

**DENGUE WARNING SIGNS**

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Headache and continuous fever above 102°C
- Joint and muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit
- Redness

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## In 4-years, Jammu receives more tourists than Kashmir: Economic Survey

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAR 06 (KNO)

Kashmir has received 80 per cent less tourists compared to Jammu in the past four years. The Economic Survey 2024-25, a copy of which lies with the news agency, revealed that in 2021, Jammu received a tourist footfall of 1,06,50,757 while Kashmir in the same year witnessed a tourist arrival of 6,65,777.

A total of 1,13,16,534 tourists visited J&K in 2021, the survey reveals. As per the details, Kashmir in the subsequent years including 2022, 2023 and 2024 witnessed 80 per cent less tourist footfall compared to Jammu.

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## Measures underway to protect vulnerable spots along Jehlum: Javed Rana

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 6

Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmad Rana, today informed the House that crate protection works are being undertaken under Flood Management Project Phase-II along river Jehlum, wherever required.

He was replying to a question raised by Peerzada Mohammad Syed in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister stated that crate protection works are being undertaken at specific locations depending upon the vulnerability/weak spots. He said that these works will be completed by the end of March, 2025 at an estimated cost of Rs. 84.00 lakh.

Regarding the beautification work on river banks of Jehlum from Mehandi Kadal to Donipawa, the Minister informed that Irrigation and Flood Control Department does not have any exclusive budget to undertake beautification work on river banks. He said that the mandate of the department is to undertake anti-erosion works to prevent the bank damage, sloughing and breaching due to floodwaters.

MLAs, Basheer Ahmad Veeri and Tanvir Sadiq raised supplementary on the question.

## Revenue deptt develops online portal for public ease: Sakeena Itoo

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 6

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today said that the government has developed an online portal for availing various revenue services for the ease of public.

The Minister said this while replying to a question on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, asked by MLA, Surinder Kumar.

The Minister informed the house that the Revenue department has developed an online portal 'jkrevenue.nic.in' for application of CLU in order to ensure ease of process for the applicant. She added that with this portal an applicant has no need

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## 'July 13 Martyrs' sacrifices can't be erased: CM Omar



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 06 (KNO)

Asserting that sacrifices of "July 13 Martyrs" cannot be erased, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday, said that late Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's stature was not tied to December 5 holiday.

Speaking during the Motion of Thanks on the Lieutenant Governor's address in the Leg-

islative Assembly, the Chief Minister, according to the news agency, said, "The sacrifices of the martyrs and the contributions of Sher-e-Kashmir remain indelible in the hearts of the people, regardless of political decisions to remove holidays."

"The 22 people who sacrificed their lives on July 13, 1931, did so for a voice,

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## Article 370 is a closed chapter: Sunil Sharma

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 06 (KNO)

Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma on Thursday said that Article 370 is a "closed chapter" and "history." He said that the BJP will not allow any innocent civilian to die in violence in Kashmir.

Speaking during the discussion on the Lieutenant Governor's address, Sharma, as per news agency, reiterated that Article 370 is a "closed chapter."

"The Parliament as well as the Supreme Court has settled the issue of Article 370 forever," he said, adding that those raking up the Article 370 issue want to keep Jinnah's two-nation theory alive. He said that dialogue

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## Lieutenant Governor chairs 74th Meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 6

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha chaired the 74th Meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), at Raj Bhawan, today.

The meeting was attended by Members of the Board-Mahamandleshwar Swami Vishveshvaranand Giriji Maharaj, Shri Baleswar Rai, Dr Ashok Bhan, Dr Neelam Sareen, Shri K.K Sharma, Shri Suresh Kumar Sharma and

Shri Raghu K. Mehta.

Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and Shri Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB also attended the meeting.

The Board, which met under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor held comprehensive review of its past decisions, ratified the actions taken after its last meeting and took several new decisions against 20 key Agenda Items having far reach-

ing implications for functioning of the Board and augmenting pilgrim services.

Important decisions were taken in respect of new and underway projects of the Board such as construction of Exit Track & Remodelling of Manokamana area at Bhawan (a part of the Master Plan for Bhawan area), development of helipad in collaboration with Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board in village Hutt at Katra, New Vaishnavi Bhawan at

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## Govt to develop Bungus as an off-beat tourist destination: CM Omar Abdullah



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 6

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today stated that the government is planning to develop Bungus as an off-beat destination and that funds for providing some basic facilities for tourists have been allocated but the utilization of funds is linked to the forest clearance

being granted, which is important for planned development of the area.

The Chief Minister was responding to a question by Member Sheikh Khurshed regarding the funds utilized for the development of Bungus Valley over the last two years. As the in-charge Minister of the Tourism

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## J&K budget returns home!

After hiatus of 7 years, CM Omar Abdullah to unveil annual financial statement of UT in Assembly today

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 06 (KNO)

After a gap of seven years, Jammu & Kashmir's annual budget for 2025-26 will be presented in the Legislative Assembly on Friday by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who is also serving as finance minister of the Union Territory.

As per the news agency, J&K's annual financial statement of expenditure for 2025-26 and the supplementary statement of expenditure for 2024-25 will be presented in the House by Omar Abdullah tomorrow after the conclusion of question hour.

This will be for the first time since 2018 that the budget of J&K will be presented in the



Assembly. After imposition of central rule in Jammu & Kashmir in 2018, the budget documents of the UT were tabled annually in the Parliament by the Union Finance Minister. It is for the first time in history that the CM would unveil the budget in the Assembly.

As already reported, the cabinet gave its go-ahead to the budget during its meeting on March 02.

As per the calendar issued

by the Legislative Assembly secretariat, there will be general discussions on the budget on March 8, 10, and 11. The Finance Minister, who is also the Chief Minister, will conclude discussion on the budget on March 11 with his reply.

All eyes are on the budget given commitments made by National Conference in its manifesto for the 2024 assembly elections. KNO

## Rs 583.78 lakh DPR formulated for Kaloran Bheeni Nalla bridge: Dy CM

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 6

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, today informed the House that a comprehensive DPR has been formulated for construction of bridge over Bheeni Nallah at Kaloran, Nangla Dull road in Bani worth Rs 583.78 lakh.

The Deputy Chief Minister was responding to a question raised by MLA, Dr. Rameshwar Singh. He said that DPR for construction of 75 m span bridge with 700 m approach road amounting Rs 583.78 lakh has been prepared which is under active consideration of the sanctioning authorities during next financial year, subject to availability of resources.

The Deputy Chief Minister further stated that the grievance, in this regard, had been registered on the web portal of LG Mulaqaat.

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## Budget Session 2025: Discussion on Motion of Thanks on LG's address continues on third day

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 6

On the third day of discussion on Motion of Thanks to LG's address, the legislators spoke on different aspects related to overall public welfare of Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking during the discussion, Leader of Opposition (LoP), Sunil Sharma, reflected on the developments happened across Jammu and Kashmir in last several years like construction of new highways and connecting Kashmir valley to rest of the country via railways. He also talked about tapping of solar energy potential of J&K in last some years besides increasing MBBS seats in GMCs of J&K.

During the discussion, MLA Ajaz Jan said that the people had extreme sigh of relief after formation of present government. He praised the government for ensuring various public welfare measures.

Participating in the discussion, MLA Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani raised the issue of drug addiction among the youth, employment avenues; illegal mining besides highlighting developmental needs of people. He said that the present government is still in the initial stage but the promises made with the people of Jammu and Kashmir will be fulfilled with its mission of sincerity, commitment and determination.

Speaking on the motion of thanks, MLA Sajad Gani Lone said that the present government needs to fulfill the aspirations and commitments made with the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mohamad Yusuf Tarigami, while speaking on the Motion of Thanks, said that legislators are accountable to people and should work towards their interests.

MLA Mehraj Malik, while participating in the discus-

sion, raised the issues of consanguineous employees regarding increase in their honorarium. He also called for tapping the full tourism potential of Jammu and Kashmir for generating employment avenues for youth.

Speaking during the discussion, MLA Altaf Ahmad Wani praised the government for consulting legislators of every constituency during budget formulation. He raised the issue of rehabilitation of families, business establishments as well as pony wallahs and other traders, who may be affected by the proposed road towards holy Cave via Pahalgam. He also sought formation of comprehensive policy for further promotion of tourism in Pahalgam.

MLA Ali Mohammad Dar highlighted the filling up of vacancies in government departments, reservation policy among other issues.

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## Terrorism, drug peddling grave threats: DGP Prabhat

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 06 (KNO)

Terming terrorism and drug peddling as equally grave threats to the society Director General of Police (DGP) J&K Nalin Prabhat on Thursday said that he would rate fight against drugs and fight against terrorism on equal pedestal.

Speaking at Thana Diwas here the DGP, according to the news agency said, "Drugs are reaching here through western borders. The entire narcotics racket is managed by Pakistan Army and ISI through different tanzeems (outfits) and through smugglers. This is a challenge and J&K Police will keep on fighting with it till the battle is won."

He said that he equates war against drugs at an "equal pedestal" with war against terrorism. "Both the wars are on."

He expressed concern over school going children getting involved in drug trade. "It's unfortunate that even school children, in uniform, are found selling small bags of drugs and other contraband



substances. It's the duty of the parents to keep a vigil at the activities of their children," the DGP added.

He said that a major manpower optimization drive has been initiated to improve resource allocation. "There is a saying that charity begins at home, so I have initiated it from myself, by relieving two thirds of my security guards," he said.

The DGP said that "Rome was not built in a day" and all the battles will be won eventually.

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## Jammu Airport becoming big, air traffic doubles in Srinagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MAR 06 (KNO)

Air traffic at Srinagar International Airport has doubled, reflecting increased connectivity to the region, according to an official document.

The document, a copy of which was accessed by the news agency, states: "To accommodate the growing demand, the government is working on expanding Jammu Airport, with 908 kanals of land already transferred. It also mentions that night operations at Jammu Airport have been extended to 8 PM."

It reads the administration is implementing online monitoring and mobile applications like Tameer Taraki and Hamari Sadak to ensure real-time supervision of

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## DC conducts on-site inspection of under-construction SE R&B & BDO office in Block Budgam

JI NEWS SERVICE  
BUDGAM, MARCH 6

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo, today visited the construction sites of the Block Development Office/ BDC office at Block Headquarters Budgam and the Superintending Engineer (SE) R&B office building in Budgam to assess the progress of the ongoing work.

The DC conducted an extensive inspection of the construction sites.

While reviewing the progress of the BDC office complex, the DC directed officials and engineers to uphold high standards of quality and workmanship. He emphasised the importance of timely completion and directed the concerned departments to ensure the project is completed within the stipulated timeframe.



Stressing strict adherence to construction guidelines and the optimal use of resources, he called for efficient execution of the project.

Later, the DC visited the construction site of the SE R&B office building, where he directed the officials and executing agency to adhere strictly to the set

deadlines. He reiterated the administration's commitment to completing all the infrastructural projects in Budgam on time with quality work.

On the occasion, the DC stated that both the projects are important for enhancing administrative efficiency and delivering better services to the local

population of Budgam.

The DC further said, that both office complexes are in the final stages of construction and directed the officials to ensure the pending work is completed at the earliest so that these facilities can be dedicated to the public soon. During the site inspection, the DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Budgam, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Budgam, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) Budgam, Executive Engineer REW Budgam, BDO Budgam, senior officers of R&B Budgam, and other senior officials.

## DC Doda reviews revenue matters, land management issues

JI NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, MARCH 6

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Harvinder Singh, chaired a meeting with revenue officials to review land management, revenue services, and pending cases.

The meeting focused on Jan Sugam services, JK Samadhan grievances, court cases, and the ongoing agriculture census. Special emphasis was placed on the SVAMITVA scheme, which aims to provide rural property ownership. Officials were asked to submit an updated status report by Monday.

The DC directed immediate retrieval of encroached state, Kahcharai, and Roshni land and removal of illegal constructions along Nallahs in Doda and Bhaderwah. Tehsildars were also tasked with identify-



ing land for a vehicle trial ground, sewage treatment plant, and school buildings for rent-based government schools.

Revenue officials were

instructed to resolve pending court cases on priority and ensure accurate land records. Notices will be issued to individuals encroaching on Nallahs.

## Directorate of Rural Sanitation, J&K holds training on Gobardhan Scheme

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 6

The Directorate of Rural Sanitation, J&K, conducted a state-level capacity-building training on the Gobardhan Scheme under SBM-G to accelerate biogas plant installation. The virtual session on March 5, 2025, chaired by Director General Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra, aimed at equipping officials with technical knowledge to effectively implement the scheme.

Renowned Environmental and Biogas Expert, Dr. Sameer Sharma, led the training, covering scheme objectives and national significance, technical aspects of biogas plant installation, operation and maintenance best practices and KVIC model presentation with data and technical drawings.

## SDM reviews progress of developmental works, essential supplies in Sub Division Paddar



JI NEWS SERVICE  
PADDAR, MARCH 6

Sub-Divisional Magistrate Padder, Dr. Amit Kumar conducted a series of meetings with concerned departments and public representatives today to assess the progress of developmental work and ensure the availability of essential supplies in the aftermath of the recent snowfall.

During the meetings, it was informed that the Pathernaki point is now safe for traffic movement from Padder to Kishtwar. The concerned departments were instructed to

remain alert and promptly carry out restoration work, including ensuring water and power supply and restoring road connectivity immediately and report on daily basis.

Additionally, all ongoing schemes for the current financial year must be completed as per schedule. The SDM emphasized the importance of prioritizing the needs of the residents and ensuring their well-being in the wake of the recent snowfall.

Public was urged to cooperate with the authorities and report any issues or concerns promptly.

## DC Doda reviews CSC implementation; stresses timely rollout



JI NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, MARCH 6

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Harvinder Singh, chaired a review meeting on the implementation of Common Service Centre (CSC) touch points across the district, expressing concern over delays despite

repeated directives.

The DC stressed the importance of digital services in remote areas and directed officials to expedite the process, including the establishment of a CSC Centre in Doda town.

The meeting, attended by Tehsildars, BDOs, and CSC officials, reviewed

bottlenecks in implementation and formulated solutions. Virtual discussions were also held with BDOs at the block level to ensure that CSC Centres reach grassroots communities.

The DC instructed officials to adhere strictly to deadlines and submit regular progress updates.

## DC Kishtwar reviews progress on PMGSY projects

JI NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, MARCH 6

Deputy Commissioner, Rajesh Kumar Shavan today reviewed and assessed the progress on Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) works in Kishtwar and Marwah, ensuring timely execution and quality of road projects.

During the meeting, the DC took stock of ongoing PMGSY road construction works, including Shahsu-Sazar Road, Kandani-Ohli Road and Ikhala Block Boundary to Lopara Road. The concerned officers apprised him of the latest progress and challenges faced in the execution of these projects.

A special discussion was held on the Shivas to Ongaia Road, particularly regarding its take-up



point from the GREF road. The Officer Commanding (OC) GREF was advised to ensure proper demarcation and pegging at the take-up point, facilitating the encumbrance-free completion of the road project.

The Executive Engineer PMGSY and contractors were directed to remove debris from take off point of GREF Road within 7 days. Executive Engineers

were instructed to submit a comprehensive list of ongoing PMGSY roads, along with details of contractors and payment records for round maintenance.

The DC emphasized the importance of identifying and enlisting unconnected habitations for inclusion under PMGSY Phase 4, ensuring better road connectivity for remote areas.

Additionally, the meeting deliberated on road safety measures and maintenance of PMGSY roads, particularly under the Disaster Management Preparedness Plan following the recent snowfall.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Kishtwar, Shah Nawaz Bali, Executive Engineers PMGSY and other concerned engineers.

## Union Ministry of MSME conducts PM Vishwakarma awareness workshop at Ramban

JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, MARCH 6

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

The PM Vishwakarma scheme is implemented in Jammu & Kashmir with active participation of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir. The scheme is meant for upliftment of skilled artisans of 18 trades who preserve the cultural identity and play vital role in economy of J&K. The



scheme offers the benefit like training with stipend, Loan up to 3 lakh, incentive of Re.1 towards digital transaction and toolkits worth Rs.15,000 training has been completed at various centers in various districts of J&K. As per the scheme guidelines toolkits are being given to the Vishwakarmas for enhancing their production levels resulting in higher productivity with enhanced quality with better value for their products. The delivery of Toolkits is implemented with the assistance of India Post. Toolkit delivery has started recently.

Detailed road map has been laid for delivery of Tool Kits at the doorstep of the artisan which includes showing the toolkit to the artisans by open delivery method and recording, uploading of a video with 30 seconds duration before making payment to the vendor of tool kit

through DBT. Total delivered toolkits are more than 15000 numbers in J&K. To further increase the penetration and saturation of the scheme, an awareness program was organized by DFO Jammu in Batote of District Ramban for especially with lesser registration trades. The benefits of the scheme were informed to the participants in detail and the queries of already registered participants have been cleared on the spot by officers of the Union Ministry and Government of Jammu & Kashmir. The program was organised as per the directions of G.Velladurai IEDS, Joint Director, MSME DFO, Jammu. BDO, Batote, Officer from DIC, Ramban, Representative from CSC, Ex. Sarpanchs and various officers participated in the program. The program was coordinated by Rajesh Kumar IEDS, Assistant Director MSME DFO Jammu.

## DC reviews progress of National Rural Livelihood Mission in Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, MARCH 6

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal reviewed the progress of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) in the district, focusing on strategies to enhance rural income generation through Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviews blockwise physical and financial progress and in-depth discussions revolved around shaping the future action plan for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) formation, strengthening SHG-Bank linkages, promoting financial inclusion, Capacity Building Trainings and advancing various livelihood initiatives.

The meeting commenced with insightful updates from the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) representatives. It was informed that the total number of SHGs is 4377 with 3110 active members engaged with these SHGs in the district, total number of Village Organizations is 337, Total numbers of cluster-level federations is 29 showcased the exten-



sive reach of community engagement in Poonch.

