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Govt to develop premier religious tourism circuit: CM Omar Abdullah

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 04 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday reaffirmed his government's commitment to promoting Jammu's religious tourism circuit to boost the region's economy.

Responding to a supplementary query by MLA Yudhvir Sethi in the Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister, who also holds charge of the Tourism Department, stated that concerted efforts are being made to publicize every tourism asset in the region.

"The department is actively working on developing the Jammu pilgrimage circuit. I have repeatedly emphasized this to more than one crore Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrims. If even ten to fifteen percent of them can be encouraged to visit other tourist destinations in Jammu, it will significantly benefit the region. However, we have not been able to achieve this so far," he said.

He acknowledged that a key challenge is the lack of comprehensive information about Jammu's pilgrimage sites.

"We aim to develop structured itineraries for three-day, four-day, and seven-day pilgrimage tours and promote them effectively. We will ensure widespread distribution of promotional literature at trade and tourism fairs to attract visitors," he added.

Addressing concerns about the impact of direct train connectivity to Kashmir and the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra



Expressway by passing Jammu, the Chief Minister acknowledged the apprehensions of the local tourism industry. "There is concern that with the railway now extending not just to Katra but also to Srinagar and Baramulla and with the expressway allowing travelers to bypass Jammu City, tourism in Jammu may be affected. However, developing tourism destinations alone is not enough. Sites like Jammu's heritage landmarks, the upcoming Jammu lake, and the Jammu zoo are significant attractions, but they need better branding and visibility," he said.

"We must give these destinations a distinct identity and promote them effectively. It is true that there has not been adequate publicity so far, but we are committed to addressing this," he asserted.

Earlier, in response to a starred question of the Legislator, the Chief Minister highlighted the ongoing efforts of the Tourism Department in developing infrastructure to attract more tourists to Jammu City.

"Several projects have been implemented under the State Capex Budget and Swadesh Darshan Scheme," he informed the House.

Among the notable projects undertaken, the government has focused on enhancing major tourist attractions.

A musical water fountain with a sound and light show has been installed at Bagh-e-Bahu to enrich visitor experiences.

Additionally, tourist facilities have been developed at Bhagwati Nagar and Sidhra Golf Course to accommodate and attract more travelers.

Further, an amusement park has been constructed near the Sidhra Golf Course in Jammu to provide more recreational options. To improve connectivity, the much-anticipated ropeway project from Mohmaya to Bagh-e-Bahu has been implemented, offering tourists a scenic and efficient travel option.

The Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL) is also spearheading multiple initiatives to modernize Jammu's infrastructure and enhance its appeal as a tourist destination.

As part of its heritage conservation and beautification efforts, JSCL has undertaken the restoration and beautification of iconic landmarks such as Bahu Fort, Mubarak Mandi, Raghunath Bazaar, and various temples and ghats under the Smart City initiative.

To improve urban mobility and accessibility, major road upgrades are underway, along with the development of pedestrian-friendly pathways. In a bid to promote sustainable transportation, the city has introduced electric buses under the eBus project, making public transport more eco-friendly.

A key initiative under JSCL is the redevelopment of the Tawi Riverfront, transforming it into a vibrant recreational hub with promenades, cycling tracks, and leisure spaces for residents and tourists alike.

Furthermore, heritage sites such as Bahu Fort, the Army Headquarters at Mubarak Mandi, Maha Maya Temple, and Tawi bridges have been enhanced with façade lighting, adding to their visual appeal.

To make historical and cultural experiences more engaging, the government has also introduced digital and immersive light and sound shows at Bahu Fort heritage sites.

The Chief Minister emphasized that JSCL's vision aligns with making Jammu a modern, tourist-friendly, and sustainable city while preserving its rich cultural and historical essence. KNO

Sajad Lone Stages walkout over disallowing of amendments relating to Article 370, PSA

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 04 (KNO)

Peoples Conference president and MLA Handwara, Sajad Gani Lone on Tuesday walked out of Legislative Assembly after his amendments to the Lieutenant Governor's address were disallowed.

The Assembly witnessed exchange of words between Lone and the Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather after the former's amendments related to Article 370 and Article 35A were disallowed. Lone's amendments related to the repeal of the Public Safety Act, the shifting back of PSA detainees lodged outside J&K, and a probe into the rigging of the 1987 election were also disallowed by the Speaker.

After the Question Hour ended, Lone, as per news agency, stood up and questioned the Speaker over rejection of his amendments.

Contesting the Speaker's claim that he had disallowed the amendment because it was identical to the resolution brought by the National Conference-led government last year, Lone said there was no match between the two.



Lone said there was no mention of Article 370 or August 5, 2019 events or even Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act-2019 in the resolution passed by NC-led government in the last session "Your resolution is like a marriage invitation card in which neither the names of the bride is written nor the name of groom is mentioned," Lone said.

Further questioning the NC's resolution, Lone said, "The special status doesn't cover what has been done to us on August 5, 2019. The special status could also mean a Union Territory. Are we fighting for a UT?" he asked.

Lone also contested the Speaker's ruling on dis-

allowing his amendment for a probe into 1987 election rigging.

"We are unable to come out of 1987. We are trapped in 1987. The rigging of the 1987 election brought violence. One lakh people died," Lone said.

The Speaker disallowed the amendment, saying the 1987 election is not a matter of recent occurrence.

On rejection of amendments related to PSA and police verification, the Speaker said that these matters fall under the purview of Union Home Ministry.

"I am not saying that you should pass law on PSA. You should mention in the LG address that you have a desire to repeal the

PSA," Lone responded. Responding to Lone's claim, the Speaker said the PSA cannot be repealed until statehood is restored.

Lone said how the Assembly can remain quiet on "stringent police verification procedures.

"We want our children shouldn't be punished for what their father or brother or cousin has done? It is primitive. How can we allow this? How can this Assembly keep quiet?" he asked,

Lone said he himself has been a victim of police verification and was banned from applying for a passport in 2012. "I was under prior approval category (PAC)," he said, adding that this form of "collective punishment" is only in the state of Jammu & Kashmir

"We want the verification rules which are prevalent in Punjab should also apply to us. Are we not equal citizens of India?" Lone asked,

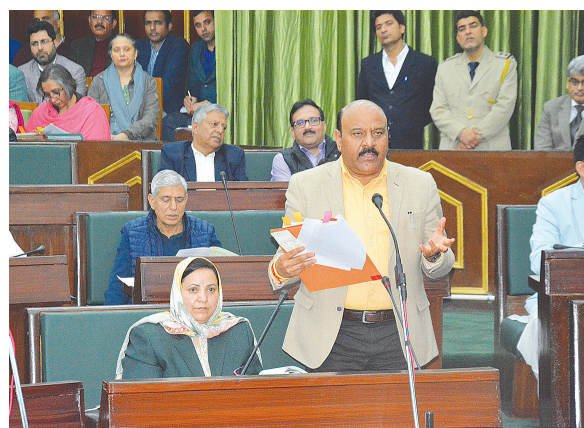
Angered by the Speaker's refusal to allow the amendments to the LG's address, Lone staged a walkout from the House and did not attend remaining proceedings. KNO

DPR for Keran-Jumgund tunnel to be prepared, taken up with MORTH: Dy CM

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 04 (KNO)

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary said that the demand for construction of tunnel on the road connecting Keran and Jumgund area of Kupwara for providing all weather connectivity will be taken up with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India. He said DPR would also be prepared and forwarded to concerned.

The Deputy Chief Minister was replying to a question raised by Mir Saifulah. The Deputy Chief Minister said that Keran sector



is connected with the rest of UT of J&K via Pharkiyani Gali to Keran road (46.76 Km), maintained by BRO.

He further said that the road remains partially closed during the winter

season due to snow accumulation and regular snow clearance is being done by BRO for providing connectivity to Keran sector.

"The PMGSY Road Zirhama-Jumgund (length

25.00 km) is a high-altitude road. Snow clearance operations though carried out regularly but during heavy snow spells clearance operation becomes difficult beyond first 6 km and gets temporarily delayed till weather improves due to poor visibility, frost action, avalanches/ snow slides from upper reaches, especially in kms from 17th to 20th", he added.

The Deputy Chief Minister further informed that no alternate roads are available at present for the Keran and Jumgund areas. He said Pharkiyani Gali to Keran (46.76 Km) road is maintained by BRO. KNO

4.48 crore tourists including 1.20 lakh foreigners visited J&K in past 2 years: Govt

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 04 (KNO)

The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that 4.48 crore tourists, including 1.20 lakh foreigners, visited J&K during the past two years.

In a written reply to

a question MLA Eidgah, Mubarak Gul, as per news agency, Minister in-charge Tourism, Omar Abdullah informed the House that 2.12 crore tourists visited J&K in 2023 and 2.36 crore in 2024.

Of them, 55337 foreign tourists visited J&K in 2023 and 65452 in

2024, the minister said. He said that 2.11 crore domestic tourists visited J&K in 2023 and 2.35 crore in 2024.

The government disclosed that Rs 35.08 crore have been spent for promotion, advertisement and allied activities by the Department of Tourism during

the past two financial years.

Of which Rs 14.14 crore were spent in 2023-24 and Rs 20.94 crore in 2024-25, the minister said.

He also said that 59 assets of the Tourism Department have been outsourced in the past two years. KNO

32474 posts vacant in departments: J&K Govt

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 04 (KNO)

The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Tuesday informed the Legislative Assembly that a staggering 32,474 posts are lying vacant across different departments in Jammu & Kashmir.

In a written response to a question of MLA Handwara, as per news agency, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who happens to be Minister in-charge, General Administration Department, said that 32,474 posts are vacant in different departments as on January 31, 2025.

Of these, 2,503 are gazetted posts, 19,214 are non-gazetted posts, and 10,757 are multi-tasking staff positions, the CM said.

The highest number of posts are vacant in the Health Department, with 7,851 vacancies. It is followed by the Health & Medical Education department and Animal & Sheep Husbandry Department with 3759 and 2589 vacancies, respectively.

According to the reply, there are 2517 vacancies in the Industries & Commerce Department and 2420 in Housing & Urban

Development Department.

In the past four months, the Government informed that 3727 vacancies have been referred to Public Service Commission and Services Selection Board since October 16, 2024, the day when Omar Abdullah-led government took oath.

Of these, 738 are gazetted posts, 1754 non-gazetted posts and 1235 multi-tasking slots.

The Government also revealed that it has no proposal to make job application forms free for job aspirants.

"Presently, no such pro-

posal is under consideration in the Government," it said.

In the past four months, the government revealed that it has collected Rs 14.17 crore examination fee from students appearing in recruiting tests conducted by SSB and PSC.

In its election manifesto for last year's assembly polls, the National Conference had promised to make job application forms free for all the examinations.

"The job application will be made free for all the examinations," the party had promised in its manifesto. KNO

Discussion on 'Motion of Thanks' on LG's address commences in Legislative Assembly

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 04 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Tuesday started the discussion on Motion of Thanks on Lieutenant Governor's address, tabled by Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather before the house.

The motion moved by Mubarak Gul was seconded by Ghulam Ahmad Mir. Speaking during the Motion of Thanks, Mubarak Gul said that people gave overwhelming mandate to this government. He also called for restoration of statehood. "Restoration of Statehood for Jammu and Kashmir is our right", he said.

Ghulam Ahmad Mir,



during the address, thanked people for showing faith in the electoral process and participating during Assembly elections in large numbers. He also called upon the legislators to make judicious use of the time of the house.

Sham Lal Sharma, while participating in the discussion said that our approach should be for making our institutions

strong and work collectively in this regard.

Sajad Ahmad Shaheen appreciated the Government for presenting a holistic roadmap for the development of Jammu and Kashmir. He called for development of health-care facilities as well as Educational infrastructure in his constituency. He enjoined upon all legislators to work collectively

for the restoration of the Statehood.

Farooq Ahmad Shah in his address said that we have to maintain the dignity of the house and work for the welfare of people. He also called for framing of a policy to further promote sustainable Tourism in Gulmarg, Industrial growth as well as creating employment avenues for the youth.

Dr. Rameshwar Singh also spoke during the motion of thanks tabled by Speaker. He said that the Government should frame a policy for the regularization of NRHM employees. He also called for creating job opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, besides timely action on illegal mining activities. KNO

Public outreach programme: DC Kulgam visits Behibagh, addresses public grievances

J I NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, MARCH 4

Continuing the efforts to bring governance to the doorsteps of the people, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today visited Behibagh, where he interacted with locals and listened to their grievances for early redressal.

The programme witnessed massive participation from residents of Hanjin, Behibagh, Dadarkoot, Nowpora, Mohamadpora, Shiganpora, and other adjoining villages.

Delegations from these areas put forth various demands before the chair. Several issues of immediate nature were redressed on the spot, while others



were noted for further action as per feasibility and norms.

Addressing the gathering, DC reaffirmed the administration's commitment to the holistic development of all areas. He added that the primary objective of the outreach programme is to take governance at the doorsteps of the people.

The grievance redressal camp was attended by ACR, ACD, ACP, Executive Engineers, Tehsildar, BDO, and other district officers.

Enroute, the DC also reviewed the progress on the Chawalgam Bridge and instructed the Engineers of executing agencies to scale up the pace of work to complete the bridge within days.

Electrification of unelectrified areas of Gurez: DC Bandipora chairs meeting on Kanzalwan-Tulail Transmission Line

J I NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, MARCH 4

In order to discuss the progress and plans for Kanzalwan-Tulail transmission line and other related issues for electrification and grid connectivity of unelectrified areas of Gurez, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Tuesday chaired a meeting of concerned officers.

The meeting was informed that for electrification of Tulail area of Gurez Sub Division and extending Grid connectivity to Tulail, Civil Work of Kanzalwan receiving station has been successfully completed.

It was given out that the under construction receiving station at Sheikpora Tulail will benefit around



22 villages and will cover around 2600 households in Tulail area.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC stressed the importance of enhanced coordination among various stakeholders to ensure the smooth implementation of the project and resolve any arising issues on priority. He asked

the concerned to ensure resolving any logistical or technical challenges swiftly to prevent any disruptions in the progress of the electrification work.

The meeting was attended by SE KPDCL, SE Projects North, CPO, Executive Engineers of PDD, Officers from Beacon and other concerned.

DC Poonch flags off Women Motor Bike Rally under NMBA



J I NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MARCH 4

Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kunal today flagged off a Women Motor Bike Rally under the theme "Nasha Mukat Seemayen, Ride for Strength, Break the Chain." under the banner of Shakti Udghosh Foundation from Dak Bungalow Poonch.

During the event, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the bikers, commending their courage and emphasizing the importance of safe travel in hilly areas. He highlighted

how such initiatives play a crucial role in empowering women and raising awareness in the community.

The rally showcased the strength and resilience of women as it traveled from Kathua through Akhnoor and Rajouri, concluding its journey from Poonch to Jammu.

District Social Welfare Officer Wakeel Ahmed Bhatt was also present on the concluding day, reinforcing the significance of community engagement in fostering a supportive environment for eradicating drug menace.

DC Kishtwar reviews disaster management preparedness in District

J I NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MARCH 4

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan today reviewed the disaster management preparedness in the district.

The meeting focused on assessing the latest status of damages to essential infrastructure, including water and power supply, road connectivity and other local facilities, in the wake of the recent snowfall and immediate mitigation measures thereof.

During the meeting, the DC took stock of the water supply situation across Kishtwar town and its adjoining areas, as well as in various remote parts of the district. He directed the Jal Shakti Department to ensure the swift restoration of water supply in all affected areas. Emphasizing the need for prompt action, he instructed officials to deploy necessary resources and manpower to address any disruptions in the township and its adjoining areas.

Similarly, the power supply in several areas, particularly in Dachhan and Paddar, has been interrupted due to the snowfall and associated damages. The Deputy Commissioner issued directions



to the Power Development Department (PDD) to take immediate steps for restoring electricity in these regions. The concerned departments were asked to mobilize field functionaries and logistical support to ensure the earliest possible restoration of essential services.

To reinforce the restoration efforts, the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) and PDD were specifically instructed to exercise all necessary reinforcement measures and expedite repair work. The departments were urged to maintain close coordination and ensure that no area remains without essential services for an extended period.

A major concern raised during the meeting was the disruption of road connectivity along the Kishtwar-Paddar highway point ahead of the Pathernaki Bridge due to a landslide. The blockage

has severely impacted the supply chain for the subdivision. Taking serious note of this, the DC directed the General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) and the local administration to work in tandem for the immediate restoration of road connectivity. He further instructed the concerned authorities to work round the clock, deploying adequate manpower and machinery, to ensure the reopening of the road by tomorrow.

In addition to infrastructure restoration, the DC also instructed the Revenue Department and other relevant stakeholders to submit comprehensive damage reports to his office. These reports will help in formulating necessary mitigation measures and providing relief to the affected population. Stressing the importance of disaster preparedness, he directed all departments to remain on high alert and ensure readiness for any

untoward incidents arising from natural calamities, especially during the ongoing snowy and rainy season.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated the administration's commitment to providing timely assistance and relief to the people of Kishtwar. He urged officials to adopt a proactive approach in handling disaster situations, ensuring the safety and well-being of the residents. The meeting concluded with a strong emphasis on inter-departmental coordination, efficient response mechanisms, and the need for a robust disaster management plan to address future challenges effectively.

The district administration assured the public that all necessary efforts are being made to restore normalcy at the earliest. Citizens are advised to stay informed and cooperate with authorities as restoration work progresses.

DC Srinagar reviews progress of registrations under JK Samadhan Portal

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 4

In order to review the progress of the registration process under the JK Samadhan Portal, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, today.

At the outset, the DC highlighted the significance of registrations on The JK Samadhan Portal. He said it is a Government initiative aimed at streamlining and simplifying grievance redressal processes, designed to ensure transparency, accountability and efficiency in addressing public complaints.

