

**DENGUE WARNING SIGNS**

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Severe joint/muscle pain
- Severe headache
- Severe stomach pain
- Severe vomiting
- Severe fatigue
- Severe skin rash
- Severe bleeding
- Severe dizziness
- Severe confusion
- Severe irritability
- Severe aggression
- Severe aggression
- Severe aggression

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## J&K's mining revenue reaches Rs 395.44 crore in 3-years: Govt

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAR 05 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Wednesday informed the Legislative Assembly that mining revenue has increased over the past three years.

In a written reply to a query by MLA Dr S Bashir Ahmad Veeri, the government, according to the news agency, provided a complete data of the past three years. "Revenue from mining activities stood at Rs 101.17 crore in 2022-23. It rose to Rs 175.47 crore in 2023-24. Up to January 2025, revenue collection for the current financial year has reached Rs 118.80 crore," the reply stated.

The government also reported an increase in penalties collected for mining violations. In 2022-23, fines amounting to 16.34 crore were imposed, which rose to 19.20 crore in 2023-24. Up to January 2025, Rs14.71 crore fine has already been collected.

The reply further said that the authorities have intensified their crackdown on illegal mining, leading to the seizure of thousands of vehicles and machines.

In 2022-23, 6,909 vehicles and machines were confiscated, which increased

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## J&K Requires Environmental Assessment for All Development Activities: Para

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAR 05 (KNO)

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Para on Monday emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir requires periodic environmental assessments for all activities carried out in the name of development.

Para highlighted that a significant mafia in Jammu and Kashmir is exploiting the region's natural resources.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the Legislative Assembly Budget Session 2025, Para, as per the news agency stated, "Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed the highest level of soil, sand, and stone mining in recent years, and there is a huge mafia behind it."

"Due to mining and large-scale development, extensive destruction is occurring in J&K, particularly in the ecologically fragile Kashmir region," he added.

Para further noted that Jammu and Kashmir's fragile ecology is already under strain, citing the recent dry winter spell that has significantly lowered the water table.

"We have sought answers from the government on whether it assesses and measures the environmental hazards caused by projects, be it roads, railways, or tunnels," he said.

Para continued, "We are inviting environmental troubles in the future. Therefore, we have sought an explanation from the environment minister regarding the environmental assessment of all ongoing projects in Jammu and Kashmir. These projects, carried out in the

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## Pandemonium in Assembly over BJP leader Sunil Sharma's controversial remarks on martyrs of July 13, 1931



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 05 (KNO)

Pandemonium broke out in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday over BJP leader Sunil Sharma's controversial remarks that the martyrs of July 13, 1931, were traitors.

Speaking during the discussion on the LG's address, PDP MLA Waheed-ur-Rehman Para, as per news agency

demanding the restoration of the Martyrs Day holiday. "The BJP cannot do justice until it restores the Martyrs Day holiday. They rendered sacrifices for democracy and India. It is due to their sacrifices that we have got this House," Para said.

Para demanded that the House should resolve collectively to restore both

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## PoJK remarks of NC leader reflects his 'DNA': LoP Sharma

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 05 (KNO)

Leader of Opposition, Sunil Sharma on Wednesday said that the statement of National Conference (NC) leader Mir Saifullah on PoJK reflects his 'DNA.'

Talking to reporters in the premise of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Sharma as per the news agency said that the people were expecting redressal of public issues in the Budget session.

However, he said that the government is "non-serious about the issues related to the people."

He also said that drawing comparison with PoJK

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## Amarnath Yatra 2025: 38-day pilgrimage to commence on July 3, LG Sinha chairs 48th SASB meeting



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 05 (KNO)

The 38-day annual Amarnath Yatra would commence on July 3 from both the routes - the Pahalgam track in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district and would culminate on August 9, 2025 on Raksha Bandhan.

The decision about the yatra duration and its com-

mencement date, according to the news agency, was taken during the 48th board meeting of Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board (SASB) chaired by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan here on Thursday.

Pertinently, in 2024, the Amarnath Yatra lasted for 52 days and a record number of 5.12 lakh pilgrims, highest in the past 12 years, visited the

cave shrine, nestled in the Himalayas.

The pilgrimage was called off in 2019 a few days before the abrogation of Article 370, while it remained suspended in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, 3.65 lakh, and in 2023, 4.45 lakh pilgrims paid obeisance at the holy cave. Today's SASB meeting was attended by

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## Omar-led Govt trying to do all pending works of past 10-yrs: Deputy Chief Minister



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 05 (KNO)

Calling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) a "frustrated" party, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Chaudhary on Wednesday said it is not necessary to respond to every statement of the PDP.

Talking to the reporters here, the Deputy Chief Min-

ister, according to the news agency said, "PDP has become irrelevant as the people have rejected it. We can't keep on responding to their statements on a daily basis. It just wants to remain in the news."

He said, "At present J&K is trying to resolve the issues confronting it. The government is putting in every

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## RDSS being implemented to curb losses, modernize power infrastructure: CM

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 5 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday stated that Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) is being implemented to curb losses and modernize power infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir.

Responding to a question from member Shakti Raj Parihar in the Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister, who also holds the Power Development portfolio, said that J&K's transmission and distribution losses are among the highest in India.

He noted that these losses are significantly higher compared to neighboring states like Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

"And until we are not able to control this situation, our current AT&C losses are around



50%. For every rupee worth of electricity we supply, we face a loss of around 50 paise.

We will have to gradually reduce this and bring it in line with the levels of neighboring states. For this, the RDSS scheme has been implemented," he said. The Chief Minister was replying to a starred question about the total funds

allocated and utilized under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) for the member's constituency. He explained that under RDSS, in addition to smart metering works, funds have been sanctioned for various "Loss Reduction (LR)" works. These include AB cabling, HVDS,

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## J&K records 30% excess rainfall in 5 days

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAR 05 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir has recorded 30 per cent above the average precipitation in the past five days, thereby increasing the water level in the river Jhelum and other streams.

As per the data accessed by the news agency, against the average rainfall of 25.4mm, Jammu and Kashmir has recorded a rainfall of 33mm from March 1 to 5.

The highest precipitation was recorded in Bandipora with details revealing that the station recorded 68% rainfall above than the average precipitation.

As per the data, nine stations including Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K, Budgam, Baramulla, Doda, Kupwara, Pulwama, Rajouri, Shopian and Udhampur recorded excess rainfall, which varies from 20% to 59% above than the normal rainfall.

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## Budget Session 2025: Discussion on LG's address resumes in LA

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 5

Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly witnessed discussions for the second day on the Motion of Thanks for Lieutenant Governor's address delivered to the legislature on the first day of the Budget session.

The debate covered wide array of topics including Indus Water Treaty, filling up of vacancies in government departments, rationalisation of reservation policy and return of power projects.

Initiating the debate, Surjit Singh Slathia, said that the people have elected us to solve their problems and we have a responsibility to live upto their expectations. He praised the efforts of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, who for the first time, held series of district level consultations regarding the budget preparation. "We do not doubt CM Omar Abdullah's intentions and we do understand that the government is in its nascent stage so



we hope that they will fulfil all the promises made with the people of Jammu and Kashmir", he asserted.

Singh further said that abrogation of Article 370 has brought a new dawn of development in Jammu and Kashmir.

While commenting on the Motion of Thanks, Dr Basheer Ahmad Veeri hailed the Omar Abdullah government for taking a unique initiative of holding meetings with different sections of the society to ensure the budget is reflective

of the needs and priorities of all regions. He said that it is for the first time that people have participated in the Assembly elections in such large number.

Veeri talked about the Indus Water treaty saying that it prevents Jammu and Kashmir from utilizing the water's full potential for Hydel Power generation. He also deliberated about the issue of filling up of all vacancies in the government departments besides other developmental needs of people.

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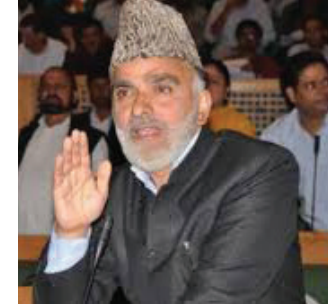
## Pakistan a failed country, a failed state, yet dialogue with it is imperative: Sagar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 05 (KNO)

During the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the Lieutenant Governor's address, veteran National Conference (NC) leader and MLA Khaniyar, Ali Mohammad Sagar, on Wednesday termed Pakistan a "failed state." However, he emphasized that despite Pakistan's dismal condition, the Government of India must engage in dialogue to ensure peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the news agency Correspondent, Sagar said during his address that it is a well-known fact that Pakistan has failed as a country and as a state. Yet, he stressed that dialogue with Pakistan is essential to establish lasting peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sagar also criticized the BJP over its rhetoric on Article 370, asserting that it is the National Conference that has made immense sacrifices for the core interests of Jammu



and Kashmir. He challenged those who now portray themselves as the saviors of the region to reflect on their contributions.

"It is we who have given immense sacrifices. Our workers, block presidents, and even senior leaders were killed. What has the BJP done for Jammu and Kashmir? Nothing. It is ironic that the party cannot even tolerate a single Muslim-majority state in the country. What can be expected from it?" Sagar said.

He added that the massive mandate the National Conference received in the

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Avalanche in Sarbal, Sonamarg, no casualty reported

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAR 05 (KNO)

An avalanche occurred in Sarbal area of Sonamarg, located in Ganderbal district, Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

The powerful avalanche, which sent snow and debris cascading down the slopes, drew the attention of local residents and authorities.

As per the reports received by the news agency, no casualties have been reported in the avalanche.

Authorities are monitoring the situation closely, and no major damage has been observed in the surrounding areas.

The region has experienced heavy snowfall in recent days, contributing to the avalanche risk.

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## DC Kulgam reviews functioning of CSCs, directs officers to monitor their functioning

J I NEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM, MARCH 5

To review the functioning of Common Service Centres (CSCs) and examine their operations for smooth delivery of essential public services to the local population, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired a meeting, here.

At the outset, District Manager CSCs provided an overview of the CSC operations and the services offered.

It was informed that there are 528 sanctioned CSCs in the district, out of which 378 are active, with at least one CSC available

in each Gram Panchayat.

Additionally, 13 CSC touch points have been established in government offices across the district.

DC directed the Coordinator CSC Kulgam to open more CSCs in the remote areas of the district.

He emphasized on making all the touch points functional at the earliest and discontinue the CSCs which are non functional for a long time.

He highlighted the importance of resuming all CSC operations to facilitate public registration for welfare schemes like PM-KISSAN, PMAY-G, PMSYM, PMJDY, and Ayushman Bharat, as well as for obtaining domicile

certificates.

Athar cautioned against overcharging and delays in service delivery to prevent any repercussions.

DC directed the officers to identify the space in their respective offices within days for making all the touch points functional.

Tehsildars and BDOs were directed to monitor the functioning and services provided by the CSCs to common masses in their respective jurisdictions.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, ACD, ACR, All Tehsildars, BDOs, ARTO and the District Manager CSC Kulgam, along with the Village Level Entrepreneurs.

## ADDC chairs Introductory meeting on constitution of SBDUs, BHDs, & Selection of YUVA Doots

J I NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MARCH 5

An introductory meeting regarding the constitution of Small Business Development Units (SBDUs), Business Help Desks (BHDs), and the selection of YUVA Doots under Mission YUVA was held today at the Conference Hall, DC Office Rajouri.

The meeting was convened under the supervision of Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, Additional District Development Commissioner Rajouri (District Nodal Officer - Mission YUVA) and witnessed participation from members of SBDUs and BHDs in both online and offline modes.

During the meeting, Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa empha-

sized the need for a well-coordinated approach to effectively implement the objectives of Mission YUVA. He outlined specific roles and responsibilities for each member and directed that YUVA Doots be identified after completing the selection process as per the YUVA Doot framework.

Sandeep Sharma, District Statistical & Evaluation Officer Rajouri, delivered a comprehensive presentation detailing the formation, roles, and responsibilities of SBDUs and BHDs. He highlighted their crucial role in supporting entrepreneurship, financial facilitation, and business development across the district. Meanwhile, Pradyot Gupta, Assistant

Director Employment, Rajouri, presented the official orders regarding the constitution of SBDUs and BHDs and explained the conceptual framework for YUVA Doots.

A key agenda of the meeting was the selection of YUVA Doots, who will serve as grassroots-level facilitators, ensuring the effective outreach of Mission YUVA initiatives. Discussions were also held regarding the structural mechanism for allocating panchayats to YUVA Doots, ensuring streamlined execution of tasks.

The meeting concluded with directives for the timely selection of YUVA Doots and effective coordination between SBDUs, BHDs, and relevant

stakeholders to facilitate employment and entrepreneurial opportunities under Mission YUVA.

The meeting was attended by Sanjeev Bhasin (LDM), Rafaqit Aziz Functional Manager DIC, Ashwani Kumar, District Agriculture Officer, Kashmir Singh, SDAO, Naveen Anand, Manager JK Bank, Chander, DDM NABARD, Arshad Malik, DNO-EDI, Kamran Hanief, District Manager NRLM, and Asim, Block Manager NRLM Rajouri.

Additionally, ADC Nowsheera, Sunderbani, Kalakote, Koteranka, and SDM Thanamandi (Nodal Officers - BHDs), along with other members, participated in the meeting through virtual mode.

## “Breaking the Barrier: Women Empowerment” International Workshop held at GCOE, Jammu

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 5

The Government College of Education, Jammu, in collaboration with the Centre for Women's Studies (JU) and Rotary Club Jammu Elite, successfully organized a One-Day International Workshop and Panel Discussion on the occasion of International Women's Day. The event, titled "Breaking the Barrier: Women Empowerment" focused on empowering women, addressing gender equality, and celebrating the achievements of women in various fields.

The program was held under the guidance of Chief Patron Dr. Jyoti Parihar and Prof. Savita Nayyar whose leadership and vision played a pivotal role in shaping the event. The organizing committee included, Dr. Shubhra Jamwal, Dr. Rajinder Kour, Prof. Satish K Sharma, Dr. Davinder Kour, Prof. Sarita Dogra, Prof. Roopa Kumari, Prof. Sunanda Rani Prof. Priyanka Mahajan, Prof. Chanchal Singh and Dr. Sonam Gupta. The One-Day International Workshop featured distinguished Resource persons, including Dr. Marcia Jane (senior Lecturer Department of language study University Teknologi Mara (UITM) Perlis Branch campus Malaysia Prof. Dr. Savita Nayyar (Professor of Law, Director, Centre for Women's Studies, JU) Prof. Monika Chadda (Department of English chair person, Campus cultural committee University of Jammu) Ms. Mandeep Kaur (Inspector, J&K Police), Ms. Anuradha Thakur (Deputy Secretary, JKAS Mission Youth), Dr. Sushma Rani (Principal, SCERT Jammu), Ms. Ruchika Gupta (Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL, Jammu).

The event served as a vital platform for discussions on number of barriers and challenges which are required to be removed for women's empowerment, leadership, and gender equity. Reinforcing the commitment of the Government College of Education, Jammu and Centre for Women Studies JU to foster a more inclusive and progressive society.

## Power shutdown

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 5

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Smailpur and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 06 from 9 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Jarai, Parliwand, PHE installations, Main Bazar, Ward No. 4,5, 8,9,10,11& 12, Taraf Sanji, Bhagthali, Court, Jail, PHE installations, Parliwand, Basantpur, Lakhampur Dhanna, Thein, Pathi, Dairy Farm and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 06 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Logate (Industrial Area), Kumri Kathera, MES Janglote, IIDC, Govindsor, Changran, Nagri, Palli, Nicer Paper Mill and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 07 from 9 am to 3 pm.

## DC Rajouri Kick-starts Historic Beautification Project in district

J I NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MARCH 5

In a major initiative to enhance the aesthetics of Rajouri town, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today kick-started the beautification project, aimed at transforming the area around the airfield and adjacent road into a visually appealing and pedestrian-friendly zone.

The project, which gained momentum following the personal intervention of DC Rajouri, has been made possible through strong civil-military liaison, with the Indian Army permitting development work in the designated area. The start of this initiative clearly reflects the robust coordination between the civil administration and the Indian Army in working



Sharma highlighted the significance of the project in modernizing the town while preserving its rich heritage. He expressed his gratitude towards the Indian Army for their cooperation in facilitating the project and also thanked to all stakeholders for their collective efforts in making this vision a reality. The event was attended by SE PWD Devi Dayal, CPO Maqsood Ahmed, Executive Officer of the Municipality Yusuf Umar, Executive Engineer PWD Sardar Khan, and representatives from the defense establish-

towards public welfare and urban development.

To commence the project, 50 lakh has been earmarked, with additional funds to be allocated as the work progresses.

Key Features of the Beautification Project includes 3D murals depicting martyrs, war-

riors, cultural heritage, tourist places, and prominent institutions, Aesthetic enhancements and landscape development, Greenery and ornamental plantations and Well-structured footpaths to ensure safe pedestrian movement. Speaking on the occasion, DC Rajouri Abhishek

lective efforts in making this vision a reality. The event was attended by SE PWD Devi Dayal, CPO Maqsood Ahmed, Executive Officer of the Municipality Yusuf Umar, Executive Engineer PWD Sardar Khan, and representatives from the defense establish-

## DC B'la felicitates officers, officials for exemplary performance in JK Assembly Elections-2024

J I NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, MARCH 05

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today felicitated officers and officials for their outstanding performance and dedication in the smooth conduct of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Elections 2024.

In a special felicitation ceremony held at DC office Baramulla, the DC acknowledged the relentless efforts of officers and staff in ensuring free, fair and peaceful elections in the district. Certificates of appreciation were awarded to several officials for their outstanding contributions.

Among the officers and officials felicitated were Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Shabir



Officer Baramulla, Abdul Rehman Bhat; District Information Officer Baramulla, Iftikhar Naseem; Naib Tehsildar (NT) Election, Mohammed Malik, Media Coordinator Baramulla, Shahzad Ahmad.

Speaking at the occasion, the DC lauded the dedication and professionalism of the officials, emphasizing their crucial role in upholding democratic values and ensuring seamless electoral processes.

Minga Sherpa further expressed gratitude for their hard work and commitment, contributing significantly towards the successful execution of the democratic process.