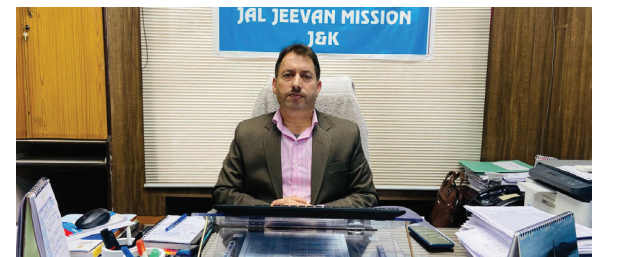
The meeting emphasised creating a robust roadmap for income generation in rural areas, particularly highlighting the importance of empowering women through Self-Help Groups and micro-credit schemes. The Lakhpati Didi initiative, identification of potential Lakhpati Didi was discussed thoroughly.

Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of collaborative efforts among SHGs to diversify livelihood activities and improve income

levels. He issued a clear directive to officers, emphasizing their role in assisting SHGs to channel their collective endeavors toward establishing thriving and successful businesses. He also directed the concerned to achieve all allotted targets before ending this month.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, District Programme Manager NRLM, All Block Programme Managers and other concerned officers.

## MD JJM takes comprehensive review of Jal Jeevan Mission in Jammu & Kashmir



JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 06

Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K, Khurshid Ahmad Shah today took a detailed review of implementation of JJM in Jammu & Kashmir through virtual mode.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Kashmir and Jammu besides Superintending Engineers Hydraulic circles and Executive Engineers of all divisions including their counterparts of Mechanical Engineering.

The Mission Director enquired about the completion of schemes and various components under JJM which have achieved more than 75% progress in each division.

The chair was informed that these components will be commissioned. It was also informed that some works have been stalled due to land issues and in some cases the

forest department has stopped work inspite of payments already made to the concerned.

The MD directed the officers to maintain proper coordination between departments and officials so that stalled works are started soon. Shah also highlighted the discrepancies in scheme completion and Har Ghar Jal reported and certified villages.

The meeting was informed that due to prolonged dry weather the supply got reduced which caused the delay in reporting and certifying these villages. It was assured that with recent rains and snow the sources have been replenished and the process of Har Ghar Jal certification will gather pace in coming days.

The meeting concluded with directions to field officers and managers to gear up and give fresh impetus to the works stalled due to winters.

## DC Kishtwar reviews RDSS Projects, sets deadline for installation of Smart Meters

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, MARCH 6

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan today reviewed the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in the district.

The meeting focused on smart metering and loss reduction (LR) works, which include AB cabling, High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS), reconductoring and feeder bifurcation/segregation.

At the outset, the DC welcomed the participants and took a comprehensive status update on the progress of the key components under RDSS. He thoroughly reviewed the implementation of smart metering and loss reduction initiatives besides assessing the challenges faced by executing agencies.

Expressing concern over the slow pace of smart meters installation, the DC directed DGM, RECPDCL to expedite the progress to achieve the set targets.

The DC sets April 15, 2025, as the final deadline for the completion of smart metering across the township and various areas of the district. He



further emphasized the timely procurement of materials to avoid delays and instructed officers to ensure a seamless supply chain for ongoing and upcoming projects.

To enhance the monitoring and execution of RDSS projects, the Kishtwar instructed JPDCL to establish a dedicated Cell at the DC Office Complex. This will facilitate daily monitoring of project progress to identify and address critical gaps efficiently, he added.

During the meeting, the DC also reviewed the power distribution works in remote areas of Marwah and Warwan. He directed the executing agencies to start work immediately in these regions to strengthen the power infrastructure and improve power supply for residents.

Additionally, the DC instructed the Executive Engineer, JPDCL, to revisit and revise the project plans in alignment

with the revised costs and scope of work. He stressed the importance of maintaining quality standards and ensuring timely execution to achieve the objectives of the RDSS.

The meeting was attended by CPO Shahnawaz Bali, DGM, RECPDCL Rishab Jain, Executive Engineer JPDCL Kishtwar Latief Ahmed, Executive Engineer Project Div Doda Rajeev Sharma, officials and representatives of various executing agencies including PGCIL, REC, PIA, PESL, and Vijay Electrical Ltd., Hyderabad among other stakeholders. The Deputy Commissioner reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring efficient power distribution and reducing AT&C losses in Kishtwar. He urged all agencies involved to work in close coordination and adhere to the prescribed timelines for the successful implementation of RDSS projects in the district.

## DC Poonch inaugurates Touch Point Common Service Centres

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, MARCH 6

In a significant step towards improving public service accessibility, the Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, inaugurated several Touch Point Common Service Centres (CSCs), today at key government offices, including the Government Degree College Poonch, ARTO Office Poonch and Tehsil Haveli Poonch in the presence ADC Poonch, Tahir Mustafa Malik, Principal GDC Poonch, Dr. Jasbir Singh and District Manager CSC, Imtiaz Ahmed.

A total of 23 CSC touch-points have been functional across various government offices, including 11 in the BDO Office, 6 in Tehsil offices, 4 in the Degree College, 1 in the ARTO Office and 1 in the DC Office.

Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for the CSC operators to



deliver services at genuine rates to ensure that beneficiaries can access essential services without any financial burden. The introduction of these centres marks a leap forward in facilitating online services for the residents of Poonch, ultimately enhancing administrative efficiency and public satisfaction.

Tehsildar Haveli, Azhar Majid, ARTO Poonch, Basharat Mehmood highlighted the importance of these centres in providing essential online services.

## DC Doda reviews NCORD, security, law & order and road safety

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, MARCH 6

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Harvinder Singh, chaired a high-level meeting to review Narco Coordination (NCORD), security, law & order, and road safety in the district.

Senior officials, including SSP Doda Sandeep Kumar Mehta, ADC, SDMs, and officers from multiple departments, participated, along with Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) officials joining virtually.

The DC directed law enforcement agencies to intensify anti-narcotics operations, enhance surveillance, and dismantle illegal drug networks. He also stressed the impor-



tance of public awareness campaigns and rehabilitation programmes under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. To strengthen security, the "No Drone Fly Zone" order will be strictly enforced, while urban areas will see enhanced CCTV surveillance. Officials were also directed to increase patrolling in sensitive areas and improve intelligence-sharing mechanisms.

In road safety measures,

NHIDCL and BRO were instructed to install crash barriers, regulate heavy vehicle movement, and prevent illegal roadside construction. Car workshops have been warned against using public roads for servicing. The DC directed all departments to submit action plans for better enforcement and stressed inter-departmental collaboration to achieve a drug-free and safer Doda.

## JKSPYM SLCA J&K organizes one-day Training Program for Master Volunteers in Kathua

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, MARCH 6

In line with the Government of India's commitment to create a drug-free society, JKSPYM SLCA J&K today organized a one-day training program for master volunteers of District Kathua as part of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA).

The event was attended by Additional District Commissioner Kathua, Ranjit Singh, District Social Welfare Officer, Varun Choudhary and other officials of the Social Welfare Department.

Addressing the gathering, ADC expressed concern over the rising trend of substance abuse among youth in Jammu and Kashmir, urging the master vol-



unteers to fully benefit from the training and apply the knowledge gained to fight drug addiction in the district.

The program commenced with a welcome note, followed by an introduction to JKSPYM and SLCA J&K by Program Director, JKSPYM Pallavi Singh.

As many as 64 master volunteers participated in the training, which included four sessions on various aspects of drug de-addiction, such as "Information on Drugs, Drug Use, and its Consequences," "District Level Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan," "Intervention Spectrum in Drug Treatment and Prevention," and "Roles and Responsibilities of Master Volunteers and Nasha Mukta Bharat Lead-

ers."

Resource persons from SLCA delivered comprehensive presentations, highlighting the growing prevalence of drug use in India. The training program enhanced participants' understanding of substance abuse while equipping them with the necessary skills to become advocates for drug prevention in their communities. The program concluded with the distribution of certificates, marking not only the end of the event but the beginning of the volunteers' journey as agents of change in promoting a drug-free society in Kathua.

## Mission Yuva: Orientation program for SBDU, BHDs, Yuva Doots held at Ganderbal

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
GANDERBAL, MARCH 06

A one-day orientation program under Mission YUVA was today organized for members of the Small Business Development Unit (SBDU), Business Help Desk (BHD) and Yuva Doots at the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal.

The program was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, along with Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Gulzar Ahmad.

The session aimed to equip participants with a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities in implementing the institutional business support mechanism under Mission Yuva, fostering self-employment and

entrepreneurship in the district.

At the outset, Assistant Director, Employment, delivered a comprehensive presentation, outlining the specific duties of each committee member. The orientation covered key aspects of financial, legal, and market advisory support to budding entrepreneurs, ensuring an efficient and well-coordinated execution of the Mission Yuva initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC emphasized



the need for a strong support system for potential entrepreneurs, ensuring they receive comprehensive guidance in their journey towards self-employment. He stressed the importance of teamwork, clarity of responsibilities, and seamless coordination among all stakeholders for the successful implementation of the project.

The program featured expert-led sessions, providing insights into the operational framework of Mission Yuva and highlighting

the pivotal role of Yuva Doots in driving grassroots-level engagement.

Interactive discussions allowed participants to address queries, gain clarity on various aspects of the mission, and share valuable inputs.

The event was attended by SDM Kangan, Assistant Director DE&CC, LDM, and other officials, reaffirming their commitment to empowering youth and strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Ganderbal.

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## DDC Samba chairs DLRC meeting to review performance of Banks

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, MARCH 6



During the meeting, the DDC conducted a detailed review of government-sponsored schemes, emphasizing 100% digitalization of bank accounts and urging banks to actively promote self-employment initiatives.

He directed banks to clear pending cases under various government schemes and ensure timely credit disbursement to boost economic activities.

He also stressed the need to cover all eligible beneficiaries under social security schemes like PMSBY, PMJJBY and APY.

On this occasion, the Potential Credit Plan (PLP) 2025-26 for District Samba, prepared by NABARD, was also released. The DDC formally launched the PLP 2025-26, which will serve as a roadmap for enhancing credit flow to priority sectors, fostering economic development in the district.

## ADDC Ramban chairs meeting on SDRF Relief Cases, 45 cases reviewed

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, MARCH 6

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Ramban, Roshan Lal, today chaired a meeting to review and decide upon relief cases under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). A total of 45 cases were assessed and 41 decided during the meeting, focusing on necessary relief measures for affected individuals.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Ramban, S. Harpal Singh, District Sheep Husbandry Officer (DSHO), Tehsildar



Khari, Tehsildar Banihal, Tehsildar Batote, Tehsildar Pogal-Paristan, and other concerned officials.

Emphasizing the need for expedited relief distribution, the ADDC directed officials to ensure timely assistance to affected families. He also stressed a transparent and efficient verification process

for assessing damages and disbursing relief funds. Discussions were held on streamlining the relief mechanism to enhance responsiveness in times of distress.

The ADDC urged the officers to coordinate effectively and uphold a swift and just relief process to support those in need.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE					
Tender Notice No.-770-W/169/NA/FZR/2024-25			Date: 06.03.2025		
Sr.DEN4V/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tender and available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> with closing date-24/03/2025 & 27/03/2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.					
Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information login to <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> .					
Tender Type	Tendering Section		Bidding System		
Open	Works		Single Packet System		
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date		Bid Closing Date/Time		
28/02/2025 & 05/03/2025	10/03/2025 & 13/03/2025		24/03/2025 & 27/03/2025		
S. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender			
1	05-2024-25-MCTM-DRM-JAT	Catch water drain cleaning and dewatering of shrubs, vegetation along railway track in the section of SSE/P.way/Sectional/SVDK, MINVL & Miscellaneous P.way works for Track Maintenance in the section of SSE/P.way/Sectional/SVDK, MINVL, MCTM under jurisdiction of ADEN/MCTM			
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		7419624.82	148400.00	60 Days	6 Months
		Similar nature of work:- "CTR/TRR/TRF/TRR including raising of track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machines/ballast screening/regulating machines & TTR by T-28"			
2	06-2024-25-BDGM-DRM-JAT	Transportation of material from Dhillwan depot or any other location as per requirement of railway to BAHL-BRML section under ADEN/BDGM			
		Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
		3999997.25	80000.00	60 Days	8 Months
		Similar nature of work:- "Any transportation work or any Pway/track related work including the scope of transportation of Pway material.			
Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.					724/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE					

# Central Industrial Security Force to Launch the First-Ever "Great Indian Coastal Cyclothon" Celebrating 56 Years of CISF with a Historic Nationwide Ride

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 7

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is set for the launch of the first-ever "Great Indian Coastal Cyclothon" as part of its 56th Raising Day celebrations. This information was given by Sudhir Kumar, Additional Director General of Central Industrial Security Force. He was speaking at the pre event press conference organized by Central Industrial Security Force in Mumbai today.

Under the inspiring theme (Secure Shores, Prosperous India), this initiative aims to raise awareness about national security in coastal areas, highlighting the threats posed by smuggling, including drugs, weapons

and explosives. A total of 125 dedicated CISF cyclists, including 14 women, will embark on a rigorous 6,553 km journey over 25 days, covering 11 states. The expedition will commence on March 7, 2025, from two starting points: Lakhpat, Gujarat, on the western coast and Bakkhali, West Bengal, on the eastern coast. The cyclists will traverse key coastal cities, including Mumbai, Goa, Mangalore, Kochi, Haldia, Konark, Vizag, Chennai, and Pondicherry, before concluding at the Swami Vivekananda Memorial in Kanyakumari on March 31, 2025. The cyclothon will be virtually flagged off by Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah, from CISF Regional Training Centre, Thakolam, Ranipet District,



Tamil Nadu. The western route, covering 3,775 km, will commence from Lakhpat Fort in Gujarat, while the eastern route, spanning 2,778 km, will start from Bakkhali Beach in West Bengal.

Along the way, multiple events will be held, featuring demonstrations and cultural performances by CISF teams, schoolchildren, and NCC groups. Major events at prominent locations, including Lakhpat Fort, Surat, Gateway of India, Mormugao Port (Goa), Mangalore, Cochin, Konark, Vizag, Chennai, and Pondicherry. The Gateway of India event is scheduled on 20th March. It will feature a Mumbai Police band and CISF fire and dog squad drills. Many smaller events such as cultural shows, community talks, traditional dances, cleaning drives, plantation drives, and outreach with local fishermen will also be held. The Grand Finale in Kanyakumari will feature a CISF band, patriotic per-

formances and community interactions.

The CISF has invited citizens to be part of this historic initiative by joining the cyclothon along any stretch of their choice. Those unable to participate physically can register for the virtual rally at [www.cisfcyclothon.com](http://www.cisfcyclothon.com) to show their support.

For queries and coordination, the CISF has also established a dedicated Control Room in Mumbai. Contact: (022) 27762015 or email [adig-ws@cisf.gov.in](mailto:adig-ws@cisf.gov.in).

This cyclothon is more than just a sporting event—it is a movement to unite communities, honor our security forces and strengthen India's coastal vigilance. Together, we can build a safer, stronger and more prosperous India.

## FROM THE PAGE 1...

### 'July 13 Martyrs'...

for some rights. If what they did was wrong, why did Maharaja Hari Singh take the steps he did after their sacrifice? Why did he set up the Glancy Commission? Why did he announce elections after that commission? Why did the Praja Sabha come into existence, which eventually became the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly?" Omar asked.

He added, "If the sacrifices of those people led to the formation of this Assembly, can't we at least use respectful words for them? Their only fault was that they were Muslims. Admit that. Because in the rest of the country, where voices were raised against autocracy, no one called them traitors. But here, because they were Muslims and were fighting for democracy, such words come so easily from our mouths."

Omar also addressed the controversy surrounding the holiday on December 5, marking the birth anniversary of Sheikh Abdullah. He revealed that during his previous tenure as the Chief Minister, he had considered abolishing the holiday to reduce the number of public holidays in Jammu and Kashmir.

"If you had asked me, I would have willingly given up that holiday. My colleagues may not remember, but when I was Chief Minister last time, I told my colleagues that I wanted to give up the December 5 holiday. Salaria Sahib is a witness. I said there are too many holidays in Jammu and Kashmir, and I want to reduce them. But if I start cutting other holidays, people will say that you kept your grandfather's holiday and cut the rest. First, remove the Sher-e-Kashmir holiday on December 5, and then we will reduce the other holidays," Omar said.

He added that Sheikh Abdullah's stature is not tied to the December 5 holiday. "What he did for Jammu and Kashmir cannot be erased. Whether you observe July 13 as a holiday or not, whether you observe December 5 as a holiday or not, no one can erase the sacrifices of those people from the hearts of the people here," he said.

### CHALLENGES OPPOSITION ON ART 370 REMOVAL

The Chief Minister also addressed the ongoing debate over the abrogation of Article 370. He challenged the opposition to name one development project that could not have been implemented without the removal of Article 370. "Most of the projects you listed were started before 2019. But I won't get into that debate. I am asking you to name one development-related project that was not possible before the removal of Article 370," he said.

Omar also refuted claims that Article 370 was responsible for corruption, nepotism, and terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. He pointed out that terrorism has not ceased after the abrogation of Article 370, particularly in Jammu. "If Article 370 alone was responsible for terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, then it should have stopped after its removal. But it did not. So, there is more to it," he said.

### CRITICIZES USE OF PUBLIC SAFETY ACT

The Chief Minister criticized the use of the Public Safety Act (PSA) to detain individuals without trial. He argued that if the government has evidence against those detained, they should be prosecuted in court rather than held under preventive detention.

"If you are keeping people in jail for years based solely on the PSA, it means you have no evidence to prosecute them, no case against them. You are simply detaining them under the PSA. If what you say is true—that they are stone-pelters, OGWs (Over Ground Workers), or terrorists—then why do you need preventive detention? Preventive detention is needed when you cannot build a case against someone," Omar said.

### EVERYONE SUPPORTS STATEHOOD

The Chief Minister reiterated his commitment to restoring statehood for Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed confidence that all members of the Assembly would support a resolution in favor of statehood if brought to the floor.

"We believe that there is no party or person here who is against statehood. But if Sajad Sahib [Sajad Lone] has doubts that some people are against statehood, bring the resolution. Today, I say that all our members will vote in favor of it," he said.