On the occasion, Dr Bilal stressed the Officers to sensitize the masses about the The JK Samadhan Portal and prioritize registering citizens on the portal. He emphasized



the importance of timely and efficient registration of grievances, which can be accessed and resolved through the portal.

He underscored the importance of the portal in facilitating citizen's access to Government services and resolving grievances.

The DC directed all the line departments to ensure maximum outreach and participation in the portal's registration process. CSC VLEs were directed to register a maximum number of people under the portal who are unable to register themselves.

During the meeting, the



DC directed for establishing a special Control Room at DC Office to monitor the department wise progress of registrations on The JK Samadhan Portal. He also set targets to each concerned department to ensure all the citizens are registered on the portal at the earliest.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Ahmad Kataria; Chief Planning Officer, Secretary SMC, Chief Medical Officer, Tehsildars, BDOs, AD FCS&CA, CDPOs, District Coordinator CSC and other District Officers.

Rs.10k fine imposed on erring traders during Market Inspection Drive at Anantnag

J I NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, MARCH 4

In view of the holy month of Ramadan, an extensive market inspection was carried out today across KP Road, Khannabal and other key market places in Anantnag town.

The inspection drive was conducted with active participation from officials of the Food Safety Department, Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), and the Municipal Council Anantnag. During the inspection, the enforcement squad identified several violations, including the sale of expired food items. The violators were penalized on the spot, and the expired goods were immediately destroyed to prevent their sale. A total fine of Rs 10,000 was imposed on offenders as per the relevant regulations.

Authorities have urged traders and shopkeepers to strictly adhere to food safety norms and maintain hygiene standards, ensuring the availability of safe and quality products for consumers, particularly during Ramadan.

The administration has also assured that such market inspections will continue to safeguard public health and uphold consumer rights.

'Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament-2025' to be held in March at SHMM-GDC (B) Anantnag

J I NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, MARCH 4

With an aim to provide a vibrant platform for young minds to engage in thought-provoking discussions on crucial national issues, fostering leadership and policy awareness among the youth, 'Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2025' is going to be held at Shaheed Himayun Muzzamil Memorial Government Degree College Anantnag.

The 'Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2025' is being organized in March 2025, under the joint initiative of Shaheed Himayun Muzzamil Memorial Government Degree College Anantnag and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government

of India.

Young individuals aged 18 to 25 years as on 24-02-2025, residing within Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama, Shopian Districts and registered in GDC (B) Anantnag, GDC (W) Anantnag, GDC Kulgam, GDC Dooru, GDC Shopian, GDC Pulwama, GDC Bijbehara, GDC Uttersoo, GDC Koker-nag, GDC Mattan, GDC (W) Pulwama, GDC DH Pora, GDC Vailoo Larnoo, GDC Kilam, GDC Frisal, GDC Zainapura, GDC Verinag, GDC Qazigund, GDC Tral, GDC Awantipora, GDC Pampore and GDC Rajpora are invited to participate in this prestigious program. Non-student young residents of these districts can also apply for the event.

Enthusiastic participa-

tion from students, young professionals, and aspiring leaders who wish to contribute meaningfully to national discourse and be a part of India's vision for development is highly encouraged. Interested participants are requested to register at the earliest to secure their place in this transformative initiative.

Interested people can register now at mybharat.gov.in (Scan the QR Code) and the topic of the video will be uploaded is- What does Viksit Bharat mean to You?

The District level competition will be held at Shaheed Himayun Muzzamil Memorial Government Degree College Anantnag whereas the State Level round will be held in the Legislative Assembly.

DC Kulgam reviews implementation of COTPA-2003

J I NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, MARCH 4

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today chaired a review meeting of District Level Coordination Committee for implementation of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, COTPA-2003 under National Tobacco Control Program, at mini-secretariat Kulgam.

The DC instructed CEO and other concerned to ensure that no sale of Tobacco products is permitted within 100 yards of institutional premises.

Officers and heads of institutions were tasked with ensuring that all offices maintain tobacco-free environments.

DC Kishtwar reviews arrangements for Mega Health Camp by Rotary International

J I NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MARCH 4

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan reviewed the arrangements and logistics for the upcoming Mega Health Camp, being organized by Rotary International in the second week of April in district Kishtwar.

The camp aims to provide free medical services, including surgeries, to the needy and marginalized sections of society in Doda and Kishtwar.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the importance of early patient identification, awareness campaigns and efficient dissemination of information among residents of far-flung areas. He directed the health authorities to ensure smooth mobilization of patients to District Hospital Kishtwar, Sub-Divisional Hospitals and designated camp locations on the scheduled days.

Key discussions focused



on the readiness of operative theatres, hygiene protocols, waiting areas and other logistical arrangements to ensure a well-organized medical camp. Special attention was given to the roles and responsibilities of medical officers, ASHAs and health authorities in ensuring the camp's success.

The Health Department was instructed to provide wide publicity and compile a database of potential beneficiaries.

Additionally, local administration officials from remote areas and the medical authorities were directed to work in close

coordination for the effective implementation of the camp.

The week-long Mega Health Camp will witness the participation of a team of doctors and specialists, who will offer general and specialized medical care along with surgeries to help alleviate the health concerns of underprivileged communities.

ADC Pawan Kotwal, CMO Dr. Rajinder Kumar, MS DH Dr. Yudhvir Singh Kotwal, BMOs and doctors attended the meeting.

SDMs, Tehsildars and BDOs joined the discussion online.

GoC 16 Corps Nagrota takes up issues of Ex-Servicemen with Chief Secretary

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 4

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today listened to the issues and concerns of Ex-Servicemen highlighted by Lieutenant General, Navin Sachdeva, AVSM, SM, GOC 16 Corps based in Nagrota, in his office at Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

Principal Secretary, Home Department, Chandraker Bharti; Brigadier Kapil Taneja, VSM, Brig A 16 Corps; Brigadier Gurmeet Singh Shan, Director Raja Sainik Board and Colonel Tejas B Candade, SM, Colonel GS HR 16 Corps were also present on the occasion.

Some of the core demands raised with the Chief Secretary included compilation and complete digitization of the database of all the Ex-Servicemen of J&K for proper management of the cadre besides preservation and easy maintenance of records for the posterity.

They also asked for allowing them to apply for government jobs under 'Ex-Servicemen' quota in



the last year of their services as the recruitment process takes some months in its completion thereby giving them opportunity to join at the end of their service period. One more demand was utilization of their services as NCC Trainers as these Ex-Servicemen are more suitable to play the role and give better training to the cadets enrolled here.

Some other demands included more welfare measures in terms of livelihood opportunities in favour of Veer Naris besides filling up of the posts of Zilla Sainik Welfare Officers in each district so that these servicemen do not have to travel to cities for disposal of their service related affairs.

The Chief Secretary, while responding to the

issues and demands raised by them, outlined his commitment towards this section of the society who had spent their lives for preserving the honour and sovereignty of the nation. He assured them that the government will explore the options for giving them due opportunities of self employment under different government schemes and also resolve their issues faced in availing different government job opportunities.

In order to bring added efficiency in grievance resolution, the Chief Secretary advised them to utilize the 'JK Samadhan' portal for registration of their grievances. He maintained that this platform gives seamless access to the administration and ensures timely resolution

of grievances with quality outcomes up to the optimum satisfaction of the aggrieved persons.

Dulloo also advised the Home Department to give sympathetic consideration to all these demands and take steps for early resolution of all of these. He maintained that the nation is indebted to these people for their yeoman's services given during their service period.

He directed for taking a timely review of resolution of these issues besides assuring them that the administration is alive to the welfare concerns of these people. He made out that the government would take every possible step to ensure a pleasant post-retirement life in favour of all the ex-Servicemen of the UT of J&K.

District Administration Pulwama intensifies Market Checking Drives

JJ NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, MARCH 4

To curb the practice of exorbitant profiteering and over pricing in wake of the holy month of Ramadan, the District Administration Pulwama has intensified market checking drives across the district.

The drive was conducted on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr Basharat Qayoom, to ensure all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates as per the quality standards with sufficient availability of consumables. The inspections aimed to verify price lists, assess hygiene standards, check the quality of goods and prevent black marketing. The checking squads headed by Tehsildar concerned and Officers from MC, FCS&CA and Legal Metrology Departments conducted intensive market checking in various tehsils of the district and inspected various markets within their jurisdiction. During the



inspection, the teams inspected business units including bakery, confectionery, grocery, vegetable, fruits, milk, meat and chicken selling shops. The teams also inspected several food processing units to check hygienic conditions while the date of manufacture, use-by date etc was also checked.

The perishable items found unfit for consumption were disposed-off on the spot

and unauthorized polythene bags were seized. Furthermore, a total fine of Rs. 4000 was recovered from erring shopkeepers for violating different provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act. The authorities urged all vendors to adhere strictly to the prescribed guidelines to ensure hygiene, cleanliness and public health safety and warned them of strict action against any malpractice.

DC Samba reviews progress on PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MARCH 4

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma, today chaired a meeting to review the progress of registrations under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, reaffirming the administration's commitment to public welfare and transparent governance.

Addressing the officials, the DC underscored the need for widespread awareness campaigns to maximize the scheme's reach, ensuring that every eligible household benefits from subsidized rooftop solar installations. He directed officers to work in close coordination and involve stakeholders for seamless implementation.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Samba, sectoral officers and representatives from concerned departments.

Chief Secretary calls for enhanced credit access, investment in J&K's rural sector at NABARD seminar

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 4

Stressing the need for financial inclusion and targeted credit support to the farmers, entrepreneurs and rural businesses, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today called upon the banks to expand their outreach and ensure universal access to financial schemes.

The Chief Secretary was speaking at the UT Credit Seminar organised by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), where the bank unveiled an estimated Rs 43,297.01 crore credit potential for Jammu and Kashmir's priority sector for 2025-26.

The seminar, held in Jammu, was attended by Chandrashekhar Azad, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Amitava Chatterjee, MD & CEO, J&K Bank and other senior officials from the government departments and the financial institutions.

Delivering the keynote address, the Chief Secretary

lauded NABARD's efforts in credit planning and timely release of the UT Focus Paper, which highlights funding priorities for agriculture, MSMEs and rural infrastructure.

"The government is committed towards expanding financial access across all Panchayats, ensuring that every eligible farmer benefits from the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)," maintained the Chief Secretary. He urged the banks to encourage timely loan repayments and actively participate in government-backed initiatives such as YUVA, aimed at promoting entrepreneurship among youth.

Highlighting the challenges in agriculture financing, Dulloo emphasised the need for capital investment in modern farming techniques. He asked the banks to adopt innovative financial models to support small and marginal farmers in areas such as farm mechanisation and modern irrigation, horticulture expansion includ-



ing apple, walnut and saffron cultivation and post-harvest processing and market linkages. "Investment in agriculture processing has already shown promising results, with milk production increasing by 20 per cent. The need of the hour is to integrate the technology and financial support to enhance productivity further," asserted the Chief Secretary. Beyond agriculture, the Chief Secretary

called for greater banking support to Self Help Groups (SHGs). "Empowering rural women through financial inclusion and micro-enterprise development will drive sustainable economic growth," he remarked. He urged NABARD and banks to intensify training and capacity building efforts for women entrepreneurs in rural areas.

lighted tourism as a key growth driver for Jammu and Kashmir's economy. "With over 2 crore tourists annually, we must invest in infrastructure, connectivity and sustainable tourism projects," he said. He added that the government is working on master plans to develop new tourist destinations while strengthening transport and minor irrigation facilities to support rural livelihoods.

Acknowledging the progress in financial linkages, the Chief Secretary called for greater integration of digital banking and loan disbursement mechanisms to enhance transparency. "Common Service Centres (CSCs), online loan processing and financial 'touch points' will ensure that banking reaches the remotest areas efficiently," he asserted.

Dulloo also underscored the importance of social security schemes, such as PM Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and PM Suraksha Bima Yojana in providing finan-

cial stability to rural populations.

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary released a compendium titled "Transforming the Rural Landscape of J&K and Ladakh", showcasing NABARD's interventions in the region, along with a booklet on Indicative Unit Costs for Agriculture & Allied Activities (2025-26). These documents serve as crucial references for policymakers, financial institutions and rural entrepreneurs.

The event concluded with Vikas Mittal, General Manager, NABARD, extending vote of thanks. "With the continued support of the UT Government and banking stakeholders, NABARD will strive to achieve the targets highlighted by the chief guest," he affirmed.

The UT Credit Seminar served as a vital platform for the government officials, bankers and industry experts to collaborate on strategies for strengthening rural credit access and economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir.

Little Einstein School Udhampur celebrates National Science Day



JJ NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 4

Little Einstein School, Udhampur celebrated National Science Day with great enthusiasm by organizing a Science Exhibition on its premises.

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai was the chief guest who formally inaugurated the event while District Information Officer, Rajinder Digma was the guest of honour on the occasion.

The event witnessed the participation of Anshu Gupta, Managing Director Little Einstein School and Pooja Mahajan, Principal of the school, along with faculty members, students and parents.

The celebration commenced with a warm welcome to the distinguished guests, followed by the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp and an auspicious Ganesh Vandana performance by the students.

DC Kulgam chairs Monthly NCORD meeting

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, MARCH 4

A meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) was convened today at Kulgam to discuss and strategize measures to curb drug abuse and narcotic trade in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, chaired the meeting and reviewed the implementation of directives and decisions taken in previous sessions.

A detailed discussion was held on issues related to drug addiction, emerging areas of concern, hotspots of drug use, and the ongoing efforts by various departments to tackle the menace of drugs.

The meeting also assessed the enforcement



agencies' actions against drug abuse and narcotic trafficking in the district.

It was informed that during the current month 08 drug peddlers were arrested and 07 FIRs were registered.

The Assistant Drug Controller conducted 101 inspections, leading to the suspension of 03 licenses.

Additionally it was informed that the district has successfully achieved 100% target in the installation of CCTV cameras, and the DC directed officials to

ensure the completion of 100% target in CBS as well.

The DC instructed officers to ensure zero cultivation of illicit crops across the district. He also instructed for intensifying awareness as per the formulated activity calendar.

He also urged all stakeholders for their active participation in eradicating the drug menace. Urging collective efforts, DC called upon all stakeholders to work religiously towards making Kulgam drug-free and 'Khushal Kulgam.'

DC Poonch inaugurates Virtual Kiosk/Mini Digital Studios in Aspirational Block Mankote

JJ NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MARCH 4

In a landmark initiative aimed at integrating technology into education, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal inaugurated two Virtual Kiosk/Mini Digital Studios at Middle School Dharati and Middle School Nar Balnoi in the Aspirational Block of Mankote through virtual mode from the DC Office Poonch.

During the inauguration, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with school children through virtual mode, emphasizing the significance of the Virtual Kiosk/Mini Digital Studios in transforming the teaching-learning process. This initiative is designed to address the shortage of teaching staff and leverage digital technology to enhance educational delivery.



The Virtual Kiosks are equipped to operate in both offline and online modes, effectively mitigating internet connectivity challenges in remote areas. This technological intervention promises to provide uninterrupted learning opportunities for students, bridging the educational gap in the region.

The initiative has been made possible through collaboration with Jnana Prabodhini, Pune, Maha-

rashtra, which generously donated the two kiosks. Two engineers from Jnana Prabodhini, who volunteered for this project, were present during the inauguration.

The Deputy Commissioner expressed gratitude to Jnana Prabodhini for their invaluable contribution to digital education and underscored the importance of such initiatives in revolutionizing the education sector.

NORTHERN RAILWAY					
E-TENDER NOTICE					
Tender Notice No:- 770-W/169/WA-1/FZR-250-2024-25-ADEN-PTK, 326-2024-25-ADEN-JAT, 327-2024-25-ADEN-JAT & 328-2024-25-ADEN-PTK (to be opened on date 24.03.2025) acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.wireps.gov.in with closing date 24.03.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to the closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through payment modes available on the IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card, etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheques, Deposit receipts, FDR, etc. are not allowed.					
Tender Type	Open	Tendering Section	Works	Bidding System	Single Packet System
Date of Uploading tenders	01.03.2025	Bid Starting Date	10.03.2025	Bid Closing Date/Time	24.03.2025
Sr.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender			
1.	250-2024-25-ADEN-PTK	Various Base Depot/Site activities in c/w Complete Track Renewal (Primary) at various locations from Km 0.00 to 103.807 (Total Km 103.807) on ASR-PTK section by using contractor's own QRS portal in the jurisdiction of DEN-III & DEN-IV/FZR.			
Advertised Value		Validity of offer	Period of Completion		
₹17,81,81,678.77		90 Days	15 Months		
2.	326-2024-25-ADEN-JAT	Providing 5129 M RCC boundary wall & 41700M W Beam Crash Barrier Fencing along the track at various locations from (Km 63.00 to Km 96.59) between SMBX-JAT stations on PTKC-JAT Section in the Jurisdiction of SSE/W/JAT.			
Advertised Value		Validity of offer	Period of Completion		
₹27,27,90,467.06		90 Days	06 Months		
3.	327-2024-25-ADEN-JAT	Providing 5771 M RCC boundary wall & 30200M W Beam Crash Barrier Fencing along the track at various locations from (Km 12.80 to Km 63.00) between MDPB-SMBX stations on PTKC-JAT section in the jurisdiction of SSE/W/KTHU.			
Advertised Value		Validity of offer	Period of Completion		
₹22,57,52,915.99		90 Days	06 Months		
4.	328-2024-25-ADEN-PTK	Providing 10000 M RCC boundary wall & 21000M W Beam Crash Barrier Fencing along the track at various locations from (Km 91.00 to Km 112.06) & (Km 112.06 to Km 12.80) to between MRTL-PTKC-MDPB section in the jurisdiction of SSE/W/PTK			
Advertised Value		Validity of offer	Period of Completion		
₹21,73,80,840.97		90 Days	06 Months		
NOTE: Contractors are advised to check the IREPS website for any corrigendum issued against this tender before submitting the bids. 696/2025					
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE					

MSME sector is the backbone of India's manufacturing and industrial growth: PM

J I NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAR 4

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today addressed the Post-Budget webinars via video conferencing. The webinars were held on MSME as an Engine of Growth; Manufacturing, Exports and Nuclear Energy Missions; Regulatory, Investment and Ease of doing business Reforms. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, he remarked that the post-budget webinars on manufacturing and export are of great importance. Mentioning that this budget is the first full budget of the Government's third term, he emphasised that the most notable aspect of this budget is its delivery, which exceeded expectations. Shri Modi pointed out that in several sectors, the Government has taken steps beyond what experts had anticipated. He also highlighted that significant decisions have been made regarding manufacturing and export in this budget.