Ahmed Raina; ADC Baramulla, Dr. Zahoor Ahmed Raina; Joint Director Planning, Javed Ahmad; Sub-Divisional Magistrate Gulmarg, Altaf Hussain Masavi; SDM Pattan, Gulzar Ahmed Rather; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Baramulla, Arshad Khan; Assistant Commissioner Development Baramulla, Shabir Ahmed Hakak; Deputy District Election

## DC Kishtwar inspects MGNREGA and RDD works in Drabshalla, orders suspension of 3 erring Employees

J I NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, MARCH 5

In a continued effort to ensure transparency and quality in MGNREGA and Rural Development Department (RDD) works, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Sh. Rajesh Kumar Shavan (JKAS), conducted an inspection visit to Panchayat Sallana of Block Drabshalla today.

The visit aimed to assess the progress, quality, and compliance of ongoing developmental works under MGNREGA and RDD schemes. The inspection follows the recent visit to Block Mughalmidan, where two erring staff members were suspended for falsifying attendance under MGNREGA. Taking a firm stand against such malpractices, DC Kishtwar reiterated that any employee, including Mates, found engaging in false attendance will face strict disciplinary action, including suspension or termination. At block Drabshalla, the DC Kishtwar personally reviewed the ongoing development works, scrutinized their quality, and assessed the overall adherence to guidelines. He emphasized that there should be no compromise in the execution of infra-



structure projects, as they are crucial for the socio-economic upliftment of local communities. During the inspection, the officer found dereliction on the part of Ayushi Sharma (VLW), Abdul Hamid (GRS) and Ravinder Kumar (GRS) and ordered immediate suspension.

While interacting with field staff and officials, DC Kishtwar issued a stern directive to ensure that all attendance records under MGNREGA are authentic and accurately maintained. He stressed that accountability and transparency are paramount in public works and any devi-

ation will invite immediate administrative action.

Accompanying the DC during the visit was Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Kishtwar, Phulail Singh, who assured that regular monitoring mechanisms are being strengthened to uphold the integrity of MGNREGA and RDD projects in the district.

DC Kishtwar directed the concerned authorities to ensure timely execution of works and maintain a strict vigilance on work quality and execution timelines to prevent any lapses. He reiterated that the district adminis-

tration remains committed to delivering efficient, corruption-free, and impactful rural development initiatives.

During the inspection, he met the public delegations and heard their grievances. He visited Bhadhat, Bugrana and Baroti Villages and went upto Kulchandna village, last habitation on the axis.

The visit underscores the administration's zero-tolerance policy towards irregularities and reinforces its dedication to ensuring that government schemes truly benefit the people of Kishtwar.

## IIM Jammu hosts Educational Visit for Birla Open Minds International School and PM Shri GGHS, Katra



J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 5

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, organized an educational visit for students and teachers from Birla Open Minds International School and PM Shri Govt. Girls High School, Katra, at its state-of-the-art Jagti Campus.

A total of 35 students from Class 8, accompanied by three teachers from Birla Open Minds, and 25 Class 9 students along with eight teachers from Govt. Girls High School, Katra, participated in the immersive campus tour.

The visit began with an

introduction to the institute at the Grand Reception Area, followed by an extensive tour covering key landmarks of IIM Jammu, including the iconic Clock Tower, the Courtyard, the renowned Nalanda Library, and the cutting-edge Smart Classrooms. The students also explored the Mandapam Auditorium and the prestigious Vedanta MDP Block, gaining insights into the institute's academic infrastructure and learning ecosystem.

As part of the visit, the students attended an interactive career counselling session, where they received an overview of future career opportunities, courses offered at IIM Jammu, pathways to

securing admission into premier institutes like IIMs and IITs, and key insights into career planning. The session saw enthusiastic participation, with students actively engaging in discussions and asking insightful questions about their career prospects.

The school visit aimed to inspire young minds by exposing them to world-class management education and innovative learning environments. By fostering aspirations for higher education and leadership, IIM Jammu continues to engage with the broader educational community, nurturing future leaders of the country. The visit was coordinated and executed by PR office, IIM Jammu.

## DC Poonch inaugurates two Automatic Milk Collection Units in Khanetar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, MARCH 5

In a significant development aimed at boosting the dairy sector in Poonch, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal inaugurated two Automatic Milk Collection Units (AMCUs) in Village Khanetar, Tehsil Haveli today.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Dr. Sheikh Mohammad Younis, along with other concerned officers and officials.

The units, established by the Khanetar Dairy Cooperative Society, Kuniyan, Poonch, and the Sain Baba Self Help Group, Bandichechian, Poonch, represent a key milestone under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the Dairy Development initiative in Jammu and Kashmir.

This event marks an essential step toward enhancing the region's dairy infrastructure, pro-



moting rural empowerment, and supporting local farmers.

In his address, Deputy Commissioner appreciated the dedication of local dairy farmers and self-help groups, recognizing their significant contributions to improving milk production and uplifting rural livelihoods. He emphasized that such initiatives are vital for achieving self-sustainability and ensuring financial stability for farmers in the region.

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer also highlighted the crucial role of the Animal Husbandry Department in integrating modern technology into the dairy industry, ensuring that local farmers can

thrive and improve the quality of their produce.

The establishment of the AMCUs will streamline the milk collection process, ensuring higher quality control and improved processing standards.

Additionally, the formation of the Sain Baba Self Help Group focuses on empowering local women, fostering community-driven development, and contributing to the overall prosperity of the region.

The inauguration event was well-attended by local farmers, community members, and various dignitaries, all of whom expressed strong support for the initiative and shared optimism for the future of the dairy industry in Poonch.

## STD initiates proceedings against two dealers for non-compliance of GST norms

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 5

Continuing massive crackdown on tax evasion, Jammu and Kashmir State Taxes Department (STD) today initiated proceedings against two traders for not maintaining bills books as per GST norms during inspection drives in Jammu and Udhampur districts of Jammu division.

As per officials, in Jammu, enforcement team led by State Taxes Officer (STO) visited ten business units dealing with hardware, electric good and construction items in the Circle R.

The team checked invoices and e-way bills for movement of vehicles. During inspection, the team noticed that two bill books presented by the dealer had blank invoices. The team seized both bill books and intimated concerned circle officer for further proceedings.

In Udhampur, the



enforcement teams visited five business units and found one trader, dealing with Mobile phones and accessories, not issuing e-invoicing as per GST norms, besides not producing valid purchase documents with GST number. The team warned the dealer and also intimated concerned Circle to initiate proceedings.

Morever, the enforcement teams also addressed the doubts of traders on the spot regarding many issues related to e-invoicing, e-way bills, GST filing etc.

The department further urged the dealers to follow the fair-trade practices and avoid indulging in tax

evasion activities or fraudulent practices involving fake ITC.

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

## Reasi Adm organises Awareness Campaign on New Criminal Laws at Panthal

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, MARCH 5

In an effort to educate the public about the newly enacted criminal laws—Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam 2023—the District Administration Reasi organized a comprehensive mass awareness programme at Block Panthal, Reasi. The initiative aims to ensure that citizens are well-informed about these transformative legal reforms and their implications.

Additional District Magistrate Rakesh Kumar, SDM Katra Piyush Dhotra, SDPO Katra Bhisham Dubey, Tehsildar Katra, BDO Panthal were present during the awareness program.

They engaged in interactive discussions with public, addressing queries and concerns regarding the implementation of these reforms.

In the awareness programme, emphasis was given on the significance of widespread legal awareness. They highlighted how these changes will have a positive impact on society, particularly benefiting women and children through strengthened protective measures.

Additional District Magistrate highlighted that more awareness campaigns regarding new laws will be conducted at the different parts of Reasi.

He said that the administration remains committed to fostering legal literacy and ensuring that every citizen understands their rights and responsibilities under the new legal framework.

## 02 Medical shops put on show cause notice, operation of 01 disallowed at Shopian

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, MARCH 5

A team of officials from the Drugs Control department today conducted inspection of medical shops in various villages of Shopian district including Kumdalan Nagisharan, Hajipora, Chakoora, Dangan and Kaprin.

The team headed by Assistant Drugs Controller Shopian put two medical shops on show cause notice, and the operation of one medical shop was disallowed on the spot at Kundalan for non maintenance of records of scheduled formulations and violations of other conditions of Licenses.

## District Administration Samba wins Pre-Quarterfinal of Samba Premier T20 Cup



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, MARCH 5

In the ongoing Samba Premier T20 Cup, launched as a collaborative initiative between the District Administration Samba and the Excise Department, an exciting pre-quarterfinal match was played today between District Administration Samba and RDD II Star.

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma, actively participated in the match, demonstrating great enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

The team, led by Captain Abhishek Sambyal, delivered an outstanding performance, securing a 9-wicket victory. Surinder Singh was the standout performer, earning the title of Player of the Match.

## GCE Jammu organizes One-day International Workshop on occasion of International Women's Day



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 5

The Government College of Education, Jammu, in collaboration with the Centre for Women's Studies (JU) and Rotary Club Jammu Elite, successfully organized a One-Day International Workshop and Seminar on the occasion of International Women's Day. The event, titled "Breaking the Barrier," focused on empowering women, addressing gender equality, and celebrating the achievements of women in various fields.

The program was held under the guidance of Chief Patron Dr. Jyoti Parihar, whose leadership and vision

played a pivotal role in shaping the event. The organizing committee included Prof. Savita Nayyar, Dr. Shubhra Jamwal, Dr. Rajinder Kour, Prof. Satish Sharma, Dr. Davinder Kour, Prof. Sarita Prof. Roopa Kumari, Prof. Sunanda Rani Prof. Priyanka Mahajan and Prof. Chanchal Singh.

The One-Day International Seminar featured distinguished resource persons, including Dr. Marcia Jane (senior Lecturer Department of Language study University Teknologi Mara (UITM) Perlis Branch campus Malaysia

Prof. Savita Nayyar (Professor of Law, Director, Centre for Women's

Studies, JU) Prof. Monika Chadda (Department of English chair person, Campus cultural committee University of Jammu)

Ms. Mandeep Kaur (Inspector, J&K Police)

Ms. Anuradha Thakur (Deputy Secretary, JKAS Mission Youth)

Dr. Sushma Rani (Principal, SCERT Jammu)

Ms. Ruchika Gupta (Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL, Jammu)

The event served as a vital platform for discussions on women's empowerment, leadership, and gender equity, reinforcing the commitment of the Government College of Education, Jammu, to fostering a more inclusive and progressive society.

## Block Diwas: Public Outreach Programme held at Chak Gadadhar, Block Kathua



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, MARCH 5

A public outreach programme was organized at Panchayat Ghar, Chak Gadadhar Block Kathua, as part of the Block Diwas initiative today.

The programme witnessed a significant turnout, with Additional Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Ranjit Singh, Chief Planning Officer Kathua, Ranjit Thakur, Ex-PRI members, District and Sectoral officers and a large number of people in attendance.

During the programme, individuals and Ex-PRI members projected demands and apprised the District Administration about the problems faced by the inhabitants of their respective areas. The key demands and issues raised included augmentation of flood protection infrastructure, better road connectivity, provision of drinking water supply in uncovered areas, demand for a playground and maintenance of bridge and

sideways protection on old Samba road at Chak Gadadhar. The officers and officials from various departments showcased the government schemes and services, providing valuable information to the attendees. Addressing the gathering, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Ranjit Singh emphasized the objective of Block Diwas, which is to reach out to the people, listen to their grievances, and provide services and knowledge about government schemes at their doorstep. Responding to the demands, the Additional Deputy Commissioner issued on-spot instructions to the concerned departments for time-bound resolution of all the issues. He stressed upon the officers to prioritize the grievances and ensure their timely redressal. The event concluded with the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Chief Planning Officer, and other officers visiting stalls installed by different departments at the venue.

## Power Shutdown

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 05

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL, in order to carry out Emergency stabilization work by ED-Baramulla line, the shutdown of 33KV Sheeri Baramulla-1st shall be observed due to which Receiving Stations at Baramulla-1st and Kanlibagh shall remain off while power supply to the Baramulla Main Town, DC Office, Kanlibagh, Sangri and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 08 March, 2025.

Similarly, to carry out replacement of existing wooden damaged poles by new ST Poles, the shutdown of 33KV Nihalpora Pattan Amargarh line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Pattan, Palhalan and Hamray shall remain off while power supply to Pattan, Zangam, Burn, Nihalpora, Pattan, Hospital, Palhalan, Hamray, Wanigam and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 10 March 2025.

Also, to carry out Rec/Station Dhobiwan to facilitate for completion of pending works of new transformer bay at Rec/ Stn Dhobiwan, 33/11KV Receiving Station Dhobiwan shall remain off while power supply to the Lalpora-B, Hardaboora, Tarhama and adjoining

areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 08 March, 2025.

Further, to carry out the dismantling of old damaged 04 Pole Tower near Aiwa Bridge, the shutdown of 33KV Wanganpora Soura line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Soura and Zoonimar shall remain off while power supply to the Soura, Zoonimar, Nowshera, some portion of 90 ft road and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon on 08 March, 2025.

Moreover, to facilitate SMDB installation and erection of poles for isolators, the shutdown of 33KV Alusteng Nagbal line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Alasteng, Nagbal, Gadoora and Tullbagh shall remain off while power supply to the Shuhama, Bakura, Darend, Nagbal, Fatehpura, Gadoora, Nagbal, Fatehpura, Gadoora, Tulbagh and Chundina areas will be affected from 11:00 AM to 02:00 PM on 09 March, 2025. Also, the shutdown of 33KV Kangan Wussan line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Station at Wussan shall remain off while power supply to the Wussan, Preng, Manigam and Haripora areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 08 & 10 March, 2025.

## Power Shutdown

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 05

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL, in order to carry out augmentation of old 0.1 ACSR to 0.2 ACSR of Nehalpora-Markundal line, the shutdown of 33KV Nehalpora Markundal line shall be observed due to which Receiving Stations at Markundal, Naidkhai, Shahgund and Aglar shall remain off while power supply to the Naidkhai, Markundal, S u m b a l , Ankhul, Gundboon and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 08 & 10 March, 2025.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-AUCTION NOTICE		
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division.		
Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAFFZR-OH25-8	18-03-25 at 11:00 बजे	Allotment of contract for Commercial Advertisement rights through: 1) Static media at Madhopur Punjab & Bhogpur Sirwal Railway Station. 2) Static media/overhead of water tank at Samba Railway Station. 3) Exterior of Overhead of Water Tanks at Sujampur, Bari Brahma, Jammu Tawi, Pathankot, Baramulla Sopur, Budgam, Srinagar, Anantnag, Qazigund & Banihal Railway Station. 4) Static media at Level crossings adjoining to Chhina, Railway Station.
EAFFZR-CTG25-7	18-03-25 at 11:00 hours	Allotment of Catering stalls on contract at Beas/2 & Kotkapura Railway Station.
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . No. MC/38015/Pub/E-Auction/FZR/22 Date : 05/03/2025 713/2025		
<b>SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE</b>		

NORTHERN RAILWAY Notice Inviting Tender								
Sr. DEE/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date 27.03.2025 at 15:00 Hrs, only Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.								
Tender No.	Name of work	App Cost (Rs.)	Cost of Tender form (Rs.)	Date & time for submission of tender	Earnest Money # (Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
616-TRD-FZR-2024-25	TRD work in c/w (i)-Provision of Full Length Line at PGW and (ii)-Extension of Line No. 4 at PHR to facilitate placement of rake in single hook.	₹ 2,10,56,945.29	NIL	Upto 27.03.2025 15:00 Hrs	2,55,300/-	Twelve (12) Months	27.03.2025 after 15:00 Hrs.	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>
Similar Nature of Work: "Design, supply, erection testing & commissioning of 50Hz, single phase 25KV AC OHE". (Ref: OHE Works S.No.1.1 of Pr. CEE/NR's Letter No. 181-Elec/TRD/189/Pl.II, Dated: 29.07.2021).								
617-TRD-FZR-2024-25	TRD work in c/w Extension of Goods line to accommodate full length load at Gangsar Jaito (GJUT) station over Firozpur division	₹ 32,29,740.88	NIL	Upto 27.03.2025 15:00 Hrs	64,600/-	Twelve (12) Months	27.03.2025 after 15:00 Hrs.	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>
Note:-# Tenderer (s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway. No.: 616 & 617-TRD-FZR-2024-25 Dated: 05.03.2025 711/2025								
<b>Serving Customers With A Smile</b>								

# Curvv.ev Makes History: Records the fastest EV Drive from Kashmir to Kanyakumari of 3,823 KM in only 76 hours and 35 minutes

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KANYAKUMARI, MAR 5

TATA.ev, India's largest 4-wheeler EV manufacturer and the pioneer of India's EV evolution, today recorded the fastest EV drive from Kashmir to Kanyakumari in only 76 hours and 35 minutes (over 19 hours less than the incumbent record holder, the erstwhile Nexon EV MAX) led by India's very own SUV coupe, the Curvv.ev. In addition to covering the fastest 3,800 km across the length of India, the Curvv.ev successfully set 20 national records.

Completing this remarkable journey, the Curvv.ev only took 16 charging stops, with the average time to charge coming down from 28 hours to 17 hours, not only demonstrating advancements in battery technology, but also showcasing India's widespread public charging network, majority of which now supports faster charging speeds along highways.

Having received a ceremonial flag off in Srinagar by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Mr. Omar Abdullah, the Curvv.ev started its journey at 4:00 AM on 25th Febru-

ary, 2025. The flagship from TATA.ev navigated through varying weather conditions, a multitude of terrains, and India's public charging network to reach Kanyakumari at 8:35 AM on 28th February, 2025, where it was received by Thiru. Vijay Vasanth, Member of Parliament, Kanyakumari.

Speaking about this exciting expedition, Mr. Vivek Srivatsa, Chief Commercial Officer, Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd., said, "We embarked on this exciting non-stop journey to showcase just how effortless, efficient, and comfortable long intercity drives can be with an EV. With plans to cover approximately 1,200 km each day, the Curvv.ev underpinned by the innovative acti.ev pure EV architecture and 55 kWh battery, made this endurance challenge smooth and fatigue-free for the occupants. With public charging infrastructure having grown to over 18,000 charging points, every district in the 10 States and Union Territories the Curvv.ev passed was electrified with fast-chargers. In addition to this, the Curvv.ev also benefited from the convenience of rapidly growing



high-speed charging network and smooth highways. This remarkable feat

proves that a Tata EV can successfully complete a journey of this magnitude

on par with an ICE-powered vehicle, eliminating concerns about range anxiety or charging infrastructure while maximizing comfort and cost efficiency.

