sounding the poll bugle for by-election in Nagrota assembly segment, All Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC) president Anil Sharma on Sunday took a strong dig at the political parties for their attempt to implement SRO-43 in electoral politics by favouring the kin of MLAs and MPs.

While launching his campaign for bringing public reforms in Nagrota assembly constituency, Sharma, who also served as Sarpanch of Panchayat Jindrah, addressed a large and enthusiastic gathering of workers and local residents in Dansal town, urging them to carefully consider their electoral future before casting their votes in the upcoming by-election for the Nagrota assembly constituency.

"Over 3,600 SRO-43 cases remain pending in Nagrota, yet political leaders maintained a criminal silence on the clearance of these cases. These long-pending issues, which should have been resolved after the abrogation of Article 370, continue to be ignored. However, political parties and their leaders are making all-out efforts to implement political SRO-43 in the constituency to benefit the kin of MLAs and MPs, even post-humously," he regretted.



Sharma pointed out that the families of daily wagers from the Power Development Department (PDD) who lost their lives due to electrocution while performing their duties, as well as the families of casual drivers of the J&K Road Transport Corporation who were killed in road accidents while driving, are still waiting for justice.

"Their files are gathering dust, while political leaders, who should be working for the people, remain silent. These very leaders, however, have no hesitation in acknowledging political SRO-43 to benefit the families of their political cronies," Sharma remarked.

He also expressed deep concern over the trend of sidelining true grassroots leaders and workers in favour of individuals with political influence, money, and connections. "People who have dedicated their lives to the welfare of the masses are being ignored by political parties in favour of those who have

political fathers and can wield power or money. This practice needs to end immediately", he said.

Sharma added, "Only those who have served the people with dedication and commitment at grassroots level should be allowed to represent them in the Legislative Assembly as such people will leave no stone unturned to deliver justice to the people".

He further emphasized the urgent need for development in the tourism sector in Nagrota. "Despite having significant religious and tourism destinations like the Kol Kandoli Temple, Surinsar Lake, Mathwar Shrine, and others, the area has remained neglected. No political leader or elected representative has ever worked toward the promotion of tourism in Nagrota. Sites of immense religious and tourism significance are being left to deteriorate," he lamented.

He also pointed out that schools and colleges are understaffed in Nagrota assembly constituency and

the education system in disarray. "The only degree college in Jindrah, located in the Dansal block, continues to function from two rooms in a higher secondary school. The newly constructed building, which developed cracks before its inauguration, remains unused and stands as a symbol of corruption," Sharma said.

He also took a swipe at the leaders for taking people for-granted and playing with their sentiments. "The promises made by political leaders, such as the establishment of administrative units like a sub-division in Nagrota and Tehsil status for Jindrah, have remained unfulfilled. These issues have constantly been ignored, with elected representatives continuing to play with the sentiments of the people of Nagrota," he said.

"The people of Nagrota have had enough. They have understood the tactics of these political opportunists, and they will teach them a lesson in the upcoming by-election," he said, adding "This is a turning point for Nagrota. The people will no longer tolerate political opportunism and exploitation. It's time for change, and the people will speak with their votes."

He also exposed the

political backing for illegal mining activities in the Nagrota constituency. "There is a mafia operating in the region that is indulging in illegal mining of natural resources like river sand, gravel, stones and other minerals. They are using large machines and JCBs to extract these minerals with impunity. Meanwhile, local people, who have historically earned their livelihood by extracting sand and stones from rivers and streams through horses, have been banned from doing so at the behest of these politically-supported mafia groups," he stated.

Sharma called for immediate action to end the exploitation of natural resources and ensure that local people benefit from the resources in their own region.

He stressed that the upcoming by-election provides an opportunity for the people of Nagrota to make their voices heard and put an end to the exploitation they have endured for years.

Earlier, a large enthusiastic crowd drawn from different walks of life gathered in Dansal block and gave rousing welcome to AJKPC president for launching a crusade of public reforms by announcing to contest the upcoming by-election in Nagrota assembly constituency.

