

**DENGUE WARNING SIGNS**

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

**Watch out for dengue warning signs!**

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Diarrhoea
- Profound 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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>> **Budget Session 2025 | Question Hour in LA**

## Government taking steps to promote tourism in Karnah : CM

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 8

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today emphasized the government's commitment to empower youth in border areas such as Karnah, Keran, Machhil and Gurez by equipping them with vocational skills to promote tourism-driven economic growth.

He stated that unskilled youth from these regions would be provided training enabling them to acquire skills in trades relevant to the tourism sector.

The Chief Minister, who also holds Tourism Department, stated this while replying to a supplementary question from MLA Karnah, Javid Ahmad Mirchal, regarding the promotion of tourism in border areas like Karnah. The Chief Minister remarked that Karnah has immense tourism potential and stressed the need to explore it further.



"We believe that there is potential for tourism. We need to explore that potential. Recently, festivals were organized in Karnah—the Border Festival and Yoga Festival. The purpose is to let people outside Jammu and Kashmir know about Karnah's tourism potential and its culture. Because of such initiatives, we have started

to see a gradual increase in tourism. For this reason, local people should benefit from tourism," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah told Legislative Assembly.

The Chief Minister said that the tourism department has started registration of paying guest houses and homestays in the area.

"For now, in Karnah, we

have registered six homestays, and five in Teetwal. Now, I request the MLA to help us in this. There is no point in bringing tourists if there is no place to host them," he said, adding, "We do not want to build massive hotels there. If big hotels are built, local people will not benefit from them."

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## J&K's debt soars to Rs 125025 cr

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAR 08 (KNO)

The Jammu & Kashmir Government has disclosed that the Union Territory's liabilities have soared to a staggering Rs 125025 crore.

In a written reply to a question of MLA Handwara, Sajad Gani Lone, the minister in-charge of the Finance department,

Omar Abdullah, as per the news agency, disclosed that the total debt portfolio of J&K, including State Development Loan/Reserve Bank of India loan, negotiated loans, National Saving Small Fund (NSSF), Government of India Advances, Ways and Means Advance/Overdraft, General Provident Fund (GPF), Reserves and

Deposits, UDAY power bonds, stands at a staggering Rs 125025 crore.

According to the Finance department's reply, the total outstanding on account of SDL/RBI loans is Rs 69894 crore, followed by GPF with Rs 27901 crore, Rs 14294 crore in reserves and deposits, Rs 5758 crore NSSF, Rs 4032 crore in negotiated

loans, Rs 2616 crore UDAY bonds, and Rs 710 crore GoI advances. The Government also disclosed that the total outstanding liability in treasuries as of 27.02.2025 under various object heads of accounts is to the tune of Rs 5429.49 crore. It also revealed that the total unpaid work bills of PHE are Rs 0.24 crore as of February 25, 2025. KNO

>> **'SASHAKT NARI SAMMAN'**

## Women empowerment a new revolution under PM Modi's leadership: LG Sinha

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 08 (KNO)

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday asserted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, women empowerment has transformed from a mere slogan into a new revolution. Extending his greetings and



**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

>> **BUDGET SESSION 2025**

## General discussion on Budget resumes in LA

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 8

Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today discussed the budget 2025 presented by Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, on Friday.

Initiating the budget discussion, Javed Hussain Baig presented a holistic view of the budget saying that it speaks of the futuristic approach of the present dispensation. He said that it is a balanced budget taking care of all sections of the society. He added that the people have huge expectations from the government and all the promises made with them will be fulfilled.

Tariq Hameed Karra, while speaking on the proposed budgetary provisions, said that there is longer positivity in the budget touching all the social sectors. However,

he said that the issue of daily wagers, anganwadi workers, filling up of vacant posts, rehabilitation of Kashmiri pandits should have found due prominence in the budget.

He also talked in detail about other social aspects and economic aspects, sustainable tourism and mineral exploitation among other things. He said that we carry a profound responsibility on our shoulders towards the welfare of the people who have voted for us for the good of the community and we are duty bound to respect the mandate of the people.

Arjun Singh Raju extended his whole support to the budget presented by Omar Abdullah saying that it is a vision, roadmap and commitment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the budget stands

as a beacon of hope ensuring that no section of the society is left behind in terms of growth and development.

Tanvir Sadiq, while participating in the discussion, said that it is a historic moment that such a budget has been presented in Jammu and Kashmir despite the UT being heavily deficit.

"It is the first budget of our government and it is a good beginning despite facing a very difficult situation. All the promises made with the people will be fulfilled in a phased manner," he maintained.

Sunil Bharadwaj said that the budget does not reflect the aspirations of the people completely.

Nazir Gurezi, while speaking on the occasion, said that it is an extremely balanced budget that has taken care of most

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## 65 gazetted, 122 non-gazetted posts lying vacant at GMC Rajouri

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAR 08 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday said that 65 gazetted and 122 non-gazetted posts remain vacant at Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri.

Responding to a question from MLA Budhal, Javid Iqbal Choudhary, Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakina Itoo said the sanctioned strength of gazetted posts at GMC Rajouri is 119, out of which 55 positions are currently filled, leaving 64

vacant. She said that out of the 415 sanctioned non-gazetted posts, 293 are in position, while 122 remain vacant.

"All vacant teaching faculty posts have been referred to the J&K Public Service Commission (JKPSC) for advertisement and selection of suitable candidates. The vacant positions are regularly filled on an academic arrangement basis in terms of SO 364 of 2020, dated 27.11.2020, to address faculty shortages in various disciplines. Regarding non-gazetted

vacancies, the matter is under active consideration within the department," Itoo said.

Responding to a question from MLA Zainapora, Showkat Ganaie, the minister informed that J&K currently has 554 NTPHCs (New Type Primary Health Centres) operating across the Union Territory. She, however, said no new creations or upgradations are planned at present.

The minister said J&K is focusing on consolidating its existing healthcare facilities, given that more than 4,200 health institu-

tions at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels already exist.

According to a report by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, J&K ranks among the top regions in the country in terms of healthcare institution density.

"Future creations or upgradations will be considered once the austerity measures imposed under Government Order No. 17-F of 2024, dated 15.01.2024, are withdrawn. To address

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## 2400 children in Child Care Institutes in J&K: Govt

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAR 08 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday said that there are around 2400 children living in Child Care Institutes in the region and that all the requisite interventions are being made for the overall development of these children.

Replying to the question of MLA Pampore, Justice Hasnain Masoodi, Minister for Social Welfare Sakina Itoo as per the news agency, said that the department is committed for welfare of all the children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with law.

"Mission Vatsalya is monitoring and inspecting the existing CCIs and provides all necessary help and assistance as required as per the guidelines of Mission Vatsalya," she said, adding that there are 1796 children in government run Child Care Institutes while 579 are in eight private institutions.

She added that the number of government run CCI registered under Juvenile justice act 2015 is 69 while NGO run CCI registered under Juvenile justice act 2015 is 58.

Regarding the steps taken to ensure registration of left out institutions to ensure their compliance with law, she said that notice issued to unregistered CCIs Dealing with children in need of care and Protection, with the direction to register the institutions as per sub-section (1) of section 41 of Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection) Act, 2015.

"Subsequently, Circular instructions

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Tanvir condemns turning of J&K Legislative Assembly into 'filmi akhada'

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 08 (KNO)

MLA Zadibal and National Conference leader Tanvir Sadiq on Saturday condemned the shooting of a web series in Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

Speaking during the discussion on Budget-2025 presented on Friday by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Tanvir, a close aide of the CM, according to the news agency said,

"It's unfortunate that the LG administration had allowed the assembly floor to be turned into a filmi akhada (film arena)."

Tanvir recalled the time when he would accompany his father, late Sadiq Ali (former MLA Zadibal), and watch the proceedings from the gallery. "This was the most powerful assembly in the entire country, but what have you made of it? You allowed film actors to shoot scenes here and turned this into

a film studio. You have violated the sanctity of this house. You [BJP] had a notion that the assembly would never function again in Jammu and Kashmir, which was the reason for such actions. But the Supreme Court intervened, and we had elections," Tanvir said, as per KNO.

The MLA Zadibal was referring to the OTT serial Maharani, a Hindi-language drama series

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## No timeline can be fixed for AFSPA revocation from J&K: Army Chief



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MAR 08 (KNO)

Stating that the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) would continue to remain in force in Jammu and Kashmir till the situation improves, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday said no timeline can be fixed for its revocation.

Speaking at a national television conclave, the Army Chief, according to the news agency said, "The act (AFSPA) will be withdrawn when the Army is convinced that the local police can

manage security without military assistance."

He said that while AFSPA could eventually be lifted, there is no specific timeframe for its removal.

Referring to the areas like Doda, Rajouri, and Kishtwar where terrorism had been contained to an extent that tourism initiatives, such as bed-and-breakfast accommodations, were being planned, the Army Chief said, "The Mughal Road was also being considered for significant use. However the recent

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## SIA charge sheets 'anti-nation social media influencer'

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MAR 08 (KNO)

The State Investigation Agency (SIA), Kashmir on Saturday said to have filed a charge sheet (Challan) against a twitter handler before the Designated Special Court under NIA Act Budgam.

The case pertains to publishing of anti-national, secessionist and pro-terrorist content on social media, a statement issued to the news agency reads.

"The case was registered on information that a twitter handle LACERATED KASHMIR is publishing content on Twitter which is secessionist and anti-India in nature; and promotes terrorism in J&K. Accordingly a formal case was registered vide FIR 18 of 2022 in police Station CIK/SIA Kashmir," it reads.

During extensive tech-

nical investigation, SIA said to have identified the twitter handler as Irfan-Ul-Haq of KawoosaKhalisa of Budgam District. "The accused had created multiple Twitter accounts under pseudonyms to conceal his identity from Law Enforcement Agencies. SIA successfully identified twitter handles like Lacerated Kashmir, The Resistance Kashmir, Maimed Kashmir and Wounded Kashmir which were being operated by the accused person to spread secessionist ideology, promoting terrorism and downplaying lawful administrative regime, besides he has also shown disrespect to the Indian National Flag through his twitter posts," the statement reads.

On 07th of March 2025 SIA Kashmir filed a comprehensive charge

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## JKAACL celebrates International Women's Day with Multilingual Mahila Kavi Ghoshthi

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 8

The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) today celebrated International Women's Day by organizing a Multilingual Mahila Kavi Ghoshthi at K.L. Saigal Hall, Jammu. The event was a tribute to the literary contributions of women poets and writers across multiple languages, reflecting their creative prowess and intellectual depth.

The presidium for the occasion was shared by eminent literary figures including Sunita Bhadwal, Dogri Poet and Writer, Anila Singh Chark, Hindi Poet and Writer and Santosh Shah Nandan renowned Kashmiri Poetess.

The event was graced by the presence of the Chief



Guest Secretary, JKAACL, Harvinder Kour. In her address, she emphasized that women are inherently empowered as they possess strong decision-making abilities. However, she highlighted the need to overcome existing challenges, particularly the persistent gender discrimination that still exists in society. She urged collective efforts to bridge the gap and ensure equal opportunities for both girls and boys.

Divisional Head, JKAACL, Jammu, Dr. Javaid Rahi welcomed the esteemed guests and audience on behalf of the Academy. In his remarks, he acknowledged the

invaluable contributions of women in literature and also expressed gratitude for the role of women in shaping his own life.

The event saw the participation of accomplished poetesses who presented their poetry in different languages, making the occasion a true celebration of linguistic diversity. The poets included Sunita Bhadwal, Promila Manhas, Neelam Verma, Kiran Kanchan, Saroj Bala, Dr. Saventerta Mehra, and Neha Devi (Dogri); Anila Singh Chark, Shivani Anand, Amita Mehta, Sonia Upadhyay, Suman Sharma and Sanyogita Sharma (Hindi); Dr. Snobar, Amarjit Kour Neer Kusum

(Punjabi); Santosh Shah Nandan, Kusum Dhar (Sharda), Rajni Bahar and Dolly Tickoo (Kashmiri); Dr. Shehnaz Qadri, Fouzia Mughal, Shama Bhalessi, Geetika Kohli (Urdu); Saima Qazi and Jabeena Mughal (Pahari); Naseem Akhter and Saleem Akhter (Gojri).

The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks presented by Reeta Khadya, Editor, Dogri, JKAACL, who expressed gratitude to all the poets, guests, and attendees for making the celebration a grand success.

The Mahila Kavi Ghoshthi served as a platform to honor and celebrate the creative brilliance of women poets, furthering the mission of JKAACL to promote and preserve the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

## NCORD meeting reviews drug control measures in Poonch

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, MARCH 8

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today chaired a significant meeting of the District-Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to review and discuss measures to curb drug abuse and narcotic trade in the district.

The meeting was informed about the proactive steps taken to combat the drug menace, including detailed reports on properties seized from drug peddlers and other initiatives undertaken by the police department to control drug sales.

A range of critical issues were deliberated, including the incidence of drug addiction, identified hot spots of drug abuse, and ongoing measures in the district. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need to intensify aware-



ness campaigns among the public regarding the dangers of drug abuse.

In addition, the DC directed officials to evaluate the quality of the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaigns planned for all panchayats, encouraging a focus on declaring more

Panchayats as Nasha Mukta (drug-free).

The Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) was instructed to organize a special checking drive for commercial vehicles to mitigate drug transport in the area.

Furthermore, the Drug Inspector and Tehsildars

were tasked with reviewing CCTV footage from chemist shops and other relevant locations to ensure proper monitoring of drug-related activities.

The DC also mandated that enforcement agencies take action under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) against individuals selling tobacco products within a 100-metre radius

of educational institutions.

Stressing the importance of sustained and coordinated efforts from all stakeholders, the Deputy Commissioner reiterated that the District Administration has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against the menace of drugs in Poonch.

## SDM inspects government institutions in Padder

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
KISHITWAR, MARCH 8

Sub Divisional Magistrate Dr. Amit Kumar conducted a series of inspections of government institutions including the Sub District Hospital Atholi, Roads and GHSS Atholi Padder to assess the healthcare facilities, restoration of road and ongoing Examinations respectively.

The visit at PHC Atholi aimed to evaluate the availability of essential medicines, the condition of infrastructure, and the overall quality of patient care provided by the hospital.

During the inspection, the SDM took stock of the essential medicines and the infrastructure available at the hospital. He directed the hospital staff to prioritize cleanliness within the facility and to ensure timely and updated treatment of all patients.



Later, accompanied by Executive Engineer PWD, he inspected the Garh Kukandran road which was closed due to a snow avalanche, causing inconvenience to the residents and commuters. The SDM directed the Executive Engineer PWD to expedite the clearing of the road by doubling the clearance machinery to. The residents and commuters were urged to exercise

caution and patience as the authorities are working towards reopening the Garh Kukandran road.

Meanwhile, he visited Government Higher Secondary School and inspected the ongoing examination for 12th class students. The SDM instructed the principal, supervisors and other staff members to conduct the examination in a fair manner.

## Chief Secretary releases biopic 'Sarvavyapak Bhagawaan Gopinathji' at Abhinav Theatre

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 8

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today unveiled the biographical film 'Sarvavyapak Bhagawaan Gopinathji' at Abhinav Theatre, here today.

The film, based on the biography written by Shankar Nath Fotedar and produced by the Bhagawaan Gopinathji Trust, portrays the life, teachings and spiritual journey of the revered saint, Bhagawaan Gopinathji.

The event was attended by several dignitaries including Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, PK Pole, Commissioner Secretary Culture, K Ramesh Kumar; Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah and Commissioner, Relief (Migrants), Dr Arvind Karwani. Former Chief Secretary, Vijay Bakaya and



Justices (Retired) BL Bhat and Sunil Hali were also present. Padma Shri, Pran Kishore Kaul, a veteran filmmaker and writer, was the Guest of Honour on the occasion. Notably, Kaul also served as the writer and co-director of the biopic, sharing directorial responsibilities with Arun Mavnoor.

Pran Kishore Kaul, shared insights into the

creative journey behind the biopic, emphasising the extensive research and artistic dedication required to portray Bhagawaan Gopinathji's legacy.

The event also featured KK Raina, a distinguished actor known for his work in theatre and cinema.

Jai Kishori Patwari, a founding trustee of the Bhagawaan Gopinathji Trust, presided over the

function. She elaborated on the extensive research, dedication and vision that culminated in creation of the biopic.

President of the trust, Ashok Kumar Razzan, welcomed the Chief Guest and other dignitaries, expressing gratitude for their support. Secretary of the trust, Sohan Krishen Khordi, outlined the organisation's philanthropic and spiri-

tual initiatives across India including social welfare programs, medical services and support for orphans and the elderly.

The event concluded with felicitation of the artists and contributors involved in the film, acknowledging their invaluable efforts in bringing this spiritual narrative to life.

## No proposal for granting Tehsil status to Achbal: Sakina Itoo

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 8

Minister for Social Welfare, Sakina Itoo, today informed the House that there is no proposal under consideration for granting Tehsil status to Achabal.

The Minister was replying on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, to a question raised by MLA Abdul Majid Larmi in the Legislative Assembly here today.

The Minister apprised that the government sanctioned creation of 09 new Sub Divisions, 50 new Tehsils and 99 new Niabats and Achabal was created as a Sub Division vide Government order number Rev (S) 242 of 2014 dated 21.10.2014.

However, as per the government order number 42 Rev (S) of 2018 dated 20.02.2018, government order number Rev (S) 242 of 2014 dated 21.10.2014 was kept in abeyance till further orders, except for the Tehsils created at Villgam and Qalamabad in Kupwara district, Tehsils Singhpora and Narwain in Baramulla district, Tehsil Bhella in Doda district and Tehsil Ramsu in Ramban district.

Afterwards, government order number 42 Rev (S)

of 2018 dated 20.02.2018) was eventually withdrawn ab-initio vide State Administrative Council Decision number 191/19/2019 dated 30.07.2019.

**'1298.28 kanal land identified for establishment of 9 townships in J&K'**

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today said that 1298.28 Kanal of land has been identified for establishment of 09 townships in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister was replying on behalf of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, to a question raised by Waheed Ur Rehman Parra in the Legislative Assembly.

She said that establishment of these townships is to check unplanned urban expansion and meet housing needs of people of J&K.

While sharing the details, the Minister informed the House that nine housing colonies are being established at Padgampura Pulwama, Watapora Bandipora, Bhalwal Jammu, Changran Kathua, Chatterhama Srinagar, Bakoor Ganderbal, Chakbhalwal Jammu, Chowadhi Jammu and Kanuyian in Poonch district.

She said that details of the beneficiaries shall be



determined after DPR formulation.

The Minister said that Srinagar Development Authority has identified State land along National Highway Bypass Bemina Srinagar (Rakhi Gund Aksha) and Jammu Development Authority identified land at Sidhra, Jammu for catering to housing needs of people of J&K.

The Minister, while replying to a supplementary, said that all Ecological issues shall be taken into consideration while undertaking any construction.