The fact that we were able to eclipse our own record by 19 hours reflects the maturity of EV technology and its eco-system. We are confident this brilliant showcase by the Curvv.ev will only increase confidence amongst potential customers to adopt zero emission mobility by purchasing an EV, while instilling pride amongst EV owners."

Electrifying progress in India's EV story

1) India's charging infrastructure has drastically improved since the last record run. For the Nexon.ev in 2023, the most optimal route while counting in charging infrastructure was 4,004 km. With this record run, the distance reduced to 3,823 km for the Curvv.ev as it had to take lesser deviations in the optimal route to discover a charger. The increased number of chargers has helped bridge the gap in the optimal travel distance between an ICE and EV, making long-distance journeys nearly as efficient for EVs.

2) With 18,000 chargers currently, India's charging infrastructure has improved by 227% compared to the drive in 2023, notably with the inclusion of faster high-

powered 60 - 120 kW chargers.

3) 85% of national highways across India have a fast charger every 50km.

4) The driving experience is further enhanced by the iRA.ev app's charge point aggregator, which maps over 12,000 charging points and offers tailored vehicle insights along with efficient route planning. Additionally, long journeys have become more predictable thanks to the .ev Verified Charger program, which rates each charger based on reliable charging, the availability of basic amenities, and accessible locations.

5) The TATA.ev Unified RFID card increased convenience by not depending on the internet to access separate applications from various CPOs to initiate charging in the EV.

The Curvv.ev's successful K2K run further reinforces TATA.ev's commitment to advancing India's EV ecosystem by providing cutting-edge technology and enhanced range. India's first SUV Coupe is available at the nearest Tata Motors dealer or the TATA.ev store starting at INR 17.49 lakh. To know more, visit: <https://ev.tatamotors.com/curvv/ev.html>

## FROM THE PAGE 1...

### Pandemonium...

holidays. "The disrespect to Sheikh Abdullah's legacy was disrespect to every person carrying the Indian flag in J&K," he said.

After Para concluded his speech, Sharma questioned the PDP and NC's silence over civilian killings in Kashmir during their tenures. "When they (PDP) were in alliance with us in 2016-17, how many civilian killings took place? Why didn't they shed tears for them? When Omar Abdullah was in power, 110 civilian killings took place. Why didn't you shed tears then?" Sharma asked.

Sharma then stated that those killed on July 13, 1931, were traitors. "They were traitors; they were not martyrs," he said, evoking protests from MLAs of the ruling alliance as well as from Kashmir-based opposition parties, including PDP and PC.

Amid the commotion in the House, NC and other parties resorted to massive sloganeering in favour of the martyrs of July 13, 1931. "These remarks should be expunged. It is their sacrifices you are here (Assembly). You would have been slaves and washing utensils of the Maharaja," NC's Nazir Gurezi shouted at BJP lawmakers.

CPI(M) MLA Muhammad Yousof Tarigami said that these remarks are not acceptable and should be expunged. "When a derogatory, humiliating, and divisive remark is made, it should be withdrawn. If you don't show that kind of decency, it should be expunged," Congress MLA Nizamuddin Bhat said.

Amid continuous disruptions in the House, the Speaker announced that the remarks had been expunged from the records of the Assembly. All BJP MLAs staged a walkout from the House in protest against the Speaker's decision.

After BJP MLAs walked out of the House, PC MLA Sajad Gani Lone asked MLAs to raise their hands to pass a suo-moto resolution for the declaration of both the days as holidays. The MLAs raised their hands in favour of declaring both the days as holidays. KNO

### PoJK remarks of...

was nothing but "reflection of his (Mir Saifullah) DNA."

Sharma said that Bharatiya Janata Party will not allow any unconstitutional and anti-national remarks in the assembly. KNO

### Amarnath Yatra 2025: 38-day...

the board members, Swami Avdhesanand Giri Ji Maharaj, D. C. Raina, Kailash Mehra Sadhu, K. N. Rai, Pitambar Lal Gupta, Dr. Shailesh Raina and Prof Vishwamurti Shastri.

The members proposed various measures and interventions to further improve the facilities and services for the devotees.

Considering the likely increased inflow of pilgrims for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025, the meeting discussed measures for the enhancement of lodgement capacity at centres in Jammu, Srinagar and other locations, operationalization of Yatri facilitation centres for e-KYC, issuance of RFID cards, on-spot registration of pilgrims at number of locations including Nowgam and Katra Railway Stations.

It was further discussed that these facilities must also be suitably enhanced at Baltal, Pahalgam, Nunwan, Pantha Chowk Srinagar, as per the requirement.

Reviewing the progress achieved on various ongoing works undertaken by the line departments, the Lieutenant Governor stressed on the need for ensuring adequate arrangements and requisite amenities at various locations enroute Yatra. He further called for increasing capacity at Yatri Niwas, Pantha Chowk, Srinagar.

The meeting also discussed ongoing projects, dissemination of Yatra-related information, insurance cover to yatis, service providers, ponies; extension of online services by the Shrine Board; widening and maintenance of Yatra Tracks; decongestion measures at Holy Cave and Lower Holy Cave area; Disaster preparedness and mitigation measures; adequate provisioning of Heli services, medical care facilities; Weather Forecasting Infrastructure & Systems, security and surveillance and Digital Pre-paid system for hiring services.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated the Board Members and expressed gratitude for their valuable contribution and continuous guidance in successful conduct of the yatra.

Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, gave a detailed presentation regarding the arrangements for the Yatra.

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department; Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary Home; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners (Ganderbal and Anantnag); Additional CEO SASB and senior officers of the UT Administration and Shrine Board also attended the meeting, in person and through virtual mode. KNO

### Omar-led Govt trying...

possible effort to make lives easy for the people." "The Omar Abdullah led dispensation is trying to do all the works that were not done in the past 10 years. We have just completed 3.5 months in the office and there is still a long way to go."

Moreover, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the unparliamentary language used against the martyrs of July 13 doesn't suit at all. He added that the martyrs, no matter which community they belong to, should be respected as they have sacrificed their lives for safeguarding the constitution and the wellbeing of the people.

He also questioned the abrogation of Article 370 and snatching the statehood from J&K. "I want to ask the BJP leaders that if they respected Maharajas then why did they snatch all the safeguards framed by them." KNO

### RDSS being implemented...

reconductoring, feeder bifurcation, and segregation, depending on district-specific technical requirements.

The funds for LR works have been sanctioned at the district level rather than for individual constituencies, he added.

The Chief Minister informed the House that the sanctioned cost for LR works in Doda District is 86.28 crore, with the works awarded in September 2023.

"The funds for these works are being released by the Ministry of Power (MoP) in different tranches based on the progress of the projects. So far, 17 crore has been released in two tranches, both of which have been fully utilized. Funds for the next tranche are being sought as per the norms of the scheme," he said.

Addressing concerns about the slow progress of RDSS projects, the Chief Minister explained that after the issuance of the sanction order, the package (including Doda district) was tendered for the first time on March 31, 2023.

"However, due to a poor response, the tendering process had to be extended three times. Finally, the bid was opened on August 4, 2023, and awarded on September 8, 2023," he stated.

He further informed that 12.25% progress has been achieved so far, and the works are moving forward at full pace with no delays.

"Going by the current pace, it is expected that the works in Doda district will be completed well within the sunset date of RDSS, which is March 31, 2026," he added.

The Chief Minister further stated that the RDSS Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) were formulated in two parts, one which includes Loss Reduction (LR) works and smart metering projects and part b which covers modernization works.

"The DPRs for both parts were submitted to the Ministry of Power (MoP). However, the sanction has been received only for Part A works," he said. Regarding Part B, the Chief Minister mentioned that the DPRs are currently at the appraisal stage with the Nodal Agency of MoP.

"Once the Part B DPRs are sanctioned by MoP, the modernization works will be awarded as per the terms and conditions specified in the sanction order," he concluded—(KNO)

### Budget Session 2025: Discussion...

Nizamuddin Bhat, in his speech, said that, "We have to take strong initiatives for restoration of statehood and nominate an all party delegation or a panel of the house that would present the case to the Union Government," he maintained.

He said that it is constitutionally imperative on the Union Government to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and respect their promises made on the floor of the Parliament.

Ghulam Mohiuddin Mir talked on unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir saying that concrete steps need to be taken for creating employment opportunities for the people here.

Rajeev Jasrotia praised the Omar Abdullah government for taking into confidence all stakeholders, elected representatives before formulation of the budget saying that it is for the first time in history that pre-budget consultations were held. He also reminded the government of the promises made in the manifesto that were supposed to be fulfilled within the first three months. He said that certain issues in the manifesto were missing in the Lieutenant Governor's address.

He also highlighted many initiatives taken by BJP led government and said that we will work as a respectable opposition for the welfare of people.

Waheed Para, while participating in the debate, said that the good governance must be ensured for the people. He also urged the Chief Minister to raise the issue of Jammu and Kashmir's youth at the appropriate forum.

Participating in the debate, Javaid Riyaz, said that we should work collectively for restoration of statehood.

Irfan Hafeez Lone said that it is good that the government is committed for full restoration of statehood and I hope that Omar Abdullah will live up to this expectation of the people. "When we are on the same page, we should take a united front for restoration of statehood," he added.

He also talked about the issue of casual labours, free electricity, return of power projects, sustainable development and protection of fragile environment among other issues.

Ali Mohd Sagar, while participating in discussion on Motion of Thanks on LG's address, said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have given a thumping mandate to this Government. He added that this government is the voice of the people and in coming time all the commitments will be fulfilled by this government.

### Pakistan a failed...

recent elections is proof that the party represents the

aspirations and hopes of the people.

"You [BJP] kept talking about 'family raj, family raj,' but in the end, you had to eat humble pie. The people have shown you what kind of leadership they want. On the other hand, you [BJP] couldn't even field a candidate in Kashmir. All your members there have a tainted past," Sagar said. KNO

### J&K records...

Reasi, Samba and Kathua stations however, recorded the deficit rainfall during the period, the data reads, adding that some of the stations including Ramban, Kishtwar and Bandipora have recorded large excess rainfall in the last five days.

Anantnag, Ganderbal, Jammu, Kulgam and Poonch have recorded normal precipitation during the period. The recent wet spell has recharged the water bodies in Kashmir.

As per the data, river Jhelum at Ram Munshi Bagh was flowing at 4.47 feet this evening, showing a rise in the water level.

The other streams too witnessed a rise in the water level following the recent back-to-back wet spell in Jammu and Kashmir.

Pertinently, the weatherman here has predicted another wet spell from March 10 in Jammu and Kashmir, saying that there is a possibility of light to moderate rain and snow (higher reaches) at many places on March 10 and 11, adding that the cloudy weather conditions are expected on march 12 while a spell of rain and snow is expected on March 13 and 14. KNO

### Avalanche in Sarbal...

Notable, the Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Authority (JK-DMA) has issued an alert for a high-level avalanche risk in the region. An avalanche with a high danger level is likely to occur above 2500 meters in areas including Doda, Ganderbal, Kishtwar, and Ramban in the next 24 hours. Local authorities are urging residents to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions.

In case of an emergency, individuals are advised to dial 112 for immediate assistance from the JK-UT Disaster Management Authority. KNO

### J&K's mining revenue...

to 7,018 in 2023-24. So far, in 2024-25 (up to January), 5,053 seizures have been recorded, it added.

The government denied allegations that illegal mining was going unchecked, asserting that strict measures have been taken to curb such activities. KNO

### J&K requires...

name of development, are causing large-scale destruction of our resources and environment."

"The point is, there should be a proper mechanism to assess the feasible foothold of pilgrims and tourists visiting Jammu and Kashmir to ensure that glaciers and the ecology are not eroded. The Yatra in Kashmir can only be sustained if there is water, ice, and glaciers," he explained.

The MLA further remarked, "As we can see, our brooks, wells, and streams have dried up. The Jhelum River is witnessing extensive sand mining. There is a mafia in Jammu and Kashmir that is extracting our resources. There should be an environmental assessment of everything happening in the name of development." KNO

## DC Jammu stresses priority sector lending during DLRC meeting

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 5

A meeting of the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, to review the performance of banks and financial institutions in the district.

During the meeting, an improvement in the Credit Deposit Ratio (CDR) over the past quarter was noted. The DC stressed the need for further enhancement of priority sector lending and directed banks to expedite the sanctioning and disbursement of loans for government-sponsored cases.

He also underlined the importance of increasing lending in the agriculture



sector, ensuring adequate financial support for farmers.

Special emphasis was placed on the 'PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana', with directions to organise special camps for awareness and financing of beneficiaries.

Additionally, the DC called for greater coverage under social security schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY).

The meeting was attend-

ed by Additional District Development Commissioner Sher Singh, Lead District Manager Romesh Chander, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh and representatives from various banks and concerned departments.

Potential Credit Plan for the district for 2025-26, prepared by NABARD, was also released on the occasion in presence of Director Information Nitish Rajora, AGM NABARD Jammu Sonika Rana and Manager RBI Jammu Anil Kumar, besides others.

## Tony calls for immediate filling of 32000 vacant posts to alleviate unemployment in J&K

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 5

Senior Congress leader and DDC member Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony has called upon the government to expedite the recruitment process for the 32,000 vacant positions across 37 government departments. Highlighting the pressing issue of unemployment in the region, he emphasized the urgency of addressing the "hunger-driven unemployment" that has been exacerbated by these vacancies.

Reacting over the Assembly reports indicate that the Health and Medical Education Department alone accounts for 7,851 of these vacancies, underscoring a critical gap in essential public services. He expressed deep concern over the prolonged inaction, stating that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir have become victims of hollow policies that fail to address their employ-



ment needs.

"The staggering number of unfilled positions is not just a statistic; it represents thousands of young aspirations put on hold. The administration must act promptly to convert these vacancies into opportunities for our youth, thereby mitigating the growing unemployment crisis," Tony asserted.

In addition to the unfilled vacancies, Tony drew attention to the plight of daily wagers who have been protesting on the streets, demanding regu-

larization of their services. He criticized the previous BJP government's lack of responsiveness to their legitimate demands and urged immediate policy interventions to provide these workers with job security and dignity.

"Our daily wagers are the backbone of various public services. Their continuous struggle for regularization reflects poorly on the administration's commitment to workers' rights. It's high time the government focuses on their grievances and implements fair regularization policies," Tony added.

At last, the senior Congress leader appealed to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to expedite the recruitment process for the 32,000 vacant government positions and prioritize regularization of daily wagers, emphasizing that such measures are crucial for addressing the pressing unemployment crisis in Jammu and Kashmir.

## DC Doda visits Tehsil Mohalla



DODA, MARCH 5

Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh today visited Balwana in Tehsil Mohalla, assessed the progress of ongoing developmental works under various schemes there.

The inspection tour was prompted by public demands for improved road connectivity, particularly in light of the region's challenging terrain and harsh weather conditions. The locals emphasized

the need for a reliable and safe road network to facilitate daily commute, trade, and commerce.

The DC Doda also engaged with local residents and assessed the condition of critical infrastructure.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner also inspected the National Highway 244 (Doda-Kishtwar) evaluated the condition of the Highway, identified areas requiring immediate attention and repair.

## VC, Registrar BGSBU conduct detailed review of Developmental Works at BGSBU

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, MARCH 5

Vice Chancellor of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), Jawaid Iqbal, along with Registrar Abhishek Sharma (DC Rajouri) and Chief Engineer R&B, conducted a comprehensive physical review of the ongoing developmental projects within the university campus.

During the visit, the officers assessed the progress of various infrastructure works, including the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Library, construction of new academic blocks, hostel facilities, road connectivity, and other essential amenities aimed at enhancing the academic and residential environment for students and faculty.

The team interacted with engineers and project officials to ensure the timely completion of the projects while maintaining quality standards.

Vice Chancellor Jawaid Iqbal emphasized the university's commitment to providing state-of-the-art



infrastructure to support academic excellence and research. He directed the concerned authorities to review all pending projects and monitor ongoing works and address any bottlenecks in execution.

Registrar, Abhishek Sharma stressed the importance of regular monitoring to ensure adherence to timelines and technical specifications.

Chief Engineer R&B provided a detailed briefing on the progress of key proj-

ects and assured that all necessary measures were being taken for their timely completion.

The review underscored the university administration's focus on infrastructural development as a cornerstone for academic growth and innovation. The officials reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that the projects are completed efficiently, contributing to the overall enhancement of the university's facilities.

## Valedictory Ceremony of Trekking-Based MDP for Leadership Skills for NTPC Managers (Batch IV) at IIM Jammu Comes to a Grand Close

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 5

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu concluded the valedictory ceremony of the trekking-based Management Development Programme (MDP) (Batch IV) for NTPC's young leaders on 05th March 2025. The event, held at the Pralahad Classroom, marked the culmination of a transformative three-day program designed to enhance leadership skills through experiential learning in the scenic lower Himalayas.

The program, which ran from 03rd March to 05th March 2025 featured seven meticulously designed sessions focusing on themes such as team building, conflict resolution, strategic thinking, sustainability, and digital transformation. A key highlight of the program was a trekking expedition to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, which offered participants a unique platform for field-based experiential learning.

The valedictory ceremony commenced with a warm welcome, followed by a detailed program report presented by Dr. V. Raj Kumar, Program Director, IIM Jammu. Participants shared their reflections of their journey, highlighting the program's role in enhancing



their leadership capabilities and personal growth.

Dr. V. Rajkumar, Program Director, IIM Jammu, highlighted the key takeaways of the program and thanked participants for their valuable feedback. He emphasized that this marks the beginning of a lasting association, as they are now part of the IIM Jammu family. Encouraging them to explore other programs, including career counseling, he invited them to visit the institute's website and look forward to future interactions.

Shri Sanjay Gupta, Professor of Practice, IIM Jammu thanked everyone for their participation and feedback, assuring that the MDP team would incorporate their insights. He encouraged participants to share their learnings within their units, fostering wider engagement. Citing Douglas's books on best practices, he expressed gratitude to the Program Directors and NTPC for organizing the program. He also looked

forward to future leadership-specific initiatives.

Dr. Vinod C Durge, Program Director, IIM Jammu, emphasized that while every beginning has an end, at IIM Jammu, every end marks a new beginning, reflecting the institute's commitment to continuous collaboration.

The event concluded with a formal certificate distribution, followed by a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Vinod C Durge, Program Director, IIM Jammu. The National Anthem marked the end of the ceremony, leaving participants inspired to embark on their leadership journeys with renewed vigor.