Indian Army Organized a Medical and Veterinary Camp for Locals at Jammushied Haribudha, Poonch

J I NEWS SERVICE
POONCH: 02 MAR 2025

In an ongoing effort to support the remote communities of Haribudha, Poonch, particularly the Gujjar and Bakarwal populations, the Rashtriya Rifles Battalion, under the aegis of Romeo Force, successfully conducted a Medical camp. This initiative provided vital medical assistance, offering services that would otherwise remain inaccessible to these isolated communities and their livestock. This medical outreach is part of the Indian Army's larger mission to enhance the quality of life for people living in areas often disconnected from mainstream healthcare services. By focusing on these remote villages, the Army ensures that marginalized communities have access to essential healthcare, reinforcing its unwavering commitment to the well-being of the people, irrespective of their geographic location. The primary aim of



the medical camp was to provide immediate medical care, including basic health check-ups, treatment for common ailments, and the distribution of necessary medicines. The initiative has proven immensely beneficial for the local population, who often face significant challenges due to healthcare disparities, contributing to higher morbidity and mortality rates.

The medical camp, equipped with essential supplies and services, brought healthcare with

compassion to the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities. The Indian Army also emphasized preventive healthcare, offering immunizations and spreading awareness on hygiene, nutrition, and disease prevention. The local response to the medical camp has been overwhelmingly positive. In addition to the immediate medical benefits, the initiative has played a crucial role in strengthening the bond between the Indian Army and the local communities, fostering a spirit of trust and cooperation.

Indian Army Conducts Lecture on World Wildlife Day at Makhidhar Reasi

J I NEWS SERVICE
REASI: 02 MAR 2025

In a commendable initiative to promote environmental awareness and wildlife conservation, the Indian Army conducted a lecture on World Wildlife Day at the remote location of Makhidhar, District Reasi on 2nd March 2025. The aim of the event was to educate local residents, on the significance of preserving biodiversity and maintaining ecological balance. The lecture emphasized on the importance of wildlife conservation, impact of human activities on the ecosystem and the need for sustainable coexistence with nature.

Participants were enlightened about the rich biodiversity of the region, threats to wildlife due to deforestation and poaching. The initiative witnessed enthusiastic participation from locals,



including school children, teachers and village elders, who expressed their gratitude to the Indian Army for their efforts in fostering environmental consciousness alongside their primary role of ensuring national security.

This noble endeavour is part of the Indian Army's ongoing outreach

programs aimed at community engagement, environmental conservation, and nation-building efforts in remote and far-flung areas. By fostering awareness on such crucial issues, the Army continues to strengthen its bond with the local population while contributing to national and global conservation goals.

Dr. Abhijeet Jasrotia Advocates for Shadow Government in J&K, Slams Omar Abdullah's Leadership for Non-Performance

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 2

In a strong rebuttal to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's recent remarks on the concept of a shadow government, senior BJP leader Dr. Abhijeet Jasrotia has firmly defended the necessity of a robust opposition in a democracy. Dr. Jasrotia underscored the crucial role of the opposition in ensuring accountability and transparency, often proving to be more effective than the ruling party itself.

Dr. Jasrotia highlighted the unique political reality of Jammu and Kashmir post the 2024 Assembly elections. He pointed out that despite the BJP emerging as the top choice among voters, securing nearly 1.5 lakh votes and surpassing the National Conference (NC), the party opted to sit in the opposition—an unequivocal demonstration of its commitment to

democratic principles.

Referring to historic injustices, Dr. Jasrotia noted the systematic apathy towards Jammu since 1951-52 and the alleged Gerrymandering of constituencies, which has often resulted in distorted electoral outcomes. He asserted that these structural flaws have unfairly shaped winners and losers, reinforcing the need for a vigilant opposition.

Quoting Abraham Lincoln, he remarked: "You can fool some of the people all the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time." Drawing parallels with the recent Delhi elections, he noted how even minority communities overwhelmingly supported the BJP, a trend he believes will soon be reflected in J&K.

Dr. Jasrotia strongly



endorsed the proposal of a shadow government, as put forward by Leader of the Opposition (LOP) Sumil Sharma, to ensure that the voice of the people is not ignored. He stressed that the BJP will remain proactive in holding the NC-led government accountable.

Dr. Jasrotia launched a scathing attack on the NC-led administration, exposing its failure to fulfill the lofty promises made before the elections. He pointed out that the 1 lakh government jobs promised remain a distant dream, the pledge of 200 units of free electricity has not been implemented, and the assurance of 12 free LPG cylinders turned out to be a deceptive gimmick, benefiting only a fraction of the population. He criticized Omar Abdullah's government for misleading the people without clearly

defining these benefits as exclusive to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).