Pointing out that the country has witnessed consistent Government policies for over a decade, the Prime Minister highlighted that in the past 10 years, India had shown a commitment to reforms, financial discipline, transparency, and inclusive growth. He emphasised that the assurance of consistency and reforms has brought new confidence within the industry. He assured every stakeholder in manufacturing and export that this consistency will continue in the coming years. Encouraging stakeholders to take bold steps and open new avenues for manufacturing and export for the country, Shri Modi highlighted that every country in the world wants to strengthen its economic partnership with India. He urged the manufacturing sector to take full advantage of this partnership.



"Stable policy and a better business environment are crucial for the development of any country", said the Prime Minister, highlighting that a few years ago, the Government introduced the Jan Vishwas Act and made efforts to reduce compliances. Over 40,000 compliances were eliminated at both central and state levels, promoting ease of doing business, he noted. Emphasizing that this exercise should continue, Shri Modi mentioned that the Government had introduced simplified income tax provisions and is working on the Jan Vishwas 2.0 Bill. A committee has been formed to review regulations in the non-financial sector, aiming to make them modern, flexible, people-friendly, and trust-based, he added further and highlighted the significant role of the industry in this exercise. He encouraged stakeholders to identify problems that take longer to resolve, suggest ways to simplify processes, and guide where technology can be used to achieve quicker and better results.

"The world is currently experiencing political uncertainty, and the entire world views India as a growth center", said Shri Modi, highlighting that during the COVID crisis, when the global economy slowed down, India accelerated global growth. He added that this was achieved by advancing the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and accelerating reforms. He emphasised that these

efforts minimized the impact of COVID on the economy, helping India become one of the fastest-growing economies. He said, "India remains a growth engine for the global economy and has proven its resilience in challenging situations". Pointing out that disruptions in the supply chain affect the global economy, and the world needs reliable partners that produce high-quality products and ensure reliable supply, Shri Modi emphasized that India was capable of fulfilling this need, presenting a significant opportunity for the country. He urged the industry not to be mere spectators but to actively seek their role and carve out opportunities. He pointed out that it is easier today compared to the past, as the country has friendly policies and the Government stands shoulder to shoulder with the industry. The Prime Minister called for a strong resolve, objectivity in seeking opportunities in the global supply chain, and accepting challenges. He emphasized that if every industry takes one step forward, collectively, they can achieve significant progress.

Highlighting that 14 sectors were currently benefiting from the PLI scheme, the Prime Minister said that under the scheme, more than 750 units have been approved, resulting in an investment of over Rs 1.5 lakh crore, production worth over Rs 13 lakh crore, and exports exceeding Rs 5 lakh crore. He emphasized that this

demonstrates how entrepreneurs can advance in new areas when given opportunities. Shri Modi announced the decision to launch two missions to promote manufacturing and export. He highlighted the focus on better technology and quality products, as well as the emphasis on skilling to reduce costs. He urged all stakeholders to identify new products in demand globally that can be manufactured in India and encouraged them to approach countries with export potential strategically.

"R&D has played a crucial role in India's manufacturing journey and needs further advancement and acceleration", remarked the Prime Minister. He highlighted that through R&D, the focus can be on innovative products and value addition to existing products. He emphasized that the world recognizes the potential of India's toy, footwear, and leather industries and by combining traditional crafts with modern technologies, significant success can be achieved. He noted that India can become global champion in these sectors, leading to a substantial increase in exports. Shri Modi highlighted that this growth will create lakhs of job opportunities in labor-intensive sectors and promote entrepreneurship. Mentioning that the PM Vishwakarma Yojana provides end-to-end support to traditional artisans, he urged efforts to connect these artisans with new opportunities and called on all stakeholders to come forward to expand the hidden potential in these sectors.

"MSME sector is the backbone of India's manufacturing and industrial growth", said the Prime Minister. He highlighted that in 2020, the Government made a significant

decision to revise the definition of MSMEs after 14 years, which eliminated the fear among MSMEs that they would lose government benefits if they grew. He noted that the number of MSMEs in the country has increased to over 6 crore, providing employment opportunities to crores. Shri Modi emphasized that in this budget, the definition of MSMEs has been further expanded to instill confidence in their continuous growth. This will create more employment opportunities for the youth, he said, highlighting that the biggest problem faced by MSMEs was the difficulty in obtaining loans. He added that ten years ago, MSMEs received loans worth approximately Rs 12 lakh crore, which has now increased to around Rs 30 lakh crore. The Prime Minister announced that in this budget, the guarantee cover for MSME loans has been doubled to Rs 20 crore. Additionally, customized credit cards with a limit of Rs 5 lakh will be provided to meet working capital needs.

Underlining that the Government had facilitated loan access and introduced a new type of loan, Shri Modi highlighted that people are now receiving loans without guarantees, something they never imagined before. Over the past 10 years, schemes like MUDRA, which provide loans without guarantees, have also supported small industries, he said, noting that the Trades portal is resolving many loan-related issues. The Prime Minister emphasized the need to develop new modes of credit delivery, ensuring that every MSME has access to low-cost and timely credit. He announced that five lakh first-time entrepreneurs from women, SC, and ST communities will receive loans of Rs 2 crore. He highlighted that first-time

entrepreneurs need not only credit support but also guidance and urged the industry to create a mentorship program to help these individuals.

Underscoring the role of states is crucial in boosting investment, Shri Modi emphasized that the more states promote ease of doing business, the more investors they will attract. He pointed out that this will benefit the respective states the most. He encouraged competition among states to see who can make the most of this budget. He noted that states with progressive policies will attract companies to invest in their regions.

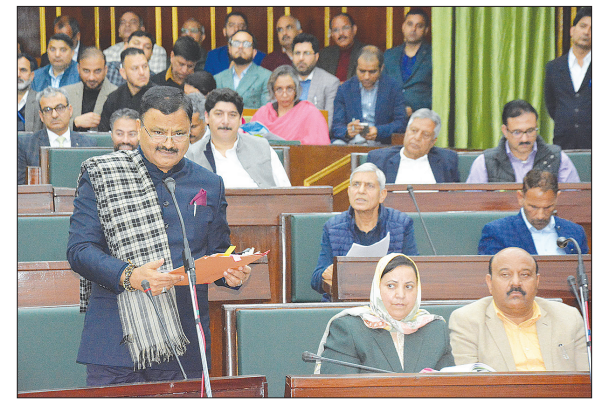
Expressing confidence that all participants are seriously considering these topics, the Prime Minister emphasized that the webinar aims to determine actionable solutions. He highlighted the importance of participants' cooperation in preparing policies, schemes, and guidelines. He noted that this will help in formulating implementation strategies post-budget. He concluded by expressing his belief that the participants' contributions will prove to be very useful.

Several Union Ministers were present among other dignitaries over video conferencing on the occasion.

Background

The webinars will provide a collaborative platform for government officials, industry leaders, and trade experts to deliberate on India's industrial, trade, and energy strategies. The discussions will focus on policy execution, investment facilitation, and technology adoption, ensuring seamless implementation of the Budget's transformative measures. The webinars will engage private sector experts, industry representatives, and subject matter specialists to align efforts and drive impactful implementation of Budget announcements.

132 Cr expended for augmenting drinking water supply in Bandipora: Rana



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 04 (KNO)

Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana Tuesday informed the House that an amount of Rs 132 crore has been expended for augmentation of drinking water supply schemes under JJM/ UT Capex/ AMRUT 2.0 in Bandipora constituency.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Nizam-u-din Bhat in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister further stated that DPR for WSS Bandipora Town project to be undertaken under AMRUT 2.0 is being surveyed and framed.

He further said that providing portable drinking water to every Household is a project of national importance launched

by Prime Minister in 2019 under Jal Jeevan Mission for the rural areas and same has been launched under AMRUT-2.0 for the Urban areas in Jammu & Kashmir.

On status of Aham-Sharief-Athwatoor- Waven WSS in terms of filtration component, the Minister said that the scheme has been made functional for Herpora Athwatoor and Tanghtari habitations were as for Bunpora Athwatoor/ Tanghat it is 60 percent complete. Similarly, for Ahamsharief it is 70 percent complete and for Waven the stage of completion is 65 percent.

Nazir Gurezi, Balwant Singh Mankotia and Choudhary Mohammad Akram raised supplementaries on the question. KNO

People regret giving chances to PDP: Sakeena

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 04 (KNO)

Blaming Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for J&K losing statehood, scrapping of Article 370 and unemployment, Education Minister and senior National Conference (NC) leader, Sakeena Itoo on Tuesday said that the people have rejected the party for "betraying" them.

Talking to reporters in the premises of Legislative Assembly complex here, Itoo, as per the news agency said, "People will never repose their trust in PDP again. In the recent elections, people have reduced their number to just three MLAs."

She said, "People gave two chances to PDP one in 2002 and another in 2014 but on both the occasions party betrayed their trust."

The Minister said, "People are regretting giving chances to the PDP. The party is responsible for the mess Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing."

Referring to the health sector in the Union Territory, Itoo said, "There is dearth of doctors and paramedical staff, but the government under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has been taking every possible measure to ensure better healthcare facilities to the people."

"The previous regime remained confined to laying foundation stones and cutting ribbons, however, what we have achieved in the last three months, they (previous government) would not have done it in ten years," she said. KNO

BJP calls Article 370 debate 'foolishness,' slams Sajad Lone

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 04 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly witnessed a heated exchange of words on Tuesday as the Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma opposed the discussion on Article 370, calling it "foolishness."

He said that Article 370 is now a history and everyone should acknowledge it. Discussing it is completely foolish and tantamount to misleading people, he said, as per the news agency.

His remarks came after J&K Peoples Conference Chief Sajad Gani Lone sought amendments to the Lieutenant Governor's speech, addressing Article 370, the Public Safety Act (PSA), the 1987 elections, and police verification procedures.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather rejected Lone's amendments, citing procedural rules. "As per Rule 187, a discussion on Article 370 cannot take place within a year of a resolution on the same issue," Rather stated. He further said that the 1987 elections were a past event and did not qualify for discussion. On PSA and police verification, he clarified that these matters fall under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and cannot be debated until statehood is restored.

Lone walked out of the session in protest and accused the National Conference (NC) of working with the BJP. The BJP reiterated its position, stating that Parliament had already abrogated Article 370 and that state assemblies cannot overturn parliamentary decisions. "Discussing Article 370 is unnecessary. It is a waste of time to discuss an issue that has been a history now. Those who don't have knowledge about the constitution would try to discuss these issues," Sharma said. "The Supreme Court has upheld its abrogation," he added.

2,548.75 hectares of saffron land rejuvenated under National Mission on Saffron: Javed Dar

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 04 (KNO)

Minister for Agriculture Production, Javed Ahmad Dar Tuesday informed that the National Mission on Saffron has made significant advancements, particularly strengthening of the irrigation system, rejuvenating 2,548.75 hectares of saffron land.

The Minister while replying to a question by Justice Hasnain Masoodi in the Legislative Assembly further said that the Government has successfully halted decline in saffron area and area under this crop has remained at 3,715 hectares (3665 Ha in Kashmir division and 50 Ha in Kishtwar) since 2010-11, with more areas identified for expansion supported by HADP. He further said that the productivity has enhanced from 2.50 kg/ha in 2009-10 to a maximum recorded productivity of 4.42 kg/ha in rejuvenated areas during 2023.

He said that the National Mission on Saffron initiated a plan to construct a network of 124 community bore-wells. Each bore-well is intended to serve an area of 30 hectares, con-



nected to sprinkler irrigation systems designed to support the irrigation needs of a total of 3,665 hectares of saffron fields.

He further informed that 85 bore-wells have been handed over to the Agriculture Department, however, efforts to construct the remaining 39 bore-wells have faced significant obstacles. Despite multiple invitations for tenders, there has been consistently poor participation in the tendering process. This lack of response has resulted in a substantial delay in further developing the necessary irrigation infrastructure.

He said that the Committee formed by the Government has found that 77 bore-wells are not

functional for a long time. The Minister said that a 400 Crore project had been sanctioned during 2010-11 by Ministry of Agriculture and Corporation, Government of India for boosting Saffron production and economic revival.

He further informed that the establishment of Saffron Park/IIKSTC has helped farmers realize enhanced prices, increasing from Rs. 80,000 per kg to Rs. 2,20,000 per kg during 2021-22. Implementation of various scientific post-harvest processing methods increased saffron stigma recovery from 22g/kg to 28g/kg (an increase of 6g/kg) during 2021-22.

Through the mission, new technologies were implemented via Indian Institute of Kashmir Saf-

fron and Technology Center (IIKSTC), leading to an increase in saffron colour quality from 8 percent (traditional drying) to 16 percent (scientific drying), the minister added.

He further said that the Mission addressed the issue of intermediaries exploiting saffron growers by implementing e-auctions at IIKSTC. This ensured fair farm-gate prices and enabled transparent transactions across India, effectively reducing the influence of intermediaries.

The Minister said that the Agriculture Department has made concerted efforts to combat disruptive activities of undesirable element among the saffron growing farmers

which included damaging of sprinkler irrigation systems/bore-wells. The presence of Real-Estate players/land grabbers pose a significant threat to the success of saffron cultivation, in the area, complaints have also been lodged with the concerned revenue officials, he added.

While monitoring and evaluating the activities carried out under the Mission the Minister said that it is clearly suggestive that majority of the objectives and outcomes have been achieved under the Mission, however, a couple of objectives have remained incomplete due to various factors.

The Department has consistently involved local leadership and saffron growers in policy decisions to benefit farmers. Committees comprising saffron farmers, traders, civil society members, and other stakeholders have been formed to ensure their views are considered, the Minister maintained.

Sunil Sharma, M. Y Tarigami and Arjun Singh raised supplementaries on the question. KNO

No Creation/ Upgradation of Health Centers Planned: J&K Govt

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 04 (KNO)

The Jammu & Kashmir Government informed the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday that J&K has a health institution for every 3,500 souls, compared to the national average of 6,000 souls.

In a written reply to an unstarred question by MLA Reyaz Ahmed Khan, as reported by the news agency, the Minister in-charge of Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Masood Itoo, informed the House that according to a report published by the Union Ministry of Health & Medical Education, J&K has a health institution for every 3,500 souls, significantly better than the national average of 6,000 souls.

The Minister also informed the House that there are currently 554 New Type Primary Health Centers (NTPHCs) in Jammu and Kashmir. She added that 523 out of these 554 NTPHCs have been converted into Health & Wellness Centers under a flagship scheme launched by the Government of India.

Power Shutdown

J NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 4

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL, in order to carry out installation of DTR structure and laying of LT Cable under RDSS, the shutdown of 33KV Habbak-Zakura-Burzama Line shall be observed due to which Receiving Station at Zakura and Burzama shall remain off while power supply to the Zakura, Batpora, Gulab Bagh, Danihama, Khimber, Chaterhama, Teilbal, Burzama, Gassu, Shoperbagh and Rahbagh will be affected from 10:30 AM to 04:00 PM on 10 March, 2025.

Similarly, to carry out the erection of poles of 33 KV Tapline of Awantipora Line, the shutdown of 33KV Awantipora- Awantipora line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at DPL Awantipora and Floor Mills shall remain off while the power supply to DPL Awantipora and Floor Mills will be affected from 09:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 6 & 8 March 2025.

In order to carry out stabilization, erection of poles and preventive maintenance of 33KV line, the shutdown of 33KV Pampore-Khrew line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Khrew-1, Khrew-2nd and Shar Shali shall remain off while power supply to the Khrew, Bathen, Shar, Wahab Sahab areas will be affected from 09:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 05 March, 2025.

Also, the shutdown of 33KV Pampore-Lethpora line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Konibal, Lethpora, LIS Ladhoo and Mills shall remain off while power supply to the Samboora, Lethpora, Patalbagh, Chandhara, Konibal & Drusoo areas will be affected from 09:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 06 March, 2025.

Further, the shutdown of 33KV Pampore-Wagoora line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Kadlbal and HPCL shall remain off while power supply to the Gas Turbine and HPCL areas will be affected from 09:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 05 March, 2025.

Trials for J&K Men's Football Team underway for Swami Vivekananda U-20 National Championship



J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 4

The selection trials for the J&K Men's Football Team, set to compete in the Swami Vivekananda U-20 Men's National Football Championship 2025, commenced today at Mini Stadium, Parade, Jammu. The trials are being conducted under the supervision of J&K Sports Council coaches.

The trials for Jammu Division athletes will continue on March 4 and 5, following which the selection process will shift to TRC Synthetic Football Turf, Srinagar, for Kashmir Division players on March 10, 11, and 12. The final selection trials, featuring shortlisted players from both divisions, will be held in Srinagar on March 17, 18,

and 19 under the guidance of expert coaches from the Sports Council.

The selected players will undergo an intensive coaching camp to prepare for the prestigious Swami Vivekananda U-20 Men's National Football Championship, scheduled to be held in Narainpur, Chhatargarh, in April.

Following the remarkable performance of Team J&K in the recently concluded Santosh Trophy, Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul instructed officials to ensure rigorous training, top-notch facilities, and comprehensive technical support for the players. She expressed confidence that, with proper preparation and guidance, the team will excel on the national stage and bring laurels to J&K.

Campaign to clear legacy waste kicked-off in Budgam



J NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, MARCH 4

The District Administration Budgam in collaboration with Rural Development department Budgam initiated a special campaign to clear the legacy waste across the district and also launched a special cleanliness drive from block Budgam.