### OUR BUSINESS RULES HAVE BEEN FRAMED

The Chief Minister also highlighted the need for clarity in governance and announced that the Cabinet had approved new business rules to streamline administrative processes. "Last night, around 8 PM, we held a Cabinet meeting, and our business rules have been framed. The Cabinet has approved them, and the approval has

been sent to the Lieutenant Governor. We hope that it will be approved so that at least until this system is in place—I am assuming it is temporary—it should function properly," Omar said. KNO

### Article 370 is a...

with Pakistan is the domain of the Ministry of External Affairs. "Some people here advocated dialogue with Pakistan, but they should understand it is not the domain of the Assembly. The MEA knows when to hold talks with Pakistan," he said.

Sharma also stated that entire Kashmir politics is now revolving around the BJP, with parties blaming each other for being their proxies. KNO

### Lieutenant Governor...

Bhawan, Cottages (near Sports Stadium), Katra, Widening of Yatra track from Sanjichhat to Bhawan and operationalization of Medical College of the Board at Kakryal.

To cater to the substantial increase in footfall at Bhairon Ji Temple following the installation of the Passenger Ropeway in the year-2019, the Board concurred with the re-development of the Bhairon Ji Temple Complex to address key concerns, including the implementation of an efficient queue management system, provision of locker facilities and additional washrooms. The project seeks to facilitate simultaneous darshans, reduce turnaround times and enhance the overall pilgrim experience, ensuring seamless crowd management. The project is slated for completion within 12 months. The Board approved an amnesty scheme to settle long-standing litigation matters with shop licensees, providing a one-time opportunity for resolution.

The meeting also reviewed the implementation of the Annual Green Plan of the Board for the current year and approved the Annual Green Plan for the year 2025-26.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the CEO SMVDSB to conduct a thorough evaluation of the existing Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) across the Shrine Board's premises to assess their adequacy in handling the generated sewage and necessary measures be taken to augment STP capacities.

He further directed to explore targeted initiatives to increase reliance on renewable sources of energy especially solar power to the extent feasible in the area of the Shrine.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasised on implementation of robust feedback mechanism for fostering continuous improvement in the services provided by the Shrine Board.

He lauded the important contribution of Board Members in the last three years since the Board was reconstituted. He said, the pro-active association and continuous guidance by the Members were instrumental in taking the Board's reputation to newer horizons.

The Board took appraisal of peripheral institutions under the SMVD Charitable Society including Gurukul, Hospital, Sports Complex, College of Nursing, Medical College and approved grants-in-aid and financial assistance to support their functioning. The Board also discussed several measures for expeditious completion of the Shankaracharya Temple project in collaboration with local stakeholders.

The Board observed that Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine has seen a consistent surge in devotees with the annual pilgrimage exceeding 90 lakh for the third consecutive year, reaching an impressive 95 lakh last year. The significant growth attributed to the dedication of major projects in the Bhawan area including Durga Bhawan with Tripti Bhojanalya, Skywalk, Remodelled Parvati Bhawan and Atka Area. Furthermore, the expansion of facilities and amenities in Katra and other sectors such as the Queue Complex at Darshani Deodi, YRC at Railway Station, holding area at Adhkuwari, pilgrims cum employees' accommodation and the establishment of Prasad Kendras have also contributed to this growth. The provision of free Langars, medical facilities, facilitating senior citizens and divyang and Arti & Poojan facilities, coupled with eco-friendly and digital initiatives has significantly enhanced the pilgrim experience.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated several pilgrim-centric facilities including the Queue Complex at Darshani Deodi, Banganga and the Holding Area at Adhkuwari. The Queue Complex provides shelter during all weather conditions and streamlines devotee movement. Meanwhile, the Holding Area at Adhkuwari reduces congestion and waiting times, improves crowd management, safety and

ensures a smoother movement of pilgrims towards the sanctum sanctorum.

On the occasion, 50gm and 100gm Silver Coins were also launched, adding to the diverse facilities available to pilgrims. Notably, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board had previously developed gold and silver coins in various denominations featuring an inscription of Goddess Mata Vaishno Devi Ji, ensuring guaranteed purity.

Earlier, Sh Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB gave a detailed presentation on varied activities of the Shrine Board and the action taken with regard to the implementation of various decisions of the previous meetings of the Board.

### Govt to develop...

Department, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah informed the Legislative Assembly that the approved allocation for the current financial year 2024-25 is Rs. 30 lakh, with Rs. 24 lakh already released.

Replying during the Question Hour of the ongoing Budget Session, the Chief Minister stated that the entire land in Bungus Valley falls under the Forest Department.

Accordingly, the matter has been taken up with the Deputy Commissioner of Kupwara for intervention in identifying land parcels for the proposed works in consultation with the Forest department.

"Once the land parcels are identified by the Forest Department, the necessary permissions and NOCs shall be sought on the Parivesh Portal for Forest Clearance," he informed.

To maintain ecological balance, the Chief Minister said the department has focused on avoiding the construction of massive buildings and hotels.

"The aim would be to develop the area as an ecotourism destination. The department would focus on creating basic recreation facilities, rain shelters, public conveniences, signage, lighting, and waste disposal facilities for visitors," he told the House.

Additionally, he stated that to safeguard the livelihood of local shepherds, nomads, and other inhabitants of Bungus Valley, the J&K Tourism Department has initiated the process of registering Paying Guest Houses in the area. "This will help to preserve and promote local culture, traditions, and cuisine and would be an immersive travel experience for tourists. The house was informed that 19 paying guest houses in the proximity of Bungus Valley are registered with the Department of Tourism, Kashmir.

The Chief Minister also stated that the Bungus Festival would be organized to provide wider publicity to this scenic destination.

### Budget Session 2025...

During the discussion, MLA Shakti Raj Parihar praised the efforts of the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, for holding pre-budget discussions with all the stakeholders, so that budget reflects the aspirations of all people.

MLA Reyaz Khan, while speaking on the motion of thanks, said that the LG's address is in complete sync with the manifesto. He said that government is fully committed to work for the welfare of people and fulfill all the promises made with them.

MLA Ranbir Singh Pathania, while participating in the discussion, said that Omar Abdullah led government should fulfill their promises made during the elections. He added that National Conference has given many guarantees during the elections that need to be fulfilled.

While commenting on the Motion of Thanks, MLA Choudhary Mohammad Akram raised the issue of regularization of daily wagers, hike in electricity bills and tribal reservation. He said that government should focus on fulfilling their commitments to provide relief to the people.

Participating in the discussion, MLA Payare Lal Sharma raised the issues regarding development in Chenab Valley. He said that the government should ensure time-bound completion of the projects there. He also said that 80 percent of local residents should be provided employment in power projects established in Chenab valley to address unemployment issues in the region.

MLA Sheikh Khurshed, while speaking on Motion of Thanks to LG's address spoke about hike in power tariffs and requested for one time amnesty of electricity bills for the consumers.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Dr. Sajad Shafi Uri said that the government and opposition need to work together irrespective of caste, religion and political differences to get back what we have lost after reorganization. "Future generations should not remember

this house for non-achievements", he said. He also urged the legislators to come together for restoration of statehood, as promised by the central government and the Apex Court. He also asked for tapping the Border Tourism and Eco-Tourism in Uri area.

MLA Shabir Kullay, while participating in the discussion, urged the legislators and government to file a joint petition in Apex court for immediate restoration of statehood as promised.

Participating in the discussion on Motion of Thanks, MLA Pawan Gupta raised the issue of daily wagers and asked for increasing their minimum wages.

MLA Javid Hussain Beigh, during the discussion, said that restoration of statehood will be healing touch for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

### Terrorism, drug...

Referring to the incentivization of the police personnel DGP Prabhat said, "From day one I have said in different meetings that whoever does good work, he will get a good posting."

He said, "I have told everyone that do some big work for the country and within one minute you will get the posting you want". KNO

### Jammu Airport becoming...

infrastructure projects, including those related to air transport.

"Notably, these initiatives collectively aim to bolster Jammu and Kashmir's connectivity, facilitating smoother travel and boosting economic growth in the region," the document further states. KNO

### In 4-years, Jammu...

The Economic Survey revealed that Jammu recorded a total tourist arrival of 1,62,10,875 in 2022 while Kashmir received only 26,73,442.

As many as 1,88,84,317 tourists visited J&K in 2022, the survey reveals.

In 2023, Jammu received a total footfall of 1,80,24,176 compared to 31,55,835 in Kashmir, thereby a total of 2,11,80,011 tourists arrived in Jammu and Kashmir in the particular year.

In 2024, 2,00,91,379 tourists visited Jammu while Kashmir recorded only 34,98,702 tourist arrivals, including both domestic and foreigners.

The figures include 5,11,922 Amarnath yatris during 2024 and 94,55,605 Vaishno Devi yatris during 2024.

Moreover, in the four subsequent years from 2021 till 2024, Kashmir witnessed more foreign tourists compared to Jammu with the Economic Survey revealing that 1,614 foreigners visited Kashmir in 2021 compared to only 36 in Jammu.

In 2022, Kashmir received 19,947 foreign tourists compared to only 38 in Jammu. In 2023, Kashmir witnessed a footfall of 37,678 foreign tourists compared to only 17,649 in Jammu while in 2024, Kashmir received 43,654 foreign tourists compared to 21,798 in Jammu.

As per the survey, the number of foreign tourists has risen more than 300%.

The 3rd Tourism Working Meeting of the G20, held in Srinagar from May 22nd to 24th 2023, brought J&K into the global spotlight, marking a crucial moment for its tourism sector.

Landmark events such as the first-ever Sunburn Musical Festival in Jammu and the inaugural F4 car show in Srinagar further highlighted the region's growing appeal and vibrant cultural landscape, it reads. KNO

### Revenue dept...

to visit any government office for availing such services.

The Minister also quoted Section 133 A, Proviso 2, "Provided further that holder of any Agriculture land may construct a residential house or erect farm building, grain storage, primary processing of Agriculture Produce, wells or tanks or make any other improvements thereon for residential purpose or Agricultural improvement, on intimation to the Tehsildar concerned, however, the plinth area of such building or improvement shall not exceed four hundred Square meters in total".

The Minister also assured the house that any issue faced by the public on this account will be addressed promptly.

## Nassem Javaid Chowdhary takes over as Director School Education Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 6

Nassem Javaid Chowdhary today assumed charge as the new Director of School Education, Jammu.

Mr. Chowdhary, who previously served as Managing Director of J&K Horticulture Produce, Marketing, and Processing Corporation, is known for his leadership in revitalising the horticulture sector through sustainable growth and marketing



strategies.

He succeeds Ashok Sharma, who has been

transferred as Special Secretary in the Labour & Employment Department.

As the new Director, Mr. Chowdhary is expected to focus on expanding quality education, introducing innovative teaching methodologies, and ensuring the holistic development of students.

His appointment has been welcomed by educators and stakeholders, who anticipate positive reforms in the education system under his leadership.

## Registrar BGSBU inspects administrative offices, issues key directives

JI NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MARCH 6

Registrar Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), Abhishek Sharma, conducted an inspection of various administrative offices to assess their functioning and improve efficiency.

During the visit, he issued key directives, including periodic checks of employees' service records, prioritising digitisation of files, and securing important documents in a CCTV-monitored room. The Registrar also instructed officials to expedite salary disbursement for contractual employees.

In line with the university's move towards paperless administration, he directed the immediate adoption of the e-office system, with an implementation meeting to follow.

The Examination Section was tasked with ensuring that Degrees, Diplomas, and Certificates are issued before convocation to facilitate smooth academic transitions.

The Registrar emphasised that these measures are crucial for enhancing transparency, administrative efficiency, and service delivery within the university.

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 6

As many as 26 unfair means- cases were framed against the students found indulging in irregular practices during surprise inspections conducted by 20 vigilance squads constituted by JKBOSE to safeguard the integrity of the examinations. The inspections were carried out on the instructions of Secretary JKBOSE, G.H. Sheikh, who supervised the inspection drive.

The superintendents of these centers were directed to be cautious in future and ensure that there is no recurrence of such incidents. The examinations are conducted in smooth and transparent manner, as the invigilator staff has been found quite vigilant in the conduct of the examinations in the wake of strict instructions from the Board.

## DC Poonch distributes Rs 1,00,37,100 educational assistance, inspires students to pursue academic excellence



JI NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, MARCH 6

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal released a cheque of Rs 1,00,37,100 as educational assistance for the children of registered laborers under the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board at the Assistant Labour Commissioner's Office, Poonch at district headquarters.

While interacting with the students, the DC emphasized the importance of education and urged them to stay away from drug abuse and mobile addiction. He

encouraged the children of laborers to work hard and strive for academic excellence, highlighting the availability of a Rs 50,000 merit-based scholarship for students securing over 90% marks in Class 10th and 12th board examinations.

The DC also engaged with parents, motivating them to ensure their children receive quality education and benefit from various government welfare schemes. The Deputy Commissioner directed the Labour Department to work with dedication to extend benefits to more students in the district.

## GCW Parade organises workshop on Women Empowerment



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 6

On the occasion of International Women's Day-2025, the Department of Psychology, Government College for Women, Parade in collaboration with the Center for Women's Studies, University of Jammu successfully organized a workshop on "Women Empowerment: Social, Psychological and Legal perspective".

The event aimed to highlight the importance of women issues and development of gender sensitive perspective among the students by highlighting the needs for women's empowerment through socio psychological and legal awareness. The workshop was graced by Dr. Savita Nayyar,

Director Center for Women Studies, University of Jammu who delivered an insightful PowerPoint presentation, emphasizing the role of education and awareness in fostering women's empowerment.

Among the distinguished faculty members present were Dr. Probhjot Kour, Head, Department of Psychology, Dr. Saranjeet Kour and Kunzang Angmo, Faculty CWS, Dr. Manju, Prof. Nisha faculty, Department of Psychology along with other esteemed academicians and participants. The workshop featured interactive discussions, case studies, and engaging sessions, encouraging participants to actively reflect on challenges faced by women and the need for collective action.

## JKAACL organizes Musical Program 'Lal Wakh' to celebrate Lal Ded's Legacy



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 6

The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) today organized a mesmerizing musical program titled Lal Wakh at K.L. Saigal Hall, Jammu.

The event was dedicated to the revered Kashmiri mystic poetess Lal Ded, also known as Lalleshwari, whose spiritual poetry continues to inspire generations.

Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner Dr. Arvind Karvani graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Secretary, JKAACL, Harvinder Kour was the Guest of Honour.

In his address, Dr. Arvind Karvani highlighted the profound influence of Lal Ded's poetry in shaping Kashmiri culture and spirituality. He emphasized the importance of preserving and promoting her rich literary heritage through such cultural events. He also appreciated the efforts of the artists and musicians who contributed to making the evening a soulful tribute to the great saint-poetess.

Additional Secretary JKAACL Sanjeev Rana in his welcome address, said that the program aimed to revive and celebrate the timeless Vakhs (verses) of Lal Ded, which carry

deep spiritual and philosophical significance. He acknowledged that the event was conceived and designed under the guidance of Secretary, JKAACL.

The program commenced with the melodious recitation of Lal Wakh by the renowned vocalist Dr. Deepali Watal, who captivated the audience with her soulful rendition. She was followed by another celebrated singer from Jammu and Kashmir, Naina Sapru, whose mesmerizing voice evoked the essence of Lal Ded's mysticism. Two young budding artists, Shivani and Sharat, also enthralled the audience with their sweet and melodious voices.

## DC Doda reviews progress of Health Department in district



JI NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, MARCH 6

Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, today chaired a review meeting of the Health Department at the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex, Doda. The meeting focused on assessing the progress of various health schemes, including the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), aimed at improving maternal and child health in the district.

Senior health officials attended the meeting to present the current status and challenges in implementing these schemes.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed key health indicators and directed officials to ensure efficient service delivery in a time bound manner. The Chief Medical Officer, Medical Superintendent of GMC, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, and Block Medical Officers (BMOs) along with BPMUs attended the meeting.

The CMO gave brief on progress achieved on various health indicators like institutional deliveries, sex ratio at birth, number of low birth weight newborns, and progress under Janani Suraksha Karyakaram. The meeting also emphasized the need

for better coordination among healthcare facilities to enhance maternal and child healthcare services.

The DC urged health officials to strengthen outreach programs to increase awareness about institutional deliveries and maternal healthcare benefits under JSY. He also stressed the importance of accurate data collection and real-time monitoring to track progress effectively. Officials were directed to address gaps in service delivery and improve healthcare infrastructure to ensure quality maternal and child care services across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed block-wise screening of all types of ailments and directed officials to ensure the proper deployment of ASHA workers for screening patients in their respective jurisdictions. He emphasized the need for proactive health interventions to detect and address health issues at an early stage.

The meeting concluded with the Deputy Commissioner instructing concerned officers to submit a detailed report on the implementation of health schemes and measures taken to enhance healthcare services in Doda.

## Transport Commissioner directs installation of CCTV camera in school buses

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 6

Transport Commissioner J&K, Vishesh Paul Mahajan has issued a notice directing all school authorities to ensure the installation of CCTV cameras in school buses for enhanced student safety by March 31, 2025. Enforcement agencies have also been instructed to launch special drives from April 1, 2025, to verify compliance. Schools found violating the directive will face action under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the rules framed thereunder.

## Power shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 6

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDC, Jammu has informed that the power supply to Jakh, Joggpur, Sarore, Patli Industry and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 08 from 7 am to 5 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Smailpur, Rahya, Gurah, Utterbehni, Mandal, Central University and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 09 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Pathi, Dairy Farm, Devik and Jakhani will remain affected on March 08 and 12 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Katra Town, Chintamani, Aaghar-Jitto, Jammu road, Samsam hotel, American hotel and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 08 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Kathua Town, Hatlimorh, Kalibari, Ludanchack, Janglote, Patel Nagar, Sawan Chack, Shastri Nagar, Chack Pratap, PHE installations and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 07 from 8 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Kalakote Sui, Dhangri and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 08 from 9 am to 12 noon.