**'Over 4200 health institutions at various levels to be consolidated soon'**

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today informed the House that the Government is working on

consolidation of existing healthcare facilities and more than 4200 health institutions at various Primary, Secondary and Tertiary level exist in J&K, as on date, adding that 554 NTPHC's function across the Union Territory.

The Minister, while replying to a question raised by Showkat Hussain Ganie, informed that J&K is among the top achievers in health institution density in the country as per the report of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

While replying to a question regarding upgradation of Kanjullar, Kaprin, Turkwangam and Sharatpora Sub Centres to Primary Health Centres (PHC), the Minister informed that no future creations and upgradations have been planned, as of now, which may be worked out once

the austerity measures in terms of Government Order number 17-F of 2024 dated 15.01.2024 imposed by the Finance Department are withdrawn.

Sakeena Itoo also said that to fill the critical gaps, among other things, the department aims to strengthen the existing healthcare facility strictly as per IPHS norms, extend support to common man seeking medical attention by developing a robust e-Sanjeevani, tele-medicine facilities through a well designed hub and spoke model.

The Minister mentioned that the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) are broadly the benchmarks for creation and upgradation of healthcare facilities.

Earlier, IPHS 2012 were being used and now IPHS 2022 norms are in vogue,

which is at present the broad document to be used for any future creation and upgradation of Health Institutions.

**Govt to shift District Hospital Rajouri to suitable place: Sakeena Itoo**

Vacant teaching faculty posts of GMC Rajouri referred to JKPCS

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today informed the House that the District Hospital Rajouri will be shifted to some suitable place for the public convenience.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Javeed Iqbal Choudhary in the Legislative Assembly.

She said that the District Hospital Rajouri is congested and sans sufficient space to cater to the increasing patient inflow. She said that it (hospital) shall be shifted to some suitable place for the public convenience.

The Minister assured that the government is committed to provide better patient care to the general public and ensure up gradation of all health infrastructure. She said that the efforts are on to ensure timely filling up of vacancies in all the health institutions.

Sharing details regarding the manpower in Government Medical College Rajouri, the Minister said that the sanctioned strength of teaching faculty, CMOS, LMOS at GMC Rajouri is 119 and staff in position is 55 while there are 64 vacant posts. She also informed the house that sanctioned strength of non-gazetted staff is 415, of these, 293 is in position and 122 posts are vacant.

The Minister said that all vacant teaching faculty posts stand referred to J&KPCS for advertisement and selection of suitable candidates.

The Minister said that the vacant posts are regularly being filled up on academic arrangement basis in order to meet the shortfall of faculty in each discipline in terms of SO 364 of 2020 dated 27.11.2020.

Regarding filling up of Non-Gazetted vacancies, the Minister informed that the matter is under active consideration of the Government.

Legislators; Er. Khurshid Ahmad, Arvand Gupta, Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Ajaz Jan, Iftikhar Ahmad, Muzaffar Iqbal Khan and Shabir Ahmad Kullay raised supplementaries.

**Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat: IASE faculty collaborate with IITE Gujarat for E-Content development in regional languages**

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 8

In a significant initiative aimed at promoting and preserving the Kashmiri language, a distinguished team of subject experts from Government College of Education (IASE) Srinagar and language experts have been actively engaged in developing high-quality e-content on Teacher Education.

This initiative is being undertaken under the aegis of the Indian Institute of Teacher Education (IITE), Gandhinagar, Gujarat, with the coordination of Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz, Principal, IASE, Srinagar.

The team of subject experts include from Government College of Education (IASE) Srinagar, Dr. Nazir Ahmad Bhat, Dr. Tawheeda Rasool, Dr. Showkeen Bilal, Dr. Mudasir Hamid, Dr. Aijaz Ahmad Dar, and language experts Dr. M Hussain, Dr. Sumi Ullah and Dr. Saahil Abbas from GDC Magam, GDC Tral, and GDC Dangiwa.

## Budget Session 2025: Action taken to curb illegal mineral extraction at Shaliganaga Nalla, Budgam: Dy CM

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 8

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today informed the House that in a decisive move against illegal mineral extraction, the District Mineral Officer (DMO) Budgam has taken strict action against M/s NKC Projects Private Limited for unauthorized mining at Shaliganaga Nalla in Lanilab Basant Wooder, Budgam.

The issue was highlighted in the Legislative Assembly today by MLA Khan Sahab, Safud-Din-Bhat, bringing it to the immediate attention of the House. The action follows the circulation of a video on social media on March



2, 2025, exposing the illegal activity.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that on receiving the report from the

Directorate of Geology and Mining, the DMO Budgam swiftly deputed a team to the site to verify the claims.

Upon investigation, it was confirmed that the company had engaged men and machinery for unauthorized extraction of approximately 300 MT of Nallah Mukh without obtaining the required permits. In response, a formal notice (No. DMO/Bud/DGM/F-106/4558-67, dated March 3, 2025) was issued to the Project Manager of M/s NKC Projects Private Limited, Basecamp Gudsathoo, Budgam, directing an immediate cessation of all illegal mining activities and demanding relevant documentation, he added.

## DSEK kick-starts 15 day Valley wide enrolment drive from Gadole Vailoo

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 8

On the occasion of the re-opening of schools after winter vacations, Director Education Kashmir (DSEK), Dr. G.N. Itoo formally launched a 15-days enrollment drive for all the schools in the valley from the remote hilly area of Gadole Vailoo in Anantnag district.

On the occasion, Director personally reached to the doorsteps of several parents and enrolled children on the spot. The main event in this regard was held at the Government Higher Secondary School, Gadole Vailoo in the same area, which was attended by thousands of children, parents, civil society members and teachers.

During the drive,

318 new children were enrolled in various government schools in the area.

Dr. Itoo met student groups of various schools and expressed his best wishes for them.

Speaking at the event, DSEK said that during this 15-day long campaign, every child who is out of school will be reached. He said, "We have to convey this message to every household that in the present era, when our society is facing various challenges, education is very important to face these challenges."

Dr. Itoo appealed to parents to enlighten all their children with the light of education. He asked the teachers to play their vital role in maintaining a pleasant atmosphere in terms of education and teaching in

schools as well as classrooms. He also asked them to provide moral education to the children and ensure that no negligence is committed in their character building.

Referring to the National Education Policy 2020, DSEK stressed that special care should be taken of the mother tongue while providing basic education. He strongly urged the teachers to become role models and educate children about the harmful effects of drugs so that our society can be free from this menace in future.

Meanwhile, the enrollment drive has simultaneously started in all other schools in the valley from today. As per the details the new enrolments had crossed 1200 students in the valley during the 1st day of drive.

## Handicrafts & Handloom Dept felicitates women trainees on Int'l Women's Day



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 8

Highlighting the role of women in promotion of hand-made crafts, Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, today organised a function here today to coincide with the International Women's Day.

The function was organised by Assistant Director, Handicrafts, Srinagar, Mohsina Irshad and attended

by Chief Designer, Amina Asad, and women trainees across various blocks of Srinagar.

During the function, 04 women artisans and entrepreneurs shared their success stories to inspire the trainees.

Later, certificates of appreciation were also distributed amongst the participants in recognition of their contribution in the craft sector.

## CS reviews relief, rehab measures being extended to different migrant categories

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 8

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today held an intensive meeting with the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRR&R) to assess the relief and rehabilitation measures being extended to different migrant categories of J&K besides the status of disaster management preparedness across different districts of the region.

Present in the meeting were Principal Secretary, Home and DMRR&R Departments; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu; Secretary, PWD; CEO, SHA; Relief Commissioner; Chief Engineers of PWD and other concerned officers and officials of the department.

Dulloo enquired about the present status of relief and rehabilitation measures being extended to different migrant categories in the UT. He said that the set timelines for each of these measures should be met without any fail.

He took note of the location wise status of 6000 transit accommodations being constructed for Kashmiri Pandit (PM Package) employees. He asked about the details of flats constructed, under-construction and those allotted and occupied by these employees.

He said that the flats completed in all respects should be allotted forthwith and the allied works like construction of boundary walls, internal roads,



approach roads should also be taken up for actual utilisation of these structures.

Regarding inclusion of these migrant families under NFSA, the Chief Secretary emphasised on extending allied benefits like old age and widow pensions, marriage assistance, scholarships, Ayushman Bharat Gold Cards to them to clear any doubt in their mind besides enhancing its uptake among others.

The Chief Secretary also asked for updating the 'Kashmiri Migrant Grievance' portal to make its functioning more satisfactory for its users. He called for appointment of Nodal Officer for different regions by the office of Relief Commissioner who would ensure satisfactory resolution of grievances registered by personally taking up the issues with the concerned Deputy Commissioners.

He further directed for digitization of all the migrant records to enhance the overall efficiency of these relief measures. He called for updating the website of Relief Organization through NIC to make it more user-friendly and informative

simultaneously. The meeting took note of the progress on outreach campaigns launched to cover PoJK and other West Pakistani Refugees (WPRs) under the Rehabilitation Package meant for them. It also discussed the status of different infra-structural projects including establishment of 'PoJK Bhawan' at Suketar, Community Hall at Jagti and other demands of these displaced people.

Dulloo impressed upon the Department to further gear up for enhancing the capacity of the Department to deal with different disasters the UT is vulnerable to. He urged them to make the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) functional by optimal utilization of its capacity. He observed that it has added role at the time of disasters while ensuring relief to the affected population.

He emphasised upon utilising the data collected after carrying out expeditions to different mountainous lakes to prevent disasters of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF). He called for training the students and other volunteers for enhancing their ability to work during

relief activities.

Principal Secretary, DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti, informed the meeting about different activities and achievements including strengthening of UT, Divisional and District level disaster management systems by deploying necessary manpower there.

He apprised the meeting of the relief and disaster management activities being carried out by the department and the functioning of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). Additionally, he made out that DDMPs for the year 2024-25 of all the 20 districts had been updated and UT specific disaster notification stands issued for relief of the affected population.

Furthermore, he apprised the meeting of J&K's implementation of PM's 'Ten Point Agenda on DRR'. He also threw light on the status of other hazards specific plans like Heat Wave Action Plan, Flood Management Action Plan prepared, Cold wave Action Plan had been prepared along with 22 Landslide studies conducted by GSI. It was added that an EOC coming up at Ompura, Budgam would

be made functional by the end of this month. Further, the Department has also launched Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) with a toll free number of 112 for receiving the disaster response calls.

Other initiatives and activities of the Department that were discussed included IDIN for mapping of resources, Common Alert Protocol (CAP) by integrating alert generating agencies IMD, CWC, INCOIS, DGRE, FSI and disseminating these alerts about disasters through TSPs, TV, Radio, Cable TV, Social media, Indian Railways, Coastal Sirens etc.

Earlier, Relief Commissioner, Arvind Karwani, gave detailed presentation about the status of transit accommodations and jobs being provided to Kashmiri Migrants in different districts of the valley.

He detailed out that, out of 6000 jobs, 5868 appointments had been made till date and only the posts facing certain issues or sub-judice are currently in limbo.

Regarding the transit accommodations, he informed the meeting that 5632 flats had been taken up for construction with 3152 completed till date.

About relief to both the Kashmir and Jammu migrants, it was given out that 9 kg of Rice, 2 kg Aata and 1 kg of sugar is being given to each soul in the family. In addition, a cash assistance of up to Rs 13,000/family is being provided to 20,564 and 908 families from Kashmir and Jammu respectively.

## Govt allots 5 marla land for housing to 498 beneficiaries in JK, 442 under consideration: RDD Minister

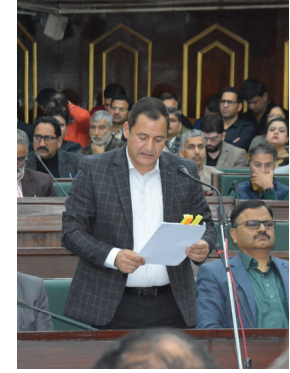
**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 8

Minister for Rural Development Department, Javed Ahmad Dar, today said that about 498 beneficiaries have been allotted 5 marla land each for Housing under Awaas Plus category of PMAY-G, while 442 cases are under consideration of the Revenue authorities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by M. Y. Tarigami in the Legislative Assembly.

He said that, similarly, eight beneficiaries have been allotted five marla land for construction of houses under the scheme.

He informed that the families having no land of its own are being pro-



vided 05 Marla of land for construction of residential houses under PMAY. The land is being provided subject to verification by the Revenue Department.

The Minister apprised that the extended families of the landless background are likely to be considered for allotment of land subject to eligibility and guide-

lines of the scheme being issued from time to time. He said that the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, is under implementation in J&K and the compensation is determined as per the provisions contained in section 27 and sub section (2) of section 30 of the said Act.

He said that the compensation provided to land provider in urban areas is double than the market rate while it is four fold in rural areas. Legislators; G. A Mir, Shakti Raj Parihar, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Rajiv Jasrotia, Chowdhary Mohammad Akram and Mehraj Malik raised supplementary.

## Distt admin Kulgam celebrates 'Int'l Women's Day' with great enthusiasm

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, MARCH 8

The District Administration Kulgam, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, hosted a vibrant celebration to commemorate 'International Women's Day'.

The event featured an impressive lineup of activities highlighting women's achievements and entrepreneurship in the district.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, who was the chief guest, graced the occasion and led the administration in putting together this meaningful celebration here at the conference hall. A highlight of the event was an interactive session with special invitees including women from all walks of life including administration, entrepreneurs, professionals and working class.

The event also featured a diverse exhibit featuring painting competition by school children, women entrepreneurs displaying their crafts, products and business activities by Sankalp Women's Hub Kulgam.

"This celebration reflects our commitment to women's empowerment and recognition of their invaluable contributions to our society and economy," said the Deputy Commissioner during the event.



He also highlighted endeavors of administration which have been taken to promote women empowerment.

The International Women's Day celebration served as a platform to recognize women's achievements and promote gender equality in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, ACP Nazia Hassan said, "Let us accelerate the action regarding violence against the women, rights of women and make their life free of discrepancy."

On the occasion resource persons from DLSA briefed the par-

ticipants about several women centric initiatives taken by the Legal Services Authority Kulgam.

Later, a felicitation function was held during which women from different walks of life including Sports, NRLM and Health were felicitated for their exemplary performance and immense contribution in their fields.

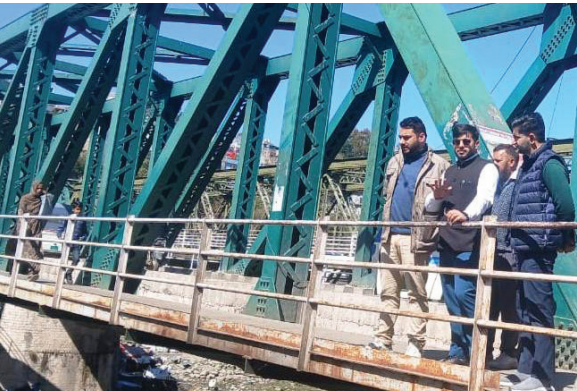
The program was attended by ADC Vigar Giri, ACP Mushtaq Lone, ACP Nazia Hassan, CMO, DLSA, College/ School girl students, female employees of labour and social welfare department.

## DC inspects sanitation, beautification works in Rajouri Town

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, MARCH 8

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today conducted an extensive tour of the Rajouri town, reviewing key infrastructure and sanitation projects aimed at enhancing civic amenities.

During the visit to Old Girls Higher Secondary School, the DC directed the concerned authorities to plan for utilization of the building. He emphasized the need to provide students with improved facilities to foster academic and extracurricular excellence.



Further, the Deputy Commissioner undertook a review of sanitation measures in the town. He instructed Civic Authorities to install screens along Abdullah Bridge to

prevent indiscriminate disposal of garbage into the river, ensuring environmental conservation and cleanliness.

The DC also inspected the ongoing repair work

on Abdullah Pedestrian Bridge. To beautify and promote awareness about government schemes, he ordered the painting of walls adjacent to the Nursing College and Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS). These walls will showcase key welfare schemes of the government departments for public information.

In a significant urban development initiative, the DC directed the establishment of a dedicated Rehri Zone alongside the river near Abdullah Bridge to streamline street vending and prevent traffic congestion in the area.

Additionally, as part of the ongoing Swachh Bharat Mission, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the involvement of college and Higher Secondary School (HSS) students, along with Self-Help Group (SHG) members, as Brand Ambassadors of Swachh to promote cleanliness and hygiene across the district.

Accompanying the DC during the visit were Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Maqsood Ahmed; Executive Officer (EO) Municipality, Yousuf ul Umar and other district and sectoral officers.

## Interstate Youth Exchange Program concludes with vibrant folk music event

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 8

The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages (JKAACL), in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) Jammu organized a vibrant folk music and dance program here at K.L. Saigal Hall. The event marked the valedictory ceremony of the five-day Interstate Youth Exchange Program (ISYEP), celebrating a journey of learning, cultural exchange, and unity.

The program was graced by Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages, Harvinder Kaur as the Chief Guest. The Guests of Honor included Ranjeet Kalra (Sports Administrator & Faculty Member, University of Jammu), Javed Rahi (Chief Editor, Gojri) and Aijaz Qaisar (Joint Director, Tourism J&K).

A key highlight of the concluding ceremony was the Cultural Exchange, where participants from Haryana showcased their rich traditions through captivating folk dances and songs. In response, renowned artists from Jammu & Kashmir, Asha Kesar and Shamsher Singh, enthralled the audience with traditional folk performances, including Bhakhaan and Kaarkaan, offering a mesmerizing display of India's cultural diversity.



During the event, participants from Haryana shared their enriching five-day experience, expressing gratitude to MY Bharat - Nehru Yuva Kendra Jammu and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for facilitating such a meaningful exchange program. They highlighted how the initiative enabled them to explore India's cultural diversity, build friendships, and gain valuable insights into different traditions.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest Harvinder Kaur applauded the participants for their performances and appreciated the efforts of MY Bharat-NYKS in organizing such programs for youth empowerment. She

emphasized the importance of cultural exchange in fostering national integration, mutual respect, and unity among young individuals.

Guest of Honor Ranjeet Kalra commended NYKS for its efforts in bringing together youth from different states through the Youth Exchange Program. He noted that such initiatives serve as a vital bridge to overcoming cultural gaps and regional disconnect. Aijaz Qaisar, Joint Director, Tourism, also lauded the participation of youth from Haryana, emphasizing that such initiatives significantly contribute to national integration.

Dr. Javid Rahi remarked that language has no barriers and pointed out

the striking similarities between the Gojri and Haryanvi languages.

With this, the Interstate Youth Exchange Program 2025 successfully concluded, leaving participants with unforgettable experiences and a renewed sense of unity and collaboration.

The five-day program was organized under the supervision of Nitin Hangloo, District Youth Officer (DYO), with academic support from Dr. Nitin Sharma, Assistant Professor, Law School, University of Jammu. The Valedictory Ceremony was seamlessly coordinated by a dedicated team of volunteers—Rakshant Balotra, Rahul Attri, Divyansh, and Sahaj, under the supervision of Anmol Bajaj, APA NYKS Jammu.