This program highlights IIM Jammu's unwavering commitment to fostering future-ready leaders through impactful executive education, blending experiential learning with strategic insights to meet the dynamic demands of modern organizations. The program was coordinated by Executive Education and Consultancy Office, IIM Jammu.

## Arvind reviews devp works in ward-33, directs for expedited completion, quality assurance

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 5

In a bid to accelerate development and ensure quality execution of civic projects, MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta conducted an inspection tour of the ongoing development works in Ward No. 33, Rajpura Mangotrian. The visit focused on reviewing the progress of various infrastructure initiatives aimed at enhancing community facilities and addressing local issues effectively.

Accompanied by Mandal President Kushant Daffara and prominent local residents including Mohit Vaid, Karan Sharma, Rekha Sharma, Hira Lal, Pawan Kumar, Suresh Gupta, Vaid Gupta, Om Sharma, and Subash Chander Gupta, the MLA assessed the status of road construction, drainage systems, and other essential public amenities. He inter-



acted with the residents to understand their concerns and assured them of timely completion of the projects with high standards of quality.

During the inspection, Arvind Gupta emphasized the importance of sustainable and inclusive development, highlighting the Modi government's commitment to transforming Jammu West into a model constituency. He instructed the concerned officials to expedite the pending works while maintaining

transparency and accountability.

"The welfare of the residents and the development of Jammu West are my top priorities. We are committed to resolving all civic issues promptly and ensuring that the benefits of development reach every household," he stated. He also appreciated the active participation of local residents in development activities and urged them to continue their support and cooperation.

## GDC Vijaypur organises Poster Making Competition on the Topic- Constitution and Governance

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, MARCH 5

In continuation to the series of activities being organized under the celebration of 75 years of adoption of Constitution of India and 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Department of Political Science under the aegis of Govt. Degree College Vijaypur orga-

nized a poster making competition.

The poster making on Constitution helped students in visual learning, awareness and engagement. It further spreads awareness, encourages creativity, promotes patriotism and civic responsibilities. The students participated with full enthusiasm and zeal.

The 1st position was

secured by Ankush, Semester II. 2nd position was secured by Sharda Devi of VI Semester and 3rd position was secured by Renu Bala of VI Semester. The competition was adjudged by Prof. Anita Jamwal and Prof. Mamta Gupta. The certificates were awarded to all the participants and the winners of the competition.

## Seven-Day NSS Winter Camp concludes at GCW Parade

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 5

The Seven-Day NSS Winter Camp, organized by Government College for Women (GCW), Parade Ground, Jammu, concluded successfully at the adopted village of Rakh Raipur, Satwari. The camp, held from February 27 to March 5, saw enthusiastic participation from NSS volunteers engaged in a series of community service activities.

Dr. Hema Gandotra, NSS Programme Coordinator, University of Jammu, graced the valedictory function as the Chief Guest. Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo, Principal of the college, delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the importance of NSS activities in shaping the overall personality of the youth. He commended the efforts of the volunteers and faculty for their dedication towards

social service. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Hema Gandotra encouraged students to inculcate the NSS motto, 'Not Me, But You,' in their daily lives. She highlighted the significance of community service and motivated the volunteers to actively contribute to nation-building.

A vibrant cultural segment where NSS volunteers showcased their talents through traditional dance performances and melodious song renditions.

The event concluded with the certificate distribution ceremony, where in volunteers who had excelled in NSS camps across the nation were felicitated for their contributions.

Dr. Hema Gandotra distributed certificates and motivated the students to actively participate in NSS and the My Bharat Viksit Bharat National Youth Parliament - 2025.

## "Breaking the Barrier: Women Empowerment" International Workshop held at GCOE, Jammu

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 5

The Government College of Education, Jammu, in collaboration with the Centre for Women's Studies (JU) and Rotary Club Jammu Elite, successfully organized a One-Day International Workshop and Panel Discussion on the occasion of International Women's Day. The event, titled "Breaking the Barrier: Women Empowerment" focused on empowering women, addressing gender equality, and celebrating the achievements of women in various fields.

The program was held under the guidance of Chief Patron Dr. Jyoti Parihar and Prof. Savita Nayyar whose leadership and vision played a pivotal role in shaping the event. The organizing committee included, Dr. Shubhra Jamwal, Dr. Rajinder Kour, Prof. Satish K Sharma, Dr. Davinder Kour, Prof. Sarita Dogra, Prof. Roopa Kumari, Prof. Sunanda Rani Prof. Priyanka Mahajan, Prof. Chanchal Singh and Dr. Sonam Gupta. The

One-Day International Workshop featured distinguished Resource persons, including Dr. Marcia Jane (senior Lecturer Department of language study University Teknologi Mara (UITM) Perlis Branch campus Malaysia Prof. Dr. Savita Nayyar (Professor of Law, Director, Centre for Women's Studies, JU) Prof. Monika Chadda (Department of English chair person, Campus cultural committee University of Jammu) Ms. Mandeep Kaur (Inspector, J&K Police), Ms. Anuradha Thakur (Deputy Secretary, JKAS Mission Youth), Dr. Sushma Rani (Principal, SCERT Jammu), Ms. Ruchika Gupta (Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL, Jammu).

The event served as a vital platform for discussions on number of barriers and challenges which are required to be removed for women's empowerment, leadership, and gender equity. Reinforcing the commitment of the Government College of Education, Jammu and Centre for Women Studies JU to foster a more inclusive and progressive society.

## EDITORIAL

## Time for rhetoric over!

The issue of unemployment among educated youth in Jammu and Kashmir has reached alarming levels, necessitating immediate and sustained government intervention. It is deeply concerning that the government has admitted to over 32,000 vacancies across 37 departments, with the health and medical education department alone accounting for 7,851 unfilled positions. This backlog, coupled with the growing frustration of unemployed youth, calls for a proactive approach in expediting the recruitment process. The disclosure by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the legislative assembly highlights the gravity of the situation. Of the total 32,474 vacancies—comprising 2,503 gazetted, 19,214 non-gazetted, and 10,757 multi-tasking staff (MTS) positions—only 3,727 have been referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) and Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) since the formation of the government on October 16, last year. The sluggish pace of filling these posts is a cause for concern and demands immediate rectification. The health and medical education department, crucial to public well-being, has the highest number of vacancies. This raises serious questions about the adequacy of healthcare services in the region, particularly when an efficient public health infrastructure is essential. Similarly, other key departments such as Public Works (3,759 vacancies), Animal Husbandry (2,589), Industries and Commerce (2,517), and Housing and Urban Development (2,420) are operating with severe staff shortages. Such gaps in manpower directly impact governance, economic growth, and the delivery of essential services to the public. A major hurdle in addressing unemployment is the slow pace at which the recruitment agencies operate. Given the fact that JKPSC and JKSSB have collected significant revenue through application fees—over Rs 8.44 crore and Rs 5.72 crore, respectively—there is little justification for bureaucratic delays. The government must ensure that these funds are utilized efficiently to expedite the recruitment process, enhance transparency, and streamline selection procedures. Moreover, there is an urgent need to make job application forms free or at least more affordable. Aspiring candidates, many of whom come from economically weaker backgrounds, should not be burdened with hefty application fees. It is the government's responsibility to make employment opportunities more accessible rather than turning the recruitment process into a revenue-generating exercise. The ongoing economic challenges and limited private sector opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir further exacerbate the problem. Government employment remains a primary source of stable income for many, making it imperative that vacancies are filled without unnecessary delay. The administration should establish a clear roadmap with strict deadlines for recruitment, ensuring merit-based and corruption-free selection. If left unaddressed, the growing unemployment crisis could lead to increased disillusionment among youth, potentially giving rise to social unrest. The government must recognize that filling these vacancies is not merely about numbers—it is about securing the future of the region's educated workforce and ensuring the efficient functioning of essential public services. The time for rhetoric is over. The people of Jammu and Kashmir need action, not just promises. The government must push forward with urgency and accountability to fill vacant posts, alleviate unemployment, and restore faith in public institutions. A timely and transparent recruitment drive will not only benefit thousands of job-seekers but also contribute to the overall progress and stability of the region.

A S MITTAL

India has vast industrial and agricultural capabilities across 800 districts, yet 40% of its merchandise exports originate from only 10 districts. Gujarat dominates this landscape with five key contributors: Jamnagar, Surat, Ahmedabad, Bharuch, and Kachchh. The other significant players include Mumbai and Pune in Maharashtra, Bengaluru in Karnataka, Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu, and NOIDA in Uttar Pradesh. Alarmingly, Punjab—home to a robust industrial base in textiles, bicycles, sports goods, engineering goods, tractors, agricultural implements and food processing—is conspicuously absent from this export powerhouse.

The 'One District-One Product' (ODOP) initiative was introduced to rectify this imbalance, but meaningful progress has yet to materialise. If India is serious about reaching its ambitious target of \$1 trillion in exports by 2030, it must expand its export landscape beyond this handful of districts.

The next wave of growth will undoubtedly come from unlocking the potential of industrial hubs like Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Amritsar, Hoshiarpur and Mohali. These regions must receive robust, targeted policy support, a conducive environment and infrastructure development, and substantial financial support to enable Punjab's industries to compete with the country's top export-driven districts.

India's Global Export Chal-

engeIndia's share of global exports has stagnated for decades, hovering around 2% and currently at 1.8% as of 2024. Ranked 17th among the world's top exporters, India falls behind various developing nations like Mexico, which ranks 9th.

To achieve the goal of at least doubling India's merchandise export value from \$437 billion in FY 2023-24 to \$874 billion by FY 2030, a strategic overhaul is essential—one that prioritises the establishment of export hubs in underrepresented regions, particularly Punjab, entire of potential.

**The Imperative for a Decentralised Export Strategy**

Punjab accounts for a mere 2% of India's total exports, but this share holds immense growth potential. To unlock this potential, the 'Districts as Export Hubs' initiative must go beyond paper & policy discussions and be actively and aggressively pursued. The government should prioritise transforming Punjab into a significant export player, leveraging the state's industrial cities, which are primed for expansion.

**Punjab's Key Districts with High Export Potential**

Ludhiana: The Unrivaled Textile and Bicycle Powerhouse Ludhiana dominates India's bicycle exports with an astounding 80% market share. However, India's presence in the global \$33.3 billion bicycle market is alarmingly low, standing at less than 1%, while China effortlessly commands 60%. Simi-

larly, in the textiles, apparel, and hosiery sector—valued at \$1.7 trillion—India's share languishes at a mere 5%, compared to China's commanding 37%. With strategic branding, robust trade facilitation, and decisive policy support, Ludhiana is poised to become a global leader in these vital sectors.

**Jalandhar: The Untapped Giant in Sports Goods**

Exports Jalandhar produces an impressive 45% of India's sports goods and contributes 75% of the country's sports-related exports. Yet, India holds a mere 0.56% share in the global sports goods market, valued at \$220.57 billion, while China captures a staggering 42.2%. Jalandhar must actively integrate into international supply chains to aggressively penetrate markets in the USA, UK, Brazil, Germany, Mexico, and South Africa.

Hoshiarpur and Mohali: The Manufacturing Titans Hoshiarpur and Mohali are home to one-third of India's Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and are the undisputed leaders in tractor exports. The global tractor market, valued at \$62.7 billion, is dominated by Germany with a 16% share, while India barely scrapes by with 2.2%. Mohali is also emerging as a significant tech and pharmaceutical hub which is crucial for high-value exports that will fuel economic growth.

**Amritsar: The Strategic Gateway to Global Trade**

Amritsar, a historic trade hub, can leverage its

advantageous proximity to the Wagah-Attari border to significantly enhance cross-border trade with Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia. By expanding trade policies, Punjab and northern India can assertively access high-demand markets in the Gulf, Turkey, and Europe. The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) will further solidify Amritsar's role as a pivotal player in global trade.

**Basmati Export Zone:**

A Major Global Opportunity Punjab leads the charge by contributing 40% of India's basmati rice exports, which account for 65% of the global market. Amritsar, Tarn Taran and Gurdaspur must be developed into a dedicated Basmati Export Zone under the One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme. With the correct branding and compliance, Punjab has the potential to tap into previously unexplored markets.

**Tackling Key Export Challenges Head-On**

1. Infrastructure and Logistics: Access to ports is strategically essential to any state when engaging in international trade, as landlocked regions face the comparative disadvantage of high trade costs and hindrances in the freedom of transit from the seas. Punjab's landlocked status must not be a hindrance. The Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC) needs to be expedited to enhance dry ports and logistics hubs under the Trade Infrastructure for Exports

Scheme (TIES). Introducing state-owned wagons will be a game-changer for bolstering Punjab's exports and addressing the freight burdens associated with shipping.

2. Cost of Industrial Land: Land prices in Ludhiana and Mohali are prohibitively high, ranging from Rs. 5-7 crore per acre, stifling expansion. Authorities must prioritise the allocation of vacant industrial plots in focal points and Panchayati Raj-owned land for industrial use to establish a viable industrial land bank.

3. Global Market Compliance: With 18% of India's exports directed toward the European Union (EU), Punjab's industries require substantial support to meet evolving international regulations, including the EU's carbon border adjustment mechanism and stringent deforestation laws.

4. Leveraging Free Trade Agreements: Many exporters in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities are currently unaware of India's FTAs. Local chambers and business federations must launch aggressive awareness campaigns to maximise these agreements among entrepreneurs.

5. Boosting MSMEs: Punjab's micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) need targeted financial support and strong market linkages to thrive in global trade. District Export Promotion Councils (DEPCs) headed by respective deputy-commissioners (DCs) are underperforming as DCs are already overburdened with multiple administrative

tasks, and dedicated senior officials to be assigned to formulate District Export Action Plans (DEAPs) to bolster MSMEs. 6. Promoting Geographical Indications (GIs): Punjab's GI-tagged products, such as Basmati rice, Phulkari embroidery, Amritsari Papad, and Jalandhar sports goods, possess immense global potential. Establishing dedicated stalls at international airports and providing financial backing for branding will amplify their presence in international markets.

Visit Bharat Demands Viksit Districts: India's ambitious export targets can only be realised through a decisive, decentralised approach centred around its more districts. With Punjab's rich industrial and agricultural heritage, it is positioned to emerge as a key export powerhouse. By fortifying district industries, enhancing trade infrastructure, and driving global market integration, Punjab will play a crucial role in India's export-led growth narrative. For India to achieve a truly 'Viksit Bharat', its districts must assume a more prominent role in export activities. This strategic shift will reshape India's global trade landscape and ignite widespread economic development and employment generation.

(The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika IITL Group, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board and Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council. Views expressed are personal)

## Purifying the Mind, Restoring the Earth

RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJJI

Most of us are very much aware of the word 'Pollution', be it a child, a youngster or an old person. However one could not contemplate the reasons or source from which this dreadful monster called pollution occurs. Today, globally every country is facing consequences of pollution, contamination or abuse of air, water, food & even Space on a very large scale, but they are not able to find a foolproof solution to this dangerous threat to humanity. Although many institutions & regulatory bodies have been established.

Today a fast-developing country like India stands poised on a pinnacle of

wealth and power, yet we Indians live in a land of vanishing beauty, increasing ugliness, shrinking open spaces, and an overall environment that is diminishing daily by pollution noise and blight. So where does this take us? Would there be a solution to control or tackle pollution problems & save humanity? Well!! The answer lies with the ones who are posing this question, i.e. we the humans, YES! Over the years, while discussing deeply about cause & effect of pollution, we smartly avoid looking at the actual problem that's deeply rooted in the mental sphere rather than the sphere of matter. If we look up the dictionary meaning of the word pollution, we may find something like 'to destroy

purity of; to contaminate'. However, we humans are only aware of the material pollution in the branches of the polluted tree & we have disregarded the seed or root of 'thought pollution' which gave growth to that tree. So without destroying the root basis of pollution, the source can never be purified. It won't be an exaggeration to say that the problem of environmental pollution is actually due to the pollution of man's mind which is full of selfishness, jealousy, greed, anger, etc. The problem of ecological imbalance is due to our mental imbalance, and the disequilibrium in nature is due to disequilibrium in man's mind. Another fact that is generally unknown or is little realised is that the vibrations from a pol-

luted mind contaminate or corrupt the atmosphere; they make it tense and vicious. Most of us make a mistake by thinking that our thoughts are invisible & psychic and hence they can't do anything, but actually, thoughts have both hands and legs, because one can control one's hand to rob nothing, control one's legs to kick nobody, but one can scarcely control one's thought without thinking as thought is too deep to be expressed, too strong to be suppressed, too fast to be drawn back, hence he who will not command his thoughts, will soon lose command of his actions.

The wars struggles and quarrels of mankind are very often caused by this. Deep thinking would reveal that most of the

present global problems are due to thought pollution, for this pollution destroys a person's sense of being impartial, considerate and cooperative and makes him callous, inimical, violent-prone and vicious. It influences economics, politics, commerce, business, even friendship and all relationships.

The ultimate solution to this problem lies in realising the self and also our relationship with other human beings. Remember !! Great men are those who see that the spiritual force is much stronger than the material force. Hence without a spiritual orientation of the relationship between man and man, moral and spiritual values cannot be brought into play or be sustained, and,

in the absence of these core values, no problem can be solved for a considerable length of time. It is, therefore, essential for all of us to understand the real and intrinsic nature behind the mask or the garment of the body to set the direction right. If this is not done, then possibly science without spirituality may dangerously lead mankind to a nuclear catastrophe population explosion or environmental upheaval. So, let us use the powerful weapon of spiritual wisdom to cleanse our souls from thought pollution & survive in harmony with nature & its elements without any kind of disturbance whatsoever.

(The writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist, views are personal)

## Unmasking the financial networks threatening national security

BINOD ANAND

India is at a pivotal moment in its history, reclaiming its status as a global leader. Our economic resilience, democratic foundation, and cultural unity have driven our progress, but hidden forces seek to undermine this advancement. This battle is not fought with conventional weapons but through financial manipulation, foreign influence, and strategic disruptions disguised as humanitarian aid, social activism, and policy advocacy. Foreign-funded networks have infiltrated India's socio-political fabric, threatening our sovereignty from within. One major threat is illicit financial flows fueling disruptive activities in India. Nepal's recent grey listing by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) highlights how money laundering networks in South Asia pose a significant security risk. Nepal has become a hub for financial irregularities, increasing

the possibility of unregulated funds entering India through informal channels.