Likewise, the power supply to Thanamandi, Manjakote and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 08 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to IIT Campus Jammu will remain affected on March 07, 08 and 09 from 7 pm to 7 am.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer, O&M Circle-III, JPDC Batote has informed that the power supply to Searly, Chak Bhagta and other adjoining areas will remain affected on March 07 and 09 from 9 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Katra Town and Asia Chowk will remain affected on March 07 and 09 from 8 am to 10 am.



Javid Ahmed Tenga, President, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, today.

Representatives of Management Committee Gurudwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha Bhatta, Nowshera, Rajouri and a delegation of Jammu Kashmir Fruits & Vegetable Processing and Integrated Cold Chain Association (JKPICCA) also called on the Lieutenant Governor.

## Training cum Capacity Building Program for Dental Surgeons held in Udhampur

JI NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 6

A day long Training cum Capacity Building Program for Dental Surgeons of District Udhampur was organized by District Health Society Udhampur, here at Conference Hall, DC Office Udhampur.

The program aimed to enhance the skills of dental practitioners and keep them updated with the latest advancements in dentistry.

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai graced the occasion as the chief guest. She emphasized the importance of adopting modern techniques in routine dental practice to ensure high-quality patient care. She urged the dental surgeons

to treat patients with utmost compassion and professionalism, ensuring the best possible healthcare services.

The program featured scientific and lecture sessions on crucial topics viz. History Taking in Dentistry, Maxillofacial Trauma, Conflict and Management in Routine Dental Practice, Oral Premalignant Diseases and overview of the National Oral Health Program (NOHP) in Udhampur in dentistry.

The training provided a valuable platform for dental surgeons to exchange knowledge and enhance their clinical expertise. Experts in the field delivered insightful sessions, focusing on diagnosis, treatment protocols and modern advancements in dentistry.

## DC Bandipora conducts surprise visit to District Hospital

JI NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, MARCH 06

In order to assess the functioning of the hospital and review the availability of essential medical services and facilities, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Thursday conducted a surprise visit to the District Hospital Bandipora.

During the visit, Medical Superintendent, DH Bandipora briefed the Deputy Commissioner regarding the operations and functioning of various sections within the hospital.

Qadri took round of various sections of the hospital to evaluate the condition of medical

machinery and inspect the presence of doctors and paramedics.

He stressed the importance of maintaining high standards of healthcare and proper monitoring of hospital operations. The DC emphasized the critical role of timely medical assistance, especially during emergencies and urged the hospital administration to address any gaps in service delivery promptly to ensure better healthcare services for the public. He encouraged the medical staff to continue serving with dedication and professionalism to ensure the well-being of the public and improving overall medical facilities in the district.

## 03 Medical shops closed down for violations at Shopian

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, MARCH 6

03 Medical shops were today closed down for improper maintenance of sale records and improper storage of medicine in Shopian. The action against the guilty was taken during intensive inspection of medical shops in Pinjoora, Pahlipora Trenz, Molu Dangerpora and Turkawangam villages of Shopian in order to ensure compliance to the norms under vogue. The main focus of the drive was to check the compliance to directions with respect to the computerized billing system and maintenance of records of scheduled formulations. Further, chemists were given directions for raising digital invoices and maintaining records of scheduled formulations properly and ensuring compliance for computerized billing system installation.

## EDITORIAL

## Balancing coalition and accountability

The ongoing budget session in Jammu and Kashmir's Legislative Assembly has exposed the widening fault lines within the ruling coalition between the National Conference (NC) and the Congress. Despite overtures from the NC leadership aimed at ensuring the smooth conduct of the session, the Congress party finds itself under mounting pressure from its grassroots workers to hold its ally accountable for what they perceive as the government's failure to fulfill the promises made during the election campaign. The address of the Lieutenant Governor has only exacerbated the simmering discontent within the Congress ranks. The speech, which prominently highlighted the schemes and initiatives of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre, was conspicuously silent on the key commitments made by the NC in its election manifesto. This perceived neglect has not gone unnoticed by Congress leaders and workers, who believe that the NC regime must be held responsible for the widening gap between electoral promises and ground realities. The Congress leadership's dilemma is rooted in the delicate act of balancing coalition dharma with the expectations of its support base. While Chief Minister Omar Abdullah made a passing reference to the role of former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in initiating several developmental projects in Jammu and Kashmir, the Congress workers are far from placated. They have urged their MLAs to adopt a more assertive stance, resisting any blanket support to the government on matters where the NC's election commitments are found wanting. With the state budget presentation on the horizon, the Congress legislators are in a wait-and-watch mode. The budget will serve as a litmus test for the NC's commitment to its electoral promises. Should the budget fail to address the economic pledges made during the polls, the Congress is likely to adopt a more aggressive posture, potentially deepening the fault lines within the coalition. The growing internal dissent within the Congress ranks underscores a broader challenge facing the party - the need to reconcile coalition compulsions with the rising demand for accountability from its support base. The coming days will test the Congress' ability to navigate this tightrope walk without undermining the stability of the government or alienating its own cadre. Ultimately, the Congress' response will signal whether it prioritizes coalition stability or the voices of its grassroots workers - a choice that could have significant implications for the party's future political prospects in Jammu and Kashmir. The Congress must remember that its true strength lies not merely in numbers but in its unwavering commitment to the aspirations of the people it represents.

NILANTHA ILANGAMUWA

The Financial Times recently published an article on the question of who will succeed Xi Jinping. But perhaps the real question is not one of succession but of continuity—of how a governance model rooted in long-term vision, pragmatic adaptability, and national rejuvenation sustains itself beyond the tenure of any single leader. Unlike Western portrayals, often laden with exaggerated spectres from 'debt traps' to 'authoritarianism', there are profound lessons to be drawn from China's trajectory—especially as Western democracies now find themselves gasping for air in the suffocating embrace of their contradictions. "Democracy is a failed joke," Ai Weiwei, the Chinese contemporary artist, remarked in a recent interview with The Independent—and perhaps never has this assertion been more starkly evident than in the shambolic decline of the liberal order. Governance, once regarded as the solemn responsibility of those entrusted with the future of their nations, has in the West deteriorated into little more than a revolving spectacle of populist theatre, corporate capture, and institutional paralysis. It is within this continuum that China now prepares to convene its most pivotal political gathering of the year—the Two Sessions.

The third session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) and the third session of the 14th National

Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), scheduled to commence on 4 and 5 March respectively, are not mere ritualistic formalities but the very engine of governance in a system defined by strategic foresight rather than short-term electoral expedience. The Western world, entrapped in the myopia of its dysfunction, looks upon this grand assembly with bewilderment, unable to comprehend a system where efficiency supercedes obstruction and where governance is an instrument of civilisation rather than a battleground of perpetual paralysis.

As Beijing convenes these pivotal sessions, it does so with a purpose that far surpasses the partisan gridlock that has crippled Washington under Trump and reduced Brussels, under Ursula von der Leyen's leadership, to a stage of waning relevance. History does not bestow hegemony upon the indolent. It is earned through foresight, discipline, and a genuine commitment to civilisation's progress. The Western model, long heralded as the apex of governance, is now fraying at the seams, consumed by internal strife, economic stagnation, and an ever-widening gulf between the governed and their rulers.

Meanwhile, the Chinese model, grounded in the philosophical profundity of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, marches forward with unparalleled resolve. "The path of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the only

correct path for building a modern socialist country," Xi Jinping declared in his report at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China in October 2017. What have the last few decades illuminated since China's opening up? "Reform and opening up is the key choice that determines the fate of contemporary China," Deng Xiaoping once asserted. This ethos continues to guide China, as the nation refines its developmental trajectory with an adaptability that the West, bound by ideological rigidity, can scarcely fathom. China is not merely asserting its presence but reshaping the very contours of the global order. The Two Sessions have highlighted the profundity of China's economic strategy—one that is not predicated on the ephemeral illusions of speculative capitalism but on tangible infrastructural and technological advancement. While Western economies drown in inflationary quagmires and institutional crises, China has charted a path of economic rejuvenation through high-quality development, industrial upgrading, and the indomitable pursuit of technological self-reliance.

Yet the significance of the Two Sessions transcends economic imperatives. It is also a definitive proclamation for a new global paradigm—one where dialogue supplants discord and where stability is not held hostage to the whims of declining empires. The very exist-

ence of Western diplomacy has been predicated upon coercion, economic subjugation, and military adventurism. China, by contrast, has demonstrated that genuine global leadership lies not in the proliferation of conflict, but in its resolution.

This year's Two Sessions will reaffirm Beijing's role as an indispensable mediator of international crises, bringing adversaries to the negotiating table in a manner that the West, mired in its moral hypocrisy, has repeatedly failed to achieve. Consider the diplomatic masterstroke that saw China facilitate a rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia—two historical adversaries long ensnared in the machinations of Western interventionism. This ethos extends to the Israeli-Palestinian crisis, where China, in defiance of Western inertia, has actively pursued dialogue among Palestinian factions. The hypocrisy of the liberal order is laid bare when the so-called torchbearers of democracy selectively disregard the suffering of those who do not fit within their geopolitical calculus.

Beijing, undeterred by such duplicity, has asserted itself as an honest broker of peace, proving that a multipolar world is not an abstraction but an unfolding reality. Even in the maelstrom of the Ukraine conflict, where Western powers have inflamed tensions rather than defused them, China's peace proposal has emerged as the only substantive roadmap towards de-escalation.

President Xi Jinping has consistently emphasised that "confrontation, sanctions, and pressure will not solve the problem... what is needed is a mindset of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security," resonating ever more powerfully in contrast to the Western penchant for war profiteering. While NATO expands its influence under the guise of security, China constructs bridges of diplomacy, demonstrating that true global leadership lies not in fuelling divisions but in fostering dialogue. But China's vision does not stop at terrestrial affairs.

This year's Two Sessions will be held as the next frontier of human progress—space—becomes a new high-tech battlefield. While Western nations hoard technological advancements for geopolitical leverage, China has advanced an inclusive vision of cosmic exploration. The construction of the Tiangong space station, the pioneering lunar projects, and the Mars exploration programme are not mere scientific endeavours; they are emblematic of a civilisation that aspires not merely for national greatness but for the collective progress of humanity.

The essence of the Two Sessions lies in the articulation of a governing philosophy rooted in long-term vision, adaptability, and the pursuit of collective progress. It is not governance dictated by ephemeral political cycles but by a civilisation's deeper consciousness—one that

understands its historical responsibility not only to itself but to the broader trajectory of human development.

In an era where artificial intelligence and artificial general intelligence are reshaping economies, governance, and even social structures, China does not see these advancements as instruments of control or geopolitical leverage but as elements of a broader mission: ensuring that technological evolution remains a force for human cohesion rather than fragmentation. What China has proven is that reform is not an event; it is the flow of history recognising its potential. Simultaneously, the shifting currents of global trade, exacerbated by protectionist measures and economic fragmentation, have reinforced the necessity of an alternative economic logic—one not shackled to the fluctuations of political expediency but rooted in the principle of enduring equilibrium.

True strength is not found in dominance, but in resilience—the ability to absorb, adapt, and outlast. This defines China's approach to trade tensions: rather than engaging in tit-for-tat economic skirmishes, the focus is on structural reinforcement—building self-sufficiency in critical sectors while ensuring that economic interdependence remains a mechanism of stability rather than vulnerability.

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

## Understanding God and the Guru

AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

We must understand the distinction between these fundamental entities in our lives. First, let me enumerate some commonly known qualities of God. He is omnipotent. This word is defined as having unlimited power. Only God fits this description. Is He not the Creator of innumerable galaxies? Similarly, God is omniscient. This word is defined as knowing everything. Who else except God fits this description? How much can a mere mortal know?

Albert Einstein famously said, "The more I learn, the more I realize how much I don't know."

Then, God is omnipresent too. This word is defined as being present everywhere at the same time. And God is one and we are many. Lord Krishna states, "An eternal soul is My part only." (The Bhagavad-Geeta 15.7) Let us see how a genuine guru fares in these characteristics. He knows that whatever he has learnt in terms of spiritual knowledge, oratory skills, etc., is due to God's empowerment. God is much pleased by preaching amongst devotees. A genuine guru realizes that the source of his knowledge is God only. As regards omnipresence, a genuine guru humbly accepts that he is severely limited in being present

with his disciples. Additionally, a genuine guru never claims any similarity with God except being part of God. Because God is completely different from us.

A genuine guru knows this fact more than others, who are not so knowledgeable. Being an incarnation of God never crosses his mind, because he knows that God incarnates for specific purposes. A guru's role is extremely limited. It is just to help get his disciples connected with God. And he strictly avoids attracting them to himself personally. Adi Shankaracharya is the role model for him, who preached "bhaja govindam". Now I will take up the famous

verse, which is, "gurur brahma, gurur vishnu, gurur devo maheshvara, gurur sakshat parambrahma tasmai shri guruve namah."

Can any mere mortal claim to be Brahma or Vishnu or Mahadeva, never mind all three of them? It is ludicrous to even imagine. These are manifestations of God, not some ordinary entities; they are eternal, whereas we are subject to repeated birth and

death till liberated. So what is the meaning of this verse? It is simply that whatever a guru speaks has sanction from God; he is not deviating from His instructions. He is simply conveying the essence of

His teachings.

That is how he represents God. A genuine guru ensures that he protects his disciples from any harm by his inappropriate actions. He does not promise anything more than helping them to establish a good connection with God. He tries to become a role model for taking shelter from God because that is how all can benefit. He knows that he cannot give anything more.

20He is aware of his severe limitations in this regard. He guides his disciples to get connected to God such that they can get what all God can give. (9.25) The conclusion is to seek help from a genuine guru, who can help in

progressing in our eternal journey. And we should never get side-tracked by hopes of easy gains, because there are none. We have to deserve all that we hope to get including liberation by our efforts, not someone else's.

A genuine guru knows this fact and never leaves any doubt in the minds of those who trust him. He thus gets respect from his disciples, which he richly deserves. Additionally, some disciples may serve him personally and some may donate so that the guru can maintain himself.

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

## Healthcare divide: How tier-II and III cities are transforming medical access

KRISHNAMURTY

Healthcare facilities in tier-II and III cities have long struggled with the disparity between affordability and accessibility of quality healthcare services. These cities often lack well-equipped medical centres, forcing patients to travel to nearby metropolitan areas for advanced treatment. The shortage of trained medical professionals further exacerbates the problem.

The doctor-to-patient ratio in these cities remains significantly below the WHO-recommended standard of 1:1000, often reaching alarming ratios such as 1:25,000. The Accessibility Gap One of the major factors behind this situation is the concentration of healthcare resources in metropolitan areas. Government hospitals in smaller cities often grapple with overcrowding, long waiting lines, and outdated infrastructure. Meanwhile, private

hospitals that offer advanced treatments are often unaffordable for the majority of the population. This leaves patients with limited options, pushing them to seek care in distant metro cities.

However, in recent years, several hospitals in tier-II cities have made significant strides in bridging this gap. The emergence of well-equipped hospitals outside major metropolitan areas is proving to be a game-changer for patients who previously had to travel long distances for treatment. Health Institutions like Subharti Hospital in Meerut exemplify how tier-II cities are evolving to provide comprehensive and affordable healthcare not only under the Ayushman Bharat Mission but also for uninsured patients, reducing dependence on metropolitan hospitals.

**Ayushman Bharat and Affordability**

One of the biggest challenges in tier-II and III cities is

making advanced healthcare both available and affordable.

Many private hospitals offer high-end treatment facilities, but their pricing structures make them inaccessible to a significant portion of the population.

To address this issue, some hospitals are designing cost-effective treatment models that prioritize patient affordability without compromising on quality. Additionally, government schemes and insurance programs such as Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY need to be further expanded and better implemented in these regions. Many eligible patients are unaware of their entitlements under schemes like PMJAY, leading to underutilization of available resources. Increased awareness and streamlined implementation of such initiatives can make a significant difference in ensuring financial accessibility to quality healthcare.



**Advancements in Medical Technology**

Traditionally, hospitals in non-metro areas have been perceived as lacking advanced infrastructure and specialized treatment options. However, this perception is gradually changing.

Many healthcare institutions such as Subharti Hospital in Meerut are now investing in

cutting-edge medical technology, including advanced imaging facilities such as digital PET scans, high-resolution MRI and CT scans, and modern oncology treatment options like chemotherapy and radiation therapy. The availability of these services locally is significantly reducing the burden on patients who would otherwise have to commute to larger

cities.

A breakthrough in Meerut is the introduction of comprehensive treatment centres, particularly in fields like oncology. Cancer patients, for example, often face logistical and financial challenges when forced to visit different hospitals for diagnosis, surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy.

The integration of these services under one roof in tier-II cities is improving patient outcomes and reducing treatment delays. Subharti Hospital, for instance, has emerged as a reliable healthcare provider in Western Uttar Pradesh, offering a full spectrum of oncology services in a single location, saving patients valuable time and resources.

**The Road Ahead**

Ensuring quality healthcare in tier-II and III cities requires a multi-pronged approach that includes expanding medical infrastructure, ensuring equi-

table resource distribution, increasing investment in medical education to address the shortage of trained professionals, and encouraging partnerships to enhance healthcare accessibility. As healthcare in India evolves, tier-II and III cities are poised to play a crucial role in expanding medical access beyond metropolitan areas.

Continuous efforts are needed to overcome existing challenges and create a healthcare system that is truly inclusive and accessible to all. With a focused approach towards affordability, accessibility, and technological advancements, the future of healthcare in non-metro regions holds immense potential. By addressing these challenges head-on, tier-II and III cities can become the next frontier in India's healthcare transformation.

(The writer is the Deputy Medical Superintendent of Subharti Hospital, Meerut. Views expressed are personal)

## RDD conducts 2-day capacity-building program for Women-Friendly Panchayats

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JAMMU, MARCH 6

In a significant move towards fostering gender-sensitive governance, the Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR), Jammu & Kashmir, successfully conducted a two-day capacity-building program aimed at strengthening Women and Girl-Friendly Panchayats across the Union Territory.

The initiative aligns with the national launch of the Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat (MWFPG) program, inaugurated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in New Delhi on March 5, 2025.