The drive was flagged off by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Mehraj-ud-din Shah from panchayat halqa Razwen. Speaking to the gathering, ADC said that district administration Budgam is carrying out the drive with a missionary zeal to make the district neat and clean.

He discussed modalities for implementation of 'Swachhta Hi Seva' campaign in the district to mobilize communities to make the district clean, junk free,

with 100% toilets to each and every household.

He said, compost and soakage pits, segregation sheds, separate dustbins, no polythene zone is the aim of administration so that there is healthy society. He urged the public to make use of these facilities provided by the government so that there is clean and green Budgam.

Shah highlighted the aim of the campaign and said that it is meant to sensitise the public and bring behavioural change in them with regard to the sanitation and cleanliness. He also said that such events will be organized at other places across the district also.

Others who were present during the programme were ACP Budgam, BDO, Panchayat Secretary concerned, locals of the area, besides other district, tehsil and block level officials.

DC reviews Road Safety Measures in Poonch



J NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MARCH 4

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, also the Chairman of the District Level Road Safety Committee (DLRSC), conducted a comprehensive review of road safety measures aimed at reducing traffic accidents and ensuring public safety.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Border Roads Organization (BRO) to construct eight toilet complexes along the route from BG tunnel to Poonch town, stressing the importance of collaborating with the concerned tehsildar to identify appropriate locations.

A thorough review of black spot areas was undertaken, with specific directives issued to address

pending issues to enhance road safety. The ARTO Poonch reported significant enforcement actions for 2024, highlighting the suspension of 176 driving licenses, blacklisting of 640 vehicles, cancellation of 32 licenses, and a total of 876 challans, resulting in fines amounting to 10.79 lakhs.

Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner mandated the installation of speed limit signboards and mirrors on Nakha Wali road and asked the ARTO to expedite the installation of CCTV cameras in school buses.

The Committee emphasized the need for strict actions against negligent drivers, reinforcing the importance of revoking licenses for individuals involved in accidents due to carelessness.

DLC approves diversion of Forest Land for six road projects in Rajouri

J NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, MARCH 4

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting of District Level Committee (DLC) regarding the diversion of forest land under Section 3(2) of the Forest Rights Act for the construction of road and bridge projects.

The committee deliberated on the diversion of forest land for the construction of six road projects across different blocks under the Rural Development Department (RDD) and the Public Works Department (PWD R&B). The approved projects included Soom to Kothian Road (Block Kalakote), Baret to Ambligurah Road (Block Kalakote), Main Road to Kalyoon Abdul Mohalla Road (Block Mougla), Nilla Danda to Langar Road (Block Mougla), Argi Bridge to Patti Galla via Sagote Road (Block Mougla) and Tuni Ke Bani to Jandi Matar Road (Block Rajouri). After detailed discussions, all six cases



were approved by the DLC, marking a significant step towards improving rural connectivity in the district. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of these road projects in facilitating better transportation and boosting economic activities in remote areas.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kalakote, Mohd Tanveer; DFO Rajouri; DFO Nowshera, Shewata Deona;

CPO, Maqsood Ahmed; ACD, Vijay Kumar; DSWO, Abdul Raheem; EXEN PWD (R&B) Kalakote, Aftab Khan; EXEN REW, Zahir Khan, and other concerned members of the DLC.

Additionally, DDC Member Rajouri, Sai Abdul Rashid; DDC Member Thanamandi, Abdul Qayoom Mir and DDC Member Kalakote, Anita Thakur, were also present.

DC Poonch reviews implementation of RDSS



J NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MARCH 4

In a significant move to robust the power distribution infrastructure in the district, Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal chaired a meeting to assess the progress of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) at the DC office conference hall.

During the session, the executing agency provided a comprehensive Power-Point briefing detailing the current status of RDSS projects.

The DC focused on various components, including material supply, feeder-wise work progress, and the status of critical items

such as poles, conductors, LT AB cables, DTRs, transformers etc.

Emphasizing the need for expedited work, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned teams to prioritize sites in Salwa, Sakhi-Maidan, Sathra, Town, and Magnar. He also instructed Junior Engineers (JEs) to conduct onsite inspections to ensure proper installation of equipment and highlighted the importance of geo-tagged photos for accurate record-keeping of ongoing work.

The meeting was attended by SE JPDCL Rajouri-Poonch, Executive Engineer JPDCL, AEE JPDCL, besides all JEs of JPDCL were present.

DDC Poonch reviews progress of health infrastructure projects



J NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, MARCH 4

District Development Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, today convened a meeting to evaluate the ongoing healthcare projects within the framework of the District and Union Territory Capital Expenditure (Capex) budget for the fiscal year 2024-25.

Key discussions focused on the progress of new hospital buildings, equipment

upgrades, and various health initiatives supported by the Capex program. The DDC emphasized the importance of quality in all ongoing projects, instructing concerned officers to ensure standards are met.

In a bid to accelerate progress, the DDC urged all executing agencies to intensify efforts over the next two weeks, enhance workforce deployment, and fulfill pending targets within the specified timeframe. He highlighted

that timely completion of these healthcare infrastructure projects is essential for improving healthcare delivery in the district, as well as the prudent utilization of allocated funds.

The meeting was attended by key stakeholders, including the CPO Poonch, CMO, Medical Superintendent of District Hospital Poonch, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Poonch/Surankote/Mendhar and Block Medical Officers.

DC Ganderbal reviews progress under PM Surya Ghar (Muft Bijli Yojana)

J NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, MARCH 4

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting to review the progress achieved under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in the district.

During the meeting, the DC took a comprehensive review of the installation of rooftop solar systems across all electrical sub-divisions in Ganderbal.

He highlighted the numerous benefits of the initiative and urged the KPDCL officials to intensify their public awareness efforts regarding the advantages of installing rooftop solar plants.

Stressing the importance of mass outreach, the DC directed officials to launch an extensive awareness campaign to educate the public about the scheme's financial and environmental benefits. He also emphasized the need for speedy implementation to ensure that residents fully utilize the scheme's benefits.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Gulzar Ahmad; Superintending Engineer KPDCL, Chief Planning Officer, Executive Engineer KPDCL, AEEs, and other concerned officials.

DDC Samba reviews progress of Credit-Linked Schemes, directs Banks to enhance credit flow

J NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MARCH 4

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Samba, Rajesh Sharma today reviewed the progress of Credit-Linked Schemes in the district during a meeting held at DC Office Complex.

Chief Agriculture Officer, Samba, Madan Gopal Singh gave a detailed presentation on the progress of various schemes.

The DDC reviewed and discussed the implementation of Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), PM-KISAN, Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) and other credit-linked schemes. He



emphasized the need to extend benefits to a larger number of beneficiaries to maximize the impact of these schemes.

The DDC directed bank authorities to enhance credit flow and urged them to prioritize loan sponsorship with proper handholding to ensure beneficiaries receive timely support.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Champa Devi; Chief Horticulture Officer; District Sheep Husbandry Officer; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer; Assistant Director, Fisheries; AGMO; Lead District Manager; Cluster Head J&K Bank and representatives from various banks.

EDITORIAL

Omar Abdullah's no to alliance with BJP

In the ever-evolving political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has made it unequivocally clear that his National Conference (NC) is no mood to repeat the mistakes of the past. His categorical rejection of any alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is a stark reminder of the political turmoil that engulfed the People's Democratic Party (PDP) after its ill-fated coalition with the BJP in 2014. That alliance not only led to the PDP's virtual disappearance from the political mainstream in the Kashmir Valley but also, in many ways, paved the way for the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. Despite its post-2018 opposition to the BJP, the PDP still struggles to shed its association with the saffron party. Omar's latest statements reinforce his party's distinct ideological stance. "We are not talking about any alliance with the BJP, neither is there any scope, nor the need. Our thoughts also do not align," he stated, making it clear that the NC's vision for Jammu and Kashmir is fundamentally different from that of the BJP. His emphasis on the restoration of statehood and discussions on Article 370 reflects a commitment to addressing the concerns of the people rather than engaging in political opportunism. One of the key takeaways from Omar's address was his reference to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly's resolution on special status, passed in its first session in November 2024. The fact that this resolution has not been rejected by the Central Government offers a glimmer of hope for those advocating for constitutional safeguards for the region. His assertion that "the resolution is still holding" underscores the belief that a political and constitutional dialogue on Jammu and Kashmir's future is still possible. Abdullah's remarks on the broader Kashmir issue also carry historical significance. Reflecting on past diplomatic efforts, he observed that India and Pakistan had come closest to resolving the Kashmir conflict when Dr. Manmohan Singh was the Prime Minister. His somber remark that he does not expect to witness such an opportunity in his lifetime underscores the deep-seated skepticism that now surrounds India-Pakistan relations. The geopolitical reality today is vastly different, with trust deficits and hardened positions defining interactions between the two nations. Omar Abdullah's leadership stands in contrast to the political miscalculations of the past. By refusing to entertain any alignment with the BJP, he is safeguarding his party from the fate that befell the PDP. More importantly, his stance resonates with the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who have long sought a leadership that prioritizes their aspirations over political expediency. While independent voices, such as MLA Khurshid Ahmed, continue to push for justice in cases of civilian killings and the full restoration of Article 370, Omar Abdullah's position remains one of strategic patience and institutional engagement. His call for unity among legislators to fulfill governance priorities is a pragmatic approach that acknowledges the immediate needs of the people while keeping the larger constitutional struggle alive. As Jammu and Kashmir navigates its uncertain political future, the National Conference's firm rejection of a BJP alliance marks a crucial moment. Whether this strategy will yield tangible results remains to be seen, but one thing is certain: Omar Abdullah is determined not to repeat the mistakes of the past, and in doing so, he may be laying the groundwork for a more stable and representative future for the region.

Tripura innovates cityscapes for sustainability and tourism

VKBAHUGUNA

About 35 per cent of India's population lives in urban areas and is still growing rapidly. As the population of cities is ever increasing with a lot of garbage and waste found all around in most cities, the sustainable management of urban area landscapes is very crucial for better civic amenities, ambience and dealing with environmental issues like air pollution, heat waves and flooding, while also improving quality of life through green spaces, better public areas for entertainment and relaxation and promoting physical activity and mental wellbeing among residents; all while managing waste disposal and addressing the challenges of a densely populated urban environment; the situation is exacerbated during extreme temperatures in summer. Tourist attractions are essential elements of progress these days and the aesthetics of the urban environment plays a key role in attracting tourists on the one hand and improving the economic activities of the people.

During 2023-24 more than 5,45,000 tourists including 75,000 from abroad visited Tripura compared to around 3 lakh tourists in the year 2015. Agartala is the only modern yet densely populated city in Tripura and is full of tourist attractions in and around its 50 to 60-kilometre radius. The

flow of tourists has been steadily increasing in the state as the infrastructure of hotels, roads and transport has been picking up very fast thanks to the proactive initiation taken by the government during the last few years. I have recently visited Tripura in the second week of February 2025 to study a few innovative steps taken by the Tripura administration. A three-dimensional approach has been adopted in beautifying the urban architecture of Agartala and other cities.

Tripura forest department has a rich tradition of embellishment of Tripura's natural beauty through a series of parks, gardens and beautification of pavements in different parts of the state. The state government had created an agency for this purpose to further beautify the state's already beautiful landscape to attract tourists as well as create employment opportunities for the people.

For this purpose, the state government had created an entity in the forest department "Tripura Park and Garden Society". In this direction the government of India's 'Nagarvan-city forests' scheme is giving a big impetus to this project not only in Tripura but also in other parts of the country. However, the innovative ways the city's Capital Complex, state secretariat and airport roads have been aesthetically laid out is a rare example of urban landscape management.



Most of the pavements covered by cement and bricks during summer months create heat waves in most of the cities. The forest department along with other state departments has created pyramids of flowers, crotons and indigenous tree species along with fountains and Rashi and Nakshatra forests. Most of the empty side lands along buildings and pavements were cleared of debris and planted in a pyramid shape hierarchy giving the most beautiful look in between fountain gardens were created along with plantations of medicinal plants for ex-situ conservation of these valuable plants.

The top level was occupied by the tree species and special tree grooves were also created for public awareness. For the

benefit of people biodiversity and butterfly parks were created on Airport Road giving the inciting look to the tourists visiting the state. Such projects if undertaken in all cities in the country will be an excellent attempt to combat climate change, especially the heat waves engulfing most of the urban cities and landscape in recent years.

Such a project of beautification cannot be completed by a single department therefore, in this scheme public work and urban development departments also fully participated. Such innovation needs the full support of senior government functionaries. The proposal of young officers of the forest department was fully supported by the state Chief Secretary and other senior officers. The scheme is

implemented through the Nagarvan scheme outside Tripura and shows cases of the unique vegetation and other cultural trends of the state. The rich floral and other bio-diversity of the state is one of the reasons for success as well as the favourable agro-climatic conditions. Similar attempts need to be made in other states of the country and focus should be on local species and with conservation value of other endangered plants.

The Rashi and Nakshatra Van were created by planting species like Chandan, Neem, Akanda, Peepal, Haritiki, Ashwagandha, Khair, Palash and Orange for Nakshatra Van. For Rashi van Jackfruit, Peepal, Ber, Bel, Jamun, Amla, Nageswar, Arjun, Mahogany, Mango, Bakul and Guava are all very useful Trees. For the

long-term sustainability of landscape beautification, the constant supervision, maintenance and involvement of people is a must. These types of innovations though started in administration all over the country need to be nurtured beyond the shadow of officers involved in it once they are not in the saddle. For this, standard operating procedures must be developed along with creating a scope for public-private partnerships like in Zoos in many other states where the people adopt certain animals and fund their food and other needs so that such activities can become financially viable in the long term and also involve the public in their management.

The entry fee should be such that these endeavours become sustainable and people are willing to pay if quality service is offered as such things cannot be relied only on government funding. All such creations must be linked to environmental management for climate change as well as it is becoming a critical factor in large landscape management in the country. The need of the hour is the holistic and integrated management of urban areas of the country.

(The author is former director general, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, and former Principal Secretary, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Resources and Forest Department, Government of Tripura; views are personal)

Dream big and Stay Humble

RAVIVALLURI

Success is the accomplishment of an aim or purpose. What is the secret of the success of achievers? Dream the impossible, be extremely disciplined, remain dedicated and determined, take appropriate decisions all the time, even in adverse situations, and finally maintain humility while toasting success. To be successful, a human being necessarily dreams of the impossible. Dreams should be audacious. One has to think big and be bold in the actions taken. Ratan Tata emphasised leading from the front and not being a mere follower. Be a leader and not a follower. A quintessential leader takes up responsi-

bility. The 'mind' of the leader needs to be confronted and challenged. The human mind loves challenges. Faced with challenging situations, it delivers the impossible. Mind is not motivated by rote, but is inspired to script something unusual. Maintaining mental and physical discipline are essential ingredients of successful leaders.

Physical fitness increases both our physical and mental stamina. Exercise releases endorphins in the human body which trigger the positive thoughts. It helps immensely in smart decision-making. Along with exercise, an individual is also required to maintain a healthy and balanced diet which staves off disease and enhances alacrity and

sharpness. Achievers may be from any field – sports, politics, administration or entrepreneurs. However, the cardinal principle is to maintain physical fitness, and punctuality and avoid procrastination by maintaining timely schedules. If a leader is lethargic, the organisation becomes flabby, sluggish and phlegmatic.

The mantra for attaining success is to be extremely disciplined. Such a trait inspires employees to increase their productivity levels too. In the spiritual path, a seeker needs to maintain a spirited tenacity and pursue his Sadhana relentlessly. Regular Sadhana inspires the mind to expand its vistas and thereby attempt to embrace the ultimate

reality. This, in the final analysis, is the underlying objective and the seeker unflinchingly needs to relentlessly practice the tenets laid down by the Guru. Smart, quick and efficient decision-making assists people in achieving success. This provides a person with the cushion and a cutting edge over others. There is no substitute for hard work. Working hard produces quick and efficient results. This is followed by the quality of determination. A Sadhak, a sportsperson, or an entrepreneur has necessarily to be determined. Determined minds are strong and developed minds. These are innovative minds and conjure a variety of ideas and positive thoughts. To achieve

excellence in any field, such minds and individuals are determined at all points in time. The minds of such individuals are highly fertile and produce magic with regularity. An unbearable situation gets converted into an unbelievable one. This is their inherent strength.

They do not live in the past or future, they live in the Present Moment to confront all challenges. However, the ultimate hallmark of all successful individuals, teams, companies or organisations is HUMILITY. There is no or very little trace of arrogance. They are insulated by the feeling of doer ship and become hubristic. In a competitive and cutthroat environment, a huge helping of humility is essential

for staying ahead of the game. Humility enhances curiosity and thus accelerates learning. Without humility, you can never be a good listener and understand the voices around you – of customers, colleagues and stakeholders. "Humility is the true key to success. Successful people lose their way at times. Humility halts their arrogance and self-indulging trap. Humble people share the credit and wealth, remaining focused and hungry to continue the journey of success," writes Rick Pitino.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

Beyond social media regulation: The call for a national moral code

SIDHARTH MISHRA

While the nation discusses the desirability of regulating content on social media given the controversy that erupted from the statement made by YouTuber Ranveer Allahbadia, there is a larger issue of defining morality and enacting moral patterns of conduct for people that requires prior consideration.