This is not just an economic issue—it is a matter of national security, stability, and control over our developmental path. For years, foreign-backed organizations such as USAID, DFID, Open Society Foundations, and the Ford Foundation have funneled substantial financial resources into India under the pretext of supporting human rights and social causes.

While genuine welfare efforts are welcome, evidence suggests that some of these funds have been strategically diverted to disrupt India's growth, create internal discord, and propagate anti-India narratives globally. A glaring example is the farmers' protests, which began as a movement for agrarian reforms but quickly escalated into a global propaganda campaign. Foreign lobbying groups, anti-India activists, and Khalistani supporters exploited the move-

ment to mobilize protests, shape media narratives, and turn a domestic issue into an international crisis. Financial audits have exposed a complex network of foreign funding behind this orchestration.

This raises the question—are these movements truly in India's interest, or are they calculated efforts to delay our growth? The infiltration of foreign narratives into India's civil society directly threatens our self-reliance and policymaking sovereignty. While India welcomes foreign investments aimed at development and genuine social progress, we cannot allow our policies, protests, or progress to be dictated by external forces with hidden agendas.

The FATF's decision to place Nepal on its grey list is a direct consequence of its weak financial regulations, unmonitored cross-border transactions, and insufficient anti-money laundering measures.

These financial loopholes



have created a shadow economy, facilitating illicit funding that could have serious implications for India's security. India shares a 1,751 km-long porous border with Nepal, allowing free movement of people and goods. While this has strengthened economic and cultural ties, it has also enabled smuggling, unaccounted money

transfers, and potential terror financing. Intelligence agencies have flagged instances where hawala networks in Nepal were used to channel funds into India to support destabilizing activities.

One major concern is Nepal's financial exemption allowing investments in infrastructure without disclosing

sources of funds, making it a conduit for dubious transactions. While FATF's grey listing does not impose sanctions, it signals global financial institutions that Nepal is vulnerable to illegal money transfers, potentially triggering reduced foreign investments and regional financial instability.

Recognizing these threats, the Modi government has taken decisive action to curb foreign interference.

Over 20,700 NGOs have lost their FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) licenses due to financial irregularities, undisclosed foreign funding sources, and misuse of contributions. The tightening of FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act) regulations ensures greater scrutiny of financial transactions linked to activism, political lobbying, and potential terror financing.

Collaboration with FATF, INTERPOL, and global security agencies has enhanced India's ability to track cross-border

fund flows and dismantle illegal financial networks fueling unrest.

Strengthening oversight on foreign-funded NGOs, think tanks, and advocacy groups to ensure full transparency and accountability.

Enhancing security measures along the Indo-Nepal border to curb illicit financial transactions and smuggling networks. Promoting domestic funding mechanisms to empower local organizations and grassroots initiatives, reducing reliance on external financial aid. Our civil society is strong enough to drive change through indigenous resources and a vision rooted in national interests. The need of the hour is self-reliance—strengthening grassroots organizations and building an Indian developmental model based on internal merit rather than foreign charity.

(The writer is Secretary General, Confederation of NGOs of Rural India; views are personal)

## Dr. Abhijeet Jasrotia Strongly Condemns Deputy CM's Remarks on Maharaja Hari Singh

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 5

In an emotionally charged and hastily convened press conference at the BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, party spokesperson Dr. Abhijeet Jasrotia expressed strong disapproval of the remarks made by the Deputy Chief Minister regarding Maharaja Hari Singh.

Calling the comments unjustified and inappropriate, Dr. Jasrotia categorically condemned any attempt to undermine the legacy of the former ruler of Jammu & Kashmir.

Surinder Singh Gilli and Sanjay Bakshi, BJP leaders, were also present in the press conference.

Addressing the media, Dr. Jasrotia stated, "Maharaja Hari Singh was not just a ruler but a visionary leader whose contributions to the socio-economic and infrastructural develop-



ment of Jammu & Kashmir remain unparalleled. His governance was marked by progressive reforms, modernization efforts, and an unwavering commitment to justice and secularism. Any attempt to tarnish his legacy is unacceptable."

Dr. Jasrotia went on to highlight Maharaja Hari Singh's monumental contributions, particularly in the areas of education, healthcare, and administration. He credited the former ruler with introducing progressive laws that safeguarded the rights of marginalized communities and promoted an inclusive society. Additionally,

he underscored Maharaja Hari Singh's secular outlook, which ensured harmony among diverse communities in the region.

Expressing his disappointment, Dr. Jasrotia urged political leaders to exercise caution and responsibility when commenting on historical figures. He stressed the importance of acknowledging the truth of history and respecting those who played a pivotal role in shaping the region.

"Maharaja Hari Singh's dedication to his people is undeniable. Instead of making unwarranted statements, leaders should

recognize and honor his legacy. History should be spoken of with accuracy, respect, and a sense of responsibility," he added.

Dr. Jasrotia further called upon the Deputy CM to retract his remarks and issue a clarification, stating that such comments only create unnecessary controversy and hurt public sentiments. He reaffirmed his party's stance in upholding the contributions of great leaders and ensuring that their legacy remains untarnished.

"13 July will remain traitor day & a black day in the history of Jammu and Kashmir", he added.

The press conference concluded with a strong appeal to the people of Jammu & Kashmir to continue valuing the historical significance of Maharaja Hari Singh and to stand united in preserving the truth of his contributions to the region.

## Tahir Choudhary condemns NC's remarks on PoJK development, demands public apology

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 5

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and spokesperson Dr. Tahir Choudhary strongly condemned remarks made by NC MLA Mir Saifullah regarding the development in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters, Dr. Choudhary criticized Saifullah for allegedly praising PoJK's development and creating a misleading narrative.

Veenu Khanna, Secretary, J&K BJP and Anu Gupta, senior leader were also present in the press conference.

"It is appalling that an elected representative would make such claims. The reality is that PoJK is facing severe economic distress, infrastructural collapse, and a lack of basic amenities. There are contin-



uous protests against Pakistan's administration, with people waving Indian flags and demanding integration with India," he stated.

Dr. Choudhary also took dig at Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Kashmir Omar Abdullah, criticizing his remarks linking PoJK's alleged development to China's involvement. He demanded a public apology from Abdullah and the National Conference.

"Omar Abdullah must apologize to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for

propagating misleading claims. The BJP will not tolerate such falsehoods aimed at distorting the truth. If necessary, we will take strong action against such statements," Dr. Choudhary asserted. He further accused the National Conference of having a soft corner for Pakistan and China, citing the party's history of making statements that allegedly align with Pakistan's interests.

"The NC has always misled the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Their

stance reflects an inclination towards Pakistan and China, undermining India's position on Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Reiterating the BJP's unwavering commitment to the development and integration of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Choudhary affirmed, "The BJP will never compromise on the interests of Jammu and Kashmir or the Dogra community. We stand with the people and remain dedicated to their progress and prosperity."

## Rajdhani College celebrates 'International Women's Day'



J I NEWS SERVICE  
DELHI, MARCH 5

Women Development Cell (WDC), Rajdhani College, University of Delhi is celebrating International Women's Day this week by organising talks, exhibition, movie and documentary screenings on campus and through social media. On 4 March, 2025, WDC organized its annual event "ASTERIA" aimed at creating awareness about women's issues and honouring stories of empowerment.

The Principal, Prof. Rajesh Giri, discussed the difference in struggle stories of women in rural and urban sections of society. He stressed on the need for inclusivity for positive change in society. Prof. Rachna Sethi, Convenor, WDC said that while we acknowledge the struggles and challenges of women over the years, it is important to honour the achievements of women. She recited lines from Maya Angelou's poem, "Phenomenal Woman" dedicating it to outstanding women around us.

The students of WDC prepared a special documentary for Women's Day, "Celebrating Extraordinary in Ordinary" based on interviews with women working on and around campus including women guards and

the flower seller outside the temple. The students also put "Her Story" tracing the history of women's movement in India and internationally.

The Chief Guest, Prof. Savita Singh, shared her journey as the founding director of the School of Gender and Development Studies, IGNOU. She discussed the deep embedded impacts of patriarchy, and suggested that gender mapping is one of the ways in which university campuses can begin to address the gaps in workforce. She recited her powerful poem, "Main Kiski Aurat Hoon" provoking deep reflection.

Sia Anand Sehgal, Rajdhani College alumnus, inspired students by sharing her unconventional career journey as an image coach, encouraging them to challenge societal norms, and to be "ziddi" to achieve their dreams. Captain, Shivani Kalra, pilot with Air India, highlighted the role of consistency and perseverance in achieving goals. The audience was overwhelmed when she narrated her role in Operation Ganga that evacuated stranded students from Ukraine in 2022. The event ended with screening of short movie, "Ghar ki Murgi" highlighting the invisibilization of household work performed by women.

## Kavinder visits Govindpura Chatha, emphasizes Party's commitment to grassroots devp



J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 5

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today conducted an extensive tour of the Govindpura Chatha area, engaging directly with local residents to understand their concerns and aspirations. This initiative underscores the BJP's dedication to grassroots engagement and responsive governance.

During his visit, the BJP stalwart interacted with a diverse cross-section of the community, attentively listening to issues ranging from infrastructure deficits to social welfare needs. Residents highlighted challenges such as inadequate road connectivity, irregular water supply, and limited access to healthcare facilities.

The senior BJP leader assured them that these matters would be promptly addressed by liaising with the relevant authorities to devise effective solutions. Emphasizing the BJP's unwavering commitment to holistic development, he stated, "Our party remains steadfast in its mission to ensure that the benefits of progress reach every corner of our society. Engaging directly with citizens allows us to

tailor our efforts to the unique needs of each community."

Kavinder further highlighted the transformative initiatives undertaken under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, noting that these programs have significantly uplifted various sectors across the nation. He expressed confidence that, with collaborative efforts, the challenges faced by the Govindpura Chatha community would be effectively mitigated.

The visit also served as a platform for Kavinder Gupta to gather feedback on existing government schemes. Residents were encouraged to share their experiences, enabling the identification of areas where implementation could be enhanced. This feedback loop is integral to the BJP's approach of adaptive governance, ensuring policies remain aligned with the populace's evolving needs.

The former deputy Chief Minister reiterated the BJP's ideology that sustainable development is anchored in community participation. He urged residents to remain proactive in voicing their concerns and assured them of the party's unwavering support in their developmental endeavors.

## International Workshop on Women Empowerment held at GCOE, Jammu



J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 5

The Government College of Education (GCOE), Jammu, in collaboration with the Centre for Women's Studies, University of Jammu (JU), and Rotary Club Jammu Elite, successfully organized a One-Day International Workshop and Panel Discussion on the occasion of International Women's Day. The event, titled "Breaking the Barrier: Women Empowerment," focused on empowering women, addressing gender equality, and celebrating the achievements of women in various fields.

The workshop was held under the esteemed guidance of Chief Patron Dr. Jyoti Parihar and Prof. Sarita Nayyar, whose leadership and vision played a pivotal role in shaping the event. The organizing committee comprised Dr. Shubhra Jamwal, Dr. Rajinder Kour, Prof. Satish K. Sharma, Dr. Davinder Kour, Prof. Sarita Dogra, Prof. Roopa Kumari, Prof. Sunanda Rani, Prof. Priyanka Mahajan, Prof. Chanchal Singh, and Dr. Sonam Gupta.

The event featured distinguished resource persons from various fields, that include, Dr. Marcia Jane (Senior Lec-

turer, Department of Language Studies, University Teknologi Mara (UITM), Perlis Branch Campus, Malaysia), Prof. Dr. Savita Nayyar (Professor of Law, Director, Centre for Women's Studies, JU), Prof. Monika Chadda (Chairperson, Campus Cultural Committee, University of Jammu), Ms. Mandeep Kaur (Inspector, J&K Police), Ms. Anuradha Thakur (Deputy Secretary, JKAS Mission Youth), Dr. Sushma Rani (Principal, SCERT Jammu) and Ms. Ruchika Gupta (Chairperson, FICCI FLO JKL, Jammu) The workshop provided a vital platform for insightful discussions on barriers and challenges hindering women's empowerment. The panelists and participants deliberated on the necessary steps to overcome these obstacles and foster an inclusive environment for leadership and gender equity. This initiative reinforced the commitment of the Government College of Education, Jammu, and the Centre for Women's Studies, JU, towards promoting a more inclusive and progressive society. The event concluded with a pledge to continue working towards breaking societal barriers and advancing the cause of women's empowerment.

## Helping Hands Jammu supports underprivileged Girl's Wedding with Dignity



J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 5

In a heartfelt act of social responsibility, Helping Hands Jammu, a dedicated NGO, took the initiative to solemnise the wedding of a young girl from an underprivileged family. Understanding the financial hardships her family faced, the organisation stepped in to ensure that all wedding arrangements were made with respect, tradition, and dignity.

Taking complete responsibility for the ceremony, Helping Hands Jammu provided everything from the bride's wedding attire to the venue and other essential arrangements. Every ritual was performed with proper traditions, ensuring that she embarked on a new journey in life with joy and blessings.

Founder Sourav Sharma expressed, "Every daughter deserves a happy and secure future. This wedding was not just about ful-

filling rituals but a strong message to society that we must stand together to support those in need. Our NGO remains committed to uplifting and empowering the underprivileged."

The successful execution of this wedding was made possible through the tireless efforts of Jasbir Singh (Tony), Sushil Kumar (Gugu) and several other dedicated team members who worked selflessly to make the occasion memorable. Their contributions ensured that the bride experienced a beautiful and respectful wedding, just like every girl deserves. This initiative has been widely appreciated by the community, inspiring many to contribute towards such humanitarian efforts. Helping Hands Jammu continues to work tirelessly in the fields of education, healthcare, social welfare and marriage assistance, spreading hope and making a tangible difference in people's lives.

## Fire victims' assistance based on revised norms: CM Omar

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 5

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today informed the Legislative Assembly that the assistance provided to victims of fire incidents is based on the revised norms under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

In reply to the question of member Ali Mohammad Sagar during Question Hour of the ongoing Budget Session, the Chief Minister stated that the assistance scale for victims of fire incidents is as per the revised norms of assistance from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) issued by the Disaster Management Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

## Existing healthcare facilities being upgraded expeditiously: Sakeena Itoo

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 5

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today said that the existing healthcare facilities are being upgraded expeditiously to cater to the needs of people of the Union Territory.

The Minister made these remarks while replying to a starred question of MLA, Dr. Narinder Singh, on healthcare facilities in

Greater Kailash and Sainik Colony. The Minister said that an Urban Public Health Centre (UPHC) is providing a range of healthcare services to the people at Sainik Colony. She informed that 5 regular healthcare professionals (Doctors and Paramedics) and additional 8 doctors and paramedics, engaged under NHM, have been deployed at the facility to supplement existing staff strength. She further informed that there are

also several other healthcare facilities in the close proximity of 1-3 km like NTPHC Channi Himmat, Sub-Centre Sainik Colony and Sub-Centre Lower Chowadhi. Regarding the secondary and tertiary level healthcare services, the Minister said that the Government Hospital Gandhinagar, Rajeev Gandhi Hospital Gangyal, GMC Jammu and its Associated Hospitals are also available within 3-6 km of distance.

## GDC Doda to organize Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament-2025

J I NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, MAR 5

The Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2025 is being organized in March 2025, under the joint initiative of Govt. Degree College Doda and the Department of Youth Affairs, Government of India. This event aims 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. Young individuals aged 18 to 25 years as on 24-02-2025, residing in Doda district are invited to participate in this prestigious program. Students as well as civil society or citizens can apply for the event. We encourage enthusiastic participation 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. Interested participants are requested to register at the earliest to secure their place in this transformative initiative. District level competition will be held at Government Degree College, Doda under supervision of Dr. Javid Iqbal Principal GDC Doda whereas State Level round will be held in Legislative Assembly.

As such all stakeholders were informed to Register for Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament!

## JKCCC demands immediate release of payment in Jal Jeevan Mission & R&B

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR

The Jammu & Kashmir Contractors Coordination Committee (JKCCC) has strongly urged the administration to immediately release long-pending payments owed to contractors working under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and other government projects. The Committee highlighted the severe financial crisis faced by local contractors due to non-payment of funds for the past two years, despite their work being completed on time. In a statement issued to the press, JKCCC Chairman Ghulam Jeelani Purza expressed disappointment over the administration's failure to honor its commitments. "The government had announced an expenditure of Rs 10,000 crore under the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme in Jammu & Kashmir. Initially, tenders were floated, making it difficult for local contractors to qualify. However, at that time, the government called us for intervention and encouragement. We participated actively and completed the projects as per the given time. As of now, J&K contractors have



executed work worth Rs 1,500 crore under JJM and have successfully completed 15 major projects. Unfortunately, despite assurances, our payments remain stuck, causing severe distress to contractors," he stated.

Purza further lamented that over Rs 400 crore owed to J&K contractors remains unpaid. "This delay is unjustifiable and has put contractors in a financial crisis. With the holy month of Ramadan ongoing, our contractors are struggling due to a lack of funds. I appeal to the J&K Government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Shaleen Kabra and all concerned authorities to ensure that these payments are released without any further delay," he added.

The JKCCC Chairman also pointed out the alleged discrimination against Kashmir-based contractors compared to their counterparts in Jammu. "Before 2019, funds for these schemes were readily available. Now, despite the government's claims that financial allocations exist, payments worth Rs 250 crore for Kashmir-based contractors are still pending. Why is there discrimination? Jammu-based contractors have received their payments, with only Rs 17 crore still pending, whereas our bills are gathering dust," he questioned.

JKCCC Senior Executive Member Amin Raina raised serious concerns about the functioning of the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department. He highlighted that the department is facing an acute shortage of technical staff and Superintending Engineers (SEs). "Several key positions

remain vacant, and instead of fresh recruitment, existing officials are being given additional posts and responsibilities. This has resulted in a severe administrative backlog. Development projects across J&K are suffering due to this negligence. The lack of technical oversight is causing unnecessary project delays, and to date, no substantial progress has been made on several major works," he said.

Raina urged the J&K Government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, who oversees the R&B Department, to take immediate corrective measures. "If urgent action is not taken to fill vacant posts and streamline pending payments, development in Jammu & Kashmir will continue to suffer," he said.

The JKCCC has called on the authorities to address these critical issues without delay to ensure the seamless execution of developmental projects and to protect the interests of local contractors who have played a vital role in the region's progress.