Dr. Jasrotia pointed out that J&K, in last 5 years, had seen unprecedented progress. He emphasized that GDP has doubled in comparison to Omar Abdullah's previous tenure, J&K Bank has returned to profitability, and a record voter turnout in the 2024 elections signals a new era of democratic participation. He slammed the NC government for focusing on harassment of bureaucrats rather than governance. He warned that escapism is no longer an option, urging the government to deliver results instead of engaging in blame games.

Using the proverb "A bad workman quarrels with his tools," Dr. Jasrotia urged the Omar Abdullah cabinet to see the BJP's vigilant opposition as a blessing rather than a hindrance. He reiterated that BJP's scru-

tiny would keep the ruling government on its toes, ensuring better governance and accountability.

Dr. Jasrotia reaffirmed BJP's unwavering dedication to the people of J&K. He made it clear that while the BJP sits in opposition, it will not sit idle. The party will act as the people's watchdog, ensuring that NC delivers on its promises.

In a final message to the NC-led government, he declared: "The people of J&K have suffered for too long. It's time for real governance, not empty slogans."

Atharva Awards of Excellence on June 1

J I NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, MAR 2

Atharva Awards of Excellence, one of the biggest education awards, will be held on June 1 at Atharva Group of Institutes, Malad (West) Mumbai. This prestigious award event will recognize outstanding UG, PG, and PhD research scholars from across India, providing a national platform to showcase their ground-breaking contributions.

Sunil Rane, executive president of Atharva Group of Institutes who envisioned the award said that the initiative aims to motivate, inspire, and reward the brightest minds



in Engineering. The award event will honour outstanding contributions in the field of research, technology and innovation.



"We seek to highlight the brain, capabilities, efficiency, brilliance, and intellectual strength of India's young researchers. With a mission to inspire innovation and reward

excellence, the awards will honor outstanding contributions in cutting-edge fields such as robotics, space research, and emerging technologies."

With one male and one female winner per category, each winner will get a trophy and Rs 50,000 prize. The event will bring leading academicians, researchers, industry experts, and policymakers together making it a landmark moment in India's education and research landscape. The awards not only recognize innovation but also serve as a catalyst for future advancements, ensuring that young minds receive the support and recognition they

deserve, said Rane. The grand award event will witness the participation of researchers, innovators across India in the presence of eminent academicians and industry leaders making it a key milestone in the education sector.

Meanwhile, for the past 25 years, the Atharva Group of Institutes has been at the forefront of shaping the careers of thousands of students, offering them the tools and opportunities to thrive in a competitive world. From its humble beginnings, the institute has blossomed into a renowned center of learning, fostering excellence, innovation, and growth.


Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Jal Shakti (Irrigation & Flood Control) Department
Mechanical Irrigation Division, Jammu
Email/Fax : icj_xenmidjmu@gmail.com

ABSTRACT OF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
e-NIT No. MID/J/e-NIT/2024-25/147 Dated: 25/02/2025

Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Canal Road, Jammu, on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K UT, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered and reputed Firms **Repairs to 5 cusec x 15mtr head Horizontal split casing pumping unit-II along with allied electro-mechanical works at LIS Dulmachak-L.** The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. **Cover 'I'** –Tender fee and Earnest Money Deposit, fulfillment of prequalification criteria, technical specifications and acceptance of terms and conditions of the tender and **Cover 'II'** - Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

S. No.	Name of Work	Qty.	Earnest Money	Cost of tender document	Period of completion	Validity of Rates	Name of Division
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Repairs to 5 cusec x 15mtr head Horizontal split casing pumping unit-II along with allied electro-mechanical works at LIS Dulmachak-L.	Complete job as per Scope of Work	2% of the quoted value	Rs 200.00	07 Days	180 Days from date of Submission of bid.	Mechanical Irrigation Division, Jammu.

1. The tender documents can be viewed and downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from: **01/03/2025 (06:00PM)**

2. Submission of online bids: **01/03/2025(06:00PM) to 07/03/2025 (02:00 P.M).**

3. Opening of Cover I online bids: **08/03/2025 (2:00 PM)**

-Sd-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical Irrigation Division
Jammu

DIP/J-10664/24
Date: 1-3-25

Workshop on Indian language machine translation held at KU

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 2

To advance research in Indian-language-to-Indian-language (IL-IL) machine translation, the University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with the International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT-Hyderabad), organised a four-day workshop on Developing IL-IL Benchmark Data at the varsity from February 25 to 28, 2025.