A delegation of J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu led by its President Advocate K. Nirmal Kotwal today called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha. The delegation comprised of former Presidents and office-bearers of the J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu including Adv. AK Sawhney, Adv. MK Bhardwaj, Adv. DK Khajuria, Adv. Baldev Singh, Adv. Pardeep Majotra, Adv. Anshu Mahajan and Adv. Rahul Aggarwal, apprised the Lieutenant Governor on various welfare issues of the legal fraternity.



A delegation of Guru Nabha Dass Samaj Kalyan Parishad J&K led by Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, Member of Legislative Assembly from Ramgarh called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha.

## National Lok Adalat at Rajouri: 425 cases settled, over Rs 2.21 cr realized as compensation

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, MARCH 8

As per the direction of NALSA, 1st National Lok Adalat pertaining to all types of cases was held at District Court Complex, Rajouri and in all other Courts of District Rajouri under the Chairmanship of Rajinder Sapru, Chairman District Legal Service Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge). Two benches were constituted for hearing the cases. The first bench was headed by Rajinder Sapru (Principal District & Sessions Judge) assisted by Javed Rana (Chief Judicial Magistrate) and Khilat Bhat Advocate, while the Second Bench was headed by Rayaz Ahmed Choudhary (Sub-Judge Special Mobile Magistrate Rajouri) assisted by Shavika Gupta (District Mobile Magistrate (Traffic), Rajouri) and Sanjay Sharma Advocate. Similar benches were also con-

stituted at Tehsil Level which were headed by the Presiding Officers of the respective Courts.

A total No. of 914 cases Pre-Litigation and Post-Litigation cases were taken up out of which 425 Cases were disposed of. An amount of Rs 2,21,99,336 (Two Crore Twenty one Lakh ninety nine thousand three hundred & Thirty Six only) was realized as compensation.

From the court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Rajouri & Additional District & Sessions Judge Rajouri, 51 MACT cases were taken up out of which 51 were settled and amount of Rs. 1,80,10,000 (One Crore Eight Lakh and ten thousand only) was awarded as compensation in those cases. In this National Lok Adalat, representatives of Banks, Advocates of different Insurance companies, Bar members, PLVs, Staff members, Litigants and a large number of people participated.

## JPDCL plans augmentation of Receiving Stations ahead of Summer Season

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 8

In a crucial meeting held today, the Managing Director Jammu Power Development Corporation Limited (JPDCL) Yasin M. Choudhary emphasized the importance of proactive measures to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the upcoming summer season. It was discussed and decided during the meeting to proceed with the urgent augmentation of Receiving Stations which include Flatta Jib, Stainee and

Dima in Udhampur, Arnas and Dharmari in Reasi, Paharpur in Kathua, Ramgarh in Samba, Babilana, Khour, Lahorichack and Badrot in Jammu.

These improvements are aimed at enhancing the overall capacity and efficiency of the Power infrastructure in these areas in view of the commissioning of these Receiving Stations under New JIM Schemes.

During the meeting, the MD directed the concerned officers and staff to remain available 24x7 to swiftly

address any grievances or issues that may arise during the summers. The corporation is committed to ensuring smooth power distribution and resolving concerns promptly, keeping in mind the increased demand for electricity as temperatures rise.

JPDCL is taking a series of precautionary steps to upgrade infrastructure, enhance maintenance schedules, and bolster response teams across regions to minimize disruptions. Choud-

hary urged all departments to work collaboratively to avoid any power-related issues and stressed the significance of customer service during this high-demand period. The initiative will also include increased awareness campaigns for consumers on power conservation measures and safe electricity usage, especially during peak hours. JPDCL remains dedicated to providing uninterrupted service to the residents of Jammu Province during the summer of 2025.

## FROM THE PAGE 1...

### Government taking...

"At present we need to focus more on homestays. For this, MLAs should help us and involve local people in this.

In response to another supplementary question from member Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi, the Chief Minister informed the House that the government would identify unskilled youth in border areas like Karnah, Keran, Machhil, and Gurez so that they can be trained in ITIs and the Institute of Hotel Management, Srinagar, to develop skills and trades relevant to tourism.

"In my Budget speech yesterday, I stated that our focus is on skills and entrepreneurship so that youth are equipped with skills and provided handholding to build their future in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Member Saifullah Mir suggested the establishment of a Tourism Development Authority to boost local tourism in these destinations.

Earlier, replying to the starred question, the Chief Minister stated that Karnah region is known for its breathtaking landscapes, rich cultural heritage and strategic location near the Line of Control (LoC), he said.

He further said that Teetwal, Karanoo in Nawagabra, and Budnambal villages possess natural beauty and tourism potential.

"These areas offer breathtaking landscapes, lush meadows and have cultural significance, making them attractive destinations for tourism. These areas have the potential for nature tourism, adventure tourism, and cross-border heritage tourism," he said. He stated that the Department of Tourism has taken several initiatives to bring these villages onto the tourist map.

"In order to promote pilgrim tourism in Karnah Constituency, the J&K Tourism Department has projected the construction of 'Yatri Niwas' at Sharda Temple at Teetwal, Kupwara, along with a cafeteria," he said.

CM Omar Abdullah said that the Construction of Yatri Niwas at Sharda Temple at Teetwal, Kupwara, along with a cafeteria is currently in progress, with the preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) underway. The project cost is estimated at Rs 150 Lakh.

He informed that House that the Border Tourism Festival was organized by the Tourism Department in border areas to promote tourism. "The festival was held at Teetwal in September 2022 and featured cultural and musical events, an ATV rally from Kupwara to Teetwal, nature photography sessions, trekking, camping, and horse riding," the CM said.

He added that Yoga Festival was organized by the Tourism Department in collaboration with other departments in the Teetwal area of the Karnah constituency on June 21, 2024, to promote tourism in the area.

### Women empowerment...

felicitations to Nari Shakti on International Women's Day, LG Sinha while addressing a 'Sashakt Nari Samman' event here, according to the news agency said, "Framers of the Constitution had ensured equal rights for women, and today, the government is steadfast in its commitment to their progress and empowerment."

The event organized by Buddha Art & Painting, in collaboration with Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar was attended by senior officers from police and civil administration; heads of various educational institutions, women achievers, artists, artisans, teachers and students.

LG Sinha said, "Women empowerment is the prior-

ity of the nation. Jahan nariyon ki puja hoti hai, devata wahin prakashtay hain," he remarked, quoting an ancient Sanskrit verse that underscores the revered status of women in the society.

Highlighting key achievements of the government, LG Sinha listed numerous welfare initiatives that have significantly improved the lives of women across the country: "As many as 14 crore toilets have been constructed in the past 10 years to ensure dignity and hygiene for women. Under the Ujjwala Yojana, 11 crore households have received LPG cylinders, reducing the burden of traditional cooking methods."

Referring to Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana LG Sinha said that 70% of houses under PMAY are registered in the name of women, ensuring financial security. "Nearly 14 crore households have received tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Out of 40 crore Mudra loans given to small businesses, 27 crore have been availed by women, fostering economic independence."

The Lieutenant Governor said that the "Startup India" movement is being led by women, with 296 startups in Jammu & Kashmir alone founded by female entrepreneurs. "The law against Triple Talaq has ensured justice and security for Muslim women. Over 90,000 SHGs in J&K have empowered 8 lakh women by providing financial independence and skill development," he said, adding, "Women in Jammu & Kashmir are excelling in various professions, including engineering, medicine, law, and education."

In academics, LG Sinha, according to KNO, said, "Girls are consistently outperforming boys, winning 75% of gold medals in universities."

WOMEN ARTISTS MAIN ARCHITECTS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

He also highlighted the contributions of women artists, calling them the main architects of sustainable development. "Women artists and artisans are architects of sustainable development. To be an outstanding creator, one needs to be full of love, kindness and compassion and this is what makes woman artists unique."

He reaffirmed that the government is committed to providing equal opportunities for women and ensuring their continued participation in nation-building. "In Jammu and Kashmir, we have made every attempt to empower our sisters and daughters. They are excelling in every field, and their achievements are shaping a bright future for the region," he said.

Referring to impact of the women power, LG Sinha said, "Nari Shakti's impact on shaping the future of humanity is immense. She has been endowed with a special gift from existence to nurture creativity and drive social change."

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the remarkable achievements of women artists and artisans of J&K and expressed gratitude for their contribution to the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir and nation-building.

He said, "The greater participation of women artists and artisans in the contemporary art and craft arena has enriched this sector and strengthened the fabric of our cultural ethos. Many artisans in J&K and the country have achieved new milestones and others are crafting their way to a brighter tomorrow."

NEW ERA OF WOMEN-LED DEVELOPMENT HAS BEGUN IN J&K

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated his commitment to socio-economic empowerment of women and providing them a conducive environment to realise their true potential. "A new era of Women-Led Development

has begun in the UT of J&K. Today, our Nari Shakti are scripting their own success stories and have become the active partner in the development journey of Jammu Kashmir," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He called upon the artists, artisans, NGOs, teachers, entrepreneurs and various stakeholders to work collectively for women empowerment and to ensure that the benefits of government schemes dedicated to Nari Shakti percolate to grassroots.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated the women achievers and students. He also visited the stalls put up by the women artists and artisans.

LG Sinha hailed the efforts of former minister Priya Sethi and Sanjogita Dogra, Founder, Buddha Art & Painting for organizing an "enlightening event" on the occasion of International Women's Day. KNO

### General discussion...

of the downtrodden people.

"It is the first budget of our government and the people will witness our progress and performance in the next five years. We will address all issues in due course of time," he said.

Balwant Singh Mankotia hailed the support being provided to the UT of Jammu and Kashmir by the Union Government.

Farooq Shah said that it is a remarkable budget as it has taken care of every section of the society, particularly its focus on women empowerment, tourism, 200 units of free electricity and marriage assistance among other things. He said that Jammu and Kashmir can come up as Switzerland of Asia if we fully explore the tourism potential of the Union territory.

### 65 gazetted, 122...

critical gaps, the department aims to strengthen the existing healthcare facilities in accordance with Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) norms. Efforts are also being made to expand e-Sanjeevani and telemedicine services through a well-designed hub-and-spoke model," Itoo said.

The minister said that the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) serve as benchmarks for the creation and upgradation of health facilities. While IPHS 2012 was previously in use, the current standard is IPHS 2022, which serves as the primary guideline for any future healthcare infrastructure development, she added.

Responding to a query from MLA Pattan, Javid Riyaz regarding the staffing situation in the Health Department in Pattan constituency, the health minister said that out of 171 sanctioned positions, 139 are currently filled, while 32, including two gazetted and 30 non-gazetted posts, remain vacant. KNO

### Tanvir condemns...

created by Subhash Kapoor and starring Huma Qureshi. The political multi-season series was inspired by events in Bihar in the 1990s when Lalu Prasad Yadav made his homemaker wife, Rabri Devi, his successor. The shoot began in April 2021, with the assembly complex and its surroundings illuminated by big lights, trunks carrying costumes and other accessories for the artists and crew, makeup vans, generators, and more. Around 100 local artists from the theatre and cultural departments were roped in for the web series.

While terming the budget-2025 presented by Chief

Minister Omar Abdullah as historic, Tanvir as per KNO said, "After a gap of more than seven years a democratically elected government prepared and presented a pro-people budget."

Taking a dig at the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Tanvir said, "When the PDP was ruling Jammu and Kashmir, it created a deficit of more than Rs 18000 crores and nothing was done for the education sector of the erstwhile state."

Taking a jibe at PDP' president Mehbooba Mufti's infamous "toffee and milk" remark made during the 2016 unrest when she was the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, he said, "We will bring toffee and milk to people's homes so that no person is killed in the same of such entities." KNO

### No timeline...

security concerns have led to the induction of 15,000 additional troops in these areas." He said that the final decision on AFSPA would be collectively taken by the local government, along with the Union Home and Defence Ministries.

Asked about discussions between Jammu and Kashmir's leadership, the armed forces, and the Home Ministry regarding the phased removal of AFSPA, General Dwivedi said, "There must first be a transition period where the local police take greater responsibility."

He cited the example of Manipur, where AFSPA was withdrawn from Imphal, but military intervention remained possible if needed. "In Jammu, AFSPA is still in effect while police continue to conduct operations. Before the act is repealed, there must be enough evidence that the police can handle the situation and that the Army is no longer required," he said, adding, "Only with such proof would the Army support the removal of AFSPA." KNO

### SIA charge sheets...

sheet against the accused for commission of crime under sections 153-A of IPC, section 13 unlawful Activities (prevention) Act and section 02 of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act for judicial determination, it added. KNO

### 2400 children in...

issued to all District Child Protection officers of 35K to strictly adhere to the procedure prescribed under aforementioned circular and ensure gathering of information pertaining to the unregistered NGOs working for the welfare of children besides ensuring registration of "All un-registered NGOs working for the welfare of Children in the UT of J&K under Mission Vatsalya (erstwhile ICPS) under the provision of sub-section (1) of section 41 of Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection) Act, 2015," she said.

"The Department submits financial proposal to Project Approval Board (PAB), Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India every financial year wherein a proposal is submitted to grant approval for setting up of new Child Care Institutions at district level and sub division level, as the case may be," Sakina said.

"Out of 69 Government run CCIs, 63 CCIs have been established and are functional in JBK. 06 CCIs have been approved by the PAB and are under process for establishment," she added. KNO

## MP Jugal Kishore initiates Parikrama Yatra at Katra

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, MARCH 8

Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma today initiated the 108-kilometer Parikrama Yatra of Trikuta Parbat. District Development Council Chairman Saraf Singh Nag, MLA Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey, MLA Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Baldev Raj Sharma were also present at the Parikrama Yatra which commenced with a Shubharambh Puja at Bhumika Mandir Katra at 7:30 am.

The spiritual journey aims at connecting the religious and historical sites around the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and Trikuta Parbat. The event witnessed participation from the prominent leaders, DDC members, key officials including ADDC Reasi Sukhdev Samyal, SSP Reasi Paramvir Singh, Tehsildar Reasi, AD Tourism, XENS and others.

The Parikrama Yatra, which follows a meticulously planned route cov-



villages along the route. He expressed hope that the Parikrama Yatra would lead to the development of basic amenities in these areas, improving the overall infrastructure, boosting tourism, and contributing to the economic growth and employment opportunities for the youth. The MP stressed that this endeavor would significantly enhance the tourism potential of Katra, Jammu & Kashmir, benefiting the local population.

MP Jugal Kishore also emphasised that concerned departments should put in their utmost efforts to ensure the success of this Yatra, citing the example of the Govardhan Yatra in Vrindavan as a model for such spiritual journeys.

The Parikrama Yatra, with its deep cultural and spiritual significance, has attracted a large number of devotees and will continue to highlight the sacred legacy of Trikuta Parbat and the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

ering key religious sites, began from Bhumika Mandir and proceeded to Reasi to visit revered Kalika ji Mandir at 9:00 AM. The procession then continued through Chiralakote, Tote, Devigarh, Sukhalgati, and Panthal before culminating back at Bhumika Mandir, completing the Parikrama of Trikuta Parbat at 8:00 PM.

During the launch, the MP emphasized the spiritual significance of the Yatra, stating, "We are starting

this Yatra at the foot of Maa Vaishno Devi at Bhumika Mandir with the aim of respecting the religious and spiritual sentiments of the people connected to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and Trikuta Parbat. This Yatra will also help connect many unhighlighted religious and historical places around the shrine."

Sharma further highlighted that the initiative aims to promote holistic regional development, particularly in backward

## DLSA Srinagar observes 'International Women's Day' at Srinagar Women's College, Zakura

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 8

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in collaboration with Srinagar Women's College, Batapora, Zakura, observed International Women's Day with great enthusiasm.

The observance-cum-awareness program was held under the guidance of Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary J&K Legal Services Authority, and under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arif, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, and Prof. Syed Ifat Ara, Principal of Srinagar Women's College.

The event aimed to raise awareness about women's rights and empowerment, emphasizing the importance of gender equality in society.

In her welcome address, Prof. Syed Ifat Ara highlighted the significance of International Women's Day and the need to create a society where women are treated with dignity and respect. She applauded the joint efforts of DLSA Srinagar and the college in organizing the event, stressing the importance of legal awareness in empowering women to assert their rights.

The resource person for the event, Adv. Suhaila Ali, Panel Lawyer of DLSA Srinagar, delivered an insightful talk on the rights of women and the legal mechanisms available for their protection. She emphasized the role of legal awareness in ensuring that women can access justice and safeguard themselves against discrimination and violence.

The event also featured speeches by students

Meehsa, Areeba, and Afshana, who shared their perspectives on women's empowerment, equality, and the challenges faced by women in different spheres of life. Their articulate presentations reflected their awareness and commitment to the cause of women's rights, making the session both engaging and thought-provoking.

During the International Women's Day celebrations, a special felicitation ceremony was held to honor the contributions of resource persons and students who played a significant role in the event. As a token of appreciation, certificates were distributed to acknowledge their efforts and dedication. The initiative aimed to recognize and encourage individuals who have contributed to promoting gender equality, empowerment, and awareness.

## International Women's Day: Seminar on Women Empowerment organised at GDC Frisal

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, MARCH 8

A seminar on Women Empowerment today organised by the Government Degree College (GDC) Frisal to celebrate International women's day.

Chanchal Singh, Dy.SP operation police Component Hatipora was the chief guest in the seminar.

The seminar began with a welcome/Introductory address by the Principal of the College Dr. Ishiyaq Ahmad Shah. He emphasised the role of women in the development of society from ancient times to modern era. The chief guest spoke at length on gender equality and eradication of gender bias.

Prof. Sana of Deptt. of BBA GDC Kulgam put on the table the contribution of women for the Society. Associate prof. Zoology GDC Kulgam, Dr. Shaista Masrat deliberated on the theme and emphasised the audience about the importance of the day.

Dr. Muzifur Yousef (H.O.D English), Prof Mehnaza Jan (H.O.D.Economics) also deliberated on the theme.

Students of the college actively participated in the seminar and spoke on the given theme. A jury team evaluated their speeches and finally judged the first three positions. Among the students, Insha Gulzar (1st Sem) secured the 1st position, Mohsina Manzoor (6th Sem) bagged 2nd position and Misbah Ashraf (1st Sem) secured the 3rd Position.

## Khelo India Winter Games-2025: Director Health, Principal SKIMS MC- Bemina chair joint meeting to discuss health related preparations

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 8

Director Health Services, Kashmir, Dr. Jehangir Bakshi and Dr. Fazl Q. Parry, Principal, SKIMS Medical College Bemina, today chaired a joint meeting to discuss important health-related preparations for the upcoming Khelo India Winter Games 2025, scheduled to take place at Gulmarg from March 9th to 12th, 2025.

SKIMS Medical College Hospital which has been designated as a Main Referral Hospital for the event shall handle mandated health emergencies and referrals from the venue during the games.

The round-the-clock availability of specialists, along with the necessary human resources, logistics, and equipment, during the duration of the games, was thoroughly discussed and deliberated. The medical arrangements were meticulously planned to ensure that all health-related needs of participants, officials, and spectators are adequately addressed.