## Indian Army organizes Veterinary AID Camp in Inayatpur, Rajouri

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI: 05 MAR 2025

The Indian Army conducted a Veterinary Aid Camp at Inayatpur, Rajouri, under Operation Sadbhavana to support rural livestock owners. The region, including Inayatpur and its adjoining villages, lacks basic veterinary healthcare facilities. In response, the Army organized this initiative to provide much-needed assistance to the local populace. During the camp, livestock owners benefited from free veterinary services, including medical treatment, deworming, vaccinations, and distribution of feed supplements. Additionally, an awareness program was conducted to educate farmers about livestock care, disease prevention, and improved animal husbandry practices.



These efforts aim to enhance the well-being of animals, which serve as a primary source of livelihood for many in remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir. A total of 3,751 animals, including cattle, sheep, and goats, received veterinary care and expert advice. The initiative was met with great enthusiasm from the local community, who actively

participated in the camp. Such programs strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and civilians, fostering goodwill and cooperation. By addressing the essential needs of livestock-dependent communities, Operation Sadbhavana continues to play a crucial role in improving rural livelihoods and promoting harmony in the region.

## 1st Open Jammu Soft Tennis Championship Announced

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU MAR 5

The District Jammu Soft Tennis Association is pleased to announce the much-anticipated 1st Open Jammu Soft Tennis Championship. This groundbreaking event will be held under the esteemed banner of the J&K Amateur Soft Tennis Association and in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council. The tournament promises to be a thrilling occasion for soft tennis enthusiasts across the Jammu Division.

Mr. Shakir Ashraf, Secretary of the J&K Amateur Tennis Association, expressed his enthusiasm for the tournament's announcement. "This championship is a significant milestone for the soft tennis community in Jammu," he added. Aiming to provide a platform for emerging talent, the event will encourage sportsmanship and growth in the sport.

Details regarding the exact dates and registration process will be announced shortly. Players are eagerly waiting for what promises to be an unforgettable event celebrating both athleticism and community spirit.

"By organizing such a championship, we are committed to fostering a vibrant sports culture in Jammu. It's an excellent opportunity for local players to showcase their skills on a larger stage," Mr. Ashraf said. He further informed, "Our collaboration with the J&K Sports Council underscores our dedication to bringing high-quality sports events to the region."

## Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti continues "Shriramstuti and Hanuman Chalisa Path" Abhiyaan in temples

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 5

Today, Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti organized a grand Shriram-stuti and Hanuman Chalisa program at Channi Himmat, Jammu. The event was led by Vinay Sharma Social Worker and Aayushmaan Sharma. Special Guest Sunil Sharma, National Co-ordinator Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti graced the occasion with his esteemed presence along with Swami Mahesh diwedi.

The program commenced with the recitation of Vedic mantras, Prarthna "Hey Prabhuh Anand-data Gyan Humko Dijiye" and thereafter Samoohik Path of Shriram-stuti and Hanuman Chalisa, in which a



large number of devotees participated along with family members. Specially young generation also attended the event, adding to its significance. After the path, the speakers highlighted the devotion of Lord Hanumanji, his incredible contribution towards society, and his selfless service to Lord Rama. They emphasized how Hanumanji's exemplary deeds in difficult

circumstances continue to inspire society and remain relevant today.

After the completion of ShriRam stuti and the Samoohik Hanuman Chalisa, a Satsang session was held where devotees gained spiritual knowledge and inspiration from the Acharya Mahesh Kumar coming from Ayodhya. The gathering provided the attendees with an opportunity to engage

deeply in worship, fostering inner peace and devotion to Lord Ramji and Hanumanji. The National Co-ordinator of the Samiti Sh. Sunil Sharma informed that over the years, many initiatives have been launched by Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti to expand the knowledge of the sacred scripture- Bhagwat Gita which can infuse the feelings of love for humanity and God in everybody. For the last 10 years Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti launched one more service towards society i.e. free distribution of Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta Granth (not book) in the society to spread the message of Lord Krishna on the directions and teachings of Bhrahmgyani Guruji.

## Indian Army conducts Medical Patrol for Gujjars, Bakkarwals at Sarsoti, Chowkian, Barakh, Rajouri & Reasi

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI & REASI: 05 MAR 2025

Indian Army extended healthcare services to the remote parts of Rajouri and Reasi district by mobile medical patrol in the village Chowkian, Sarsoti, Barakh to address medical problems of the local residents as well as Gujjars and Bakkarwals in the area. The inhabitants of the area are often cut off from mainstream healthcare facilities due to their isolated geographic location and challenging terrain, benefitted immensely from this initiative which contributed to the overall well-being of the local residents who often suffer due to disparities in healthcare leading to higher morbidity and mortality rates.

The mobile medical patrol, equipped with essential medical supplies and services, reached these areas to provide healthcare with compas-



sion for local villagers as well as Gujjars and Bakkarwals. The primary objective was to provide on-the-spot medical care & check-ups, which included basic health check-ups, treatment of common ailments and distribution of necessary medicines. The team emphasised on preventive healthcare by offering immunizations

and disseminating information about hygiene, nutrition and disease prevention. The response from the local population has been overwhelmingly positive. The local population expressed deep gratitude for the Indian Army's initiative, which brings much-needed medical services directly to their doorsteps with

special focus on women healthcare. Beyond the immediate medical benefits, the mobile medical patrol played a crucial role in building and strengthening the relationship between the Indian and the local communities. A total of 40 Male, 52 Female & 09 Children were benefitted by the mobile medical patrol.

## Indian Army organizes Lecture on Women Empowerment at Chassana, Reasi

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
REASI: 05 MAR 2025

The Indian Army, in its continued efforts to foster social awareness and community development, conducted an inspiring lecture on Women Empowerment at Chassana District Reasi. The initiative aimed to educate and motivate local women and young girls to realize their potential and contribute meaningfully to society. The lecture covered key aspects of gender equality, education, skill development, self-reliance, and opportunities for women in various sectors, including the armed forces. It emphasized the importance of breaking social barriers and encouraged women to actively participate in nation-building. Local women, students, and community lead-



ers attended the session, engaging in interactive discussions and sharing personal experiences.

The Indian Army reaffirmed its commitment to uplifting remote communities by promoting education and empowerment programs. This initiative is part of the Indian Army's

broader efforts to support women's rights, social development, and awareness campaigns in remote and border areas. The Indian Army remains dedicated to fostering inclusive growth and ensuring that women play an integral role in shaping a progressive society.

## 3-Day Workshop on Post-Production Techniques concludes at JU

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 5

The Three-Day Workshop on Post-Production Techniques, organized by the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, University of Jammu, successfully concluded here today. The students were provided with comprehensive hands-on training in various aspects of post-production, including editing, content refinement, sound design, and visual storytelling during the three days.

The first session of the final day started before sunrise, wherein the renowned cinematographer, Brajesh Mishra engaged students with the morning photography and content production techniques.

During the subsequent sessions, the students were provided hands-on training on visual effects, audio enhancement, and multi-platform content adaptation, supporting the importance of technical expertise in media production.

On the valedictory day, Managing Director, Dainik State Samachar, Shamsheer Singh Charak was the Chief Guest, who emphasized the need for strong post-production skills in the



ever-evolving digital media landscape.

Speaking on the occasion, Shamsheer Singh Charak said that such experiential learning plays a pivotal role in grooming students as professionals.

"Media is the fourth estate of democracy and it has an important role to play in shaping the public discourse. Experiential learning through such workshops not only prepares students to be ready for a competitive market, but also ensures that sheer quality is being introduced to the field of journalism and media production," Charak said.

Earlier, while welcoming the participants and chief guest, Prof. Garima Gupta, Head of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, lauded the resource persons and participants for their enthusiasm and engagement.

"This workshop was designed to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry requirements. The hands-on training provided by experts will give students a competitive edge in the media industry," she said and added that the Vice Chancellor, Prof Umesh Rai, has provided the motivation for the workshop by

emphasising on skill training in vocational courses like Journalism.

Students, during the feedback, expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to learn directly from industry professionals, stating that the sessions enhanced their technical proficiency and understanding of equipment.

The stage was managed by Kumerjit Chajgotra and formal vote of thanks was extended by Prof Dushyant Kumar Rai.

Faculty members Dr. Pardeep Singh Bali and Dr. Ramiyan Bhardwaj were also present on the occasion.

It is pertinent to mention here that the workshop commenced on 3rd of March, wherein keynote speaker, Prof Durgesh Tripathi, Dean, School of Media, Indraprastha University, New Delhi gave an overview of the importance of post-production techniques in the media market. Others present at the inaugural ceremony included Dr Ajay Gupta, former Director, ICSSR and Dr. Sachin Bharti, Associate Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University.

## ADGP Armed visits IRP 24th Bn Udhampur

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 5

As part of ongoing efforts to review the functioning of various units, Shri Anand Jain, IPS, ADGP Armed J&K, visited the IRP 24th Battalion at Ritti, Udhampur, to assess the progress of ongoing construction work for the establishment of the Battalion Headquarters.

Accompanied by Shri Amod Ashok Nagpure, IPS, SSP Udhampur, and Shri Mohd Aslam, IPS, SSP and Commandant of IRP 24th Battalion, the ADGP received a warm welcome upon his arrival, where Guard of Honour was presented by a contingent of the IRP-24th Battalion.

The ADGP conducted a thorough inspection of the Battalion premises, including Sui Udhampur, and other company locations at Ramnagar Railway Station and SKAPA Udhampur.



pur.

During the visit, he inquired about the ongoing construction work and identified issues that needed attention.

Instructing the engineers to accelerate the

pace of work, the ADGP emphasized the urgent need for the early completion of the Battalion Headquarters and other associated buildings to ensure the smooth functioning of Battalion affairs.

Moreover, a Darbar was held for the officers and officials of the Battalion, where personnel raised their concerns related to service matters and welfare. On-the-spot instructions were given to address the genuine demands of the unit personnel.

While appreciating the dedication and hard work of the Battalion personnel, the ADGP encouraged active participation in the ongoing refresher courses and stressed the importance of increasing physical activity at the unit level.

Furthermore, the ADGP urged the officers to maintain cleanliness and conduct regular cleanliness drives around the complex to uphold hygiene standards. He also instructed the concerned Commandant to ensure that all personnel undergo medical examinations to improve overall health standards.

## PSAJK welcomes G H Sheikh as JKBOSE Secretary, urges swift, meaningful Educational Reforms

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAR 5

The Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK) extends a warm welcome to Ghulam Hassan Sheikh, who has officially assumed charge as Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), taking over from Sudershan Kumar.

Hailing from South Kashmir's Anantnag district, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh is a seasoned officer of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS). With his vast experience in public administration and a strong commitment to educational excellence, he is well-positioned to lead JKBOSE effectively.

In a statement issued



to the press, PSAJK State President G.N. Var said "We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Ghulam Hassan Sheikh on his appointment as Secretary of JKBOSE. His rich administrative background and dedication to public service are commendable. We are confident that under his leadership, all stakeholders will be actively involved in pivotal decision-making

processes."

He further highlighted the pressing concerns in the education sector, stating "In recent times, students and educational institutions have faced several challenges requiring immediate attention, including the denial of examination forms, non-issuance of roll number slips, out-of-syllabus question papers, textbook errors and other issues

affecting both students and school administrations." Moreover, PSAJK along with its executive body, district presidents and general members, is optimistic about fostering a collaborative relationship with the new Secretary to address key challenges in the education sector.

The association remains hopeful that Secretary Ghulam Hassan Sheikh will take swift action to resolve these critical issues and ensure a transparent and seamless examination process for all students.

PSAJK reaffirms its commitment to constructive engagement with JKBOSE and looks forward to participating in meaningful dialogues under Secretary Sheikh's leadership to further enhance the education system in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Indian Army conducts Block Level Volleyball Competition at GHS, Manjakote Rajouri

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI: 05 MAR 2025

The Indian Army's has kicked off the Inter Village Volleyball Championship at Manjakote, Rajouri District. Twelve teams from Manjakote block are competing for the Champion's Trophy in this two-day tournament. This event is about more than just sports - it's about engaging youth, promoting brotherhood, and instilling sportsmanship. By providing a platform for young athletes, Indian Army is helping them to develop valuable skills and stay away from negative influences. The championship strengthens the bond between the Indian Army and the local population, building trust, cooperation,



tion, and goodwill.

The event has generated immense enthusiasm, with villagers, community leaders, and sports enthusiasts gathering to support the teams. The thrilling final match of the Inter Village Volleyball Championship was contested between Saroola Strikers and Hayatpura. Initially slated as a best-of-five sets match, Saroola Strikers dominated

the competition, defeating Hayatpura in the first three sets to emerge victorious. Through this event, the Indian Army strengthens its bond with the local community and promotes a spirit of friendship and brotherhood. The championship is a testament to the Army's dedication to the welfare and development of the people of Rajouri district.

## CUJ secures runner-up position held at national debate competition at Chittorgarh Rajasthan

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 5

Demonstrating excellence in debate and oratory, the students of Cluster University of Jammu have brought laurels to the institution by securing the Second Position at the All India Shri Nandlal Gadiya Memorial Debate - 2025, held at Mewar University, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan. The university team triumphed over some of the most prestigious universities across the country, marking a significant achievement in the field of competitive debating.

The Cluster University of Jammu's national debate team was led by the Dean Students Welfare and guided by Mr. Mohd Ashraf, Assistant Professor in Commerce (Assistant Dean, Dean Stu-



dents Welfare). The team comprised outstanding debaters Manmeet Kour, Aakrida Mahajan, Suneha Sharma, and Bhoomika Sharma. The winning duo, Manmeet Kour and Aakrida Mahajan, competed in the English category, showcasing remarkable debating skills, intellectual prowess, and persuasive arguments. Their outstanding performance secured the runners-up

trophy, creating a historic milestone for the university. Professor K.S. Chandershekhar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Cluster University of Jammu, while congratulating the team on their remarkable success, added that this achievement reflects the academic strength and debating prowess of our students. He further stated that their success serves as an inspiration

for our entire student community to aim higher and excel at national and international platforms."

Ms. Ankur Mahajan (JKAS), the Registrar of Cluster University of Jammu, emphasized the significance of the victory, adding that the win at a national-level debate competition against top institutions is no small feat. Our students have demonstrated exceptional

al intellectual capacity, confidence, and commitment. This victory is a proud moment for our university, and I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire team and their mentor.

Professor (Dr.) Raj Shree Dhar, Dean Students Welfare, Cluster University of Jammu, lauded the team's performance and praised their dedication to competing at the national level. She reiterated the university's commitment to nurturing talent and fostering a culture of intellectual excellence. This remarkable accomplishment underscores Cluster University of Jammu's dedication to both academic and extracurricular excellence, encouraging students to strive for success in national and international arenas.

## IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu holds 38th Convocation ceremony; Dr. Jitendra Singh delivers Convocation address as Chief Guest virtually

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 5

Indira Gandhi National Open University organized its 38th Convocation today on the 5th of March 2025. The Convocation ceremony was organised at 39 Regional Centres across the Country concurrently including the Regional Centre Jammu. More than Three Lakh students were declared qualified to be presented with the degree/diploma/certificate in the convocation functions at IGNOU Headquarters and 39 Regional Centres across the country.

Under the Jammu region, a huge number of 11292 students were declared successful and eligible to receive Diplomas and Degree Certificates in the 38th Convocation function at Jammu which included 4987 learners of Master Degree programmes, 5852 learners of Diploma/Post Graduate Diploma programmes and 125 learners of Certificate/Post Graduate Certificate programmes. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Education was the Chief Guest on this occasion at the New Delhi HQs. of IGNOU and delivered the Convocation



address virtually.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Science & Technology, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances was the Chief Guest and delivered Convocation address virtually in the 38th Convocation function of Regional Centre Jammu which was organized in the Auditorium Convention Centre, Canal Road, Jammu.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-Indian Institution of Integrative Medicine was the Guest of Honour on the occasion and conferred Degrees upon the Awardees.

The Convocation ceremony

started with the lighting of traditional lamp by the dignitaries and Saraswati Vandana by the students of Central Sanskrit University. Alka Sharma compered the ceremony.

The University had earlier created an online portal for the eligible students to register for the 38th Convocation. The students who registered and submitted their consent to receive the degree in person were invited as per IGNOU guidelines to confer upon the Degree in the Convocation ceremony. Those who had registered and given their consent to receive Diploma/Degree through Speed Post after the Convocation ceremony.

As per the details provided by IGNOU authorities, as many as 300 qualified students had submitted the requisite fee and consent to receive their respective Degree/Diploma certificates in person out of which 166 students were given Degree certificates in the Convocation function at Jammu.

Dr. Jitendra Singh in his virtual address congratulated the Awardees and lauded the efforts of Regional Centre Jammu in reaching out to the far off corners of the region with the beacon of light in the form of education. Dr. Jitendra Singh interacted with the participants and congratulated them. Dr. Jitendra Singh also mentioned about the five Distinguished Alumni of IGNOU and termed

their journey as inspirational. The distinguished Alumni of IGNOU were Shri Shantmanu, IAS, Financial Commissioner, (Additional Chief Secretary) Higher Education Department, Dr. Arvind Kawrani, Commissioner, Relief and Rehabilitation (Migrants) Govt. of J&K, Dr. J N Baliya, Professor, Department of Education, Central University of Jammu, Albeena Malik, Dy. SP, J&K Police and Shri Balwant Singh Mankotia, MLA Chenani. Neha Jalali, Director Press Information Bureau, Jammu was felicitated on the occasion as Special Guest for her support in taking the mandate of IGNOU forward to the masses.

Dr. Zabeer Ali, Guest of Honour on the occasion at Jammu, termed the 38th Convocation of IGNOU as

an occasion of Celebration of IGNOU's achievements which is popularly known as the People's University accessible to all those far and wide who otherwise would have lost the opportunity to gain access to higher education, improve upon their qualification and increase the chances of employment.

Dr. Zabeer congratulated the awardees and also appreciated the efforts made by the Regional Centre for their sincere efforts to expand the spectrum of education in the region.

Dr. Zabeer in his address highlighted that Open and Distance Learning is a blessing for those who missed formal education, especially in the far flung rural areas since it is convenient, cost-effective and

student-centric.

Regional Director, Dr. Sandeep Gupta, presented the Regional Centre Report. In his report Dr. Gupta presented the statistics of achievements of the Regional Centre Jammu. Dr. Gupta informed that from the year 2020 till 2024 in the eight admission cycles, RC Jammu has freshly enrolled and re-registered around 2 lakh 22 thousand learners in the region.