The workshop, part of the HIMANGY (Hindustani Machini Anuvaad Technology) consortium under the broader BHASHINI Project funded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, aimed to create benchmark datasets for



enhancing machine translation accuracy in multiple Indian languages, including Hindi, Telugu, Kashmiri, Kannada, Gujarati, Sindhi, Dogri, Odia, Punjabi, Urdu, and English.

Vice Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, in her remarks, highlighted the significance of the initiative in strengthening AI-driven language technologies.

“Developing robust benchmark datasets is crucial for improving machine translation systems and fostering linguistic inclusivity in the digital era. This initiative aligns with the university’s commitment to interdisciplinary research in Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language Processing,” she said.

Prof. Dipti Mishra from IIIT-Hyderabad, emphasized the importance of building strong linguistic benchmarks to support digital inclusivity for Indian languages.

“Ensuring representation of diverse languages in machine translation will bridge communication gaps and make digital content more accessible,” she noted.

Prof. Aadil Amin Kak,

Department of Linguistics KU, stressed on the workshop’s role in ensuring greater visibility for Kashmiri in the digital space and said that such initiatives would help break linguistic barriers and enhance communication across different language communities.

The event saw the participation of 70 researchers from leading institutions across India, including IIT-Patna, Punjabi University-Patiala, IIIT-Bhubaneswar, CDAC-Noida, University of Hyderabad, DAIICT-Ahmedabad, and GCW-Jammu.

Experts engaged in collaborative efforts to refine machine translation models, ensuring better accuracy and effectiveness in Indian language processing.

Lecture on Role of Youth in Society Conducted at Govt High School Messiah Chunga, Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH : 02 MAR 2025

Over 120 students at Govt High School Messiah Chunga had the opportunity to engage in an enlightening lecture on the Role of Youth in Society, delivered by the local Rastriya Rifles Battalion. The event aimed to empower young minds by highlighting their vital role in shaping communities and driving positive change. The session, emphasized the importance of education, leadership, and social responsibility in youth development. Encouraged students to actively participate in community initiatives, embrace innovation, and uphold ethical values. The speaker also discussed challenges facing young people today such as unemployment, peer pressure, and social media influence, while



providing practical solutions to overcome them.

The interactive lecture allowed students to ask thought-provoking questions, share their perspectives, and discuss how they can make a difference. Many students expressed their appreciation for the session, noting how it motivated them to set higher goals and become more engaged in social development. School authorities

commended the inspiring words, emphasizing the need for more such educational programs to nurture responsible and proactive citizens. The event concluded with a call to action for students to take initiative in their personal growth and community development, reinforcing the idea that youth are not just the leaders of tomorrow but also the change makers of today.

All-inclusive development Modi's mission: Sat Sharma

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 2

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been working on the line of “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas”—a vision of inclusive development that ensures progress reaches every citizen, regardless of region, community, or economic status.

Sat Sharma, President, Jammu and Kashmir BJP, said this in a meeting with party senior leaders and prominent activists at Bishnah town, along with General Secretary Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, local MLA Rajeev Bhagat, Jammu border district president Rinku Choudhary and Ex MLA Ashwani Sharma.

Sat Sharma said that PM Modi’s leadership continues to focus on inclusive growth, empowerment, and equal opportunities for all. Right from the day PM Narendra Modi assumed office, he has taken numerous initiatives aimed at uplifting marginalized communities and strengthening India’s socio-economic fabric. His government has launched and



successfully implemented landmark schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Jan Dhan Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, PM Garib Kalyan Yojana, and Startup India, which have impacted millions. These programmes are designed to bridge the development gap, ensuring that prosperity is not confined to a few but benefits every segment of society.

Sat Sharma said that “inclusive development” is not just a slogan but a mission for our PM. His vision is to create an India where

every citizen, regardless of background, has access to basic necessities, opportunities, and a dignified life. Sat Sharma pointed out that one of the government’s key areas of focus has been financial inclusion. The beneficiaries of different welfare schemes get the financial assistance into their bank accounts through DBT mode, without middlemen. Millions of Jan Dhan accounts have been opened, providing banking access to the unbanked and empowering them.

Sat further shared that

infrastructure development is another pillar of PM Modi’s inclusive growth strategy. Mega projects of road, rail and air connectivity, are transforming rural and urban landscapes, creating jobs, and boosting economic activity. The push for Digital India has accelerated technological penetration, bridging the urban-rural divide and fostering entrepreneurship.