On this occasion, it was further emphasized that the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir and SKIMS Medical College, Bemina will ensure effective coordination and collaboration to provide comprehensive health-care services, not only during the event but also in the future.

## Women empowerment must for creating just, equitable society: Sakeena Itoo

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 8

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today remarked that Women have excelled in every field, performing a crucial role in shaping the society.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing the International Women's Day celebrations at Convention Centre here. This year's theme of International Women's Day, 'Accelerate Action,' calls for rapid advancements in gender equality.

Addressing the large gathering of women achievers and female students, Sakeena Itoo emphasized on the importance of gender equality, women's empowerment and inclusive development for creating a just and equitable society. She called for continued efforts to ensure participation of women in all spheres of life.

"Women are backbone of our society. We must work collectively to create an environment where women feel safe, valued



and empowered to achieve their dreams", she stated.

The Minister applauded the resilience and achievements of women from various walks of life, encouraging them to break barriers and contribute to nation-building. "We need to recognise the strength, resilience and contributions of women in every field, from science and politics to business and arts, civil services to healthcare providers and educationists and reflect on the work that still lies ahead", Sakeena said.

While speaking on different aspects related to women empowerment,

the Minister highlighted that some issues like dowry and drug menace are prevalent in our society and we need to work collectively to destroy the roots of these evils from our society.

"We all need to remember that the fight for equality is not just for the women, but for all of us. When women succeed, communities thrive, economies grow and societies become more just", Sakeena stated.

In her address, the Minister also expressed gratitude to Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, for announcing several mea-

sures for women welfare and empowerment while presenting Budget in the Legislative Assembly. She said that the free travel in government buses for women folk will ensure increase in female literacy rate and add to empowerment of women across Jammu and Kashmir.

She added that marriage assistance to deserving women has also been increased from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 75,000, besides old age/widow and disability pension has also been increased.

Calling out women to aspire big, Sakeena Itoo said that times have

changed and women are everywhere and in every field. She asked the women folk to pledge today that they will aspire for big dreams and remain determined to achieve those.

The Minister, on the occasion, also said that it is proud moment for Jammu and Kashmir, especially women folk that a daughter of soil is Medical Superintendent of AIIMS, New Delhi a prestigious health institution of our country.

In his welcome address, MD Mission Shakti and Mission Vastalya, Majid Khalil Drabu said that this day is celebrated to honour the incredible achievements of women and acknowledge difficulties faced by them. He said that we as a society have a role to play in creating a world where women have equal opportunities to fulfil their potential and achieve their aspirations and dreams.

A short film on different schemes operated by Social Welfare department regarding empowering women and transforming lives was also showcased on the occasion.

On the occasion, the Minister felicitated several women achievers of

J&K like Kailash Mehra, Dr. Milan Sharma, Surinder Kour, Rubeena, Nazia Bibi, Sunita Sharma, Sangeeta Devi, Gurmeet Kour, Kumti Khajuria and Shagun Manchanda. She also felicitated sports achievers like Chavi Sharma, Ria Bhakshi and Jia Manhas on the occasion.

She also distributed tabs among the meritorious girl students.

The event also witnessed remarkable performances by Sonali Dogra on Beti Bachao Beti Padoo and other artist group.

On the occasion, some remarkable women achievers of J&K like Indian Para Archer, Sheetal Devi, International Car racer, Humaira Mushtaq and Medical Superintendent of AIIMS New Delhi, Dr. Nirupama Madan gave unique video messages to women folk on how to excel in lives.

Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare department, Sanjeev Verma; HoDs of Health/Colleges/ Social Welfare, senior officers of concerned departments and large number of women achievers and female students were present to mark the International Women's Day celebrations.

## Sakeena Itoo felicitates J&K Women Achievers 2025 of ASSOCHAM at Jammu



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 8

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo felicitated the J&K Women Achievers 2025 of 5th Edition of ASSOCHAM here today.

Addressing the gathering of women achievers, the Minister said that this is an important day for women folk to celebrate and recognize their resilience, dedication and remarkable achievements in various domains like education, healthcare,

entrepreneurship, social service, sports and other fields. She applauded the achievers for breaking barriers and setting new benchmarks of success.

"Women have always been the backbone of progress. By seeing your achievements, I am also feeling over whelmed", Sakeena stated.

"Women have taken a leap in male dominated society and excelled in every field", she added.

She assured the women achievers and entrepreneurs present on the occasion that the government

is committed to provide them all possible support so that they can thrive in their respective fields.

Director General, Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra also spoke on the occasion and enlightened the audience about the importance of celebrating this day.

On the occasion, different women achievers and entrepreneurs, excelling in fields like manufacturing, beauty and wellness, retailing, media, social work, startups and innovation, education and other fields were felicitated by the Minister.

## Digital Marketing Course pass outs presented certificates at Kishtwar

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, MARCH 8

A valedictory cum certificate distribution ceremony for the pass outs of Skill Development Course in Digital Marketing was held today, here. Assistant Director, Mamta Sudershan was the chief guest.

The ceremony celebrated the exceptional achievements of the top three performers Ashira Jaan and Masoofa Jaan Malik, for sharing the 1st position; Numan Raja Malik for bagging 2nd position, and Rashid Manzoor for securing the 3rd position.

A special highlight of the event was the recognition of Numan Raja Malik, who, in addition to winning the 2nd-place, showcased his creativity by generating an AI video, which captured and described the entire theme of the course from



start to finish. This unique project received significant praise for its innovative approach and the thorough understanding it reflected of the course content.

Mamta Sudershan felicitated the top performers with trophies, motivating them to continue pursuing excellence in their future endeavors.

The ceremony concluded with the distribution of course completion certificates to all participants,

symbolizing the successful culmination of their training.

The candidates expressed sincere gratitude to the District Employment & Counseling Centre for organizing the course in collaboration with the training partner, Modern Computer. They commended the program for equipping them with valuable digital skills that would play a key role in shaping their future career paths.

### Six days training programme on Mushroom Cultivation for students of Islamia College Srinagar concludes at IMDC

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 8

The six days training programme on 'Mushroom Cultivation on scientific lines' for the students of Islamia College Srinagar, concluded at Integrated Mushroom Development Centre (IMDC) Lalmandi Srinagar.

Addressing the trainee students, Joint Director Agriculture highlighted the importance of small scale Agri Cottage Industries like Mushroom Cultivation. He said that it is an indoor agriculture activity and students would enjoy doing it. He said that on one hand it promotes the entrepreneurial culture among the youth and on the other hand it contributes to the overall income of the concerned farming family.

He asked the students to practice the modern technologies they learnt during the training sessions

Jt. Director underlined the importance of introducing agriculture activities among students and said that in the long run this would contribute to the socio-economic transformation of the region. He said teaching practical agriculture to the students was a routine practice during the past in Kashmir.

Earlier the experts from IMDC imparted training to the visiting students about compost making procedures, spawn production, tissue culture and other mushroom cultivation technologies. Later, Jt. Director Agriculture kick-started the distribution of compost bags among the progressive mushroom growers.

## EDITORIAL

## A Pragmatic Approach to AFSPA in Jammu and Kashmir

The recent remarks by Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi regarding the continuation of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in Jammu and Kashmir underscore the complexity of security dynamics in the region. His statement that AFSPA will remain in force until the Army is convinced that local police can independently manage security reflects the cautious approach adopted by security agencies. While the gradual removal of AFSPA is a desirable objective, it must be pursued with a pragmatic understanding of ground realities.

AFSPA, enacted to empower security forces in regions affected by insurgency, has long been a subject of debate. While it grants operational flexibility to the armed forces, it has also faced criticism over alleged human rights violations. The call for its repeal has grown louder over the years, particularly in areas where militancy has significantly declined. However, as General Dwivedi highlighted, the decision to revoke AFSPA must be based on evidence that the local police and civil administration can effectively maintain law and order without military assistance.

The evolving security situation in Jammu and Kashmir provides a mixed picture. On one hand, regions like Doda, Rajouri, and Kishtwar have witnessed relative peace, allowing for tourism initiatives and infrastructural development. On the other hand, the induction of 15,000 additional troops into these areas indicates persistent security concerns. The recent increase in targeted attacks and cross-border infiltration further complicates the situation, making it difficult to set a definitive timeline for AFSPA's repeal.

The phased removal of AFSPA, as seen in states like Manipur, presents a viable model. A transition period where the local police progressively assume greater responsibility while retaining the Army's ability to intervene if necessary is a balanced approach. However, this requires sustained capacity-building efforts, including better training, intelligence capabilities, and logistical support for the police forces in Jammu and Kashmir.

The final decision on AFSPA's withdrawal will rest with the local government in consultation with the Union Home and Defence Ministries. A strategic, phased approach—rather than a rushed political decision—would ensure that security gains are not reversed. The goal should not be merely to withdraw AFSPA but to ensure that its removal does not lead to a resurgence of instability.

Ultimately, the path forward must balance security imperatives with democratic accountability. While the Army's presence should not be indefinite, its withdrawal must be carefully timed to prevent a security vacuum. Until a sustainable and stable environment is assured, AFSPA will remain a necessary, albeit controversial, tool in safeguarding the region's security.

## Ensure swift and uncompromising justice for rape survivors

YOGITA BHAYANA

The fight against sexual violence in India is far from over. Every woman in our country has a fundamental right to safety, dignity and justice. Yet, incidents of sexual violence continue to surface, exposing the deep-rooted challenges in our societal structures. We must take decisive and solution-oriented steps to prevent such crimes and build a future where women and children are truly safe.

As the founder of PARI Foundation, I have dedicated my life to advocating for survivors of rape and sexual violence. On December 16, 2024, PARI took a significant step forward by convening the First-Ever National Convention on the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children. This landmark event marked a turning point in our efforts to combat sexual violence, bringing together policymakers, legal experts, civil society organisations, educators and survivors to discuss concrete measures for prevention, response and rehabilitation. At the heart of this initiative was the launch of "Agaaz", a programme focused on a comprehensive, solution-driven approach to addressing gender-based violence.

One of the most pressing areas of reform is education. Schools and universities must play a proactive role in fostering gender sensitivity. Mandatory workshops and seminars should be conducted regularly for students, teachers and parents to create awareness about gender equality, consent and bystander intervention. Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) training must be compulsory for all school and college staff to ensure compliance with the law, while Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) training should be a requirement for all teachers and administrators, equipping them with the knowledge to protect children effectively.

Beyond just policies, schools should incorporate gender studies and emotional intelligence training into their curriculum, helping young minds develop respectful and healthy perspectives on relationships. Digital safety education is also critical, ensuring students understand the risks of cyberstalking, online harassment, and digital consent.

Understanding criminal psychology and the media's influence is crucial to combating sexual violence. Research must be expanded to examine

the motivations, triggers and behavioural patterns of sexual offenders, helping develop targeted prevention strategies. The media's portrayal of gender dynamics must also be critically evaluated, with efforts to promote responsible storytelling that challenges toxic masculinity and harmful stereotypes.

Additionally, news reporting of sexual violence needs to be reformed. Sensationalised or insensitive coverage often leads to re-victimisation of survivors and reinforces rape culture. The media should follow ethical guidelines in reporting cases with dignity, ensuring that survivors' identities and rights are protected.

Survivors of sexual violence need more than just legal justice—they need holistic support to rebuild their lives. Rape Crisis Centers (RCCs) should be established in every city, town, and village, providing medical, legal, financial and psychological assistance to survivors. Vocational training and educational support should be offered to help them regain independence and stability.

A national movement must be initiated to eradicate victim-blaming, shifting societal attitudes toward supporting and

empowering survivors. Public campaigns should be launched to challenge myths surrounding rape, educate communities on the importance of believing survivors, and encourage bystander intervention to prevent violence.

Police reforms are equally urgent. The inefficiency and insensitivity of law enforcement often discourage survivors from reporting crimes. Dedicated emergency dial numbers should be staffed with personnel trained to handle sexual violence cases with empathy and efficiency.

First responders and forensic teams must adhere to strict protocols for evidence collection, post-mortems, and forensic investigations. Special Investigation Units (SIUs) should be created within police departments, comprising forensic experts, counsellors and legal advisors specifically trained to handle sexual violence cases. Mandatory gender sensitisation training for all police personnel must be conducted during induction and as annual refresher courses.

The workplace should be a space of safety and dignity for all, yet harassment and violence persist. POSH training and audits must be strictly enforced across all organisations, ensuring compliance with

anti-harassment policies. Internal Committees (ICs) should undergo annual audits to assess their effectiveness in handling sexual harassment complaints.

Special protections should be introduced for women labourers and construction workers, ensuring access to safe working conditions, legal recourse, and healthcare facilities. Shelter homes for homeless women and children must be set up across urban and rural areas, providing them with a secure environment. Workplaces must offer safe and affordable childcare facilities to support working mothers.

The media and digital platforms wield immense power in shaping perceptions and behaviours. A nationwide ban on pornography must be considered, given its proven link to increased sexual violence. Research suggests that a significant percentage of sexual violence perpetrators have been influenced by pornographic content. OTT platforms must be subject to stringent regulations regarding the depiction of sexual violence, preventing the glorification of such acts. The media should actively promote positive narratives that challenge regressive gender norms and advocate for women's safety and dignity.

At the same time,

online safety laws must be strengthened to curb cyber harassment, deepfake pornography, and digital sexual violence. Social media platforms should be held accountable for removing exploitative content and ensuring survivor privacy.

While policy reforms and legal mechanisms play a crucial role in addressing sexual violence, true change will only come when society as a whole rises against this menace. 'Women and Child Safety Mission 2029' envisions an India where, by 2029, women and children can live free from the fear of violence. This mission calls for multi-sectoral collaboration, involving the government, businesses, media, educational institutions, law enforcement, and civil society.

I urge every citizen, policymaker, and stakeholder to join hands in this fight. We must demand swift and uncompromising justice for rape survivors and implement meaningful changes to prevent future crimes. Together, let us ensure that "Agaaz" is not just an initiative, but the beginning of a safer, more just India for all.

**(The writer is rape victim activist & founder PARI Foundation; views are personal)**

## Women's Day: Beyond Celebrations

HÜLYA GEDİK

For us, Women's Day is more than just a celebration; it is a call to recognise the immense potential that remains untapped due to deep-seated biases. At Gedik Holding and Gedik University, we take pride in fostering an environment where over 250 women are breaking barriers in fields as diverse as aerospace technology and welding. Our commitment to the growth and empowerment of women and girls has spanned over six decades, and today, we witness the transformative results of these efforts.

The gendering of professions has always been fluid. Welding, a field often perceived as male-dominated, is now seeing thousands of women actively shaping the manufacturing of cutting-edge technology. Similarly, computing, once largely led by men, is again being pioneered

by women. Industries that have historically excluded women must reevaluate their biases. Women have long played a dominant role in sectors such as computing and manufacturing, and there is no reason why they cannot thrive in today's high-paying fields like engineering, finance, and technology. The cost of exclusion is not merely social—it is economic.

Both India and Turkey face challenges when it comes to women's participation in the workforce. While the majority of employable men are already working, female labour force participation remains significantly lower. According to the World Economic Forum, India's female labour force participation rate is around 24 per cent, while Turkey stands at approximately 35 per cent. This underutilisation of women in the workforce is one of the greatest economic inefficiencies of our time.

Prioritising female education is crucial for both nations. India's female literacy rate is currently at 70 per cent, while Turkey's is at 95 per cent. While India is making rapid progress, particularly in rural areas, there is still much to be done.

Investing in women's education presents an opportunity for India and Turkey to collaborate and drive economic growth together. Economic partnerships offer a powerful avenue to enhance women's participation in business. Textiles and tourism are two industries where India and Turkey have developed growing cooperation. India is one of the largest exporters of yarn to Turkey, where manufacturers transform these raw materials into high-end fashion garments for global markets. Women play a pivotal role in both economies—whether as

artisans in India weaving traditional textiles or as designers and business leaders in Turkey's fashion industry.

Indian wedding tourism in Turkey is flourishing, and Turkish women have been instrumental in shaping this transformation.

From event planning to hospitality, luxury services, and cultural adaptation, they bridge the gap between Indian traditions and Turkish hospitality to create seamless, grand wedding experiences. Many Turkish women have specialised in organising elaborate Indian weddings in luxury destinations such as Antalya, Bodrum, and Istanbul. Hotels and resorts have trained female staff to provide authentic Indian wedding hospitality, while Turkish women in the culinary industry have honed their skills to master Indian cuisine. Their expertise extends to styling, entertainment,

and venue management, making Turkey one of the most sought-after destinations for Indian weddings.

Beyond trade, fostering women entrepreneurs can further strengthen economic ties between India and Turkey. Business networks, trade fairs, and mentorship programs connecting Indian and Turkish women professionals could lead to new opportunities and innovations. Women-led startups in both countries would benefit from cultural exchange programs, digital marketplaces, and co-working initiatives that promote cross-border entrepreneurship.

Cultural ties between India and Turkey extend beyond business, with over 300,000 Indian tourists visiting Turkey annually. From the bustling bazaars of Istanbul to the vibrant markets of Delhi, both nations share a love for dynamic street food

cultures, rich history, and warm hospitality.

One fascinating cultural parallel is their tea traditions. In Turkey, tea is known as çay, while in India, masala chai is a daily staple. More than just beverages, tea symbolises hospitality, conversation, and community. Whether served in a tulip-shaped glass in Istanbul or a clay cup on the streets of Kolkata, tea fosters social connections and business discussions alike.

There is also an increasing appreciation for cultural exchange in the creative economy, including art, cinema, and music. Turkish television dramas have gained immense popularity in India, while Bollywood films enjoy a dedicated audience in Turkey. This mutual admiration provides a platform to highlight women's contributions in creative industries, from filmmaking to fashion.

## Breaking Barriers, Shaping the Future

SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY

Mining has long been regarded as one of the most gruelling and physically demanding industries, a domain in which women were historically deemed unfit to participate. The underground mines, characterised by darkness, dirt, and danger, were legally off-limits to women for decades. However, times have changed. Today, women are not only entering the mining sector but excelling in roles that were once considered the exclusive territory of men. Their journey from exclusion to inclusion is a story of resilience, courage, and determination.

For years, the legal framework itself reinforced gender-based exclusion. The British government imposed a ban on women working in underground mines in 1937, citing the hazardous and oppressive nature of the work. A brief lift of the restriction in 1943 was

followed by its reinstatement in 1946, cementing the notion that mining was unsuitable for women. This exclusion persisted for over seventy years until a group of seven young mining engineering students in India decided to challenge the status quo.

In 2017, these women, led by Neredukomma Hiranmayee, noticed that job advertisements in the sector clearly stated "Men Only." Determined to fight for their right to work in the field they had trained for, they took their petition to the Narendra Modi-led Central Government. Their persistence paid off when the Mines Act of 1952 was amended in 2019, allowing women to work in underground mines with certain conditions. They were permitted to work between 7 AM and 6 PM but had to provide written consent, and were required to work in groups for safety. While these conditions still imposed limitations, the amendment marked a historic

turning point for gender inclusion in mining.