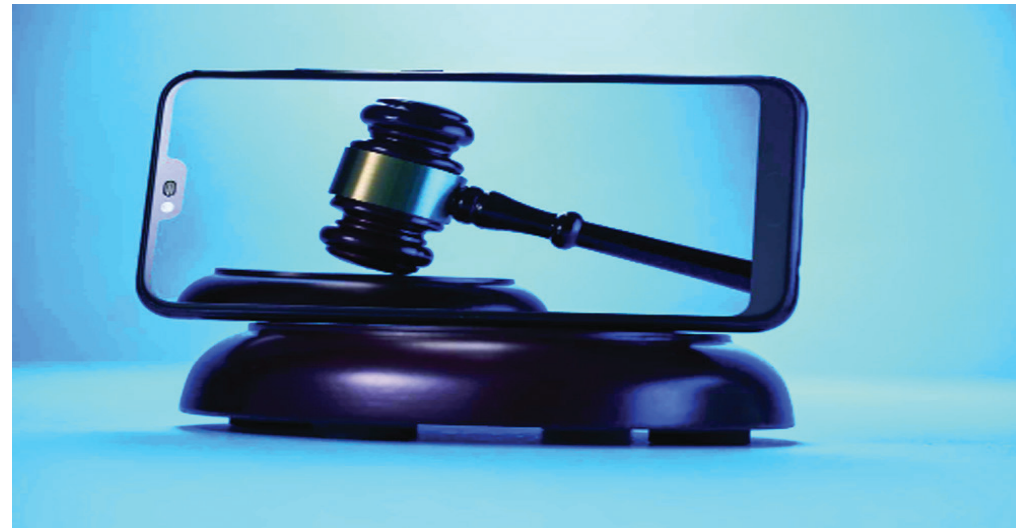
While it remains open whether Allahbadia's statement violated any provision of law, however, it is obvious that his statement hurt the moral sentiments of a majority of the population. Notwithstanding, the undesirability of his statement, how advisable it is to expect people to behave in a way that is morally acceptable to society when no particular pattern of ethically correct behaviour is prescribed for them by the state. It implies that society expects or presumes everyone to know mor-

ally accurate conduct in all situations.

As morality is an abstract concept that varies from place to place and from person to person, it is necessary that, like law, morality is clearly defined as well. Usually, an act or statement acquires a righteous or erroneous character on the personal sense of judgement of individuals, thus, people must know clearly what is permissible moral and what is proscribed immoral.

In such a situation, it requires consideration whether society needs a code that prescribes a pattern of morally upright conduct for its people. Ideally, each society must aim to be free from immoral conduct or behaviour and, for this, the state should establish a pattern or standard of behaviour that is expected of all the citizens and is followed by all alike whether individuals or organisations.

Ironically, in India, the state has made little attempt to



establish such a society where people follow a certain advised pattern of behaviour that is acceptable to all.

The impression that laws would serve this purpose is completely contrary to the practical realities. Laws as they exist in this country are mostly proscriptive which means they largely prohibit particular or

specific behaviour(s) rather than laying down in detail the desirable pattern(s) of conduct.

In India, laws are hardly prescriptive and they do not necessarily prescribe a particular pattern of behaviour for people. Generally, laws do not provide in brief or detail what manner, pattern of conduct

or behaviour should people observe or practice.

They mainly proscribe or prohibit particular conduct(s) and make doing such conduct culpable or punishable and the doer of it liable for certain consequences. Given such a situation, does it not sound farcical to expect all the people, all over, to know, in every situa-

tion, in minute details, what is legally and morally permissible conduct and behaviour?

The lack of efforts on the part of the society or the state to formulate a code of morally desirable conduct in India may be ascribed to the thought that this work be better left to the educational, religious or cultural institutions.

But if so, have such institutions fulfilled their responsibility in this regard? India, being a multi-religious and multi-cultural country, a variety of factors seem to hamper this purpose. Diversity of faiths and religions results in a lack of a common behavioural pattern as well as a lack of a mechanism to ensure that the moral instructions being imparted are being uniformly learnt and practised.

Even the educational institutions seem to flounder here, as not all educational institutions seem to insist on teaching moral or ethical values uniformly at all levels. They lay

immense emphasis on scientific and technical education but not in the same way on imparting moral education, which is more or equally necessary. Most of the problems in society are caused by a lack of strong values, morals and integrity of character in people, hence, a civilised state must work sincerely on developing a strong value system in its population.

Though the Indian constitution prescribes fundamental duties for citizens that are non-enforceable, they remain, merely, empty slogans. Given the massive onslaught of undesirable content on social media and its penetration among, and influence on, vulnerable youth, it is highly incumbent on the state, simultaneously, to regulate social media as well as draft a moral/ethical code of conduct for building a nation of people with strong morals and character.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Faculty of Law University of Delhi; views are

M3M India enters Jammu market, holds 'The Great Property Fest'

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU 4 MARCH 2025:

Real estate developer M3M India has announced that it has officially entered into the Jammu market. M3M India hosted "The Great Property Fest" on March 1st and 2nd, 2025, at the Radisson Blu, Jammu. This strategic expansion into Jammu represents a significant milestone in the company's growth journey, as it broadens its national presence and offers its iconic projects to Jammu's residents and investors, setting new standards in the city's real estate market.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by esteemed dignitaries, including Sh. Sat Sharma, BJP President, UT of J&K; Sh. Jugal Kishore, MP Lok Sabha; and Sh. Ashok Kaul, Organising Secretary, BJP J&K, with many other dignitaries.

The event showcased an impressive line-up of M3M India's projects, featuring six of its most prestigious developments. These included the luxurious M3M Altitude, the scenic M3M Golf Hills, the majestic M3M Antalya, the opulent M3M Mansions, the stylish M3M The Line, and the breath-taking M3M The Cullinan. Each of these projects reflects M3M Group's commitment to delivering world-class properties that redefine



the standards of luxury living.

The two-day property fest, "The Great Property Fest", received an overwhelming response from the people of Jammu. The event witnessed a significant footfall, with numerous prospective customers visiting the fest to explore the luxurious projects offered by M3M India. The enthusiastic response from the attendees was a testament to the growing demand for quality real estate projects.

M3M India's entry into Jammu is a strategic move to diversify its portfolio and tap into the city's growing demand for housing and commercial spaces. With less competition in the real estate market, M3M India aims to establish a strong presence and increase revenue.

"We are thrilled to introduce M3M India to Jammu and offer our customers a range of world-class properties. Our mission is to provide buyers with the highest quality proper-

ties, ensuring their ultimate satisfaction. We are committed to delivering exceptional projects that exceed our customers' expectations and contribute to the city's growth and development," said Mr. Robin Mangla, President, M3M India.

Mr. Rishi Singh, Founder of Silverdome Realtors, and Mr. Neeraj Lakhimpuri, Founder of Quantum Realty, jointly stated, "Our goal is to deliver exceptional quality and satisfaction to our customers. We're excited to collaborate with M3M India, a prominent developer, to transform Jammu and Kashmir's real estate market."

With its entry into Jammu, M3M India is poised to bring its signature blend of luxury, quality, and innovation to the city's real estate market. The company's focus on customer satisfaction, timely delivery, and quality construction is expected to resonate with the city's discerning homebuyers and investors.

Indian Army organizes Medical Camp for Marginalized Communities at Malpur, Akhnour

JI NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR: 04 MAR 2025

Upholding its unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of the people, Indian Army organized a Medical Camp at Bhatara (Akhnour). The primary objective of the camp was to offer free medical and dental check-up and to distribute essential medicines to the marginalized communities of the area. The camp also provided vital medicines for common ailments and seasonal diseases. The camp led by Indian Army was meticulously planned to ensure that medical assistance reached the most remote and needy areas. In addition to addressing the health concerns the team also informed the residents about government health schemes, encouraging them to take advantage of available resources. The heartfelt gratitude of the local populace was visible in their eyes and



further expressed through the blessings of the elders. The community was deeply thankful to the White Knight Gunners for their continuous support and for spearheading this initiative that has made a meaningful difference in their lives.

SC quashes rape case against Ex-Army Officer

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 4

The Supreme Court on Tuesday quashed all criminal proceedings in a rape case against former Indian Army officer Rakesh Walia, ruling that the complaint was "unbelievable" and constituted an "abuse of the process of law."

A bench comprising Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Justice K. Vinod Chandran noted that apart from the complainant's statements, no evidence was on record to substantiate the allegations. Additionally, it was found that the same complainant had filed eight other identical First Information Reports (FIRs) against different individuals across multiple police stations in Delhi, but later refused to cooperate with investigations.

The Bench emphasised that this was a case where the Delhi High Court should have exercised its powers under Section 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (now Section 528 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita) to quash the proceedings.

Since the High Court had dismissed Walia's plea for quashing the case, the Supreme Court set aside the order and terminated all proceedings.

The apex court noted that "Apart from her statement in the FIR and her



statement under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (now under Section 183 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023), there is no other evidence on record. However, what is most concerning before this Court is that the same respondent has filed nearly identical cases against at least eight other individuals (nine cases in total).

These FIRs, lodged in different police stations across Delhi, involve offenses under Sections 34, 328, 354, 354A, 354D, 376, 377, 506, and 509 of the IPC. Additionally, we have been informed that after lodging the FIR, the complainant has not cooperated with the investigation and has not appeared before this Court despite being served with notice," the Supreme Court observed.

The complainant had alleged that when she met the appellant regarding a modeling assignment, he

offered her a cold drink laced with sedatives, after which he raped her. However, the appellant refuted these claims, stating that their meeting was related to services she offered for promoting his books.

He asserted that he was an author of five books, some of which were best-sellers.

"Considering the nature of the case and the cumulative circumstances, we are of the opinion that the criminal case initiated against the appellant is nothing but an abuse of the process of law. This is precisely the kind of case where the High Court ought to have exercised its inherent powers under Section 482 Cr.P.C. (now under Section 528 B.N.S.S.) and should have quashed the proceedings," the bench ruled.

Advocate on Record (AOR) Mr. Ashwani Kumar Dubey, and advocates Adwait Ghosh, and Chandra Shekhar appeared for the Appellant.

India's security apparatus must remain adaptive to emerging threats: Rajnath

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAR 4

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said that India's security apparatus must remain adaptive to emerging threats such as cyber warfare, hybrid warfare, space-based challenges, and transnational organised crime.

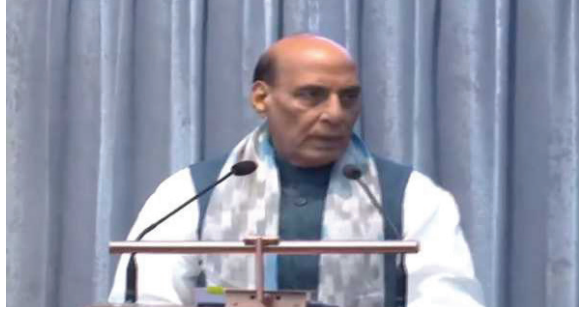
Addressing the gathering, after inaugurating the Ministry of Home Affairs - Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Collaboration Conference-Cum-Exhibition on 'Advanced Technologies for Internal Security and Disaster Relief Operations' at DRDO Bhawan here, Singh highlighted the growing complexities in global security and the increasing overlap between internal and external threats, an official statement said.

"Security challenges in the modern world are evolving rapidly, and the overlap between internal and external security is increasing. It is imperative that our institutions break silos and work collaboratively to ensure a strong, secure, and self-reliant India," he stated.

Rajnath stressed that India's national security must be viewed holistically, integrating efforts across different security agencies and leveraging the latest technological advancements.

The Defence Minister noted that India's internal security is not just about managing conventional threats like terrorism, separatist movements, and left-wing extremism but also about preparing for unconventional threats that can destabilise the nation's economic and strategic interests.

"The adversaries of today do not always come with traditional weapons; cyber-attacks, misinformation campaigns, and space-



based espionage are emerging as new-age threats that require advanced solutions," he stated.

"DRDO has played a pivotal role in enhancing India's defence capabilities, and its contributions to internal security are equally commendable. From small arms and bulletproof jackets to surveillance and communication systems, DRDO's innovations are empowering our security forces," Singh underlined. Rajnath urged DRDO and MHA to work together to create a common list of scalable products that can be jointly developed and deployed in a time-bound manner.

"Our security forces require the best tools and technologies to remain ahead of the curve. It is encouraging to see DRDO's focus on modernisation, with products like small arms, surveillance equipment and drone systems either inducted or undergoing evaluation for deployment in internal security agencies," he highlighted.

Recalling his tenure as Home Minister, Singh highlighted how the collaboration between security agencies and scientific institutions led to significant technological advancements.

Singh also spoke about the importance of leveraging technology not just for security but also for disaster management and humanitarian relief.

"The role of technology is not just in defence but also in ensuring peace and social welfare. Advanced systems like bulletproof jackets, drones, surveillance equipment and anti-drone technologies must be leveraged not only for security operations but also for disaster management and humanitarian relief," he said.

Rajnath cited the increasing frequency of natural calamities like cyclones, avalanches, earthquakes and cloud bursts and underscored the critical need for advanced rescue tools. The use of technologies such as thermal imaging cameras, drone-based detection systems, and victim locating devices can significantly reduce casualties and damage. Referring to the recent avalanche in Mana, Uttarakhand, he lauded the use of advanced rescue equipment in saving lives and reducing the impact of the disaster. Singh threw light on the fact that although disasters are tragic in themselves, their impact can be minimised with the use of advanced technology and how, in the recent avalanche, technologies like rotary rescue saws, thermal imaging, victim locating cameras, avalanche rods, and drone-based detection systems played a crucial role in saving lives.

Minister Dhananjay Munde resigns

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, MAR 4

Amid the ongoing controversy over the Beed sarpanch murder case in Maharashtra, state food and civil supplies minister Dhananjay Munde resigned on Tuesday from Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's ministry.

"Munde has submitted his resignation to me. I have accepted his resignation and sent it to the governor for further action," said Fadnavis.

The Nationalist Congress Party-Ajit Pawar (NCP-AP) Minister Munde finally submitted his resignation after Valmik Karad, his close aide, was made an accused in the Beed Sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh murder case.

Since Karad's name surfaced in the murder case, leaders of the opposition alliance had been persistently demanding Munde's resignation.

The opposition had warned that if Munde did



not resign on Tuesday they would disrupt the proceedings of the assembly, which started its budget session on Monday.

Deshmukh, the sarpanch of Massajog village, was kidnapped and murdered in December 2024. Seven accused have since been arrested in the case. One accused is still absconding.

On February 27, the state Criminal Investigation Department submitted a chargesheet of about 1,200 pages in the Beed

District Court, which includes Deshmukh's murder and two related cases.

Three separate cases have been registered at the Cage police station in Beed - the murder of Sarpanch, an attempt to extort money from the Awada company, and an attack on the company's security guard. Cases have been registered against the accused under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).

YCET organizes Industrial Visit to CIIT Jammu for B.Tech Students



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 4

The Yogananda College of Engineering & Technology (YCET) organized an Industrial visit for B.Tech students of all the branches as well as Semesters of Civil Engg, Electrical Engg, Mechanical Engg and Computer Science & Engineering to the Centre for Invention, Innovation, Incubation & Training (CIIT), Jammu which has been established by Tata Technologies Ltd, Pune at Government Polytechnic, Jammu to impart training in the latest trends of Manufacturing Technology, Construction Technology. The prime aim and objective of the visit was to enrich the Knowledge & exposure to the world of work. The Centre imparts training in cross-disciplinary, where designers & the curious can explore and pursue their interest in the modern world, develop personal projects and start collaborative projects. YCET is keen to find out various means to give exposure to their students.

Er. Rajnish Magotra, HOD (Civil Engineering Department, YCET) briefed about the latest technologies established at CIIT with the aim of up-skilling & enhancing employability of Engineering students to the latest trends by imparting skill training on the latest technologies with the help of faculty from TATA Technologies that will certainly bridge the gap between Industry

and Academia. During interaction experts Ms. Heena Gupta, Lecturer CSE, Govt Polytechnic, Jammu discussed about Value Engineering, IoT, Critical thinking / writing and live product design of programme commenced with the kind projects to meet the demand of consumers and the market. She gave power point presentation on use of IOT for smart city project of Jammu mentioning six areas like Smart grid, Smart education, Smart water bodies, Smart governance, Smart health care and Smart transportation, the session ended with fruitful discussions and comprehensive exposure with Industry experts. The faculty accompanied were Rajnish Magotra, Loveneesh Talwar, Inderdeep Singh and Anshu Sharma.

The Visit was made possible because of the dedication and able guidance of Er. Talat Hussain, Principal Govt Polytechnic, Jammu. Er. Raj Kumar (HOD, Mechanical Engg, Jammu), Mr. Rishab, Mr. Gulam Rabani. The students were enriched by this visit.

Er Vidhi S. Singh, Chairman (JGEI), Th. SDS Jamwal, Vice-Chairman (JGEI), Er. Renu Bangroo, Managing Director (JGEI) congratulated for such initiative and said that such visits should be a continuous practice. Er. Dinesh Gupta, Dean Academics and Er. B.R. Verma, Chief Coordinator also complimented for such visit.

Indian Army organizes Lecture on Women Empowerment at Harni, Poonch



JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH: 04 MAR 2025

Indian Army organized a lecture on women empowerment at Govt Girls High School Harni, as part of its efforts to promote social awareness and community development in the region. The lecture, which was attended by 57 students and 08 faculty members, focused on the importance of women's empowerment and the various initiatives undertaken by the government to

promote women's rights and welfare. The lecture covered various aspects of women's empowerment, including education, healthcare, and economic independence. It highlighted the importance of gender equality and the need to challenge gender-based discrimination in all its forms. The event was well-received by the attendees, who appreciated the Indian Army's efforts to promote women's empowerment and social development in the region.

WCC, HEWA, DGPC Jammu to organize screening, awareness camps in Jammu on 15, 16 March

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 4

Balvinder Singh Vice President DGPC Jammu along with S Surjit Singh Secretary DGPC Jammu, S Harjit Singh S Avtar Singh, S Balvinder Singh, S Tejinder Singh all members DGPC Jammu while addressing the Press conference shared the detail Cancer Screening & Awareness Camp being organized in Jammu City at Gurudwara Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji on 15th & 16th March 2025, in collaboration with DGPC Jammu and Health Employees Welfare Association Jammu headed by Ravinder Singh Rosy. Balvinder stated that this initiative, running from March 15th to March 16th, aims to provide free and high-quality cancer screening facilities to ensure better healthcare for the community.