Social empowerment remains at the heart of this mission. Women-led development is a priority, with programmes like

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Ujjwala Yojana, and Mudra loans fostering financial independence and gender equality. Similarly, the government’s focus on NEP 2020 (National Education Policy) is ensuring quality education for all, preparing India’s youth for a knowledge-driven future.

Under PM Modi’s leadership, India is embracing Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047, ensuring that growth is not limited to metros but reaches villages, small towns, and every citizen. As India continues its remarkable development journey, PM Modi’s unwavering commitment to inclusive growth remains the cornerstone of his governance.

He stressed upon those in the meeting to keep making people aware about Modi’s mission of serving every citizen.

Prominent among those who attended this meeting included State Executive Members, Raj Singh Langeh, Narayan Dutt, DDC Dharminder Kumar, Ex District President Sunil Dutt, Satish Bharti, Mandal President Sumit Sadotra, Sujit Singh and others.

Amar Mahal Museum hosts six-day Art Camp as part of Tawi Festival

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 2

The iconic Amar Mahal Museum has come alive with colors and creativity as it hosts a six-day art camp featuring Master Artist and Painter Sohan Billawria alongside 13 talented students from the Institute of Music and Fine Arts (IMFA). This artistic endeavor is part of the third edition of the Tawi Festival, organized by the Hari Tara Charitable Trust, and aims to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scheduled from March 7 to March 9, the Tawi Festival promises to offer a mesmerizing journey through the vibrant tradition of art, and history of the region. The art camp serves as a prelude to this grand celebration, providing young artists with a unique opportunity to learn and create under the guidance of the acclaimed artist Sohan Billawria. The camp focuses on traditional techniques and con-



temporary themes, bridging the past and present of J&K’s art scene.

Speaking at the inauguration, Sohan Billawria expressed his enthusiasm for the initiative, emphasizing the importance of nurturing young talent and preserving the region’s artistic legacy. The participating students showcased remarkable skill and creativity, drawing inspiration from the scenic landscapes and cultural motifs of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Tawi Festival, with its diverse lineup of cultural programs, art exhibitions, and performances, seeks to foster a deeper appreciation for local heritage among residents and visitors alike. The Amar

Mahal Museum, with its historic architecture and serene ambiance, serves as the perfect backdrop for this artistic confluence.

Art enthusiasts and cultural aficionados are eagerly awaiting the main events of the festival, which are expected to draw significant participation and celebrate the essence of Jammu’s rich traditions.

Notably, Sohan Singh Billawria, a self-trained artist, is renowned for his expertise in Basohli miniature painting, a distinctive style that emerged in the 17th and 18th centuries in the hill town of Basohli, Jammu region. His works have been showcased in the Amar Mahal Museum and Library in Jammu.

Centenary Tribute to Sher-e-Duggar Lala Shiv Charan Gupta

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 2

The 100th birth anniversary of Sher-e-Duggar Sh. Lala Shiv Charan Gupta, former BJP MLA, was commemorated with a solemn ceremony at Nand Palace, Udhampur. The event, which also served as a Shrandhanjali (tribute) for Sh. Devender Rana, was organized by the Lala Shiv Charan Gupta Yaadgaar Samiti. Also in attendance were Sh. Pawan Kumar Gupta, MLA Udhampur West, along with Dr. Jogeshwar Gupta, former President of the Municipal Council Udhampur.

Thousands of dedicated party workers participated in the event, which saw the presence of senior BJP leaders, including BJP State General Secretary Sh. Ashok Koul, MLA Udhampur East Sh. RS Pathania, MLA Ramnagar Sh. Sunil Bhardwaj, MLA Katra Sh. Baldev Raj Sharma, DDC Chairman Sh. Lal Chand, BJP District President Sh. Arun Gupta, and Smt. Devyani Rana, BJP Vice



President Yuva Morcha (BJYM) and President of the Lala Shiv Charan Gupta Yaadgaar Samiti. Also in attendance were Sh. Shyam Saroop Kalsotra, several DDC members, BDC Chairperson, numerous sarpanches/panches, and other BJP office bearers.

Sh. Pawan Gupta, son of Lala Shiv Charan Gupta, fondly reflected on his father’s lifelong commitment to public service, highlighting his four-term tenure in the State Assembly and his significant contributions to both social and political spheres.