Since this breakthrough, several women have entered the mining workforce, proving their capabilities and resilience. In the Singareni Collieries of Telangana, one of India's oldest coal mining PSUs, women miners are now working underground alongside men. Their presence is reshaping the industry and breaking long-held stereotypes. Swathi Penugonada, whose family had a legacy in coal mining, left her job in aerospace engineering to become a miner when the opportunity finally opened up. For her, mining was not just a profession but a tribute to her grandparents who had worked in Singareni mines before her. Another trailblazer, Allam Navyashree, started as a section supervisor in an underground mine, facing scepticism from male colleagues who doubted her abilities. Over time, she earned their respect, eventual-

ly supervising some of the very men who once questioned her competence.

For Chunchu Sandhya Rani, mining was an unexpected career path. Married while still in college, she assumed her professional aspirations would be set aside. However, with the support of her husband and in-laws, she pursued her mining engineering degree and secured a job at Singareni. Today, while she works underground, her parents take care of her two children, proving that with family support, women can balance both career and motherhood in even the most challenging professions.

These stories of perseverance are not limited to fieldwork alone. Women are also taking on leadership roles within the mining sector, ensuring that gender equality is not just about numbers but about real empowerment. Singareni Collieries, recognising the need for inclusive lead-

ership, has placed women in key decision-making positions. Kavitha Naidu has become the first woman General Manager to handle Personnel & Industrial Relations, a role that involves managing labour disputes, transfers, and negotiations for thousands of workers. Dr Sujatha, as the Chief Medical Officer, oversees the company's extensive healthcare network, while Sunitha Devi has broken new ground as Singareni's first woman Company Secretary, managing board meetings and corporate governance. These women are not just participating in the industry but they are shaping its future.

The inclusion of women in mining is not just about gender equality; it also brings tangible benefits to the sector. Studies worldwide have shown that diverse workplaces lead to better decision-making, improved efficiency, and stronger financial performance. Women bring unique

perspectives and problem-solving approaches, making workplaces more innovative and dynamic. In mining, where safety and operational efficiency are paramount, their contributions are proving invaluable.

Recognising these advantages, mining companies are actively working to create an inclusive and safe work environment for women. Singareni Collieries has implemented several initiatives, including dedicated transport facilities, separate first aid rooms with female medical staff, proper washrooms and hygiene facilities in underground sites, and childcare support for working mothers. Additionally, gender sensitivity training has been introduced to ensure a workplace culture that is welcoming and respectful.

Despite these advancements, challenges remain. The nature of mining still presents physical and logistical difficulties, and societal

perceptions about women in demanding professions are slow to change. However, the growing presence of women in mining is sending a strong message that they are not only capable of handling the work but excelling in it. The number of women in the industry is rising and with upcoming recruitment drives, their representation is set to increase significantly in the coming years.

The Ministry of Coal and the Ministry of Mines have taken significant steps to encourage and support women's participation in the sector. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a strong emphasis has been placed on empowering women in traditionally male-dominated industries. The amendments in mining laws to allow women in underground mines were just the beginning. Today, multiple government policies are actively fostering gender inclusion.

## Women's empowerment lies at the core of India's development journey: Om Birla

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAR 8 (UND)

Highlighting the transformative role of women in advancing India's growth, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Saturday stated that women are not just participants in development but are taking the lead across various fields, including governance, science, defence, education, and entrepreneurship.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Om Birla reiterated that India is witnessing a new era where women are assuming leadership roles at every level—from grassroots democracy to the highest positions of power, a statement by Lok Sabha Secretariat said.

He paid tribute to the inspiring vision of the 15 Women Members of the Constituent Assembly stating that their contributions continue to energize the nation and serve as a guiding force for future generations.

"Our past shows the way forward, and these pioneering women laid the foundation for gender equality, inclusive governance, and women's empowerment in India," the Lok Sabha Speaker stressed.

Emphasising that women's empowerment lies at the core of India's development journey, Om Birla highlighted that as the nation celebrates 75 years of the Indian Constitution, it is essential to recognize the immense contributions of the 15 women members of the Constituent Assembly, whose vision and dedication helped shape India's democratic framework.

He also reflected on India's deep-rooted tradition of reverence for



women, where motherhood, strength, sacrifice, and resilience are celebrated as integral values of society.

The Lok Sabha Speaker applauded their growing presence in defence, where they are now flying fighter jets, serving in combat roles, and commanding naval expeditions.

He noted that women's leadership in governance is stronger than ever, with majority of elected representatives in rural local bodies being women. This, Om Birla said, is a testament to the growing strength of women-led development in the country. The Speaker expressed confidence that a day would come when women would hold a majority in elected bodies even without reservations, solely on merit and capability.

Highlighting the historic Nari Shakti Vandan Act, Om Birla described it as a transformative reform in India's democratic landscape. As the first law passed in the new Parliament building, this Act symbolizes India's unwavering commitment to gender equality and ensures that women have a greater role in shaping policies and decision-making at the highest levels.

Recognising the economic contributions of women, he praised their role in entrepreneurship,

self-help groups, and micro-enterprises, which are transforming rural economies and driving financial independence for countless families. The Speaker also reiterated the urgent need to achieve 100 percent female literacy, emphasizing that education is the cornerstone of women's empowerment.

Om Birla called for 2025 to be a landmark year for women's self-reliance and leadership, ensuring that Nari Shakti continues to drive India's future. He urged all sectors of society to work together in creating an inclusive environment where every woman receives equal opportunities, respect, and the freedom to excel.

The Speaker emphasized that International Women's Day should not just be a celebration but a commitment to advancing women's leadership across all fields. He called upon every individual to contribute towards building a society where women are at the forefront of innovation, governance, and nation-building.

Om Birla also inaugurated an Exhibition on Women Members of the Constituent Assembly, organized by Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE) and the National Commission for Women (NCW), in Parliament House Complex.

## Missing tourist found dead after gang-rape of Israeli tourist near Hampi

AGENCIES  
KOPPAL (KARNATAKA), MAR 8 (UND)

The body of 29-year-old Bibash from Odisha, who went missing after the Israeli Tourist was allegedly gang-raped near Hampi, has been recovered from the Tungabhadra canal, police confirmed on Saturday.

The case has sparked nationwide outrage over tourist safety in Karnataka's famed heritage town, as authorities began an intensive investigation into the horrific crime that targeted a 27-year-old Israeli tourist and her companions.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar assured stringent action against the perpetrators, stating, "We will deal with this case without any mercy."

The attack unfolded late on Thursday night when the Israeli Tourist, Bibash, and two other male tourists were star-



gazing near a lake in the historic area. A group of men on motorcycles initially approached them, pretending to seek petrol and Rs 100, before turning violent. The assailants overpowered the men, shoving them into a canal, before subjecting the woman to a brutal sexual assault. Two of the male tourists—Daniel from the United States and Pankaj from Maharashtra—miraculously escaped and managed to alert authorities. However, Bibash remained missing until his lifeless body was discovered in the canal, marking a grim turn in the already horrifying case. Koppal Superintendent of Police (SP) Ram L Arasiddi confirmed that

an FIR has been registered under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including gang rape, robbery, and attempted murder. Six special teams have been deployed to track down the accused, with investigations progressing at a rapid pace.

The survivors are receiving medical care at a government hospital, while the incident has sent shockwaves across the tourism and activist communities, prompting calls for stricter law enforcement and better security measures at heritage sites.

Authorities remain on high alert, and further developments are awaited as the hunt for the attackers intensifies.

## ED seizes private jet related to Rs 850 cr Falcon scam accused at RGIA

AGENCIES  
HYDERABAD, MAR 8 (UND)

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized a private jet, worth about Rs 14 crore at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Shamshabad near here, owned by Amardeep Kumar, the prime accused in the Rs 850 crore Falcon Scam.

The ED officials seized the 8-seater business jet 'N935H Hawker 800A' at RGIA on Friday as part of a money laundering investigation against a Hyderabad-based company and its promoters who allegedly duped numerous investors of crores of rupees in a 'Ponzi Scheme "scam", official sources said here on Saturday.

The ED had registered a case after the scam was



unearthed last month.

ED sources said that Kumar purchased the jet in 2024 for \$1.6 million (Rs 14 crore) via Prestige Jets Inc.

The ED claims that proceeds from the Falcon Group's Ponzi scheme were diverted to purchase the jet.

After the scam broke out the prime suspect used the aircraft to flee to Dubai on January 22 along with an accomplice.

After it returned to RGI Airport, the ED team seized

the jet and the crew members were questioned, and a close associate's statement was recorded.

The Cyberabad police initially registered a case against the Falcon Group for allegedly collected Rs 1,700 crore from investors, promising high returns through a fraudulent invoice discounting investment scheme.

Out of the total funds collected, Rs 850 crore was repaid, but 6,979 investors were left unpaid.

On February 15, the Cyberabad police arrested Pavan Kumar Odele (Vice President) and Kavya Naluri (Director of Falcon Capital Ventures) in connection with the scam but its Chairman & MD, Amardeep Kumar, and other senior officials are absconding.

## Wanted terrorist arrested by UPATS from Moradabad

AGENCIES  
LUCKNOW, MAR 8 (UND)

A Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) terrorist, who was absconding for the last 18 years, has been arrested in a joint operation by the Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terror Squad (ATS) and Moradabad police, an ATS spokesman said here on Saturday. The spokesman said during the Saharanpur unit of ATS got a tip-off that Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Ulfat Hussain alias Mohd Saiful Islam alias Afzal, a resident of Fazaalabad village, Surankote in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, was residing in Moradabad. "Acting on the information, the ATS and Moradabad police arrested Ulfat on Friday," he said.

He said that Ulfat was involved in anti-national activities and was wanted by Katghar police in Moradabad district under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), CLA Act,



March 5, 2025, in this case. "The Moradabad police have also announced a reward of Rs 25,000 on his arrest," he said.

He said that as per information revealed by Ulfat Hussain, he had been a member of the terrorist organisation Hizbul Mujahideen. "Ulfat had taken training in Pak-occupied Kashmir between 1999 and 2000. After training, he came to Moradabad, where he was planning to execute some major incident," he said.

The spokesman said that Ulfat was wanted in two cases, including one in the Moradabad district of UP and another lodged at Surankote police station in Poonch district in Jammu and Kashmir. "The arrested terrorist is being interrogated, and security agencies are investigating whether Ulfat was linked with any new terror module or was planning a major conspiracy," he said.

## We bow to our Nari Shakti: PM on International Women's Day

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAR 8 (UND)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday extended his wishes on the occasion of International Women's Day, bowing to the strength and power of 'Nari Shakti'.

He highlighted his government's commitment to empowering women through various schemes and programs. He said, "The government has always worked for empowering women, reflected in our schemes and programs."



"We bow to our Nari Shakti on #WomensDay! Our government has always worked for empowering women, reflected in our schemes and programs. Today, as promised, my social media properties will be taken over by women who are making a mark in diverse fields," he wrote on X.

On International Women's Day, the PM also handed over the control of his social media accounts to women making a mark in diverse fields.

Scientist Elina Mishra, Indian chess Grandmaster R. Vaishali, and Shilpi Soni, a space scientist, were among the women achievers who took over his X handle.

Along with the wishes, the Prime Minister also shared a video titled 'Nari Shakti: Viksit Bharat Ki Sabse Badi Guarantee, highlighting the importance of women's empowerment.

## Bihar CM inaugurates bird aqary in Rajgir

AGENCIES  
RAJGIR, MAR 8 (UND)

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday inaugurated bird aqary developed in premises of zoo safari in Rajgir of Nalanda district in Bihar.

Kumar after inaugurating the bird aqary, said it has been developed in one acre area having all required facilities for birds. Good arrangements for water bodies, flora and fauna, and edibles for birds had been made at aqary, he added.

"I have been coming to Rajgir since my childhood and after coming to power, I focused on developing it as major tourist spot in the country", the Chief Minister said, adding that zoo safari was inaugurated four years back.

Zoo safari was also attracting a large number of tourists from all parts of the country, he noted.

Kumar directed all officials concerned to ensure good maintenance of zoo safari and bird aqary.

## Maha: Mumbai police issues Blue corner notice against 2 in Rs 122 Cr bank scam

AGENCIES  
MUMBAI, MAR 8 (UND)

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the city police has issued a Blue Corner notice against former chairman and acting vice-chairman of New India Cooperative Bank for their alleged involvement in the Rs 122 crore scam, officials said here on Saturday.

Investigators have traced Hiren Bhanu, the alleged mastermind and former chairman of the bank, to Abu Dhabi and his wife Gauri, the acting vice-chairman of Bank, to Thailand, leading to issuance of the said notice.

The EOW had initially issued a lookout circular. Now, with confirmed foreign locations, the alert has been issued.

According to legal experts, notices are international requests for cooperation or alerts allowing police in member countries to share critical crime-related information while the Blue notice is to collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a criminal investigation.

Now, with confirmed foreign locations, the alert has been issued.

The Blue Corner notice will help track Bhanus' locations, monitor their activities, and facilitate their arrest.

According to sources in EOW, the duo fled abroad just before the scam was exposed.

## Delhi Cabinet approves Mahila Samridhi Yojana to provide Rs 2,500 monthly aid to women

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAR 8 (UND)

On the occasion of International Women's day, the Delhi Cabinet on Saturday approved the 'Mahila Samridhi Yojana' to provide Rs 2,500 monthly aid to women.

Talking to reporters here, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that the Mahila Samridhi Yojana was approved in the Cabinet meeting held today.

She said that for making good use of the occasion of International Women's Day, the Cabinet met, and the promise made to the sisters of Delhi before the Assembly election was approved. For this, a provision of Rs 500 crore has been made so that poor sisters can get benefits.

The Chief Minister said that a committee has been formed headed by her and three Cabinet Ministers Ashish Sood, Parvesh Sahib Singh and Kapil Mishra will be the members. To implement the scheme, the registration work will start soon by creating a portal.

The registration work will be started after a thorough discussion on its terms and conditions, Rekha Gupta said.

## Nothing concrete done for women empowerment before 2005 in Bihar: Nitish

AGENCIES  
PATNA, MAR 8 (UND)

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday came down heavily on previous regime for doing nothing concrete to empower women, saying only his government had taken a number of steps for women empowerment after coming to power in 2005 in Bihar.

Kumar while addressing a function organised to mark international women's day at his party office here said that no previous regime before 2005 had done something concrete for women empowerment in Bihar. His government had taken a number of steps for women empowerment after coming to power in Bihar in 2005, he pointed out.

"Women are making progress in all sectors including health, education, and other government services, due to opportunities given to them by our government", Chief Minister said adding that women were given 35 percent reservation in government services including police recruitment. Bihar was the first state in the country to give 50 percent reservation to women in Panchayati Raj institutions and local bodies, he pointed out.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, Bihar Transport Minister Sheela Mandal, working President of JD(U) Sanjay Jha, and other dignitaries were present on the occasion. A large number of women delegates from all parts of Bihar participated in the function.

## Kharge, Rahul, Priyanka greet women on International Women's Day

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, MAR 8 (UND)

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on

Saturday greeted women on International Women's Day. On his social media handle X, Kharge shared a quote from social reformer and poet Savitri Bai Phule, urging, "Awake, Arise and Educate. Smash Traditions. Liberate"

"National transformation begins with gender equality. Women, through their wisdom, dedication, and strength are powerful agents to reshape societies," Kharge said.

Former Congress presi-

dent Rahul Gandhi while calling the women as the backbone of our society, said, "Their strength, resilience, and voice shape our nation's future."

"On this International Women's Day, I stand with

you and for you—committed to breaking every barrier until every woman is free to shape her own destiny, chase every dream, and rise to greater heights," the former Congress president said.

Meanwhile, Priyanka

Gandhi Vadra said, "Happy International Women's Day to all our sisters across the country".

"From the freedom struggle to the building of the nation, women have always participated in every field and

## International Women's Day celebrated at Rehan Basera Shelter Home for Urban Homeless

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 8

International women's day was celebrated by management committee of Rehan Basera Shelter Home for Urban Homeless. Mitali Gupta was chief guest on this occasion.

While addressing the media persons and gathering, Mitali Gupta said that women is the enemy of women. The women should help each other. Dr Neelam Sharma, Sunita Bangotra Principal savitri Bai Phule Modern, School Bari Brahmna, Parmila Gupta- retd principal, Mamta Malhotra, Neeshu Sharma, Anita Kumari, Gulzam Dolma, Neena Abrol and

her team of unnat (NGO), Adv Dr Ritika President NGO, Sushil Sharma chairman All

J&K Divyang kalia sang, Umesh Sharma chairman Disabled care foundation were honoured on this occasion. While speaking on this occasion Sham Lal Basson, Ex Cooperator and member management committee Rehan Basera expressed the importance of International Women's Day. He gave historical background of this day when it started during 1908 in USA.

He cited many examples of women of international fame such as Savitri Bai Phule, Yousafzai Malala, Mary McLeod Bethune, Fatima Sheikh (Educationist). The women who wxcelled in science included Rosalind Franklin, Mary Curie, Caroline Herschel, women who fought for equal rights in America named Rosa Parks. She is called as mother of civil



rights movement in America. Politician like Indira Gandhi, Sushma Swaraj, Mayawati, Sarojni Naidu (Social Activist) Veena Bakshi Manager Rehan Basera extended vote of thanks to participants she threw light on the importance of International Women's Day. Every body should come forward for equal rights to women. Each women should help other. A women should not be enemy of women.

Sham Basson further said that youths should change their mind set

because rape cases are increasing days. There is rape case after every three minutes. Cases of domestic violences are increasing. No one should demand dowry. Dowry cases are increasing. There is dowry death case after every one hour. There is a male dominated society we have to change our mindset. There is a need of Gender equality, finance Independence and equal representation for empowerment of women. No doubt women have set examples in business

such as Falguni Nayar, Kiran Muzumdar Shah, Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Kalpana Saroj, Sunita Bangotra expressed her story of educating children of poor community such as rag pickers etc. She said that crime against women is increasing day by day such there were 2,25,650 cases of crime against women during 2011 but this number increased to 4,28,278 case during 2021. This is very unfortunate Baba Saheb gave equal rights to women through Hindu code bill such as property rights, rights equal to men etc. Others who attend Function included Om Prakash, Joginder Kumar, Subash Babbar, Rattan Lal, Aditya Dutta, Vijay Kumar, Meenakshi Devi, Rajni Devi Persons who made the program successful included.

## GDC Doda shines in 47th Inter collegiate Annual Athletic Meet

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, MAR 8

Government Degree College Doda has once again made its mark in the sports arena by finishing as Runner-Up in the prestigious 47th Intercollegiate Annual Athletic Meet 2025. Competing against 40 colleges, GDC Doda secured an impressive overall 2nd position with 35 points, narrowly missing the top spot by just 3 points.

Adding to the college's glory, Leela Parshad of GDC Doda was declared as Best Athlete of the Meet after clinching three gold medals, a remarkable achievement that highlights his exceptional talent and dedication.