The training sessions, held simultaneously in Srinagar and Jammu, were inaugurated by Director RDD Kashmir, Shabir Hussain Bhat and Director RDD Jammu, Mumtaz Ali, along with Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal.

The program equipped Block Development Officers, Panchayat Inspectors and Panchayat Secretaries with the necessary knowledge and skills to promote safe, inclusive and gender-responsive governance at the grassroots level.

Twenty Panchayats will be developed as Model Women and Girl-Friendly Panchayats, serving as exemplars of gender-sensitive and inclusive governance in Jammu and Kashmir.

Director RDD Kashmir, Shabir Hussain Bhat,



stressed the importance of fostering a gender-sensitive workplace environment, where every male employee actively contributes to creating an inclusive and respectful space.

He highlighted that gender sensitivity is not just a moral responsibility but a necessity for progress, urging officials to ensure that Panchayats become spaces where women can thrive, contribute, and lead.

"In Kashmir, women's participation in Panchayats is unparalleled. However, if 50% of the population women are excluded from development activities, progress becomes impossible. Women play an integral role in decision-making, even within households and their active participation is essential for comprehensive development,"

he said.

Director RDD Jammu, Mumtaz Ali called for a focused approach toward creating child-friendly and women-friendly Panchayats. He further emphasized that on March 8, efforts should be directed towards identifying Panchayats where women's participation is lacking and implementing strategies to empower them.

Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal, acknowledged the significant progress made by Jammu and Kashmir's Panchayats in promoting gender-sensitive governance but emphasized the need to build upon these achievements.

Stressing the importance of continuous improvement, he urged stakeholders to strive for excellence at the national level and set new benchmarks in inclusive rural

governance.

He highlighted that the primary objective of the initiative is to establish at least one Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayat in each district, serving as a beacon for gender-sensitive and girl-friendly governance practices.

During the two-day session, Thematic experts from State Panchayat Resource Centre (SPRC) Dr Sajad Ahmad Dar and Aliya Khan, experts from District Panchayat Resource Centre (DPRC) Hakeem Shahid and Nida Rafiq and consultants Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad and Dr. Javed Ahmad from the School of Excellence in Panchayati Raj (SoEPR) led discussions on critical topics, including addressing gender-based violence, combating child marriage, organizing Mahila Sabhas, and developing action plans for gender-inclusive rural development.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj will organize nationwide Mahila Gram Sabhas on March 8, 2025, coinciding with International Women's Day.

These meetings will mark the grassroots-level launch of the Model Women-Friendly Gram Panchayats initiative, reinforcing the government's commitment to creating safer, more inclusive, and socially just Panchayats in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Viksit Bharat through Viksit Panchayats'.

## Kavinder slams Omar's remarks, reaffirms BJP's stance on PoK

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 6

Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister expressed his disappointment over CM Omar Abdullah's remarks, stating that they undermine India's longstanding and unified position on PoK. He emphasized that PoK has been, and will always remain, an integral part of India, illegally occupied by Pakistan since 1947. The Government of India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has consistently reiterated its commitment to reclaiming these territories.

"It is disheartening to hear a Chief Minister question the nation's resolve on such a critical



issue. Instead of aligning with the national interest, Omar Abdullah's statements appear to provide fodder to adversarial narratives," he added.

The senior BJP leader was speaking after interacting with a Sikh deputation headed by Ranjod Singh Nalwa, Convener Minority Morcha BJP, J&K.

Addressing the reference to territories under Chinese control, Kavinder highlighted that the government has been unequivocal in its approach towards any encroachments on Indian soil. He cited recent infrastructure developments and strategic deployments in border areas as evi-

dence of India's proactive measures to safeguard its sovereignty.

Kavinder further urged leaders across the political spectrum to exhibit unity and refrain from making statements that could be misconstrued or exploited by hostile entities. "At a time when our brave armed forces are valiantly defending our borders, it is imperative for political leaders to stand together and project a cohesive front," he added.

The former deputy Chief Minister reaffirmed the BJP's unwavering commitment to the nation's territorial integrity and called upon all citizens to support the Central Government's efforts in reclaiming and securing every inch of India's land.

## Shakti Udghosh Foundation felicitated by Commissioner, JMC on eve of Women's Day



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 6

Shakti Udghosh Foundation (NGO) was today felicitated by Commissioner JMC Dr. Devansh Yadav for completing five days bike rally from Kathua to Poonch in which bikers from more than 6 states participated for a social cause of immediate concern of all the strata of the society viz Nasha Mukh Seemaiya. It is emerging as one of the challenge for the Nation and all stake holders have to work in coordination to get rid of this menace from the society. He appreciated the bikers who have come from various states from Tamil Nadu to Jammu & Kashmir to join hands for one social cause. The women bikers reached Jammu after completing their 5 days motorbike expedition covering Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Rajouri and Poonch Districts with the motive NASHA MUKH SEEMAYEIN.

They had interaction with schools, colleges & masses of the border areas. A video showcasing their 800 KM journey was played during the programme.

The experience gained by the participants in the rally was also shared in the event. Besides Nasha Mukh Seemaiyan programme the bikers created awareness about Swachh Bharat Mission and various initiatives taken therein in Jammu & Kashmir. The citizen feedback regarding Swachhata were also taken by the women bikers. JMC commissioner ensured them for all necessary assistance in future in carrying out such programmes for the benefits of the society.

The team was felicitated with trophies and appreciation certificates by the Commissioner, JMC, Joint Commissioner (H&S), & Health Officer, and other staff of JMC attended the event.

## Indian Army organizes Lecture on Women Empowerment at Hasplot, Rajouri



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, 06 MAR 2025

Keeping in view of Indian Army's core objective of maintaining cordial relations with local citizens through AWAM, a 'Lecture on Women Empowerment' was organized at Hasplot, Rajouri district for spreading awareness amongst girls and women to enhance their skill for self-employment and better job opportunity in remote parts of Rajouri and Poonch by Indian Army. The lecture was addressed to the local populace about the employment campaign/ various initiatives for employment by State and Central Government. Refreshments were also offered to the invitees. A total strength of 40 attended the event. The aim of the event was to interact & edu-

cate girls, women and local populace about the various educational and scholarship schemes of Central Govt/ State Govt to address the problems of unemployment in our country. Representative of Indian Army addressed locals and gave an insight on various initiatives of the Government and actions being taken to slowly decrease the level of unemployment. Various initiatives have been launched to boost employment including skill development programmes, job fair and entrepreneurship with the following schemes:- Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUEP).

## Union Finance Minister and MoS, Finance launch the New Credit Assessment Model for MSMEs as announced in Union Budget 2024-25

NEW DELHI, 06 MAR 2025

In the Post Budget interaction at Vishakhapatnam today, the Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and Minister of State, Finance Shri Pankaj Chaudhary launched the New Credit Assessment Model based on the scoring of digital footprints of MSMEs. It was announced in the Union Budget 2024-25 that Public sector banks (PSBs) will build their in-house capability to assess MSMEs for credit, instead of relying on external assessment. PSBs will develop a new credit

assessment model, based on the scoring of digital footprints of MSMEs in the economy.

This credit assessment model will leverage the digitally fetched and verifiable data available in the ecosystem and devise automated journeys for MSME Loan appraisal using objective decisioning for all loan applications and model-based limit assessment for both Existing to Bank (ETB) as well as New to Bank (NTB) MSME borrowers.

The digital footprints used by the model may include Name and Pan authentication using

NSDL, Mobile and email verification using OTP, API fetch of GST data through service providers, Bank Statement Analysis using account aggregator, ITR upload and verification, API enabled commercial and consumer bureau fetch and due diligence using CICs, fraud checks, Hunter checks through APIs, among others.

The benefits to MSMEs by use of this model includes submission of application from anywhere through online mode, reduced paperwork and Branch visit, instant in-principle sanction through digital mode, seamless pro-

cessing of credit proposals, end to end straight through process (STP), reduced turnaround time (TAT), Credit decision based on objective data/ Transactional behaviour and credit history, no Physical collateral securities for loans covered under CGTMSE, among others.

The credit assessment model for MSMEs based on digital footprints is expected to be a significant improvement over the traditional assessment of credit eligibility based only on asset or turnover criteria. That will also cover MSMEs without a formal accounting system.

## Tony congratulates Col Shiv on election as Chairman of Sainik Cooperative House Building Society Ltd

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 6

Senior Congress leader and DDC Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony, along with Parveen Mittal, extended heartfelt congratulations to Col Shiv Choudhary (Retd) on his remarkable victory with the highest number of votes and his election as the Chairman of the Sainik Cooperative House Building Society Ltd, Jammu. The society's elections were held for the first several years, making this win even more significant.

Expressing his delight, Taranjit Singh Tony praised Col Shiv Choudhary for his unwavering commitment to social causes and his selfless service to society. "Col Shiv is not only a distinguished veteran but also a dedicated social activist



involved in numerous initiatives like tree plantation and community welfare. His leadership will undoubtedly bring a positive change to the society," Tony remarked.

Col Shiv Choudhary, in his address, expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support and assured

that every promise made during the election campaign would be implemented in both letter and spirit. "I am thankful for the trust placed in me. My priority will be to work tirelessly for the welfare of the members and uphold the integrity of the society," he stated.

## PSAJK expresses grief over passing of prominent journalist Arshad Kaloo's Mother

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAR 6

The Private Schools Association of Jammu and Kashmir (PSAJK) expresses profound sorrow over the demise of Mrs. Rashida Naqshbandi, wife of the late Dr. Abdul Rashid Kaloo of Shivpora, Srinagar, who passed away on Tuesday following a cardiac arrest. She was the mother of noted journalist Mr. Arshad Kaloo and Mr. Aurangzeb, and sister-in-law to Mr. Ghulam Hassan Kaloo, Editor of Mirror of Kashmir, Mr. Fayaz Kaloo, Editor-in-Chief of Greater Kashmir, and Dr. Farooq Kaloo. In a statement issued to the press, PSAJK State President G.N. Var extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, stating, "We stand in solidarity with the Kaloo and Naqshbandi family during this

difficult time and pray for the departed soul's eternal peace."

The association acknowledges the significant contributions of Mr. Arshad Kaloo and Mr. Aurangzeb to journalism in the region and offers its unwavering support to them and their family in this time of grief.

The Kaloo family has played a pivotal role in upholding journalistic integrity and providing valuable contributions to the media landscape in Jammu and Kashmir. Their commitment to fearless and responsible journalism has left a lasting impact on society.

"The loss of a loved one is immeasurable and we stand in deep solidarity with the grieving family. The association prays for them to find strength, patience and resilience during this difficult time," said G.N. Var.

## Anti-Corruption Foundation of India presents Duty Officer Award to Yasha Mudgal

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 6

The Anti-Corruption Foundation of India has recognised the remarkable efforts of Yasha Mudgal, Commissioner Secretary, Tourism Department, Jammu & Kashmir, by presenting her with the prestigious "Duty Officer Award."

The honour was given in recognition of her exceptional leadership and dedication towards growth and promotion of tourism in the Union Territory.

Mudgal's efforts have been instrumental in shaping policies and initiating innovative programs that have greatly impacted the tourism landscape in Jammu & Kashmir. The Anti-Corruption Foundation of India commended her visionary leadership and

role in seamless execution of these initiatives, which have played a key role in bolstering the tourism sector.

Under her leadership, Jammu & Kashmir has witnessed a surge in high-profile tourism events that have positioned the Union Territory as a premier destination for adventure, sports, and cultural tourism. Landmark events such as the F4 Mega Car Show in Srinagar, Sunburn in Jammu, J&K Tourism Development Conclave in Srinagar, Maiden Kashmir Marathon and 4th PGTI J&K Golf Open 2024 in Jammu have significantly boosted tourism, attracting national and international visitors. These initiatives have not only enhanced the tourism experience but have also contributed towards economic growth of the

region.

Further strengthening J&K's position as a preferred tourism and business destination, the J&K Tourism Department recently organized MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) reach-out event in Mumbai, led by the Chief Minister of J&K. This initiative promoted J&K as a key hub for business tourism and corporate events.

Additionally, the department actively participated in SATTE (South Asia's Travel and Tourism Exchange) 2024 in New Delhi, one of the largest travel trade shows in the region. The event served as a platform to showcase J&K's tourism potential, attract investors and forge strategic partnerships with the global stakeholders in the travel and hospitality industry.

## Indian Army organizes Agricultural Training Course for Empowering Women at Patnazi, Kishtwar

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR: 06 MAR 2025

The Indian Army, in collaboration with the Agricultural Department, launched a pioneering Agricultural Training Course exclusively for ladies at Patnazi, Kishtwar District. This initiative aims to empower women in rural areas by imparting knowledge and skills in modern agricultural practices. The training was conducted by Indian Army and Department of Agriculture, Kishtwar. The training program covers a range of topics that includes Sustainable Farming Practices which focuses on organic farming, soil conservation, efficient water management and crop management that emphasize on hands-on training on crop selection, planting and



harvesting. The course is designed to equip participants with the necessary skills to enhance agricultural productivity, improve food security and increase their income.

The training is being conducted by experienced instructors from the Agricultural Department, with support from the Indian Army. This initiative taken up by Indian

Army is a testament to our commitment in supporting rural development and women empowerment. The training program has received an overwhelming response with 70 women and 65 locals participating from nearby villages of Patnazi. The participants have been provided with a variety of seasonal seeds to encourage and empower

them. This collaborative effort between the Indian Army and the Agricultural Department demonstrates the commitment of the Indian Army in promoting agricultural development and women empowerment in rural areas. The trained beneficiaries and their villagers expressed their gratitude towards the Indian Army for the noble initiative.

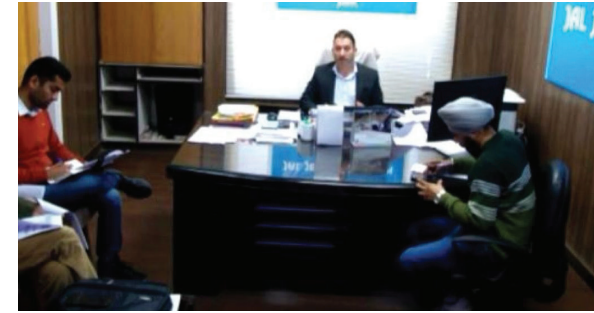
## Mission Director takes virtual review of Jal Jeevan Mission in Ramban

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, MAR 6

Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K Mr. Khurshid Ahmad Shah today reviewed the implementation of JJM in district Kulgam through virtual mode. The chair was appraised about the various components under execution through a power point presentation.

As per the figures 93 schemes are in different phases of execution in the district out of which 28 schemes have been completed so far. 276 civil works which include bore wells, Slow Sand Filtration plants, General service reservoirs and laying of pipe networks have been allotted out of which 52 works stand completed.

The chair took review of all components and directed the concerned officers



to give new impetus to the works stalled due to harsh weather conditions. The Mission director emphasized the need to complete the schemes on time so that the beneficiaries of these schemes are benefitted.

The Chair was informed about the land, forest issues and delay in payments causing delay in execution of works.

The Chair directed all officers to speed up the process of Har Ghar Certification of reported villages within 10 days, as per the

guidelines of National Jal Jeevan Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

The MD stressed the need for better supervision and monitoring of the projects to ensure timely completion. The meeting was attended by top Jal Shakti Officials of the district, Consultant JJM, Technical Officer to Chief Engineer, Jammu besides representatives of Third Party Monitoring Agency (TPIA) also attended the meeting.

## J&K Police Central Water Sports Team felicitated for Outstanding Performance

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR

Anand Jain, IPS, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Armed Police J&K, along with Ms. Sarah Rizvi, IPS, DIG, IRP Jammu, today felicitated Players of the J&K Police Central Water Sports Team for their exceptional achievements at various National level Championships.

The event was attended by the players who have recently won multiple medals for their remarkable performances. In his address, ADGP Armed Police Shri. Anand Jain welcomed the participants and congratulated them for their outstanding performances at the National-level Championships.

## Mia opens its first store in Jammu, bringing contemporary jewellery to Region

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 6

Mia, one of India's trendiest fine jewellery brands has launched its first store in the city of Jammu. The new store is located at No: 04, Sector 3, Channi Himat, Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir 180015. This marks a significant milestone as Mia expands its footprint into Jammu and Kashmir, offering its stunning and contemporary designs to a new audience.

The store inauguration was led by Mr. Sanjay Bhattacharjee, Head of Retail - Mia by Tanishq, along with franchisee partners.

To celebrate its launch in Jammu, Mia is introducing the 'Mia Colour Fest' offer, running from 7th March to 16th March. During this period, cus-



tomers can enjoy a flat 50% off on making charges of select Mia Colour Stone Jewellery, making it the perfect opportunity to add vibrant and stylish pieces to their collection. Spanning 1000 sq. ft., the store features a curated selection of Mia's signature collections, known for its minimal, modern, and ver-

satile designs. Customers can explore a wide range of elegant pieces, including rings, earrings, bracelets, pendants, neckwear, and Mangalsutras, crafted in gold, diamonds, silver, and vibrant gemstones. Each piece is designed to complement contemporary styles while making a statement of individual-

ity. Customers can also invest in their shine through our Golden Harvest Scheme with instalments starting at just Rs.2000/- and avail exclusive discounts of up to 75% of their monthly investment for their jewelry purchases at any Mia store across the country.

Mia's latest collections will be available at the store, including The Cupid Edit 3.0 collection, which features contemporary chic jewelry perfect for expressing your love through gifting. The Mia Disco collection brings back the bold glamour of the 70s, while the Lovestruck collection showcases heart-shaped solitaires crafted in 14kt gold. Additionally, the

store will offer the Evil Eye collection and so much more giving customers a variety of meaningful and stylish options.

Speaking on the launch, Mr. Sanjay Bhattacharjee, Head of Retail - Mia by Tanishq, said, "We are delighted to bring Mia to Jammu with the launch of our first-ever store in the region. This store is a testament to our commitment to making fine jewelry more accessible, personal, and a true reflection of individual style. Mia's collections are designed to be effortlessly stylish and versatile, catering to the modern woman's evolving preferences. We invite everyone in Jammu to visit our store and discover jewellery that is bold, minimal, and refreshingly unique."