Sh. Ashok Koul and other speakers reminisced about Lala Shiv Charan Gupta’s invaluable contributions to the people of Udhampur. They emphasized his role

as a founding member of the Praja Parishad Party and his unwavering determination, even in the face of imprisonment and threats during the Praja Parishad agitation. His perseverance led to multiple electoral victories, representing various mandates over the years.

The event also paid heartfelt tribute to Sh. Devender Rana, recognizing his immense contributions to society and his relentless commitment to serving people from all walks of life. He was remembered as a true grassroots leader, always accessible to the public and deeply connected to their concerns. Speakers noted that his demise has left an irreplaceable void, as he was

among the strongest voices advocating for the Jammu region.

Sh. Pawan Gupta fondly remembered his dear friend, Sh. Devender Rana, as an ‘Iron Man’—a highly learned and intelligent leader whose strategic vision and political expertise played a key role in BJP’s victory in 29 Assembly seats in last year’s elections. He also highlighted Sh. Rana’s humility and down-to-earth personality, which endeared him to people across Jammu & Kashmir. He remarked that Jammu has lost a true gem, whose contributions will always be treasured.

Speakers further emphasized Sh. Lala Shiv Charan Gupta’s legacy, his unwavering dedication, and selfless service to the people of Jammu and Udhampur, which continue to inspire future generations. Though seventeen years have passed since his demise, his ideals and vision remain a guiding force, providing strength and direction in today’s ever-evolving challenges.

CSIR-IIIM Organizes Floral Drawing and Painting Competition for Children

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 2

As part of the annual Flower Show event, the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM) today conducted the Floral Drawing and Painting Competition for school children. The event saw enthusiastic participation from school children across different age groups. More than 400 students from various schools in the Jammu region of J&K took part in this floral painting competition. The contest was divided into three age categories: Group A (5-8 years), Group B (9-12 years), and Group C (13-16 years). Participants created vibrant floral-themed artworks, making the event a colourful and engaging experience. The competition provided young artists with a platform to showcase their creativity while encouraging artistic expression. It was open to



all school students, ensuring wide participation. This programme was a part of “Flower Show cum Farmer Conclave” that will be organized at CSIR-IIIM, main campus on 8th-9th March 2025. The prize distribution of the today’s winners will be held in the main Flower Show event on 9th March. Three participants of each group will be chosen for prizes.

The program was conducted under the supervision of Dr Zabeer Ahmed,

Director, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu. He explained the need to such programs in creating awareness towards nature and environment. He told that these activities are being carried out as part of the Floriculture Mission, which is an important societal program of the institute. The organizing secretary Dr Dhiraj Vyas, Head, Plant Sciences and Agrotechnology Division also detailed other activities that are being orga-

nized under this event and called upon greater participation of general public in the flower show. Scientists, staff and scholars including Dr Rajendra Bhanwaria, Dr VP Rahul, Dr Ravail Singh, Dr Srinivas Kota, Dr Manu Khajuria, Mr Rajendra Gochar, Mr Rajinder Sharma, Mr Aakash Verma, Mr Yadunandan Sen of the Plant Science Division were present to conduct and oversee the event and support the participants.

Yasha Mudgal reviews CAPEX Budget 2024-25 of Tourism Department

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 2

Commissioner Secretary Tourism, Yasha Mudgal, chaired a high level meeting at the Civil Secretariat to review the CAPEX Budget 2024-25 of Tourism Department, besides assessing the performance and functioning of Tourism Development Authorities (TDAs).

The meeting focused on implementation of ongoing tourism projects, infrastructural enhancements and the operational efficiency of TDAs in boosting tourism in the region. Besides Administrative Secretary PWD (R&B), Managing Director JKTD, Director Tourism Kashmir, Director Tourism Jammu, CEOs of various Tourism Development Authorities and Chief Engineers PWD (R&B), Director Planning Tourism Department, all Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers



PWD (R&B) attended the meeting.

During the deliberations, the Commissioner Secretary emphasised the need for optimal utilization of allocated funds besides timely completion of ongoing projects. She directed the executing agencies to ensure that all projects scheduled for the current financial year are completed without any delay.

Highlighting the importance of streamlining administrative processes, she called for accelerated project execution and quality service delivery to

enhance the tourist experience. She urged upon the authorities to adopt a proactive approach in promoting sustainable and eco-friendly tourism, leveraging digital platforms for outreach and fostering public private partnerships for infrastructural development.