Dr. Gupta in his report highlighted that IGNOU has been working hard for the past 40 years to accomplish its mission of equality, inclusivity, quality, accessibility and affordability in higher education which is also the mandate for National Education Policy 2020.

The Regional Director congratulated the awardees for their achievement and wished them success in their future endeavours and also appreciated the role of Regional Centre staff in making the function of 38th Convocation happen. Regional Centre officials comprising of Dr. Asha Upadhyay, Dr. Vikram Singh and Sh Dara Singh were present on the occasion. S. Tejinder Pal Singh, Deputy Registrar of the Regional Centre, presented the vote of thanks.

**Soldier found dead with Gunshot Wound in Baramulla's Kamalkote Sector**

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAR 5 CNS

A soldier was found dead with firearm injuries at a forward post in the Kamalkote sector of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said on Wednesday.

The deceased has been identified as Naik B T Rao (25), a resident of Andhra Pradesh. The incident occurred on Tuesday, with preliminary reports suggesting that the gunshot was fired from his own service rifle.

While initial assessments point to a possible suicide, officials stated that a thorough investigation is underway to ascertain the exact circumstances of his death.

## Concerted efforts underway to address water scarcity caused by rainfall deficiency: Javed Rana

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 5

Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana, today said that 35 WSSs have been either completed or under progress in different areas of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (SMVD) constituency to facilitate portable water facility to the people.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by MLA, Baldev Raj Sharma, in the Legislative Assembly. He added that 91 PANI SAMITI Committees have been constituted in SMVD Constituency under JJM, comprising elected members of the Panchayat Raj Institutions, community leaders, school teachers, Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers and others and it has to have at least 50 percent representa-



tion of women. He said that there is no slackening in monitoring by the Pani Samitis and there are regular reviews being held by District Jal Jeevan Missions (DJJM) headed by the respective District Development Commissioners.

The Minister said that the rainfall recorded about 79% deficiency, as

per data by the ending February this year, resulting in depletion of most of the Spring sources. He said that some important measures being taken up to tackle scarcity of water in SMVD constituency included awareness among the general public about judicious use of water and avoiding wastages. Besides, channelization of

local nallahs has also been proposed at some sources by diverting the flow to recharge the springs.

He said that several measures like protection and development of the sources, deployment of additional water and focus on water conservation, rain water harvesting, ground water recharge, rejuvenation of traditional bodies and afforestation are being taken up to address the issue. He also informed that the present status of drinking water demand and supply in the SMVD Constituency (rural areas) is 11.85 lakh gallons per day against the water availability of 10.49 lakh gallons per day.

The Minister stated that all the pipes including GI, DI and HDPE are being used as per the site require-

ment and their suitability. He said that the HDPE pipes are one among the non-metallic pipes recommended by the CPHEEO manual and advised by NJJM, for use in transmission of water under various WSSs. He said that the concerned technical field staff monitors the work on a regular basis at the site. Apart from the District Project Management Units (DPMUs), there is a Third Party Inspection Agency for monitoring the quality of works, he added.

Replying to a supplementary, the Minister said that a strict inquiry would be conducted in case of failure of Pani Samitis, fixing the responsibilities accordingly. Besides, focus shall be given on fixing loopholes, if any, in execution of JJM works.

## JJM completes 24 WSSs in Beerwah Constituency: Javed Rana

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 5

Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana, today informed the House that 38 Water Supply Schemes had been approved under Jal Jeevan Mission for Beerwah Constituency, of which, 24 have been completed, so far. The Minister was replying to a question raised by MLA, Dr Shafi Ahmad Wani, in the Legislative Assembly. The Minister said that work on the rest of the 14 schemes is in progress and will be completed within the stipulated time. The total estimated cost of the schemes was 113.19 crore, of which, 64.29 crore have been

expended.

Javed Rana also provided physical and financial details of all the Water Supply Schemes that have been completed or are under execution in Beerwah constituency. The Minister informed that Mazhama, Gondipora, Kandura and Zanigam villages have been proposed to be covered under Jal Jeevan Mission while Kawoosa and Check-Kawoosa villages have been proposed to be covered under NABARD scheme. The schemes for Gondipora and Kandura villages have been completed, while the others are at different stages of completion. All these schemes

are expected to be completed during the next financial year, subject to availability of funds, the Minister stated. Regarding augmentation of water supply to towns in the constituency, the Minister informed that augmentation of water supply to Magam and Beerwah towns stand approved under AMRUT 2.0 and steps are afoot to complete the same as early as possible. Javed Rana informed the House that Jammu and Kashmir has experienced rainfall deficit during the last year leading to drying up of various springs that led to delay in operationalisation of schemes in certain areas.

## INNOSPARK 2025 ideathon competition concludes at SMVDU

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 5

InnoSpark 2025, the flagship ideathon competition organized by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University's Technology Business Incubation Centre (SMVDU-TBIC), concluded successfully, showcasing groundbreaking ideas and the entrepreneurial brilliance of emerging startups. The event served as a powerful catalyst for fostering innovation and encouraging entrepreneurship.

The event featured an inspiring lineup of startup pitches, expert panel discussions, and mentorship sessions. Enthusiastic entrepreneurs presented innovative solutions to both global and local challenges, making the competition highly engaging and impactful. A total of 86 startup ideas were received, and after undergoing rigorous evaluation by an esteemed panel of judges in multiple stages, the top three winners of InnoSpark 2025 were announced. Prize money totaling Rs. 1.75 lakh was generously sponsored by Mr. Dhananjay Singh, an alumnus of the School of Mechanical Engineering at SMVDU.

First Prize of Rs. 1,00,000 was awarded to Mr. Ravi Kumar for his groundbreaking startup idea - a Portable, Quantitative, Real-time Isothermal Nucleic Acid Amplification Test for Infectious Disease Detection using a Microfluidic Device integrated with a UV-LED Photodiode



Detector. His solution was praised for its scalability, market impact, and sustainability. Second Prize of Rs. 50,000 went to Mr. Sidharth Gupta for his innovative approach to "Route Farm to Your Home" through the Farm Rooter, demonstrating a strong business model with high growth potential. Third Prize of Rs. 25,000 was awarded to Mr. Khushneet Singh for his disruptive concept of an eco-friendly, all-in-one walnut sorting and cracking machine, which has the potential to revolutionize walnut processing. His idea was particularly recognized for its real-world applicability and innovation. The event also brought together key figures from the startup ecosystem, including investors, government representatives, corporate leaders, and academics, providing invaluable mentoring and networking opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs. The distinguished jury and panelists included notable personalities such as Mr. Manik Batra, Director & Co-Chairman, Batra Group; Mr. Amit Singh Rathor,

CEO, IIF, DTU (Innovation & Incubation Foundation, Delhi Technological University); Mr. Taranveer Singh Gujral, Managing Director, TV Super Filters; Dr. Navneet Kour, Social Entrepreneur and Consultant, MSME; Mr. Vinu Jee Koul, Assistant Director, MSME (Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises); Prof. Ankush Anand, SMVDU; Prof. Manoj Kumar Gupta, SMVDU; Mr. B.K. Bhatia, Training & Placement Officer, SMVDU; and Mr. Dhananjay Singh, MD, Go Productions/Chenab Valley Designers. During the event, Dr. Sanjay Mohan, CEO of SMVDU-TBIC, delivered a brief summary of the Incubation Center's achievements and future endeavors, emphasizing the importance of nurturing innovation in the region. He also provided an overview of the event's structure, highlighting the rigorous evaluation process through which the startup ideas were assessed and how the event fostered collaboration and innovation. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU,

who was the Chief Guest at the event, underscored the importance of fostering an innovation-driven economy.

He stated, "InnoSpark 2025 has once again showcased the immense potential within our youth. We must continue to support and guide these emerging entrepreneurs as they pave the way for a brighter and more sustainable future." He also commended the efforts of the TBIC team in organizing such a successful event. The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Ms. Divye Duheta Mahajan, Manager, SMVDU-TBIC. She expressed gratitude to all those who were directly and indirectly involved in making the event a success. SMVDU-TBIC remains committed to its mission of accelerating entrepreneurship and innovation. With ongoing support from stakeholders and industry leaders, the incubator aims to provide more such opportunities, ensuring that budding entrepreneurs receive the guidance and funding needed to bring their ideas to life.

## Dr Shazad condemns arbitrary suspension of Assistant Professor

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 5

The Jammu and Kashmir Border Area Development Conference (JK-BADC), a registered organization working for the welfare of border residents and scheduled tribes of J&K, has urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who also serves as the Chancellor of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), Rajouri to intervene in the arbitrary suspension of Dr. Pervez Abdullah, Assistant Professor in the Department of Management Studies.

In its appeal, BADC has also called upon the Vice Chancellor and Registrar of the university to conduct an impartial probe and clarify the reasons behind Dr. Abdullah's suspension, particularly since he was not issued a show-cause notice, a pre-requisition and procedural necessity before taking such an extreme action. The organization has termed the suspension arbitrary and invalid.

Dr. Shazad Ahmed Malik,



Chairman of BADC and former Vice Chancellor of SNU, expressed deep concern, stating that it is unfortunate to see one of the premier institutions of the Pir Panchal region embroiled in controversies and administrative turmoil. He supported the teaching association of the BGSBU in their demand of revocation of suspension of their president.

He also criticized the lack of initiatives by the government and the university

administration to upgrade and promote academic and infrastructural development at BGSBU and alleged that deliberate neglect is pushing this institution into decline.

Dr. Shazad asked the university authorities to reconsider their decision and grant Dr. Pervez Abdullah a fair opportunity to present his case. Further, the BADC Chairman called upon the University administration to clarify its stance on the experience certificate issued to Dr. Abdullah by the former Registrar on 13, December, 2024.

## RBSK Team B, Sunderbani, AYUSH Unit SDH, Sunderbani jointly hold Free Medical Camp at Thandapani

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SUNDERBANI, MARCH 5

A free medical camp was organized today at Panchayat Ghar Thandapani by RBSK Team B Sunderbani and AYUSH Unit SDH Sunderbani, under the directions of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Rajouri, Dr. ML Rana, and supervision of Block Medical Officer (BMO) Sunderbani, Dr. Meena Kumari.

During the camp, a total of 86 patients received medical consultations from Dr. Manish Sharma, Dr. Arjun Sharma, and Dr.



Alka Sharma. Additionally, various diagnostic tests were conducted, including:

- Blood tests: HB (24), BSR (19) by Lab Technician Harminder Singh
- Ophthalmic checkup: 18 patients by Zawar Farooq
- Dental checkup: 16 patients by Rajinder Kumar

All patients

received free allopathic and ayurvedic medicines, courtesy of Pharmacist Ajay Kumar and FMPHW Sushma Sharma.

During the camp Dr Arjun Sharma and others also gave awareness on hygiene, nutritional anemia, water borne diseases, communicable and Non communicable dis-

eases, Ayushman Bharat and other health schemes to the public in the camp. Dr Manish Sharma aware all about Ayurveda and importance of Yoga.

The camp's success was attributed to the collective efforts of medical teams, Paramedics staff, AWWs, ASHAs, and volunteers. Locals, including the ex-Sarpanch, Village Numberdar, and other prominent individuals, expressed gratitude to the administration and all medical employees who rendered their services for conducting such a fruitful camp.

e-mail: [xenmechrural@gmail.com](mailto:xenmechrural@gmail.com)

### Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Rural Division Jammu

M/s Trikuta Elect. & Mech. Works,  
Main Road, Sidhra, Jammu.  
Mob. No.: 9419221696  
E-mail ID : [rakwaisinghganesh@gmail.com](mailto:rakwaisinghganesh@gmail.com)

No.:- PHERM/3073-78  
Dated:-04/03/2025

**FINAL NOTICE**

**Sub:-** Providing, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of IS reputed make pumping machinery along with other allied electrical and electro-mechanical works at **WSS Bain Bajalta** under Jal Jeevan Mission- non execution of works thereof.

**Ref:-** 1) This office allotment order No. PHERM/294-302 dated: 22.07.2024  
2) This office letter No. Nil dated: 30.01.2025  
3) This office Notice issued vide No. PHERM/2331-33 dated: 08.01.2025  
4) Assistant Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Rural SD-II, Jammu letter No.: PHERM/SD-II/539 dated: 01.03.2025

Sir,

In context to subject cited above and as reported by concerned Assistant Executive Engineer (Mech.) that the work allotted vide above referred Work order for **WSS Bain Bajalta (E)** under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has not been started till date. After a lapse of more than 07 months approx: your firm has not submitted the Performance Security @ 3% of the work order amount as per clause No. 10 of Standard Bidding Document and the QAP/drawings of Pumping machinery has also not been submitted. This office has made various communications to your firm to get the drawings approved and start the works allotted at site. Moreover, a letter via e-mail dated: 30.01.2025 was also written to your firm for submission of Performance Guarantee (@3%) and Notice was also issued in favour of your firm for non-compliance of contractual stipulation, but nothing has been heard from your side till date.

As such, through the medium of this final notice, you are again directed to submit the Performance Security and QAP's / drawings for approval within three days (03) and expedite the work and get it completed within stipulated time period as given in the work order, failing which your contract shall be terminated as per Clause No. 34 of Standard Bidding Document mentioning that **"The Department reserves the right to cancel the order in case of fault on the part of the contracting agency and also prior to the receipt of the intimation regarding taking in hand execution of work against the order. No claim, whatsoever, shall be tenable against the department on this account."**

Since time of completion was due essence of tender, delay in completion has been viewed seriously by the higher authorities, inviting stern action in case of any further deviation in the matter, the work Been time bound as JJM is a target based project.

Please note that this is the final notice and no further communication will be done in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

**Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Rural  
Division Jammu**

**DIP/J-10761/24  
Date: 5-3-25**

## FDP on the Indian Knowledge System concluded at CU Jammu

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 5

The Department of Social Work, Central University of Jammu, in collaboration with UGC-MMTTC, successfully organized an eight-day (online) Faculty Development Program (FDP). The program was organized under the visionary leadership of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, CU Jammu. The main focus was on the capacity building of educators and research scholars of social work on the Indian Knowledge System (IKS). This initiative, probably the first in North India, aimed to concretize the foundations of Social Work from 'Bhartiya Gyan Parampara' and reinvent social work education.

The FDP brought together 16 distinguished experts from various social

work institutes, who explored the shift from Eurocentric social work education to an Indianized approach. The sessions covered a diverse range of topics, including Upanishads, concept of Dharma to Seva, Sankhya Philosophy, Values and teachings of Shrimad Bhagwat Geeta, Spirituality as a method of social work, replacing the western model with Indian values system, integrating Yogic Science in therapy, Gandhian perspective and the contribution of Nanaji Deshmukh and Lok Mata Ahilya Devi Holkar in community development.

The discussions emphasized the importance of contextualizing social work education in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, addressing



diversity, contemporary challenges, and the need for an indigenous, culturally rooted approach to the discipline.

The valedictory session was graced by Dr. Mahesh Chougule, Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand, as the chief guest. In his address, he underscored the significance of an interdisciplinary approach,

merging IKS with contemporary knowledge systems and localizing curricula to reflect Indian traditions and culture, thereby positioning IKS on a global platform.

Dr. Nancy Mengi, Head, Dept. of social work, presented a comprehensive report on the program's outcomes, highlighting enthusiastic participation

with over 55 attendees from 17 states and union territories.

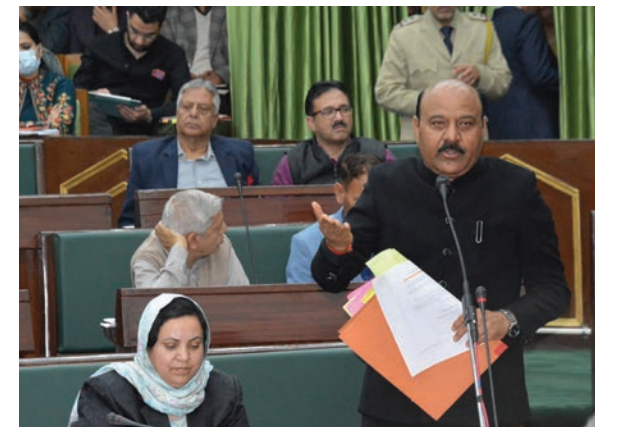
Dr. Neelika Arora, Director, MMTTC appreciated the organizing team for smooth coordination and congratulated on the successful conduct of the program.

Dr. Akshay Kumar, Asst. Director, MMTTC, was also present in the valedictory

session. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Vinay Kumar, Faculty, Dept. of social work acknowledging the valuable guidance of Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, CU Jammu, Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, Prof. Aswini Kr. Nanda, Dean, Social Sciences and the contributions of resource persons, participants, organizing committee members, and research scholars for successful completion of the FDP.

The Valedictory session was coordinated and moderated by young faculty member Mr. Fateh Lal Bheel of the Department. This initiative marks a significant step toward integrating Indian traditions into social work education and fostering a more holistic, indigenous approach to the discipline.

## Deputy CM assures expeditious completion of all road projects in J&K



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 5

"The work on all ongoing prestigious road projects in Jammu and Kashmir shall be expedited for timely completion", assured the Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, while replying to a supplementary raised in the Legislative Assembly here today.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the macadamization work on the road project along old Bringi Canal from Hiller to Wandavelgam, was successfully completed in March 2023 under the languishing scheme. However, two spots at Adigam (length 150m) and Nagam (length 140m) remained pending

due to the presence of existing structures and trees obstructing the alignment.

The Dy CM was replying to a question raised by Zafar Ali Khatana in the Legislative Assembly. He also informed that the Hangalgund- Kharpora road project stands completed in the year 2022 under PMGSY.

In a written reply to a question, the Dy CM said that there is no proposal under consideration for up-gradation and widening of Hangalgund- Puro road as of now. Regarding fund allocation under NABARD, the Dy CM maintained that the funds under the scheme are released every year for approved projects against the sanctioned cost and work done.

## 11 ATFs functional in Kashmir, 09 in Jammu for treatment, rehabilitation of drug addicts: Sakeena Itoo

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 5

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, while terming drug abuse as an issue of grave concern, said there is dire need to work collectively for eradication of this societal menace plaguing Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister said this while replying to a starred question raised by MLA, Mubarak Gul, in the Legislative Assembly here today.