Outstanding Individual Performances:

Leela Parshad - 3 Gold in 5000m, 10000m, and 4x 400m Relay race (Best



Athlete of the Meet) Nikhil Kumar - Gold in 4x400 relay, 2 Silver in 800 m and 1500m.

Tofail - Gold in 4x400m relay

Bikram - Gold in 4x400m relay

Adnan - 1 Silver in Javelin throw.

Ikhlaq - 1 Silver in High Jump

Junaid - Bronze in 200m

Among girls, Sonika and Sanjna put up a strong fight and secured 4th and 5th position in the 3000m and

5000m race. Principal of the college Dr Javed Iqbal Zarger expressed immense pride in the college's performance, commending the athletes for their hard work and perseverance. "This is a moment of great honor for GDC Doda. Our students have demonstrated outstanding determination and sportsmanship, and we are confident that they will achieve even greater heights in the future," he stated.

## Sainik School Nagrota celebrates International Women's Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
NAGROTA: 08 MAR 2025

Sainik School Nagrota celebrated the International Women's Day (IWD) with great enthusiasm and fervour on 08 March 2025, reaffirming its commitment towards fostering gender equality and empowering young girls to excel in leadership roles, especially in the Armed Forces. The event witnessed active participation from 43 girl cadets, lady teachers of Sainik School Nagrota and Chinar Primary School, making it a remarkable and memorable occasion.

The celebrations commenced with a brief introduction on the significance of International Women's Day, setting the tone for the event. This was followed by inspiring speeches delivered by Cadet Nirvriti Namyia in English and Cadet Rashi



Yadav in Hindi, who eloquently highlighted the milestones achieved by women across the globe, the significance of celebrating International Women's Day, and the future challenges that lie ahead in ensuring gender equality. Their powerful words instilled a sense of pride and motivation among all present, especially the young girl cadets who aspire to don the uniform and serve the nation as future officers in the

Indian Armed Forces.

The highlight of the event was an insightful and captivating address by Capt (IN) Shibu Devasia, Principal, Sainik School Nagrota, who brought out interesting facts about International Women's Day including its origin, historical significance, official theme, and the colours representing various aspects of the day. He also elaborated on the global scenario where certain countries declare

a public holiday to mark this significant day. In his address, the Principal lauded the spirit, courage, and determination of the girl cadets of Sainik School Nagrota, who he proudly referred to as the torchbearers of this premier institution.

Following the Principal's address, the event transitioned to a Cake Cutting Ceremony, symbolizing the collective celebration of womanhood and the remarkable journey of

women across all spheres of life. The Principal, along with the girl cadets and lady teachers, joined in the cake-cutting ceremony, fostering a sense of unity and celebration. This was followed by a group photograph, capturing the essence of the moment and commemorating the spirit of International Women's Day.

The celebration concluded with a High Tea where cadets, lady staff members, and school officials interacted informally, sharing their thoughts and aspirations on the role of women in shaping society and the nation. The event truly reflected the progressive and inclusive culture of Sainik School Nagrota, which takes immense pride in nurturing future leaders among both boys and girls, paving their way to lead the Armed Forces with valour, courage, and pride.

## ICANN-2025: Global Researchers Unite to Shape the Future of Nanoscience

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DELHI, MARCH 8

The International Conference on Advances in Nanomaterials and Nanotechnology (ICANN-2025) successfully concluded at Rajdhani College, University of Delhi, bringing together over 330 participants from across the globe. The two-day event featured more than 250 cutting-edge research papers, showcasing groundbreaking innovations in nanoscience and technology. Nanomaterials and nanotechnology are at the forefront of scientific progress, driving advancements in diverse sectors such as medicine, electronics, defense, and environmental sustainability. These technologies hold the potential to revolutionize drug delivery, enhance energy storage,



create high-performance materials, and develop ultra-sensitive sensors. However, challenges such as scalability, environmental impact, and material stability remain key areas of concern. ICANN-2025 provided a crucial platform for addressing these pressing issues, guiding researchers and industry experts in overcoming obstacles and unlocking the full potential of nanotechnology.

The convener of the conference, Dr. Jasvir

Dalal from the Department of Physics, welcomed the guests and participants, emphasizing that research should aim for societal welfare beyond materialistic gains. The conference was inaugurated by Prof. Rajesh Giri, Principal of Rajdhani College, alongside distinguished guests such as Prof. A.S. Rao, Vice Chancellor of Vikrama Simhapuri University, and Sh. Kashmiri Lal, National Organizing Secretary of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch.

## Verma terms Omar Abdullah's Budget as pro-people

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 8

Sunil Verma, District President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) District Udhampur, has lauded Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's Budget, describing it as a comprehensive and people-centric financial plan that addresses the diverse needs of the populace.

Addressing media persons here today, the senior NC leader emphasized that, despite fiscal constraints, the budget ensures inclusive development across various sectors. He highlighted key initiatives such as the provision of 200 units of free electricity for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, free travel for women in government buses, establishment of new universities to enhance higher education infrastructure, etc many other pro people policies.

He also pointed out the significant allocations for agriculture and tourism, with Rs 815 crore earmarked for agriculture and Rs 390 crore for tourism development, reflecting the government's commitment to these vital sectors.

Sunil Verma further highlighted that the budget reflects the gov-



ernment's commitment to sustainable growth and regional stability, with significant allocations for youth and women empowerment, tourism, agriculture, healthcare, and local industries. Acknowledging tourism as a vital component of Jammu and Kashmir's economy, he said that the Budget allocated substantial funds to modernize infrastructure in key tourist destinations. By promoting eco-tourism and enhancing facilities, the Omar Abdullah government aimed to attract visitors year-round, thereby boosting the local economy and creating employment opportunities. This focus on tourism is expected to revitalize the sector and showcase the region's rich cultural heritage and natural beauty, he added.

Verma further stated that the Omar Abdullah government is dedicated to transparent and accountable governance, ensuring efficient public service delivery and actively engaging with citizens to address their concerns.

Sunil Verma strongly

criticized the local MLAs from district Udhampur for failing to meet public expectations, both in addressing local issues and effectively representing their constituents in the Assembly. He expressed concern over their unjust targeting of Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary. He said that the Deputy Chief Minister is doing good job by combating illegal mining activities in Jammu region.

Additionally, Sunil Verma also highlighted challenges faced by residents due to the Change of Land Use (CLU) regulations imposed by the Forest Department, which have restricted their ability to utilize, sell, or transfer their land. He urged authorities to revisit these policies to alleviate the hardships of the affected populace.

The press conference was attended by JKNC Vice Presidents Javed Iqbal and Gurmeet Singh Joshi, District Secretary Ch Abdul Rashid, Retired Principal Amarnath, and Om Prakash.

## Grand Shobha Yatra taken out as part of Fifth Bhagavad Gita Gyan Saptah

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 8

A grand Shobha Yatra was taken out in Jammu as part of the week-long fifth Bhagavad Gita Gyan Saptah, organized by the Mahanubhav Panth Jai Shri Krishna Dharmik Shri Dattatreya Prabhu Kripa Sannidhan under the guidance of Shri Pawan Gupta Ji. The week-long Saptah will conclude tomorrow, March 9, 2025 at Aggarwal Dharamshala.

On this occasion, Senior BJP leader and MLA of the East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi, Priya Sethi, former Minister along with several prominent individuals from the area, participated in the procession.

The Shobha Yatra commenced from Aggarwal Dharamshala and traversed through prominent areas of Jammu, including Raghunath Bazar, City Chowk, Purani Mandi, Raj Tilak Road, Moti Bazar, Pacca Danga, Jain Bazar, Peermetha, Lakhdata Bazar, Shahidi Chowk, Residency Road, and culminated back at Aggarwal Dharamshala. Devotees from various parts of the city participated enthusiastically, accompanying the procession with traditional music, dance, and



devotional chants. The procession featured beautifully decorated tableaux depicting scenes from Lord Krishna's life, attracting the attention of onlookers and devotees alike. The streets were adorned with colorful decorations, and residents lined the pathways, offering flowers and expressing their reverence as the procession passed by.

Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi highlighted the profound significance of the Bhagavad Gita in today's world, emphasizing its timeless teachings that promote values of righteousness (Dharma), devotion (Bhakti), and selfless ser-

vice (Seva). He stated that the Bhagavad Gita serves as a spiritual guide, inspiring individuals to lead a life rooted in moral integrity and compassion.

Sethi stressed that the sacred scripture's message of performing one's duty without attachment to the results is especially relevant in modern times, where materialism often overshadows spiritual growth. He also appreciated the enthusiastic participation of devotees and the dedication of the volunteers who contributed to the successful organization of the event.

Lauding the efforts of the organizers, Priya Sethi said that such spiritual

gatherings play a vital role in fostering communal harmony and unity, bringing people from diverse backgrounds together in a spirit of devotion and mutual respect.

Priya Sethi further added that the vibrant Shobha Yatra not only showcased the rich cultural heritage of the region but also served as a reminder of the moral and ethical values that form the foundation of a harmonious society. She appealed to the people to imbibe the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita for personal and societal transformation.

## Low Paid Govt. Employees Federation Doda holds condolence meeting

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, MAR 8

Lowpaid Govt.employees federation holds condolence meeting under the chairmanship of its DISTT.President Mr.Niaz Ahmad Rahi. has been expressed the deep sorrow of Mohd Ashraf ZARGAR. Maut se kiski ristgari hai. Aaj Hamari kal tumhari Bari hai. Senior leaders of (LPEF) Mr.Ghulam Hassan pampori.shakeel Ahmad dev.ER.Nazir Ahmad sheikh DISTT. president JK Pensioners Association Affiliated LPEF doda said that Mohd Ashraf ZARGAR sahib was great personality of doda . He was great teacher of urdu. He was great pillar of Society.He was honest and dedicated of his department.He was the voice of Hindu Muslim Brotherhood.He was great and true man. At the end Mr.president.. Niaz Ahmad Rahi said that he was mh teacher.we afraid him. He was strong man of Hr.secondary school (BOYS).we all loves him for his honesty and greatness.He was super intelegent in All subjects.

## 'Mata Rani ka Bhandhara' organized at Bahu Fort to mark Int'l Women's Day

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 8

To commemorate International Women's Day, a grand Mata Rani ka Bhandhara was organized today at the revered Bahu Fort temple by the students and scholars of Jammu University.

The event was held under the chairmanship of Dr. Vikas Sharma, Coordinator Jammu District and Zonal Secretary of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC).

The Bhandhara was inaugurated by Rattan Lal Gupta, former Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) and Provincial President of JKNC. He lauded the efforts of the students and scholars for organizing the event, emphasizing the importance of spiritual

gatherings in fostering community spirit and promoting cultural heritage.

A host of eminent dignitaries participated in the occasion, including Former Minister and Zonal President JKNC Babu Rampaul who presided over whereas Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC Ankush Abrol; and Provincial President of the SC Wing of JKNC Vijay lochan were the guests of honour. A large number of students, scholars, and devotees were also present at the event, adding to the spiritual fervor of the celebrations.

Addressing the gathering, Rattan Lal Gupta spoke about the role of women in history and their continued contributions to society. He encouraged young scholars and students to actively participate in activities that



uphold moral and spiritual values while acknowledging the vital role that women play in the socio-cultural fabric of the region.

Speaking on the occasion, Babu Rampaul highlighted the significance of International Women's Day and the role of women in shaping society. He emphasized that such religious and social events not only reinforce cultural values but also serve as a platform to promote unity and inclusivity. He further stated that Jammu University students

and scholars are committed to upholding traditions and contributing to the welfare of society through such initiatives.

Ankush Abrol also extended his greetings on International Women's Day and praised the students for their initiative in organizing the event. He stressed the need for more such gatherings to promote communal harmony and cultural awareness among the younger generation.

The Mata Rani ka Bhandhara concluded with

prayers for peace, prosperity, and the empowerment of women across all sections of society.

The organizers expressed their gratitude to all the dignitaries and participants for making the event a grand success, reaffirming their commitment to continuing such endeavors in the future.

Vikshay Vashist was delivered the welcome address; Gourav Partap Singh, University President NSF was delivering the vote of thanks.

Other prominent present on the occasion include Dr Rajesh Sharma, Dr Gourav Bharat, Dr Rajesh Singh, Bishan Das Dalhotra (Retd Sp), Dr Gourav, Ram Singh, Amit Gupta, Rahul Gupta, Lovesh Bharat, Ramesh Lal, Monhar Lal, Rakesh Singh and others.

## Police Hospital Jammu Celebrates "Women International Day"

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 8

Police hospital Jammu today celebrated "Women International Day" in the premises of Police Hospital Jammu with great enthusiasm. The event was organized by the male doctors and other male staff of PHJ in the honour of Female Doctors/para-medical/other staff of this hospital on the eve of Women International Day. The event was attended by the Medical Superintendent Police Hospital Jammu, Dr. Meenakshi Kotwal as well as other female doctors and para medical staff.

The Male doctors and other male staff of the hospital graced the occasion by highlighting the role of women across all facets of the society, who not only contribute in the nation building but also contribute immensely in the



social development of the country. On this occasion flower plants were also presented by the male doctors and other staff members to the female doctors and other female staff members of this hospital to honour their contribution in the overall growth and

development of the society at large. Towards the conclusion of the event, Dr. Meenakshi Kotwal and other Female Doctors/para-medical/other staff thanked all male Doctors and other staff for organizing such an inspirational event in their honour.

## ASSOCHAM honours Achievers in 5th Edition of ASSOCHAM J&K Women Achievers – 2025

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 8:

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), one of the country's oldest and most esteemed apex bodies, honored women achievers from Jammu & Kashmir at the 5th Edition of 'ASSOCHAM J&K Women Achievers - 2025'. The event, held on International Women's Day, recognized and celebrated the exceptional contributions of women in various professional fields.

Ms. Sakina Itoo, Hon'ble Minister for School & Higher Education, Health & Medical Education, and Social Welfare, J&K Government, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Ms. Anoo Malhotra (JKAS), Director General,

Rural Sanitation, J&K, attended as the Special Guest.

ASSOCHAM J&K Council had invited nominations across multiple categories for the J&K Women Achievers 2025 Awards. After a thorough evaluation of numerous nominations, eight outstanding women were selected and awarded in their respective fields:

Retail Category: Ms. Tania Kukreja (Atar Singh & Sons) & Ms. Pooja Gupta (Himalayan Bio Organic Foods Ltd.)

Education Category: Ms. Rohini Aima (Jammu Sanskriti School)

Startup & Innovation Category: Dr. Anushka Vaid (Dr. Amit Multi-Specialty Hospital)

Beauty & Wellness Category: Ms. Shivani Arora



(Hair Masters Jammu) Media Category: Ms. Monika Jamwal (Take One Network)

Manufacturing Category: Ms. Namrata Modi (Prevest DenPro Ltd.)

Social Service: Ms. Nidhi Dogra Sharma (Recognizing Women's Achievements & Encouraging Growth)

While congratulating the awardees, Ms.

Sakina Itoo applauded ASSOCHAM J&K Council for organizing this initiative and commended the awardees for their achievements.

"Today is an important day for women, and seeing your success proves that you are breaking barriers in a male-dominated society. I would love to hear about the challenges you face in business. If you

need any support from the government, we are always here to assist you in creating more employment opportunities for women," said Ms. Itoo.

She further emphasized that whether the journey is easy or challenging, women are on the right path to achieving their goals.

Mr. Manik Batra, Chairman, ASSOCHAM J&K Council, expressed his pride in hosting the event for the fifth consecutive year.

"We initiated these awards in 2021, and today, we have successfully hosted the fifth edition. We will continue organizing such events in the future to encourage and empower women entrepreneurs in Jammu & Kashmir," he said.

In addition to the awards, all participants received certificates of participation in recognition of their contributions.

Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, Co-Chairman, ASSOCHAM J&K Council, highlighted the importance of celebrating women's achievements.

"Women are excelling in every professional sphere. All they need is recognition and acknowledgment, which will further inspire them to reach greater heights," he said.

The event was supported by Batra Group as the Title Partner, with Impression World Pre-school, Dr. Amit's Multi-Specialty Hospital, and Prevest DenPro Ltd. as Gold Partners. JK News Today was the Media Partner for the event.

## Randhawa reaffirms Modi Govt's commitment of 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' under JJM scheme



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 8

Senior BJP leader and MLA Bahu Constituency, Vikram Randhawa today inaugurated the PHE pipeline project in Ward No. 45, Digiana with an estimated cost of Rs 47.45 lakh, underscoring BJP's dedication to the 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' under the prestigious Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by key officials from the PHE department, including AEE Amit Sharma and JE Arun Kumar. Prominent local leaders such as Mandal President Ritika Madam, along with Sahil Sharma, Dalair Singh, Narinder Koki, Satpaul Choudhary, Vinod Sharma, Varinder Gupta, Sanju Bhau, and other esteemed community members, were also present.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Vikram Randhawa emphasized the BJP's commitment to infrastructural development and the well-being of the residents. He stated, "This pipeline project is a testament to our dedication to providing essential amenities to every household. Access to clean water is a fundamental right, and we are steadfast in our efforts to ensure that the residents

of Digiana receive uninterrupted and safe water supply."

MLA Vikram Randhawa emphasized that the Modi government's Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is a transformative initiative aimed at ensuring 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal'—providing every rural household with a functional tap water connection. He further noted that the JJM not only addresses the immediate need for safe drinking water but also contributes to broader socio-economic development by promoting water conservation, rainwater harvesting, and sustainable resource management practices. This holistic approach aligns with the government's vision of an empowered and self-reliant rural India, he added.

MLA Randhawa reiterated the Modi government's steadfast commitment to achieving 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' under the Jal Jeevan Mission, ensuring that every household in the nation has access to safe and adequate drinking water.

The senior BJP leader laid stress upon PHE officials to complete the work within the stipulated time-frame and adhere to the highest standards of quality.

## CCI Jammu welcomes budget proposals presented by Omar Abdullah

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 8

While reacting on the budget presented by Hon'ble Chief Minister Jenab Omar Abdullah who also holds the charge of Finance Minister, Sh. Arun Gupta, President Chamber of Commerce & Industry welcomed the budget which includes every sector i.e Education, Sports, strengthening of power sector, 10 kg free ration per person to all AAY families, exemption of Stamp duty for gift transactions in blood relation enhancing financial assistance under marriage assistance program for poor girls of AAY families, development of high performance training centers in all districts to promote supports, promotion of films production in J&K, Development of 46 new Industrial estates in UT of J&K and construction of labour sarai in each industrial estates.

Arun Gupta also welcomed the announcement of providing 200 units free electricity to all AAY families, but at the same time he said that this burden should not be transferred on the shoulders of the common consumers by hiking the power tariff.

Arun Gupta said that



the Hon'ble Chief Minister knows very well that the existing industry cannot survive without incentives.

He also said that the government has proposed 130 crore for turnover incentives / subsidy component to the existing industry for those who shall be eligible to get subsidy on certain government schemes. Sh. Arun Gupta said that in the past the government has announced turnover incentives to the existing industrial units but the industrial units have not got the full amount of announced incentives (Budgetary Support). Now the government has proposed turnover incentive to the existing industry but this needs to be clarified that how much amount has been earmarked for the turnover incentives.