## KVK Kishtwar starts Three Days Women Training Camp

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 6

Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kishtwar SKUAST Jammu today started 3 days training programme on nutri-mix formula for pregnant and lactating women sponsored by J&K Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM) at Kishtwar. The programme was conducted under the leadership of Dr BN Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu.

Dr Narinder Paul, Head KVK Kishtwar organised the programme under the supervision of Dr Amrith Vaid, Director Extension SKUAST Jammu which was coordinated by Eshaq Ahmad Dar, District Programme Manager JKRLM Kishtwar. 30 women from different blocks of District Kishtwar attended the programme.

Dr Narinder Paul, Head KVK Kishtwar while interacting with the participants during the inaugural ses-



sion called upon to incorporate nutrient rich vegetables, Pulses and millets in the routine diet of pregnant and lactating women. He stressed upon household production of nutrient rich vegetable by maintaining the nutri-gardens.

Dr Asma Javeed, Assistant Professor deliberated upon the women related physiological issues and deliberated upon sanitation and proper education among the adolescent girls regarding the same. She discussed in detail about menstrual process and called for proper hygiene and awareness for the women with respect to taking healthy and bal-

anced diet.

Komal Sharma deliberated upon Chickpea based nutri-mix recipes for the pregnant and lactating women. Different combinations of Chickpea, jaggery and other pulses were demonstrated before the participants. Abdul Hameed Lone Block Programme Manager Block Kishtwar and Mustaq Ahmad Shah TOT (Trainer) Block Kishtwar also coordinated for smooth conduct of the programme. Sunita Devi, Zubya Kouser, Sapna Devi, Meena Kumari, Ritu Devi, Rukshana Begum, Sahira Banno and other women attended the programme.

## Union Ministry of MSME conducts PM Vishwakarma awareness workshop at Ramban

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 6

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

PM Vishwakarma scheme is implemented in Jammu & Kashmir with active participation of Government of Jammu & Kashmir. The scheme is meant for upliftment of skilled artisans of 18 trades who preserve the cultural identity and play vital role in economy of J&K. The



scheme offers the benefit like training with stipend, Loan up to 3 Lakhs, incentive of Re.1 towards digital transaction and toolkits worth Rs.15,000/-. training has been completed at various centers in various districts of J&K. As per the scheme guidelines toolkits are being given to the Vishwakarmas for enhancing their production levels resulting in higher productivity with enhanced quality with better value for their products. The delivery of Toolkits is implemented with the assistance of India Post. Toolkit delivery has started recently. Detailed road map has been laid for delivery of Tool Kits at the door step of the artisan which includes showing the toolkit to the artisans by open delivery method and recording, uploading of a video with 30 seconds duration before making payment to vendor of tool kit through DBT.

Total delivered toolkits are more than 15000 numbers in J&K. To further increase the penetration and saturation of the scheme awareness program was organized by DFO Jammu in Batote of District Ramban for especially with lesser registration trades. The benefits of the scheme was informed to the participants in detail and the queries of already registered participants have been cleared on the spot by officers of the Union Ministry and Government of Jammu & Kashmir. The program was organized as per the directions of G.Velladurai IEDS, Joint Director, MSME DFO, Jammu. BDO, Batote, Officer from DIC, Ramban, Representative from CSC, Ex.Sarpanch's and various officers participated in the program. The program was co-ordinated by Rajesh Kumar IEDS, Asst. Director of MSME DFO Jammu.

## GDC Doda to host District Level Youth Parliament Festival 2025



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, MAR 6

The Department of Youth Affairs, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, has announced the National Youth Parliament Festival 2025 under the theme "Viksit Bharat -2025." The event will be conducted simultaneously across the country, providing a platform for young people to express their vision for a developed India. The festival will be held in three stages- district, state and national levels. Youth between the age of 18 and 25 can participate in the competition by presenting their ideas on nation building and development. The district level event in Doda will be hosted by the GDC Doda. As a pre-requisite, eligible participants must upload a one minute video on the My Bharat Portal, discussing the topic "what does Viksit Bharat Mean to you?" a panel will evaluate the submitted videos,

and the top 150 participant will be invited to the district level competition. At the district event, each selected participant will be given the three minutes to present their thoughts on the topic "One Nation, One Election: paving the way for Viksit Bharat." From this round, the top ten participants will be selected and recommended for the state level competition by the central committee. The last date to upload the one minute video is March 9. Students from different degree colleges, teacher education institutes, physical education colleges, engineering, nursing and medical colleges in Doda district are encouraged to participate in this opportunity to share their ideas and solutions for national development. Further updates and details about the competition will be widely promoted through news media and social media platforms, stated Dr. Javid Iqbal, Principal of GDC Doda in a press release.

## Shiv Sena (UBT) and Sainik Samaj Party decide to form a non-political joint front



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 6

In the discussion meeting organized by Shiv Sena (UBT) and Sainik Samaj Party on "Future of Jammu Division", it was unanimously decided to form a non-political joint front, along with this to know public sentiments through signature campaign on the demand of Jammu a separate state and Article 371, In the meeting held at Jammu Press Club. Members of various political and social organizations and intellectuals put forth their views on the future of Jammu division during the discussion.

Addressing the media jointly, Shiv Sena (UBT) state chief Manish Sahni and Col. SS Pathania said that suggestions were given to declare Jammu as

a separate state or Jammu as the permanent capital, to start the Darbar Move process, give impetus to the economy of Jammu, to increase adequate employment opportunities, to develop tourism and religious places along with making Shri Mata Vaishnodevi Yatra Circuit. Sahni said that it has been decided to form a 'united front' to jointly raise voice on all the above suggestions. Along with this, a joint decision has been taken to take the opinion of the public through a Janbhaavna Abhiyan on the suggestions to give the status of a separate state to Jammu division.

He said that in order to curb the growing drug addiction, worrying increase in drug consumption and smuggling and criminal incidents in Jammu division, opinion

was expressed on cooperating with the police administration and putting pressure on them to fix accountability.

In this meeting Jugal Kishore Gupta, Santosh Kashmiri, Mohan Lal Raina, Anoop Sharma, ID Khajuria, Santosh Khajuria, Brigadier Vijay Sagar, Major General Sunita Kapoor, Colonel Dr. Varinder Sahi, Brigadier VS Salathia, Ramesh Singh, Romesh Chib, Narendra Singh Khalsa, Sunny Kant Chimb, Satish Punchi, Pawan Sharma, Nirmal Mahana, Safir Chaudhary, Sumit Sharma, Captain Sanjeev, Narendra Khajuria, Vikas Bakshi, Meenakshi, Sanjeev Kohli, Bharat Mahajan, Subhash Mehta etc. gave their suggestions and registered their presence.

## Chairman Border Welfare Organization, Avinash Choudhary, meets Union Minister Ramdas Athawale

JNEWS SERVICE  
DELHI/JAMMU, MAR 6

Chairman of the Border Welfare Organization, Avinash Choudhary, met the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Ramdas Athawale, at his office in Shastri Bhavan, Delhi. During the meeting, he raised significant issues concerning border villages, particularly the demand to include 14 villages from the Ramgarh sector in Samba district and other villages along the International Border (IB) in the reservation list. Avinash Choudhary informed Minister Ramdas Athawale that years ago, a plan was introduced to provide reservation benefits to villages affected by unprovoked firing from Pakistan. Despite facing constant threats

and hardships, residents of these villages have not yet received the promised benefits. According to the IB reservation criteria, villages within a six-kilometer aerial distance from the International Border should be included in the reservation list. However, this has not been implemented effectively on the ground, depriving border youth of their rightful benefits. Choudhary emphasized that this issue has been brought to the attention of state authorities and central ministers multiple times, but no concrete action has been taken. He recalled that during a past visit by a Union Minister to Jammu and Kashmir, Commissioner Secretary of the Social Welfare Department, Sheetal Nanda, along with other senior



officials, was informed about the exclusion of several border villages from the reservation list. He also pointed out that one of the formal conditions for availing IB reservation benefits was that families with an annual income

above Rs 8 lakh would be excluded. However, he argued that border shelling does not differentiate based on income, making this criterion irrelevant and unfair. At that time, officials had assured that these formalities would

soon be addressed, but no action has been taken so far. Choudhary urged Minister Athawale to take immediate action to ensure justice for border residents who have been demanding IB reservation for years. Responding to the concerns, Minister Ramdas Athawale assured Avinash Choudhary that swift action would be taken. He immediately contacted the relevant department officials and issued written directives to include all eligible villages within six kilometers of the border in the IB reservation list. Additionally, he instructed that the 14 villages identified by the DC Samba report be added without delay and that the Rs 8 lakh income criterion be removed to ensure seamless access to reservation benefits.

## Ajeet Bhagat seeks justice for MGNREGA Job Card Holders

JNEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, MAR 6

National Conference Sr. leader, spokesperson of Chenab Zone Ajeet Bhagat expressed these views that justice should be done to MGNREGA Job Card Holders. Bhagat said the vision of MGNREGA is to enhance the livelihood of security of rural households across the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer for unskilled manual work.

The National Conference leader said MGNREGA recognizes the importance of strengthening the livelihood resource base of the poor by reaching out to the most vulnerable sections of rural areas,



including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women-headed households, and other disadvantaged groups.

Bhagat said the scheme encourages a sense of community and collective responsibility by strengthening Panchayat Raj institutions. The National Conference leader said MGNREGA promotes a bottom-up approach to planning and implementation, empowering local communities to take responsibility for their development. By creating productive assets of fixed quality and sustain-

ability, he said the scheme addresses immediate economic needs while laying the foundation for long-term prosperity.

The National Conference leader said MGNREGA prioritizes sustainable development and environmental responsibility, striving to create a greener, more sustainable future for future generations by prioritizing actions that contribute to environmental protection and rural infrastructure development.

Bhagat said central to the scheme's vision is a commitment to transparency and accountability, ensuring that funds are used effectively and the rights of beneficiaries are upheld through mechanisms such as social audit, grievance redressal, and active public disclosure.

## GCW Udhampur organizes lecture on applicability of mathematics in scientific



JNEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 6

The Department of Mathematics of Government College for Women Udhampur organised a guest lecture under the aegis of IQAC by Dr Rajendra Kumar Sharma who is visiting professor in SAU New Delhi, and former Head of Department of Mathematics at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.

Earlier, he was on the faculty of mathematics at IIT Khararagpur. He has guided 40 Ph.D. theses

and more than 80 M. Tech. students. He delivered a talk on applicability of mathematics in scientific as well as in common life. He started his talk by giving a simple example of how a child can be made to understand the meaning of "one". He also talked about a number of open problems which have been open since centuries. He motivated the students to take up mathematics as an option in higher studies.

The vote of thanks was presented by Dr Ajay Kumar Sharma.

## Movement Kalki raises voice against neglect of Athletes

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 6 MARCH 2025

"Respect for Athletes - Respect for the Nation"

With this noble objective, Movement Kalki organized a crucial press conference today at Nek Hotel, Jammu, highlighting the neglect of talented athletes in Jammu and Kashmir and the government's apathy towards their struggles. The press conference was chaired by Movement Kalki's Advisory Board Member Pritam Sharma Ji, along with several dignitaries, social workers, and core members of the organization.

Condemning Government Neglect

During the conference, Pritam Sharma Ji pointed out that in several states like Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and others, athletes

winning national and international medals receive financial assistance, incentives, free training facilities, and priority in government jobs under the sports quota. This encouragement motivates athletes to pursue their sports careers, bringing glory to the nation.

However, athletes from Jammu and Kashmir neither receive financial assistance nor any recognition from the government. They are forced to rely solely on their hard work and talent without any official support or encouragement.

Movement Kalki's Key Demands:

1. Rs. 5,00,000 financial incentive for Gold medal winners at the national level.
2. Rs. 3,00,000 financial incentive for Silver medal winners at the national level.
3. Rs. 2,00,000 financial



incentive for Bronze medal winners at the national level.

4. International medal winners to receive financial assistance and recognition as per MYAS and Sports Authority of India (SAI) guidelines.

5. Special training facilities and scholarships for athletes performing exceptionally at the state level.

6. Priority in government jobs and welfare schemes under the sports quota.

7. Construction of a large sports stadium in North Jammu to provide better infrastructure for athletes.

8. Immediate restora-

tion of sports quota jobs pending since 2011, with appointment letters issued to deserving athletes.

9. Announcement of a special sports scholarship scheme for talented athletes.

Pritam Sharma Ji said: "Athletes from Jammu and Kashmir have the potential to make the nation proud, but their talent is dying due to government neglect. If the government provides financial assistance and respect to athletes, our youth will be drawn towards sports rather than drugs, becoming the pride of the nation." He further highlighted

the lack of proper practice grounds in Jammu, which is one of the biggest hurdles athletes face. He demanded the construction of a large sports stadium in North Jammu to ensure that players can train without any hindrance.

Demand for Sports Quota Jobs

Pritam Sharma Ji also revealed that since 2011, not a single government job has been granted under the sports quota in Jammu and Kashmir.

"If an athlete wins medals for the nation, why does the government forget them?" he questioned.

Movement Kalki's Warning to the Government

Movement Kalki urged the Honorable Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha Ji and the Jammu and Kashmir administration to:

Implement a financial incentive scheme for ath-

letes immediately.

Grant government jobs and official recognition to deserving athletes.

Announce a special sports scholarship scheme for young talents.

If the government fails to fulfill these demands, Movement Kalki will launch a massive agitation and continue the movement until the athletes receive their rightful due.

Members Present at the Press Conference:

Pritam Sharma (Advisory Board Member, Movement Kalki)

Sapna Hindu, Anuradha Yogi, Sushma Sharma, Dr. Sudesh Kumar, Antu Kotwal, Pawan Sharma, Sunita Kundal, Advocate Sumeshwar Kohli, Advocate Harmeet Singh.

Movement Kalki's Pledge:

"Until athletes receive their due respect and rights, this movement will not stop."

## Shemford Futuristic School, Birpur celebrates International Women's Day

JNEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, MAR 6

Shemford Futuristic School, in collaboration with the Nations Development Association (NDA) affiliated with MyBharat-NYK Jammu under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, celebrated International Women's Day with immense enthusiasm and zeal. The event, themed "Women of Wonders," was dedicated to honoring the remarkable achievements of women across various fields. Event was graced by distinguished women from different walks of life, Ms. Mamta Singh, President of Nari Shakti and a former President of BJP, is a passionate social activist and a beacon of inspiration for women, empowering the community through her tireless work and leadership.

Dr. Poonam Manyal, a dedicated government doctor, exemplifies the commitment and compassion of women in healthcare, tirelessly serving the community with professionalism and care. Ms. Rekha Mahajan, a prominent BJP leader and social activist, has made significant contributions to politics and social reform, demonstrating the profound impact of women



in shaping society. Ms. Kussum Chib, JKAS Officer, serves as an inspiration to all, showcasing women's leadership and resilience in the public service sector, advocating for change and progress.

Prof. Dr. Indra Moza, a former Principal of the Government Nursing College and Principal of Acharya Shri Chander College of Nursing Education, has contributed immensely to education and healthcare, demonstrating the power of women in shaping the future of education.

Ms. Mansi Rattan, Founder of Samba Sakhi, a social entrepreneur, has shown the power of women in driving positive change in their communities through her work in empowering other women. Ms. Meenu Singh Slathia, former J&K

Women's Team Captain, continues to inspire young women in sports, demonstrating dedication and leadership both on and off the field. Ms. Yogita Sharma, Founder of Elite Law Institute, and the school's first former Principal, is a true inspiration, exemplifying excellence in the field of education and law.

Ms. Deepa Chaudhary, a renowned philanthropist, showcases the incredible strength of women in giving back to society through her selfless contributions to various causes. Prof. Devinder Kour, Vice Principal of ASCOM, stands as a role model for her commitment to education, guiding and inspiring future generations of students. SI Rashmi Chaudhary, the only female officer in the

Narcotics Control Bureau, exemplifies strength, dedication, and perseverance in law enforcement, breaking barriers and inspiring others in a male-dominated field. These inspiring women shared their life stories, challenges, and accomplishments, motivating the students, parents, and teachers present. The event was further enriched with captivating performances by students and teachers, including songs and dance. As a token of appreciation, the esteemed guests were felicitated with mementos, bouquets, and sashes by the Headmistress, Ms. Sushma Sharma. The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks and a commitment to continue celebrating the spirit of womanhood.

## Workshop on Best Practices in Administrative Procedures organized at SMVDU

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 6

Directorate of Quality Assurance, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Katra organised a one day workshop on the topic "Best Practices in Administrative Procedures" under PM-USHA Scheme. The workshop was aimed to foster the administrative skills of the employees and to adopt best practices and procedures for effective administration of the University affairs. Prof. Pragati Kumar Vice Chancellor of the University graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

In his address, he emphasised the importance of adopting best practices in the administrative procedures which will facilitate the University to excel in its academic and research pursuits. The Vice Chancellor appreciated the efforts of the Coordinators, Professor Sumeet Gupta, Faculty I/C Examinations & Sh. Surinder Kumar, Assistant Registrar (Examination) of the workshop for organizing such events which will help in augmenting the performance of the administrative staff. The resource persons Dr. Ravi Shankar Sharma, JKAS, Special Secretary in the Agriculture Production Department, J&K UT and Mr. Shreenibas



Chandra Prusty, Registrar, Indian Law Institute, Delhi held detailed deliberations on effective administrative procedures and had vibrant exchange of ideas with the audience. Both the experts shared their rich administrative experiences on various aspects of the University administration. Dr. Ravi Shankar Sharma emphasized on fully utilizing the autonomous nature of the university in designing optimized procedures and mechanisms for efficient and smooth administration. He further suggested enhancing the opportunities of research for not only the faculty and research scholars but

also the students of UG and PG programs, for the benefit of the University and the society at large. Mr. Prusty emphasized on the importance of providing conducive atmosphere to the employees to boost their work capabilities. He discussed a large number of best practices being followed at different institutions and the important issue of the employees having a sense of ownership of the organization. He was also instrumental in replying to the queries of the audience on the administrative aspects in a very effective manner. Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma, JKAS, Registrar, observed the

importance of such workshops which generated innovation among the staff. Finance Officer Sh. Neeraj Gupta, JKAS also addressed the audience and emphasized upon maintain financial propriety while adopting efficient practices and lauded the efforts of the organizers of the workshop. The workshop was attended by various Deans, Heads of Schools, Section Heads, Administrative Officers and other faculty & staff members. The workshop concluded with vote of thanks by Prof. Sumeet Gupta, Faculty In-charge Examinations and Coordinator of the workshop.