He said WCC shall depute Advanced Mobile Units & Expert Medical Team with a team of 25 experienced Medical professionals in the said camp.

Where free Screenings & Healthcare Services The following tests and medical services shall be provided free of cost at these camps: Mammography - Breast cancer screening, PAP SMEAR - Cervical cancer screening, PSA Test - Prostate cancer screening (for men), Oral & Throat Examination - Screening for oral and throat cancer, Bone Mineral Density (BMD) Test - Checks bone strength and calcium deficiency, Blood Sugar & Blood Pressure Monitoring, Free General Medicines.

Apart from the screenings, the camps will focus on educating people about cancer prevention. Infor-



mational brochures will be distributed, and special awareness lectures by expert doctors will be conducted to guide people on lifestyle changes that can help prevent cancer. This unique initiative is a major step toward saving lives and promoting early detection.

Surjit Singh, Secretary of DGPC Jammu, also appealed to the Sangat of Jammu Division to take maximum advantage of these camps as they are

being organized for the first time in Jammu Division.

Singh also shared details of other such Camps being organized at Jammu with effect from 5th March to 18th March 2025 along with the Mobile Number of the some person : on 5th March Guru Ravi Dass Gurudwara Vill Nihalpur Kathua (8803725560) 6th March BY BSF at Vill Parngoli (HSS School), 7th March PHC Govt Hospital Palli District Samba

(7006003848), 8th March at Sanskrit School Smailpur Kothe (7006003848), 9th March - Ground No-2 Counter, Katra (7889899191), 10th March - Govt. Girls Middle School Panthal Katra, 9419175758), 12th March at Pouni Sant Sree Balak Yogeshwar Dass Jagshalla Jammu Katra Road, 13th March Ambedkar Hall Marh Jammu, 14th March at New Sabzi Mandi Bishnah by Yuva helping Hand, 15th & 16th March at Gurudwara Sru Gur Nanak Dev Ji At Chand Kour Nagar Jammu (9596826079) (9419126574) & on 18th March at Sanskriti School Kathua.

Other prominent persons who were present in the press conference are S Satinder pal Singh, S Rajinder Singh Soodan, S Manjit Singh Bali, S Ajit Singh, Professor Pritam Singh, S Gurdeep Singh.

Youth must show maximum participation in Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament: Khushal Gupta

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, MAR 4

District Youth Officer, Khushal Gupta said that the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt of India is organising Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament in 301 nodal districts across the country. This year, the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament will be organised in a restructured manner in line with the Prime Minister's Vision for heightened youth participation in shaping India's Future. The applications of restructured program have opened and youth in the age group of 18-25 years can apply well before 09th March, 2025. The opportunity has been given to the youth to engage with public issues, understand the common

man's point of view, form their opinions and express them in an articulate manner.

Focussing more on the event, he added that the reimagined National Youth Parliament now Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament shall feature the deliberations in virtual mode in which the eligible youth will register on MY Bharat (mybharat.gov.in) portal, apply for Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament and upload 1 minute video on the topic What does Viksit Bharat mean to you? The screening committee will shortlist 150 participants at each district node and will invite them to participate in physical mode where they will deliberate on the topic On Nation, One Election: Paving the Way for Viksit Bharat. It

is pertinent to mention that only 10 participants will be shortlisted at each district node who will get an opportunity to speak in the State Legislative assembly.

To enable bright youth with a vision to share their Ideas for Viksit Bharat at the transformative National Platform, it is important to give them the opportunity to participate. In this connection, he urged the youth (18-25 years) belonging to districts Udhampur, Reasi, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban, Srinagar, Ganderbal, Pulwama, Anantnag, Kulgam and Shopian to participate in the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament on MY Bharat portal and conveyed them to approach the nearest NYK Office or NSS Programme Officer/ Coordinator for any further clarification.

Some Kashmiri leaders still fixated on Art 370, Statehood restoration: Kavinder

Asks NC MLAs to fulfill Poll commitments made with people

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 4

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta, criticized the persistent obsession of certain Kashmiri leaders with Article 370 and the restoration of statehood, asserting that these issues are being used to divert attention from the real concerns of the people. He urged the National Conference (NC) MLAs to focus on the commitments made in their poll manifestos instead of wasting the precious time of the House.

In a press release issued here today, Kavinder Gupta stated that despite the Centre's clear stance, some Valley-based legisla-



tors continue to harp on the abrogation of Article 370, which he termed as a "closed chapter" that no power can reinstate. He emphasized that the abrogation of Article 370 has paved the way for unprecedented development and integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country. "Those who still cling to the past are doing a great disservice to the people

who are looking forward to development, jobs, and prosperity," he remarked.

The senior BJP leader further criticized the opposition for failing to raise pressing public issues such as infrastructure development, youth issues and better healthcare facilities. "The obsession with Article 370 reflects their lack of vision and seriousness towards governance," he added.

Clarifying the Centre's position on statehood, he reiterated that it will be restored at an appropriate time once the security and development parameters are fully stabilized. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is committed to restoring statehood, but only after ensuring

that the democratic institutions are strengthened and peace is firmly established," he assured.

Kavinder Gupta urged the NC MLAs and other opposition leaders to respect the aspirations of the people and to engage constructively in addressing their genuine grievances. He called upon them to support the government's initiatives aimed at transforming Jammu and Kashmir into a model of peace and development. He expressed confidence that the people of J&K would reject the divisive politics of the past and support the progressive vision of the BJP-led government for a bright and prosperous future.

Indian Army organizes Quami Ekta Meet for Locals at Gwari, Kishtwar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR : 04 MAR 2025

In continuation of its endeavor to promote peace and tranquility in the region and to evolve an environment of brotherhood and harmony amongst the local population, a Quami Ekta Meet was organized by the Indian Army on 03 Mar 2025 at Gwari. The event was graced by an approximate gathering of 56 prominent personalities from the nearby villages. During the course of interaction, initiatives being undertaken for development of the region and subsequently the problems being faced by the local populace were discussed. The aim of this meet was to engage with the local communities in a positive manner thereby



defeating the nefarious design of adversaries. The local leaders themselves brought out the need and importance of harmony in the region which is a clear sign of the bonhomie present in the Gwari region. The Commander exhorted upon the religious preachers to work towards maintaining peace in the region and promised full support

in fulfilling their local requirements. The meet was well received and the local leaders greatly appreciated and applauded the support provided by the Army in all spheres. It is part of an endeavor by the Indian Army to win hearts and minds of the local populace in the region and promote harmony and integration.

PHE supplies contaminated water to residents of Kishtwar:

Ajeet Bhagat
J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MAR 4

Sr. National Confrance leader, Spokesperson of Chenab Valley Zone Ajeet Bhagat said that the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department in Kishtwar is supplying dirty water to the people of Kishtwar, which is causing many water-borne diseases.

The Senior National Confrance leader said that the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department has not cleaned the filter plant in Kishtwar for many years, resulting in the supply of contaminated water. The filter plant in Kishtwar has dead insects and animals, but it has not been made functional. The Senior National Con-

SKPs are key members of organizational set-up of BJP: Nitish



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 4

Describing Shakti Kendra Pramukhs as the backbone of the BJP's organisational structure, Nitish Mahajan, Mandal President of Trikuta Nagar Mandal, BJP, J&K asserted that the party's strength lies at the grassroots level.

He was speaking at a meeting of Shakti Kendra Pramukhs and Booth Presidents of Ward No. 52, Trikuta Nagar Mandal (Bahu Constituency), held today.

Nitish Mahajan emphasized that the BJP firmly believes in the ideology of 'Mera Booth Sabse Majboot, Booth Jeeta Election Jeeta'. He stated that the primary objective of the meeting was to understand the challenges faced by Booth Presidents and to incorporate their feedback into future development plans under the leadership

of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, and MLA Bahu Constituency Vikram Randhawa.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on strengthening the party's organizational structure at the grassroots level. Various issues concerning booth management, mobilization of party workers, and effective communication of BJP's policies and welfare schemes to the common people were deliberated.

Nitish Mahajan urged the booth-level leaders to work tirelessly to ensure that the benefits of Central Government schemes reach every household.

The meeting witnessed active participation and a fruitful exchange of ideas. Prominent attendees included Ajay Gupta (Former Chairman, JMC), Nitin (Shakti Kendra

Pramukh), Sandeep Gupta (Booth 128), Nitin Nagotra (Booth 133), Pardeep Khanna (Booth 60), T.R. Sharma (Booth 131), Subhash Arya (Booth 130), Joginder Lal (Booth 129), Vikas Kumar, and others.

The attendees unanimously resolved to intensify efforts for the upcoming elections, focusing on booth management and voter outreach programs.

Nitish Mahajan appreciated the dedication of Shakti Kendra Pramukhs and Booth Presidents and assured them of full support from the party leadership. He further stressed the need for consistent dialogue with the local populace to address their concerns and strengthen BJP's foothold in the region.

The meeting concluded with a pledge to uphold the party's vision and work collectively for the overall development of the region.

SBI donates Computers, Accessories to Dhruva AWWA Vocational Training Centre, Udhampur

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, FEB 4

In a remarkable initiative to promote digital literacy and vocational training, the State Bank of India (SBI), under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, has donated computers and accessories worth Rs 5,64,500 to the Dhruva AWWA Vocational Training Centre, Udhampur.

The donation includes six desktop computers, one server PC, seven UPS systems, six headphones, English-speaking software, 18 computer tables, and 18 chairs. This contribution aims to enhance the learning experience of students by providing them with access to modern technology and improving their digital skills.

The initiative was led by the State Bank of India, Chinar Compound, Udhampur branch, with the support and guidance of Regional Manager Rajeev Kumar Chabra. The donation was formally handed over in the presence of Branch Manager Vikram Dev Arya and Senior Associate Ashwani Kumar, who visited the



training centre and interacted with the beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion, Branch Manager Vikram Dev Arya emphasized SBI's commitment to empowering communities through education and skill development. He stated that access to technology plays a vital role in today's world, and this initiative will equip students with essential computer skills, enhancing their employment prospects.

The Dhruva AWWA Vocational Training

Centre expressed gratitude for SBI's generous contribution, acknowledging the positive impact it will have on skill development programs for the students.

SBI continues to strengthen its role as a responsible corporate entity by actively supporting initiatives that foster education, digital literacy, and self-reliance among youth. This contribution is another step towards empowering communities and ensuring a brighter future for aspiring learners.

Indian Army distributes Science Lab Equipment at Model Academy Sagra, Poonch



J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH: 04 MAR 2025

In a significant initiative to promote education and empower young minds, the Indian Army distributed essential science laboratory equipment to Model Academy Sagra in Mendhar. This noble effort aims to enhance scientific learning and encourage students to explore practical aspects of science. The event was attended by school authorities, teachers, and students apart from the Indian Army. The distributed equipment is for physics, chemistry and biology laboratories which includes microscopes, lab glassware, physics kits, chemical reagents and models of biological parts, which will aid in hands-on learning and practical

experiments. This initiative is part of the Indian Army's ongoing efforts under Operation Sadbhavana, which focuses on fostering goodwill and development in remote and underprivileged areas. By facilitating better educational resources, the Indian Army continues to bridge gaps and uplift communities. The school principal expressed his gratitude, stating, "This generous contribution by the Indian Army will significantly enrich our science curriculum and provide our students with much-needed exposure to practical learning." The event concluded with a demonstration of the new lab equipment by teachers and students, showcasing their excitement and eagerness to learn.

Indian Army interacts with Ex-Servicemen at Dugga, Doda



J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA : 04 MAR 2025

A special event titled "Meeting with Ex-Servicemen" was organized by the Indian Army at Dugga. This gathering aimed to bring together ex-servicemen and widows from the surrounding areas of Dugga to address their concerns and honor their service to the nation. The event commenced with a solemn memorial service to pay tribute to the

soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for the country. The gathering was attended by 20 ex-servicemen from nearby villages. An interactive session followed wherein the Indian Army engaged with the attendees. The discussions revolved around understanding the challenges faced by ex-servicemen and their families post-retirement. The attendees were provided with guidance on various welfare initiatives, includ-

ing education, healthcare, and employment opportunities for their dependents. They were assured of continued support and encouraged to reach out for assistance in resolving any grievances in the future. The meeting underscored the Indian Army's unwavering commitment to the welfare of its veterans and their families, reinforcing the strong bond between serving personnel and the ex-servicemen community.

J&K Bank Retired Employees Welfare Association, Jammu organizes Health Check-up Camp

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 3

Under the aegis of the core committee members of the J&K Bank Retired Employees Welfare Association, Jammu, a full-body health checkup camp was organised on 2nd March 2025 (Sunday) at the association office, situated at Camp Gole Gujral Road near Jaswant Plaza. The initiative, undertaken in collaboration with Atulya Diagnostic Lab, aimed to provide comprehensive health checkups to retired employees and officers who are members of the association, along with their spouses who had given their consent to participate. The camp commenced at 7:30 AM, where a proficient medical team conducted full-body health examinations, covering 58 vital parameters



along with PSA test as well. A substantial number of more than 250 members availed themselves of this health camp, which was organised for the fourth time following the overwhelming response to previous editions. The entire health checkup was offered free of cost to all participating members, with the association bearing the expenses as part of

its ongoing commitment to their welfare. The camp was conducted under the guidance of Sardar Mohinder Singh (President), Sardar Iqbal Singh (Working President), Mr. R.K. Bhan (General Secretary), Mr. Chander Hass (Working General Secretary), Mr. P.P. Gupta (Vice President), Mr. V.D. Dogra (Vice President), Mr. Ved Gupta (Treasurer), Mr. Arun

Kumar Gupta (Secretary), Mr. Yogesh Thappar (Secretary), Mr. Pawan Mahajan and other core committee members. Members were served refreshments after the completion of tests, considering the fasting requirements for the health checkup. The association expressed gratitude to all participants and the dedicated medical team for making this welfare initiative a success. This welfare camp once again exemplifies the association's unwavering dedication to the health and well-being of its members and their families. The association remains steadfast in its mission to support its members not only during their service tenure but also in their retired lives, while actively contributing to societal welfare through various noble initiatives.



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha met young influencer from Jammu Baby Mahira Tondon, at Raj Bhawan. The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the 6-year-old Mahira Tondon for her exceptional achievements in various dance and talent-hunt competitions and extended best wishes for her future endeavours.

Research Methodology Course in Social Science Commences at CU Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 4

The School of Business Studies, Central University of Jammu (CUJ), commenced its Research Methodology Course in Social Science, a significant initiative aimed at enhancing research skills among scholars. The programme was formally inaugurated under the esteemed patronage of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu. Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Dean, School of Business Studies, CUJ, officiated the inauguration ceremony in the presence of distinguished faculty members and department heads.

Distinguished Faculty Members gracing the event included Dr. Ranjeet Kumar Raman, Dr. Mahendra Singh, Dr. Amit Gangotia, Dr. Anjali Pathania, Dr. Naresh Kumar, Dr. Susmita Ekka, Mr. Biswabhusan



Pradhan, and Dr. Shahid Mushtaq.

The Research Methodology Course is supported by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) under the Capacity Building Programme, a nationwide initiative aimed at raising the quality of research in India. The programme is designed to equip research scholars with advanced methodologies, analytical tools, and scholarly writing techniques necessary for conducting high-quality research.

The course has attracted a diverse group of research scholars from

various institutions within and outside the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, including participants from the Central University of Jammu. The Department of Tourism and Travel Management (TTM) at CUJ is hosting the scholars, providing them with an enriching academic environment.

Prof. Jaya Bhasin in her welcome address emphasized on the importance of quality and original research. She urged upon the research scholars to continuously embark on the upward learning curve. She encouraged the researchers to inculcate a

passion for research. She also apprised the august gathering about the various initiatives undertaken by the School in the past.

Speaking on the occasion Dr. Ranjeet Kumar Raman, Head, Department of Tourism and Travel Management, CU Jammu talked at length about new approaches to research, and highlighted new initiatives being undertaken by the University vis-à-vis promotion of research. He said various topics shall be covered during the different sessions will significantly benefit the research scholars as eminent faculty members from across

the country will conduct the sessions.

Dr. Shahid Mushtaq, Co-Course Director briefed the participants about the Programme schedule. Dr. Rahul Thakur emphasized on the importance of learning application of data analysis software for publishing in high impact Journals. He said that acclaimed resource persons and researchers from across the country will deliver lectures in the coming days during the programme which will sharpen the research skills and knowledge of the participants. Prof. Anil Gupta, Director, SHTM and Prof. Jaya Bhasin, Prof. Ranjeet Kumar Raman, HoD TTM, Central University of Jammu were resource persons for today's session.

The session concluded with the formal vote of thanks by Programme Coordinator Mr. Rahul Thakur.

Shiv Sena demands regularization of employees, minimum daily wages on lines of Ladakh UT

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 4

Shiv Sena UBT state chief Manish Sahni has jointly demanded from the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to increase the honorarium of daily wage earners on the lines of the Union Territory of Ladakh and regularization of temporary employees.

Briefing the media persons, state chief Manish Sahni said that the Ladakh Lieutenant Governor administration has fixed a monthly salary of Rs 28,950-45,300 for temporary employees according to the service period. At the same time, the minimum daily wage fixed by the central government is Rs 783-1035. While the



daily salary of temporary employees in Jammu and Kashmir is only Rs 311-449. At the same time, the cooks preparing mid-day meals in government schools have been fixed a monthly salary of Rs 1000 at the rate of only Rs 33 per day. Sahni has demanded to stop the step-motherly treatment with the daily wage earners of Jammu and Kashmir and to give them daily

wages on the lines of the Center and Ladakh and regularization of temporary employees posted in various departments. Sahni has demanded from all the MLAs of the ruling and opposition parties including the Lieutenant Governor to unanimously fulfill the demands of the temporary employees. On this occasion Gen Secretary Vikas Bakshi was present.