Arun Gupta further expressed that while recognizing the concerns of

the traders regarding challenges on the GEM platform including increased competition, the government has assured to bring a new policy to provide price preference to local MSME units in public procurement which will definitely create a more level playing field for J&K based business to grow and compete. He requested the Hon'ble Chief Minister that before finalizing the same stakeholders should be taken in the confidence.

Arun Gupta said that the Hon'ble Chief Minister has on many occasions affirmed his government's commitment to promote the religious tourism in Jammu and he has outlined a series of initiatives aimed at boosting tourism, strengthening the economy and improving infrastructure. He has said that it is our commitment to divert the pilgrims of

Shree Mata Vaishno Devi after paying obeisance to other pilgrimage destinations of Jammu. Sh. Arun Gupta said that there is urgent need to develop the tourist circuit where these pilgrims can move to take the blessing of Lord Shiva.

Arun Gupta also welcomed the modernization of the Kala Kendra Jammu, he requested that the Abhinav Theatre opp. Science College Canal Road Jammu should also be developed/upgraded on modern lines to give it a better look.

Arun Gupta appealed to the Hon'ble Chief Minister to ensure that the proposed incentives and subsidies reach the intended beneficiaries promptly and without bureaucratic delays. He urged the government to adopt a proactive approach in addressing the concerns of the business community and the common people, emphasizing that effective implementation of the budget proposals is crucial for the overall economic growth of Jammu and Kashmir. He also expressed hope that the government would continue to engage with industry stakeholders to foster a business-friendly environment in the Union Territory.

## GCW Udhampur organizes Poster making competition on gender equality



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR MARCH 08

Department of Sociology, Government College For Women (GCW) Udhampur, organized a Poster Making Competition on the occasion of "International Women's Day" on the theme "Gender Equality" here today at college campus.

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

Prof. (Dr.) Nalini Pathania, stressed on the fact that now-a-days women are playing roles the same as men do. She also focused on empowerment of women through various opportunities that are provided in different institutional fields of society. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Swati Dutt (HOD Sociology) while the vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Nishi Slathia.

The students from different semesters of the College participated enthusiastically and expressed their views through their posters. The posters were adjudged by Ms. Meenakshi Jamwal (Asstt. Prof. Dept. of Commerce), Ms. Shama Rani (Asstt. Prof. Dept. of Dogri) and Ms. Pooja Bharti (Asstt. Prof. Dept. of Geography).

In the Poster making Competition, Mehvish Akhter secured first position, Poonam Sharma secured second position and Suman Thakur secured third position (students of Semester VI). The prizes were distributed to the winners of the competition. Further refreshment was also distributed to all the participants of the competition.

The program was organised by Dr. Swati Dutt (Convenor), Dr. Nishi Slathia, Dr. Ravi Kumar and Dr. Haseena Khan.

## A Medical Awareness Camp organized on International Women's Day at Khour, Akhnoor

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
AKHNOOR: 08 MAR 2025

On International Women's Day, March 8, 2025, the Indian Army conducted a medical awareness camp aimed at empowering women in rural village of Khour Sub Division. This initiative reflects the Indian Army's commitment to enhancing women's health in under-

served areas. The camp provided essential medical consultations specifically tailored for women. It aimed to raise awareness about various health issues affecting women and offered guidance on preventive care and wellness practices. The event was well-attended, with local women participating actively in discussions about health and wellness.

## Chief Education Officer Doda Initiates Enrollment Drive in Govt. Schools Doda

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, MAR 8

Taking Serious note of declining Students enrollment in Govt.Schools in District Doda Chief Education officer Doda launches Special Drive for increasing admission of children in Govt. Schools.

Acting upon the feedback received from the field regarding decreasing enrollment of dozens of Government Schools and large number of defunct schools Chief Education officer Doda vide his order No- CEO/D/40832-41965 dated 05.03.2025 issued direction to teaching community to improve enrollment of their schools or face action. It is pertinent to mention here that

around 1246 Govt. Schools have been established in 10 Education Zones of District Doda including HSS, HS, MS and PS. Reports reveal large number of schools in the District are not operating as per norms of enrollment and pupil Teacher ratio.

Cursory proofs of such schools are primary schools and middle schools falling in the vicinity of District Education Head quarter namely UPS Dhar, PS Thub, PD Beoli, PS Bhadroon, GPS Bhabore, NPS Shashipura, PS Peerwars, PS Nai Basti Below ITI Doda, UPS Bikhriyan, ,GPS Hamdanpur, PS Checkpost, PS Chakri, PS Pindkal, PS Bhulla, GPS Rahie, PS Bhadra, ,UPS Pul Doda, PS Dandian, Ps Dak, GMS Sah, GPS Sah, UPS Homeguard Lines, PS

Moochpura etc require indepth survey of the district. Reports indicate the concerned teachers of said schools either lack competency in subject teaching due to their poor educational capabilities or have no interest in their responsibilities compelling parents to shift their Children from said schools to enroll in Private Schools the massive enrollment of nearby private schools is the glaring proof of above facts.

However step of the competent Chief Education officer Doda to initiate drive for enhancement of roll in Govt. Schools is being highly hailed by Public and Civil Society. Public appreciate his knowledge of ground situation in government schools in District Doda.

## Dr. Manyal, Balbir discuss Ambedkar's vision on education

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 8

Jammu and Kashmir BJP General Secretary & MLA Ramgarh, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, and party spokesperson & former Vice Chairperson, Balbir Ram Rattan, discussed Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision for education, emphasizing the importance of his educational philosophy in shaping an equitable and just society. They stressed that inclusive and accessible education is a fundamental tool for social upliftment and national progress.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal highlighted Dr. Ambedkar's belief that education is the most powerful weapon for eradicating social discrimination and empowering marginalized communities.



"Ambedkar's dream was to see every individual, regardless of caste or class, equipped with knowledge and the ability to think critically," Dr. Manyal said. He added that Ambedkar's vision on the significance of education still hold great relevance today, urging people to take inspiration from his teachings and

work towards a more inclusive society.

Balbir Ram Rattan emphasized that Ambedkar was a strong advocate for education as a fundamental right rather than a privilege. He pointed out that access to quality education remains a challenge for many underprivileged communities and that soci-

ety must work collectively to ensure Dr. Ambedkar's vision is fully realized. "We must ensure that no child is deprived of education due to economic or social barriers," he remarked. He further stressed the importance of higher education, vocational training, and skill development programmes in empowering youth from all backgrounds.

Both, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal and Balbir Ram Rattan, reiterated that Ambedkar's vision extended beyond basic literacy; it was about empowering individuals with knowledge and dignity. They urged society to commit to educational reforms that align with Ambedkar's ideals, ensuring his legacy remains a guiding force for future generations.

## Indian Army organizes Mini Marathon, Hygiene Awareness Camp for Women at Dori Dager, Akhnoor

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
AKHNOOR: 08 MAR 2025

In a significant initiative towards community welfare, the Indian Army successfully organized Mini Marathon and Hygiene Awareness Camp for women in remote village Dori Dager (Akhnoor) of Jammu & Kashmir. The mini marathon saw enthusiastic participation from young girls and women, who showcased their spirit of determination and fitness. Following the marathon, a hygiene awareness camp was conducted, where Army Medical officer educated the attendees about personal hygiene, menstrual health and general well-being.

## SBI Card, others jointly organize Mega Cancer Awareness & Free Screening Camp on Int'l Women's Day



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 8

Mega Cancer Awareness & Free Screening Camp on International Women's Day Organised by SBI Card & World Cancer Care Supported by DHS Jammu, NGO SUPPORT Alliance Kunwarani Ritu Singh & Rotarian Dr. Navneet Kaur at SDH Kotbhalwal Jammu.

Marking the International Women's Day 8th March 2025 (Special Event for Women's Day) Celebrating Women's Health on Women's Day! On this special occasion of International Women's Day, we are dedicated to empowering women with free health checkups and cancer screenings. Women play a crucial role in our families and society, and their health should always be a priority. This camp focuses on early detection of cancers affecting women, ensuring timely diagnosis and prevention.

KunwarRani Ritu Singh was the Chief-guest on this campaign, CMO Dr Harbaksh Singh graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour under his able guidance, Dr Sushma Matto ZLO & BMO Dr Rabia Khan played a very instrumental role with their dedicated team of Doctors and paramedics organising the Mega event. NRHM MD Dr Shubra Sharma got the NRLM Umeed women mobilised for the camp to get their screening done. Ms Shruti Uppal BPM Kotbhalwal led a team of 100 Umeed women for the campaign. Mission Shakti under SWD Ms Shagun mobilised women for their health check up and screening for the camp. Dr Navneet Kaur gave the welcome address and led the campaign collaborating with all the government and non-governmental organisations and societies

make larger impact and community outreach for enrolling more women to avail the health benefit through this campaign available at the doorsteps of the rural belt by World Cancer Care Charitable Society.

Special Screenings for Women: Breast Cancer Screening - Mammography Test (Recommended for women above 40), Cervical Cancer Screening - Pap Smear Test (Essential for women's reproductive health) Other Free Health Tests: Oral & Throat Cancer Screening - Oral Screening Bone Health Check - Bone Density (BMD) Test, Prostate Cancer Screening - PSA Test (for men) General Health Tests: Blood Pressure, Sugar Test & Free Medicines.

Women's health matters! Regular checkups can help in early detection and timely treatment of serious diseases. On this Women's Day, take a step towards prioritizing your health stated Dr Navneet Kaur.

KunwarRani Ritu Singh & MD World Cancer Care Charitable Society Dharminder Dhillion stated, "We urge all women of Kotbhalwal and nearby areas to take advantage of this free screening camp and spread awareness about cancer risks. Bring your mother, sister, daughter, and friends along". Organisations supporting this campaign were Rotary Jammu Bahu under the flagship of 3070, ISBTI J&K Chapter, YBA, Care Foundation, AISDC.

Dr Navneet Kaur & BMO Kotbhalwal Dr Rabia Khan gave the vote of thanks to all the organisations present and especially the team of 25 Doctors and Paramedics staff from the World Cancer Care Charitable Society which is "Dedicated to Service, Committed to Life".

## KVK Kishtwar celebrates International Women Day 2025

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 8

To mark the celebration of International Women Day, Krishi Vigyan Kendra Kishtwar SKUAST Jammu today organized a programme at Kishtwar on health and nutrition of the women. More than 40 women attended the programme.

The programme was organized by Dr Narinder Paul Head KVK Kishtwar under the guidance of Dr Amrish Vaid Director Extension SKUAST Jammu which was intended to commemorate this year's theme, "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, Empowerment" with an emphasis on combating the malnutrition in women and adolescents" Komal Sharma while speaking on the occasion explained significance of the day and highlighted the contribution of women in



home making, agriculture, services and every sector. During the programme the women were trained about different nutri-mix recipes and their role in health and nutrition. Practical demonstration were held on nutrient enrichment of the cereals, pulses and millets.

At the end of the programme, nutri-mix kits

were distributed among the participating women for initiating the use of nutri-mix diet recipes at their respective households and ensuring household nutritional security. Komal Mehra, Anju balka, Mamta Kumari, Zubbaya Kousar, Nazia banoo and 40 other women attended the programme.

## School of Business organizes Annual Fest-TATVA

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MAR 8

The School of Business successfully organized TATVA-Management Fest under EKTAVA 25 - The University Annual Fest. Alumni of School of Business along with inhouse and external faculty members were invited as external experts to evaluate the events. The aim of the fest was to provide a platform for students to showcase their extra-ordinary talents which will help them to become adaptable to the workplace challenges more quickly and easily. The TATVA featured 9 different activities organised to test the creativity, smartness, innovativeness, decision making abilities, managerial and entrepreneurial skills of the students. The students from within campus and outside



the University participated in different activities at individual and group level. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, highlighted the importance of organising of such kind of management fest for the overall development of the students in more than one ways. He also emphasised that such kind of activities aim to bring the hidden talents of the students out. Dr. Deepak Jain, the event coordinator of 'Tatva' praised the efforts of the students and the expressed the gratitude

towards Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar for providing encouragement for such kind of initiatives of School of Business. He also expressed appreciation towards Prof. Jyoti Sharma, Head of School and Prof. Ashutosh Vashishtha, the Dean, Faculty of Management for their wholehearted support. The guests appreciated the initiative taken by the University to develop interpersonal skills and to think out of their regular academics which will help in the all round personality development.

## Indian Army provides Benches, Desks to Govt School Dhadkai, Doda



JJ NEWS SERVICE  
DODA: 08 MAR 2025

In its continuous endeavour to improve learning environment for the students studying in remote and underserved areas and also to provide impetus to education facilities in far flung area of Doda region, Indian Army at Gandoh, distributed certain furniture items alongwith laptop and other amenities to Govt School, Dhadkai. Provision of these items will prove beneficial for the school staff in uplifting the education standard and will also enhance the infrastructure available at the School. Presently school has a strength of 72 Children's and 57 Adults of Dhadkai and its adjoining area with maximum of them belonging to Below Poverty Line category. Initially the school authority of Govt School Dhadkai approached the local

Army unit for assistance and after consultation with higher authorities, Indian Army decided to provide furniture items to the school authorities. During distribution of these items, the representative of Army interacted with the students and motivated them to work hard for a bright future in the highly competitive world. They were assured that Army is determined to improve the education standard of students of Gandoh region. These items were provided in the presence of Mr. Mohammad Haneef, Sarpanch of Dhadkai Village, School Principal and locals from the area. The locals appreciated this effort of the Indian Army in providing the basic amenities to the underprivileged section of the society especially the Dhadkai village which has a peculiar issue of genetic disorder.

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RAVI CANAL CONSTRUCTION LOWER, DIVISION HIRANAGAR, SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 17 of 2024-25 RCC LOWER DIVISION HIRANAGAR DATE: 07-03-2025

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer Ravi Canal Construction Lower Division Hiranagar invites E-Tenders from the approved/eligible PWD contractors registered in appropriate class/category for the below noted works.

S. No.	Name of work	Bid Validity	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lacs) in	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of tender document	Period of Contract	Class of Contractor
1.	Renovation/Upgradation Of Main Ravi Canal from RD : 54600-55441M at Places	90 days	4.57	9140/-	600/	20 days	"A.B.C.D"
2.	Improvement/Restoration of Minor-3 of D-17 of MRC RD: 0-500M at places	90 days	7.89	15780/-	600/	25 days	"A.B.C.D"

### OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATIONS:

MH-4701 Capex Budget, Position of AAA/TS :- Accorded  
Position of Funds: Partially Available.

- The bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from 08-03-2025 (02 PM) to 13-03-2025 (6:55 PM).
- The Bids shall be uploaded in electronic format on the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> from 08-03-2025 (02 PM) to 13-03-2025 (6:55 PM).
- The complete bidding process will be ONLINE.
- A pre-bid meeting will be held on 12-03-2025 (12.00 Noon) in the office of the Executive Engineer, Ravi Canal Construction Lower Division Hiranagar if required to clarify the issues and to answer queries on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in instructions to bidders of the bidding documents and general conditions of the contract, Seek Clarification Start Date is 08-03-2025, (10 AM) and Seek Clarification End Date is 12-03-2025, (12 Noon).
- The Technical bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 15-03-2025 (10.00 AM) in the office of the Executive Engineer, Ravi Canal Construction Lower Division Hiranagar, in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

No: LRC/3163-83  
Dated: 07-03-2025

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
RCC Lower Division,  
Hiranagar.

DIP/J-10888/24  
Date: 8-3-25

## Indian Army celebrates International Women's Day organizes Events at Marin, Samba and Kathua



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA AND KATHUA: 08 MAR 2025

Gurj Divison of Indian Army celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) showcasing Nari Shakti. Multiple events were conducted over a week to celebrate International Women's Day. To promote health, Walkathons were organised at Mamun, Kathua and Samba. More than 600 women including 200 College students participated in the event enthusiastically at Mamun. During the Walkathon, 46 women achievers were felicitated to recognise their stellar achievements in different

fields. The Janglot walkathon was flagged off by SSP Manjeet Kaur, Principal Police Physical Training School, Kathua. More than 250 women including civilians participated in the walkathon. A unique Women Blood Donation Camp was also organised, wherein 64 units of blood was collected and donors were recognised with certificate of Blood Donation. To promote healthy life style, month long medical and dental screening camps are underway at various locations till 20th March.

The camp specifically focused on issues related to Anemia, Osteoporosis, Lifestyle Disorders,

Oral, Breast and Gynaecology. As of 08 March, 2322 women have undergone various screenings to include lipid profiling, Mamography, thyroid profiling, ECG, Bone density etc. Lt Rucha Darekar, an Army Red team and Army Services Team Fencing Player conducted a Motivational lecture at AB college Pathankot to ignite and inspire the young Minds through projection of Women in Uniform and personal experiences. An exhibition by women entrepreneurs skilled at Army Skill Training Centre Mamun is also being organised at Novelty Mall Pathankot on 9th March 2025.

## Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University celebrates International Women's Day



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, MARCH 8

Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) marked International Women's Day with a special interactive session led by Vice Chancellor Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, engaging with women employees from the General Duty Helper and Safai Karamchari cadre.

Recognizing their unwavering dedication and invaluable contributions, Prof. Jawaid Iqbal hailed them as 'Nari Shakti'—the embodiment of strength and resilience. He acknowledged their pivotal role in ensuring the smooth functioning of the university and emphasized that every woman,

regardless of her position, is a pillar of progress and development.

During the interaction, the Vice Chancellor advocated for greater participation of women across various domains within the university. He reaffirmed BGSBU's commitment to fostering an inclusive, equitable, and empowering environment, ensuring increased opportunities for women to excel in academia, administration, and support services.

Prof. Jawaid Iqbal reiterated the university's dedication to the welfare and empowerment of its women workforce. He assured that BGSBU would continue to cultivate a supportive and inclusive work environment, recognizing

and valuing the contributions of all employees.

The women employees expressed their gratitude to the Vice Chancellor for his encouragement and appreciation of their efforts. They lauded the university's commitment to dignity and equality in the workplace.

The event concluded with a resounding message of empowerment, underscoring the collective responsibility to build a more inclusive and respectful society.

Those present on the occasion included Dean Academic Affairs BGSBU Prof. M J Warsi, Media Advisor Dr. Danish Iqbal and Head Department of English Dr. Mariya Aslam.

## GCW Udhampur organizes Symposium on Breaking the Ceiling Glass: Advancing Women in Leadership



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, MARCH 08

Department of Political Science, Government College for Women (GCW) Udhampur under the aegis of IQAC organized a Symposium on the theme "Breaking the Ceiling Glass: Advancing Women in Leadership", here today on the occasion of International Women's Day in the college campus.

Principal of the college, Dr. Nalini Pathania was the Chief Guest on the Occasion.

The aim of the programme was to make the students aware about the Importance of Women and her status in the Constitution.