## Indian Army organizes Lecture on Renewable Energy Resources & Their Utility at Khanetar, Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH: 06 MAR 2025

The Indian Army organized a lecture on renewable energy resources and their potential utility at Fatehwali Moh, Khanetar, Poonch. The session was designed to engage the local community in a discussion about the various renewable energy sources and the rapid depletion of conventional resources. The lecture highlighted the significant potential of renewable energy to address the long-standing energy challenges faced by the region. The lecture began by informing the local residents about conventional energy resources, which are non-renewable and cannot be reused once consumed.

These include coal, petroleum, natural gas, and nuclear energy. These



resources are being used at an alarming rate to meet daily energy requirements, driving the urgent need for alternatives such as wind, solar, biomass, and tidal energy. The Government has launched several initiatives to promote renewable energy, such as the PM KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhaya) scheme. Addi-

tionally, various financial incentives like grants, loans, rebates, and tax credits have been introduced to encourage the development of renewable energy. These initiatives aim to ensure reliable daytime power supply for irrigation, reduce subsidy burdens, and provide additional income opportunities for farmers. With a growing population and

ever-increasing energy demands, it is essential to look beyond conventional sources and harness renewable energy to meet future needs. The lecture emphasized the importance of creating an enabling environment for the effective utilization of renewable energy sources, which will contribute to a sustainable and energy-efficient future.

## GCW Udhampur organises Quiz Competition

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 6

The Department of Geography at Government College for Women, Udhampur, recently orchestrated a stimulating Quiz Competition centered on the "Geography of India," providing a platform for intellectual engagement and academic enrichment.

The esteemed Principal of the College, Dr. Nalini Pathania, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In her address, she extended heartfelt congratulations to the victorious teams and lauded the organizers for their meticulous execution of the event. Professor Pathania underscored the significance of extracurricular activities in holistic

education, urging students to actively participate in such endeavors.

The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from 30 students, forming five teams, representing the 4th and 6th semesters. Team Himalaya emerged triumphant, securing the coveted first position, while Team Satpura demonstrated commendable prowess, earning the second position.

The esteemed panel of judges comprised Dr. Swati Sharma, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, whose expertise ensured a fair and rigorous evaluation process.

Professor Pooja Bharti, Head of the Department of Geography, delivered a warm welcome address,

acknowledging the participants' dedication and enthusiasm. She adeptly managed the proceedings of the program and concluded the event with a formal vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all contributors.

The event was further enriched by the presence of faculty members, including Professor Yash Kumar from the Department of Music, Professor Manju from the Department of Dogri, and members of the Geography Department: Ms. Divya Sharma (Lecturer), Dr. Poonam Bharti (Lecturer), Ms. Insha Amin (Lecturer), and Mr. Balbir Singh. Their presence underscored the institution's collaborative spirit and commitment to academic excellence.

## SLCA Jammu-Kashmir organizes Master Volunteers Training for district Kathua

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 6

JKSPYM State Level Coordinating Agency J&K (SLCA J&K) organized today a one-day certificate training for Master-Volunteers of the district under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) in collaboration with NISD, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India and district administration Kathua at Conference Hall, DC Office Kathua. ADC Ranjit Singh and DSWO Varun Kumar Choudhary were also present on the occasion. Around 61 Master-volunteers from the district Kathua attended the training program.

Varun Kumar Choudhary in his keynote address, emphasized the urgency of tackling substance abuse, describing it as a severe issue affecting the youth in Jammu and Kashmir UT. He encouraged the master volunteers to make the most of the training, equipping themselves with the skills and knowledge to combat this growing challenge.

The program began with a welcome address, followed by an introduction to the State Level Coordinating Agency, J&K, and JKSPYM organization and motive of the program by Ms. Pallavi Singh, Program Director, JKSPYM SLCA. The training comprised the following sessions covering key topics "Overview of District-Level Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan"; "Understanding drugs, drug addiction, signs & symptoms, Myths & Facts about substance abuse"; "Roles and Responsibilities of Master-Volunteers/NMBA Leaders under NMBA"; "Basic Communication and Counselling skills".

Resource persons from SLCA delivered comprehensive presentations on drug abuse trends in India, followed by vibrant discussions, interactive sessions, and group activities. The event concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony, honoring the commitment of the trained master volunteers to the cause.

## Excise and Taxation Jammu Team conducts surprise inspection of various shopkeepers in Akhnoor Town

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
AKHNOOR MAR 6

Excise and Taxation Jammu team conducted surprise inspection of various shopkeepers in the markets of Akhnoor town, in which 10 shopkeepers were issued notices and fined Rs 50,000.

On Thursday, under the leadership of Excise and Taxation Jammu Circle O Chief Officer Ranjit Kaur, the team conducted a surprise visit and checked the stock, bills and purchase details of shopkeepers at Bus Stand, Raja Bazaar, Main Chowk and Link Road of Akhnoor town. On this, 10 shopkeepers were issued notices and fined Rs 50,000 for not having stock, bills and goods details.

On the other hand, when the Excise and Taxation team arrived in Akhnoor, there was a stir among the shopkeepers and they started checking the details of the bills.

The team returned to Jammu in the afternoon.

Excise and Taxation Jammu Circle Officer Ranjit Kaur said that during the tour in Akhnoor town, bills, stock and purchase details of shopkeepers were checked. Notices have been issued to some shopkeepers and some have been fined. She said that every trader should keep details of purchases including stock and bills and CST should be paid on time.

## Amit Sharma chairs strategic meeting on Internet Connectivity status at Indo-Myanmar Border

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
AIZAWL (MIZORAM), MAR 06

Amit Sharma, Secretary to Government, Information & Communications Technology and Cooperation, Mizoram today chaired a strategic meeting regarding availability of Broadband Internet Connectivity at various points of Indo-Myanmar Border wherein Mizoram is sharing a large portion of its boundary with Myanmar in which all ISPs, DoT, Assam Rifles, Home and ICT department officers participated.

At the outset, the Chair of the meeting Secretary ICT Amit Sharma welcomed all the participants and divulged that this meeting is in continuation to the last meeting held under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary Mizoram Khilli Ram Meena wherein explicit directions were given to him for meeting all the stakeholders and assessing the current status of Internet Availability at various points of the Indo-Myanmar Border so that Free Movement Regime (FMR) could be better regulated here on a real-time basis.

Amit emphatically told all the participants that there is nothing above the national interest and all the Internet Service Providers should rise above commercial interests and try best possible to provision smooth bandwidth at Indo-Myanmar Entry & Exit Points so as to make systems robust and connected with the use of



latest Information Technology tools.

Secretary ICT Mizoram, Amit Sharma and his team took inputs from all service providers such as BSNL, Airtel and Reliance Jio in this Meeting about the current status of Internet Connectivity and mobile towers at the eighteen points of Indo-Myanmar Border located in Champhai, Lawngtlai, Saitual, Serchip and Siaha districts of Mizoram and they were given explicit directions by Amit to share exact status on same within next couple of days so that a comprehensive plan on same could be prepared for onward submission to the Higher Authorities.

It was also disclosed to the chair Amit Sharma in the meeting by Assam Rifles team that stable

Internet Connectivity with good bandwidth on Indo-Myanmar Border Entry and Exit points could really help them in real-time registration and better regulation of public movement across the Indo-Myanmar Border which has to be stored on National Database through the specialised software created by NIC for it.

Those who participated in this all-important meeting included Joint Secretary Home, Joint Secretary ICT, PiO Directorate of ICT, DDG Department of Telecommunications, PGM BSNL, ZSM Bharti Airtel, SCO, Reliance Jio and others who resolved to remain connected through a WhatsApp Group in future to follow this issue actively for resolution in a time-bound manner.

## Blood Donation Camp organized at CSU, under NSS Special Camp

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 6

A blood donation camp was successfully organized at Shri Ranbir Campus, Central Sanskrit University, Kot Bhalwal, as part of the ongoing seven-day special camp conducted by the National Service Scheme (NSS) from March 1 to March 7, 2025. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and staff, resulting in the donation of nearly fifty units of blood.

The noble initiative was



coordinated under the leadership of Dr. Gopal Verma, Program Coordinator, and Sh. Maninder Singh, Program Officer. The event was graced by the presence of Prof. Satish Kumar Kapoor,

Associate Director of Shri Ranbir Campus, who commended the volunteers for their spirit of service and highlighted the significance of blood donation in saving lives.

A medical team from

Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu, led by Dr. Anshul Sharma, ensured the smooth execution of the donation process, maintaining all necessary health and safety protocols. The blood donation camp exemplified the NSS motto, "Not Me, But You," by fostering a sense of social responsibility among students and staff. The event was widely appreciated and reinforced the commitment of Shri Ranbir Campus to community service and humanitarian efforts.

## Army assists in power restoration and snow clearance in Karnah Tangdhar

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, MAR 6

In response to heavy snowfall in the region, the Deputy Commander of 104 Shakti Vijay Brigade facilitated the movement of Power Development Department (PDD) personnel to Nasta Chhun Pass (NC Pass) to restore electricity. This crucial coordination with the civil administration aims to alleviate hardships faced by local

residents. Additionally, the Deputy Commander conducted an inspection of NH-701 from Karnah to Chowkibal, overseeing ongoing snow clearance efforts. Special attention was given to Sadhna Top, where heavy snowfall has severely impacted road connectivity. He reassured that power restoration and road clearance operations are being closely monitored. Teams from the Border Roads Organ-

isation (BRO) and Project Beacon are actively engaged in clearing snow to ensure the safe movement of vehicles. Authorities have also urged commuters to exercise caution while traveling in the region. The swift intervention by the Army has been met with appreciation from the local population, as efforts continue to fully restore essential services and normalcy in the area.



## OFFICE OF STATE DRUGS CONTROLLER DRUGS & FOOD CONTROL ORGANISATION, J&K, JAMMU PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 relates to regulation enacted to control the advertisement of drugs in certain cases, to prohibit the advertisement for certain purposes of remedies alleged to possess magic qualities and to provide for matters connected therewith;

Whereas it has been observed that certain nefarious elements are indulging in certain omissions/contraventions like advertisement of certain drugs for treatment of certain diseases and disorders; misleading advertisements relating to drugs making a false claim; advertisement of magic remedies for treatment of certain diseases and disorders; import into, and export from, India of certain advertisements in violation to the provisions laid down under the said regulation;

Whereas the above regulation provides for below penalties for who so ever contravenes any of the provisions of the said Act :

- (a) in the case of the first conviction, with imprisonment which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both;
- (b) in the case of a subsequent conviction, with imprisonment which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.

Now, therefore, it is informed through the medium of this notice that if any person/entity who indulges in any activity related to misleading advertisement of magic remedies for treatment of the disease or disorder or condition covered under the Schedule /Regulation (sections 3(d) and 14) ( i.e Appendicitis ,Arteriosclerosis, Blindness , Blood poisoning, Bright's disease. , Cancer , Cataract, Deafness, Diabetes , Diseases, disorders of the brain. Diseases and disorders of the optical system ,Diseases and disorders of the uterus , Disorders of menstrual flow, Disorders of the nervous system, , Disorders of the prostatic gland, Dropsy, Epilepsy, Female diseases (in general) , Fevers (in general) , Fits, Forms and structure of the female bust., Gall stones, kidney stones and bladder stones, Gangrene , Glaucoma , Goitre , Heart diseases. , High or low blood pressure., Hydrocele, Hysteria, Infantile paralysis, Insanity, Leprosy, Leucoderma, Lock-jaw, Locomotor ataxia, Lupus. , Nervous debility, Obesity., Paralysis, Plague. , Pleurisy, Pneumonia, Rheumatism. , Ruptures., Sexual impotence, Smallpox. , Stature of persons, Sterility in women., Trachoma, Tuberculosis, Tumours. , Typhoid fever, Ulcers of gastrointestinal tracts, Venereal diseases, including syphilis, gonorrhoea, soft chancre, venereal granuloma and lympho granuloma) shall invite action as contemplated under the provisions laid down under the said regulation by the empowered authorities.

The public at large is requested to report any incidence which contravenes the provisions of the said Act to the Controlling cum Licensing Authority @ controllerdrugsfoodjk@gmail.com, 0191-2538527 for appropriate action against the offenders as per the legal provisions.

Sd/-  
State Drugs Controller,  
Drugs & Food Control Organisation,  
J&K, Jammu

No :DFG/D-279/5503-5521  
Date : 05.03.25  
DIP/J-10802/24 | Date: 6-5-25

## YRS holds protest demonstration against Dy CM Surinder Choudhary

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 6

Today Yuva Rajput Sabha holds a strong protest demonstration against derogatory remarks of Deputy Chief Minister against Maharaja Sahib and also burnt effigy of Dy CM Surinder Choudhary. The protest was led by Founder members & Core Committee members Yuva Rajput Sabha Surinder Singh Gilli, Dharminder Singh, Shamsheer Singh, Komal Singh and Ballu Singh.

ji made many reforms during his tenure and major reforms like allowing lower caste to enter into temples, construction of High Court for proper justice, J&K Bank, uplifting of lower economical peoples of different castes and many others. Dharminder Singh further stated that National Conference after 1949 works just like a dictator and if we want to give an example of Dictatorship Govt. then National Conference is the best example, as Sheik Abdullah under the shelter of Article 370 misuse the resources of Jammu and Kashmir and after that Farooq Abdullah and now Omar Abdullah misuse Article 370 for their personal benefits and to



gave set back to peoples of Jammu region and leaders of NC done several scams under the shelter of Article 370. Shamsheer Singh further stated that Surinder Choudhary is a puppet of National Conference and now after abrogation of Article 370, NC and PDP both gets depressed because now they have to survive with their pay only

because they have nothing in their hands. And this is the reason they are giving statements like this. Gilli further stated that statement given by Surinder Choudhary is a big setback for the peoples of Jammu and Kashmir who have their faith in Maharaja Sahab and if National Conference didn't take any action against the Surinder Choudhary and Surinder

Choudhary didn't apologize for his mistake then it seems that National Conference intentionally with the help of Surinder Choudhary made this statement in assembly. He further added that Yuva Rajput Sabha and peoples of Jammu region wants apology from National Conference and Dy CM Surinder Choudhary otherwise National Conference would suffer in future. Others who were present are Dalbir Singh, Bachan Singh, Bikkram Singh, Pardeep Singh, Surinder Singh, Vishal, Shan, Udhay Singh, Mohit Singh, Vishal Choudhary, Shubam, Aryveer, Shan, Bhupinder and many others.

## Awareness Lecture on Road Traffic Accident organized at Bihota, Doda

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA: 06 MAR 2025

In a proactive effort to address the rising number of road accidents in the region, the Indian Army organized an awareness lecture on "Road Traffic Accidents" on 06 Mar 2025 at Bihota. The initiative aimed to promote road safety and educate the local population on the importance of adhering to traffic rules. The session witnessed active participation from the community, fostering a spirit of collective responsibility for safer roads. A total of 67 locals attended the awareness lecture. The interactive session by Indian Army covered vital aspects such as the significance of road symbols, proper road eti-



quettes and the importance of adhering to safety measures like wearing seat belts, helmets and avoiding drunken driving. Youth and drivers were educated on road markings, safe driving practices and the legal

consequences of violating traffic laws. This initiative underscores the Indian Army's commitment to the welfare and safety of the community emphasizing the need for responsible behaviour on the roads.

## Mashq Records introduces Rising Kashmiri Singer Rehaan Farooq in Latest Musical Release

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KASHMIR, MAR 6

Young singer Rehaan Farooq from North Kashmir's Tangmarg has made a remarkable entry into the music scene with his latest song, released under Mashq Records. The track, which blends traditional Kashmiri folk music with modern influences, has quickly gained attention on social media, drawing widespread appreciation. Rehaan, a Class VII student from Kilwara village, has long been passionate about music despite coming from a modest background. His father, a laborer, expressed pride in his son's achievement, emphasizing how the family has supported his dream despite financial hardships. Rehaan himself described the song's success as a dream come true and credited RJ Umar Nisar, the director and founder of Mashq



Records, for guiding him on this journey. The music video, shot in Tral, South Kashmir, tells the story of a young boy's mystical encounter while playing cricket. It features veteran Bollywood actor Bashir Lone, known for his performances in Haider, Bajrangji Bhaijaan, Pathaan, and The Family Man, adding depth to the storytelling. The song, originally composed by Rashid Jahangir, has been praised for its unique narrative and

striking visuals. RJ Umar Nisar, known for directing projects like Bedard and Janaan, has played a crucial role in promoting Kashmiri artists and preserving the region's musical heritage. He highlighted the need to provide young talent with a sustainable platform, ensuring the continuation of Kashmir's rich artistic traditions. Mashq Records has previously introduced artists who have gone on to receive national recognition, including the pres-

tigious Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar. The song's production features lyrics by Munir Saria Bali, composition by Rashid Jahangir Shab, and music production by Arif Mir. The video's cinematography was handled by Umer Nazir and Arif Zargar, with editing and grading by Arif Zargar and aerial cinematography by Mubashir Gulzar. Other key contributors include production head Zubair Ahmad and SG Casting Company. With themes of spirituality, perseverance, and personal growth, the song reflects the evolving landscape of Kashmiri music. As Mashq Records continues to uplift emerging artists, this release marks another step in its commitment to showcasing Kashmir's cultural richness. The video is now available on digital platforms, inviting audiences to experience a fresh perspective on Kashmiri music and storytelling.