Thirteenth Radiosonde Successfully launched at CU Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 4

The Thirteenth Radiosonde was successfully launched on 4th February, 2025 under the MOU between National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC, ISRO) and Central University of Jammu from the Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Sciences, Central University of Jammu under the able guidance of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

Prof. Vinay Kumar, Convener Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Science and Prof. Rakesh Kumar Jha, Head Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering along with his dedicated Faculty, Technical team, Students, Scholars and Staff successfully culminated the launch.



ISRO called Indian Radiosonde Software (IndRoS).

This Radiosonde Ground Station is indigenously developed in the Semi conductor Laboratory (SCL), Mohali, a make in India product under the Director General Dr. Kamaljeet Singh and Mr. Nemi Chand.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Sanjeev Yadav, Dr. Pravesh Pal, Faculty Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, CUJ along with his team Dr. Haneet Kour, Ms. Mehak Mahajan (Senior Technical Assistant, Central Instrumentation Facility, CUJ), Amrit, B Bineesh, Sonam, Anubhav, Prashant, Hridesh,

Preemika, Sanatan, Rajvir, Pratyush and team.

The data collected from Radiosonde will contribute in the field of meteorological studies related to the Climate change, atmospheric studies and Space research, under the National Information System for Climate and Environment Studies (NICES) RANN (Radiosonde Network for NICES) Project with National Remote Sensing Centre in collaboration with Dr. Hareef Baba Shaeb K, Scientist, Atmospheric Sciences Division, Earth and Climate Science Area, NRSC, Government of India, Department of Space (ISRO), Hyderabad.

Udhampur's Abhishek Wins Bronze in National Games



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 4

Abhishek a resident of Village Barta in Udhampur district, has made Jammu and Kashmir proud by winning a bronze medal in the 38th National Games held in Uttarakhand. Abhishek excelled in the discipline of netball, bringing home the coveted medal.

The young achiever was felicitated by the Deputy Commissioner of Udhampur, who congratulated him on his outstanding achievement. Abhishek credited his success to his coach, Mr. Akash Batra, and expressed gratitude to the DC and the Netball Association of Jammu and Kashmir for their unwavering support."

GDC RS Pura successfully conducts quiz competition



JAMMU, MAR 4

In continuation to the month-long celebration of 75th Year of Adoption of Constitution of India and 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, GDC RS Pura hosted an engaging Online Quiz Competition on 4th March 2025 under the patronship of worthy Principal Prof (Dr.) Preetpal Kour and coordinated by Dr Rakesh Choudhary HOD Department of Political Science. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across various departments, making it a resounding success.

The online quiz, conducted tested participants on a diverse range

of topics, including Continuity and Changes in Constitution of India and Contributions of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. The competition aimed to enhance critical thinking on evolution of Indian Constitution, improve understanding of its leaders and promote a culture of learning beyond the classroom.

Principal Prof (Dr.) Preetpal Kour, expressed delight at the overwhelming response, stating, "It is encouraging to see students actively engage in such intellectually stimulating events. The quiz not only fosters learning but also nurtures a spirit of healthy competition."

After the conduct of

quiz, the winners were announced, with Jhanvi Majotra securing the first place, followed by Shikha Devi in second place. The winners were awarded certificates and prizes, recognizing their exceptional performance. The Quiz was prepared and judged by Prof Vijeeta Anand and Dr Varinder Kour.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Dr Rakesh Choudhary who appreciated the efforts of the organizing committee, faculty members, and participants. The success of this quiz reaffirms the college's commitment to academic excellence and interactive learning experiences.

MSME DFO Jammu organized hosts Awareness program on LEAN at Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 4

MSME-Development & Facilitation Office a field office of Union Ministry of MSME implements various schemes and activities for the benefit of MSME Sector in Jammu & Kashmir. The activities including Entrepreneurship Awareness Program, Intellectual Property Rights Awareness Program, PM-Vishwakarma Seminar, PM-Vishwakarma Awareness Workshop, Entrepreneurship & Skill Development Program, Management Development Program, Reimbursement of Barcode Expenditure, Reimbursement of Stall Charges, To and From Charges, Advertising Expenditure for participating in 250 exhibition



or trade fairs approved by Union Ministry of MSME. The lists of approved exhibitions are available at https://my.msme.gov.in/MyMsme/Reg/COM_View-Event.aspx

An awareness program on LEAN competitive scheme of Union Ministry of MSME was conducted in association with Association of Small Scale Industries Gangyal at Gangyal, Jammu for encouraging the MSMEs of the region manufacturing products of world class qualities with mini-

mum wastages in manufacturing process like improvement in storage of raw material, arrangement of tools, placing of machineries according to scientific layout, material handling, optimizing the work force, storage of Finished goods, conducting Motion study etc., Union Ministry of MSME provides subsidy from 12 Lakhs to 32 Lakhs for any LEAN Cluster. Address on LEAN by Sh.Vinod Pandita from Quality Council of India for achieving the said objectives was given.

POCO M7 5G Debuts With 12GB (6GB Turbo) RAM, Snapdragon® 4 Gen 2 & 6.88" Display at Rs 9,999

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 4

POCO, India's leading performance-driven smartphone brand, is shaking up the budget segment once again with the launch of POCO M7 5G—a powerhouse designed for those who demand more for less.

At an unbeatable price of Rs 9999, POCO M7 5G is the only smartphone with the biggest in its segment of 6.88" display paired with an ultra-smooth 120Hz Adaptive Refresh Rate. Whether you're binge-watching, gaming, or scrolling endlessly, POCO M7 5G ensures an immersive, eye-friendly experience.

Powered by the Snapdragon® 4 Gen 2 chipset, 12GB RAM (6GB Turbo RAM), and a 5160mAh battery, it delivers smooth, uninterrupted performance, even for heavy users. And for those who love capturing moments, the 50MP Sony Sensor ensures crisp, clear images even in low light.

Speaking on the launch, Himanshu Tandon, Country Head, POCO India, said: "India's smartphone market is evolving, and users today expect more value without compromises. The POCO M7 5G challenges industry norms by bringing flagship-like perfor-



mance, an immersive display, and a power-packed camera at an unbeatable price. With this launch, we are not just offering a phone—we are redefining the budget smartphone experience for the new-age Indian consumer."

Why POCO M7 5G is a Game-Changer for Budget Users?

Create & Consume Like a Pro!

- Snapdragon 4 Gen 2 + 12GB RAM - Power through gaming, editing, and daily tasks with India's most powerful processor.

- Segment's Biggest 6.88" Display - Enjoy movies, reels, and games like never before on the largest display in the category with TÜV Rheinland Triple Eye Protection.

- 50MP Sony Sensor - Crisp, Insta-ready shots even in low light.

- 5160mAh Battery + 18W Fast Charging (33W in-box charger) - Power that lasts all day, recharges in minutes.

- Made for the Next

Gen - Fast, future-ready 5G connectivity at an ultra-affordable price.

Launch Offers & Availability

POCO M7 5G launches at an unbeatable price! Get the 6GB+12GB variant for just Rs 9,999 and the 8GB+128GB variant for Rs 10,999—special price for 1st Day Sale.

Grab yours at the above special prices for Day 1 only, with POCO M7 5G sale commencing on 7th March, 12 noon exclusively on Flipkart.

This is your chance to upgrade to a big-screen, pro-level smartphone experience—without breaking the bank. Don't miss out!

About POCO

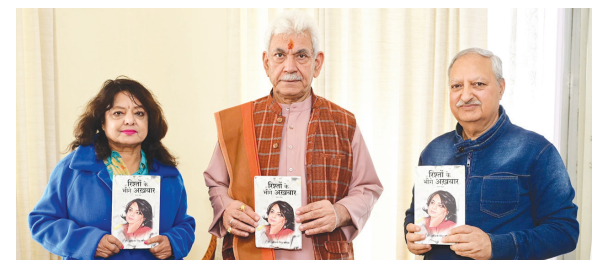
POCO is built on the philosophy of "Made of MAD" (Minds, Attitude, and Determination), delivering high-performance technology that redefines the smartphone experience. With a focus on power-packed devices at aggressive price.



Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha released a book titled 'Rishton Ke Bheege Akhbaar (Ghazal Sangrah)' written by Dr Anila Singh Charak. The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the author and wished her success in the future literary endeavours.



Dr Abhijeet Jasrotia, BJP Spokesperson called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha. Jasrotia expressed gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor for his visionary leadership and people-centric policy framework, emphasising the strategic significance of Lieutenant Governor's address to the J&K Legislative Assembly in laying a robust foundation for J&K's economic resurgence and holistic development. He further discussed with the Lieutenant Governor various issues of public importance including Urban Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj elections in J&K.



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha released a book titled 'Rishton Ke Bheege Akhbaar (Ghazal Sangrah)' written by Dr Anila Singh Charak. The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the author and wished her success in the future literary endeavours.

NGO Anti Crime meets SDPO RS Pura, discusses measures against drug menace

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 4

In a concerted effort to address the growing concerns of drug abuse and criminal activities in the region, the NGO Anti-Crime held a meeting with the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) of R.S. Pura, Mr. Gurmeet Singh (JKPS). The meeting, conducted under the supervision of the NGO's Chairman, Sham Lal Gupta, focused on the rising drug menace and the collective measures needed to combat such illicit activities.

The delegation included State President of the NGO, Sahil Gupta, along with ASI Naresh Digra, Rakesh Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Ratan Lal, Rohit Kumar and several other team members.

They expressed their concerns regarding the increasing prevalence of drug-related issues in the region and highlighted the adverse effects these activities have on society, particularly on the youth.

During the discussion, the NGO representatives



appreciated the efforts of the police in tackling crime and assured their full cooperation in raising awareness and mobilizing local support to curb these threats. They emphasized the need for stringent measures to control drug peddling and other criminal activities in the area. The members also discussed the importance of strengthening community engagement programs to educate young individuals about the dangers of drug abuse. SDPO Gurmeet Singh welcomed the initiative taken by the NGO and acknowledged the significance of community participation in crime prevention. He stressed the need for a collaborative approach, urging citizens and social organizations to work hand in hand with

law enforcement agencies. He assured the delegation that the police are committed to taking strict action against those involved in drug trafficking and other illegal activities.

The NGO team further proposed awareness campaigns, rehabilitation programs, and counseling sessions to prevent vulnerable individuals from falling into the trap of substance abuse. They also pledged to support law enforcement in identifying and reporting any suspicious activities in the region. The meeting concluded with a strong commitment from both sides to work together in creating a safer and drug-free society, ensuring that the youth stay on the right path and contribute positively to the community.

India-Japan Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' in full swing at East Fuji Training Area

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU : 04 MAR 2025

The 6th edition of the India-Japan joint military exercise, Dharma Guardian, is currently underway at the East Fuji Training Area in Japan. Running from February 24 to March 9, 2025, the exercise highlights the deepening defence ties between India and Japan, with both nations engaging in extensive training activities aimed at enhancing cooperation.

The primary focus of this year's exercise is counter-terrorism operations in urban terrain, a critical area of focus in the current security environment. Troops from both nations are refining their tactics and improving their ability to conduct operations in complex urban settings. Additionally, the exercise includes simulated United Nations peacekeeping operations, designed to replicate real-world scenarios where multinational forces must work together effectively in diverse and challenging environments.

As the exercise progresses, both sides have been participating in a series of tactical drills and sharing of combat experiences, strengthening their operational capabilities and fostering deeper cooperation. These engagements are also designed to promote interoperability, ensuring that the Indian and Japanese forces can seamlessly collaborate in future peacekeeping or humanitarian missions.

Beyond the tactical training, Dharma Guardian emphasises building cultural understanding and fostering camaraderie between the participating troops. Soldiers from both nations have had the opportunity to showcase their respective cultural heritages, helping to strengthen the bond of friendship and mutual respect. This

cultural exchange plays an important role in developing lasting ties between two forces.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION JAMMU

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Short Term)

MHDJ/e-NIT 239 of 2024-25

Dated: 03.03.2025
Due : 13.03.2025

On behalf of the President of India, e-tenders in two cover system on turnkey basis are invited from registered/reputed firms having sufficient relevant experience for the work mentioned below:

S. No	Description of work	Project Authority	Estt	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of tender document	Time of completion	Eligibility Criterion of Bidder
1	Providing RO water connection to different areas (Water Cooler Outside OPD Complex, Ward no 03, Ward no 08, Ward no 02, Ward no 14&Radiotherapy Deptt room no 04, 05 & faculty room 18), along with allied works in GMCH, Jammu	Principal GMC & Associated Hospital Jammu	1.90 LACS	Rs.4000.00 in the Shape of FDR/FDR/ TDR valid for 12 months pledged to the Executive Engineer MH Division Jammu	Rs 200.00 in the shape of Challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to 0059-PWD (Revenue) and uploading a copy of treasury challan / receipt on e-tendering portal. OR The bidder may deposit tender fee in the shape of e-Challan through Account no. 0097010100002163 in the name of Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital Division Jammu Name of Bank: J&K Bank Town Hall Jammu Branch Code: 0097 IFSC code: JAKA0THALL MICR CODE: 180051025	10 days	Registered & Reputed firms having sufficient experience as per Annexure "C" similar nature of work

THE NIT CONSISTING OF Qualifying INFORMATION, ELGIBILITY CRITERIA, BILL OF QUANTITIES (BOQ) SETS OF TERMS & CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT & OTHER DETAILS CAN BE VIEWED / DOWNLOADED FROM THE WEBSITE www.iktenders.gov.in.

SD/-
(Er. Vishal Mahajan)
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospital Division
Jammu

DIP/J-10735/24
Date: 4-2-24

Smile Foundation NGO distributes Sehri, Iftari to hospital attendants during Ramadan

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 4

In a heartwarming initiative this Ramadan, the Smile Foundation NGO is bringing a touch of compassion to local hospitals by distributing Sehri and Iftari meals to patient attendants. This thoughtful effort aims to support those who spend long hours caring for their loved ones, ensuring they don't have to worry about meals during this holy month.

Chairperson Masrat Jan and President Sajjad Ahmad Sholla took a moment to speak with the media about this initiative. "We understand that during Ramadan, while many are focused on their spiritual journey, the attendants often forget to take care of themselves," Masrat shared. "By providing these meals, we hope to bring a smile to their faces and remind



them that they are not alone during this time." Sajjad added, "It's not just about food; it's about community. Sharing a meal is a way to connect, to show care and compassion. We want to ensure that everyone feels supported, especially those who are going through tough times while caring for their loved ones."

The distribution of Sehri and Iftari meals is not just a logistical effort but a heartfelt gesture of

solidarity. As the sun sets and families gather for Iftari, Smile Foundation aims to ensure that hospital attendants can join in that spirit of togetherness, even if they are away from home. This initiative is a beautiful reminder of the power of kindness, especially during the holy month of Ramadan. The Smile Foundation NGO invites everyone to join in spreading joy and compassion, one meal at a time.

IEI Jammu celebrates World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 4

The Institution of Engineers (India), Jammu Centre celebrated the World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development on 4th March, 2025 with the theme "Unleashing the Power of Engineers to Advance the Sustainable Development Goals". The event was attended by Engineers from various Departments, Organizations and Senior Engineers along with Members of the Committee of IEI, Jammu Local Centre.

On this occasion, Er. Raheela Wani, FIE; Managing Director, J&K Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. Power Development Department, J&K Govt., Jammu was the Chief Guest, whereas Er. Anil Verma, FIE, Chairman, IEI, Jammu Centre presided over the function.

Er. Anil Verma in his Welcome Address introduced the day's theme to the audi-



ence. He eulogized that 17 Nos Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the ideal benchmarks for making living on this earth sustainable. Engineers & Engineering have a lion's contribution in achieving these benchmarks. He highlighted the role of citizenry in achievement of these SDGs & requested them to help themselves as well as the engineers by getting the Roof Top Solars installed in their houses under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana which will not only make the electrical energy cheap & affordable but also will be a boon for the environment in reducing the carbon footprint.

He also explained about Jal Jeevan Mission project which is helping the citizens to get clean water. He requested the engineers in academic arena, scientific arena and the ones in execution side to work in tandem for making this world more livable in future.

During the seminar, Er. P. K. Nanda, FIE; Er. Ranjeev Sawhney, MIE; Er. Hemdeep Singh Ishar, AMIE & Er. Anil Kumar Shan, AMIE also presented their papers on the theme of the World Engineering Day for sustainable development.

While speaking on the occasion Er. Raheela Wani,

FIE, Chief Guest lauded the efforts of engineers in presenting wonderful papers on the theme. She advocated that education is very important and engineers need to be trained not just in technical skills but also in understanding the sustainability principles which can be possible only if SDGs are included in the engineering curricula. She also touched the role of NGOs & Private entrepreneurs in collaborating with the Governments for sustainable projects. Further, she asked engineers to keep themselves abreast with the digital tools and emerging technologies like AI, IOT (Internet of Things) and Big Data for enabling sustainable engineering solutions in present days, World. Er. Avneet Gupta, MIE, Honorary Secretary conducted the proceedings of the event and presented the Vote of Thanks to the august gathering and media personnel for their active participation.

CRC Jammu conducts awareness programme on Obesity Day

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 4

The Composite Regional Centre (CRC) under the Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (PDUNIPDD), Department of Empowerment of PWDs, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, observed World Obesity Day with an impactful awareness programme in Jammu. The event witnessed the participation of more than 50 Anganwadi workers, highlighting the importance of addressing obesity as a significant health concern.

The awareness session was conducted by Dr. Devedika Padha, Lecturer in Physiotherapy at CRC Jammu, who emphasized the critical role of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and preventing obesity through balanced nutrition and physical activity. The session provided valuable insights into obesity man-



agement and its prevention, particularly among vulnerable groups such as children and women.

Dr. Rohnika Sharma, Director of CRC Jammu, appreciated the efforts of the organizing team and acknowledged the commitment of the Anganwadi workers in spreading awareness within their communities. She reiterated the need for collective efforts to combat obesity-related health issues and

encouraged continuous engagement in such initiatives.