While reviewing the CAPEX Budget allocation for TDAs, the Commissioner Secretary stressed the need for transparent financial planning, timely utilization of funds and strict adherence to project deadlines to maximise the impact of investments

in the tourism sector. She directed the officials to identify high impact projects capable of significantly boosting tourism revenue and employment generation.

Yasha Mudgal also emphasized the importance of inter-departmental coordination to resolve bottlenecks, expedite approvals and ensure seamless execution of projects. She instructed the officers to establish a robust monitoring mechanism to ensure accountability and efficiency in implementing tourism related initiatives.

ACS Education inaugurates JKSCERT 5 day training programme on inclusive education

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 2

In a significant move towards strengthening inclusive education in Jammu and Kashmir, JKSCERT Divisional Office Jammu in collaboration with DIET Jammu, successfully launched a five day training programme on inclusive education under NISHTHA for in-service teachers, masters and lecturers from Jammu district (Phase II).

The training, being held from March 2 to March 6, 2025, at Government Polytechnic College, Jammu, aims to equip the educators with knowledge, innovative strategies and best practices necessary to foster an inclusive learning environment in schools.

The programme commenced with a grand inaugural ceremony graced by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Education, Shantmanu, as the chief guest.

Addressing the gathering, Shantmanu emphasised the transformative role of inclusive educa-



tion in ensuring that every child, regardless of their background or abilities, receives equal learning opportunities. He also impressed upon the fact that the teachers are the multi tasker who need to continuously enhance their knowledge and skills, and trainings are essential components for their knowledge and upliftment.

On the occasion, the ACS also released Design of Training (DoT).

Dr. Sindhu Kapoor, Joint Director, SCERT Jammu division, presented a detailed report about 14 trainings recently conducted in series by JKSCERT divisional Office Jammu in collaboration with all

DIETs of Jammu division in their respective districts on Inclusive Education under NISHTHA.

Dr. Romesh Kumar, HOD, DIET Jammu, threw light on the concept and need of inclusive education, emphasizing its importance in fostering an equitable learning environment.

Dr. Sanjeevani Sharma, Programme Coordinator, presented the keynote address. Dr. Madhu Singh, Principal, MC Khalsa College of Education, inspiring highlighted the ways and means by which the special needs of individuals can be effectively addressed.

With 272 educators participating, the training programme featured a series of insightful sessions led by distinguished resource persons covering various aspects of inclusive education.

One such impactful session was delivered by Dr. Rohnika Sharma, Director, Composite Regional Centre (CRC) for Skill Training, Jammu, on the topic 'Education for Children with Special Needs (CWSN),' providing a comprehensive overview of inclusive teaching methodologies, policies and assistive strategies to ensure equal access to quality education.

The five day programme is poised to empower educators with specialised skills and tools to create barrier-free learning spaces in alignment with NEP 2020 and the vision of JKSCERT Jammu Division.

The proceedings of programme were conducted by Shamim Nazki. The inaugural session concluded with vote of thanks by Anjali Gupta, Principal, DIET Jammu.

Watershed Yatra campaign held in Bhalwal

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 2

Block Bhalwal hosted a significant event as part of the nationwide 'Watershed Yatra' campaign under the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY 2.0).

This campaign aimed to enhance water conservation, promote sustainable land management and empower local communities through effective watershed development strategies.

District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Bharat Bhushan, MLA North Jammu Sham Lal Sharma, Ex-PRI Members, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Jammu, Shazada Noor Ul Ain, Block Development Officer Bhalwal Dr.Sunil Sharma and officials of RD&PR, ICDS,



NRLM (UMEED) besides prominent figures and huge gathering of locals of Block Bhalwal participated in the event.

A highlight of the event was the e-inauguration of

various watershed developmental works aimed at improving local soil and water conservation practices. The dignitaries addressed the gathering, emphasizing the critical

importance of watershed management. They highlighted that effective watershed development is essential for improving soil moisture, enhancing agricultural productivity, and ensuring sustainable livelihoods for rural communities.

This van has traversed approximately 2,400 km across Jammu and Kashmir, targeted over 500,000 residents through interactive workshops, community activities, and awareness drives. The campaign has today culminated in Jammu, showcasing cutting-edge techniques in watershed conservation, soil health enhancement, and rain-water harvesting.