## Several youth joins National Conference

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU MAR 6

In a significant boost to the Youth National Conference (YNC), Pt Abhishek Sharma, a prominent social worker from Nagrota, along with his supporters, joined the party fold in a function held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu. The Joining programme was organized by Mohinder Kumar Rana Joint Secretary Central Zone. The induction took place under the leadership of Tejinder Pal Singh Aman, Provincial President of Youth National Conference Jammu. Welcoming Pt Abhishek Sharma and his supporters into the party, Tejinder Pal Singh emphasized that their decision reflects the growing faith of the youth in the National Conference's vision for a prosperous and progressive Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that the Youth National Conference remains steadfast in its mission to provide a robust platform for young leaders committed to serving the people selflessly.



Tejinder Pal Singh took the opportunity to highlight the unwavering commitment of the present NC Government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, towards the empowerment of youth in the Union Territory. He mentioned various initiatives undertaken by the government to enhance educational and employment opportunities, skill development, and entrepreneurship for the younger generation. "The National Conference has always believed that the future of Jammu and Kashmir lies in the hands of its youth. Under the Young and dynamic leadership of Omar Abdul-

lah, our government would introduce youth-centric policies in the upcoming Budget to harness their potential and addressing their concerns effectively," Tejinder Pal Singh said. Tejinder Pal Singh further asserted that the party's focus on creating sustainable job opportunities, improving infrastructure in educational institutions, and launching skill development programs has received widespread appreciation from the youth across the Union Territory. He urged the new entrants to work dedicatedly at the grassroots level to strengthen the party's base and uphold its

vision of equitable development for all regions. Expressing his gratitude, Pt Abhishek Sharma said that he was inspired by the National Conference's people-centric policies and the leadership of Omar Abdullah. He assured that he and his supporters would work tirelessly to further the party's mission of peace, progress, and unity in Jammu and Kashmir. Among those who joined the party fold namely: Sanjeev Sharma, Abhimanu Sharma, Gopal Mehra, Sanjeev Kumar and others. The event concluded with slogans in support of the National Conference, reflecting the enthusiasm and optimism of the new members towards their political journey under the party's banner. Those who were present on this occasion included:- Zamir Quersh, Nitish Gowsami, Sahil Kerni, Rajesh Sharma, Amit Sharma, Attal Singh Vishal Parihar, Gourav Bhagat, Rajeshwar Singh and others.

## IIM Jammu gears up for Emyrean 2025 – A Celestial Odyssey

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 6

Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu is set to host its flagship cultural festival, Emyrean 2025 - A Celestial Odyssey, from 7th to 9th March 2025 at its Jagti Campus. This highly anticipated event promises a spectacular blend of music, dance, fashion, and artistic expression, bringing together students and artists from across the country. The star-studded lineup for Emyrean 2025 features some of the most celebrated names in the entertainment industry, including Playback Singer Jubin Nautiyal, Music Composer and Performer Rauhan Malik, and electrifying beats by DJ Carnivore & DJ HOLY C. Alongside these exhilarating performances, the festival will host an array of thrilling competitions, including Battle of Bands, Street Battles, a Gaming Arena, Fashion Show, Cultural Performances, and an array of food stalls and experiences. The event is co-powered by IIM Jammu and the Central Bank of India, with generous support from



Edge Stock Edge, Vardi, Life Insurance Corporation of India, Coca-Cola, Canara Bank, Geetanjali Salon, ED Times Youth Blog, SONY, Union Bank of India, J&K Bank, and The Bak-LoL TV. Their contributions are instrumental in making this grand celebration possible. The event is being coordinated by the Student Body in close coordination with Office of the Student Affairs, IIM Jammu. The students also organized a

flash mob across various locations in Jammu city. A blood donation camp was organized on the Campus on 06th March 2025. As the countdown begins, excitement is building for Emyrean 2025 - A Celestial Odyssey, where culture, passion, and entertainment will take center stage. Stay tuned for more updates and get ready to experience the biggest cultural extravaganza of the year at IIM Jammu!

## DC conducts Agricultural Development Tour in Reasi District

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, MARCH 6

Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik conducted a comprehensive inspection tour of agricultural development initiatives across Reasi district today, marking significant progress in the region's agricultural transformation. The tour featured the inauguration of a state-of-the-art polyhouse at Bagga, implemented under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). During the event, DC Malik emphasized the importance of documenting success stories to inspire the wider adoption of modern farming techniques among local farmers. The Deputy Commissioner visited the Fruit Plant Nursery in Dokezibagh, where she planted avocado saplings at the region's first-ever Avocado Mother Block. The Deputy Commissioner stated that this Avocado Mother Block represents not just agricultural innovation, but a pathway to sustainable livelihoods for our farmers.

## ABRSM advocates Education over Politics: Supports NEP 2020, Three-Language Formula for a Stronger India

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 6

The Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh (ABRSM) strongly upholds the principle that education should rise above political interests and serve as a unifying force in the nation's development. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is a landmark reform designed to transform India's education system, aligning it with global standards while preserving and strengthening India's rich linguistic and cultural diversity. ABRSM firmly supports the three-language formula and the nationwide implementation of NEP 2020. India's cultural ethos considers linguistic diversity and national unity as complementary forces. The three-language formula in NEP 2020 promotes the learning of Bharatiya languages, allowing any two Bharatiya languages to be taught, while the third language can be either

Bharatiya or a foreign language. This policy fosters multilingualism, ensures flexibility, and encourages primary education in a child's native language or mother tongue. Prof. Narayan Lal Gupta, President of ABRSM, in a press statement issued today emphasized that linguistic diversity is a cornerstone of India's vibrant and dynamic social fabric, which NEP 2020 aptly promotes. He reiterated that the policy does not impose any language but instead encourages the adoption of regional and national languages, fostering inclusivity and educational advancement. Prof. Geeta Bhatt, General Secretary of ABRSM, expressed concern over the political opposition to NEP 2020, stating that such resistance deprives students, teachers, and educational institutions of the policy's vast opportunities. She noted that even in non-BJP-ruled states, several elements of NEP 2020 have been

embraced due to their undeniable benefits. Politicizing this transformative policy, she said, undermines the spirit of cooperative federalism upheld by the central government. ABRSM acknowledges the Prime Minister's commitment to India's linguistic and cultural heritage, as reflected in initiatives like Kashi Tamil Sangamam and Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam, which celebrate deep-rooted connections between Tamil Nadu and other regions of India. Additionally, recent advancements in AI-based translation tools such as Anuvadini and Bhashini demonstrate the government's dedication to linguistic inclusivity. ABRSM urges all stakeholders to support NEP 2020 for the betterment of India's education system. Education must remain a tool for empowerment, knowledge, and national progress, free from political interference.

## DC Reasi inspects Welfare institutions in district

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, MARCH 6

Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik today conducted an extensive tour of critical welfare institutions across the district, demonstrating the administration's unwavering commitment to strengthening social support systems for vulnerable populations. The high-level inspection covered multiple facilities including the One Stop Centre (OSC) for Women, Child Care Institution (Parisha), District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW), District Child Protection Unit, and the Juvenile Justice Board. During her visit to the Shakti Sadan building, Deputy Commissioner had a brief discussion on Detailed Project Report with District Social welfare officer for comprehensive renovation, aimed at creating a more conducive environment for service delivery. Deputy Commissioner emphasized that These institutions form the backbone of our social safety net and Our primary duty is ensuring that victims of violence receive prompt assistance with dignity and compassion. Every case must be addressed with sensitivity and resolved within strict timelines.

## DM Jammu chairs NCORD meeting to intensify anti-drugs measures

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 6

"Society and the district administration need to make coordinated efforts to curb the drug menace. Vigilance by all stakeholders and members of society is vital in this mission against drugs and for a healthy future", remarked District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya, while chairing a meeting of the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD).

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Joginder Singh, Additional District Magistrate Ansuya Jamwal, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Tehsildars and other district officers. SP Headquarters Irshad Hussain Rather and SDPOs also attended the meeting.



Emphasising the need for preventive measures, the District Magistrate underscored the importance of raising awareness among school and college students about the dangers of drug abuse. He reviewed the outcome programmes conducted so far and stressed that their impact should be visible and substantial. He called for active participation from SDMs, SDPOs, Tehsildars

and SHOs in educating the youth.

The District Magistrate highlighted the necessity of inter-departmental collaboration, stating that coordinated efforts involving the departments for Drug Control, Police and Education besides others are crucial for achieving tangible results. He also directed Assistant Drug Controllers and other concerned officers to conduct regu-

lar surprise inspections of chemist shops. SDMs were instructed to oversee these inspections to ensure strict compliance.

To enhance surveillance and prevent misuse of pharmaceutical drugs, the meeting reiterated the enforcement of a recent order mandating the installation of CCTV cameras at key establishments across Jammu.

The meeting also focused on identifying and neutralising drug hotspots and dismantling the supply chain. The role of drug de-addiction centres and their adherence to established regulations was reviewed. Additionally, the strict implementation of the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) in the district was highlighted as a priority.

## Commissioner JMC felicitates Shakti Udghosh Foundation on eve of Women's day

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 6

Shakti Udghosh Foundation (NGO) was today felicitated by Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation Dr. Devansh Yadav for completing five days bike rally from Kathua to Poonch in which bikers from more than 6 states participated for a social cause of immediate concern of all the strata of the society viz Nasha Mukh Seemaia.

It is emerging as one of the challenge for the Nation and all stakeholders to work in coordination to get rid of this menace from the society. He appreciated the bikers who have come from various states from Tamil Nadu to Jammu & Kashmir to join hands for one social cause. The women



bikers reached Jammu after completing their 5 days motorbike expedition covering Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Rajouri and Poonch Districts with the motive NASHA MUKH SEEMAYEIN. They also interacted with students of schools, colleges and masses of the border areas. A video showcasing their 800 km journey was played during the pro-

gramme. The experience gained by the participants in the rally was also shared in the event.

Besides Nasha Mukh Seemaian programme, the bikers generated awareness about Swachh Bharat Mission and various initiatives taken therein in Jammu & Kashmir. The citizen feedback regarding Swachhata was also taken by the women

bikers. The Commissioner ensured them for all necessary assistance in future in carrying out such programmes for the benefits of the society.

The team was felicitated with trophies and appreciation certificates by the Commissioner, JMC, Joint Commissioner (H&S), and Health Officer. The staff of JMC also attended the event.

## DDC Kulgam takes holistic review of RDD&PR sector

J I NEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM, MARCH 6

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Thursday chaired a meeting of Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR) at Mini-Secretariat here to review the functioning, progress and implementation status of various schemes in the district.

During the meeting, the DDC took a detailed review of progress achieved under various programs and initiatives in the RDD sector.

It was informed that under MGNREGA, 7263 works were taken, out of which 6257 works were completed till date.

Additionally, 2377724 person-days (PDS) were generated till date.

Reviewing the progress under PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana) units,



the chair was informed that against 5868 sanctioned units, 5291 units have been completed by the end of February.

The DDC directed Officers to ensure the completion of all PMAY units promptly. He emphasized the need to accelerate the pace of work to meet annual targets and ensure timely payment of wages. Reviewing the progress

under the district capex budget it was informed that against the allotted works of 1589, 1329 works have been taken up while 1118 works have been completed till date.

He also reviewed the progress in solid waste management, door-to-door waste collection in panchayats and construction and completion status of community soakage

pits, and community compost pits.

The chair was informed that under SBM against a target of 52 works, 39 have been taken up and 28 have been completed, while in community soakage pits component under MGNREGA, 17 works have been taken up and 7 have been completed.

The DDC stressed Tehsildars and BDOs to identify suitable land for composite pits and Gram Panchayat Ghars to be constructed.

He also underscored the importance of maximum onsite work inspections to ensure quality of works.

He directed Officers to scale up the execution of all works and ensure time-bound completion without compromising quality.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Altaf Ahmad, ACD, ACP, Ex. Engineer REW, all BDOs, AEEs, AEs, VLWs and GRSS.

## Anti-Corruption Foundation of India presents Duty Officer Award to Yasha Mudgal

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 6

The Anti-Corruption Foundation of India has recognised the remarkable efforts of Yasha Mudgal, Commissioner Secretary, Tourism Department, Jammu & Kashmir, by presenting her with the prestigious "Duty Officer Award."

The honour was given in recognition of her exceptional leadership and dedication towards growth and promotion of tourism in the Union Territory.

Mudgal's efforts have been instrumental in shaping policies and initiating innovative programs that have greatly impacted the tourism landscape in Jammu & Kashmir. The Anti-Corruption Foundation of

India commended her visionary leadership and role in seamless execution of these initiatives, which have played a key role in bolstering the tourism sector. Under her leadership, Jammu & Kashmir has witnessed a surge in high-profile tourism events that have positioned the Union Territory as a premier destination for adventure, sports, and cultural tourism. Landmark events such as the F4 Mega Car Show in Srinagar, Sunburn in Jammu, J&K Tourism Development Conclave in Srinagar, Maiden Kashmir Marathon and 4th PGTI J&K Golf Open 2024 in Jammu have significantly boosted tourism, attracting national and international visitors. These initiatives have not only enhanced the tour-

ism experience but have also contributed towards economic growth of the region. Further strengthening J&K's position as a preferred tourism and business destination, the J&K Tourism Department recently organized MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) reach-out event in Mumbai, led by the Chief Minister of J&K. This initiative promoted J&K as a key hub for business tourism and corporate events. Additionally, the department actively participated in SATTE (South Asia's Travel and Tourism Exchange) 2024 in New Delhi, one of the largest travel trade shows in the region. The event served as a platform to showcase J&K's tourism potential, attract investors and forge strategic

partnerships with the global stakeholders in the travel and hospitality industry. The award appreciates Mudgal's achievements under the guidance of higher authorities of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and reflects the Government of Jammu & Kashmir's ongoing commitment towards promoting tourism, transparency and efficiency in governance. The recognition is a testament to the Government's dedication towards making Jammu & Kashmir a prime destination for global tourists.

The award was presented by Nazakat Choudhary, Director, Anti-Corruption Foundation of India and Brand Ambassador for the Swachh Bharat Mission in J&K.

## Two-Day National Seminar on 'Integrating Digital Learning & Technology in Teacher Education' held at GCOE, Srinagar

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 6

The Govt. College of Education (IASE), M.A. Road, Srinagar, organised a two-day National Seminar, sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), North Western Regional Centre, P.U. Chandigarh.

The event was organized under the leadership of Principal GCOE Srinagar, Prof (Dr.) Seema Naz.

The seminar, themed 'Integrating Digital Learning and Technology in Teacher Education,' attracted a plethora of distinguished intellectuals and luminaries across India, including Prof (Dr.) Renu Nanda from the PG Department of Education, University of Jammu; Dr. Deepak Bishla, Head Department of IT, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University; Prof (Dr.) Khurshheed Ahmad Mir, Dean Academics and Controller of Exam Cluster University Srinagar; Dr. Sameer Babu M, Associate Professor in Educational Administration, Jamia Millia Islamia New Delhi and Dr. Kajal Kalsi, Assistant Professor Department of Sociology University of

Jammu.

A host of faculty members from diverse universities, colleges, and research scholars across the nation attended the seminar both online/offline.

Prof (Dr.) Mohammd Mobin, the Vice-Chancellor of Cluster University Srinagar was the chief guest in the Inaugural session.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest, Prof. (Dr.) Mobin asserted that technology possesses the transformative potential to profoundly alter the landscape of teaching and learning. However, he emphasized that this potential can only be actualized through deliberate, thoughtful implementation, sustained professional development for educators, and a comprehensive understanding of how to leverage technology in ways that foster student centered, inclusive, and dynamic learning experiences. Earlier, the seminar commenced with a welcome address by Prof (Dr.)



Seema Naz, Principal of the host institution, wherein she graciously welcomed the distinguished guests and conveyed her profound gratitude to the chief guest, Prof (Dr.) Mohammad Mobin, and other dignitaries for their esteemed presence.

She added that in the AI era, 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving cannot be fully developed without the integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). These technologies enable students and educators to create, share, and analyze information in real time,

fostering a dynamic and evolving learning environment essential for preparing individuals to succeed in an increasingly digital world.

Dr. Nazir Ahmad Bhat, the seminar coordinator, in his backdrop address reiterated that the integration of digital learning and technology in Teacher Education is no longer an option but a necessity in today's rapidly evolving educational landscape. Technology has transformed the way educators deliver content, making it more interactive, engaging, and personalized to cater to diverse learning needs.

In his keynote address, Dr. Deepak Bishla underscored the pivotal role that technology plays in reshaping the educational landscape. He emphasized that, as we stand at the nexus of a swiftly advancing technological era, it is incumbent upon education to evolve in tandem, harnessing the immense potential of digital tools to augment learning outcomes and adequately prepare educators for an increasingly digitized world.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof (Dr.) Renu Nanda reiterated that technology is meant to complement educators, making

learning more interactive, accessible, and personalized. By leveraging digital tools, teachers can provide students with diverse resources, foster critical thinking, and cater to individual learning needs. She further added that technology acts as an enabler, enriching the educational process while preserving the essential role of teachers in guiding and mentoring students.

Prof. (Dr.) Khurshheed Ahmad Mir said that Atmanirbhar Bharat is not possible without leveraging technology in education as it empowers individuals with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in a digitally driven world.

The session featured the release of the seminar smart digest and seminar promo. A glimpse of audio video content in Kashmiri language recorded at IITE Gujarat by IASE Faculty under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, national initiative was also showcased.

The inaugural session was moderated by Prof Lateef Ahmad Shah, Faculty IASE and vote of thanks was presented by Prof Yunis Basit Sofi.

## DC Poonch chairs DLC meeting to enhance implementation of Forest Rights

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Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal chaired a crucial District Level Committee (DLC) meeting in Poonch, focusing on enhancing the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA).

The meeting reviewed the status of claims, discussed strategies for outstanding applications and thoroughly scrutinized 206 FRA claims submitted

by the Sub Division Level Committee (SDLC).

In a significant decision, the Deputy Commissioner unanimously approved all 206 claims, marking a major milestone in recognizing and safeguarding the rights of forest-dwelling communities.

This development is expected to empower local communities and promote sustainable forest management practices in the region.