The Programme began with the formal welcome address by Dr. Nazim Mohi Ud Din. In his welcome address he discussed the constitutional status of women. Dr. Tanveer Ahmad Lone delivered a

special Lecture on Women Leadership. He made students aware about the role of Women as a Leader in different institutions.

In the said symposium, Three Judges judged the performance of the Participants. Six Students delivered their topics. Out of the six students, Tania Patyal got the first Position. Bumi Salhotra got second Position, and Shruti Sharma got third position.

The Whole Programme was organised by the Organizing Committee included Prof. Swarna Devi (HOD), Dr. Nazim Mohi Ud Din, Dr. Tanveer Ahmed Lone, and Roohul Amin Malik. Other members who were present on the occasion were, Dr. Mool Raj, Dr. Swati Dutt, Dr. Om Prakash, Dr. Sarabjeet Kaur, Prof. Meenakshi Jamwal, Dr. Altaf Ahmed. The programme was ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. Sareer Ahmed Bhat.

## 'One Nation, One Election' key to India's democratic reforms: Kavinder

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MARCH 8



Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today expressed strong support for the 'One Nation, One Election' initiative, highlighting it as a transformative step towards streamlined and efficient democratic processes in India.

The senior BJP leader was speaking at the awareness workshop on "One Nation, One Election", organized by the Parmeshwari Care and Cure Charitable Trust, under its Managing Director Prof. (Dr.) Kulbhushan Mohtra. The workshop was attended by prominent personalities from different walks of life.

In the workshop, Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister, was the Chief Guest while Rajeev Gupta, CA, was the key speaker. Prof. (Dr.) Kulbhushan Mohtra and Balbir Ram Rattan were coordinators of the workshop.

The BJP stalwart emphasized that this concept, championed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to strengthen the foundation of Indian democracy while ensuring economic prudence and administrative efficiency.

He underscored that conducting simultaneous elections across the country would eliminate the recurring cycle of electioneering, which often hampers governance and

development. He pointed out that frequent elections burden the exchequer and disrupt public life due to the extensive deployment of manpower and resources. "The concept of 'One Nation, One Election' is not just about saving money; it's about providing stability and consistency in governance," he stated.

Kavinder further noted that simultaneous elections would allow governments at both central and state levels to focus on long-term planning and execution of developmental schemes, rather than being perpetually caught in election mode. "Frequent elections result in the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct, which stalls important welfare initiatives and developmental works. With 'One Nation, One Election,' this hindrance will be eliminated, ensuring seamless governance," he remarked.

Lauding Prime Minister Modi's foresight, Kavinder Gupta said this reform aligns with the aspirations of a modern India that seeks efficiency and coherence in its democratic processes. He also urged all political parties

to rise above partisan considerations and collaborate on making this vision a reality. Rajiv Gupta, CA, in his address, said that the BJP remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering reforms that benefit the people of India. He appealed to citizens to support this initiative, asserting that it would lead to a more vibrant and robust democracy. "India is at the cusp of transformative change, and 'One Nation, One Election' will be a monumental step in our journey towards becoming a global superpower," he added.

Prof. (Dr.) Kulbhushan Mohtra introduced the subject and Balbir Ram Rattan presented vote of thanks. Prominent among those who attended this workshop included Abhey Kumar Mahajan, Atul Vinod Duggal, Kishor Jamwal, Er. Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal, Er.T.K. Sharma, Jackson, Vinod Kumar Jaral, C.M Seth, Deepak Kapahi, Maj.Gen. S.K. Sharma, S.C.Gupta, R.S. Jamwal, Madan Rangila, Vijay Gupta, Sat Pal Sharma, Rajan Verma, Hemant Sharma, Bharat Bhushan Sharma and Bimal Gupta.

## RTI reveals over 16000 kanals of JDA land under illegal occupation

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 8

In a shocking revelation that has come emerged through a Right to Information (RTI) application filed by Jammu-based RTI activist Raman Sharma. The Jammu Development Authority (JDA) has officially admitted that over 16000 Kanals of its land is under illegal occupation by private parties and land mafias. This accounts for more than 20% of JDA's total land holdings.

In response to Sharma's online RTI query, Vishaveet Singh, the Secretary and Public Information Officer (PIO) of the JDA, vide his Office Letter No. JDA/RTI/PIO/2025/79/17 dated 04/March/2025, disclosed these alarming figures.

The PIO's reply informs

that out of 80,976 Kanals and 10 Marlas of total land holdings of JDA, 16,467 Kanals and 10 Marlas is under illegal occupation of encroachers and as on date only 65,508 Kanals remain in JDA's actual possession which means 20.34 per cent land belonging to JDA is under illegal possession.

The PIO's Letter also reveals that in Jammu district, JDA owns 68,992 Kanals and 11 Marlas of land, while in Samba district, it owns 11,983 Kanals and 19 Marlas.

Contrary to the tall claims made by the J&K government and senior JDA functionaries, the RTI reply refused to provide information regarding the total area of land vacated and retrieved by JDA from the year 2015 to 2025 and the JDA's response simply

stated: "Record Not Available."

Responding to the query related to the total number of legal cases pending against JDA in different courts, the reply served by JDA reveals that as of now, a total of 635 court cases are pending against it, including 212 in subordinate courts, 422 in the J&K High Court, and one case pending in the Supreme Court of India.

Expressing his concern over exposure in the RTI reply regarding such a huge portion of JDAs land under illegal occupation of Mafias, information seeker Raman Sharma urged the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take note of it and retrieve the encroached land worth billions of Rupees.

## 14 Candidates from Karnah Successfully Clear TA Recruitment Exams

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KUPWARA, MARCH 8

In a moment of pride for the region, 14 candidates from Karnah have successfully cleared the Territorial Army (TA) recruitment exams. Their achievement is a testament to their dedication, hard work, and perseverance throughout the rigorous selection process.

The selected candidates expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Indian Army and the Shakti Vijay Brigade for their invaluable guidance, structured

training, and continuous mentorship at every stage of the recruitment process. Their support played a crucial role in shaping the candidates' skills and preparing them for the challenges ahead.

The Shakti Vijay Brigade extends its heartfelt congratulations to all the successful candidates and wishes them the very best in their future endeavors. Their success not only brings honor to their families and community but also serves as an inspiration for aspiring candidates in the region.

## International Women's Day celebrated at IRP-15th Bn

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, MAR 8

International Women's Day was celebrated at the IRP-15th Battalion, Gulshan Ground, Jammu, with great enthusiasm. Sh. Anand Jain, IPS, Additional Director General of Police, Armed J&K, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Ms. Sarah Rizvi, IPS, DIG IRP Range, Jammu, was the Guest of Honour.

2. Upon his arrival, the ADGP Armed was accorded a Guard of Honour by a contingent of IRP-15th Battalion. A variety of programs were organized to mark the occasion, including the inauguration of the Juice Corner and Nayamat Kada at the Battalion Headquarters.

During the event, the women personnel of the Battalion showcased their skills in a weapons drill and archery dem-

onstration. A medical camp was also organized, where a team of doctors from the Police Hospital Jammu examined the women personnel and conducted various medical tests.

In his address, the ADGP Armed congratulated and appreciated the efforts of the Commandant, IRP 15th Battalion, for initiating and organizing the week-long program.

## Brig DN Pandey visits Shri Chhote Shah GDC, Mendhar to review NCC Activities

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, 08 MAR 2025

Brigadier DN Pandey, Group Commander of the NCC Jammu Group, paid a visit to Shri Chhote Shah Government Degree College in Mendhar, a border town in Poonch District, to inspect and review the ongoing NCC activities. He was accompanied by the Commanding Officer, PI Staff, and the Girl Cadet Instructor (GCI) of the 5 J&K Battalion NCC.

Upon his arrival, Brigadier Pandey was accorded a Guard of Honour by the smartly turned-out NCC cadets of the college. He was warmly welcomed by the Principal, Dr. Mohd Azam, ANO Third Officer Dr. Liyaquait Ali, Caretaker Dr. Rehfit Naz Kouser, faculty members, and the entire NCC cadet contingent of the college.



Additionally, ANOs and NCC cadets from nearby schools were present, showcasing unity and collective spirit.

During his motivating address to the NCC cadets, Brigadier Pandey commended the high morale, discipline, and dedication of the young boys and girls. He emphasized that being part of the NCC offers a wide range of activities that help in shaping their lives, moulding them into responsible citizens, and preparing them

to be the torchbearers of the nation's progress.

Brigadier Pandey further praised the efforts of the college and the NCC Battalion in advancing the educational and social development of the region. He also acknowledged the positive influence the NCC program has in the lives of students, particularly those from remote border areas, and reiterated the importance of embracing education and development for a better future.

Highlighting the need for further support, the Principal of the college, Dr Mohd Azam, requested assistance from the NCC organisation in the construction and establishment of an Obstacle Course within the college campus. This facility would enhance the physical fitness and skills of the NCC cadets, enabling them to excel in the Thal Sena Camp in New Delhi as part of the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh NCC Direc-

torate Team, while also providing a foundation for future career opportunities in the armed forces.

In response, Brigadier Pandey assured the Principal and staff that the request would be addressed in the near future, further boosting the college's commitment to the development of its NCC cadets. He expressed his happiness in seeing the enthusiasm of young students from remote border towns who are embracing education and contributing to the nation's growth.

## J&K Resident Commission celebrates International Women's Day

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 8

J&K Resident Commission celebrated International Women's Day with great fervor under the aegis of 'Hello J&K initiative'.

The event, themed 'Accelerate Action', highlighted the urgency of advancing gender parity and reinforcing the commitment towards women empowerment.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Resident Commissioner, Dr. Rashmi Singh, applauded the contributions and resilience of female employees in the Resident Commission office as well as the Directorate, many of whom joined the event virtually. She reiterated the government's dedication towards supporting the womenfolk in all spheres of life.



The event featured distinguished guest speakers including Dr. Manisha Priyam, Professor Education Policy at NEPA and Dr. Aditi Paswan, Assistant Professor at Delhi University.

They honored the contributions and achievements of women across national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural and economic boundaries, emphasizing the importance of collec-

tive commitment towards gender equality across social, economic and professional domains.

Also in attendance was Dr. Vartika Nanda, a prison reformer and faculty member at LSR, New Delhi. She shared the poignant anecdotes from her interactions with female inmates, shedding light on their struggles and resilience.

The event was made suc-

cessful with the dedicated efforts of Anil Sharma ARC, Sachin Manager, 5 PR and Shruti Bhardwaj, Nodal Officer Hello J&K.

Dr. Rekha Jad, Consultant, concluded the session with a heartfelt tribute to the women who have broken barriers and shattered glass ceilings on their path to success. The event culminated with a vote of thanks delivered by Veena Sharma, Lecturer.

## District Level Standing Committee reviews Border Security scenario in Poonch

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, MARCH 8

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kunal today chaired a meeting of the District Level Standing Committee (DLSC) on border security.

The meeting discussed the measures for enhancing community welfare and safety of people in areas adjacent to the Line of Control (LoC).

Addressing critical security concerns, the DC reviewed the progress of essential measures, including the construction of bunkers for enhanced public safety. Updates from Army officials underscored ongoing efforts to maintain peace and stability in the region, reinforcing the commitment to safeguarding local communities. The Deputy Commissioner asked law



enforcement agencies, including the Police and Border Security Force (BSF), to intensify their efforts against drug trafficking and other pressing social issues. He highlighted the importance of inter-agency collaboration to tackle these challenges effectively.

Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner conveyed to the Army Officers the importance of enhancing security measures at the BG Tunnel construction site, RTS

Road Parnaie Project etc to ensure the safety and efficiency of the ongoing work. The meeting was attended by key officials including the Additional Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Additional Superintendent of Police, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Medical Officer, Tehsildars, Executive Engineers from PWD, Jal Shakti, JPDCL, REW, as well as representatives from the Indian Army, BSF, Police besides others.

## AAAM Degree College Bemina celebrates 'International Women's Day'

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 08

Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial Degree College (AAAMDC), Bemina celebrated International Women's Day today in the auditorium of the college.

The event featured two keynote speakers Dr Farzana Gulzar, Professor in the Department of Management Studies, University of Kashmir, Srinagar and Dr Kousar Majid, Professor in the Department of Chemistry, NIT Srinagar. The speakers shared their stories and highlighted the importance of women in the day-to-day courses of life.

A detailed and engaging session on the rights of women, their safety at workplaces followed.

## International Women's Day: Distt admin Srinagar organizes programme at SP College

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 8

To commemorate the International Women's Day, celebrated on 8th of March every year, an impressive function was today organized by District Administration Srinagar here in the Auditorium of SP College under the theme "For All Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, Empowerment".

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat was the chief guest at the event organized jointly by the District Administration Srinagar and District Social Welfare Office.

During the function, various programmes related to women empowerment were presented, besides women achievers of Srinagar were also felicitated

by the District Administration.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the significance of International Women's Day and role of Administration and society to raise awareness about women empowerment and to promote gender equality.

He underscored the importance of birth of Girl Child and emphasized end to gender stereotypes to empower Girls and protecting their rights at societies and domestic level as well. He said the day is also observed to address concerns of gender discrimination and women empowerment.

The DC stressed on building a constructive environment that values the girl child and stop gender-bias, ensuring survival and protection of the Girl child.



Dr Bilal urged all participants to support the movement for gender equality and women's empowerment by advocating for policies, supporting women's businesses and mentoring and educating, challenging gender norms, and speaking out against violence to help the women in distress.

The DC also made a mention of various initiatives towards women emancipation ensuring their empowerment and safe public space all around. He also referred

to various schemes of the Government launched for the welfare of women, especially those from underprivileged sections of the society. He called for one and all to contribute in women empowerment for overall prosperity of the society.

Earlier, District Social Welfare Officer, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad delivered the welcome address wherein he highlighted the importance of the International Women's Day and deliberated upon the theme 'For All

Women and Girls: Rights, Equality & Empowerment.'

Later, in a felicitation ceremony, women achievers of the district were felicitated for their outstanding contributions in different walks of life viz. Sports, Academics, Entrepreneurs, Art & Culture and winner of Essay Competition.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Ahmad Kataria; Principal S.P College, Prof Bashir Ahmad Sheikh; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, faculty members, students of the College and a large number of participants attended the event.

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, MARCH 8

In an Advisory issued by it here today, the Tourism Directorate JK has asked the Hotels, Lodges, Homestays, individual houses, universities, Hospital, Hostels, institutions and others to submit the details in Form C to the Registration authorities within 24 hours, if they provide accommodation to foreigners at their premises. This will help the registration authorities in locating and tracking the foreigners, it said.

"Section 7 of Foreigners Act 1946, outlines that

online Form C is a mandatory form that needs to be filled up for all foreigners by Hotel keepers, Home stays, Guest Houses and others, on government site indianfro.gov.in/boi.gov.in. Moreover, non-conformity to the above directions can attract imprisonment for a term which may extend to 5 years and shall also be liable to fine- under section 14 of Foreigner's Act 1946" the advisory stated.

The Form-C must include details of the visiting foreigner guests like Arrival and departure date; Photo ID proof of all the foreigners; Detail

of Valid travel documents which includes valid Passport and Visa; Purpose of visit (to be added under remarks column); Name of Indian reference with mobile number; Further tour programme with next destinations to be visited.

Any person hosting a foreign guest for monetary consideration is required to submit form C. This also includes Foreigners on Tourist visa, Business visa, Visiting visa, Employment visa, Medical visa, conference visa, project visa, intern visa, research visa, Journalist visa etc.

## 1,88,422 cases settled in 1st National Lok Adalat held across J&K

JJ NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 08

Reaffirming the commitment to provide quick, affordable, and amicable resolution of disputes, the First National Lok Adalat of the year 2025 was successfully organized today across Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir under the patronage of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority) and the dynamic mentorship of Justice Atul Sreedharan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, as well as under the able guidance of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Chairperson, High Court Legal Services Committee. The initiative aimed to promote amicable settlements in cases including MACT, matrimonial disputes, cheque bounce cases under the Negotiable Instruments Act, money recovery, commercial disputes, and compoundable criminal cases.

To ensure the maximum resolution of disputes, pre-Lok Adalat sittings and pre-counseling sessions were conducted well in advance, providing the parties with ample opportunity to engage in dialogue and reach a consensus for a permanent resolution. Additionally, webinars and virtual meetings were organized to sensitize stakeholders, officers of Legal Services Institutions, LADCs, Panel Lawyers, PLVs, and others involved in the promotion of Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR). These sessions emphasized the significance of Lok Adalats and encouraged parties to take full advantage of the opportunity.

As per the information received from various Legal Services Institutions working in different districts of UT of J&K, out of total 1,99,853 cases taken up by 165 Benches in the day long National Lok Adalat across J&K, 1,88,422 cases were amicably settled and disposed off involving an amount

of Rs. 59,04,49,391/- as compensation/settlement amount in cases like Motor Accident Claims, civil, criminal, labour disputes, Electricity and Water Bills, Land Acquisition, Family matters, cheque dishonor and Bank Recovery etc.

This National Lok Adalat marked a significant milestone as it was the first such event after Shazia Tabassum, District & Sessions Judge, took charge as Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority.

Speaking to media persons on the occasion, Shazia Tabassum emphasized the crucial role of Lok Adalats in reducing case pendency and ensuring speedy justice. She highlighted that dispute resolution through Lok Adalats not only saves time and resources for litigants but also fosters a culture of amicable settlements, ensuring long-term societal harmony.

She further stated that special efforts were made to enhance participation, streamline pre-litigation

settlements, and encourage litigants to opt for out-of-court resolutions. Under her leadership, the J&K Legal Services Authority will continue to strengthen the ADR mechanism, ensuring that justice reaches the doorstep of every individual, particularly the marginalized and underprivileged sections of society. She expressed gratitude to the Judiciary, Legal Services Institutions, District Administration, Advocates, and other stakeholders for their collective efforts in making the National Lok Adalat a success.

She also announced that the second National Lok Adalat of the year will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2025, and a Special Lok Adalat for Consumer Cases will be organized on April 26, 2025. Litigants who could not have their cases listed in today's Lok Adalat or were unable to settle their disputes for any reason are encouraged to avail themselves of the opportunity in the upcoming Lok Adalats.

## Tourism Directorate issues advisory for Hoteliers

### Worm Free Children Are Healthy Children

Worm Infestation can make child

Anaemic	Undernourished	Weak	Tired & Sick
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All children and adolescents aged 1-19 years will be dewormed free of cost in Schools/ Anganwari Centres on

## NATIONAL DEWORMING DAY

10<sup>th</sup> March 2025

### Ways to Prevent Worm infestation

<b>Keep your surroundings clean</b>	<b>Wear Shoes</b>	<b>Do not defecate in the open Always use a toilet</b>
<b>Wash your hands with soap, especially before eating and after using the toilet</b>	<b>Wash fruits and vegetables with clean water</b>	
<b>Keep food covered</b>	<b>Drink clean water</b>	<b>Keep nails clean and short</b>

DIP/J-10892/24  
Date: 9-3-25

Health Education Bureau

Directorate of Health Services Jammu