The event concluded after plantation under the theme EK Ped Maa Ke Naam and flagging off Watershed Yatra Vehicle by the dignitaries

2 day training on "Computer Skill Enhancement Programme" concludes at J&K Judicial Academy

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 2

The two day programme on "Computer Skill Enhancement Programme-Level I & II, Cyber laws & Appreciation & Handling of Digital Evidence and e-Courts (ECT_13_2024; ECT_14_2024; & ECT_16_2024)" held for Civil Judges of Jammu province concluded here today at J&K Judicial Academy, Janipur, Jammu.

On the second day, both the sessions were conducted by Nisheeth Dixit, Advocate from Delhi, who gave a detailed overview of the cybercrimes and relevant Cyber Laws (IT Act and BNS 2023). He said that as technology advances, so



do cyber offenses, including hacking, identity theft, cyber fraud and content-related offenses like child pornography, xenophobia, and racism. The Information Technology Act, 2000, along with provisions in the IPC/BNS, provide the legal framework to deal with these crimes, he added.

The resource person highlighted various landmark judgements on IT Act and shared various real-life experiences related to the combating cases of cyber-crime. He also emphasised the admissibility of electronic evidence and its judicial approach. He stated that the possibilities to manipulate electronic

evidence are varied and the court must take all possible precautions against possible alterations.

Anoop Sharma, Registrar Computers(IT), High Court of J&K and Ladakh, also graced the sessions.

All the sessions were interactive during which all the participants actively participated and shared their experiences and also discussed various aspects of the subject topics.

The participants also raised a number of queries which were answered satisfactorily by the resource person.

The programme was concluded with Sonia Gupta, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, presenting vote of thanks.

GDC Sunderbani organises awareness camp under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

JINNEWS SERVICE
SUNDERBANI, MARCH 02

Government Degree College Sunderbani today organised an awareness camp under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma. The event aimed to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of substance abuse and to promote a drug-free society.

Principal Government Degree College Sunderbani Ashu Vashishat was the chief guest on the occasion. The camp was presided over by the District Social Welfare Officer, Abdul Raheem.

The occasion was further graced by the presence of several distinguished dignitaries, including Block Development Officer, Child Development Project Officer, Zonal Education Officer and Tehsil Social Welfare Officer, Professors from GDC Sunderbani, officials from District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Social



Welfare Department, as well as Aanganwadi and ASHA Workers were also present.

The event also saw active participation of more than 300 students, who took part in the awareness campaign. Another highlight of the event was the involvement of Shakti Udghosh, an NGO that is conducting an all-women motorbike expedition from Kathua to Poonch to spread awareness about the perils of drug abuse. Their efforts were lauded by the attend-

ees, as they demonstrated their commitment to educating the masses on this crucial issue.

The District Social Welfare Officer emphasized the importance of community participation in the fight against drug addiction. He urged everyone present to be proactive in their approach towards building a drug-free society.

The Chief Guest expressed gratitude for the collective efforts of all those working to bring

about awareness on such an important issue and reiterated the college's commitment to supporting similar initiatives in the future.

The event included active Participation from students as well in the form of Nukkad Natak, Songs, Poetry on the theme of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan which helped in enlightening the students and the local community about the dangers of drug addiction and the need for prevention.

DC Doda reviews PMAY progress, calls for timely completion of houses

JINNEWS SERVICE
DODA, MARCH 2

Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in the district. The meeting focused on evaluating both rural and urban housing projects, beneficiary progress, and financial disbursements under the scheme.

It was apprised in the meeting that 2,093 houses have been sanctioned under PMAY-Urban, out of that 1,968 houses (61.44%) have been completed. It was informed that houses 81.02% in Doda town, 82.47% in Bhaderwah town, 53.66% Bhaderwah Planning Area and 75.56% in Thathri Town have been completed. Additionally, a total of 282.91 crore has been disbursed to beneficiaries in phased installments, covering plinth, lintel, roof, and completion stages. Under PMAY-Gramin, 90% of the targeted 30,415 houses have



been completed, while 2,935 houses remain under construction. The DC instructed officials to expedite the completion of all remaining houses and take action against 1,200 defaulters who received installments but failed to complete their houses. He emphasized

close coordination with revenue officials to facilitate recoveries and ensure beneficiaries adhere to project timelines. He directed the officers to ensure completion of all pending houses before 31st March 2025. DC further stressed the importance of regular field visits by Officers to monitor on-ground progress and assist beneficiaries in completing their homes.

He reiterated the administration's commitment to the "Housing for All" mission and urged all stakeholders to work in coordination to meet the scheme's objectives within the stipulated timeframe.