While giving details regarding the treatment and rehabilitation facilities, the Minister said that 11 Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) are functional in Kashmir division and 9 ATFs in Jammu division. She further informed that OPD services are functional in all 20 districts while IPD services are available in all 9 GMCs, catering to the healthcare needs of both male and female patients. She also informed that Psychiatrists are available in all the GMC's of J&K.

Reflecting on the Training and Monitoring efforts of the government, the Minister said that 25 Medical Officers (12 from Jammu



and 13 from Kashmir) have been trained by NIMHANS, Bengaluru and deputed to their respective districts to strengthen treatment facilities at de-addiction centres. She also informed that surveillance has been strengthened by data collection on a daily basis using google sheets for real time reporting to monitor trends and measure the impact of interventions.

The Minister informed the house that after the initiation of Nasha Mukht Abhiyan since September 2022, the registration of new cases has shown a decreasing trend which indicates some level of control or improvement in detecting and manag-

ing the affected victims. She also informed the house that several policy level measures have been initiated like Adoption of Drug De-Addiction Policy, Constitution of State Level Policy Implementation Monitoring, Divisional Level Drug De-addiction and Monitoring besides constitution of District Level Drug De-addiction and Monitoring Committees to tackle drug addiction as well as drug trafficking in J&K.

The Minister further informed that the government has established a dedicated call centre Tele MANAS to facilitate the drug victims seeking treatment.

Giving details on awareness activities, the Minister informed that IEC activities, seminars, workshops and programmes are being conducted regularly in schools, colleges and universities in coordination with the district administrations, NGOs, volunteers and other allied agencies regarding ill effects of drug and substance abuse.

The Minister also informed that the health department, in collaboration with J&K bank, has successfully launched the project "Najaath" on drug abuse dedicated to Prevention and Treatment of Tobacco and Drug Addiction, in Jammu and Pulkama districts in November 2023. She added that the Najaath aims to raise awareness among individuals, families and communities about the harmful effects of tobacco and drug addiction besides the available resources for prevention, treatment and support.

Legislators, Mubarak Gul, Yudhvir Sethi, Arvind Gupta, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami and Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi raised supplementary questions on the matter.

## Indian Army organizes Awareness Workshop Cum Medical Camp on World Obesity Day in Akhnoor



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
AKHNOOR: 05 MAR 2025

In line with its commitment to community welfare and health awareness, the Indian Army organized an Awareness Workshop cum Medical Camp at Tragwal village in the Akhnoor Sector today to mark World Obesity Day. The event aimed to educate the local population on the growing risks of obesity and the importance of maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle.

The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from villagers of Tragwal and adjoining areas. Indian Army medical officers and healthcare professionals conducted interactive sessions focusing on the causes, consequences, and preventive measures related to obesity. Special emphasis was laid on promoting balanced diets, regular physical exercise, and routine health check-ups as key components of a healthy lifestyle. Free

medical consultations, BMI assessments, and screenings for lifestyle-related diseases such as diabetes and hypertension were provided to over 55 villagers, helping identify at-risk individuals and advising them on necessary lifestyle modifications. Speaking on the occasion, the Army officials highlighted, "Obesity is a silent health threat that can lead to serious diseases if left unchecked.

Through this initiative, we aim to raise awareness and encourage the local population to adopt fitness-oriented habits that ensure long-term well-being." The Indian Army remains committed to fostering strong civil-military cooperation and contributing positively to the health and welfare of communities residing in remote areas. The event concluded with the distribution of informative pamphlets on healthy living and a pledge by all participants to work towards a more active and healthier lifestyle.

## Indian Army conducts Lecture on Women Specific Schemes by Govt at Behramgala, Poonch



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH: 05 MAR 2025

Keeping in view the Indian Army's core objective of maintaining cordial relations with local citizens through AWAM, a lecture on Women-Specific Schemes by the Government was organized in Behramgala, Poonch district. The event aimed to spread awareness among girls and women to enhance their skills for self-employment and better job opportunities in the remote parts of Rajouri and Poonch by the Indian Army. The lecture was addressed to the local populace about employment campaigns and various initiatives for employment by the State and Central Governments. A total of 75 people attended the event, including 30 women, 25 men, and 20 children. The aim of the event was to interact with and educate girls, women, and the local populace about various educational and scholarship schemes of the Central and State Governments to address the problems of unemployment in our country. A representative of the

Indian Army addressed the locals and provided insights into various government initiatives and actions being taken to gradually reduce the unemployment rate. Several initiatives have been launched to boost employment, including skill development programs, job fairs, and entrepreneurship. These include schemes such as the Integrated Rural Development Programme, Drought Prone Area Programme, Nehru Rozgar Yojana, and the Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme. This gesture and effort by the Army were highly appreciated. The Army's endeavor to reach out to the population residing in remote areas, where civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between the people and the Indian Army. The event also served as a platform to strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and the people of this region and showcased the Indian Army's commitment to serving the nation.

## Movement Kalki delegation meets DC Jammu

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 5

Today, a delegation of Movement Kalki led by Advisory Board Member Pritam Sharma Ji met the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Jammu and submitted a memorandum against the illegal toll collection at Lakhampur and Ban Toll Plaza.

The delegation apprised the DC that as per the Jammu and Kashmir High Court Double Bench order, only 20% toll charges should be collected at toll plazas until the complete repair and maintenance of the National Highway is done.

Moreover, the court has directed that Character Certificates (Police Verification) of all employees working at toll plazas must be mandatory to ensure that individuals with criminal backgrounds are not employed.

Violation of Court Orders



Movement Kalki expressed anger over the blatant disregard of court orders, stating that full toll charges are still being collected at Lakhampur and Ban Toll Plazas, which is a direct contempt of court and a grave injustice to the public.

The condition of the highway from Lakhampur to Udhampur is extremely

poor, filled with potholes causing daily accidents and long traffic jams. Despite this, full toll charges are being forcibly collected, reflecting the anti-people policies of the administration.

Delegation Members: Deepak Singh (Founder, Movement Kalki) Advocate Someshwar Kohli (Member, Legal Advi-

sory Board) Dr. Sudesh Kumar Sapna Hindu Other Movement Kalki Members

Key Demands:  
1. Immediate implementation of 20% toll collection as per the High Court order.  
2. Legal action against toll contractors violating court orders.  
3. Fast-track completion

of highway repair and maintenance work.

4. Mandatory police verification of all toll plaza employees.

5. Cancellation of contracts of toll companies violating court orders.

Warning of Mass Protest

Advisory Board Member Pritam Sharma warned that if the administration fails to act swiftly, Movement Kalki will launch a mass public agitation along with the common people.

He emphasized that the government must protect the rights of the public and ensure strict compliance with court orders.

Our Pledge:  
With the pledge of "Jai Gau Mata, Jai Hindu Rashtra", Movement Kalki will continue to fight against injustice and be the voice of the people on every social issue.

## 71 WSSs worth Rs 409.65 cr being implemented in PHE Division Chadoora: Javed Ahmad Rana

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 5

Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana, informed that 71 WSS schemes of UT level, centrally sponsored and JJM schemes worth Rs 409.65 crore are being implemented in PHE division Chadoora, during the past two years.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by MLA, Ali Mohammad Dar, in the Legislative Assembly here today.

The Minister said that an amount of Rs. 218.36 crore has been expended during the past two years on the schemes. The Minister also informed the house that the general public is being made aware about the flagship programme of JJM, its motives, objectives and benefits under the IEC activities.

## ADC Reasi reviews progress of Registration Process under JK Samadhan Portal

J1NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, MARCH 5

The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Reasi, Rakesh Kumar convened a crucial review meeting today with all concerned officers and stakeholders to evaluate the progress of the registration process under the JK Samadhan Portal.

The meeting was attended by key officials, including the ADC, SDMs, CMO, CAO, CEO, DMO, DSWO, and other concerned officers, Tehsildars, and BDOs participated virtually.

Speaking on the occasion, ADC Rakesh Kumar emphasized the critical importance of timely and efficient registration of grievances through the JK Samadhan Portal. He highlighted how the portal serves as a vital tool for citizens to access govern-



ment services and resolve disputes with ease.

The ADC stressed that the successful registration process would directly contribute to improving government-citizen engagement and ensuring that grievances are addressed promptly. He also called upon all concerned line departments to focus on

maximum outreach and participation to ensure that the portal reaches every citizen who requires assistance.

Additionally, ADC Rakesh Kumar directed the officers to assign clear targets to their respective teams for registering citizens on the portal. He instructed SDMs to regu-

larly monitor the progress of the registration process to ensure its efficiency and effectiveness.

The JK Samadhan Portal is an important step in the administration's effort to streamline the grievance redressal system, making government services more accessible and transparent for all residents.

## CEO Doda holds Virtual Meeting with Education Officials to Enhance School Standards

J1NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, MARCH 5

Chief Education Officer (CEO) Doda, Mohammad Hafiz chaired an essential virtual meeting with Principals, Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs), and Headmasters from across the district to discuss strategies for elevating educational standards in line with the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Key directives were outlined during the meeting, with the CEO Doda stressing the importance of a cleanliness initiative ahead of the upcoming school reopening on March 7, 2025, following the winter break. "It is crucial that schools are ready to welcome students in a clean and organized environment, ensuring a conducive atmosphere for learning," stated the CEO,



emphasizing the need for schools to reflect a dignified presentation in accordance with NEP 2020.

Along with the cleanliness drive, the CEO Doda called on ZEOs and Principals to monitor both the academic performance and infrastructure of schools. They were instructed to ensure that all schools meet the Assured Minimum Facilities (AMF) standards mandated by government

regulations, ensuring that essential learning resources are in place.

ZEOs were also encouraged to launch enrollment campaigns to increase school attendance, with a particular focus on out-of-school children and children with special needs (CWSN).

The CEO emphasized the need for fully equipped science labs and the appointment of vocational trainers at

higher secondary and high schools to enhance hands-on learning opportunities for students. "Practical experience is essential for holistic education, and it is vital that schools provide these opportunities," the CEO remarked.

Addressing the issue of subject shortages, the CEO advocated for a standardized/uniform timetable across higher secondary schools to facilitate the use of online classes and ICT labs, ensuring that subject expertise gaps are effectively addressed.

Furthermore, the CEO instructed all DDOs to adopt and oversee at least six nearby schools, providing ongoing support and monitoring to enhance student learning outcomes.

This meeting represents a pivotal step toward improving the quality of education in Doda.

## Col Mahan Singh advocates for agricultural innovation, infrastructure devp in Jammu Region

J1NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA/ SAMBA, MARCH 5

Colonel (Retired) Mahan Singh, Chairman of the District Development Council (DDC) Kathua, accompanied by Keshav Dutta Sharma, Chairman DDC Samba, visited the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in Samba at the invitation of Dr. Sanjay Khajuria, Head of KVK Samba. The visit aimed to explore advancements in agricultural practices and discuss infrastructural developments in the region.

During their visit to KVK Samba, the Chairpersons toured various sections showcasing innovations, technological applications, modern farming methods, and hybrid crops cultivated

at the premier agricultural institute. They commended the efforts of KVK in introducing cutting-edge agricultural and horticultural activities. Both leaders emphasized the importance of raising awareness among farmers about the adoption of technology to enhance productivity.

The Chairpersons also participated in a post-budget webinar on agriculture, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, organized by the Union Ministry of Agriculture. The webinar focused on strategies to boost the agricultural sector, aligning with the government's commitment to support farmers and promote sustainable practices.

In addition to their



visit to KVK Samba, Colonel Mahan Singh engaged with Chief Engineer and Executive Engineer of the 69 Border Roads Task Force (BRTF), Project Sampark, to discuss critical infrastructure issues in Kathua district. Key topics included the blacktopping of a 3-kilometer stretch of Dhar Road near the RSD Barrage, which is currently in a dilapidated condition, to ensure safe and efficient transportation. He also highlighted the necessity of imple-

menting road protection measures in areas with sinking grounds in Bhoond Bazar to prevent accidents and maintain connectivity. Additionally, the early commencement of the Sukha Nallah bridge construction on the Basohli-Bani National Highway (NH-44) was discussed to improve regional connectivity and support economic activities.

Colo Mahan Singh further advocated for the inclusion of the 30-kilo-

meter Mahanpur-Basohli road under the jurisdiction of the General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF), noting that other major routes in the Basohli-Billawar area are already managed by the Border Roads Organization (BRO). He emphasized that bringing this particular stretch under GREF's purview would enhance road infrastructure, thereby boosting tourism in the region.

To advance this proposal, Colonel Mahan has already written to the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the 9 Corps, which operates in the region, urging them to present the case to higher authorities, highlighting both developmental and defense considerations.

Col Mahan expressed appreciation for the Border Roads Organization's expedited construction efforts on the Bani-Bhadarwah section of the General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) road, acknowledging the organization's role in enhancing infrastructure in the region.

The DDC Chairpersons' visit underscores their dedication to advancing agricultural innovation and infrastructure development in the Jammu, Samba, and Kathua districts. By fostering collaborations with agricultural institutions and addressing infrastructural challenges, they aim to promote sustainable development and improve the quality of life for residents in these regions.

## Tehsil Admin conducts market inspection in Handwara to curb hoarding, overpricing during Ramadhan



J1NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, MAR 5

In a proactive move to regulate market prices and prevent hoarding during the holy month of Ramadhan, the Tehsil Administration of Handwara, under the directives of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan, conducted an extensive market inspection drive.

The initiative was led by Tehsildar Handwara, Zeeshan Khan, in collaboration with SHO Handwara, officials from the Revenue Department, and the Municipal Committee Handwara. The inspection covered key markets across Handwara to ensure the availability of essential commodities at fair prices.

During the drive, officials assessed the pricing of staple food items, vegetables, dairy products, and other essential goods to ensure compliance with government regulations. The team also monitored for instances

of hoarding, overpricing, and the sale of substandard products.

Emphasizing the significance of the initiative, Tehsildar Handwara stated, "Our primary objective is to regulate the prices of essential items, curb hoarding, and ensure the availability of fresh and hygienic products for the public during Ramadhan."

The administration has instructed local shopkeepers and vendors to strictly adhere to the prescribed price lists and maintain transparency in their trade practices. Officials have also assured that similar inspections will continue in the coming days to safeguard consumer interests and prevent unfair trade practices.

Residents of Handwara have welcomed the move, praising the administration's proactive approach in ensuring affordability and availability of essential commodities during the fasting month.

## Secretary RDD reviews proposed Annual Implementation Plan under PMAY-G, MGNREGA, NRLM, Himayat Schemes

J1NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 5

Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today chaired a preparatory meeting ahead of the Empowered Committee session to be held to finalise the Annual Action Plan (AAP) 2025-26 for MGNREGA, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G), Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) and Himayat by the Ministry of Rural Development.

The meeting was attended by Mission Director, JKRLM, Dr Shubhra Sharma; Director, RDD Kashmir, Shabir Hussain Bhat; Director RDD Jammu, Mumtaz Ali; Director Finance, Umar Khan; Chief Operating Officer Himayat, Rajneesh Gupta; Joint Director Planning, Kamal Kumar Sharma; Additional Secretary RD&PR, Waseem Raja and all Assistant Commissioner(s) Development.

During the meeting, the Secretary reviewed key programme strategies

and financial allocations proposed under the AAP. Discussions centred on employment generation under MGNREGA, housing for rural poor through PMAY-G, self-employment initiatives under NRLM and skill development interventions under Himayat.

The Secretary emphasized the need to further enhance employment opportunities under MGNREGA. Recognizing the programme as a crucial lifeline for rural livelihoods, he stressed the importance of expanding work availability to meet the increasing demand.

He reviewed the estimated person-days (PDs) anticipated for the financial year 2025-26 prepared by Deputy Commissioners in due consultation with the stakeholders. He also assessed the impact of proposed works in strengthening the rural infrastructure and employment generation.



which targets construction of new houses during 2025-26. He emphasised the need for efficient monitoring to ensure effective implementation, particularly for landless beneficiaries listed under Awaas Plus.

The Secretary reiterated the importance of convergence with MGNREGA to provide unskilled wages for housing construction, reinforcing the government's commitment towards improving rural living conditions.

While reviewing the Annual Action Plan (AAP) 2025-26 of the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), the Secretary emphasized that its primary objective is to strengthen self-employment opportunities, financial inclusion and skill development for rural women. He stated that the plan focuses on expanding Self-Help Groups (SHGs),

providing access to credit and promoting both farm and non-farm livelihood activities across the Union Territory.

A key highlight of the plan was the "Lakhpatri Didi" initiative, designed to empower rural women by enhancing their earning potential through skill development and entrepreneurship.

The Secretary said that the strategy included regular training programs, workshops, leadership development initiatives and financial literacy sessions to help SHG members build sustainable livelihoods.

To promote financial inclusion, he said that the AAP outlines efforts to open bank accounts for all SHG members, provide 100% insurance coverage under PMJJBY and PMSBY and facilitate credit linkages with the banks. He said that the convergence approach remains a crucial aspect of the AAP, with interdepartmental coordination ensuring that SHGs benefit from various government schemes.

The meeting also reviewed the plan for

Himayat, a skill development program aimed at providing employment opportunities for the youth of Jammu & Kashmir. The focus remains on expanding training programs, improving skill development initiatives and ensuring better placement opportunities for trainees, thereby equipping them with the necessary tools to secure sustainable livelihoods.

The Secretary emphasized the importance of meticulous planning and execution to achieve the goals set forth in the AAP 2025-26. He urged all scheme heads to work collaboratively to ensure successful implementation of the schemes, ultimately leading to the socio-economic upliftment of rural communities in Jammu & Kashmir.

The proposed Annual Action Plan 2025-26 will be submitted for approval in the upcoming Empowered Committee meeting scheduled in New Delhi on March 10, 2025 in the Ministry of Rural Development.

The meeting also reviewed the plan for

## ADC Kathua reviews progress of Education Sector developmental works

J1NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, MARCH 5

Additional Deputy Commissioner Kathua Ranjit Singh today reviewed the progress of different works of the Education Sector at a meeting held here in the DC office complex. The meeting was attended by CPO, Kathua Ranjit Thakur, CEO Kathua, Mangat Ram, XEN PWD Basohli, ZEOs and other concerned officers.

The ADC took a comprehensive review of the developmental works being executed by different Execution Agencies. He directed the concerned to expedite the work so as to meet its completion timelines.

The ADC also called upon executive agencies to ensure quality asset creation in all the schools besides impressing upon ZEOs concerned to regularly monitor the execution of works so as to ensure that quality assets are created.