The programme successfully educated attendees on the adverse effects of obesity and empowered them with knowledge to implement healthier practices in their respective areas. CRC Jammu remains dedicated to conducting such awareness drives to promote better health and well-being among all sections of society.

People of J&K demand immediate return of statehood, not further engagements: Hakeem Yaseen

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MAR 4

People's Democratic Front (PDF) chairman and former minister, Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen on Tuesday asserted that further engagement with stakeholders for the restoration of J&K's statehood is unnecessary.

In a statement issued to media he said that the decisive mandate given in the 2024 Assembly elections to a particular political party was explicitly for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's constitutional guarantees, particularly the return of its statehood.

Senior PDF leader Hakeem Yaseen urged the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Home Minister Amit Shah to set a clear timeframe for restoring statehood to J&K, stressing that any delay would be seen as a deliberate attempt to prolong the current proxy administration.

He emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir was a thriving state until 2019 but was unjustly downgraded and divided against the will of its people.

Hakeem asserted that the people's desire for statehood was clearly reflected in the assembly elections, where a particular party received a decisive mandate based on its commitment to restoring J&K's constitutional position.

He appealed to the central leadership to respect the 2024 mandate and take immediate steps to reinstate statehood, rather than engaging in prolonged discussions with so-called stakeholders to delay the process.

PDF President Hakeem Yaseen further stated that since the Supreme Court, while directing the Centre to conduct assembly elections in J&K, had categorically supported the restoration of statehood, there is no justification for further delays.

He reminded the Centre of its repeated commitments, made by both the Prime Minister and the Home Minister, regarding the return of statehood.

BJP committed to serve people at grassroots level: Randhawa

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 4

Vikram Randhawa, senior BJP leader and MLA from Bahu Constituency, today conducted an extensive tour of Ward No. 21, Gandhi Nagar, as part of his ongoing Public Outreach Programme. The visit was aimed at understanding the grievances of the residents firsthand and ensuring immediate redressal of their concerns.

During the tour, Randhawa interacted with a large number of locals who shared issues related to power supply, water scarcity, sanitation, road infrastructure, and other civic amenities.

In a proactive approach to address these concerns, he was accompanied by officials from various departments, including Power Development Department (PDD), Jammu Smart City Limited, Public Works Department (PWD), Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Public Health Engineering (PHE), and Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDC). The officials provided on-the-spot solutions to several problems, reinforcing the adminis-



tration's commitment to public welfare.

Addressing the gathering, Vikram Randhawa highlighted the BJP's unwavering commitment to resolving public grievances promptly. He assured the residents that their concerns would be addressed on priority and emphasized the importance of continuous interaction between elected representatives and the public. "The BJP is dedicated to serving the people at the grassroots level, ensuring that every citizen benefits from development initiatives launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government," he asserted.

The MLA also reviewed ongoing development works and directed the officials to expedite the

completion of pending projects, ensuring quality and timely execution. He further announced that new projects focusing on road repair, drainage systems, and power infrastructure will soon be initiated to enhance the living standards in Ward No. 21.

Prominent BJP leaders, including Rahul Sharma, Mandal President, Lovisha Gupta, Varun Gupta, Bhashan Verma, Arvind Gupta, Nirmal Devi, and Arun Khosla, were present during the visit.

The residents appreciated Randhawa's visit and his dedication to addressing their issues effectively. They expressed hope that such initiatives would continue to improve civic amenities and overall development in the constituency.

IIM Jammu's Centre for Diversity and Inclusion highly Commended for the BGA Business School Impact Award 2025

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 4

New Delhi: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu has been highly commended for the BGA Business School Impact Award 2025, recognizing its commitment to fostering positive change for students, graduates, communities, and economies. Conferred by the Business Graduates Association (BGA), this prestigious recognition honours institutions aligning with BGA's vision and charter by driving transformative initiatives that promote responsible management, continuous improvement, and societal betterment through quantitative and qualitative impact.

IIM Jammu's Centre for Diversity & Inclusion, the first in India for marginalised communities, was explicitly commended for advancing diversity and inclusivity. Originally established as "The Diversity Cell" in col-

laboration with the DICCI and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the Centre was inaugurated on 9th June 2022 by then Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, in the presence of Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha, Dr. Milind Kamble, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu and Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu.

Since its inception, the Centre has been instrumental in empowering entrepreneurs from marginalised communities, providing them with essential resources, mentorship, and training to thrive in business.

Dr. Milind P. Kamble, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM Jammu, emphasized that this recognition underscores IIM Jammu's commitment to fostering an inclusive society. He highlighted

that the Centre for Diversity & Inclusion serves as a model for academic institutions, reinforcing the importance of diversity in shaping the future of entrepreneurship and leadership. He reiterated IIM Jammu's dedication to creating opportunities that empower individuals from all backgrounds to thrive.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, stated that the Centre for Diversity and Inclusion is a testament to IIM Jammu's pioneering efforts in social responsibility and impactful leadership. He emphasized that the institute would continue to create a safe and supportive environment for marginalized communities, equipping them with the necessary tools for entrepreneurial success and Viksit Bharat.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, emphasized academia's role in societal change,

reaffirming IIM Jammu's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and responsible management to shape future leaders for sustainable global impact.

The award was presented by Mr. Andrew Main Wilson, CEO of AMBA & BGA, to Dr. Mahesh Gadekar, Chairperson, Centre for Diversity and Inclusion, IIM Jammu, and Centre for Small Business Development Units, at the Hyatt Regency, New Delhi.

The BGA Business School Impact Awards celebrate outstanding achievements in the global business education community. This year, the awards featured 12 categories, providing numerous opportunities for AMBA & BGA accredited business schools, students, and graduates to showcase their accomplishments. This recognition further cements IIM Jammu's position as a leading institution dedicated to academic excellence, social impact, and nation-building.

World Obesity Day was observed at JIAR, Jammu



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 4

World Obesity Day was observed at JIAR, Jammu, on March 4th, 2025, with the theme "Changing System, Healthier Lives." The event featured various Power-Point presentations by PG Scholars from the

Post Graduate Departments of Kayachikitsa and Shalya Tantra, as well as BAMS First-Year students, aimed at raising awareness among the students.

The event was organized with the purpose of highlighting the importance of addressing obesity, promoting discus-

sions about this widespread health issue, and emphasizing the need for preventive measures and effective treatment options.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Rachin Shivgotra, Associate Professor in the Post Graduate Department of Kriya Sharir.

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MAR 4

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu inaugurated a unique trekking-based Management Development Programme (MDP) for NTPC's dynamic young leaders (Batch-IV) at the Prahalad Classroom on 04th March 2025. This leadership training program, conducted from 03rd March to 05th March 2025, is designed to enhance leadership skills through experiential learning in the picturesque lower Himalayas. The program features seven carefully curated sessions aimed at fostering personal and professional growth. The batch featured 54 Participants from the different parts of the country.



The inaugural ceremony was graced by Dr. Ateeque Shaikh, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy (EE & C), IIM Jammu, Dr. V. Raj Kumar, Program Director, Dr. Vinod.C. Durge, Program Director, IIM Jammu Program Director, IIM Jammu.

Dr. Ateeque Shaikh, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy (EE & C), IIM Jammu, highlighted the division's

role in delivering high-impact training for professionals, government officials, and industry leaders. He emphasized its focus on skill enhancement, leadership development, and industry-academia collaboration through partnerships with NTPC, the Government of J&K, and PSUs, reaffirming EE&C's rapid growth in line with IIM Jammu's global vision for executive education and

consultancy.

Dr. Vinod.C. Durge, Program Director, IIM Jammu welcomed everyone and provided an overview of the program, briefing about the upcoming sessions and expressing his anticipation for an interactive and engaging discussion. He extended his warm wishes to all the participants, stating that the journey ahead is both promising and make best use of this training pro-

gram.

Dr. V. Raj Kumar, Program Director, IIM Jammu, emphasized the institute's commitment to transformative learning, reflecting its motto of "knowledge that liberates." He concluded the session with a vote of thanks followed by the national anthem.

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

DC Kishtwar inspects MGNREGA, RDD works in Panchayats of Block Mughalmaidan

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, MARCH 4

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan today conducted an extensive tour of Panchayats Mulchhiter, Rahalthal and Dadpeth in Block Mughalmaidan to personally review the progress of MGNREGA and Rural Development Department (RDD) works.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected key infrastructure projects, including soakage pits, tile works, drainage systems, and walking paths being developed under MGNREGA. He also took stock of other significant development initiatives being executed in these panchayats.

During the inspection, the cases of false attendance of MGNREGA were



detected. Taking serious note of the same, the DC ordered immediate suspension of the erring employees.

The DC cautioned the staff to be extra vigilant about the genuineness of the attendance, bulk and the quality of works. He said that the employees shall be suspended if found guilty.

Emphasizing timely completion and quality assurance, the DC Kisht-

war directed the ACD Kishtwar and the concerned BDO to ensure the physical completion of all projected works within the deadline for financial year 2024-25, adhering to prescribed quality standards. Additionally, he issued necessary instructions to the officials present to expedite and streamline the execution of ongoing projects.

During the visit, the DC also interacted with Job

Card holders/ MGNREGA beneficiaries, inquiring about their work experiences, wage payments, and any challenges they faced under MGNREGA.

He emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring timely wage disbursement and job opportunities for rural workers. He also encouraged them to actively participate in development activities and assured prompt resolution of their grievances to enhance livelihood opportunities in the region. The DC was accompanied by ACD Kishtwar Phulail Singh and other officials of the RDD during the visit.

G.H Sheikh takes over as Secretary JKBOSE

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 4

Ghulam Hassan Sheikh took over as Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education from his predecessor Sudershan Kumar and chaired an introductory meeting with the senior Board Officers, taking stock of the urgent issues that require immediate attention.

It was given out that Annual Regular Examinations of all classes viz. 10th / 11th / 12th both for Hard and Soft Zone areas of UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh are underway.

The Secretary urged all the officers and officials for maintaining a strict vigil on the performance of the examination centres and facilities provided to the student therein. "A positive and compassionate approach towards the students' shall facilitate and enhance their perfor-



mance," he added.

The Secretary also convened an online meeting of all the officers of Sub / Branch Offices of the JKBOSE and directed them to put in all efforts in maintaining integrity of the examinations.

Later, he also held a vir-

tual interaction with all the Chief Education Officers of all districts and sought their cooperation and collaborative efforts in ensuring smooth and transparent conduct of examinations. He also visited various sections of the Divisional Office, Jammu including

the evaluation halls. Interacting with the staff and examiners, the Secretary said that as assessment forms a critical step in their academic career so utmost care and caution is required while evaluating their answer sheets.

DC B'pora reviews role of SBDU, BHDs under Misson Yuva

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, MARCH 04

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the role and responsibilities of Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) and Business Help Desks (BHDs) constituted under Misson Yuva at District and Sub Divisional levels.

It was given out that for implementing the mission, a Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) has been created at District Level, while Business Help Desks (BHDs) have been created at Sub Divisional Level and Yuva Doots at Panchayat Level.

The meeting was informed that the mission is focused on four (04) sectors including creation of nano entrepreneurs



and collectives, creation of entrepreneurs in the focus and sunrise sector, business acceleration of existing enterprises, and creation of neo-innovative enterprises.

Highlighting the roles and responsibilities of SBDU and BHDs, the DC emphasized the on ground implementation of the interventions under the mission yuva in the district. He stressed on engaging and encouraging potential entrepreneurs

identified through yuva survey to establish their enterprises. He asked the members of SBDU, BHDs and Yuva Doots to ensure coordination and proper hand holding of entrepreneurs under Mission Yuva.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ADC Zaffar Husson Shaw; GM DIC, CPO, AD Employment, District Officers of various Departments, Representatives from NRLM, Banks and other concerned.

DC Jammu for proactive awareness on PM Surya Ghar scheme

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 4

Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, chaired a District Level Committee (DLC) meeting to review the implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, a flagship scheme of the Central Government aimed at promoting rooftop solar installations in residential households.

During the meeting, the DC emphasised the need for proactive awareness campaigns across all subdivisions, instructing SDMs, BDOs and Tehsildars to organise public outreach programs to educate citizens about the scheme's benefits. He also directed BDOs to expedite approvals for rooftop solar installations and encourage government building



owners to adopt solar power.

Stressing the importance of inter-departmental coordination, he asked officers to work closely with JPDCL to facilitate smooth implementation. The DC reiterated the administration's commitment to promoting renewable energy and ensuring that the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana reaches maximum beneficiaries, contributing to the government's vision of sustainable and self-reliant energy solutions.

As part of the initiative,

villages have been identified and mobilised under the Model Solar Village Program, which aims to recognise villages demonstrating the highest adoption of distributed renewable energy. The selection process considers the total installed renewable energy capacity within a village's revenue boundary. The district's leading village will receive Rs 1 crore in Central Financial Assistance (CFA), with additional funding drawn from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions, departmental

DLIC approves 317 cases under HADP in Bandipora

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, MARCH 04

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri on Tuesday chaired a meeting of District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) to review the progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district.

The committee approved a total of 317 cases of different departments under HADP including 104 cases of Sheep Husbandry Department, 90 from Agriculture Department, 78 from Horticulture and 45 from Animal Husbandry Department.

During the meeting, the DC emphasised evaluating progress, addressing challenges, and outlining a strategy for the accelerated implementation of the programme to benefit the eligible farmers.

MSME DFO Jammu organizes awareness program on LEAN



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, MARCH 4

An awareness program on LEAN competitive scheme of Union Ministry of MSME was conducted by MSME-Development & Facilitation Office in collaboration with Association of Small Scale Industries Gangyal for encouraging the MSMEs of the region manufacturing products of world class qualities with minimum wastages in manufacturing process like improvement in storage of raw material, arrangement of tools, placing of machineries according to scientific layout, material handling, optimizing the workforce, storage of Finished goods, conducting Motion study etc.

MSME-Development & Facilitation Office is a field office of Union Ministry of MSME implements various schemes and activities for the benefit of MSME Sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

The activities including Entrepreneurship Awareness Program, Intellectual Property Rights Awareness Program, PM-Vishwakarma Seminar, PM-Vishwakarma Awareness Workshop, Entrepreneurship & Skill Development Program, Management Development Program, Reimbursement of Barcode Expenditure, Reimbursement of Stall Charges, To and From Charges, Advertising Expenditure for participating in 250 exhibition or trade fairs approved by Union Ministry of MSME.

Union Ministry of MSME provides subsidy from 12 lakh to 32 lakh for any LEAN Cluster. The lists of approved exhibition are available in https://my.msme.gov.in/MyMsme/Reg/COM_View-Event.aspx.

Address on LEAN was given by Vinod Pandita from Quality Council of India for achieving the said objectives whereas a lecture on Schemes implemented by the field office was delivered by Assistant Director D.K.Tyagi.

Earlier, President of the association Virendra Jain welcomed the participants and requested G. Velladurai, Joint Director of MSME DFO Jammu to organize similar programs for the benefit of their members frequently.

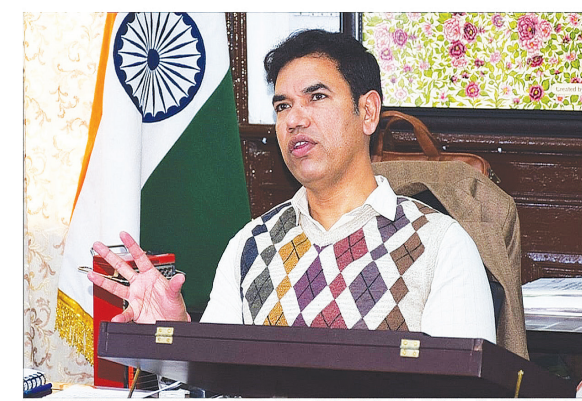
Div Com Kashmir urges departments for befitting KIWG arrangements

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, MARCH 4

While reviewing the preparations for Winter Games, today Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bihhuri impressed on concerned departments for ensuring befitting arrangements for 5th Edition of Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) at Gulmarg.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Director Tourism, Director Urban Local Bodies, Director Health Services Kashmir, CEO Gulmarg Development Authority, Secretary J&K Sports Council, officers from various departments including SMC, PHE, KPDCL, R&B, MED, Transport, Airport Authority, Cable Car Corporation, Information, JKTDC, H&H, NHIDCL, Police, SDRF, CISF, HAWS and other stakeholders attended the meeting.

At the outset, Div Com reviewed arrangements regarding arrival of participants at Srinagar Airport, transportation of participants, accommodation facilities and essential services including electricity, drinking water, sanitation, Mobile Network, criti-



cal health services and mobile recovery vans.

He impressed on close coordination and synergy among all the departments besides called for effective communication among the stakeholders. The Div Com called for flawless arrangements

at the venue, and ensuring smooth conduct of the prestigious sporting event. The officers briefed the meeting regarding the latest and overall preparations pertaining to their respective departments for smooth conduct of national sports event.

DDC Samba reviews progress of District Capex Budget Works



JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, MARCH 4

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Samba, Rajesh Sharma, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of works undertaken under the District Capex Budget across various sectors.

The meeting focused on evaluating the status of ongoing projects being executed by the Public Works Department (PWD) for key departments, including School Education, Health and allied sectors. A detailed discussion was held on the challenges faced during project execution, with a strong emphasis on resolving bottlenecks to ensure the smooth and timely completion of works.

While reviewing sector-wise progress, the DDC underscored the importance of strict adherence

to timelines and maintaining the highest standards in project implementation. He directed the concerned officers to proactively address any impediments and expedite the execution process to maximize developmental benefits for the public.

The DDC further stressed the need for efficient resource utilization and interdepartmental coordination to accelerate developmental initiatives across the district. He urged all stakeholders to remain committed to delivering quality infrastructure and public services within stipulated deadlines.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Champa Devi, Chief Planning Officer Kasturi Lal, Assistant Commissioner Development, CEO, CMO, Executive Engineers, BDOs and other district officers.